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Tinubu declares end to emergency reforms, unveils shared prosperity plan

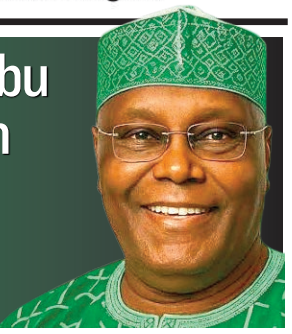
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Atiku knocks Tinubu over 638 deaths in October, 64,000 refugees in Niger

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Violence threatens free, fair polls as APC, NDC bicker over Lagos attack

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INEC fixes Nov. 28 for mock poll, unveils safeguards to prevent 2023 glitches

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ICPC recovers N5.3b from LG accounts, to post councils' books online

From **Joel Oladele** (Abuja)

THE Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has disclosed that it recovered more than N5.3 billion following a review of local government accounts in seven states and the Federal Capital Territory.

ICPC Chairman, Dr Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, disclosed this yesterday in Lafia, Nasarawa State, during the flag-off of the ICPC-National Information Technology Development Agency Local Government Websites Pilot.

The commission also plans to make all 774 local government councils in Nigeria publish their financial records and activities online as part of efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability at the grassroots.

The initiative, which began in Nasarawa State, is expected to be extended to all local government areas in the country.

Aliyu said the recovery of the funds highlighted the scale of financial irregularities at the grassroots and the need for closer monitoring of public resources.

He said the Supreme Court judgment of July 2024, which affirmed financial autonomy of local governments and direct payment of their statutory allocations, had made accountability in management of council funds important.

Ebola: Swiss woman evacuated from Nigeria discharged

A SWISS woman who contracted the strain of Ebola linked to the ongoing outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been discharged from hospital in Geneva, health officials said on Thursday.

The patient, the wife of a Swiss embassy employee in Abuja and Nigeria's index case, was evacuated from Abuja with her husband on October 26.

Benoit Carpentier, spokesperson for the University Hospitals of Geneva (HUG), said the patient received appropriate "supportive" care, including hydration and management of potential complications linked to the disease.

"The patient has recovered. She was discharged from hospital yesterday," he told AFP. The husband showed no symptoms and had his quarantine lifted on November 4.

Nigeria announced the case on October 20 and said it was the same Bundibugyo strain of Ebola responsible for latest outbreak in the DRC.

No specific treatment or vaccine exists for the strain, which was officially detected in the central African country in May and has since infected more than 11,000 people, of whom more than 5,400 have died.

UNN deaths: Mbah mourns, orders probe

From **Lawrence Njoku** (Enugu)

GOVERNOR of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, has expressed deep grief over the passing of four students of the University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), who died during an off-campus sign-out party for one of their friends, describing it as a heartbreaking loss.

Mbah described the incident as a grievous loss, not only for the deceased's immediate families and UNN, but to Enugu State as a whole, and called for a ban on sign-out menace among undergraduates, noting that it had brought too many sorrows to families and tertiary educational institution in the country.

This was contained in a press statement released by the Governor's media aide, Mazi Uche Anichukwu, on Thursday.

"In the meantime, I have suspended my scheduled town hall meeting with the UNN community on Friday, November 13, 2026, as we join the university in mourning the dead."

... DAY 4576

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor

@TopeTempler

43 YEARS TheGuardian

TODAY IN HISTORY

• World Kindness Day

• 2024 - USA

United States Pres. Joe Biden met President-elect Donald Trump, at the White House 81-year-old Biden offered his congratulations and said to Trump "welcome back," referring to the latter's victory in the November 5 election. He assured the former president, who he defeated in 2020 of smooth handover in Jan. 2025.

• 2023 - Nigeria

Pres. Bola Tinubu directed withdrawal of police personnel serving as security details for VIPs. Minister of State for Police Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, said her ministry will carry out the directives to enhance internal security.

• 2015 - France

Islamic State operatives carried out a series of coordinated terrorist attacks in Paris, including suicide bombings, mass shootings and a hostage crisis. The terrorists killed 130 people, making it the deadliest attack in France since World War II.

• 1995 - Nigeria

Nigeria Airways Flight 357 crashed at Kaduna International Airport, killing 11 people and injuring 66. The Boeing 737-2F9 suffered a runway overrun accident, leading to a fire that destroyed the aircraft. All 14 crew members survived but 11 of the 124 passengers died.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.

Everyone may not be good, but there's always something good in everyone. Never judge anyone shortly because every saint has a past and every sinner has a future.

OSCAR WILDE

RANDOM FACTS

• Listening to your favorite music for just 15 minutes a day can help reduce stress, anxiety, sadness and a depressed mood.

• Epistemophobia is the fear of knowledge.

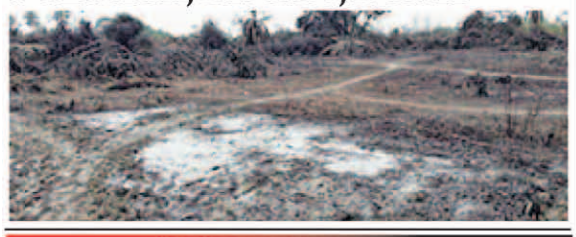
• A popular Norwegian adage says, "There's no bad weather, just bad clothing choices."

• Kakorrhaphiophobia is a fear of failure and Philophobia is fear of falling in love.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

2027 Politics Overshadows Governance As Rivers Communities Groan Over Pollution, Disease, Death



WEEKENDBEATS



Fola: Breakout Star Inching For The Sky

POLITICS

2027: Dissecting Makinde's Reset Agenda For Nigeria





Paul Adoyi: Why Obi Will Win 2027 Presidential Poll By Landslide

NEWSFEATURE



Nigeria's Correctional Homes: Beyond Name Change

SPOTLIGHT



World Diabetes Day: Insurance Gaps Fuel Late Diabetes Care, Deepen Financial Hardship

SHOWBLAST



In New Film, 'ÓLÓJÓ', Balogun Explores Mortality, Human Choices

IBRUCENTRE

How God Heals Wounds Of Human Relationships (1), By **The Venerable Stephen Wolemonwu**

Life That Pleases God (1), By **Pastor W. F. Kumuyi**

God That Does Not Change, By **Pastor Lazarus Muoka**

The Future Is Now, By **Rev'd Abel Ukachi Amadi**

\When Your Spouse Is A Sympathy Seeker, By **Bishop Charles Ighele**



ARTS

ART X Lagos In New Chapter, New Decade: LIMCAF's Open Letter To Emerging Artists

FWIFT Underscores Training, Collaboration For **Women In Film, TV, Digital Media**

Broadcast Content Across Border

Jack Mapanje: The Poet Who Refused Silence



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News

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Tinubu declares end to emergency reforms, unveils shared prosperity plan

- Targets 86% private sector investment in drive for $1tr economy by 2030
- What Nigeria needs to achieve $1tr economy, by Soludo

From **Terhemba Daka**, Abuja

NIGERIA has moved beyond the emergency phase of economic reforms, President Bola Tinubu has declared, unveiling a new policy direction focused on translating macroeconomic gains into shared prosperity, industrial expansion and improved living conditions for citizens.

Meanwhile, the Governor of Anambra State, Chukwuma Soludo, has cautioned that Nigeria's goal of becoming a $1 trillion economy will remain elusive unless the country records double-digit economic growth and attracts substantially greater investment from both government and the private sector.

The President, who said the difficult economic decisions taken since his assumption of office in May 2023 were beginning to yield results, disclosed that the country's external reserves had risen to approximately $55 billion, while non-oil exports exceeded $6 billion, their highest level in the nation's history.

He said the administration was now shifting its attention from economic stabilisation to expanding productive capacity, creating jobs, improving electricity supply, increasing domestic production and providing affordable housing.

Tinubu, however, acknowledged that economic growth figures alone would not be sufficient to justify the sacrifices Nigerians had endured, insisting that the ultimate measure of the reforms would be their impact on households and businesses.

He spoke yesterday through the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, who represented him at the presentation of the book, *Economic Diversification and Structural Transformation in Nigeria: The Past, The Present, The Future*, authored by a member of the House, Abdulmumini Kofa, at the State House Conference Centre, Abuja.

Tinubu, who wrote the foreword to the book, said the next phase of his administration's economic programme was anchored on the ambition of building a $1 trillion economy by 2030 under the Medium-Term National Development Plan 2026–2030.

Declaring that the country had made progress in overcoming its immediate economic challenges, he said non-oil activities now accounted for approximately 96 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while non-oil exports had crossed $6 billion.

He also said external reserves climbed to about $55 billion, providing more than 14 months of import cover, while non-oil revenue rosefrom N13.63 trillion in 2023 to N16.4 trillion in the first half of 2026.

SOLUDO said that while Tinubu's administration had successfully pulled the economy back from the brink of collapse and restored some stability, the present growth rate of about four per cent was far too low to drive rapid industrialisation, meaningfully reduce poverty, or create enough jobs for the country's fast-growing population.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Dangote plans 10,000MW power intervention

Says $20b petrochemical investment can generate $30b revenue

By **Waliat Musa**

PRESIDENT/Chief Executive, Dangote Industries Limited, Aliko Dangote, has disclosed plans to increase the group's investment programme in Africa from $50 billion to about $70 billion under its Vision 2030, with a major intervention in electricity generation to support industrial growth, totalling10,000 megawatts.

Addressing creative industry stakeholders from Northern Nigeria, including content creators, journalists, bloggers, entertainers, and Kannywood stars, Dangote said that expanding production, creating jobs, and providing reliable electricity were essential to unlocking Nigeria's economic potential.

Also speaking at an Executive Session during the 44th Annual International Conference and Exhibition of Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE), Dangote called for urgent measures to address the estimated $7 billion debt owed by oil and gas operators to Nigerian banks,

He warned that the mounting financial exposure could undermine domestic financing for the industry and constrain efforts to increase crude oil production.

Identifying inadequate power supply as a major obstacle to the survival of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), Africa's richest man warned that businesses dependent on petrol and diesel generators would struggle to remain profitable.

Dangote said the group was considering a 10,000-megawatt power programme across Africa, potentially including Nigeria, alongside an expansion of the generating capacity dedicated to its own operations.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



Ogun State Deputy Governor, Noimot Salako-Oyedele (left); Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, John Enoh; Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun; Chairman, Lee Group of Companies, Sheau Fung Lee, and Acting Consul-General, Republic of China, Wang Yu, during the groundbreaking of Lee Group's First Industrial Park, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, yesterday.

FG to tackle health workers' shortage, boost healthcare funding

Reps uncover accountability gaps in $4.6b international health grants

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze** and **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

THE Federal Government has identified persistent shortages of health workers, inadequate funding, and weaknesses in healthcare delivery as major challenges confronting the country's health sector, pledging fresh reforms to improve access to quality medical services nationwide.

This was as the House of Representatives uncovered accountability and governance gaps in the management of $4.6 billion in international health grants.

The government's position emerged at the 2026 Health Sector Joint Annual Review (JAR) in Abuja, where stakeholders resolved to strengthen health financing, improve the distribution of medical personnel, expand emergency medical services, and increase accountability in the management of public health resources.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the meeting, stakeholders identified shortageof personnel as one of the most critical challenges facing the sector, noting that existing training institutions were unable to meet national demand, while shortages remained particularly severe in rural and underserved communities.

They also raised concerns about competency gaps among certain categories of health workers, calling for improved training, certification, deployment, and supportive supervision.

To address the challenge, participants resolved to operationalise the National Human Resources for Health Programme, including establishing a dedicated management structure, implementing work plans, and developing state-level retention strategies.

The meeting also called for targeted incentives to encourage health workers to accept postings and remain in rural communities.

However, stakeholders acknowledged progress in many areas of healthcare delivery, particularly primary healthcare, maternal and child health, emergency medical services and health insurance coverage.

Findings from the 2026 Mini Demographic and Health Survey, presented at the review, reportedly showed improvements in many maternal and child health indicators, including attendance at skilled antenatal and skilled birth care.

The communiqué also reported significant reductions in facility-based maternal mortality, while attributing gains in maternal healthcare in part to family planning interventions and free Caesarean Section services supported by national health insurance mechanisms.

NIGERIA received $4.6 billion from the Global Fund (GF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) between 2021 and 2025.

The lawmakers identified failures in financial reporting, weak legislative oversight, procurement concerns, and delays in counterpart funding as shortcomings affecting the implementation of donor-supported health programmes.

The grants comprise $2.8 billion from GF and $1.8 billion from USAID. They support Nigeria's response to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, as well as efforts to strengthen the country's health systems.

The House made the findings public yesterday after its Committee on Infectious Diseases adopted a nine-page investigative report.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

ASCSN demands N300,000 minimum wage for federal workers

Osun govt workers resume after three-day warning strike

From **Oluwole Ige**, Osogbo

ASSOCIATION of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN) has demanded an immediate increase in the minimum salary of federal workers to N300,000 monthly, declaring that the N70,000 they receive can no longer guarantee a decent standard of living amid rising economic hardship.

In Osun State, government workers resumed duty yesterday after calling off their three-day warning strike, called by the organised labour, for the release of funds due to local governments in the state by the Federal Government.

The association said the soaring costs of food, transportation, energy and healthcare had further eroded workers' purchasing power, making an urgent and substantial salary review imperative.

National President of ASCSN, Shehu Mohammed, made the demand yesterday at the association's National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja, attended by the Minister of Labour and Employment.

Mohammed urged the Federal Government to move beyond temporary palliatives, including wage awards, and implement a sustainable salary increase that reflects prevailing economic realities.

Aligning with the position of the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC), he said that temporary interventions could not provide lasting solutions to the economic challenges confronting workers.

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FG repeals 268 obsolete laws in major review

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has reviewed 932 federal enactments and 731 subsidiary legislations, dropping 268 obsolete, spent or repealed laws in a major exercise to update Nigeria's legal framework for the first time in more than two decades.

The Chairman of the Committee for the Review of the Laws of the Federation, Olawale Fapohunda, SAN, disclosed this yesterday in Abuja while presenting the committee's final report and draft 20 volumes of the 2025 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) to the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, SAN.

Fapohunda said 664 enactments, along with their accompanying subsidiary legislation, had been cleared for inclusion in the new edition, while 268 were dropped.

He said the exercise, which began following the inauguration of the committee in October 2024, was aimed at removing outdated provisions, harmonising conflicting laws and bringing federal legislation in line with contemporary economic, constitutional and technological developments.

According to him, Nigeria's last comprehensive consolidation of federal laws was undertaken in 2004, leaving significant portions of the statute books without a systematic review for nearly two decades.

He said the committee examined existing legislation, consolidated amendments, corrected errors in numbering and cross-references, standardised commencement dates and identified provisions requiring further legislative attention.

Fapohunda said the exercise involved 14 working groups and technical teams responsible for reviewing different volumes of legislation, with support from digital platforms, virtual meetings and consultations with local and international institutions.

He identified some of the major challenges uncovered during the exercise as archaic statutory language, complicated cross-referencing and outdated fines and fees that no longer reflect prevailing economic realities.

Some statutory fines, he said, were as low as N10 or N50, making a review of such penalties necessary.

The committee also recommended that the Attorney General issue an advisory note to ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) on established procedures for reviewing their enabling laws and subsidiary legislation.

It further called for a centralised national repository of federal legislation to provide easy access to current laws and facilitate continuous updates.

Fapohunda said the absence of an accessible and consolidated database of federal statutes had significantly complicated the committee's assignment.

He stressed the need to institutionalise periodic reviews to prevent another prolonged gap between comprehensive consolidations.



Mr Tope Anjorin (left); Dr Damola Omole, son of the late Prof. Wale Omole; Prof. Bolaji Akinyemi; Mr Olaoluwa Agboola; and Mr Idowu Arowosegbe during a condolence visit to the residence of Prof. Wale Omole in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN.

ASUU declares neutrality, warns officials against backing 2027 candidates

Disowns role in lecturers' INEC appointments

From **Owede Agbajileke**, Abuja

ACADEMIC Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has declared that it will not support any political party or candidate in the 2027 General Elections, warning its officials against using the union's name or platform to promote political interests.

The union also distanced itself from any involvement in the participation of its members as electoral officers in the forthcoming polls.

ASUU President, Christopher Piwuna, who spoke with journalists on the sidelines of the 2026 ASUU Heroes Day in Abuja yesterday, said no member had the authority to endorse any candidate, political party or engage with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as electoral official on behalf of the union.

Reps accuse Science Minister of sabotaging Tinubu's research funding plan

Opeifa urges young biomedical scientists to drive research, innovation

From **Benjamin Alade** (Lagos) and **Joel Oladele** (Abuja)

HOUSE of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology has accused the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Dr Kingsley Tochukwu Udeh, of sabotaging President Bola Tinubu's plan to establish a National Research and Innovation Development Fund.

The committee threatened to escalate the minister's failure to attend a public hearing on the bill on the floor of the House, warning that his absence could delay its passage.

The bill, HB 2821, seeks to establish a dedicated fund for research and innovation, with provisions to attract grants from international development partners, donor agencies and Nigerians in the diaspora.

Lawmakers expressed displeasure that Udeh neither attended the hearing nor sent the ministry's Permanent Secretary, despite its direct responsibility for the proposed legislation.

'FG spends N10tr on power, provides 95% of new infrastructure investment'

From **Kingsley Jeremiah**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has invested more than N10 trillion in Nigeria's electricity sector since privatisation, yet continues to provide over 95 per cent of new infrastructure investment, highlighting the limited participation of private capital in a market designed to be driven by private investment.

The Managing Director of FGN Power Company Limited, Kenny Anuwe, disclosed this at the Sixth Annual Conference of the Power Correspondents Association of Nigeria (PCAN) in Abuja, where he called for a fundamental shift in the sector's financing structure to attract more private investors.

Speaking on the theme, "$1tr Economy: Nigeria's Roadmap to Reliable and Affordable Power Supply," Anuwe said the continued dominance of government financing undermined the original objectives of the 2013 privatisation exercise.

He said the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI) was targeting 5,540 megawatts of additional capacity by 2029, a development expected to improve grid reliability by at least 60 per cent and return about 2,000 industries to the national grid.

According to him, about $237 million has been invested in 16 transmission lines covering approximately 606 kilometres, adding slightly over 7,000MW of capacity.

He disclosed that the second batch of Siemens substations, comprising 12 facilities, was expected to commence by the fourth quarter of 2026. Together with other special projects, the interventions are projected to deliver just under 3,400MW.

Anuwe said most phase-one projects were expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2027, while commissioning of a 480MW transmission substation would commence in December and end in February 2027.

Minister, NBC, ARCON, others call for responsible deployment of AI

From **Sunday Aikulola** (Lagos) and **Johnson Eyiangho** (Abuja)

MINISTER of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris; Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), Charles Ebuebu; Director-General of the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), Olalekan Fadolapo, were among the distinguished personalities who canvassed responsible deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) yesterday.

They spoke at the ongoing 2026 National Advertising Conference (NAC) held in Abuja.

Themed, 'Repositioning the marketing communications industry for the next frontier,' Idris, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Binyerem Ukare, observed that digital technology and AI are changing consumer behaviours.

Saying AI presents opportunities to improve audience analysis, content development, and measurement, she argued that it also raises important questions about authenticity, intellectual property, consumer privacy, transparency, and accountability.

To this end, he said: "We must ensure that technology is deployed responsibly. National Artificial Intelligence Investment Strategy provided a framework for responsible AI deployment. As the industry evolves, regulation must respond to the new realities. Regulation should protect consumers, protect fair competition, and maintain professional standards without resisting creativity.

"Misleading claims, deceptive endorsement and manipulated content can weaken public confidence. Trust and professional responsibility must be placed at the centre," he added.

To Ebuebu, technology partners must develop secure solutions. All stakeholders must collaborate transparently and strengthen their institutional responsibility. The market needs independently governed measurement; advertisers and agencies must plan, verify and evaluate campaigns against transparent standards.

Speaking further, he added that technology supplies data, sound methodology, and independent assurance give it value.

Ebuebu promised that the NBC would help create enabling conditions for transformation, adding: "No single institution can build this market alone. I encourage broadcasters to strengthen their content and operational data.

Witness says Emefiele acquired multi-billion naira properties by proxy

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

INVESTIGATOR with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr Alvan Gurumnaan, narrated to a Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos that the embattled former Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, acquired multi-billion naira properties via proxies while in office.

He disclosed this in an ongoing trial of Emefiele, who is facing a 19-count charge of alleged gratification, corrupt demands and abuse of office, involving transactions valued at 4.5 billion dollars and N2.8 billion.

His co-defendant, Henry Omoile, is standing trial on three counts of alleged unlawful acceptance of gifts.

The Gurumnaan, in the continuation of his evidence-in-chief led by the Federal Director of Public Prosecution (DPP).

Five months after Enugu, FG concessions Port Harcourt airport

Assures no aviation worker will lose job

By **Olusegun Koiki**

FIVE months after concessioning the Akanu Ibiam International Airport (AIIA), Enugu, the Federal Government has commenced concession programme for the Jeremiah Obafemi Awolowo International Airport, Port Harcourt.

The government signed an agreement for the concession of the airport with PH Airport Limited.

A statement by the Special Adviser on Media and Communications to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, Tunde Moshood, said that the minister supervised the signing of the agreement, while the concessionaire was represented at the occasion by its Group Managing Director, Eyo Asuquo.

CJN Kekere-Ekun urges courts to serve litigants, not frustrate them

- Advises graduates to view education as social responsibility
- Hails Elizade varsity on investment in ethical, entrepreneurial graduates

From **Adewale Momoh**, Akure

CHIEF Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has called for a justice delivery system that will prioritise fair and timely resolution of disputes over procedural technicalities, stressing that court processes must serve litigants rather than frustrate them.

The CJN, who stated this while delivering a lecture at the combined 10th and 11th convocation ceremonies of Elizade University, Ilara-Mokin, Ondo State, titled "Beyond the Walls: Mentorship, Service and Excellence as Foundations for Meaningful Success," said her reform efforts at both the Lagos State High Court and the Supreme Court had been driven by the conviction that the justice system must respond effectively to the needs of those who depend on it.

She stated that the judiciary is prioritising the recruitment of young professionals with innate knowledge of modern information technology, while also strengthening the institutional framework for judicial administration, improving accountability and promoting continuous professional development.

The Chief Justice emphasised that education is both a personal achievement and a social responsibility, urging graduates to apply their knowledge, creativity and professional abilities to the public good.

She cited the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) scheme as a reminder that obligations to society are not determined solely by where one comes from or the opportunities available.

Kekere-Ekun called for empathy as an indispensable dimension of service, noting that professional competence must be accompanied by an appreciation of the circumstances and dignity of other people.

She, however, urged female graduates not to allow societal expectations or limitations imposed by others to diminish their aspirations, assuring them that there is no height they cannot attain through diligence, consistency and integrity.

Kekere-Ekun also urged graduates not to lose faith in their capacity to make a difference in Nigeria, emphasising the difficulties in the labour market and concerns about economic opportunity but insisting that the country's future will be shaped by the quality of people prepared to take responsibility for it.

She commended the founder of Elizade University, Michael Ade Ojo, for establishing an institution that represents an investment in the intellectual capacity, character and productive potential of generations of Nigerians, praising the university's emphasis on producing entrepreneurial, innovative and ethical graduates.

Chairman of the occasion and former Secretary of the Pan-Yoruba socio-cultural group, Afenifere, Bashorun Seinde Arogbofa, said the lecture had left challenges for the graduates to know what society and parents are expecting from them.



Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo (middle); flanked by Minister of Youth Development, Ayodele Olawande Wisdom, and others, during the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential rally for the re-election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, held in Akure, Ondo State.

NYC urges youths to scrutinise political manifestos ahead of 2027 elections

Inaugurates Lagos executives, plans campaign against fake products

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Nigerian Youth Congress (NYC), Lagos State chapter, has urged Nigerian youths to scrutinise the manifestos of political leaders ahead of the forthcoming elections and assess their commitment to youths' development.

It, however, stressed that only candidates whose policies and programmes prioritise youth development and address the challenges confronting young people should be allowed to serve.

The newly elected Lagos State Chairman of the NYC, Alimi Adebowale, who gave the advice yesterday during the inauguration of the State Executive Council of the NYC in Amuwo-Odofin, urged the youths to take active interest in the political processes, noting that their failure to participate risks drawing the country backwards.

According to him, youths have a responsibility to determine the kind of leadership they want by evaluating the policies and programmes of those seeking political offices.

Crawford varsity graduates 630 at 18th convocation as 54 bag first class

Archbishop Oke urges graduates to become job creators, not job seekers

From **Adelowo Adebumiti** (Lagos) and **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan)

FIFTY-FOUR graduating students have earned First Class honours out of the 630 graduands set to be conferred with degrees and postgraduate diplomas at Crawford University's 18th convocation ceremony.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Prof. Solomon Olanrewaju Makinde, who disclosed the figures during a pre-convocation media briefing at the university's Faith City campus, Igbesa, Ogun State, celebrated the academic feat of the 2025/2026 graduating set, proudly christened "UNICORN 18", noting that over half of the undergraduate cohorts finished in the top two degree classifications.

RELATEDLY, Founder and Chancellor of Precious Cornerstone University (PCU), Ibadan, Archbishop Francis Wale Oke, has challenged Nigerian graduates to become job creators rather than job seekers, urging universities to equip students with entrepreneurial skills to address unemployment and contribute to economic development.

Why I decided to challenge Tinubu at polls in 2027, by Makinde

Promises government of national unity, economic opportunities

By **Seye Olumide**

OYO State Governor and presidential candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM), Seyi Makinde, said that he had lost confidence in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's ability to address Nigeria's economic and political challenges, the reason he is challenging him in the 2027 general elections.

Makinde, who supported Tinubu's election in 2023, said his choice to contest against the President was neither the product of a personal disagreement nor an ambition to occupy Aso Rock, but a response to what he considers the need to change Nigeria's direction.

He said he initially believed Tinubu's political experience and ability to build alliances would enable him to establish a government of national unity and competence.

Developments in the last three years, he said, had weakened that confidence, particularly the administration's handling of the economy, its approach to governance, political alliances and the consequences of economic reforms on ordinary Nigerians.

According to him, although some macroeconomic indicators have improved, the gains have yet to translate into better living conditions, productive businesses, employment opportunities and improved incomes for citizens.

He also accused the Federal Government of governing through excuses, saying that Nigerians were still being given explanations about inherited economic problems, insecurity and electricity challenges instead of seeing measurable progress.

Makinde expressed concern that Tinubu's political alliances appeared to serve his political objectives more than the national interest, warning that the weakening of opposition parties could undermine democracy.

The governor, who declared his presidential ambition on May 14, 2026, said he was unwilling to wait until 2031 or 2035 because of concerns about the country's economic direction and the opportunities available to younger generations.

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

Groups launch initiative on digital safety in Lagos schools

By **Iyabo Lawal**

A BEHAVIOURAL change campaign to protect secondary school students from online harm was yesterday unveiled in Lagos by a non-governmental organisation, the Akin Fadeyi Foundation (AFF).

In collaboration with the Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), the Foundation introduced the 'Be Safe initiative,' a programme tailored to curb sextortion, cyberbullying, digital exploitation and other vices thriving in the digital space.

The initiative was formally launched at a sensitisation workshop attended by students drawn from schools across Lagos State.

AFF Founder, Akin Fadeyi, while addressing journalists at the event, said the project was conceived to help teenagers navigate the Internet with caution and responsibility.

He said that the curriculum would expose participants to ways of safeguarding their privacy, identify online predators, and seek redress through lawful channels when abused.

Fadeyi stated that the partnership offered his organisation a platform to take its values campaign into classrooms, stressing that national reorientation must start with young people whose lives are heavily shaped by social media.

He said that conversations about Nigeria's challenges often focus solely on leadership failure, while personal ethics and everyday behaviour are overlooked.

He, however, decried a culture where people prefer to record victims at accident scenes rather than intervene, and where some individuals weaponise online platforms to bully, defame and extort.

Fadeyi cautioned that without deliberate education on digital ethics, the increasing number of Nigerians connected to the Internet could compound existing social problems.

He said under the initiative, learners would be taught the legal and emotional fallout of circulating explicit content, issuing threats, peddling falsehoods and demanding money under the guise of possessing nude images.

He, therefore, charged students facing blackmail not to suffer quietly, but to utilise reporting channels, saying that silence only emboldens perpetrators.

Child protection specialist and Executive Director of Stop the Abuse Against Women and Children Foundation, Toyin Ndidi Taiwo-Ojo, advised parents to regulate their children's access to Internet-enabled devices.

Taiwo-Ojo noted that minors are susceptible to online manipulation because they lack the experience to detect danger masked as friendship.

Ogun breaks ground for $1.8bn Lee Group industrial park, eyes 15,000 jobs

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru**, Abeokuta

OGUN State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, has said that the $1.8 billion Lee Group First Industrial Park will create about 15,000 direct and indirect jobs, accommodate 29 manufacturing companies and further strengthen the state's position as Nigeria's leading industrial destination.

Abiodun stated this yesterday, during the groundbreaking ceremony of the 450-hectare industrial park, describing the investment as a major boost to Ogun's industrialisation drive and a strong endorsement of the state's business-friendly environment.

The governor said the project would significantly expand manufacturing activities, stimulate economic growth and create opportunities for thousands of people, particularly young Nigerians.

He noted that the decision by Lee Group to locate its first industrial park in Ogun reflected growing investors' confidence in the state's economic potential, strategic location and expanding infrastructure.

NIESV seeks bigger role for women in Nigeria's real estate industry

By **Benjamin Alade**

THE National Women's wing of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) has called for greater recognition and participation of women in the real estate industry, saying that qualified female professionals can compete favourably with their male counterparts.

National Coordinator of the Women's Wing, Ibironke Ogun, made the call while briefing journalists yesterday ahead of a four-day retreat and investiture scheduled for Abeokuta, Ogun State, from November 26 to 29, 2026.

Ogun, who described the programme as the first of its kind for the women's wing, said the initiative was designed to strengthen professional capacity, improve visibility and create more opportunities for women in the real estate sector.

She said the programme, themed "Women in Real Estate Practice: Challenges, Opportunities and Prospects," would bring together about 200 to 250 female estate surveyors and valuers from branches across the country.

Violence threatens free, fair polls as APC, NDC bicker over Lagos attack

From **Seye Olumide, Kehinde Olatunji, Eniola Daniel, Glory Sunday** (Lagos), **Adamu Abuh** and **Joel Oladele** (Abuja)

- Police arrest suspect as NDC demands probe, prosecution of perpetrators
- Lagos APC denies sponsorship, challenges opposition to provide evidence
- Reps set up committee to investigate rising violence nationwide
- Obi condemns attack, says Tinubu tired, should go home
- PANDEF, CDD warn of growing threats to opposition activities
- EU backs 5,500 election observers, rejects calls for sanctions

THE attack on supporters of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) during a town hall meeting organised for its presidential candidate, Peter Obi, in Lagos yesterday has triggered fresh political exchanges and heightened concerns over the safety of opposition activities ahead of the 2027 general elections.

While the police have arrested a suspected attacker, the Lagos State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has denied sponsoring the incident, as the House of Representatives moves to investigate rising political violence across the country.

Suspected political thugs, armed with cutlasses, cudgels and stones, invaded Classic Event Place, Oregun, Ikeja, where NDC supporters had gathered for the town hall meeting ahead of Obi's expected appearance.

The attackers reportedly approached the venue from Kudirat Abiola Way at about 11:00 a.m., attempting to gain access to the hall. Their arrival triggered panic, forcing participants to flee as the confrontation disrupted proceedings and left chairs and other materials scattered.

Some supporters, however, resisted the attackers and prevented them from taking over the venue. One of the suspected assailants was apprehended by the crowd, while others reportedly fled.

The confrontation spilled onto Kudirat Abiola Way, disrupting traffic as motorists made U-turns and pedestrians hurried away from the scene. Police officers reportedly fired shots into the air to disperse the crowd.

Some participants sustained injuries, although the number of victims and the severity of their conditions had yet to be established.

The Lagos State Police Command subsequently arrested a suspected attacker identified only as Ibrahim. A viral video showed the suspect with his hands and legs tied inside a police patrol vehicle.

The suspect denied being recruited to attack the gathering, claiming that he had visited the venue to beg for money.

"I came to beg for money," he said, also denying that he had carried cutlasses.

NDC supporters, however, alleged that the suspect and others had arrived with weapons, including cutlasses, stones, bottles and sticks, damaged vehicles and fired gunshots to scare participants before they resisted the attackers.

The National Publicity Secretary of the NDC, Osa Director, also questioned the motive behind the incident, asking in a post on X: "Why is APC afraid of Peter Obi?"

There was, however, no independently established evidence linking the attackers to any political party.

A police source said the NDC had failed to submit a notification letter for the meeting, comparing the situation with the visit of Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, whose team reportedly submitted one before his recent engagement in Lagos.

The police spokesperson, Abimbola Adebisi, said officers were still at the scene and had yet to submit a report on the incident.

"Our officers that will give us information about the incident are still on the field, trying to calm everything down over there. When they arrive and give us the information, we will update the media," she said.

APC rejects allegation of sponsorship

REACTING to allegations linking the ruling party to the attack, the Lagos APC spokesman, Mogaji Seye Oladejo, described them as reckless, baseless and irresponsible.

In a statement, he said the party had neither sponsored, encouraged, nor participated in any action capable of undermining the constitutional rights of political parties to assemble and canvass support.

Oladejo said it was curious that the attack occurred on the same day the APC flagged off its campaign for the 2027 general elections in Epe, several kilometres from Ikeja.

He maintained that the party's political leaders, elected representatives, executives and campaign officials were mobilised for the Epe event.

"The entire APC political machinery in Lagos, without exception, was mobilised to Epe for this historic political engagement. Our leaders, elected representatives, party executives, campaign officials and critical stakeholders were fully committed to the success of that event," he said.

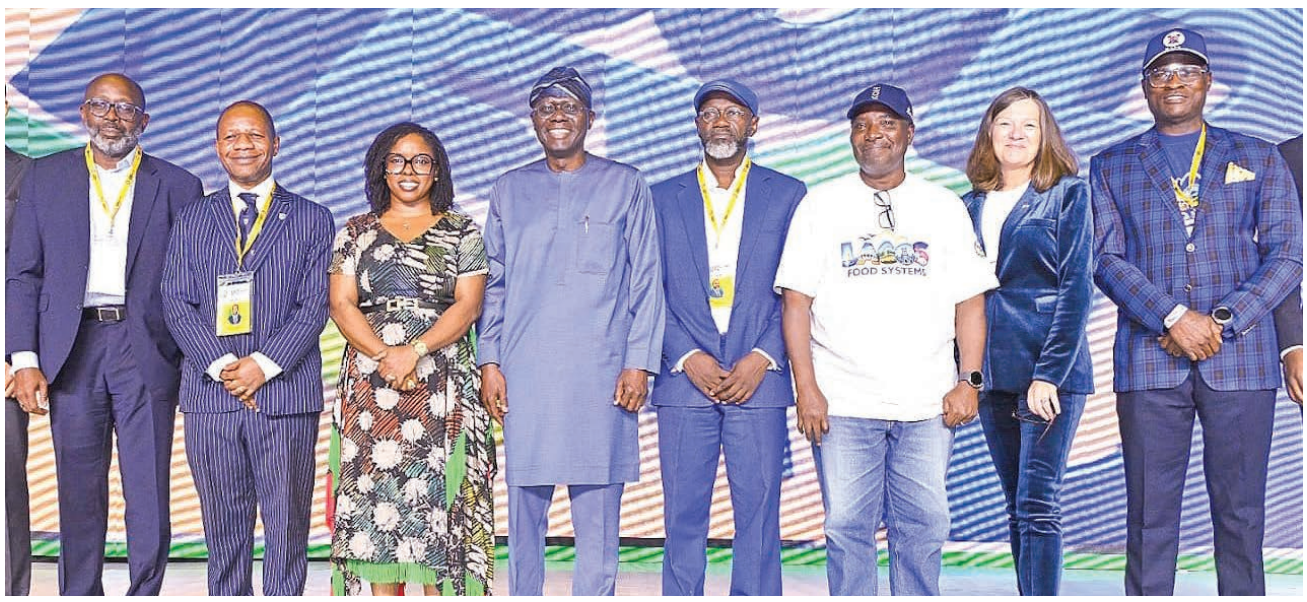
He challenged the NDC to present credible evidence to security agencies if it had any information linking individuals or groups to the incident, rather than resorting to social media allegations.

The spokesman also accused opposition elements of making threats capable of creating an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty, urging security agencies to investigate what he described as increasingly bellicose political rhetoric.

The APC Presidential Campaign Council also condemned reported attacks in Edo, Cross River and Gombe states, as well as violence targeting political supporters and leaders across party lines.

Its spokesman, Dele Alake, urged security agencies to intensify efforts to prevent further attacks, apprehend those

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25



Managing Director, Flour Mills of Nigeria, Boye Olusanya (left); Managing Director, Stanbic IBTC, Wole Adeniyi; Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Abisola Olusanya; Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Chairman, Origin Tech Group, Samuel Joseph; Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture and Food System, Dr Oluwarotimi Fashola; Denmark Consul General in Lagos, Jette Bjerrum, and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems, Emmanuel Audu, during the Lagos Food Systems Nexus 2026, hosted by the Agriculture Ministry in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

INEC fixes Nov. 28 for mock poll, unveils safeguards to prevent 2023 glitches

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

* Says only verified polling unit results will be uploaded to IReV
* Bandits behind plot to attack NYSC members, disrupt polls
* INEC to receive outstanding election funds by November end
* Commission battles over 300 lawsuits, vows to obey court order on Atiku's eligibility
* CAIDOV wants workers who compromised electoral process prosecuted

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has unveiled fresh measures to prevent a recurrence of the challenges that marred the 2023 general elections. The commission assured Nigerians that only verified results from polling units will be uploaded to its Results Viewing Portal (IReV) ahead of the 2027 polls.

Already, the Commission has fixed November 28, 2026, for a nationwide mock accreditation and voting exercise ahead of the 2027 general elections to test upgrades to its Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and electronic results transmission.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, disclosed this on Thursday while speaking on the Commission's preparations for Nigeria's 2027 general elections during a dialogue at Chatham House in London, organised in partnership with the Kimpact Development Initiative, on the theme, "Nigeria's 2027 Elections: Democratic Trajectory and Regional Stability Beyond the Ballot."

He said the commission had identified polling centres as the major source of result-management problems during the 2023 elections and was introducing additional checks to ensure that figures were properly verified before transmission. Amupitan said the Commission had learnt important lessons from the previous election and was determined to strengthen public confidence in the electoral process.

According to him, the Commission is introducing a new verification process to ensure polling unit results are verified by party agents before they are uploaded to IReV.

Responding to a question on why Nigerians should trust him to conduct credible elections, Amupitan cited the outcomes of recent off-cycle elections, particularly those in Anambra and Osun states, as evidence of improvements under his leadership.

Since taking over, he said INEC had conducted the Anambra governorship election, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Area Council elections, the Ekiti and Osun governorship elections, as well as 16 by-elections to fill vacancies in the National Assembly and state Houses of Assembly. He explained that the commission had treated each election as an opportunity to identify operational weaknesses and improve subsequent exercises.

According to him, Anambra and Osun were particularly challenging states because of their history of inconclusive governorship elections. He recalled that the Anambra governorship election in 2021 took about five days to conclude, but the recent exercise was completed much faster.

Amupitan, however, acknowledged that the credibility of the 2027 elections would depend not only on the outcome of off-cycle polls but also on the transparency of the entire electoral process.

He identified insecurity, logistics and result management as three major areas the commission was prioritising, saying INEC was working with security agencies to ensure that election materials and personnel reached polling units on time.

On result management, the chairman said the commission's review of the 2023 elections showed that some of the major challenges occurred at collation centres, rather than at polling units. He said INEC had consequently introduced additional safeguards to ensure that results were checked for accuracy at polling units, in the presence of party agents, before they were transmitted to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IReV).

"We decided that whatever is going to be uploaded from the polling unit is accurate. Because in 2023, there were all manner of things: results that were not correct, results that were full of over-voting, while you were uploading on the IReV. But now we have devised a safeguard.

"The moment it goes to IReV, you can believe what you see on IReV. And then this issue of inconsistency will be removed so that what will now be done at the collation will just be a matter of formality," he said.

Amupitan also urged Nigerians to trust his leadership, acknowledging that the controversies surrounding the 2023 presidential election had significantly damaged public confidence in the electoral commission. "First and foremost, let me speak about what happened in 2023, which resulted in a significant trust deficit for INEC—damage so large that the Commission has not yet fully recovered from it," he said.

The chairman also disclosed that security intelligence had uncovered a plot by bandits to attack INEC ad hoc personnel, particularly members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), in a bid to disrupt the 2027 elections. He said the plot was uncovered through intelligence gathered under the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security and the suspects were being prosecuted at the Federal High Court by the Department of State Services (DSS).

As part of the preparations, Amupitan announced that INEC would conduct a nationwide mock accreditation and voting exercise on November 28 to test its readiness for the 2027 presidential election. The exercise, he explained, would allow the commission to test its equipment and procedures, particularly voter accreditation and electronic transmission of results, before the general elections.

On concerns about his neutrality following allegations linking him to a controversial X account, the INEC chairman insisted that he had never operated the account and said the matter had been reported to security agencies. "I state here again that I have never operated an X account," he said.

He also dismissed allegations that his previous legal work in a political dispute meant he would be biased in the discharge of his duties as INEC chairman, arguing that he had acted professionally as a lawyer before his appointment.

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

NYSC DG tasks states on 5,000-capacity accommodation, camps

As CESJET faults poor facilities, urges governors to act

From **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

DIRECTOR-General of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Brig.-Gen. Olakunle Nafiu asked state governments yesterday to expand the capacity of their orientation camps to accommodate at least 5,000 corps members each.

Nafiu said the current accommodation challenges in several orientation camps were largely due to the significant growth in the number of graduates from Nigerian tertiary institutions and foreign universities.

The NYSC boss, disclosed this while addressing corps members deployed to Lagos State for the 2026 Batch C Stream II service year at the scheme's temporary Orientation Camp in Iyana Ipaja, Lagos. He said that the scheme now mobilises as many as 450,000 graduates yearly, compared with about 100,000 in previous years.

Nafiu disclosed that the Lagos State Government was currently constructing a new 10,000-capacity NYSC Permanent Orientation Camp, which, upon completion, would address the accommodation challenges at the temporary camp in Iyana Ipaja.

He also revealed that the governments of Adamawa, Gombe and Borno States were at advanced stages of delivering new orientation camps to the scheme, while existing camps in Sokoto, Kwara, Enugu, Osun and some other states were undergoing extensive renovations to provide more conducive training environments for corps members.

In her report, on the camp situation, Lagos State NYSC Coordinator, Mrs Christiana Salmwang, disclosed that the corps members had demonstrated enthusiasm and readiness to be mentored in line with the Scheme's core values.

The coordinator disclosed that a total of 11,155 corps members had been deployed to Lagos State for the 2026 Batch 'C' service year.

THIS is the Centre for Social Justice, Equity and Transparency (CESJET) has faulted inadequate accommodation and overcrowding in several NYSC orientation camps across the country, calling on state governors to urgently improve facilities and prioritise the welfare of corps members.

The organisation expressed particular concern over the situation at the Sagamu orientation camp in Ogun State, where more than 4,300 prospective corps members were reportedly deployed to a facility designed to accommodate slightly above 2,000 people, forcing many to sleep in overcrowded multipurpose halls.

It said similar capacity challenges had been experienced in Lagos and other states, where large numbers of prospective corps members were either redirected or temporarily accommodated under difficult conditions.

In a statement signed by its Executive Director, Isaac Ikpa, CESJET described the recurring congestion as a threat to the dignity and welfare of young Nigerians participating in the national service programme.



Organiser of the inaugural US-Nigeria Governors' G2B Forum on Energy, Mining and Infrastructure/Chief Executive Officer, Weetpaq International, Samuel Diminas (left); Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri; and Chief Executive Officer, Fulcrum LNG Incorporated, Jesus Bronchalo, during a roundtable at the Sweet Water Country Club, Sugar Land in Texas, United States on Wednesday.

Shettima woos Benin monarch ahead of 2027 polls

• Fubara urges unity as Rivers APC, • Rainbow Coalition inaugurate PCC

From **Joseph Kanjo** (Benin City and **Godfrey Gabriel** (Port Harcourt)

VICE President Kashim Shettima, yesterday, sought the prayer, counsel and goodwill of the Oba of Benin, Omo N' Oba N' Edo Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II, ahead of the 2027 General Elections.

Shettima made the appeal when he led members of APC-PCC to the Oba of Benin's palace in Benin City, Edo State.

"I have always found Your Majesty's personal journeys particularly instructive. Before ascension to the throne, you represented Nigeria as a diplomat in many nations," Shettima said.

"As we approach another democratic season, we seek Your Majesty's prayer, counsel and goodwill. We value the role of the Benin throne, a promoter of peace, reconciliation and mutual respect. Your Majesty understands that what ultimately matters is the welfare of the people and the nation's stability. We welcome your guidance and remain deeply ready to listen to the concerns of your Kingdom," he stated.

The VP described the Oba – whose wisdom and disposition he noted are deeply admired – as one of the torchbearers of African culture and civilisation.

He congratulated the paramount traditional ruler on the cordial relationship that exists between the federal and Edo State governments.

MEANWHILE, Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, has warned members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Rainbow Coalition against divided loyalty, saying teamwork will be critical to delivering massive votes for President Bola Tinubu and other candidates in the 2027 general elections.

Fubara gave the charge yesterday in Port Harcourt, at the inauguration of the APC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) in Rivers State, where he expressed confidence that the coalition could surpass its 2023 electoral performance if members worked together.

Soyombo to appear in court December 1

By **Seye Olumide**

NIGERIA Union of Journalists (NUJ) has demanded the immediate and unconditional release of Daniel Ojukwu, an investigative journalist with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), following his arraignment at the Federal High Court, Abuja, over alleged cyberstalking and criminal defamation.

However, the founder of FIJ, Fisayo Soyombo, will appear before the Federal High Court in Abuja on December 1 for arraignment over reports published by the organisation, despite the police having yet to serve him with the criminal charge and evidence.

Ojukwu was arraigned on Tuesday, November 10, 2026, on 12 counts and remanded until December 1 for a bail hearing.

The charges reportedly stem from investigative reports published in 2023 and 2024 concerning public expenditure by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs).

In a statement signed by its National President, Alhassan Yahya, the NUJ also called for the withdrawal of all charges against Ojukwu and Soyombo.

The union expressed concern over the recurring use of the Cybercrimes Act and criminal defamation laws by security agencies to intimidate journalists and suppress press freedom.

PSN berates Edo law enforcers over arbitrary arrests, closure of pharmacies

From **Joseph Kanjo**, Benin City

PHARMACEUTICAL Society of Nigeria (PSN), yesterday, clashed with the Edo State Consumer Protection Committee (CPC) over alleged unlawful entry into pharmaceutical premises, intimidation of practitioners and arbitrary seizure of medicines, among other issues.

The PSN President, Chris Oisakede, while addressing journalists in Benin City on behalf of the Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACPN), an arm of the PSN, said that the CPC Chairman, Osaro Iyamu Culture, was not known to the Association as a registered pharmacist or a suitably qualified pharmaceutical analyst or chemist.

Oisakede, who was flanked by other ACPN executives in the state, challenged the CPC chairman to disclose his relevant qualifications, professional registration, statutory appointment, written authorisations and technical protocols.

He said: "For the avoidance of doubt, the Edo State CPC has no jurisdiction or authority, whether directly or indirectly, to enter, inspect, supervise or regulate the practice of pharmacy in Nigeria in any manner whatsoever.

"Pharmacy practice in Nigeria, in all its aspects and ramifications, is governed by applicable federal legislation.

"A community pharmacy is an essential point of access to healthcare. Pharmacists counsel patients, promote rational medicine use, support adherence to treatment, identify medicine-related problems, provide medicine safety information and refer patients when further care is required."

The PSN, however, condemned what it described as the CPC chairman's unlawful entry into pharmaceutical premises, intimidation of practitioners, arbitrary seizure of medicines, unjustified closure of pharmaceutical facilities and imposition of penalties.

Bakers lament 34% interest rate on loans despite CBN's rate adjustment

By **Olusegun Koiki**

PREMIUM Breadmakers Association of Nigeria (PBAN) has said that despite recent reductions in interest rates by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), commercial banks are still demanding as much as 34 per cent interest on loans to small businesses.

The association also revealed that about 40 per cent of its membership had been lost over the last two years due to a harsh operating environment, rising energy costs, and difficulties accessing affordable credit.

President of PBAN, Emmanuel Onuorah, disclosed this yesterday on the sidelines of the Association's 2026 Day-Out event themed "Baking Through the Economic Storm: Innovation, Efficiency and Growth for a Sustainable Industry," held in Lagos.

Onuorah alleged that financial institutions, particularly the Bank of Industry (BoI), had failed to provide the necessary financial support to genuine entrepreneurs in the country.

It would be recalled that the CBN had, in September, cut the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) from 26.5 per cent to 23 per cent to further encourage business growth.

Omole blames national challenges on moral decay, dishonesty

By **Kehinde Olatunji**

FORMER Director-General of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Sola Omole, has called for a national re-orientation to restore moral values, discipline, truthfulness, and respect for the rule of law to address Nigeria's social and governance challenges.

Speaking yesterday at the launch of his autobiography, *My Dream, My Journey: From Broadcasting to the Oil Fields*, he identified the breakdown of traditional values and the failure to uphold the truth among the country's major problems.

He charged Nigerians to collectively accept responsibility for the country's challenges, stressing that no individual or group could be completely absolved of the prevailing situation.

According to him, restoring Nigeria's lost values must begin at the family level, particularly through raising children and deliberately passing on the principles of decency, morality, and responsibility to younger generations.

Bayelsa, U.S. firm partner on $100m gas processing plant

BAYELSA State Government and the United States (U.S.)-based energy company, Fulcrum LNG Incorporated, have sealed a partnership for a multi-million-dollar gas gathering and processing facility in Bayelsa State.

Planned to be executed in phases, the project's agreement was reached on Wednesday at the close of the two-day inaugural U.S.-Nigeria Governors G2B Forum on Energy, Mining and Infrastructure, held at Sugar Land in Texas.

The project will begin with the gathering and commercialisation of flared gas to power the Bayelsa Independent Power Plant and emerging industrial clusters, while curbing environmental pollution.

It will be followed by a comprehensive integrated gas monetisation and development plan to harness the state's vast gas reserves, according to the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Daniel Alabrah.

Speaking after a closed-door meeting with Governor Duoye Diri of Bayelsa State, the Fulcrum LNG Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jesus Bronchalo, said the governor's presentation at the roundtable sparked his company's interest and described the partnership as holding great prospects for both parties.

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Four die after party at UNN off-campus house in Enugu

From **Lawrence Njoku,** Enugu

- Six students recuperating in hospital
- Varsity suspends activities for three-day mourning

THE University of Nigeria (UNN) has suspended activities following the death of four students after an off-campus house party in Nsukka, Enugu State.

The university also declared three days of mourning for the deceased students.

Earlier reports had claimed that six graduate students of the university, attached to the Department of Pharmacy, died at a house party on Wednesday night.

However, addressing the media on the incident, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Simon Ortunaya, clarified that 10 students of the university attended the party, which they organised to celebrate a friend who had completed his final-year examination.

He said: "Unfortunately, four of them died after consuming substances suspected to be alcohol and drugs. The remaining six students are currently at various stages of recuperation in the hospital."

The vice-chancellor consequently declared three days of mourning for the deceased students, during which all social and academic activities would be suspended.

He also suspended a town hall meeting earlier scheduled between the university community and the Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah.

Describing the incident as "a death too many", Ortunaya extended his heartfelt condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of the deceased.

"The management, staff and students of the University of Nigeria share in their grief at this difficult moment and pray for the repose of the souls of the departed," he added.

He further clarified that the students involved in the incident were from different departments, contrary to widespread reports that they were all from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The vice-chancellor reiterated the university's ban on all forms of sign-out celebrations and urged students to desist from activities that could endanger their lives.

He said the university was cooperating with security agencies to establish the actual cause of the students' deaths.

The cause of the incident had yet to be established at the time of filing this report.



University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Several feared dead, injured in Lagos-Ibadan Expressway crash

SEVERAL people were feared dead while others sustained serious injuries in a road accident yesterday along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway crash in the Sagamu axis of Ogun State.

A video obtained by our correspondent showed several victims lying on the road, with some appearing motionless, as distressed onlookers gathered around the scene.

The crash involved a commercial bus carrying 12 passengers. Only about three occupants were visibly conscious at the scene, although they sustained varying degrees of injuries, while the others appeared unconscious.

Several men were also seen attempting to rescue victims trapped inside the badly damaged bus.

Foundation to hold inaugural memorial lecture in Delta

THE Grace Bakpa Heritage Foundation is to hold its inaugural memorial lecture on November 26, 2026, in Effurun, Delta State, with a focus on human capital development through education, healthcare and equitable opportunities.

The lecture, themed "Investing in Nigeria's future: Advancing human capital through education, healthcare and equitable opportunity", is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at The Monarchy Centre, 70 Sapele Road, Effurun.

The event will honour the memory of Grace Flora Oji Bakpa, who lived from 1942 to 2018, while providing a platform for discussions on investments needed to strengthen communities and expand opportunities for younger generations.

Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, will be the eminent personality of the day, while HRM Okporua I, the Ovie of Udu Kingdom, will attend as special guest of honour.

The guest speakers are Dr Martins Ovberedjo, Dr Caroline Olumagi Ajuyah and Prof Rita Mebitaghan.

The organisers said the lecture reflects the foundation's commitment to preserving Bakpa's legacy of compassion and service by creating opportunities for others.

They said the focus on human capital development was informed by the recognition that national progress depended not only on infrastructure and economic growth but also on citizens' knowledge, skills, health and capabilities.


Late Bakpa

Solar panel overheating sparks fire in Oyo house

From **Rotimi Agboluaje,** Ibadan

A fire reportedly caused by an overheating solar panel system has damaged a room in a five-bedroom residential building at Oke-Boda, Asaka area of Awe, Oyo State.

The Oyo State Fire Services Agency said its officers responded to a distress call at about 11:41 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, and arrived to find the first room on the right side of the building engulfed in flames.

The agency's crew, led by Fire Officer II Yisau Opeyemi, quickly deployed firefighting equipment and contained the blaze, preventing it from spreading to other parts of the building.

No casualty was recorded.

According to the agency, preliminary findings indicated that overheating of the solar panel system ignited combustible materials in the affected room.

The firefighters returned safely to their station at about 1:41 p.m. after containing the fire.

The Special Adviser on Fire Reform and Chairman of the Oyo State Fire Services Agency, Dr Moroof Akinwande, urged residents to remain vigilant and adopt appropriate fire safety measures in their homes and workplaces.

Court jails couple five years for attempting to sell one-year-old son in C'River

From **Tina Agosi Todo,** Calabar

A Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State, has sentenced a couple to five years' imprisonment each for attempting to sell their one-year-old son for N800,000.

The convicts, Emmanuel Okechukwu Ogbodo, 28, and Peace Ufeabuchi Nnamonu, 22, were found guilty of conspiracy and attempting to sell their son, Godstime Ogbodo, for the purpose of exploitation.

The attempted transaction came to light after a prospective buyer, who had been approached by the couple, reported the matter to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Cross River State Command.

The report prompted the agency's intervention, leading to the foiling of the attempted sale and the arrest of the couple.

The duo were arraigned before the Federal High Court, Calabar Judicial Division, on November 3, 2026, on a two-count charge of conspiracy and attempted sale of a child, contrary to Sections 27 and 29 of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015.

They pleaded guilty to the charges, which were filed on October 12, 2026.

Delivering judgment, Justice Rosemary Dugbo Oghoghorie convicted both defendants on the two counts.


The couple.

NSCDC commits to safety of Lagos schools

By **Victor Gbonegun**

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Lagos State Command, yesterday reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety and security of schools, students, teachers and host communities across the state.

The State Commandant, Adedotun Keshinro, gave the assurance at a Students' Security Summit held at Command Secondary School, Ipaja, Lagos.

The summit, organised by Amodu Nofisat, Head of Project/Operations, Redefined Goals Ltd, brought together students, school authorities, security agencies and other stakeholders to discuss safety challenges affecting educational institutions.

Keshinro, who was represented by the command's Public Relations Officer, Superintendent of Corps Oluwaseun Abolurin, said the NSCDC remained committed to equipping students and school authorities with the knowledge required to prevent security threats and protect lives and property.

He described school safety as a shared responsibility and stressed the need for students to understand basic security measures and avoid behaviour that could expose them to danger.

He said security education was particularly important in preventing students from falling victim to abuse and social vices capable of disrupting their education and future prospects.

The commandant identified some of the challenges confronting schools as bullying, sexual harassment, cultism, vandalism of school assets.

Otu dissolves task force, orders compensation over demolition of nearly completed building

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

GOVERNOR Bassey Otu of Cross River State has dissolved the state's Planning and Development Control Task Force, halted further demolition work on a nearly completed private building and ordered compensation for its owner.

The decision followed the controversial demolition of the property by the task force, an incident that raised concerns over the treatment of property owners and the exercise of regulatory powers by government officials.

Otu, who expressed concern over the incident, said no government agency or public official had the authority to act outside the law, irrespective of the circumstances surrounding an alleged violation of physical planning regulations.

In a statement, the governor said such allegations should be handled through established legal procedures rather than arbitrary actions capable of undermining citizens' rights, dignity and legitimate interests.

The governor stressed that his administration would not tolerate abuse of power, intimidation or any conduct by public officials that disregarded residents' rights.

He said the incident underscored the need for government officials to exercise their authority with discipline, responsibility and accountability, adding that public office was a position of trust and not a licence for arbitrary action.

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Navy uncovers two illegal refineries, recovers 53,000 litres of petroleum products

By **Bertram Nwannekanma** and **Adaku Onyenucheya**

THE Nigerian Navy has uncovered and deactivated two illegal refining sites in Okarki Community, Ahoada West Local Council of Rivers State, recovering about 53,000 litres of suspected stolen petroleum products.

The operation, conducted on November 11 by personnel of the Nigerian Navy Ship (NNS) Pathfinder, was carried out under Operation Delta Sentinel following intelligence reports on illegal oil bunkering activities in the area.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Director of Naval Information, Navy Captain Abiodun Folorunsho, said the two sites contained about eight dugout pits and storage containers holding an estimated 23,000 litres of suspected stolen crude oil and 30,000 litres of suspected illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil (AGO).

He said the sites and recovered products were handled in accordance with established procedures for tackling crude oil theft and illegal refining.

No arrests were made during the operation, as the suspected operators reportedly fled before the arrival of the naval personnel.

The Navy said the latest operation built on an earlier raid by NNS Pathfinder in the same general area on October 10, during which three illegal refining sites were discovered and deactivated.

Customs, Navy strengthen waterways security ahead of yuletide

It said the successive operations reflected its determination to dismantle illegal refining infrastructure, disrupt crude oil theft networks and prevent economic saboteurs from exploiting the nation's petroleum resources.

The Navy reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining intelligence-led operations under Operation Delta Sentinel to protect critical oil and gas infrastructure, support national crude oil production and safeguard the country's economic interests.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Western Marine Command, and the Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base (FOB), Badagry, have strengthened their joint efforts to secure the waterways, prevent smuggling and other illegal maritime activities, and protect lives and property.

The partnership was reinforced when the Acting Customs Area Controller, NCS Western Marine Command, Thomas Jonah, paid a courtesy visit to the FOB Commander, Naval Captain Sa'id Kabir, yesterday in Badagry, Lagos.

According to a statement by the Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Adewumi Rasheed, the visit focused on strengthening inter-agency cooperation to improve security along Nigeria's waterways.

The engagement comes as the yuletide season approaches, with concerns over attempts by smugglers to move counterfeit products, illicit drugs and Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) into the country through the waterways.

The visit followed the recent seizure of 14,100 litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), 204 bags of foreign parboiled rice and 40 cartons of assorted cosmetic products, with a total Duty Paid Value (DPV) of N83.12 million, in a series of anti-smuggling operations along the country's waterways.



One of the illegal refining sites in Rivers State.

Police avert planned protest over power outage in Ogun community

By **Victor Gbonegun**

THE Nigeria Police Force's Ifo Division has intervened to avert a planned mass protest by community leaders and residents over persistent electricity supply challenges in parts of Ifo Local Council of Ogun State.

The intervention, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), CSP Olabisi Kamor, resulted in a meeting between representatives of the affected communities and the management of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) at the Ifo Police Station.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the communities and the electricity distribution company to discuss residents' grievances, particularly those in Olomu and Eyin Ope communities, and explore possible solutions to the prolonged power supply challenges.

At the meeting, community representatives presented several demands to the IBEDC management.

The Guardian learnt that the demands included the immediate removal of T-off isolators, which residents said were affecting electricity supply to Olomu and Eyin Ope communities.



Ogun State CP, Ojajuni.

They also sought the reversal and refund of electricity charges imposed between November 2025 and August 2026, during periods when the affected communities allegedly received no power supply.

Other demands included the reclassification of customers in Olomu and Eyin Ope from Bands A, B, C and D to Band E, with appropriate refunds where applicable. The residents also called for the replacement of stolen electricity cables and prepaid meters, which they said had affected 13 transformers in Olomu

Foundation donates 100 recycled-tyre chairs to Lagos public schools

By **Divine Yusuf**

THE shortage of suitable classroom furniture in public schools and the environmental burden of discarded tyres have prompted a sustainability initiative in Lagos, with 100 chairs made from recycled tyres donated to five schools in Education District VI.

The chairs were distributed among the five schools, with Ewutuntun Junior Grammar School and Igboowu Junior Secondary School, Mushin, receiving 44 each, while Oregun Senior Grammar School, Omole Senior School and Ajumoni Senior Secondary School received four each.

The initiative was supported by Exinity Group through its flagship brand, FXTM.

Speaking at the launch, a representative of the Lagos State Education District VI Tutor-General/Permanent Secretary, Mrs Folashade Osiyemi, said inadequate classroom furniture could affect pupils' comfort, concentration and participation in lessons.

She noted that children struggling with broken chairs or sitting without adequate furniture might remember the discomfort of their learning environment more than what they were taught, stressing that conducive classrooms were essential to effective teaching and learning.

Police to arraign two over alleged N11m farmland fraud in Ogun

From **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

THE Ogun State Police Command says it has concluded investigations into an alleged N11 million farmland fraud involving allegations of advance fee fraud, money laundering and criminal conspiracy.

Two suspects are scheduled to be arraigned later today before the Federal High Court, Abeokuta.

Oluwaseyi Oluwatosin Olaleye, 44, and Alhaji Comrade Tirisimiyu Balogun, 67, are to face prosecution following investigations into a petition by Alhaji Kazeem Olalekan Olanrewaju over an alleged fraudulent transaction involving 20 acres of cocoa and kola nut farmland.

According to the findings of the investigation, between June and November 2025, at Alawaya Village, Ehin Osun, via Ijebu-Igbo, the suspects and another individual allegedly obtained N11 million from the petitioner under the pretence of selling him farmland situated at Apora Village.

The Command's spokesperson, DSP Oluseyi Babaseyi, said in a statement that investigations further revealed that the money was allegedly diverted for personal use, while the promised farmland was neither transferred to the petitioner nor was the money refunded.

EFCC arraigns businessman over alleged £122,000 investment fraud

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned a businessman, Ashley Segun Oshin, before the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja over an alleged £122,000 investment fraud.

Oshin was arraigned before Justice Ismail Ijelu on a one-count charge of obtaining money by false pretence, an offence contrary to Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006.

According to the EFCC, the defendant allegedly induced Miss Oluwafemi Fajana and Mr Abiodun Adeogun to part with £122,000 between 2009 and 2010 under the pretext of investing the money in a debenture fund of Oschards Limited.

The prosecution alleged that Oshin represented to the complainants that the investment would yield a 40 per cent annual return, a claim he allegedly knew to be false.

The charge reads: "That you, Ashley Segun Oshin, between 2009 and 2010, with intent to defraud, induced Miss Oluwafemi Fajana and Mr Abiodun Adeogun to deliver to you the aggregate sum of £122,000 by falsely representing to them that the said sum would be invested in a debenture fund of Oschards Limited and would yield a 40 per cent annual return on investment, which representation you knew to be false."

Oshin pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him.

Following his plea, prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede, informed the court that the charge was filed on June 29, 2026.

Niger council empowers 1,100 residents, inaugurates health, women's centres

From **Bala Yahaya**, Minna

THE Agaie Local Council of Niger State has empowered 1,100 residents, including widows, vulnerable households and youths, with business equipment to improve their livelihoods.

The items distributed included refrigerators, sewing machines, grinding machines, barbing kits and motorcycles.

Speaking at the distribution ceremony, the council chairman, Sayuti Ibrahim Halilu, said the initiative was aimed at helping beneficiaries earn incomes, build sustainable businesses and provide better support for their families.

He stressed that the goal was not simply to distribute equipment but to create opportunities for self-reliance and economic independence.

Halilu urged the beneficiaries to use the items responsibly, maintain them and put them to productive use as a foundation for lasting progress.

He said: "I encourage you to see this support as an opportunity to grow, not just as a one-time benefit."

Meanwhile, the council inaugurated a community primary healthcare centre in the Ekobadegi area.

Makoko fire victims seek help after losing homes, belongings

By **Eniola Daniel**

RESIDENTS of Makoko have appealed to the government and well-meaning individuals for assistance to rebuild their homes after a fire destroyed several properties in the community.

The fire broke out in a section of the community known as Apolo after a gas cylinder exploded while a resident was cooking.

One of the victims, Francis Wobe, said: "I lost my tools, and many people could not salvage a single item from their apartments. We have been rendered homeless with nothing to fall back on.

"I have nowhere to go and no support, so the others and I desperately need help during this period. I don't know what to do about this situation."

Another resident, David Ikechukwu, said: "A young man caused the fire outbreak. He said he wanted to prepare something to eat and turned on his cooking gas, which exploded while he was cooking. He was lucky to escape alive.

"Many people were injured, and someone lost N700,000 in cash in the inferno. I sell Crocs footwear and lost 60 pairs in the fire. I have just been hanging around, trusting God for intervention. I would appreciate any assistance at this time. I also sustained injuries while running for my life, which are causing me a lot of pain."

Narrating her ordeal, another resident, Omobowadun Iyamore, said: "The flames woke me up from sleep. I had to rush out to save my father, who is a stroke patient, and then returned to rescue my children.



The area affected by the fire in Makoko. PHOTO: ENIOLA DANIEL.

Businessman donates Dangote Refinery shares to 24 retired Lagos police officers

By **Eniola Daniel**

A BUSINESSMAN and Chief Executive Officer of Konstrutum Construction, Abayomi Awoboku, has donated shares worth millions of naira in Dangote Refinery and Petroleum to 24 police officers who recently retired from the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Yaba, Lagos.

Awoboku, who was among the dignitaries at the retirement reception, has also engaged a professional investment firm to manage the shares and ensure maximum returns for the beneficiaries.

The gesture was in appreciation of the officers' 35 years of service to the nation and aimed at encouraging serving personnel of the Nigeria Police Force.

The donation followed a visit by the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Olatunji Disu, to the department and his attendance at the retirement ceremony a few months ago.

Speaking on the gesture, Awoboku said it was intended to appreciate the retired officers for their years of service and encourage serving personnel to remain committed to their duties.

Kolawole Kayode Bukola

Block3, Behind Orange filling station sango area,, Ilorin, Kwara state Christian

12th November, 2026

Dr. Onuoha Cosma Uzoma Oxford
Ikorodu,
Lagos State,
Nigeria.

Dear sir

LETTER OF APOLOGY

I, Kolawole Kayode Bukola, sincerely apologise to Dr. Onuoha Cosma Uzoma Oxford popularly known as Dr. Oxford1 for impersonating him and using his identity in a video circulated on social media without his authorisation.

I deeply regret my actions and any embarrassment, inconvenience or reputational damage caused to him. I hereby withdraw the said representation and assure the general public that such conduct will not happen again.

I sincerely apologise to Dr. Oxford and respectfully seek his forgiveness.

Yours Sincerely

Kolawole Kayode Bukola

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SIGNED:
MR. OLUSEGUN OGUNDERU





Chief Ngelale,

YOU ARE A TIRELESS FORCE OF NATURE; A STEELY FORCE FOR GOOD AND FOR THE GOOD OF ALL.

YOU ARE PROFOUNDLY LOYAL AND FAITHFUL BOTH TO YOUR CAUSE AND TO YOUR COMRADES.

EVERYTHING YOU ENCOUNTER GROWS RATHER THAN WITHERS.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS YOUR HALLMARK BUT YOUR STEADINESS UNDER ADVERSITY IS YOUR SIGNATURE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR BELIEF IN THOSE OF US YOU EMPOWERED TO CARRY FORWARD THE CAUSE OF NIGERIA'S PROGRESS.

YOUR FEARLESS HEART REMAINS UNSULLIED BY THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT HAVE CONFRONTED YOU THROUGHOUT LIFE.

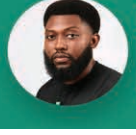
YOUR WISDOM AND MENTORSHIP HAVE BEEN PRICELESS TO THOSE PRIVILEGED TO STAND IN YOUR PROXIMITY.

YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT UNAPOLOGETICALLY ALLOW ZERO ROOM FOR MEDIOCRITY.

YOU HOLD FIRM AS A BEACON OF LIGHT IN THE DARK PATHS THAT WE MUST TRAVEL THROUGH TO REACH OUR COLLECTIVE DESTINATION.

THE LORD SAYS THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

REMAIN BLESSED NOW AND FOREVER, MY LEADER.



Mr. Francis Adah Abah
Personal Assistant to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on Special Duties
Executive Producer, "Vital Signs" Television Series

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

Editorial

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Curbing cardiovascular deaths is at the heart of the matter

THE report that more than 235,000 people die every year from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) is alarming, highlighting a strained health sector and citizens' low awareness of the link between individual lifestyles and increased deaths from CVDs. Together, the toll is an embarrassment to Nigeria, a country well-endowed with human and material resources yet unable to summon the right attitude to solve problems, including avoidable deaths.

Cardiovascular diseases are a group of medical disorders that affect the heart and blood vessels, often leading to heart attacks, strokes and other ailments. They are the leading cause of death in many countries. The primary drivers are hypertension (high blood pressure), poor diets, careless lifestyles, physical inactivity, alcohol use, obesity, among others. The fatality rate is higher in countries with low health budgets, reflected in poor healthcare services, a lack of specialist cardiovascular care, high costs and the general absence of a quality healthcare system.

This year's World Heart Day should serve as an opportunity for governments to take cardiovascular healthcare more seriously than they have. To this end, the Nigerian Cardiac Society (NCS) deserves support in its call for the government to strengthen cardiovascular disease prevention. The Nigerian Heart Foundation (NHF) has done well to raise awareness of the disease at the grassroots. The theme of the 2026 World Heart Day is 'Healthy Hearts: From the Classroom to the Families.' The Executive Director of NHF, Dr Kingsley Akinroye, stated that the promotion of healthy values should begin in schools. Getting young Nigerians to understand the importance of cardiovascular health is a good way to sustain the advocacy. The message will remain with them for a lifetime.

Equally commendable is the Foundation's emphasis on prevention and timely screening. There are not more than 28 cardiovascular laboratories nationwide, which are largely absent in rural areas. Whereas international standards recommend about one laboratory per million people, Nigeria is very far from the benchmark. This calls for the availability of more diagnostic and testing facilities, as well as more laboratories in the country. The sub-sector needs more investment.

Routine health tips are important to sustain good hearts. Experts recommend routine and moderate body movement, including cycling, swimming or walking briskly. Citizens are advised to avoid sitting in one position for long periods. Keep walking, they say.

For feeding habits, people need to eat healthy: consuming whole, plant-based meals; avoiding unhealthy fats; reducing excessive salt intake; resting well; and avoiding harmful habits like smoking and heavy alcohol consumption.

There is a vital role for the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in keeping hearts healthy. NAFDAC must ensure that citizens are protected from harmful food items that can harm the heart, for example, unhealthy oils. NAFDAC has regulations on fats, oils and foods containing fats and oils that are fit for the human system. The agency's recommendation on trans-fatty acids is limited to less than two per cent of total fat content. This is to prevent the clogging of arteries that leads to strokes and heart attacks.

Unfortunately, enforcement is poor and all manner of oils are sold in the markets. There should be firmer controls and regular audits of food outlets and markets, especially bakeries and fast-food retail chains and snack manufacturers.

Faulty and deceptive labelling of packaged products often conceals the objective details of salt, sugar and fat levels that are deceptively sold to consumers. There should be a transparent display of essential information by manufacturers and fast-food companies.

More efforts should be made to expose counterfeit products, which pose a danger to unsuspecting consumers. There should be more enforcement of standards on food and beverages.

Research has shown that hustle and bustle in some urban centres poses health risks. Stress is associated with long hours in traffic. Chronic and repeated stress situations are risk factors in cardiovascular diseases. City and town designers and planners should ensure that stress is reduced. Let there be lay-bys where commuters can park and get relief for brief moments.

Government must invest in the health sector. There is a shortage of cardiovascular specialists in the country, just around 500 cardiologists for a population of well over 200 million. It is a well-known fact that health budgets fall far short of global standards. The World Health Organisation (WHO) advocates Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and increased funding. The African Union targets 15 per cent funding for health. But this is hardly achieved by countries in Africa.

In Nigeria, the capital component of the health budget is poorly disbursed. The government should spend more on health and ensure that budgetary allocations are adequate and released on time. This would make funding available to invest in diagnostic facilities for timely screening and prevention of CVDs.

Cost is another major challenge. Routine and advanced tests and treatment for CVDs run into millions of Naira. This is compounded by the substantial out-of-pocket payment system. Health insurance should no longer be for a select few. Let it be universal to curb CVD fatalities.

LETTER

When host becomes the letting manager

SIR: The short-let boom has changed who controls the first conversation between an apartment and its next occupant. In Port Harcourt, Lagos, Abuja and other Nigerian cities, a property owner can photograph a furnished flat, post it online, set nightly rates, respond to enquiries and receive bookings without first appointing a real estate manager. Platforms such as Airbnb have made that route visible and accessible.

The change has brought new income possibilities and more choice for guests, but it has also shifted work and earnings away from the professional letting and management services that traditionally supported furnished and serviced apartments.

The erosion is easiest to see in the letting function. In a conventional arrangement, a professional manager or agent may help position the apartment, establish a rent, market it, screen enquiries, negotiate terms, prepare records and coordinate handover. A direct host can now perform many of these tasks through an online listing and instant messaging. When this happens, the owner may avoid a letting commission or ongoing management fee, while the professional loses the instruction, the client relationship and the chance to manage the property after the first booking. Across multiple apartments, that shift can remove a substantial part of the work once attached to furnished and serviced accommodation.

The platform model also changes the rhythm of the business. A conventional furnished apartment might be let for months at a time; a short-let can turn over guests every few days. Owners can adjust prices frequently and market directly to visitors, contractors, project staff, families and people in transition. This can make a vacant apartment productive and give guests an alternative to hotels. But listing a home is not the same as managing a hospitality asset. The work continues through cleaning, linen, check-in, repairs, power and water reliability, security, guest communication, complaints, accounting and care for shared spaces.

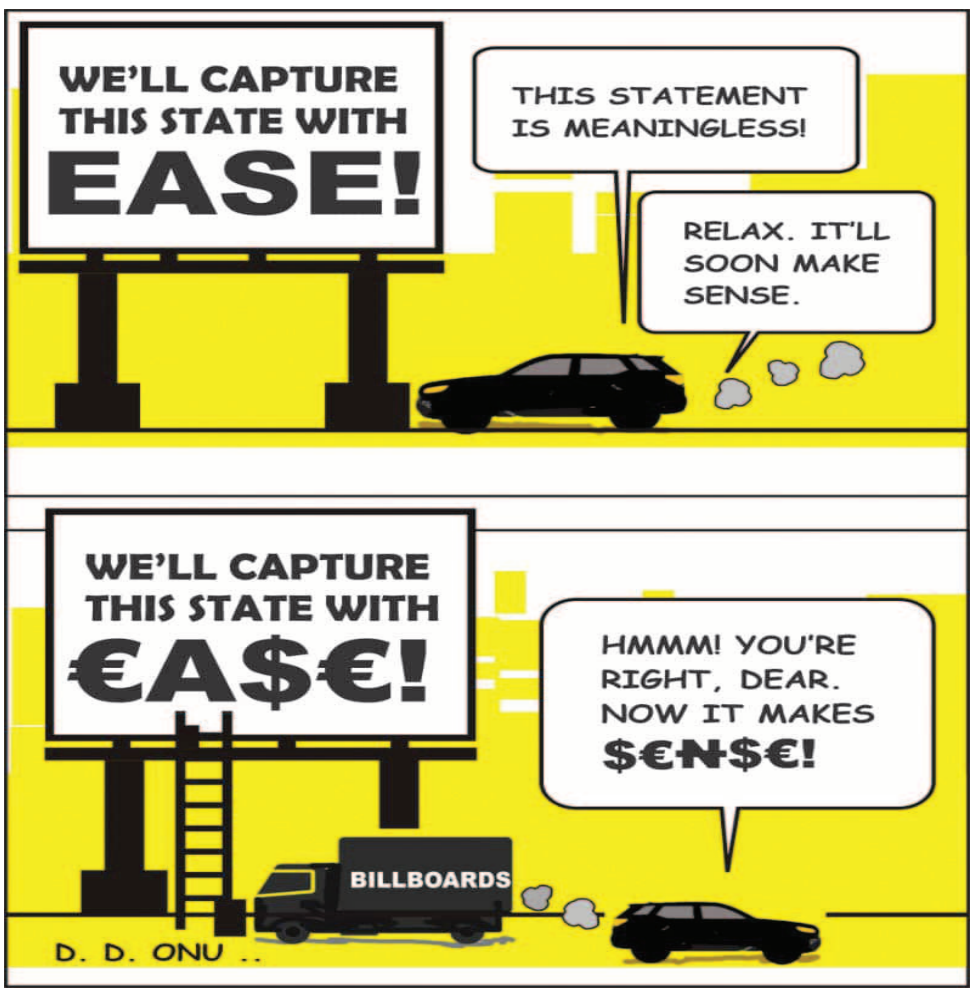
Where owners treat these responsibilities as occasional tasks, problems can reach both guests and neighbours. A listing may promise amenities that are unavailable, maintenance may be deferred until a guest complains, and building rules may be overlooked during rapid guest turnover. A non-professional host may not keep accurate operating records, plan for replacement of equipment or know when repeated faults point to a larger building issue. For residents, unmanaged arrivals, noise, access and waste can make a short-let feel disconnected from the block it occupies. These risks do not belong to every independent host, but they become more likely when the business grows faster than its operating systems.

The pressure on professional managers is therefore not simply that technology has replaced them. It is that technology has made some visible parts of their service easy for an owner to do alone, while the less visible value of professional management is often understood only after something goes wrong. A booking platform can help display a property and process reservations; it does not take over the owner's responsibility for accurate information, a safe and clean apartment, guest support, maintenance decisions or compliance with applicable requirements. The host remains accountable for the service delivered at the property.

Real estate managers can respond by making their value clearer and more suited to the short-let model. They can provide independent rental and revenue advice, verify a property's readiness, develop a furnishing and maintenance plan, coordinate vetted cleaners and technicians, supervise guest turnover, manage inventory and safety checks, reconcile bookings and expenses.

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

Solomon Omoba is a Port Harcourt based real estate consultant.



Opinion

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America's midterm elections: Lessons for Nigeria 2027

By **Godwin Sogolo**

NIGERIA is not the United States of America. Consequently, our electoral processes cannot be expected to mirror those of the United States, nor should Nigerians be expected to behave exactly like Americans in the exercise of their democratic rights. These are fundamental distinctions worth establishing at the outset – if only to pre-empt those who might question the appropriateness of drawing comparisons between the recently concluded U.S. midterm elections and Nigeria's forthcoming general elections in January 2027.

There are, however, other fundamental facts that cannot be ignored. First, the presidential system of government practised in Nigeria is borrowed – almost wholesale – from the United States of America. Second, Western democracy is founded on certain principles and values against which its success or failure is measured. Perhaps even more fundamentally – whether American or Nigerian – we are all human beings, endowed with the common faculties of rationality, free will and the capacity to make independent choices.

For the purpose of this comparison, it is worth emphasising that the circumstances that led to the outcome of the American midterm elections were – in many respects – remarkably similar to those confronting us here in Nigeria: the rising cost of living, declining affordability (extreme hardship in the case of Nigeria) corruption and the consequences of bad governance.

Prior to the American midterm elections of November 3, 2026, much of the world had been grappling with economic difficulties, compounded by President Donald Trump's arbitrary imposition of tariffs on several countries and, in particular, his war against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today, protests are erupting in various parts of the world – particularly across Europe – in response to the resulting economic and political disruptions.

The United States itself has not been insulated from these challenges, and American voters made their discontent unmistakably clear at the ballot box. The outcome – widely described as a "blue tsunami" – saw the Democrats make significant gains in the U.S. Congress.

One of the newly elected senators, James Talarico of Texas, delivered a memorable victory speech in which he emphasised the triumph of ordinary people over money and political power. He referred to the huge amount of half a billion dollars reportedly deployed by the world's richest man, Elon Musk, in an attempt to prevent his victory. He likened his electoral success to "the underdog defeating the powerful" – invoking the biblical story of David and Goliath.

Talarico also accused powerful interests of exploiting divisions along political, racial, gender, religious and cultural lines to distract and manipulate ordinary citizens – a strategy also commonly used by Nigerian political leaders in their treatment of disadvantaged populations. His central message was that political differences should not prevent citizens from recognising their common interests and using their votes to demand accountability from those who govern them. The critical question is: Can Nigerian voters demonstrate a similar capacity to use their electoral mandate to demand accountability and bring about meaningful political change?

Before attempting to answer this question, it is important to correct a possible misconception. Nigeria's challenges cannot be attributed entirely to external forces or impositions. Long before the introduction of tariffs and Trump's war on Iran, Nigerians were already grappling with severe economic hardship; these external developments have merely compounded an already dire situation. For decades, bad governance, greed, corruption and poorly conceived policies of successive administrations have been at the root of many of the country's persistent problems.

Political leaders have reduced the quality of life of Nigerians to a level barely above subsistence, with the consequences felt across virtually every facet of life – economically, socially and educationally. The Nigerian middle class has almost been wiped out. With the collapse of the nation's security system, farming has become an increasingly unviable occupation for many farmers. The educational system is in serious decline, with parents increasingly unable to afford school fees. More generally, millions of Nigerians can barely afford the basic necessities of life, including food, healthcare and transportation. Thus, the indicators of a system in deep crisis are glaring everywhere. Much of this has been due to the disastrous failure of the political leadership.

Now, back to the question: can the Nigerian electorate – like the Americans have successfully done – rescue the nation? The answer is doubtful – perhaps even improbable, if not seemingly impossible. The electoral process itself is too deeply compromised by corruption to make such an outcome likely! Furthermore, unlike their American counterparts, Nigerians are widely perceived as being less capable of exercising their electoral mandate to bring about corrective change through the ballot box. The explanation often advanced is that, whereas a substantial proportion of the American electorate retain the moral independence and integrity necessary to hold their leaders accountable, the Nigerian situation presents a strikingly different picture.

As the renowned paediatrician, Professor Emeritus Ajovi B. Scott-Emuakpor of Michigan State University, aptly observes: "In an impoverished society, where millions struggle for the basic necessities of life, even a relatively small gift can become an instrument of political persuasion. Poverty makes political allegiance vulnerable to transactional inducements."

The Professor is absolutely right. Most Nigerians have been so thoroughly subjugated, humiliated and psychologically broken by their circumstances that they have come to see their salvation in the very individuals and forces responsible for their predicament. Yet, we must never lose hope. After all, as a former First Lady famously reminded us: "There is God o!"

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

Push to jail suicide survivors defies modern science, compassion

By **Bode Babatunde**

IN the quiet hours of a night in Lagos, a young professional stands on the precipice of the Third Mainland Bridge, battered by compounding economic pressures, rent defaults, and the suffocating isolation of modern urban life. The decision to step forward or step back is not an act of malice or a breach of civic contract; it is the final, agonising collapse of a mind overwhelmed by pain.

Yet, under archaic provisions embedded in Nigeria's penal codes—such as Section 327 of the Criminal Code and Section 231 of the Penal Code—this person is viewed by the state not as a patient in critical care, but as a criminal awaiting a cell block.

When the Nigerian Senate recently floated renewed proposals to impose jail terms for suicide attempts, it triggered widespread public outrage. But beyond the shock lies a profound institutional failure: How can a modern legislature contemplate jailing a mentally unstable person who desperately needs medical rehabilitation? Are we to believe the Senate is entirely bereft of seasoned psychologists and medical experts? To propose jail terms for suicide attempts in contemporary Nigeria is a profound failure of empathy, an affront to medical science, and a direct contradiction of progressive health policies.

A mental health crisis mischaracterised as a crime

Decades of global psychiatric and neurological research have established an unshakeable truth: the overwhelming majority of people who attempt or complete suicide are experiencing severe mental health distress, clinical depression, acute trauma, or profound psychological crises.

Under the crushing weight of such conditions, human cognitive capacity, emotional regulation, and rational decision-making are severely compromised. To treat an acute psychological emergency as a criminal offence is a grotesque mischaracterisation. It assumes that a person standing on the edge of despair possesses the detached clarity of a premeditated criminal rather than the fragile consciousness of a patient suffering a medical breakdown.

Law is designed to deter voluntary, calculated wrongdoing. Deterrence fails entirely when applied to a mind where the survival instinct has been overridden by unbearable agony. You cannot threaten a drowning person with punishment for struggling against the water.

The mechanics of fear: how criminalisation drives up fatalities

The most devastating consequence of penalising suicide attempts is the underground culture of silence it enforces. When an attempt carries the explicit threat of police arrest and imprisonment, the state builds an impenetrable wall around those who need help the most.

Fearing social stigma, criminal records, or incarceration, survivors and their families are heavily incentivized to conceal what has happened. Instead of rushing a distressed loved one to a hospital emergency room, families often hide them away, terrified of law enforcement intervention.

Tragically, this culture of fear backfires with lethal consequences. Fearing discovery and legal prosecution, vulnerable individuals are often pushed to ensure their attempts are final and fatal. The law, ostensibly enacted to preserve life, ends up driving desperate people toward higher mortality rates.

Clinging to obsolete colonial hand-me-downs

This brings us to a stark historical irony that our lawmakers refuse to confront: the very penal codes used to criminalise suicide in Nigeria are colonial relics handed down by the British in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

One must ask our distinguished senators: Are they unaware that these colonial-era codes used to punish the broken are entirely obsolete, considering that our original colonisers abandoned this practice decades ago? The United Kingdom decriminalised suicide and suicide attempts under the Suicide Act of 1961, recognising the barbarism of punishing the distressed.

For the Nigerian legislature to stubbornly cling to abandoned colonial laws—while the nations that authored them moved into the light of medical progress—is an embarrassing display of legislative inertia.

A global isolation: Where else is despair a crime?

As our lawmakers draft punitive bills, they isolate Nigeria from the community of progressive nations. Can the Senate name a single civilised country today where attempted suicide is still treated as a crime punishable by imprisonment?

Across the democratic world—from Europe to the Americas, and increasingly across progressive African nations—the legal consensus has shifted decisively toward decriminalisation. Civilised societies recognize that human life is preserved through empathy, safety nets, and healthcare accessibility, not through the shadow of prison gates.

A glaring contradiction with national health frameworks

This punitive crusade also stands in direct opposition to Nigeria's own progressive legislative advancements. In recent years, the enactment of the National Mental Health Act marked a monumental shift in how the country views psychological well-being, rightly classifying mental health conditions as medical emergencies that demand care, protection, support, and rehabilitation.

When a legislature considers jailing suicide survivors while a parallel national framework guarantees mental healthcare rights, it creates a policy contradiction of the highest order. Punitive laws actively undermine public health goals by criminalizing the exact patients the health sector is legally mandated to protect.

Prisons: The ultimate incubator for despair

Even if one were to entertain the punitive logic of incarceration, the reality of Nigeria's correctional system renders it utterly indefensible.

Nigerian prisons are notoriously overcrowded, underfunded environments designed for penal custody, security, and deterrence—not psychiatric treatment or psychological rehabilitation. Throwing a traumatised, fragile human being into a congested cell block exposes them to heightened violence, squalor, and profound isolation, virtually guaranteeing a worsening of their mental state.

Toward a compassionate state response

Public health advocates and legal experts agree that the primary duty of a compassionate state when a citizen survives a suicide attempt is protection, care, and support, not prosecution.

A civilised society responds to despair not with prison bars, but with clinical intervention, psychological counselling, and long-term community support systems. Nigeria's legislative energy should not be spent dusting off obsolete colonial laws to punish the broken. Instead, resources must be channelled into expanding mental health infrastructure, establishing toll-free 24/7 crisis hotlines, and dismantling the toxic social stigmas that isolate the vulnerable.

Suicide is not a crime against the state; it is a distress signal to the community. When our Senate learns to answer that signal with medical grace rather than a prison sentence, Nigeria will finally take a vital step away from legislative barbarism and toward true civilisation.

Dr Babatunde wrote from London, UK.

Opinion

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Contemporary diplomacy: Between politics, security and economics

By **Wissam Kalakeche**

DIPLOMACY is evolving in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world. The speed of events, influence and changing factors of international relations have added to this. Today, priorities are shifting from merely developing diplomatic tools to understanding changes, anticipating outcomes and responding proactively.

Contemporary diplomacy must adapt to the rapid transformation driven by information technology and artificial intelligence by leveraging faster communication and analysis while preserving the fundamental purpose of building understanding, managing competing interests, resolving differences and promoting stability among states and peoples.

Currently, video conferencing and AI have accelerated diplomatic meetings, information analysis, risk assessment and crisis response. These help diplomats to anticipate developments rather than merely react. However, technology remains a tool, not diplomacy's purpose. Its true value lies in helping nations manage differences, build understanding and trust, serve people, prevent escalation and preserve stability, rather than simply increasing the speed or sophistication of diplomatic processes.

In essence, technology should strengthen, not replace, diplomacy's human dimension, particularly the ability to understand emotions, build trust and bridge differences remain sacrosanct.

Meanwhile, the prevailing international situation has shown that military conflict and geopolitical tensions shape economic diplomacy, disrupt global trades, investment, energy prices, supply chains and maritime security, while threatening states ability to protect their economic interests.

The Russia-Ukraine war demonstrates how geopolitical tensions reshape global energy, food, transportation and trade. Sanctions have redirected energy relationships, forcing European countries to seek alternative supplies. Similarly, disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz and Red Sea increased shipping costs, delayed deliveries and threatened the global supply chain.

These tensions heightened uncertainty, discourage investment and constrain foreign trade through increased costs, insurance premiums and restrictions. Consequently, economic diplomacy becomes more challenging as states struggle to attract investors, access markets and maintain trade flows. Governments may also divert resources from development priorities to security and defense. This shows the need for diplomacy that anticipates geopolitical risks, protects national economic interests and strengthens international economic cooperation.

However, while geopolitical tensions can weaken economic diplomacy, it can create increased military spending and demand for defense equipment, technology and research. This creates a paradox where conflicts impose economic costs while potentially stimulating economic growth, employment and domestic supply chains.

Germany illustrates this shift with a military budget exceeding $114 billion in 2025, up from 24 per cent in 2024 making it the world's fourth largest military spender. As Vicente Palacio of Foundacion Alternativas observes, defence spending can extend beyond purchasing weapons to supporting manufacturing, innovation and technological development.

These opportunities also extend internationally. Countries with established defence industries can export equipment and expertise to states seeking stronger military capabilities. Such agreements often develop into broader partnerships, involving training, maintenance, technological transfer and military cooperation. Consequently, the defence industry can become tools of economic diplomacy, straightening strategic relationships and commercial opportunities. This must however be weighed against wider economy and humanitarian costs.

Global security tensions are driving demand for weapons, ammunition and defence technology, as Europe strengthens its military capabilities, Middle East states respond to regional threats and countries affected by conflict seek military supplies. For major producers like the United States, Russia, Germany and France, the defence industries have become instruments of economic growth and foreign policy.

Modern warfare increasingly depends on artificial intelligence, satellites, electronic systems, and unmanned aircraft. France's Minister for the armed forces, Catherine Vautrin, has highlighted the significance of tactical drones in the Russia-Ukraine war. This shows the need to adapt military strategies and develop effective interception systems.

These developments show the growing interdependence of technology, diplomacy, international trade and military production. Technologies that disrupt maritime navigations and threaten oil supplies can also threaten domestic industries and create export opportunities for producing countries. Consequently, technological capabilities both determine national security and economic competitiveness.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), global military expenditure reached approximately $2.8 trillion in 2025, rising by 9 .4 per cent in real terms from 2024. This shows how geopolitical instability is reshaping industrial priorities, international partnerships and economic diplomacy worldwide.

The scale of military expenditure and arms sales associated with the current global conflicts is an indication that economics and security can no longer be considered separate fields. Security needs generate economic demand, while economic and technological capacity gives states the ability to respond to that demand.

Economic diplomacy, therefore, is no longer limited to attracting investment, promoting exports or opening new markets. It now operates within a wider network of interests that includes energy, technology, industry, defence and security. A diplomat cannot look at any one of these areas in complete isolation, because a decision taken in one field may have immediate consequences in another.

In the end, the challenge is not simply that diplomacy has acquired new tools. The world in which diplomacy operates has itself changed. It has become faster, more interconnected and, in many cases, more difficult to predict. This places a greater responsibility on diplomats. Their evolving role is to understand what lies behind them, see how developments in different fields are connected, and anticipate their consequences before they turn into crises.

Contemporary diplomacy must find leeway to adapt without losing its essence. The tools may change, and the sources of power and influence may multiply, but the need for dialogue, for understanding and for building bridges of trust between states and peoples remains. The effective diplomacy is therefore not necessarily the most technologically advanced. It is diplomacy that can combine flexibility in a changing world with clarity while preserving the human dimension that gives its real meaning.

Dr Kalakeche is the Ambassador of Lebanon to Nigeria. He can be reached via Abuja.leb@gmail.com

Adeleke and his dance-steps into irrelevance

By **Alade Rotimi-John**

DANCE virtuoso and Governor of Osun State, Jackson Nurudeen Ademola Adeleke has, these four or so years, entertained a disbelieving but amused nation with his vintage oratorio and dance steps everywhere he goes. Many serious-minded people have thought him obscene or clownish particularly as he makes no difference between his official engagements and his private outings respecting his schoolboy-like gyration acts. But Adeleke is generally admired as he is perceived to have demystified the mystique of officialdom.

The people of Osun State have welcomed Governor Adeleke's tenure as a refreshing succession to the austere, severe and cheerless administration of Chief Adegboyega Oyetola and to the boisterously polemical tenure of Ogbeni Rauf Aregbesola before it.

The Osun country - noted as a generally rustic demography - has continued to be preoccupied with an age-old ethic for political independence respecting thought and action, and a concern for private or self-actualisation. The people appear, as if conceding to the poetic declaration of Joe Wallace regarding the place of Canada vis-a-vis her intimidating neighbour that "Ours is a sovereign nation/ Bows to no foreign will". The people's zest for politics and political activities is legendary. They are always at their best during political electioneering seasons. Their political self-expression is buoyed by their profound sense of history - a history of the triumph of self-will over invading hegemonic foes.

Adeleke had ridden on the horseback of this proud sense of history to deliver a historic defeat of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and its intimidating machinery of a putative federal might, a security overreach, and an army of invidious party hacks in the 15th of August, 2026 Osun State governorship election. But Adeleke now seems poised to reverse the gains of the sacrifices of the people regarding the untold harassment and unspeakable intimidation they suffered, and of the deaths of a yet-to-be identified number of persons in the patriotic pursuit of a regime of a free and fair election. A general palpable sense of a combustible state of affairs had pervaded the entire Osun atmosphere. It was felt nationwide.

For reasons that can only be understood as banal or as thoroughly lacking in thought, Adeleke has identified as the totem at whose feet he must worship, the self-same set of people whom his people valiantly fought against to secure a resounding victory for him. He has found a place for himself as an altar boy in the adversary's sanctuary. He is the president's poster boy in Osun, programmed to ensure the president's acceptability among the people of Osun State. He must deliver. A tall order, given the circumstances!

For Adeleke, a support for the second term bid of President Tinubu is sacrosanct; it is supportable by the reason of kinship ties and of ethnic logic. Tinubu is Adeleke's tribesman, being a Yoruba man like himself. Further, Tinubu's alleged ancestral home is Osun State where Adeleke presides as governor. The political underpinnings respecting an ideological difference, no matter how tenuous, between the party that gave him victory and the president's all-conquering quest are, for Adeleke, no moment. They are not worthy of consideration.

In place of patriotic statecraft, Adeleke has presented his people the evidence of an articulated political jobbery. This is visibly antithetical to the vigorously-unyielding spirit of the revered ancestors of Osun who have been historically noted to be cautious, shrewd, unequivocal, and ideologically clear.

It must be noted that politicians have but one principle; that of self-interest, which situates them properly in the inevitable follow-up scheme of lying, hypocrisy, and cowardice.

Adeleke's attempt to award the trophy of his victory to the people's adversaries has understandably drawn the flak of the ordinary people of Osun State. They have said in no uncertain verbiage that Adeleke is on his own. He is free to choose a presidential candidate of his fancy just as the people are able to freely exercise their fundamental right of choice regarding candidates for election. The people say they are not duty-bound to follow the governor willy-nilly or blindly. Our leaders will seem to have a poor estimation of their fellow countrymen.

Granted that the great mass of the electorate are ignorant, it is proper still for their leaders to credit them with some acumen and perceive them as clearheaded enough to rather do business with some mean, vulgar fellow than with some shameless breed of speculators. To the credit of the people, they have become scornful of political wiliness, particularly the one thrown at their faces. How the people wish they could trust their leaders! Thankfully, for betraying the people's trust, the political demise of wily leaders is sure; it is predictable. They are often seen to retire prematurely to private life, even as a thoroughly used-up character.

The struggle to completely throw off the yoke of the ultra conservative APC in Osun State may have received an own-goal setback even as men whose characters are detestable are today degrading the political space by their putrid presence. It is incredibly unthinkable and troubling too how men who otherwise have a modicum of esteemed pedigree, a passable character and forgivable infractions could fatally help to swell the ranks of the meanest kind of office-holders, office-seekers, political jobbers and contractors, pimps, mafoisos, and grisly goons.

Adeleke has unwittingly danced himself into the jaws of unmitigated irrelevance. He has not allowed his dexterous dance steps to be his guide but his accomplice. He has allowed the contrast between him and Oyetola, for instance, to be blurred by association. His bon homie and Oyetola's publicly-noted hubris are today considered equable or, at best, not easily differentiable one from the other. Thanks to Adeleke's ill-exercised discretion.

Within the Nigerian political and cultural tradition, the fickle abandonment of a popular, even if, emblematic effort or vision is generally denounced. It is not a mere vague metaphor that such an abrupt change of position conveys an impression somehow similar to the effects of the betrayers of the vision of ages gone by. We are largely left with the insipid or uninspiring biographies of such personages and of the poor ethical and emotional choices they made. In the end, we come to the grave conclusion that they have been misguided by their art, their craft, their hubris or by their overestimation of their real worth.

Adeleke's dance mastery which ought to have led him inexorably to the apogee of his political career for its peculiar distinctiveness is today his famished road to golgotha. Adeleke is dancing himself away from the warm embrace of his people; the ones who valiantly averted a looming shame and heroically translated it into a confounding story of folk victory. Adeleke is dancing himself into oblivion where his erstwhile good deeds will be consumed by a dim memory - a blocked off residue of the past.

What Adeleke has presented us with is a fateful picture of an up and coming but indiscreet star in the horizon, sleepwalking himself into a decadent, buccaneering, and brutal constellation where it will be dimmed, vanquished or consumed. He may never recover.

Rotimi-John, a lawyer and commentator on public affairs, is the Secretary-General of Afenifere.

Curiouser and curiouser, the ADC travail!



THE Nigerian nation is in such a delicate state at the moment that even a considerably thick-skinned and insensitive person can feel it; it is so palpable the blind can touch it and is so piercing the deaf can feel it in his ear drums. How anybody would want to drop a cigarette end that can set off a conflagration to entrap the country at this point in time beats my imagination.

On Thursday last week, a Federal High Court knocked off the Presidential election candidacy of former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, saying that the leadership of African Democratic Congress, more known and referred to as ADC, was unlawfully constituted. In effect the judgment retrieves the flags of the party in the hands of several other people striving and pushing for contestation, using the party platform for representation at various levels in the coming general elections in the land. The bomb-shell came when the elections are barely two months away.

Atiku is a star veteran in the quest for power at the highest level of the Nigerian polity. His presence is what has given the ADC, a relatively obscure party stature, colour and much reckoning, thus making it a major Opposition contender to make the January Presidential election a truly battle royal. Another Opposition contender of considerable weight, and promise, and a very bright star is Peter Obi, a one-time governor of Anambra State. The two were the frontliner competitors with equally formidable candidate Bola Ahmed Tinubu who emerged in the fierce race as winner and President.

Obi himself was later to defect from Labour Party to ADC. Finding himself squeezed among heavy weights, he fled to NDC. The three were the main gladiators in 2023 and Tinubu (APC) led with 8,794, 726 votes; Atiku then of PDP came second with 6, 984, 520 votes and Peter Obi then of Labour Party came third with 6, 101, 533 votes.

Rabiu Kwankwaso of NNPP had 1, 496, 671 votes. I have brought out the figures to show the implications for national peace and harmony in disqualifying any of these candidates without careful thoughtfulness and this so late in the day for that matter—about only two months to the elections. There are two other emerging contenders being taken seriously with waves sweeping across the land if mammoth crowds at rallies are of any measure of the reckoning of candidates even after we discountenance the factor of stomach infrastructure as Governor Ayo Fayose would elect to put it. That is those who only attended rallies in expectation of paliatives.

Commenting on the court judgment, Atiku said the timing of the judgment is no coincidence, adding confidently and firmly that he is still on the ballot. He pointed accusing fingers at the ruling party, APC, for kicking up the dust and orchestrating his travail. He said in a statement: "It is part of a strategy to weaken my support in the North and frustrate a campaign whose message is resonating across the country."


Atiku

In 2023, the overall scores by the leading candidates in the entire North were as follows: APC (Tinubu) –5, 507, 789; PDP (Atiku) —5, 159, 679; LP (Peter Obi)—1, 798, 671; NNPP (Kwankwaso): —1, 449, 872. President Bola Tinubu beat Atiku in the North by a fairly wide margin of over 300,000 votes.

It would be an irony that the suit leading to Atiku's candidacy being nullified originated from Gombe where in terms of zonal scores, he had the highest harvest of votes which was—63 per cent. The performance in Gombe was followed by that of his home state, Adamawa—57 per cent and the least from Taraba State—38 per cent. Borno: 41 per cent; Bauchi: 50 per cent; Yobe: 52 per cent.

Peter Obi had lowest percentage score in his home region in Imo State which gave him 77 per cent of the votes cast. The highest was from Anambra: 95 per cent; followed by Enugu, 94 per cent; Abia 88 per cent and Ebonyi State: 80 per cent, leaving no room for any other candidate to score the crucial 25 per cent in any of the states in the East.

In his own zone of the South West, Tinubu's biggest harvest was from Ondo State, with 67 per cent of the votes, followed by Ekiti State, 65 per cent and then Ogun, 59 per cent. He received his biggest support from the North where he beat every other candidate—5, 507, 787 votes to Atiku's 5, 159, 679 and Kwankwaso's 1, 4449, 872. And Peter Obi's: 1,798, 671.

Practically, in all the states, safe Benue, Edo State and Cross River State, where Atiku did not lead, he came second. Is that the kind of person whose candidacy you knock off the ballot on technical grounds—his longing, his reinvigorated quest for the Presidential suite at Aso Rock? The bombshell came to the nation on the second day after he launched his campaign in Sokoto, believed to be his ancestral roots.

Trouble began when Mr. Nafiu Bala Gombe went to court to challenge the legitimacy of the David Mark leadership of the ADC Caretaker Committee featuring a host of renowned political juggernauts, among them former Governors, Bala Gombe, former National Deputy Chairman of the party said in his papers filed in the court that after the resignation of the former chairman, Ralph Nwosu, he was the next in rank to step into his shoes. He claimed that the process that threw up David Mark, a former President of the Senate, and other officers of the party bypassed him and as such the arrangement and the actions taken were illegal. And the purported letter of resignation on which David Mark- Rauf Aregbesola leadership relied upon to take control, reorganise and breathe life into the party was fake, indeed forged.

The actions taken under the banner of the authority of David Mark leadership included the primaries for all the elective offices for the imminent contestations in January and February 2027. The primaries produced Atiku as the party's flagbearer and Rotimi Amaechi his running mate as well as the party's candidates for the Senate, for the House of Representatives, for governors and various State Houses of Assembly.

Lukman Fagbemi, SAN, counsel forBala Gombe said the implication of what his principal had gotten on Thursday is that "the court, having reviewed the entire facts of the case, having reviewed the clear position of the law, party's guidelines, party constitution , provisions of the Constitution and the Electoral Act and the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, finds as a fact that they did not emerge through lawful constitutional means and that there were flagrant breaches of all the relevant provisions that we have stated.

"The implication is that INEC, which has the duty in line with Section 223 of the Constitution, has now been ordered not to recognise and not to act on all the decisions taken at the 99th NEC meeting of the Party on July 27, 2025. "All the actions taken by ADC as a party since July 27 to date stand annulled", he said.

His partner colleague, Luka Musa Haruna, also a SAN, said the judgment followed the determination of the substantive suit after the Supreme Court directed that the matter be returned to the Federal High Court for determination.

> "What Justice Lifu himself ought to have done was to call the parties and ask them to resolve their differences as an intra-party affair. Failing to do so has grave implications for the country should the party's Presidential candidate be disqualified at the 11th hour along with the hordes of other contestants."

"Today, the substantive issue has been determined and all actions taken by the David Mark-led leadership of the ADC have been declared null and void. As it stands today, the ADC has no candidate from the Presidential level to the House of Assembly, governorship, Senate and all other elective positions for the 2027 elections. They don't have any representation as it stands today except you are from the camp of Nafiu Bala who is the substantive chairman of the ADC", Haruna said.

When the case came up last year, the Appeal Court threw out Justice Peter Lifu's interim order what was called preservative order. With the order, the ADC chieftains were out in the cold. They heaved a sigh of relief the Appeal Court set aside the order and asked the parties to maintain the status quo ante bellum. Mark leadership made forthe Supreme Court which remitted the case back to the Federal High Court and directed that the trial be given accelerated hearing. The result of the accelerated hearing was what led to the judgment of last week.

On Thursday, Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court said the ADC chiefs violated the party constitution, the Electoral Act and the 1999Constitution of the Federal Republic. Additionally, seeing merit in Bala Gombe's reliefs, he ruled that the letter of resignation purportedly sent in by him which David Mark leadership relied upon to proceed on its actions was fake. "The fact that a document is certified, however, does not, by that fact alone, settle a genuine dispute as to whether the person named in it, actually signed it.

"Certification may establish the status of the copy as a true copy of the document in the custody of the certifying authority; it does not necessarily establish the authenticity of the disputed signature. The court must, therefore, consider the document alongside the other relevant evidence."

Justice Lifu went on to say that a court could compare a disputed signature with admitted or otherwise established specimens without necessarily requiring expert's evidence in every case. He said he had carefully compared the signature tendered as exhibit ADC-1 with those on Bala's sworn statements and found that they were materially different.

"I am not satisfied that Exhibit ADC-1 represents the genuine act of the plaintiff. I, therefore, reject it as reliable proof that the plaintiff voluntarily resigned from his position as Deputy National Chairman of the 1st defendant ADC."

When Bala Gombe instituted his action in September 2025, David Mark and his committee contended that Bala Gombe had resigned from the position of National Deputy Chairman since 17 May, 2025, and that the resignation was accordingly communicated to the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC. But Bala Gombe repeatedly denied ever resigning, saying that the letter of resignation in reference was forged. In April last year he said openly that the letter was not from him nor was the signature his.What he was seeing was forged, he said.

Of course, if Nafiu Bala Gombe's letter was forged and it was on the letter that the ADC based all their actions, it should stand to reason that the case must naturally collapse. Nothing built on a false foundation can stand.

The judge also said the party's reliance on the powers of its National Executive Committee and INEC's subsequent recognition of the leadership arrangement could not replace compliance with the statutory requirement.

There is no doubt that with the rulings the stress assailing the ADC's elaborate preparations has been complicated and placed under a cloud of uncertainties. Bala Gombe would appear to have a solid case. Yes, true. Looked at very closely, it would also appear that David Mark men sought to overwhelm him with their stature and renown. But they soon discovered that he was not an easy push-over. They had enough time since April last year to draw Bala Gombe closer, call him aside and resolve their differences. Or, was Mr. Bala Gombe angling to contest for the Presidency? Are there no wise men either within the party or in his neighbourhood he respects who can be entreated to mediate and prevail on him not to put the fate of the party in jeopardy? David Mark and company, as it has now been proven, took things too much for granted. They were tardy.

What Justice Lifu himself ought to have done was to call the parties and ask them to resolve their differences as an intra-party affair. Failing to do so has grave implications for the country should the party's Presidential candidate be disqualified at the 11th hour along with the hordes of other contestants. It is too late no matter the merit of Bala Gombe's case and the tardiness of those against whom he has been up in arms to throwout of the window Atiku's determined candidacy and say he and the other candidates do not now have a party platform on which to stand. Forget their arrogance. National peace and harmony are more important and worthy of sacrifice on the part of all concerned in the imbroglio.

It is reassuring, however, that David Mark committee is appealing to the superior court, the Court of Appeal especially, viewed against backdrop and claims that Justice Lifu's judgment is in collision with the pronouncement of another Federal High Court of co-ordinate jurisdiction in Hon. Abejide against ADC &Ors which came before Justice Musa Liman. Justice Lima affirmed the legitimacy of David Mark Committee and overturned the INEC deregistration of ADC and four other political parties.

Bejide and Bala Gombe may be different litigants, the lawyers say, however, about the same issues were canvassed in the two cases and the defendants were the same.

There are times wisdom over-rides laws, streaming as it does from far beyond the earthly limitation of human brains, which is why it is always disarming!

Congratulations

DR. ANTHONY OFOMA,

FNAPE, FNMGS, KSM.

ON YOUR INAUGURATION AS THE

49TH President OF NAPE!



CONGRATULATIONS DR. ANTHONY OFOMA, FNAPE, FNMGS, ON YOUR INAUGURATION AS THE 49TH PRESIDENT OF NAPE!

We warmly congratulate Dr. Anthony Ofoma, FNAPE, FNMGS, on his inauguration as the 49th President of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) at the recently concluded 44th Annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Association.

Your emergence as President is a well-deserved recognition of your distinguished professional accomplishments, exemplary leadership and enduring commitment to the growth and advancement of Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

At a time when energy security, sustainable economic growth and national development remain critical priorities, we are confident that your leadership will further strengthen NAPE's role as a vital platform for industry collaboration, innovation, knowledge development, professional excellence and constructive policy engagement.

With warmest regards,

The Committee of Friends.

1. Ekpei U. Ukam
2. Ejike Okolo
3. Muhammed Musa Maikaya
4. Mohammed Kaumi
5. Mammadu Emmanuel Gadzama
6. Izundu Ikpo
7. Ugboaja Chimela
8. Thaddeus Nwabueze Odo
9. Ekei P. Duke
10. Deji Iwogbemi
11. Ijomanta Henry
12. Ekpedeme Mkpong
13. Adiaiduo Ini
14. Samaila, Idi. A
15. Folorunso Kareem
16. Richard Solomon Dauda
17. Yusuf Maikudi Hassan
18. Adeosun Ayodeji
19. Chidi Awa Uka
20. Edward Ozah
21. Paul Duke
22. Ese Erhiaganoma
23. Aminu Sani Daniel
24. Ajibowo Wasiu
25. Haruna Dankyau
26. Adeola Olabisi James
27. Engr. Ayodeji Adeniran
28. Bawa Danlami
29. Okafor Nnadozie
30. Adekunle Olumide Kunani

jhpiego

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND PAYROLL MANAGEMENT FIRM

Background.
Jhpiego Corporation, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University, is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization that works to improve the health of women and families throughout the world.

Jhpiego Corporation is seeking the services of reputable, experienced, and legally compliant **Human Resources (HR) and Payroll Management Firm**. Interested and qualified service providers are encouraged to read the entire document to ensure that they have a clear understanding of Jhpiego's requirements before submitting a bid.

1. Service Description

S/N	Description
1	Human Resource and Payroll Management

2. Eligibility
All applicants should provide the following at the minimum:

- Company profile (to include brief organization core competencies, key management personnel, primary contacts, physical verifiable office address, mobile number, and e-mail address, etc.).
- Certificate of incorporation, memorandum and articles of association and valid Tax Identification Number (TIN).
- Geographical coverage of services in Nigeria.
- Proven track record of providing professional HR and payroll management services for corporate agencies.
- Proven track record of full compliance with tax laws, and compliance with other mandatory regulations.
- Detailed overview, specifications and capabilities of service provider's HR and payroll management infrastructure (software, hardware, reporting capabilities etc.).
- Proof of registration and compliance with data protection regulations.
- Valid Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) for the last 3 years.
- Minimum of three (3) active reputable references within the last three (3) years.
- Any other relevant information.

3. Submission of Documents
All documents should be sent by email to:
Nigeria.Bids@jhpiego.org clearly stating ***"Prequalification of Human Resources and Payroll Management Firm"*** as subject of the email.

4. Closing date
The closing date for submission of prequalification document is **4 pm WAT** on **26th November 2026**. However, it is strongly recommended that interested service providers submit prequalification documents before closing date.

MORISON

MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 71st Annual General Meeting (the Meeting or AGM) of MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC (the Company) will be held at OLUMO HALL, Lagos Airport Hotel 362, Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos on 3 December 2026 at 11.00 a.m. to transact the following business:

ORDINARY BUSINESS
1. To lay before the meeting the Report of the Directors, the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2025, and the Reports of the Auditors and Audit Committee thereon.
2. To elect / re-elect Directors.
   Mr. John Adekoje.
   Mr. Matthew Akinlade
3. To approve the appointment of the new Auditors.
4. To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
5. To disclose the remuneration of Managers of the Company in line with the provisions of Section 238 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.
6. To elect the members of the Audit Committee.

SPECIAL BUSINESS
7. To fix the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors.
8. To authorize the Company to procure goods and services necessary for its operations from related companies on normal commercial terms in compliance with the NGX Rules Governing Transactions with Related Parties or Interested Persons.

NOTES
Relevant documents in connection with the Meeting are available to all shareholders from the date of this notice on the Company's Website www.morisonplc.ng

PROXY
Members of the Company entitled to attend and vote, are entitled to appoint proxies to attend and vote in their stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. A proxy form is provided with the Annual Report and Financial Statement. The Proxy form has been pre-stamped for the use of the shareholders. To be valid for the purpose of the Meeting, the form must be completed and deposited at the office of the Company's Registrars, **CARDINALSTONE REGISTRARS' LTD**, 358, Herbert Macaulay Way, Yaba, Lagos not later than forty-eight (48) hours before the time of the Meeting.

Each Member is to appoint a proxy by ticking the relevant box in the Proxy Form attached hereto to indicate how his/her vote is to be cast for each proposed resolution on the agenda.

Each duly completed proxy form shall be counted as one (1).

Voting by Interested Persons
In line with the provisions of Rule 20.8 (c) of the Rules Governing Related Party Transaction of Nigerian Exchange Limited, interested persons have undertaken to abstain, and ensure that their proxies, representatives, or associates shall abstain from voting on resolution 8 above.

CLOSURE OF REGISTER
The Register of Members and Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from Monday, November 16, 2026 to Friday, November 20, 2026 (Both dates inclusive).

NOMINATION FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:
The Audit Committee consists of (3) three shareholders and (2) Non- Executive Directors. In accordance with section 404 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020 (CAMA), any member may nominate a shareholder for election as a member of the Audit Committee by giving in writing, notice of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. We request shareholders to note Section 404(5) of CAMA 2020 which provides that All Members of the Audit Committee shall be financially literate, and at least one (1) member shall be a member of a professional accounting body in Nigeria established by an Act of the National Assembly.

RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS TO ASK QUESTION
Securities holders have a right to ask questions not only at the Meeting, but also in writing prior to the Meeting, and such questions should be addressed to the Company Secretary and submitted to the registered office of the Company at least one (1) week before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

ELECTRONIC ANNUAL REPORT
The soft copy of the Annual Report for the year 2025 can be assessed on our website and has been sent to our shareholders who provided their email addresses to the Registrars. Shareholders who are interested in receiving the soft copy of the 2025 Annual Report should request via email to registrars@cardinalstone.com.

BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF DIRECTORS
Biographical details of all directors including those standing for election and re-election are provided in the annual report and on the Company's website.

Dated 23rd October 2026
By Order of the Board

Bose Agbetu
Company Secretary
FRC/2014/NBA/00000007088

The Guardian Business

www.guardian.ng | Friday, November 13, 2026 | Guardian Nigeria | GuardianNigeria | 08136370421 | Guardiannigeria

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

DMO raises N5.06b from savings bonds as allotment falls 17.4%

By **Helen Oji**

THE Debt Management Office (DMO) has raised N5.06 billion from its November 2026 Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) Savings Bond offer, representing a 17.4 per cent decline from the N6.12 billion allotted to investors in October, amid a reduction in subscriptions.

The November allotment comprised N746.01 million from the two-year bond and N4.31 billion from the three-year instrument, according to the latest allotment results released by the DMO.

The offer, which opened from November 2 to 6, was settled on November 11, with the government offering yearly interest rates of 13.25 per cent and 14.25 per cent on the two-year and three-year bonds, respectively.

The lower allotment reflected reduced investor participation, as the two-year instrument attracted 968 subscriptions, compared with 1,261 recorded in October. The three-year bond also recorded 2,390 subscriptions, down from 2,678 in the preceding month.

In terms of value, investors received N746.01 million from the two-year November 2028 bond, against N1.02 billion allotted for the corresponding instrument in October. The three-year November 2029 bond attracted N4.31 billion, compared with N5.11 billion allotted in October.

The combined November allotment of N5.06 billion was about N1.06 billion lower than the October figure of N6.12 billion, indicating a moderation in demand for the government's retail debt instrument.

However, the decline in subscriptions came despite an increase in the interest rates offered by the government, suggesting that the higher yields did not translate into stronger participation during the November offer.

The DMO raised the annual interest rate on the two-year bond to 13.25 per cent from 13.071 per cent in October, while the rate on the three-year instrument increased to 14.25 per cent from 14.071 per cent.

Both instruments will mature on November 11 of their respective maturity years, with the two-year bond due in 2028 and the three-year instrument in 2029.

Interest payments will be made quarterly on February 11, May 11, August 11 and November 11 throughout the tenor of the bonds.

Despite the decline in November, the FGN Savings Bond programme recorded stronger allotments in the first nine months of 2026 compared with the corresponding period of last year.



Former Acting Managing Director/CEO, Bank of Industry and Chairman, National Organising Committee of the Chartered Institute of Directors 2026 yearly Directors Conference, Dr Waheed Olagunju (left); Mrs Olu Maduka; Pioneer Director General, Nigerian Television Authority, Vincent Maduka and Pioneer Managing Director/CEO Bank of Industry, Dr Lawrence Osa-Afiana at the dinner in Lagos.

Patient capital, corporate governance key to $1tr economy, bridging infrastructure gap

By **Victoria Nwachukwu**

NIGERIA's ambition to grow its economy to $1 trillion by 2030 will depend on its ability to attract long-term investment, deepen its capital market and build more well-governed businesses capable of sustaining economic growth.

Besides, the country needs over $100 billion yearly to address its infrastructure deficit, while long-term foreign direct investment accounts for less than 1.3 per cent of investments discussed in the capital market, according to founder and chief executive officer of JNC International, Clare Omatseye.

Speaking at the Business Meets Government Dinner of the 2026 yearly Directors Conference of the Chartered Institute of Directors Nigeria (CIoD), she said about 95 per cent of investments were portfolio investments, stressing the need to attract patient capital rather than short-term funds.

She said Nigeria's economy was valued at about $387 billion and needed to grow 2.8 times its existing size within four years to reach the $1 trillion target.

Omatseye said 11 companies controlled 75 per cent of the market, while about N2 trillion was raised by just 30 companies, arguing that Nigeria needed hundreds of well-governed medium-sized businesses to deepen the stock exchange.

She urged development finance institutions, including the Bank of Industry and Development Bank of Nigeria, to support the growth of small and medium enterprises into larger businesses.

She identified N31 trillion in pension assets and improved bank capitalisation as domestic resources that could support economic development, while calling for predictable policies, reliable disclosures, enforceable contracts and board accountability to build investor confidence.

She also urged the CIoD to increase the number of directors, develop younger board members and improve women's representation on corporate boards.

"That's what we need to do to be able to create the kind of governance that will look after the capital that's coming. Then the money will flow," she said.

On sustainability, she said businesses must treat environmental, social and governance considerations as part of their strategy, identifying climate risks, energy reliability, water recycling, workforce resilience and supply chain management as issues boards must consider.

She also called for stronger public-private partnerships to attract investment into critical sectors.

The Chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group, Dr Umaru Kwairanga, said market capitalisation had risen from less than N30 trillion at the beginning of the current administration to over N162.5 trillion, with a target of N250 trillion before the end of December.

He said building a $1 trillion economy required sound corporate governance and long-term capital, adding that funding institutions must demonstrate high governance standards to assure investors that their funds were safe.

Earlier, the President of CIoD Nigeria, Adetunji Oyebanji, said Nigeria's economic stabilisation must translate into relief for citizens and businesses, noting that food inflation remained nearly 19.6 per cent despite the moderation in headline inflation.

He said headline inflation had eased to 14.63 per cent in September 2026 from over 20 per cent a year earlier, while the Central Bank of Nigeria had reduced the monetary policy rate by 350 basis points, from 26.5 to 23 per cent.

Oyebanji said elevated borrowing rates and persistent infrastructure deficits continued to constrain small and medium enterprises, calling for policy consistency and accelerated infrastructure delivery in power, transport and digital connectivity.

The Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, Dr Waheed Olagunju, said government decisions to liberalise, deregulate, commercialise and privatise sectors of the economy had encouraged investment and created employment opportunities.

Citing telecommunications, he said the auction of GSM licences in 2001 attracted foreign investment. He also referred to developments in internet banking, e-commerce and financial technology as changes witnessed in the economy.

94% of Nigerian SMEs want integrated payment tools amid slow adoption

. Visa advocates integrated payment and business solutions

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

SMALL and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria have largely moved beyond the first stage of digital payment adoption, but a productivity gap remains.

According to Visa's new survey for its Pay and Get Paid 2026 report, most of the SMEs surveyed in Nigeria use digital payments, showing how firmly digital commerce has taken root in the country's small business economy.

However, many SMEs still manage the related financial and operational tasks separately, with only 29 per cent currently using an integrated solution that connects payments with broader business management.

The report showed that financial administration and disconnected tools create friction for SMEs, with surveyed businesses citing challenges in tracking outstanding invoices (14 per cent), keeping payroll records organised (19 per cent), and preparing financial reports (16 per cent). These pain points reflect a disconnect between payments and the operational tasks that follow, with some businesses juggling multiple systems to keep their business running.

The appetite for a more connected approach is clear. According to the report, 94 per cent of SMEs find an all-in-one payment and business solution appealing, reflecting strong interest in tools that can bring payments and key business operations into one experience. However, adoption has yet to catch up: only 29 per cent of SMEs currently use an integrated payment and business platform.

The report pointed to several perception barriers that may be slowing adoption. Businesses cited that they already have manual processes that work (eight per cent), that an integrated platform may disrupt their current way of working (eight per cent), or that they do not trust relying on a single provider (seven per cent). These findings suggest that broader adoption will depend on helping SMEs better understand how integrated tools can be relevant, accessible, and scalable for businesses at different growth stages.

At the same time, the experience of SMEs already using integrated solutions suggests a strong value case. The report found that Nigerian businesses using an integrated tool or platform report 93 per cent satisfaction, with 88 per cent reporting efficiency gains, including reductions in the time and effort required to manage their business.

Beyond efficiency, integrated platforms may also create new opportunities for financial institutions to deepen SME relationships by using richer payments and business-management data to better understand cash flow patterns, support risk assessment, and potentially enable more relevant lending solutions over time.

Telcos blame power deficits, vandalism, hostile communities for poor service

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

TELECOMMUNICATIONS operators in Nigeria have appealed to the over 200 million active telephone subscribers in the country about the drop in telephone service quality in the country.

The telcos under the aegis of the Association of Licensed Telecom Operators of Nigeria (ALTON) noted that while millions of frustrated subscribers direct their anger squarely at mobile network operators, said the nation's telecommunications backbone is being systematically choked by three relentless forces: a crippling electricity deficit, brazen criminal vandalism, and violent community hostility.

The Chairman of ALTON, Gbenga Adebayo, who disclosed this yesterday during a monitored television interview, laid bare the brutal realities of keeping Nigeria connected.

Responding to mounting public outrage and a recent four-week ultimatum from the Nigerian Senate to improve service delivery, Adebayo declared that money and regulatory decrees alone cannot fix the network until the country confronts the hostile operating environment on the ground.

"I do not want to come here and claim that network services are satisfactory or that there are no problems," Adebayo admitted. "However, we operate in a peculiar environment characterised by several challenges, some of which are beyond the control of service providers."

According to him, unlike operators in developed markets, who plug seamlessly into stable national power grids, Nigerian telecom companies operate largely as independent power generation outfits. He stressed that across roughly 50,000 telecommunications sites nationwide, operators must constantly juggle heavy-duty diesel generators, solar arrays, and battery banks just to keep signals beaming.

"Consider the amount of work involved in managing electricity supply in an average Nigerian home. You have to ensure that fuel is available for your generator, recharge your electricity meter where applicable and ensure that your inverter is adequately charged. Now imagine managing those requirements across approximately 50,000 telecommunications sites nationwide," Adebayo explained.

According to him, because telecommunications networks operate as an interconnected national grid, a power failure in one town triggers a domino effect elsewhere. "Yet, keeping those 50,000 sites fueled is a logistical nightmare. Even when operators deploy vast fleets of diesel tankers, bad roads, insecurity, and localised blockades routinely prevent trucks from reaching remote base stations before tanks run dry."

Further, he said compounding the energy crisis is an alarming wave of targeted criminal sabotage. Adebayo revealed that telecommunications infrastructure has become a prime hunting ground for vandals looking to strip and sell components on the black market, often leaving entire cities disconnected for a few thousand naira in scrap value.

"We have had situations where individuals steal manhole covers and subsequently set fire to underground cables in an attempt to extract copper.

Insurer commits to growth, improved corporate governance

By **Bankole Orimisan**

REGENCY Alliance Insurance Plc has reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable growth and shareholder value creation, with plans to strengthen corporate governance and expand investor participation through the adoption of virtual and hybrid general meetings.

The Managing Director of the company, Bode Oseni, stated this at its 32nd yearly general meeting in Lagos, where shareholders reviewed the insurer's performance for the financial year ended December 31, 2025, and considered resolutions on its governance structure and strategic direction.

The meeting brought together shareholders, members of the Board of Directors, management and other stakeholders to review the company's affairs for the financial year ended December 31, 2025, and consider key resolutions aimed at strengthening its corporate governance framework and business operations.

A major highlight of the AGM was the consideration of the Directors' Report and Audited Financial Statements for the 2025 financial year, alongside the reports of the external auditors and Audit Committee.

Shareholders also deliberated on the re-election of retiring directors, directors' remuneration, the appointment of external auditors and the election of members of the Audit Committee, reflecting the company's continued emphasis on accountability, transparency and effective oversight.

Another significant development was the proposed amendment to the company's Articles of Association to accommodate virtual and hybrid general meetings.

Foundation urges firms, govt to support youth enterprise

By **Isaac Chibuife**

ASPIRE Coronation Trust (ACT) Foundation has urged government, businesses, financiers and social sector organisations to commit to specific, measurable actions that will help young African enterprises overcome barriers to growth.

The foundation said each stakeholder should make at least one commitment backed by a responsible person, a timeline and a measurable outcome, under its 2026 Opportunity Compact initiative.

Its Chief Executive Officer, Osayi Alile, made the call at its Breakfast Dialogue in Lagos, warning that gaps between skills development, access to finance and market opportunities were limiting the growth of young enterprises.

"Programmes rarely fail at the activity. They fail at the handoff," Alile said, arguing that training initiatives often produce limited results when participants lack access to funding, markets and other support needed to turn their skills into viable businesses.

The event, themed "From Skills to Scale", attracted more than 500 participants, including business executives, public sector officials, impact investors and civil society organisations. Discussions centred on the need to move beyond standalone training programmes towards coordinated support systems that enable enterprises to grow.

AfDB, AFD renew five-year pact to boost infrastructure financing in Africa

By **Isaac Chibuife**

THE African Development Bank (AfDB) and France's development agency, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), have signed a five-year agreement to increase joint financing of infrastructure projects across Africa, with a focus on energy, transport, water and industrial development.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU), covering 2026 to 2031, was signed on November 10 on the sidelines of the Paris Peace Forum, according to a statement by the AfDB.

The agreement builds on an existing partnership under which the two institutions have co-financed 17 projects in 14 African countries since 2021, with the energy sector accounting for nearly half of the funding.

AFD has also committed €1 billion to Mission 300, a joint initiative of the AfDB and World Bank aimed at connecting 300 million additional people in sub-Saharan Africa to electricity by 2030.

Under the new agreement, both institutions will jointly identify and assess projects, while combining financing with technical assistance, project preparation and policy support to increase the number of projects ready for investment.

They will also explore blended finance, guarantees and carbon finance to attract additional public and private investment into infrastructure development.

The priority sectors include energy, transport, water, regional connectivity, agriculture, industry, critical minerals and digital infrastructure, with particular attention to creating jobs for women and young people.

AfDB President, Dr Sidi Ould Tah, said the partnership would help channel more capital into infrastructure, strengthen African value chains and create employment opportunities for young people.

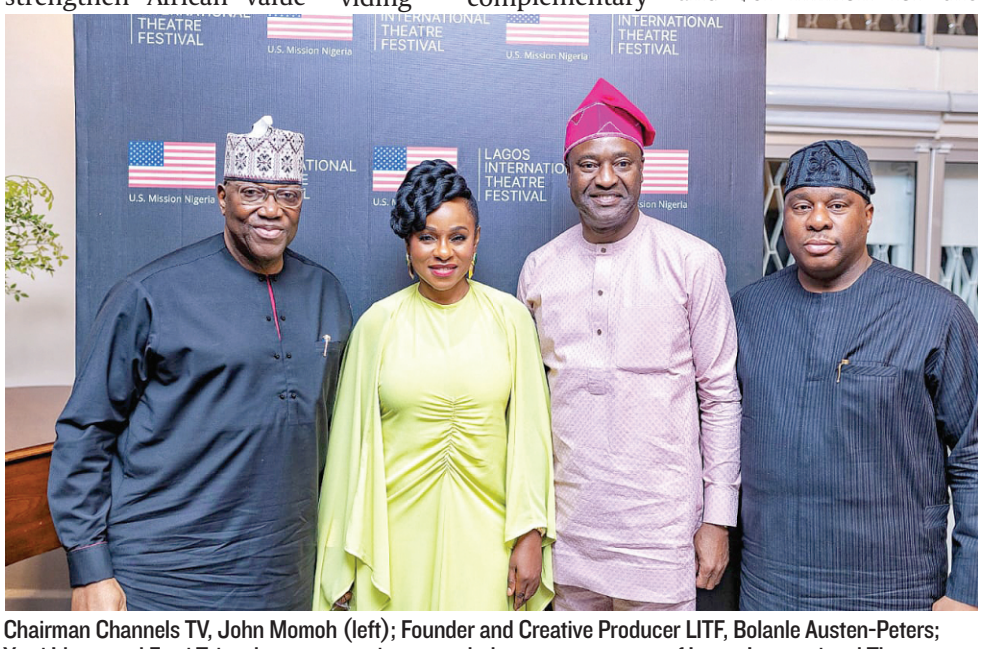
AFD Chief Executive Officer, Christophe Lecourtier, said the agreement would support strategic projects in energy and transport, as well as industrial development across the continent.

Existing joint investments include Qair solar plants in Chad, with a combined capacity of 30 megawatts peak, and the 88-megawatt Kakono hydropower project in Tanzania.

The institutions are also providing complementary financing for three regional transport corridors: Abidjan-Lagos, Abidjan-Ouagadougou and Lobito.

In Nigeria, the two development finance institutions are co-financing the Investment in Digital and Creative Enterprises programme, which supports businesses in the country's digital and creative sectors.

The AfDB has also extended significant financing to Nigerian institutions and the Federal Government. In May, it approved $200 million for the Development Bank of Nigeria. In November 2025, it approved a $500 million loan to the Federal Government.



Chairman Channels TV, John Momoh (left); Founder and Creative Producer LITF, Bolanle Austen-Peters; Yemi Idowu and Femi Tejuosho at a reception to mark the commencement of Lagos International Theatre Festival 3.0 at the U.S. Consulate in Lagos.

Scentified opens Nigerian operations

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

LUXURY fragrance retailer, Scentified, has commenced operations in Nigeria with the opening of its first physical outlet in Lagos.

The outlet, located at The Legend Hotel Lagos Airport, was unveiled alongside the introduction of Andraste, a new fragrance from British perfume house Boadicea the Victorious.

The company, which operates under Cascades Luxury Limited, said its decision to establish operations in Nigeria was driven by the demand for international niche perfume brands among Nigerians and the opportunity to make such products available locally.

Speaking at the opening of the outlet, Founder and Director of Scentified, Derrick Chike Memeh, said the business initially operated in London as Cascades Consult before expanding into luxury fragrance retail.

He said its relationships with major retail outlets in London, including Harrods and Selfridges, exposed the company to international perfume brands patronised by Nigerians shopping abroad.

"Through a curated relationship with top malls in London, such as Harrods and Selfridges, where a lot of discerning Nigerians shop, we decided to bring in some of the top niche fragrances found in exclusive stores around the world to Nigeria," Memeh said.

Memeh said the company was exploring partnerships with hotels as part of its distribution strategy, adding that the new outlet was intended to reach customers within the hospitality sector.

He said Scentified also operated at a Marriott hotel in Ghana and planned to open another outlet at Lancaster Hotel in the country. The company is also considering expansion into South Africa and Ethiopia.

'Workplace accidents threaten business productivity, raise operating costs'

By **Gloria Nwafor**

WORKPLACE accidents and occupational diseases are threatening business productivity, increasing operating costs and weakening the competitiveness of Nigerian enterprises, the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has warned.

It urged employers to prioritise workers' safety as an investment in business sustainability.

The Chamber said workplace injuries not only expose employees and their families to financial hardship but also disrupt production, undermine workforce efficiency and threaten the long-term viability of businesses.

The warning comes as the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) disclosed that it brought 250,144 additional employees under its Employees' Compensation Scheme between January and October 2026, representing an increase of about 55 per cent over the 160,971 employees covered throughout 2025.

The President and Chairman of Council, LCCI, Leye Kupoluyi, gave the warning at the NSITF Special Day of the 40th Lagos International Trade Fair in Lagos yesterday.

He argued that workforce protection should no longer be treated merely as a corporate social responsibility issue but as an investment in enterprise sustainability and economic competitiveness.

According to him, sustainable economic growth requires more than capital investment, trade expansion and business development, stressing that the health, safety and welfare of employees are equally critical to economic performance.

Kupoluyi urged businesses to take their statutory obligations under the Employees' Compensation Scheme seriously and invest consistently in workplace health and safety.

He also called on the NSITF to strengthen the administration of the scheme through simplified registration and compliance processes, improved digital service delivery and timely payment of compensation to affected workers.

He stressed the need for greater public awareness, noting that preventing workplace accidents must receive as much attention as compensating workers who suffer occupational injuries or diseases.

Providing an update on the scheme's implementation, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of NSITF, Oluwaseun Faleye, said the Fund had registered 17,435 additional employers between January and October 2026, bringing cumulative employer registration to 214,519 since the scheme commenced in July 2011.

He disclosed that the Fund had covered 8,005,027 employees across the public and private sectors and integrated 73 Ministries, Departments and Agencies into the scheme.

Despite the expansion, extending workers' protection to smaller businesses and the informal economy remains a major challenge, particularly as informal employment accounts for approximately 93 per cent of total employment in Nigeria, according to the National Bureau of Statistics' 2024 Labour Force Survey.

Ex-DGCA seeks unified framework to curb delays, safety risks

By **Olusegun Koiki**

FORMER Director-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Musa Nuhu, has called on aviation agencies, airlines and other industry stakeholders to embrace Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) in addressing institutional fragmentation, reduce flight delays and strengthen safety in Nigeria's aviation industry.

Speaking yesterday as a panellist 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,' Nuhu said the continued operation of aviation agencies in institutional silos had created inefficiencies that weakened the overall performance of the sector.

He emphasised that air traffic controllers often bear the consequences of poor coordination among industry operators.

Nuhu emphasised that although the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) and airlines had distinct statutory responsibilities, their operations were interconnected and required effective information-sharing and coordinated decision-making.

According to him, the traditional approach, in which air traffic control manages the skies, airlines oversee flight operations, airports manage terminal facilities and meteorological agencies provide weather information independently, had encouraged reactive decisions and compounded operational disruptions.

He added: "When airlines experience delayed aircraft turnaround or ground handlers encounter operational difficulties, air traffic controllers are sometimes the last to receive such information. This results in sudden demands on tower and approach control services.

"The absence of shared operational information can lead to unnecessary holding patterns, ground stops, increased workload for air traffic controllers, congestion on taxiways and additional fuel consumption, particularly during peak traffic periods and adverse weather conditions."

Besides, Nuhu advocated a shift towards an integrated aviation operational system, stressing that collaborative decision-making was a strategic approach that would enable stakeholders to share accurate, real-time information and jointly address operational challenges.

He explained that the concept would align the interests of aviation agencies and operators towards common objectives, including improved predictability, operational efficiency and resilience, rather than allowing individual organisations to focus exclusively on their institutional performance targets.

In a bid to achieve seamless aviation operations, Nuhu recommended the establishment of a Standing System Operations Committee comprising operational representatives of NAMA, FAAN, airlines and NiMet at major airports.

Nigeria shifts local content focus to building lasting industrial capacity

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

NIGERIA's local content drive must move beyond measuring indigenous participation in contracts to building industrial capacity that can survive individual projects and compete beyond the country, industry stakeholders have said.

This will be the focus of a closed-door Local Content Roundtable scheduled for November 30 at the Nigerian Content Tower in Yenagoa, as part of the opening session of the Practical Nigerian Content (PNC) Forum 2026.

The roundtable will examine the skills, technology, infrastructure and intellectual capacity developed in Nigeria since 2010, and whether local businesses have acquired enough strength to operate beyond projects funded by international oil companies.

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Row over 'essential service' status for airlines, suspension of 5% PSC

Stories by **Olusegun Koiki**

THE Deputy General-Secretary of the Association of Nigeria Aviation Professionals (ANAP), Ocheme Aba, has disagreed with the classification of airline operations as essential services, saying that only air traffic control services qualify under this definition in the aviation industry.

Aba, who also opposed calls for the abrogation of the five per cent Ticket Sales Charge (TSC) in some quarters, especially among the nation's airline operators, said the scrapping of the charge would expose the nation's aviation industry to danger.

Aba in an interview with The Guardian in Lagos, said that withdrawing airline operations would not expose the public to the same level of danger that could arise from withdrawing critical air traffic control services.

He explained that the International LabourOrganisation (ILO) defines essential services as those whose withdrawal could expose a significant portion of the population to serious risks.

According to him, the withdrawal of airline services did not meet that threshold, likening it to the suspension of road transport operations.

He said: "The only essential service that is rendered in aviation is that provided by air traffic control in relation to aircraft in the air.

"If you withdraw service from an aircraft that is already in the air, you are subjecting the people in the aircraft to danger. If you prevent an airline from taking off, in fact, you are reducing their danger."

Aba further argued that the position had received judicial backing, citing a ruling by the National Industrial Court (NIC) in a 2023 case instituted by Aero Contractors against aviation unions, which, according to him, established that airlines do not provide essential services.

He maintained that airline operations should not be placed in the same category as air traffic control, except where airline personnel are directly involved in providing such services.

The union leader also queried aspects of the regulatory framework empowering the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to regulate trade unions, arguing that such responsibilities already fall within the jurisdiction of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment.

Speaking on the controversy surrounding the five per cent TSC, Aba rejected calls for its outright abolition, insisting that airlines had a responsibility to contribute to the agencies and institutions providing the infrastructure and services that sustain their operations.

He posited that the charge was not peculiar to the aviation industry, noting that similar arrangements existed in other sectors, including maritime and road transportation, where operators contribute to the systems supporting their businesses.

According to him, the TSC was designed to provide funding for critical aviation agencies and should not be viewed as an unjustified financial burden on airlines.

Five Nigerian aviation agencies share from the five per cent TSC, which is warehoused by the NCAA.

The agencies are NCAA, 56 per cent; Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), 22 per cent; Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), nine per cent; Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), seven per cent; and Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB), six per cent.

Aba, however, agreed the need to address concerns surrounding the collection and remittance of the charge, suggesting that the Federal government should introduce a centralised electronic platform to deduct the money directly at source and distribute it to the beneficiary agencies, rather than going through the airlines.

He said: "Instead of leaving the money in the purse of the airlines and running after it, let us have a system, a portal, where this money can be deducted at source and split and sent to the various agencies that own it. And I think that is doable.

"Also, allowing the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to collect the charge on behalf of the government could result in additional costs. Definitely, IATA will not perform that function for the government for free. It will require payment for its services."

Besides, Aba further disclosed that aviation unions had raised the issue of the TSC with the Director-General of Civil Aviation, Chris Najomo during a recent engagement, adding that the regulator indicated that work was already ongoing to address the matter.

NUSA plans nationwide expansion, regulatory engagement

THE Nigeria Unmanned Systems Association (NUSA) has unveiled plans to expand its membership nationwide, strengthen regulatory engagement and promote professionalism in the country's emerging unmanned aviation industry.

The plans are part of the priorities of a newly constituted caretaker committee led by OkosubideMozimo, which is expected to reposition the association and deepen stakeholder participation in the rapidly evolving drone sector.

The committee emerged at a stakeholders' meeting and election held recently. Damilola Olufemi Adelana was elected Vice Chairman, while Femi Adekoya emerged as Financial Secretary.

The new leadership took over from Air Vice Marshal Femi Idowu (rtd), who led the association from its inception and laid the foundation for its growth.

Speaking after his emergence in Lagos, Mozimo expressed appreciation to members for the confidence reposed in the committee and acknowledged his predecessor's contributions to the development of the association.

He assured that the committee would prioritise reconciliation among stakeholders, conduct a comprehensive membership revalidation exercise and organise a credible elective Annual General Meeting (AGM) within its tenure.

According to him, a major focus would be expanding NUSA's membership base across the country by bringing relevant government agencies, drone operators and other stakeholders into the association.

He added: "The committee will pursue stronger regulatory engagement, professionalism and capacity building, while deepening collaboration with government agencies, oil and gas operators and stakeholders in the agricultural sector."

Mozimo is an electrical and electronics engineer with a Master's degree in Project Management and an MBA from Robert Kennedy College, University of Cumbria, Switzerland.

He is the Managing Director of ARCO Worldwide Services Limited, an NCAA-certified commercial drone operator, and was involved in establishing ARCO Aviation Academy, which NUSA described as Nigeria's first NCAA-approved drone pilot training academy.

The Vice Chairman, Adelana, is a former offshore helicopter pilot with Bristow Helicopters Nigeria and Nigeria's first NCAA Designated Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)



Member, Nigerian Cancer Society (NCS), Dr Ukoma Theophilus (left); General Secretary, NCS, Dr Tessy Ahmadu; Managing Director, United Nigeria Airlines (UNA), Osita Okonkwo; President, NCS, Prof. Abidemi Omonisi; a staff of UNA, Columbus Okaro and Chairman, Lagos NCS, Olusegun Ajagun, during the signing of a working agreement on cancer sensitisation and fund raising between the two organsations in Lagos, recently.

Aeroport eyes global reach, trains 7,000 in a decade

AEROPORT College of Aviation and Travel Management (ACATM) has certified more than 7,000 aviation, travel and tourism professionals in the last 10 years, its Founder, Dr Oludayo Taiwo Gideon, has said.

The company also said that its ambition was to become one of Africa's leading institutions for aviation, travel and tourism education.

Gideon disclosed this to journalists earlier in the week, during the celebration of the company's 10th year anniversary.

Gideon, who is also the Aeroport's Chief Executive Officer, said that the company had grown from a modest training centre with just 12 students to an institution with an expanding presence across Africa and beyond.

He recalled that the college started in a small room and graduated only 113 students at its maiden convocation, but had since grown into a training institution that produces professionals for various segments of the aviation and travel industries.

According to him, the institution's greatest achievement went beyond the number of graduates to the careers and businesses its training programmes have helped establish.

He said former students were now working as cabin crew members, flight dispatchers, airport ground handlers, protocol officers and customer service professionals, while others occupied management positions and operated businesses in the travel industry.

He added: "Aeroport graduates have become increasingly visible across Nigeria's travel companies, with some organisations seeking more graduates than the college can immediately provide for employment placements.

"The emergence of former students as chief executive officers and entrepreneurs in different countries is one of the most rewarding aspects of Aeroport's 10-year journey.

NANTA, NTDA partner to boost tourism

THE President of the National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA), Dr Yinka Folami, has commended the Nigerian Tourism Development Authority (NTDA) and its Director-General, Dr Ola Awakan, for leading Nigeria's successful return to the World Travel Market (WTM) London after years of inconsistent participation.

Folami described Nigeria's participation at the 2026 edition of the global travel trade exhibition, held at ExCeL London from November 3 to 5, as historic, saying the country had regained visibility and strengthened its engagement with international tourism stakeholders.

Nigeria's return to the event, regarded as one of the world's biggest travel trade exhibitions, followed its absence from the 2025 edition and more than a decade of inconsistent representation.

Speaking on behalf of NANTA, Folami, who was represented at the event by the association's First Deputy President, Mustapha Mohammed, said the NTDA-led participation demonstrated the importance of sustained government and private sector collaboration in promoting the country's tourism potential.

He said NANTA, which had a dedicated presence at the NTDA stand, was proud to have supported the initiative, adding that the exhibition provided Nigeria with an opportunity to showcase its tourism assets, strengthen strategic partnerships and explore new international markets.

According to him, the NTDA's participation went beyond establishing a national pavilion, as it offered Nigeria an opportunity to tell its tourism story to a global audience and to reconnect with the international travel industry.

He said: "On behalf of NANTA, I want to commend the Director-General of NTDA, Dr Ola Awakan, for putting together an impressive outing for Nigeria at WTM London. He did not just take Nigeria to London; he took Nigeria back to the world.

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Transport&Tourism

FG pushes auto expansion with local production, AfCFTA drive

Stories by **Benjamin Alade**

THE Federal Government has pledged to deepen reforms in Nigeria's automotive industry by promoting local manufacturing, attracting investment, improving access to finance and opening up regional markets for vehicles and components produced in the country.

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Jumoke Oduwole, stated this at the opening of the 26th Abuja International Motor Fair in the FCT, earlier in the week.

Oduwole disclosed that the automotive sector could play a bigger role in employment generation, industrial development, and economic diversification if well harnessed.

The ongoing four-day fair, organised by the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) in collaboration with BKG Exhibition Limited, is bringing together policymakers, vehicle manufacturers, assemblers, investors, industry associations and other stakeholders.

Oduwole emphasised that the government would leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to expand the market for Nigerian-made vehicles and automotive products, thereby positioning the country as a major hub within Africa's automotive value chain.

The minister also called for a legal and regulatory framework that reflects current realities in the industry, alongside improved access to financing for manufacturers and vehicle buyers.

She added: "Sustained investment in the automotive sector can create stronger linkages with other industries, particularly solid minerals, iron and steel, while generating employment across manufacturing, component production, sales, maintenance and other segments of the value chain.

"The government will continue to support local industry players seeking to penetrate the wider African market, while promoting access to quality and affordable vehicles for Nigerians."

Also speaking at the event, the Director-General, NADDC, OluwemimoOsanipin, said strengthening the legal and institutional framework of the automotive industry had become necessary to respond to emerging technologies, changing consumer needs and developments in global vehicle manufacturing.

He also identified access to locally manufactured vehicles and the development of a stronger spare-parts market as critical to sustaining the industry and servicing the large number of vehicles already operating in the country.

Osanipin assured the council remained committed to unlocking the potential of Nigeria's automotive industry by strengthening local production capacity and creating conditions that would support sustainable growth.

"Building a sustainable automotive industry remains essential to meeting the country's vehicle needs and expanding local manufacturing capabilities," he said.

The 26th Abuja International Motor Fair, which began on November 10 to 13, features vehicle assemblers, automotive manufacturers, component producers and other industry players.

The fair is also expected to provide a platform for business-to-business engagements, product demonstrations and discussions around the future direction of Nigeria's automotive industry.

Coscharis Motors showcases products at Lagos Trade Fair

COSCHARIS Motors Plc, through its Auto Care/Consumer Products Division, is participating at the ongoing 2026 Lagos International Trade Fair, which comes to an end on Sunday.

Reflecting the exhibition's theme: '40 Years of Trade, Growth, and Global Connection,' a statement earlier in the week by the Brand Manager, Coscharis Group, Mathias Archibong, said the company is also showcasing its evolution into a market leader within Nigeria's auto care sector with its locally manufactured line of ABRO cello tapes, produced by its subsidiary, Coscharis AIPL Abro Industries Ltd.

According to him, the milestone underscored the company's commitment to local manufacturing, innovation and alignment with the Federal government's policy on local content development.

Alongside its locally manufactured line, Coscharis also displays its comprehensive range of auto care and maintenance solutions, including ABRO generators, Coscharis air fresheners, automatic transmission fluids (ATF), motor oils, oil treatments, radiator coolants, nitrocellulose thinners, contact adhesives, brake fluids, and much more.

Speaking at the event, Head of the Auto Care/Consumer Products Division at Coscharis Motors Plc, ObuzorUzordinma, said its participation demonstrated the company's commitment to expanding its auto care and consumer portfolio while maintaining the international quality standards.

Also, the General Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications, Coscharis Group, AbionaBabarinde, said as a leading player in the automotive sector, this aspect of the group was the reason the company always prided itself of taking care of all vehicle owners in the country, irrespective of the brands.

Sinotrucks, Sterling Bank partner to ease vehicle financing

NIGERIAN Sinotrucks Limited has partnered with Sterling Bank Limited to expand access to vehicle financing with the aim of helping businesses and individuals overcome the high cost of acquiring commercial vehicles in Nigeria.

The partnership, formalised through a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), brings together the commercial vehicle manufacturing and distribution capabilities of Nigerian Sinotrucks with Sterling Bank's financing capacity.

The companies said the collaboration would provide customers with more accessible financing options for vehicle acquisition while strengthening Nigeria's commercial transport and logistics ecosystem.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Lagos, Managing Director, Nigerian Sinotrucks Limited, Alfred Okugbeni, said the partnership was designed to address the financing gap that often prevents businesses from acquiring vehicles required for their operations.

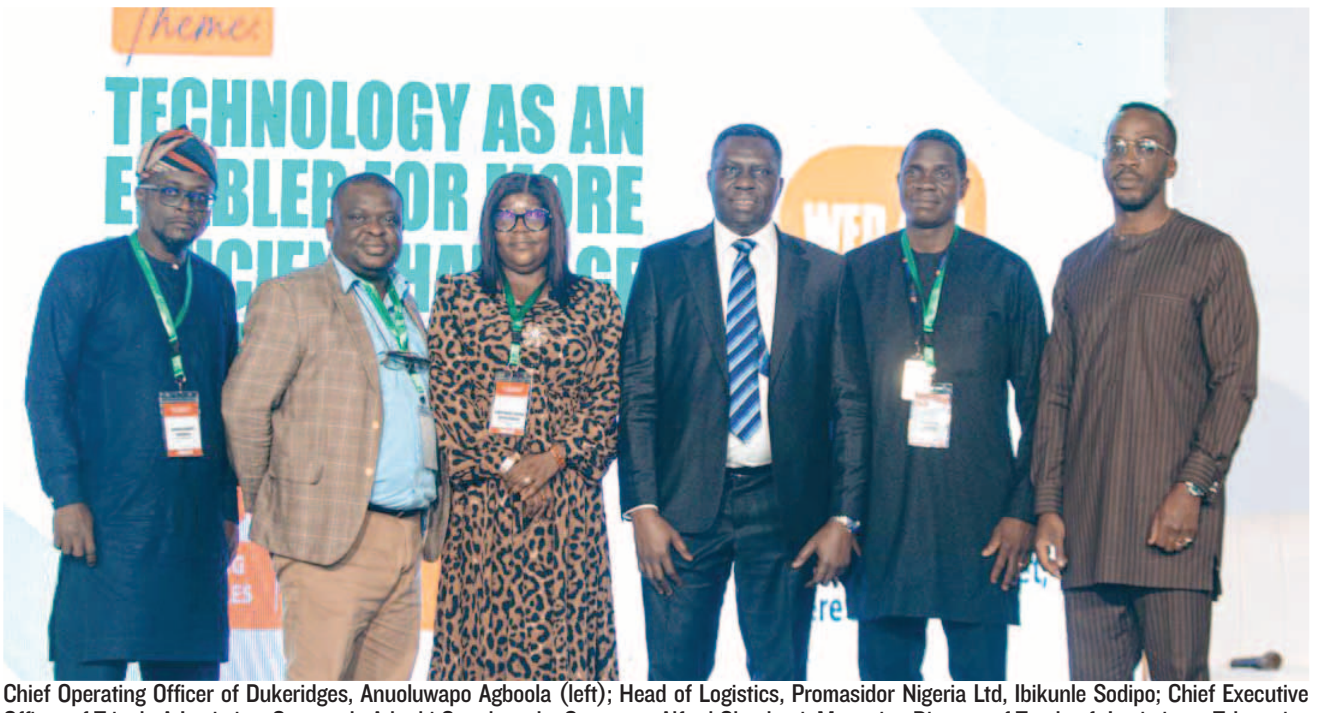
"Access to reliable vehicles is only one part of the mobility equation. Access to appropriate financing is equally important. Our partnership with Sterling Bank is a deliberate effort to bridge that gap and create greater opportunities for individuals and businesses to acquire the vehicles they need to grow," Okugbeni.

"When mobility and finance work together, the benefits extend beyond vehicle ownership. They translate into stronger businesses, improved logistics, greater productivity and wider economic opportunities," he said.

The partnership comes as operators across Nigeria's haulage, logistics, construction, manufacturing and distribution sectors contend with rising vehicle acquisition and operating costs.

For commercial vehicle operators, access to financing has remained a major barrier to fleet expansion and renewal, particularly as businesses seek newer and more fuel-efficient vehicles to reduce operating costs.

Sterling Bank said the collaboration was part of its broader approach to using strategic partnerships to provide financial solutions linked to real economic activities, including transportation and mobility.



Chief Operating Officer of Dukeridges, Anuoluwapo Agboola (left); Head of Logistics, Promasidor Nigeria Ltd, Ibikunle Sodipo; Chief Executive Officer of Tripple A Logistics, Omotunde Adunbi Ogunbowale; Convener, Alfred Okugbeni; Managing Director of Trucksoft Logistics – Telematics Services, Oluwafemi Oladokun; and Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Lori Systems, Jean-Claude Homawoo at HAULMACE 2026 held in Lagos.

Nigeria plans 19% local auto production, import costs top $3 billion

THE Federal Government has set a target of producing 19 per cent of Nigeria's automotive components locally, as the country spends more than $3 billion yearly importing vehicle spare parts and other components.

The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Chris Isokpunwu, said this in Lagos earlier in the week at a sensitisation workshop on local automotive components manufacturing, organised by the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC), with the theme: 'Revitalising Automotive Local Components Manufacturing in Nigeria.'

Isokpunwu explained that achieving the set target would require a deliberate shift from vehicle assembly to local manufacturing, supported by appropriate policies, affordable financing, reliable infrastructure, and stronger collaboration between government and private-sector operators.

Isokpunwuemphasised that Nigeria could no longer sustain an automotive industry largely dependent on imported components when local manufacturers had the technical capacity and facilities to produce many of the parts required by the domestic market.

According to him, Nigeria has more than 11 million vehicles on its roads, creating a substantial market for batteries, fuel filters, oil filters, tyres and other automotive components.

He, however, regretted that about 90 per cent of the vehicles are imported, while more than 90 per cent of the spare parts and components used in the country also come from abroad.

The permanent secretary further described the yearly expenditure of more than $3 billion on imported automotive spare parts and components as a huge drain on the economy.

He warned that continued dependence on imports would undermine the country's efforts to conserve foreign exchange, strengthen the naira and reduce inflationary pressures.

He said: "We cannot continue to rely on imported component parts. More than $3 billion is spent on importing spare parts and what the Assistant Comptroller-General referred to as knock-down parts. That is a huge drain on our foreign exchange reserves and negatively impacts the Nigerian economy.

Haulage costs: Experts seek enhanced technology to cut empty truck trips

EXPERTS in Nigeria's haulage and logistics industry have called for the adoption of return cargo systems, digital technology and stronger collaboration among manufacturers, transporters, financiers and other stakeholders to reduce haulage costs and improve the efficiency of goods movement.

They made the call at the 12th Haulage and Logistics Magazines Annual Conference and Exhibition (HAULMACE) held in Lagos earlier in the week.

The conference, with the theme: 'Technology as an Enabler for More Efficient Haulage Operations: The Need for Industry Collaboration,' had experts in the automobile industry and auxiliary sectors in attendance.

Speaking at the conference, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Lori Systems, Jean-Claude Homawoo, said establishing a reliable return cargo system could significantly reduce the cost burden on haulage operators and cargo owners.

Homawoo said manufacturers, transport companies and financial institutions needed to work together to ensure that trucks delivering goods could secure cargo for their return journeys.

"The high dependence on road transportation makes the efficient use of trucks critical to Nigeria's economy, particularly as rising fuel, maintenance and financing costs continue to squeeze operators.

"Trucks frequently returned empty after deliveries because of uneven cargo distribution, seasonal demand and limited trust among industry players," he said.

Homawoo noted that a 2024 World Bank study estimated that about 29 per cent of truck kilometres travelled globally were empty, adding that developing countries generally recorded higher levels.

Homawoo also identified digital proof of delivery as another technology capable of improving cash flow for transport operators, saying it could reduce payment processing times by up to one week.

Also speaking, CEO, Dukeridges, Aanuoluwapo Agboola, said technology should be used to provide the intelligence required for better decisions and lower operating costs.

Agboola said digital platforms could connect cargo owners with available trucks, helping operators improve vehicle utilisation and optimise cargo movement.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN ON-GRID POWER GENERATION LICENCE PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 65 AND 71(2) OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT 2023

Ramos Electric Power Limited whose office is situated at No 10 Adamu Attah Close, Off Jereton Mariere Street, Apo Zone B Extension, Abuja, hereby gives notice that it has applied to the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission whose principal office is situated at Plot 1387 Cadastral Zone A00 Central Business District, Abuja for an on grid electricity generation licence to operate a 600MW coal fired power plant at Mine-Mouth Lignite Power Generation Complex, Obomkpa, Aniocha North Local Government Area, Delta, with coordinates 6° 25' 00" N, 6° 30' 45" E, 6° 25' 00" N, 6° 31' 30" E

Notice is hereby given that persons who have objections to the grant of the licence should send their written comments clearly articulating the basis for any objection, in accordance with the provisions of NERC Application for Licences Regulations 2010 and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (Business Rules of the Commission) Regulations 2006 not later than 21 days from the date of this publication to -

Chairman
Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
Plot 1387 Cadastral Zone A00
Central Business District
Abuja

Energy transition: Manufacturers risk losing export markets, minister warns

By Tobi Awodipe

NIGERIAN manufacturers risk losing access to international markets unless they embrace cleaner energy sources and more efficient production technologies, the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Dr Kingsley Udeh, has warned.

He gave this warning at the Manufacturers Energy Security and Efficiency Summit, themed: "Innovative Energy for Cost-Effective Smart Manufacturing with Structured Financing," where he urged industries to align their operations with emerging global manufacturing standards.

Udeh said the global manufacturing landscape had moved beyond Industry 4.0 to Industry 5.0, making affordable, cleaner and smarter energy increasingly central to industrial competitiveness.

According to him, manufacturers must adopt emerging technologies and energy-efficient practices while developing local solutions to reduce production costs and remain competitive.

"Smart manufacturing is no longer just about cheaper labour; it is about cheaper, cleaner and smarter energy. If Nigerian manufacturing does not embrace this trend, we will not remain competitive. Nigeria cannot achieve energy security by simply purchasing energy solutions. We must build those solutions ourselves," he said.

Outlining the ministry's intervention plans, Udeh identified research commercialisation, innovation ecosystem development and energy efficiency networks as priorities under its three-point agenda.

He said the ministry is redirecting research institutes from conventional research activities towards market-driven innovations that could be deployed on factory floors.

He also disclosed plans to promote industrial Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications for real-time energy monitoring, enabling manufacturers to identify waste and optimise power consumption.

He added that they are working with the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), through the National Centre for Technology Management, to establish an Energy Efficiency Network that would provide relevant data and support improved industrial energy management.

According to him, the ministry is also collaborating with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) to introduce a green manufacturing certification scheme that would give energy-efficient businesses a competitive advantage and improve their access to carbon credits.

On financing, he said discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Finance and other national partners to establish a green innovation fund offering concessional financing to manufacturers adopting locally developed energy technologies.

He warned that emerging green trade regulations, particularly in Europe, could impose additional costs on products manufactured with carbon-intensive energy, threatening the competitiveness of Nigerian exports.

"Europe will increasingly impose costs on products manufactured using carbon-intensive energy. If we do not transition to sustainable manufacturing, our exports risk being locked out of international markets. This is not romanticism; it is a matter of business survival," he said.

Also speaking, MAN's Director-General, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, said the traditional model of industrial operations, which relies heavily on expensive, carbon-intensive diesel generators and passive consumption of grid electricity, is no longer sustainable.

He said Nigerian factories must become smarter, leaner and more technologically advanced to compete locally, under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and in the global market.

Ajayi-Kadir said the summit's focus is on practical applications of smart technologies, AI integration and energy innovations, alongside access to structured financing for new energy projects and expansion of existing manufacturing capacity.



Chairperson, Trade Promotion, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), Princess Layo Bakare Okeowo (left); Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Folashade Ambrose Medebem; Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, John Owan Enoh and LCCI President, Leye Kupoluyi, during the 40th opening ceremony of the Lagos International Trade Fair at the Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos.

Stakeholders call for stronger systems to sustain SME growth

By Victoria Nwachukwu

STAKEHOLDERS have said that for businesses to access the right funding to grow, they must keep proper financial records, establish clear management structures, identify business risks and make effective use of the resources available to them.

Without these foundations, they stressed that entrepreneurs may struggle to track performance, demonstrate financial capacity to potential funders, manage daily operations and sustain growth as their enterprises expand.

These and more formed the focus of the fourth edition of the Rose of Sharon Foundation's Business Clinic, held in partnership with Bosworth Marketing Consulting. The programme brought together facilitators to address business structure, resource mobilisation, sustainable financing, strategic direction, governance and risk management.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nimfate Global Services, Fatai Olayemi, said the absence of proper records is a major weakness among small businesses, particularly when they seek financing. He stressed that strategic direction is necessary for businesses to set priorities and track performance, while governance helps establish responsibilities, controls and accountability.

He said business owners also need to identify potential risks, assess their possible effects and prepare measures to address them.

On financing, Gender and Social Inclusion Expert, Ibukun Omololu, said money is only one of the resources available to a business, alongside people, skills, networks, assets and credibility.

In her presentation on resource mobilisation and sustainable financing, she urged entrepreneurs to make use of resources within their businesses and from customers, suppliers, partners and their communities before relying on external funding.

Firm boosts local dairy production to cut import dependence

By Abigail Ikhaghu

NIGERIA'S efforts to reduce dependence on imported dairy products have received a boost as Promasidor Nigeria Limited expands production capacity at Ikun Dairy Farm in Ekiti State, which now produces over 6,000 litres of fresh milk daily.

This investment comes against the backdrop of Nigeria's yearly expenditure of approximately $1.5 billion on dairy imports, highlighting the need to strengthen domestic production and build capacity in the local dairy industry.

Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Mukhtar Maiha, who visited the facility, commended the progress made in milk production, cattle breeding and animal healthcare, describing the investment as an important contribution to the Federal Government's efforts to strengthen the livestock sector.

Established in 1983, Ikun Dairy Farm was underutilised for several years before Promasidor and the Ekiti State Government formalised a partnership in 2019 to revive its operations. With an initial investment of $5 million from Promasidor, the facility has developed into an integrated operation spanning more than 500 hectares and housing over 700 cattle.

Beyond its daily milk output, the farm is developing local cattle breeding capacity to support the wider dairy industry and reduce reliance on imported breeding stock.

The farm's Group Finance Director and Chairman, Yomi Adexson, disclosed that about 160 pregnant heifers were sold to farmers this year to encourage the expansion of dairy farming beyond the facility.

He acknowledged that the project faced significant challenges in its early years, including the loss of approximately 185 imported cattle because of difficulties adapting to local environmental conditions.

FG targets export-led growth as Lagos, LCCI woo fresh investors

By Tobi Awodipe

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has hailed Nigeria's gross external reserves increase, which he said rose to $55.07 billion in October 2026, while stressing the need to shift the economy towards local manufacturing, value addition and export-led growth.

Tinubu, who disclosed this at the opening of the 40th Lagos International Trade Fair at Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, said his economic reforms are beginning to deliver results.

Tinubu, who was the Special Guest of Honour and represented by the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, John Owan Enoh, noted that non-oil exports exceeded $6.1 billion in 2025, while capital importation reached approximately $21 billion, reflecting improving investor confidence and expanding opportunities for Nigerian producers. He stressed that the focus now is on translating economic stability into prosperity through trade, industrial development and stronger global connections.

Addressing the theme: 'Trade, Growth and Global Connection', he said Nigeria must reduce its dependence on a single commodity by strengthening non-oil exports and positioning local businesses to benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

He identified improved product standards, efficient ports, faster customs clearance and fewer trade barriers as critical to making Nigerian products competitive across African markets.

The President also said the National Industrial Policy (NIP) is set for implementation, which will strengthen manufacturing, deepen local value chains and transform raw materials into finished products.

He revealed that the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment and its agencies supported over 115,000 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in 2025, promising further efforts to improve access to finance, electricity and markets.

He added that his government is aligning industrial, trade and investment policies around priority sectors, including agro-processing, textiles and garments, automotive components, pharmaceuticals and creative industries.

The fair, which pulled exhibitors and visitors from over 20 countries, features a dedicated Africa Hall, supported by Afreximbank and ECOWAS, as well as more than 100 Japanese exhibitors through the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).

Also speaking, the Lagos State Government highlighted its industrialisation and export-readiness programmes as part of efforts to position the state as a manufacturing and commercial gateway to African markets.

Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, who represented Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, said the state is strengthening infrastructure, industrial capacity and business support systems to attract investment and expand exports.

She disclosed that the Lagos State Export Readiness Programme, implemented in partnership with Afreximbank and ImpactHer, has supported 253 small and medium-sized enterprises to prepare for international markets, while 20 Trade Champions showcased Made-in-Lagos products at the Intra-African Trade Fair.

CHEVRON NIGERIA LIMITED

R. C. 6135

OPERATOR OF THE NNPCL/CHEVRON JOINT VENTURE

TENDER OPPORTUNITY

PROVISION OF CATERPILLAR ENGINE MAINTENANCE

NipeX Tender No – CNL.00000360

1. INTRODUCTION:

Chevron Nigeria Limited ("CNL") Operator of NNPCL/CNL Joint Venture invites interested and prequalified companies with relevant experience for this tender opportunity for provision of Maintenance Diving Services on Call-out Basis to support CNL's production activities. Maintenance Diving Services are required to execute Company's wide range of operational activities within the Escravos Operations (western, central, and eastern) field locations for terminal, offshore, onshore/swamp facilities (or at other locations) as may be required to support Company's ongoing oil and gas production activities.

The services are estimated to commence third quarter of 2027 for Five (5) years primary term with an optional two (2) years extension period.

2. SCOPE OF WORK:

The scope of work for the services includes the provision of a high standard of Caterpillar Equipment and Engine Overhaul Testing and Maintenance services. These services include but are not limited to the following:

- Provision of engine and major component overhaul and exchange services
- Execution of scheduled and unscheduled maintenance activities
- Performance of diagnostics, troubleshooting, and condition assessment
- Delivery of preventive and corrective maintenance services
- Provision of engineering and technical support services for Caterpillar engines
- Execution of engine testing and validation activities in OEM-compliant facilities
- Upgrade and optimization of engine systems to improve performance and reliability
- Provision of OEM-certified Field Service Representatives (FSRs) and Technicians
- Support for COMPANY operations across onshore, offshore, swamp, and operational locations.
- Provision of procurement support services for Caterpillar engines, components, and associated materials, where required by COMPANY. Such procurement support shall not be exclusive to the CONTRACTOR, and COMPANY reserves the right to procure directly or through alternative channels.

Contractor's activity shall enormously contribute to Oil and Gas Production in the form of reliability and availability of the equipment within scope of services. To ensure that Contractor fulfils COMPANY requirements under the contract, Contractor may be required at short notice any time to make provision for an overhauled engine and execute unscheduled maintenance to restore the equipment to running condition. This may involve Emergency Response Telephone Assistance from the OEM's central engineering support staff.

The Contractor will be required to establish and develop for approval by COMPANY a "Seven (7) Years Maintenance and Caterpillar Engine Exchange Program" including a work Schedule for the routine inspection and maintenance of the Gas and Diesel Caterpillar Packages and their ancillaries. The Plan will take account of the need for Contractor to review and improve equipment performance and produce monthly reports as well as advise on changes to procedures/ OEM service bulletins that may be recommended for the optimization of equipment performance.

Proposed services will be for maintenance and engine exchanges for Gas and Diesel Caterpillar packages supporting Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) oil and gas production facilities in offshore, land and swamp locations including operational and logistics base e.g. Lagos, Port Harcourt, Warri and other operational locations.

3. MANDATORY TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

A. To be eligible for this tender exercise, interested bidders are required to be **pre-qualified and 'live'** under Product Codes:
3.05.11 (Rotating Equipment Maintenance Services), 1.09.01 (Generators, Power Sources, Units and Accessories), & 1.05.04 (Diesel, Gas and Dual Fuel Engine) and must be registered under Categories A, B, C and D in NipeX Joint Qualification System (NJQS) database. All successfully **pre-qualified and "live"** bidders in these categories by the bid close date of this advert will receive the Invitation to Tender (ITT).

B. To determine if you are pre-qualified and to view the product/service category you are listed for: visit http://vms.nipex.org/login and access NJQS using your login details. Click on the 'Subscription' tab on the left-hand side of the dashboard to view your status and click on the 'Products Code' tab to view your registered product codes.

C. If you are not listed in this product service category and you are registered with NUPRC to do business for this category, please contact the NipeX office address at: The Post Square Towers (Building B), 1, 3, Ologun Agbaje Street, Off Adeola Odeku Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

D. To initiate the NJQS pre-qualification process, please access www.nipex-ng.com, click on the **'Registration'** tab, and select **'New Vendor Registration'**.

E. To be eligible, all tenders must comply with Nigerian Content requirements in the NipeX system.

4. NIGERIAN CONTENT REQUIREMENTS:

Chevron Nigeria Limited is committed to the development of the Nigerian Oil and gas business in compliance with the Nigerian Content Act 2010 for Nigerian Content Development.
As from the commencement of this Act, the minimum Nigerian Content in any project, service or product specification to be executed in the Nigerian oil and gas industry shall be consistent with the level set in the Schedule of the Act and any other targets as may be directed by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (The Board)

Tenderer shall:

1. Demonstrate that the entity is a Nigerian registered company with greater than 51% equity shareholding. Also, provide form CO2 and CO7, evidence of registration with NCDMB NOGIC JQS and NUPRC certificate.

2. Demonstrate detailed description of the location of in-country committed facilities & infrastructure (address, layout drawing, lease document of technical & administrative office.) in Nigeria to support this contract.

3. Provide a project-specific organogram showing the Names and Nationalities of all key personnel not limited to (Supervisor / Field Coordinator, Field Service Representative (FSR), Technician, Caterpillar Specialist Engineer, Caterpillar Specialist Engineering, etc.) that will execute the work scope for this service. CVs of all personnel listed in the project organogram should be submitted. For any position to be occupied by Expatriate personnel, tenderer shall commit to obtaining expatriate quota approval from NCDMB before project execution.

4. Tenderer shall provide evidence of purchase orders, project completion certificates, bill of landing etc. of at least 50% Nigerian ownership of all equipment (not limited to Load Bank, Diagnostic Equipment (CAT ET/DDT), Fuel Control Valve Flow Test Bench, Calibration and Testing Equipment, Engine Handling Equipment, etc.) to execute this work scope.

5. Tenderer shall provide evidence of Valid category 1,2,3,4 or 5 Procurement and Supplies (PS) NCEC demonstrating capacity or capability to procure equipment for caterpillar engine maintenance (not limited to Load Bank, Diagnostic Equipment (CAT ET/DDT), Fuel Control Valve Flow Test Bench, Calibration and Testing Equipment, Engine Handling Equipment, etc.) required for the execution of the work scope.

6. Tenderer shall (via a letter of undertaking utilizing its letter headed paper) commit to:
I. Complying with the latest approved version of NCDMB HCD guideline to providing Project-specific training, man-hour, budget, skill development and understudy plan for Nigerian personnel utilizing OGTAN registered trainer(s) or other approved NCDMB training institution(s).
ii. In line with the NOGICD Act, deduct 1% NCDF for every subcontract to be issued on the contract and remit same to NCDMB. Tendered shall ensure that the 1% NCDF for all subcontracts must be priced into the commercial submission to be submitted to the Operator.

5 CLOSE DATE:

Only bidders who are **prequalified and 'live'** with NJQS Products/Categories **3.05.11 (Rotating Equipment Maintenance Services), 1.09.01 (Generators, Power Sources, Units and Accessories), & 1.05.04 (Diesel, Gas and Dual Fuel Engine)** in categories A, B, C and D by **16:00 Hours, Thursday November 26, 2026** being the advert close date shall be invited to submit technical and commercial bids.

Additional Information:

1. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) and any further progression of this tender shall be via NipeX. Interested bidders are therefore advised to ensure they are set up in NipeX with a valid and active official company email address accessible by all in their organization as this shall be the only means to transmit the ITT.
2. Bidders, who, for this bid process enter a Joint Venture (JV), Partnership, Consortiums, etc. with another bidder that is bidding for this service will be disqualified.
3. All costs incurred in preparing and processing NJQS prequalification shall be solely to the bidders' accounts.
4. This advertisement shall neither be construed as any form of commitment on the part of Chevron Nigeria Limited ("Company") to award any contract to any company and or associated companies, sub-contractors, or agents, nor shall it entitle prequalified companies to make any claims whatsoever, and/or seek any indemnity from Company and/or any of its partners by virtue of such companies having been prequalified in NJQS.
5. The tendering process shall be the NNPC NipeX contracting process requiring pre-qualified companies to submit both technical and commercial tenders at the same time.
6. Company reserves the right to reject any and or all pre-qualified bids at its sole discretion and at no cost to Company.
7. Company will communicate only with authorized officers of the pre-qualifying companies and NOT through individuals or agents.

ES/NCDMB/UPD/CNL-ADV-101209/141026

Please visit NipeX portal at www.nipex-ng.com for this advert and other information.

Police arrest suspect as NDC demands probe, prosecution of perpetrators

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

responsible and ensure that perpetrators were punished in accordance with the law.

The council called on politicians and their supporters to exercise restraint, stressing that political disagreements should not degenerate into violence.

NDC demands prosecution, Obi condemns violence

THE NDC national leadership condemned the attack, describing it as an assault on democracy, citizens' fundamental rights and freedom of political association.

In a statement signed by the Spokesperson of its National Campaign Council, Dr Chiogo Constance Ikokwu, the party demanded an immediate investigation, the arrest and prosecution of all those responsible.

It warned that the incident would not intimidate its members or discourage Nigerians from participating in the democratic process.

"Nigeria is not a conquered territory, and political participation is not a crime," the statement said.

The party urged Nigerians to turn out in large numbers during the 2027 elections, insisting that it would not be bullied out of exercising its democratic rights.

Addressing supporters at the gathering, Obi condemned the attack and brought one of the injured participants to the podium.

He said Nigerians must be able to participate freely in political activities, adding that their sacrifices and commitment to building a better country would not be in vain.

Obi also told Nigerians that they were all candidates in the 2027 elections and should take responsibility for securing the country's future.

He criticised President Bola Tinubu's administration, saying the President lacked the energy required to discharge the responsibilities of the office.

"People ask me about our President, and I tell them that the Tinubu of Lagos is not the one who is the president today. The one there today is tired and needs to go home. The work of the President of Nigeria requires energy, and you must be available," he said.

He further condemned the wider atmosphere of violence, recalling his visit to Yelwata, where he said he witnessed families devastated by insecurity.

"This situation represents the Nigeria we don't want anymore. I was in Yelwata yesterday (Wednesday), and I saw children without parents, husbands without wives, and wives without husbands. We want to build a Nigeria where such things will never happen again," he said.

The NDC governorship candidate in Lagos, Funsho Doherty, commended supporters for standing their ground during the attack, describing them as the heroes of the gathering.

He attributed the party's confidence ahead of the elections to what he called people's power, saying the people would determine the outcome of the polls.

Reps launch investigation into rising violence

MEANWHILE, the House of Representatives has constituted an ad hoc committee to investigate rising political violence ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The decision followed the adoption of a motion of urgent public importance sponsored by Minority Leader, Fred Agbedi, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Accounts, Bamidele Salam, and 15 other lawmakers.

Leading the debate, Agbedi cited reported attacks in Enugu, Katsina, Nasarawa, Delta and Cross River states, warning that intimidation, assault and disruption of political activities threatened democratic participation and the credibility of the electoral process.

The House consequently condemned violence, intimidation, assault and destruction of property connected with political activities, irrespective of the parties or individuals involved.

The committee, chaired by the Majority Leader, with the Minority Leader as deputy chairman, comprises lawmakers from both the ruling and opposition parties. It is expected to submit its findings and recommendations within two weeks.

The lawmakers urged political parties, candidates and their supporters to reject inflammatory rhetoric and cooperate with security agencies to maintain public peace.

More attacks raise concerns nationwide

THE Lagos incident adds to a growing list of reported attacks and disruptions involving opposition parties and their supporters across the country.

In September 2025, suspected thugs disrupted an ADC rally at Lion Field, Alimosho, Lagos, organised by supporters of former Interior Minister, Rauf Aregbesola. The gathering was expected to feature Obi and former Labour Party governorship candidate, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour.

In February 2026, suspected hoodlums invaded the ADC secretariat in Benin City, Edo State, shortly after a gathering to welcome former Labour Party governorship candidate, Olumide Akpata, into the party.

A month later, the launch of an ADC secretariat in Bakassi Local Government Area of Cross River State was disrupted, with canopies, chairs and sound equipment destroyed. The state police command confirmed the incident and said investigations were ongoing.

In March, armed men reportedly attacked ADC members in Ubima, Ikwerre Local Government Area of Rivers State, setting the party's ward secretariat ablaze.

In September, an NDC mobilisation march in the Warri-Effurun axis of Delta State was disrupted following a confrontation involving suspected supporters of the NDC and APC.

The ADC, NDC and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) also raised concerns over alleged attacks on opposition members in Enugu State, including a reported shooting in front of the NDC secretariat on October 10.

On November 4, Obi's convoy reportedly came under attack around Watt Market Roundabout in Calabar, Cross River State, while he was returning from a visit to the Obong of Calabar ahead of a presidential town hall meeting.

Three days later, an NDC one-million-man march organised by supporters of Obi and the Obidient/OK Movement in Asaba, Delta State, was disrupted by suspected hoodlums wielding dangerous weapons.

The Pan-Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) expressed concern over the incidents in Warri-Effurun, Calabar and Asaba, warning that the region could relapse into political hostility if leaders failed to restrain their supporters.

Its National Chairman, Ambassador Godknows Igali, urged political parties, security agencies and other stakeholders to prevent political differences from degenerating into violence.

Similarly, the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD-West Africa) warned of an escalating pattern of political violence, intimidation and attacks on candidates, supporters and campaign activities ahead of the 2027 elections.

EU rejects calls for sanctions

AMID growing concerns over electoral violence, the European Union (EU) has said imposing sanctions on Nigerian political stakeholders over reported incidents is outside its responsibility.

The EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Gautier Mignot, stated this yesterday while speaking on Channels Television's *The Morning Brief*.

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

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS

PETITION NO: FHC/LAG/PET/42/2026

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR WINDING UP OF GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 564 (1) & (2), 570 (1), 571 AND 573 (A) OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020; SECTION 8 B ,110 (1), AND 111(B)(I) OF NIGERIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY REFORM ACT, 2025; RULE 15, 18 AND 21 OF COMPANIES WINDING-UP RULES 2001

BY

GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC (IN LIQUIDATION) (RC 192814) .....PETITIONER

NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF PETITION

NOTICE is hereby given that a petition for the winding up of the above-named company by the Federal High Court holden at Lagos was on the 23rd Day of September 2026 presented to the said court by Goldlink Insurance Plc, and that the said petition is directed to be advertised and sat down for mention before the court sitting at 9am on the 11th day of December 2026; and any creditor or contributory of the said company desirous to support or oppose the making of an order in the said petition may appear at the of hearing in person or by his counsel for that purpose and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Subject to the supervision of Peniel Solicitors and Advocates, Of Block A2, No 4. Hassan Usman Katsina Street, Asokoro, Abuja.

Signed: Ubong Mboho Udoekpo Esq.

Address: Peniel Solicitors and Advocates,
Block A 2, No 4. Hassan Usman Katsina Street,
Asokoro, Abuja.

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION NBA UBONG MBOHO UDOEKPO SCN13688

NOTE: Any Person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said petition must serve on or send by post to the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The Notice must state the name and address of the person or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm, and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any), and must be served, or if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than 48 working hours before the date the Petition is for mention in court.

Pan African University
Life and Earth Sciences Institute
University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria

PAU Pan African University

BACKGROUND

The Pan African University (PAU) is a continental initiative of the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa to revitalize Higher Education and Research in Africa. The PAU has five Institutes each in the five Sub-regions of Africa. Located within the University of Ibadan (UI), the Pan African University Life and Earth Sciences Institute (including Health and Agriculture) PAULESI, is the hub for West Africa.

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

SUPPLY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, REAGENTS AND CONSUMABLES

The Pan African University Life and Earth Sciences Institute (Including Health and Agriculture), PAULESI, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, requests submission of quotations from reputable and qualified suppliers for the supply of molecular biology laboratory equipment, reagents and consumables to the Institute's Molecular Biology Laboratory.

All quotations must be prepared and submitted strictly in accordance with the stipulated requirements and within the specified deadline. Late or non-compliant submissions may not be considered.

Interested vendors should visit **[https://paulesi.org.ng/molecular-lab-supplies]** for the full list of items, detailed requirements and submission guidelines.

Quotations must be submitted on or before Friday, 27 November 2026.

Signed: Director

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK (FCMB) PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (RIVERS, ABIA, BAYELSA & CALABAR ZONE)

FCMB is selling off pledged collateral properties through **LANSAR AGHAJI & CO. (Auctioneers)**

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:
Will be done in a sealed envelope and dropped in the bid box from 9am on Thursday 12th of November, 2026 till 12noon on Thursday 10th of December, 2026 at FCMB Trans Amadi Branch, Plot466/467 Mother Cat Junction, Port Harcourt.

AUCTION/ OPENING OF BIDS:
Date: Thursday 10th December, 2026 at FCMB Trans Amadi Branch, Mother Cat Junction, Port Harcourt.
Bidders should be seated at the venue before 12 noon.

Bidders should be seated at the venue before 12 noon. Opening of bids starts by 1pm

LOT NUMBER	ENUGU/OWERRI ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
E1	Located at Ezeakiri Pocket Layout, Opposite G&T Guest House, Naze, Owerri, Imo State. Access is via Naze - Nekede road, opens into Naze - Ezeakiri road with the subject property lying off the road on the right-hand flank of yet to be named access road. SITE: The site is located on latitude 5.432408N and longitude 7.046368E on Global positioning system.	OWERRI	N90,000,000
E2	DUPLEX BUILDING	PLOT 629A, INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU.	N110,000.000
E4	ONE BEDROOM FLAT BLOCK D UNIT 30 FED. GOVT. LOW COST HOUSING TRANS EKULU ENUGU	ENUGU	N14,000,000
E5	NO 4 ESHO STREET GEMADE ESTATE EGBEDA ESTATE, LAGOS STATE	LAGOS	N13,000,000
E6	PLOT 636 UNITY LAYOUT AMAUZAM OBEAGU UGWUAJI, ENUGU	ENUGU	N15,000,000
E7	A PARCEL OF LAND AT OKPAM, UMUAMOKE UMUEZEJOR OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	N19,000,000
E8	PLOT 115/117 AGU OVOLO ISIAMA - EBEMI ETITI NGWO NOW ONE DAY 2 AT OKUNITO AMNKWO NGWO ALONG EXPRESS	ONE DAY 2. NGWO - ENUGU ONITSHA EXPRESS	N19,000,000
E9	PLOTS 2111 AND 2113, SITUATED AT GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE	
E10	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU	N6,000,000

LOT NUMBER	ENUGU/OWERRI ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
E1	Located at Ezeakiri Pocket Layout, Opposite G&T Guest House, Naze, Owerri, Imo State. Access is via Naze - Nekede road, opens into Naze - Ezeakiri road with the subject property lying off the road on the right-hand flank of yet to be named access road. SITE: The site is located on latitude 5.432408N and longitude 7.046368E on Global positioning system.	OWERRI	N90,000,000
E2	DUPLEX BUILDING	PLOT 629A, INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU.	N110,000.000
E4	ONE BEDROOM FLAT BLOCK D UNIT 30 FED. GOVT. LOW COST HOUSING TRANS EKULU ENUGU	ENUGU	N14,000,000
E5	NO 4 ESHO STREET GEMADE ESTATE EGBEDA ESTATE, LAGOS STATE	LAGOS	N13,000,000
E6	PLOT 636 UNITY LAYOUT AMAUZAM OBEAGU UGWUAJI, ENUGU	ENUGU	N15,000,000
E7	A PARCEL OF LAND AT OKPAM, UMUAMOKE UMUEZEJOR OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	N19,000,000
E8	PLOT 115/117 AGU OVOLO ISIAMA - EBEMI ETITI NGWO NOW ONE DAY 2 AT OKUNITO AMNKWO NGWO ALONG EXPRESS	ONE DAY 2. NGWO - ENUGU ONITSHA EXPRESS	N19,000,000
E9	PLOTS 2111 AND 2113, SITUATED AT GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE	
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LOT NUMBER	ENUGU/OWERRI ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
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E2	DUPLEX BUILDING	PLOT 629A, INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU.	N110,000.000
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E5	NO 4 ESHO STREET GEMADE ESTATE EGBEDA ESTATE, LAGOS STATE	LAGOS	N13,000,000
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E7	A PARCEL OF LAND AT OKPAM, UMUAMOKE UMUEZEJOR OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	N19,000,000
E8	PLOT 115/117 AGU OVOLO ISIAMA - EBEMI ETITI NGWO NOW ONE DAY 2 AT OKUNITO AMNKWO NGWO ALONG EXPRESS	ONE DAY 2. NGWO - ENUGU ONITSHA EXPRESS	N19,000,000
E9	PLOTS 2111 AND 2113, SITUATED AT GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE	
E10	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU	N6,000,000

LOT NO.	ABIA/ BAYELSA ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
AB1	BAKERY BUILDING	MBIAMA	N20,336,651.09
AB2	Power of Attorney - with Empty Land Umuiku Ukor Village Aba	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N11,249,053.89**
AB3	Power of Attorney - with Empty Land Ikot Udota Village	Eket	**N4,403,756.25**
AB4	Power of Attorney - with Okpulor Umualaka, Bungalow	Asa, Ukwa West	**N19,096,662.54**
AB5	Power of Attorney - with One story building (uncompleted)	Umuojima, Osisioma	**N16,877,562.83**
AB6	The property is situated at Okwulaga Afaraukwu Ibeku Umuahia Abia State, belonging to Mr. Chibuike Mark Chukwuemeka. It is an ash colour two storey building	UMUAHIA	**N25,669,551.11**
AB7	The property is situated at Location 15 Peegels Street, Camp David, Umuebule 11 Etche Rivers State	Etche	**N6,934,114.11**
AB8	The property is located at No.16 Chief Daniel Igwe Street, Nkpogu, Obio Rivers State	Port Harcourt	**N8,224,744.62**
AB9	POWER OF ATTORNEY - WITH TWO STOREY BUILDING LOCATED OFF KAMALU STREET BY STAR PAPER MILL.	NO 8 NDUKWE STREET UMUOCHAM UMUNGASI ABA OSISOMA NGWA L.G.A. ABIA STATE	**N5,525,975.11**
AB10	POWER OF ATTORNEY - PROPERTY WITH BUNGALOW OFF ARIARIA JUNCTION.	ISI-NKPA UMUIKPO VILLAGE OSISIOMA NGWA L.G.A. ABIA STATE	N12,698,441.70
AB11	POWER OF ATTORNEY - WITH AN EMPTY PLOT OF LAND LOCATED OSISIOMA.	OSISIOMA NGWA L.G.A. ABIA STATE.	**N12,102,062.62**
AB12	POWER OF ATTORNEY -WITH AN EMPTY PLOT OF LAND	OSISIOMA NGWA L.G.A, ABIA STATE	**N2,890,109.82**
AB14	POWER OF ATTORNEY OF A STOREY BUILDING LOCATED AT UMUOKOCHA, UMUOZUO AHIABA ALAOCHA AUTO COMM, OSISIOMA NGWA LGA, ABIA STATE	UMUOZUO URATTA OSISIOMA LGA ABA ABIA STATE	**N5,563,864.91**
AB15	POWER OF ATTORNEY OF AN EMPTY LAND LOCATED AT ALA EGBELU SITUATE AND LYING AT UMUOKOCHA, UMUOZUO AHIABA ALAOCHA AUTO COMM, OSISIOMA NGWA LGA, ABIA STATE	UMUOZUO URATTA OSISIOMA LGA ABA ABIA STATE	**N4,236,682.64**
AB16	POWER OF ATTORNEY- EMPTY PLOT OF LAND AT ALA EGBELU UMUANYAHARA VILLAGE UMUARIAMA ALAOMA AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY IN OBINGWA LGA OF ABIA STATE	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N14,500,756.54**
AB17	POWER OF ATTORNEY- WITH AN EMPTY PLOT OF LAND LOCATED AT ALA- OKPU AUTHONOMOUIS COMMUNITY OSISIOMA LGA, ABIA STATE	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N12,335,454.14**
AB18	POWER OF ATTORNEY- WITH AN EMPTY PLOT OF LAND LOCATED AT ALA- OKPU AUTHONOMOUIS COMMUNITY OSISIOMA LGA, ABIA STATE	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N6,445,460.38**
AB19	POWER OF ATTORNEY- EMPTY PLOT OF LAND LOCATED AT UMUODE VILLAGE, OSISIOMA LGA OF ABIA STATE	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N3,067,055.94**
AB20	POWER OF ATTORNEY- WITH BUNGALOW LOCATED AT OWERRE ABA AREA ABA SOUTH LGA, ABIA STATE	ABA, ABIA STATE	**N12,511,510.95**
AB21	PLOT 35A IN BLOCK C2 WITHIN OWERRI NEW INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT. WITH C OF O	OWERRI	**N68,000,000.95**

LOT NUMBER	CALABAR/ AKWA IBOM ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
C2	5-bedroom bungalow located atNkap Ikot Ebok, Ikot Abasi Village, Ikot Ekpene LGA, Akwa Ibom State on a 586.4 square metre land	Ikot Ekpene	N26,000,000
C3	4-bedroom house located at no 34 school of nursing road, Nkap Ikot Ebok, Ikot Abasi Village, Ikot Ekpene LGA, Akwa Ibom State on a 249.87 square metre land	Ikot Ekpene	N17,700,000
C4	3-bedroom uncompleted bungalow located at Utib Akpa Inwang, Ikwa Clan, Calabar South LGA sitting on a land size of approximately 328.47 square metres.	Calabar	N40,000,000
C5	Landed property with registration numbers: GVC/SU/CRFT03/2022 situated at Plot 48 water intake road Lemna, Ikot Effanga Mkpa, Calabar, Cross River State	Calabar	N50,000,000
C6	3-bedroom detached bungalow with adjoining 2 Nos. Self-contained apartment and external kitchen with lock up shop located at No 24 Bassey Street, Efut Musaha Clan, Calabar sitting on a land size of approximately 403.45 square metres.	Calabar	N27,800,000
C7	Landed property situated at Plot 48 water intake road Lemna, Ikot Effanga Mkpa, Calabar, Cross River State	Calabar	N17,500,000

TERMS & CONDITIONS / AUCTION RULES

1. Properties are bought "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" with no refunds or returns.
2. You are advised to bid above the guide price for your bid to be valid.
3. Select the particular property and bid for it. A bidder can bid for more than 1 property.
4. The bidder is required to place his/her bid amount and lot number on a plain sheet of paper with his/her name, address and phone number accompanied with 10% of the total amount bidded in a bank draft in favour of FCMB which will both be put in an envelope and sealed.
5. The bid amount (Lot Number, bidder's name, phone number & address of the bidder) and 10% bank draft of the bid in a sealed envelope should be submitted at FCMB Trans Amadi Branch Mother Cat Junction, Port Harcourt.
6. Submission of bids starts by 9am on Thursday 13th of November, 2026 to 1pm on Friday 11th of December 2026 at FCMB Okpara Avenue Branch Enugu.
7. On the Auction day, Friday 11th December 2026, bids will be opened by 1pm. The winning bidders will be required to pay the balance of 90% within 1 week of the Auction date which is on or before 4pm on Friday 18th of December, 2026
8. Unsuccessful bids will receive their 10% bank drafts immediately at the venue after identification.
9. Failure of the winning bidder to pay the 90% balance, he/she will lose the 10% bank draft deposit.
10. Winning bidder will be responsible for the change of ownership documentation. The bank and auctioneer will not be responsible for that.
11. These rules are binding on anyone who participates in this Auction process.

LICENCED AUCTIONEER:
LANSAR AGHAJI & CO
(ESTATE SURVEYORS, VALUERS & AUCTIONEERS)
www.lansaraghajiandco.com
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C.I.A.N. AUCTIONEER OF THE YEAR 2025

Integrity & Professionalism

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK (FCMB) PUBLIC AUCTION SALE (ENUGU, OWERRI, EDO, DELTA & AWKA ZONE)

FCMB is selling off pledged collateral properties through **LANSAR AGHAJI & CO. (Auctioneers)**

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:
Will be done in a sealed envelope and dropped in the bid box from 9am on Thursday 13th of November, 2026 till 12noon on Friday 11th of December, 2026 at FCMB Zonal office, Okpara Avenue, Enugu

AUCTION/ OPENING OF BIDS:
Date: Friday 11th December, 2026 at FCMB, Okpara Avenue, Enugu

Bidders should be seated at the venue before 12 noon. Opening of bids starts by 1pm

LOT NUMBER	ENUGU/OWERRI ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
E1	Located at Ezeakiri Pocket Layout, Opposite G&T Guest House, Naze, Owerri, Imo State. Access is via Naze - Nekede road, opens into Naze - Ezeakiri road with the subject property lying off the road on the right-hand flank of yet to be named access road. SITE: The site is located on latitude 5.432408N and longitude 7.046368E on Global positioning system.	OWERRI	N90,000,000
E2	DUPLEX BUILDING	PLOT 629A, INDEPENDENCE LAYOUT, ENUGU.	N110,000.000
E4	ONE BEDROOM FLAT BLOCK D UNIT 30 FED. GOVT. LOW COST HOUSING TRANS EKULU ENUGU	ENUGU	N14,000,000
E5	NO 4 ESHO STREET GEMADE ESTATE EGBEDA ESTATE, LAGOS STATE	LAGOS	N13,000,000
E6	PLOT 636 UNITY LAYOUT AMAUZAM OBEAGU UGWUAJI, ENUGU	ENUGU	N15,000,000
E7	A PARCEL OF LAND AT OKPAM, UMUAMOKE UMUEZEJOR OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	OBOLLO-AFOR, UDENU LGA, ENUGU STATE	N19,000,000
E8	PLOT 115/117 AGU OVOLO ISIAMA - EBEMI ETITI NGWO NOW ONE DAY 2 AT OKUNITO AMNKWO NGWO ALONG EXPRESS	ONE DAY 2. NGWO - ENUGU ONITSHA EXPRESS	N19,000,000
E9	PLOTS 2111 AND 2113, SITUATED AT GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	GOLDEN GATE ESTATE, OWO ENUGU STATE	
E10	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU WITH IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTONEY	AGBANI TOWN, NKANU WEST LGA. ENUGU	N6,000,000

LOT NUMBER	EDO/DELTA ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
ED1	10 Edeyah Street Off Masoje Street	Effurun, Delta State	N20,000,000
ED2	Property is situated along First Kolokolo Street off Enerhen road Redeemed Christian Church of God City of David Model Parish, Enerhen Uvwie Government Area of Delta-state.	Enheren, Delta-State	N13,500,573.99
ED3	100ft x 100ft Land Located at Chief Unuafe Keru's Farm Land, Akosa Road, Ekeuvwie Quarters, Egbo-Uhurie in Ughelli South Local Government Area, Delta State.	Ughelli Delta State	N11,470,487.13
ED4	Property is100ft x 100ft Located at Onini Obolo Farm Land Amachai Quarters Okpanam Oshimili North L.G.A, Delta State.	Okpanam Town, Oshimili North L.G.A	N39,400,000.00
ED5	Deed of Assignment of Block L1, Plot 06, Site & Services Scheme (In-Fill) Oregbeni Ikpoba Okha LGA Benin City	BENIN CITY	N20,805,000.00
ED6	Deed of Transfer of Property Located at EVBUEKOI COMMUNITY LGA BENIN CITY	BENIN CITY	N12,027,683.69
ED8	deed of Transfer of a piece/parcel of land mearing approximately 50ft x100ft lying, being and situate at plot 166, Ani-Ikpo Layout, Obodogba Community Land Obodogba Quarters Okpanam Oshimili North L.G.A. Delta State	ASABA	N1,237,858.36
ED9	MEMORANDUM OF CUSTOMERY SALES OF LAND	ASABA	N6,684,260.85
ED10	A deed of conveyance of a parcel of land called plot 15 & 16 measuring approximately 943.185 Square Meters at Amachai Community land Okpanam	ASABA	N4,640,645.26
ED11	deed of Conveyance of a piece or parcel of land measuring 200ft by200ft, laying, being and situate at Umungbala quarters, Amachai Village, Okpanam Delte State	ASABA	N4,599,496.00
ED12	Deed of Conveyance of a piece of land at Madjofor Road Uduevwe Quarters Okpaka Town Udi L.G.A of Delta State	ASABA	N1,132,982.17
ED13	Property located at Ogbeozoma Quarters, Okpanam Oshimili North LGA of Delta State Measuring 50FT BY 100FT	ASABA	N10,298,438.76
ED14	Deed of conveyance of piece or parcel of land being, lying, situate at Amamnkpume Nsukwu Abatete, Idemili North LGA Anambra state	ASABA	N4,500,000.46
ED16	2 deeds of conveyance in respect of Piece of Land measuring approximately 50ft by 100ft lying and situate at Uzo-Olu in Umuchime family Land, Obodogwugwu, Okpanam,	ASABA	N26,544,648.70

LOT NUMBER	AWKA ZONE COLLATERAL DETAILS	LOCATION OF COLLATERAL	GUIDE PRICE
AW1	LANDED PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG VATICAN ROAD IKPOLIKPO LAND, URUOWULU VILLAGE, OBOSI IDEMILI NORTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	OBOSI, ANAMBRA STATE	**N17,303,750.96**
AW2	LAND AT ORUMBA SOUTH, ANAMBRA STATE WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY	ORUMBA SOUTH, ANAMBRA STATE	N6,082,850.57
AW3	LAND LOCATED AT NAZE OWERRI WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY	NAZE OWERRI, IMO STATE	N11,869,235.00
AW4	LAND LOCATED AT NAZE OWERRI WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY	NAZE OWERRI, IMO STATE	**N14,153,172.04**
AW5	LAND LOCATED AT EGEMEKWURU OWERRI WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY	OWERRI	**N10,380,975.41**
AW6	LAND LOCATED AT IHIOMA ORLU WITH POWER OF ATTORNEY	ORLU	8,078,935.97.
AW7	LAND AT UHUORJI SITUATE AT UMUKIRIKA UMUOMA URANTTA OWERRI, IMO STATE AND SHOP ALLOCATION AT IMSU GATE SHOPPING COMPLEX OWERRI, IMO STATE	OWERRI	**N18,546,731.78**
AW8	LAND AT NO. 8 EXPRESS BY PASS ENUGWU AGIDI NGENE VILLAGE AMAWBIA	AWKA- ANAMBRA	**N9,501,298.45**
AW9	PROPERTY SITUATED AT OPPOSITE OBLIKPA COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL OBUKPA, IGBOEZE SOUTH LGA OF ENUGU STATE	ENUGU	**N2,260,132.08**
AW10	PLOTS OF LAND SITUATE @ UMUOGALI OBA IN IDEMILI SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	OBA- ANAMBRA	**N1,779,117.22**
AW11	1 PLOT OF LAND SITUATE AT OKOFIA URUMKPU VILLAGE, UMUOJI IDEMILI NORTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	ANAMBRA	**N4,010,610.83**
AW12	PLOTS OF LAND SITUATE AT OGBOR NKWELLE AMADIABA VILLAGE, NTEJE IN OYI LGA OF ANAMBRA STATE	NTEJE- ANAMBRA	**N8,927,523.61**
AW13	AGREEMENT DOCUMENTS ON LAND AT AKABA ULI LOCATED AT UMUGBUCHI EZIAMA ULI, IHIALA LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	ULI- ANAMBRA	**N1,958,904.48**
AW14	IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY ON LAND AT OBU AGU AMAOWELLE AMANSEA, AWKA NORTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	AMANSEA- ANAMBRA	**N34,363,520.77**
AW15	LANDED PROPERTY IN MADUBUOGOR, IDUMU-ASEI QUARTERS, AZAGBA OGWASHI-UKU ANIOCHA SOUTH L.G.A. DELTA STATE	OGWASHI-UKU ANIOCHA SOUTH L.G.A. DELTA STATE	**N36,439,219.47**
AW16	PLOT AT ABOH OGWASHI UKU, ANIOCHA SOUTH LGA, DELTA STATE	ANIOCHA SOUTH LGA, DELTA STATE	**N3,093,316.12**
AW17	LANDED PROPERTY IN CRYSTAL GARDEN ESTATE ZENITH CITY, AKWUEKPE IKEM IVITE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY ANAMBRA EAST L.G.A., ANAMBRA STATE	IKEM IVITE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY ANAMBRA EAST L.G.A., ANAMBRA STATE	**N5,901,797.89**
AW18	FARM LAND SITUATED AT OKOTOMI, AKWUKWOIGBO TOWN, OSHIMILI NORTH LGA, DELTA STATE	OSHIMILI NORTH LGA, DELTA STATE	**N3,099,551.25**
AW19	PLOT ABOR-MMILI LAND MGBACHU VILLAGE, NKPOR, IDEMILI NORTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	IDEMILI NORTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	**N4,298,273.57**
AW20	PLOT NO. 466 TRANS NKISI LAYOUT, PHASE 2 ONITSHA NORTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	ONITSHA NORTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	**N19,430,171.77**
AW21	LANDED PROPERTY AT PLOT 143 SUNRISE ESTATE, NEW ABAKALIKI ROAD LAY OUT AREA A ALSO KNOWN AS OZO UCHE ALO STREET, EMENE, ENUGU EAST LGA, ENUGU STATE	EMENE, ENUNG STATE	N58,074,338.80
AW22	A LANDED PROPERTY AT ANAUBOM DALA NNEM UMUDIKE UMUNNEAL AM UMUDIM NNEWI, NNEWI NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, ANAMBRA STATE WITH DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	NNEWI, NNEWI NORT LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N52,522,770.63**
AW23	C OF O LANDED PROPERTY AT PLOT 20 BLOCK 38, ALONG EZEONYIWALU- OTOLO NNEWI, ANAMBRA STATE.	NNEWI, NNEWI NORTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N23,147,205.29**
AW24	IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY, PLOT NO 059C SITUATED AT OYOLU OZE RESTDENTIAL LAYOUT NKWELLE EZUNAKA	NKWELLE EZUNAKA OYI LGA ANAMBRA STATE	**N14,270,759.90**
AW25	DEED OF CONVEYANCE ON LANDED PROPERTY LOCATED AT PLOT 23 FAMILY OF LOVE HOUSING ESTATE PHASE 11	NKWELLE EZUNAKA OYI LGA ANAMBRA STATE	**N13,499,134.19**
AW26	IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY, 14 ROOMS APARTMENT SITUATED AT UGWUOSU NDIKPA UGWUNANO VILLAGE UMUNZE TOWN IN ORUMBA SOUTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	UMUNZE TOWN ORUMBA SOUTH LGA ANAMBRA STATE	**N24,553,958.16**
AW27	SHOP ALLOCATION PAPER OF STALLS SITUATED AT NO E/321 DOWN CO-OPERATIVE LINE BRIDGE HEAD MARKET, ONITSHA AND NO 19 BLOCK 13, ZONE D GOD IS GOOD LINE INTL TEXTILE MARKET, OGBO ABADA BRIDGE HEAD MARKET ONITSHA, ANAMBRA STATE	HEAD BRIDGE, ONITSHA	**N30,387,128.32**
AW28	IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY OF PLOT 68 SITUATED AT PHASE 1 DIVINE AGENDA ESTATE AGUOYE LAND, IKEM IHITE NANDO, ANAMBRA EAST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	IKEM IHITE NANDO, ANAMBRA EAST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE.	**N3,986,519.84**
AW29	2 PLOTS & HALF SITUATED AT OGUDO LAND BY ENUGU-ONITSHA EXPRESSWAY OPPOSITE STEEL COMPANY AWKUZU, OYI LGA, ANAMBRA STATE WIH DEED OF CONVEYANCE	AWKUZU, OYI LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N13,013,819.09**
AW30	PROPERTY LYING SITUATE AT IMUDE, OJO LGA, LAGOS STATE WITH DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	IMUDE, OJO LGA, LAGOS STATE	**N4,264,128.90**
AW31	ALULU LAND OF OGWARI COMMUNITY PHASE 1 EXTENSION ABATA NSUGBE IN ANAMBRA WEST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE.WITH CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY	NSUGBE IN ANAMBRA WEST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N15,368,593.61**
AW32	PLOT SITUATED AT UMUEZEOKPLA PLAN -737.793ACC653, ACC654 VILLAGE OBA IN IDEMILI SOUTH LGA, LOVE BROTHERS ESTATE WITH DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	OBA IN IDEMILI SOUTH LGA, LOVE BROTHERS ESTATE, ANAMBRA STATE	**N12,152,146.07**
AW33	LAND AT OBUNEERI VILLAGE UMUMBO ANYAMELU LGA OF ANAMBRA STATE WITH DEED OF CONVEYANCE	UMUMBO ANYAMELU LGA OF ANAMBRA STATE	**N9,424,907.03**
AW34	I PLOT OF LAND MEASURING 464 SQUARE METERS SITUATE, LYING & BEING AT MAX VILLE, ADMIRALTY ROAD, UMUEDI, OFF IBUSA EXPRESSWAY, ASABA, DELTA STATE WITH LAND ALLOCATION PAPER	ASABA, DELTA STATE	**N11,769,097.24**
AW35	BLOCK B, LINE 12, SHOP 16, AT OCHANJA CENTRAL MARKET, ONITSHA SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE WITH FULL STALL/MARKET WITH ALLOCATION PAPER	OCHANJA CENTRAL MARKET, ONITSHA SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N5,439,873.80**
AW36	I PLOT OF LAND SITUATE, LYING & BEING AT OGBOR AMANSI VILLAGE, NTEJE IN OYI LGA, ANAMBRA STATE WITH DEED OF OUTRIGHT SALES	NTEJE IN OYI LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N4,081,036.51**
AW37	PARCEL OF LAND SITUATE AT ENUGU AGIDI PHASE 2 IN NJIKOKA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ANAMBRA STATE WITH DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	NJIKOKA LGA OF ANAMBRA STATE	**N9,471,318.23**
AW38	PARCEL OF LAND KNOWN AS PLOT V/94 SITUATE AT AMANASA LAYOUT IGBARIAM ANAMBRA EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ANAMBRA STATE.DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	IGBARIAM, ANAMBRA EAST LGA. ANAMBRA STATE	**N13,941,419.33**
AW39	PARCEL OF LAND (012) SITUATE AT AMANASA LAYOUT, IGBARIAM, ANAMBRA EAST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	AMANASA LAYOUT, IGBARIAM, ANAMBRA EAST LGA, ANAMBRA STATE	**N11,651,498.09**
AW40	LANDED PROPERTY SITUATE AT ABOR-UN OGWASHI-UKU ANIOCHA SOUTH L.G.A. ANAMBRA STATE WITH DEED OF ASSIGNMENT	OGWASHI-UKU ANIOCHA SOUTH L.G.A. ANAMBRA STATE	**N10,810,914.00**
AW41	LAND LOCATED AT UZO –OLO/OKPONTA FARM ROAD, IBUSA IN OSHIMILI NORTH LGA, DELTA STATE	ONITSHA HEAD BRIDGE, ANAMBRA STATE	**N2,010,000**
AW42	LAND LOCATED AT ANAMUDIA OKOFIA ABOJI/OGGBENWE, OBA, IDEMILI LGA. ANAMBRA	NNEWI, ANAMBRA STATE	**N35,300,000**

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8. Unsuccessful bids will receive their 10% bank drafts immediately at the venue after identification.
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In the Name of the Almighty, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"You are the best nation raised for mankind. You enjoin what is right, forbid what is wrong, and believe in Allah." Qur'an 3 verse 110

إِنَّ ٱلدِّينَ عِندَ ٱللَّهِ ٱلْإِسْلَٰمُ

"Surely, the religion with Allah is ISLAM,complete submission"... Qur'an 3:19

MUSWEN and turning faith into social transformation

By **Kabir Alabi Garba**

FOR many Muslims in South-West Nigeria, the challenges of practising their faith and securing their socioeconomic future increasingly intersect. From the struggle of indigent Muslim families to educate their children in an increasingly competitive environment to the difficulties of accessing affordable healthcare, rising poverty, youth unemployment and the weakening economic capacity of many communities, the issues confronting the Ummah extend far beyond the four walls of the mosque.

The region has a rich Islamic heritage, a substantial Muslim population and a remarkable collection of religious institutions, scholars, philanthropists and successful professionals. Yet, the question of how these human, intellectual and financial resources can be harnessed to improve the living conditions of ordinary Muslims remains an important challenge.

There is also the need to strengthen Muslim institutions, deepen educational opportunities, encourage economic self-reliance, nurture responsible leadership and ensure that religious identity translates into tangible contributions to society.

This is why the 11th General Assembly of the Muslim Ummah of South West Nigeria (MUSWEN), scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2026, in Ibadan, deserves more than routine religious attention.

Its proposed endowment fund, particularly the mobilisation of 2 billion for healthcare, scholarships and economic empowerment, present an opportunity for the organisation to redefine the meaning of collective responsibility within the Muslim community.

The assembly must therefore be seen as more than another gathering of Muslim leaders and stakeholders. It is an opportunity to confront an uncomfortable question: what practical difference does the collective strength of the Muslim Ummah make in the lives of its most vulnerable members?

The answer may well determine the enduring relevance of MUSWEN as the umbrella organisation seeking to coordinate the interests and aspirations of Muslims across the six South-West states.

The foundation for this thinking is found in Qur'an 3:110 referenced above. This verse is frequently invoked to celebrate the special position of the Muslim community. However, its deeper implication is that the distinction comes with responsibilities. Muslims are not described as the best community merely because of their numerical strength, religious visibility or historical achievements. Their distinction rests on their commitment to righteousness, their willingness to confront wrongdoing and their faithfulness to Allah.

Being the best community, therefore, must translate into measurable contributions to humanity.

A Muslim community that cannot adequately care for its disadvantaged members, provide educational opportunities for its children, support its unemployed youths or protect its vulnerable families must continually examine whether it is living up to the responsibilities imposed by this divine injunction.

The holy Prophet (peace be upon him) reinforced this obligation when he taught that whoever sees an evil should change it with his hand; if unable, with his tongue; and if unable, with his heart, which is the weakest level of faith. This teaching challenges Muslim institutions to move beyond preaching and become active instruments of social reform.

Perhaps the most compelling feature of the forthcoming MUSWEN assembly is the proposed mobilisation of 2 billion to finance programmes in healthcare, education and economic empowerment.

This initiative deserves particular attention because it addresses some of the most pressing needs of Muslim communities in the South-West.

The proposed establishment of a modern healthcare facility, scholarships for indigent students and empowerment programmes for disadvantaged members of the Ummah should be regarded as strategic investments in human dignity rather than ordinary charitable gestures.

Healthcare remains a major burden for many low-income Nigerian families. The rising cost of medical services, medicines, diagnostic procedures and hospital admissions often pushes vulnerable households into deeper poverty. For families without adequate financial protection, a medical emergency can become an economic disaster.

A MUSWEN-backed healthcare initiative could provide an important intervention, particularly when it is structured to offer affordable and accessible services to disadvantaged families, irrespective of their religious or ethnic backgrounds.

The proposed scholarship programme is equally significant. Across the South-West, many brilliant children from economically disadvantaged Muslim homes struggle to obtain quality education because their parents cannot meet the financial demands of schooling. Some are compelled to abandon their educational ambitions, while others remain trapped in institutions that cannot adequately prepare them for the demands of a changing world.

A well-administered scholarship scheme could help reverse this trend by identifying deserving students, supporting their education and developing a new generation of professionals, intellectuals and community leaders.

The third intervention, economic empowerment, is perhaps the most direct response to the poverty confronting many Muslim households. Rather than limiting assistance to occasional donations, the programme should support sustainable livelihoods through vocational training, entrepreneurship development, access to productive capital and business mentorship. Women, young people, artisans, small-scale traders and other economically vulnerable groups should receive particular attention.

It should be noted that the welfare of disadvantaged members of society is a central component of religious responsibility. In Qur'an 107:1-3, Allah (SWT) condemns those who neglect the orphan and fail to encourage the feeding of the poor.

Similarly, Qur'an 2:177 identifies righteousness with giving wealth, despite one's love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, travellers and those who ask for assistance.

These injunctions establish that compassion and social responsibility are not peripheral to Islam. They are essential expressions of faith.

The proposed endowment fund is particularly important. Instead of depending perpetually on occasional appeals, MUSWEN is geared towards developing a sustainable financial mechanism capable of generating resources for its interventions over the long term.

The real achievement will not be the amount announced at the fundraising ceremony but the number of lives transformed through the effective application of the money.

The challenge of unity remains another important concern for the Muslim community in South-West Nigeria. MUSWEN was established to provide a common platform for Muslim organisations, scholars, traditional institutions, professionals and communities across the region. Its relevance lies in its ability to bring diverse interests together and mobilise their collective strength for the advancement of the Ummah.

The Qur'an provides a clear instruction in 3:103: "And hold firmly together to the rope of Allah and do not be divided."

Unfortunately, religious organisations sometimes expend considerable energy on avoidable disagreements, personality clashes and institutional rivalries that weaken their collective influence.

The forthcoming assembly should encourage a renewed commitment to cooperation, mutual respect and shared development priorities. Muslim organisations must recognise that their individual strengths become more meaningful when coordinated towards common objectives.

Now, the anticipated leadership transition at the Ibadan assembly offers another opportunity for institutional reflection. After six years under Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, the transfer of leadership to a new administration should represent continuity of purpose, institutional maturity and renewed commitment to the organisation's objectives.

Islamic leadership is fundamentally a trust. In Qur'an 4:58, Allah commands believers to return trusts to those entitled to them and to judge with justice. Holy Prophet (peace be upon him) similarly taught that everyone is a shepherd and responsible for those under their care. These teachings should guide both the outgoing and incoming leadership.

MUSWEN needs leaders who can mobilise resources, strengthen institutions, promote accountability and engage constructively with government without compromising the legitimate interests of the Muslim community.

The organisation must also demonstrate that religious leadership can be inclusive, transparent, forward-looking and responsive to the everyday concerns of ordinary people.

> "The IIth MUSWEN General Assembly should therefore be judged not only by the number of dignitaries in attendance, the grandeur of its ceremonies or the applause generated by its speeches, but also by the practical results it produces. The proposed healthcare facility must become operational. Scholarships must reach deserving students. Empowerment programmes must create sustainable livelihoods. The endowment fund must be professionally managed, and every contribution must be accounted for."



Deputy President I, MUSWEN, Alhaji Rafiu Ebiti (left); President of MUSWEN, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo; Executive Secretary/CEO of MUSWEN, Prof Wole Abass; and Chairman, 2026 General Assembly Planning Committee, Alhaji AbdulRahman AbdulGaniy at the press briefing in Ibadan, Oyo State, yesterday.

Gladly, preparations for the 11th General Assembly have involved consultations and mobilisation activities aimed at securing the participation and support of political leaders, traditional rulers, Muslim stakeholders and influential personalities across the South-West.

MUSWEN President, Alhaji Rasaki Oladejo, has led delegations on courtesy visits and consultations with prominent stakeholders.

Among those engaged are Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Chairman of the Lagos State Governor's Advisory Council, Prince Tajudeen Olusi, who have pledged support for the assembly and the organisation's development initiatives.

In Ogun State, the Deputy Governor, Noimot Salako-Oyedele, and the Olowu of Owu Kingdom, Oba Saka Adeola Matemilola, have also received MUSWEN delegations and encouraged Muslim unity and cooperation.

Engagements have also taken place with Ondo State Governor, Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, including discussions on religious harmony and the proposed state structure of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC).

The assembly is expected to attract President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III, governors of South-West states and other prominent personalities. Borno State Governor, Professor Babagana Zulum, is expected to deliver the annual lecture.

These mobilisation activities demonstrate the importance attached to the gathering. However, the presence of political leaders and eminent personalities should not become the principal measure of its success. Their participation should translate into meaningful partnerships, institutional support and commitments to the proposed social interventions.

MUSWEN's responsibilities also extend beyond the immediate interests of Muslims. In a religiously diverse country such as Nigeria, Muslim institutions have an important role in promoting peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and national cohesion.

The message in Qur'an 5:8 is instructive cautioning believers against allowing hatred of a people to make them depart from justice. Also, in Qur'an 60:8, Allah encourages kindness and fairness towards those who do not fight Muslims on account of their religion or drive them from their homes. These injunctions provide a sound foundation for interfaith engagement.

MUSWEN's efforts to strengthen NIREC and encourage functional state-level structures deserve support. Regular engagement between Muslim and Christian leaders, particularly at the grassroots, can help prevent misunderstandings from degenerating into religious and communal conflicts.

The organisation must also encourage Muslims to participate responsibly in Nigeria's democratic development, demand accountability from political officeholders and resist the temptation to sacrifice ethical principles for partisan interests as the country approaches the 2027 general elections.

Ultimately, the most important message of Qur'an 3:110 is that the distinction of being the best community must be continually earned through righteous conduct and service to humanity.

The 11th MUSWEN General Assembly should therefore be judged not only by the number of dignitaries in attendance, the grandeur of its ceremonies or the applause generated by its speeches, but also by the practical results it produces. The proposed healthcare facility must become operational. Scholarships must reach deserving students. Empowerment programmes must create sustainable livelihoods. The endowment fund must be professionally managed, and every contribution must be accounted for.

The incoming leadership must also develop a clear implementation framework, establish measurable targets and regularly communicate progress to the Muslim community.

As delegates converge on Ibadan on November 15, the fundamental challenge is unmistakable: can MUSWEN transform the collective spiritual, intellectual, human and financial resources of Muslims in South-West Nigeria into an effective instrument of social development?

The answer must be found in the lives saved, children educated, businesses established, families lifted out of poverty and institutions strengthened. That is what it means to translate faith into service.

And that is the real test of the Qur'anic declaration that Muslims are the best community raised for humanity.

Politics

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‘Everyone won’t be happy or agree with 2027 polls’ outcome’

Former member of the House of Representatives for Amuwo-Odofin Federal Constituency, Lagos State, Oghene Emmanuel Egoh, who also served in the ECOWAS Parliament and is currently a member of the President Bola Tinubu Campaign Organisation, speaks with ***OBIRE ONAKEMU*** *on fuel subsidy removal, its economic impact, measures introduced to cushion the hardship and the Tinubu administration’s record ahead of the 2027 elections, among other issues.*

What is your assessment of the political developments in Nigeria with the 2027 general election around the corner?

IT is a glaring fact that the 2027 general election is approaching. Usually, as elections draw closer, political parties engage in accusations and counter-accusations. The opposition accuses the ruling party of planning to rig the election, while the ruling party accuses the opposition of failing to organise itself and reach out to the electorate.

However, one can see that the APC is working very hard. There is no doubt about that. The party has set up its campaign committee and is taking its campaign across the country.

The opposition parties have not demonstrated the same level of organisation. The APC is campaigning from the wards to the local governments and states. What some opposition politicians are doing is gathering a few people and shouting, “Tinubu must go!” That is not a campaign. Campaigning is about explaining why the electorate should vote for your candidate and what that candidate intends to offer. It goes beyond simply calling for Tinubu’s removal. The political atmosphere is not unusual for a country approaching a general election.

What are your fears and the issues you envisage will determine voting patterns in the 2027 general election?

I have no particular fears about the issues that will determine voting patterns. People are aware of President Tinubu’s performance. In my view, he is the greatest president Nigeria has ever had. Although he has not spent four years in office, there are signs of his administration’s activities across the country.

People complain about hunger, but they should also acknowledge that President Tinubu’s government has introduced measures to provide support. For example, more than one million students are benefiting from the student loan scheme. If parents cannot afford to finance their children’s university or polytechnic education, the students can apply for loans, provided their institutions are owned by the Federal or state governments. Billions of naira have been allocated to the scheme to enable students to pay their fees and complete their education.

The government also provides beneficiaries with a monthly upkeep allowance of N20,000. Although that amount may not be sufficient, it is a good beginning. Their school fees are covered, and they also receive some money for their upkeep.

In agriculture, graduates can apply through the Ministry of Agriculture and the Bank of Agriculture for government-supported opportunities to establish farming projects. These are some of the interventions already in place.

Secondly, following the removal of fuel subsidies, more money has become available to the three tiers of government. The funds are shared in accordance with the Constitution among the Federal Government, state governments and local governments.

As a result, many workers and pensioners who were owed salaries and pensions for several months or years are now receiving payments. If a state or local government chairman is still owing workers and pensioners despite increased revenue, such an administration needs to explain why.

There is no country where poverty and hunger are completely absent. Even in the United States and Britain, there are homeless people. However, governments are expected to introduce measures to support vulnerable citizens, and people should take advantage of the opportunities provided.

Do you really think the 2027 general election will reflect the will of the people?

Why should it not reflect the will of the people? Once people vote, their votes should be counted. However, some people have already made up their minds that the 2027 election will not reflect the wishes of the electorate. Whatever the outcome, they may still claim that the election was manipulated.

These are the people who keep alleging that the ruling party will rig the election. If you believe the election will be rigged, why participate in it? My position is that everybody should go out and vote without fear. Political parties should deploy their agents to polling units to protect and defend their votes and ensure that the results are properly recorded.

APC agents will be there, just as agents of other political parties will be present to ensure that the correct results are declared.

Don’t you think the political climate and public sentiment in Nigeria have shifted significantly against the ruling party?

I don’t know about that. What I know is that the opposition is telling a lot of lies to the electorate. It is unfortunate that some people believe these claims. They need to change their mindset and understand the policies and interventions of the government.

How do you call for greater accountability and policies that address Nigerians’ everyday struggles?

There is a government at every level. At the councilorship level, there is government, just as there is government at the local government chairmanship level. At the state level, we have the Houses of Assembly and the governors, while at the Federal level, we have the House of Representatives and the Senate.

For instance, Senator Ede Dafinone is committed to the issue of the railway line running from Ujevwu in Udu Local Government Area of Delta State to Itakpe in Kogi State. That is the kind of commitment expected from our representatives.

People should approach their elected representatives, explain their problems and demand action rather than sit at home complaining that things are bad. Complaining without engaging those elected to represent the people will not solve the problems.



Egoh

Do you concur that government performance should be assessed by its impact on ordinary citizens, particularly the poorest, rather than institutional growth or financial gains alone?

Government performance should be assessed by what the government is doing and the impact of its policies. The Federal Government has established new universities, while some existing institutions, including Yaba College of Technology and Kaduna State Polytechnic, have been upgraded to university status.

In our area, particularly among the Urhobo people, there is also a Federal Medical Centre at Ovwian in Udu Local Government Area of Delta State.

One cannot dismiss the importance of building institutions and infrastructure simply because some people remain poor. The government must continue to invest in infrastructure and institutions because their benefits eventually reach the wider population.

However, there are people who, irrespective of what the government does, may remain poor because they are unwilling to work hard and would rather complain. Even in the villages, while some men and women go to the farms, others spend their time doing nothing. When farmers harvest yams, those who have not worked on their farms have nothing to harvest. The same applies to fishing. People must change their attitude and be willing to work.

> “What I know is that the opposition is telling a lot of lies to the electorate. It is unfortunate that some people believe these claims. They need to change their mindset and understand the policies and interventions of the government.”

Do you think Tinubu’s administration would have faced an even more difficult situation if it had chosen to maintain the previous subsidy arrangement?

If President Tinubu had maintained the fuel subsidy, it would have meant continuing a policy that had contributed to the difficulties faced by previous administrations. Nigeria was spending heavily on fuel subsidy, and the benefits were not restricted to Nigerians. We were also indirectly subsidising fuel consumption in neighbouring countries such as Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Sudan.

The reality is that the subsidy arrangement largely benefited the rich rather than the poor, while also creating opportunities for people in neighbouring countries to benefit from the system.

Would you criticise Atiku and his allies for opposing the policy?

No! They have a right to criticise the government because they are in opposition. When Tinubu was in opposition, he also criticised former President Goodluck Jonathan’s administration. So, Atiku has the right to criticise, but, as the saying goes, he should remove the log in his own eye before pointing out the speck in another person’s eye.

How do you assess the off-cycle elections conducted by INEC so far? Do they provide a vital testing ground for key structural upgrades?

I don’t know what they mean by that. Off-cycle elections are constitutionally permitted. The Constitution and the relevant electoral laws provide for elections to fill vacancies arising from death, resignation or other circumstances, including when an elected official leaves office to become a minister.

Whenever such a vacancy occurs, an election has to be conducted. Until the National Assembly amends the relevant provisions, the process will continue.

I am also happy with the outcomes of the elections conducted so far, as the APC has won most of them. Even in Kano and other parts of the country, the party has recorded victories. In the last set of six elections, the APC won five. This shows that the party has a strong presence on the ground, unlike some opposition parties. That, in my view, explains some of the criticisms directed at the APC.

And for the 2027 general election, are you sure of INEC’s commitment to neutrality, operational excellence and the integrity of the ballot box?

I don’t know whether you are suggesting that the entire INEC should be dismissed and replaced with another group of people. INEC officials are Nigerians recruited from different parts of the country. The commission is not made up of foreigners; its personnel are Nigerians.

Why should we employ our own citizens to conduct elections and then refuse to have confidence in them? We should give them the benefit of the doubt. I believe INEC will carry out its responsibility and conduct a credible election.

Are you going for any elective position in 2027? And how has it been since you left the House of Representatives?

No, I am not contesting any election. I have made up my mind about that. When I left the PDP for the APC because of the crisis in the PDP at the time, I was asked whether I intended to contest an election. I said no. I only wanted to join the Renewed Hope Agenda, and that is what I am doing.

I am not contesting in 2027, but I am supporting my party, the APC.

Life has been good since I left the House of Representatives. I remain actively involved in issues affecting my people. For instance, I have been engaging Senator Ede Dafinone on the railway project and other matters concerning our area.

Since leaving office, I have continued to help my people by approaching relevant government institutions and drawing their attention to the challenges they face. I still represent their interests whenever issues arise.

Today, I am a member of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s Presidential Campaign Council, which is one of the highest organs of the campaign organisation. Being given that responsibility shows that the party recognises my contributions, and I am working hard to justify the confidence reposed in me.

How would you assess President Tinubu’s administration so far?

President Tinubu is doing very well. People keep complaining about hunger and the rising cost of goods in the markets, saying they can no longer afford certain items. However, the problem of hunger did not begin with Tinubu’s administration. He inherited these challenges and is making efforts to address them.

We are also happy with the projects being undertaken by the administration. For instance, the coastal highway project has undergone some adjustments following the discovery that certain sections of the proposed route would require extensive bridge construction because of the depth and nature of the terrain. The important thing is to ensure that the project is properly executed.

There are also plans to extend the East-West Road towards Calabar, passing through Delta State and other states to connect different parts of the country. We welcome these developments.

The Badagry-Sokoto Highway is also being executed in phases, just like the South-South road projects. Several other infrastructure projects are ongoing across the different geopolitical zones.

These projects are important to national development, and we are happy that the administration is pursuing them.

Tinubu, Middle Belt leaders' 'deal' unsettles Northern govs

From **Leo Sobechi**, Abuja

• North Central youth disown pact as NDC insists Nigerians will decide

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu's alleged offer to support a candidate from the Middle Belt for the 2031 presidency is pitting stakeholders against leaders of the zone, further alienating northern governors from the president's re-election campaigns.

The Guardian learnt that concerns about the increasing acceptability of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) led the All Progressives Congress (APC) leadership to convince the president to meet with prominent members of the Middle Belt zone to extract their support for his second term.

Dismissing the alleged promise, however, the NDC National Publicity Secretary, Osa Director, said the party believes that victory in the January 16, 2027 presidential election would come from Nigerians, and not from elite gang-ups.

"Moreover, it would be political suicide and crass ignorance for the so-called middle belt leaders to trust and believe APC and President Tinubu," he said.

"We have come to the critical juncture in our national life, where only the people can determine who governs them. The elite's selfish arrangements and the compromised arm of the judiciary will no longer determine the outcome of our elections."

Also, a northern governor confided in *The Guardian* on the condition of anonymity that the leaders visited the president to affirm his promise of supporting a Christian successor from the zone in 2031.

Nevertheless, "we are not deceived by these schemes; the president rightly knows that the North-West is no longer sold to his presidency, so it is natural for him to seek new alliances, the governor said.

"I can tell you that this latest attempt to sell the idea of a Christian successor in 2031 is already increasing the opposition to his second term in the north.

"Many of my colleagues do not see why any of us should be passionate about the president's second term. Atiku (Abubakar) has already warned us that we would be the first targets if Tinubu returns."

Meanwhile, former Plateau State governor, Fidelis Tapgun, said the Middle Belt region would continue to play a moderating role in Nigerian politics, stressing that the region has the enviable position of holding the North and South together in a united and progressive union.

Peeved by the attempt to introduce divide and rule in the Middle Belt, a group, the Christian Youths of the North Central, Middle Belt Zones (CYNCMB), condemned the meeting, stressing that it was neither representative nor comprised of bona fide leaders from the region.

Speaking through Ishiaku Gyang, the group decried the leaders' purported endorsement of Tinubu's second term, noting that no other zone has suffered grave socio-economic destruction under the current dispensation than the Middle Belt.

According to Gyang, "there was no regional meeting or wide consultation at any time to discuss the agenda for the meeting with the president. The so-called leaders were acting in their individual capacities, because they lack the authority to speak for or commit the people of the region politically.

"The president is doing divide and rule; why are they endorsing Tinubu? Every part of the country has suffered the consequences of bad politics and poor governance. Coming to pit us against our Muslim brothers in the name of religion will not work."

NSChE urges Ajaokuta's revival to end $4b yearly loss to steel imports

From **Ann Godwin**, Port Harcourt

THE Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSChE) has lamented Nigeria's annual loss of $4 billion on imported steel products and urged the federal government to revive the Ajaokuta steel plant to reduce steel imports, conserve foreign exchange, create jobs, stimulate power and mining, and strengthen local manufacturing, among others.

NSChE gave the charge at its ongoing 56th yearly conference, general meeting and exhibition in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

National President of NSChE, Bayo Olarewaju-Alo, said Nigeria's annual steel demand was estimated at 10 million tonnes, against local production of approximately 1.2 million tonnes, largely from scrap-based operations, leaving a significant supply gap and contributing to an estimated $4 billion annual steel import bill.

According to him, reviving Ajaokuta would strengthen domestic manufacturing, infrastructure development and engineering capacity, and grow the nation's economy.

Reps seek urgent solution to Abuja-Kaduna gridlock, rail failures

From **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

THE House of Representatives has called for urgent measures to address the persistent gridlock along the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway and operational failures affecting the Abuja-Kaduna train service.

In a resolution yesterday, the lawmakers yesterday warned that the challenges had subjected commuters to prolonged delays, financial losses and security risks. They also expressed concern over the disruption in the movement of goods along the strategic corridor.

The resolution followed the adoption of a motion sponsored by Umar Ajilo, who drew the House's attention to recurring traffic congestion on the expressway and the declining efficiency of the railway service.



Former Minister of Budget and National Planning, Udo Udoma (left); veteran journalist Benson Idonije; former Director-General, Nigerian Television Authority, Vincent Maduka; the chief launcher, Oluwaseyi Ogunbanwo; wife of the author, Mrs Sade Omole, and the author, Sola Omole, at the presentation of his book: *My Dream, My Journey: From Broadcasting to the Oil Field*, in Lagos yesterday.

ASUU president, Lakemfa say state police unlikely before 2027 elections

From **Owede Agbajileke**, Abuja

WITH just nine weeks to the 2027 general elections, veteran journalist and trade unionist, Owei Lakemfa, has expressed doubts about the state police being established before the polls, warning that the proposed reform may not significantly change the country's electoral policing system.

Lakemfa, who was a guest speaker at the Academic Staff Union of Universities' (ASUU) Heroes' Day 2026 in Abuja yesterday, argued that the political dominance of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), which controls 32 states, leaves little prospect of fundamental changes to the country's policing architecture.

Similarly, ASUU President, Prof. Christopher Piwuna, has expressed doubts over the establishment of state police before the 2027 general elections, saying that political leaders are currently preoccupied with electioneering campaigns.

Piwuna said those responsible for driving the proposed reform appear more concerned with political campaigns than putting the necessary structures in place

SPEAKING on the topic, "Insecurities, Incumbency and Elections in Nigeria: The Role of State Police," he said the proposed state police system was unlikely to become operational before the 2027 elections, except through an unusually accelerated process.

However, he noted that even if state police were established before the elections, the prevailing political imbalance among the parties would undermine its capacity to operate independently and transform election security.

On the role of ASUU in the electoral process, Lakemfa said the union cannot be held responsible for recalling individuals it had not officially nominated.

He further questioned the credibility of some professors reportedly engaged in election duties, citing a Rivers State incident in which an individual who presented as a professor during an election could not be traced to the university where he was said to have worked.

Aligning with Lakemfa, the ASUU president doubted whether the political leadership had sufficient time and commitment to implement the proposal before the elections, particularly as political activities were already gathering momentum.

Piwuna said the lecture was designed to draw attention to the integrity, credibility and transparency of Nigeria's electoral process, stressing that the role of the police, whether federal or state, would be critical to ensuring free, fair and credible elections.

He expressed concern at the persistent erosion of public trust in the country's electoral system, noting that the integrity of officials responsible for managing elections had repeatedly come under scrutiny.

Atiku knocks Tinubu over 638 deaths in October, 64,000 refugees in Niger

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, has condemned President Bola Tinubu's failure to protect Nigerians, saying the deaths of 638 people from insecurity in one month and the flight of nearly 64,000 Nigerians to Niger exposed a security crisis that the government has failed to contain.

The former vice president stated this in reaction to a report by the Centre for Democracy and Development's October tracker, which disclosed that 638 people were killed in broader insecurity incidents during the month, with the North-East alone accounting for 409 deaths.

Across all security incidents, the tracker recorded 640 deaths, up from 396 in September. The United Nations also reported that nearly 64,000 people fled violence in northern Nigeria to Niger Republic since the start of 2026, while several hundred more fled to Benin Republic.

In a statement by the Director of Strategic Communication of the ADC Presidential Campaign Council, Phrank Shaibu, Atiku said, "These figures are a devastating indictment of the security situation in our country.

"Behind every number is a Nigerian whose life has been lost, a family in mourning or a community forced to abandon its home. Nigerians should not have to flee across our borders to find safety."

He insisted that "the Tinubu administration must make the protection of lives and communities its first responsibility. It must strengthen security in affected areas, support displaced families and work with neighbouring countries and humanitarian agencies to assist those who have fled.

"Nigerians also deserve a clear account of what is being done to stop the killings and restore safety. A government that cannot protect its people has failed in its most basic duty.

"President Tinubu must stop offering excuses and take responsibility for this worsening crisis. Nigerians need safety now, not another promise."

Cabin crew's invalid medical certificate triggers NSIB call for stronger NCAA oversight

By **Olusegun Koiki** (Lagos) and **Joke Falaju** (Abuja)

THE Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) has recommended that the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) should immediately strengthen its safety oversight of Permit for Non-Commercial Flight (PNCF) holders that engage cabin crew members to perform safety-related duties.

This followed its conclusion that the sole cabin crew member aboard the Bombardier Challenger 604 aircraft operated by Triton Aviation Limited, which had a serious incident on October 15, 2026, lacked a valid medical certificate at the time of the occurrence.

The aircraft's main cabin door had detached during a flight out of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, to the Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos, and was later recovered from a cornfield in Gui village, approximately five miles southwest of the airport.

Appeal Court strikes out bid to halt Saraki's trial in Offa case

From **Mansur Aramide**, Ilorin

THE Court of Appeal, Ilorin Judicial Division, yesterday struck out a motion seeking to stop the continuation of the trial of former Senate President Abubakar Saraki in the Offa robbery case.

The case, which was for hearing, was between Alabi Olalekan and The People of Kwara State; Olubukola Abubakar Saraki, Abdulfatah Ahmed and Yusuf Abdulwahab.

Mentioning the processes, Jimoh Mumini, SAN, appearing for the applicant/4th respondent, reminded the court of all pending interlocutory applications. He further withdrew the motion for interim injunction, while Rafiu Balogun, SAN, and Ors, appearing for the 1st respondent, withdrew the counter affidavit filed in opposition to the motion.

Consequently, the court, presided over by Justice Ridwan Abdullahi, struck out a motion that sought to stop the court from proceeding with the matter.



In Loving Memory of

Engr. David Abiola Oni

Ten years have passed since you entered into glory, yet the warmth of your smile, the wisdom of your counsel, and the purity of your devotion remain as vivid as ever.

You were a pillar of strength, an exemplary leader, an unyielding source of encouragement, and a patriarch whose footprint continues to guide our steps. Though absent in body, your legacy of integrity, excellence, and love lives on vibrantly through all of us.

TO LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WE LOVE
IS NOT TO DIE

FOREVER REMEMBERED BY:

Your loving wife Princess (Mrs) Modupe Adeola Oni, Children and Grand Children

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Mayweather takes Boxing Series to Nigeria, eyes mining sector

BOXING legend, Floyd "Money" Mayweather, is set to launch the TMT Frontrow Fight Series in Nigeria as part of efforts to develop young boxing talents and expand professional boxing opportunities in the country.

Mayweather, who was expected to arrive in Abuja yesterday, will also explore investment opportunities in Nigeria's mining and solid minerals sector.

The initiative is aimed at identifying, training and promoting emerging Nigerian boxers through boxing academies and grassroots development programmes across Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, Calabar and other locations.

The first TMT Frontrow Fight Series event is scheduled for 2027, with Mayweather also expected to fight in Nigeria in the same year.

The boxing legend will address a press conference in Abuja today, where he is expected to unveil details of the initiative and its plans to empower Nigerian youths through sports.

Mayweather is also expected to speak on his December 19 bout in Bangkok, Thailand, against Australian light heavyweight boxer, Matt "The Jedi" Floyd, who boasts 15 victories in 17 professional fights.

Details of the Bangkok fight, including subscription arrangements for Nigerian boxing fans to watch the event, will be announced at the Abuja press conference.

According to TMT Africa and Frontrow Fight Series, the initiative is designed to develop Nigerian boxing talent, expand professional opportunities and provide young athletes with international exposure.

The announcement was contained in a press statement issued by Keane Anis, Head of TMT Africa and Frontrow Fight Series Media.



Dr Adesoji Tayo (left) congratulates Alabo Boma Iyaye (right) shortly after inspecting facilities for the Top 16 Table Tennis Championship yesterday.

Iyaye explains Rivers' decision to host Nigeria's top 16 tennis players

By **Eniola Daniel**

THE President of the Fifika Chiri Foundation, Alabo Boma Iyaye, says hosting Nigeria's National Top 16 Table Tennis Championship in Ogu, Ogu/Bolo Local Council of Rivers State is a major push to promote grassroots sports development and also influence the emergence of next generation of table tennis players.

The four-day championship, scheduled for December 11 to 14, 2026, will feature the country's 16 best male and female players, according to the Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF).

The competition, being sponsored by the Fifika Chiri Foundation, is expected to attract some of Nigeria's finest table tennis players and provide a platform for promoting the sport, discovering talents and expanding its popularity in the South-South region.

Speaking during a visit to Ogu, where he inspected facilities for the championship, NTTF President, Dr Adesoji Tayo, commended Iyaye for his commitment to the development of table tennis and for bringing a national competition to Rivers State.

CETPower joins EKO170 2027 as race gets January date

By **Abigail Ikhaghu**

CETPower has joined EKO170 2027 as a major partner, supporting the second edition of the cycling event organised by Dynastar Sports and Education Foundation. The event returns to Lagos on Sunday, January 10, 2027, bringing riders together for an endurance challenge and a celebration of cycling and community.

Starting and finishing in Victoria Island, EKO170 will offer a 170-km Gran Fondo and a non-competitive 94.5 km Medio Fondo. The planned route heads towards Epe before returning to Victoria Island, with the shorter-distance riders turning earlier along the shared corridor.

CETPower's partnership contributes to the work required to bring the event to life, from preparations and coordination to the experience of riders and supporters.

The announcement marks a further step in preparations for the January edition, building on the inaugural event held in 2026.

The 170 km Gran Fondo provides a competitive endurance challenge, while the 94.5 km Medio Fondo offers riders a shorter participation option without podium competition. Together, the two distances give cyclists different ways to take part in the same event and share the finish-line experience.

Porbeni wants Tinubu to reward Youth Olympic Games gold medallists

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

FORMER Head coach of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Seigha Porbeni, says that Nigeria's gold medallists at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games deserve the same financial reward given to members of the U-17 football team, the Flamingos.

President Bola Tinubu's N100 million reward for each player of the Flamingos for winning the FIFA U-17 trophy in Morocco has been the talking point since Wednesday with many describing it as a major encouragement for other young Nigerians to embrace sports.

Porbeni, a former sprinter, jumper and hurdler, told *The Guardian*, yesterday, that such appreciation by President Tinubu should be extended to the three gold medallists and their coaches for making Nigeria proud in Dakar, Senegal.

The fourth Youth Olympic Games, which ended yesterday, was the first Olympic sporting event to hold on African soil. Nigeria wrapped up its outing at the competition with its best ever results, with three gold medals to surpass the country's previous best performance at the competition since its debut.



Mayweather

LASU VC commends Flamingos' defender, Esther Stephen

By **Adelowo Adebumiti**

THE Vice Chancellor, Lagos State University, Professor Ayodeji Olawunmi Badejo has congratulated Esther Stephen, a student-athlete in the school on her outstanding contribution to Nigeria's historic triumph at the 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, describing her achievement as a moment of immense pride for the University, Lagos State and Nigeria.

The Vice chancellor also extended her congratulations to the entire Flamingos squad, their coaches, technical crew and the Nigeria Football Federation for the historic feat, which saw Nigeria defeat Japan 2–1 in the final played in Rabat, Morocco, on Saturday, 7 November 2026, to emerge champions.

Goals from Awawu Bashiru in the 39th minute and Oluebube Umejiaku in the 47th minute secured the historic victory, making the Flamingos the first African team to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

Professor Badejo particularly applauded Stephen for her outstanding performance throughout the tournament, noting that her dedication, discipline, versatility and impressive contribution to the team's success exemplify the university's commitment to nurturing well-rounded students who excel both academically and in extracurricular pursuits.

Expressing her excitement over the achievement, the vice chancellor said: "I am immensely delighted and proud that a student of Lagos State University has played such a significant role in bringing this historic honour to Nigeria and the African continent. Esther Stephen has demonstrated that our students possess the talent, discipline, determination and competitive spirit required to excel on the global stage.

"This remarkable achievement reinforces our belief that LASU is a breeding ground for excellence and a rendezvous for champions. While we remain committed to academic excellence, we also recognise and encourage the immense potential of our students in sports and other areas of human endeavour.

"I warmly congratulate Esther, her coaches, lecturers and everyone who has contributed to her development and success. I look forward to receiving and celebrating our pride, Esther Stephen."

Organisers promise thrilling Abuja half marathon

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

NILAYO Sports Management, the outfit organising the Abuja City half marathon, says this year's edition, holding this weekend, will be another masterpiece.

The declaration came from Nilayo's Chief Executive Officer, Mrs Yetunde Olopade, who declared yesterday that preparations for the PremiumTrust Bank Abuja City International Half Marathon are in the final stage.

"We have just four days to go (from yesterday), and I can say we are fully ready for the race," Olopade said. "We are ready to deliver another masterpiece of a marathon in the capital city."

Speaking further, she said. "We have done this before, and we understand what Abuja expects. Every detail has been checked, from the start line to the finish line, from the safety of the athletes to the experience of the spectators."

Olopade added that the team is determined to raise the standard again this year. "This is not just another race on the calendar. This is Abuja showing the world how a capital city hosts a world-class marathon. Our athletes will run on a fast, safe and beautiful course, and our fans will enjoy a spectacle worthy of the city," he said.

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Mayweather takes Boxing Series to Nigeria, eyes mining sector /31

Super Eagles host Tanzania for AFCON ticket

By **Christian Okpara**

TODAY is a busy day for Nigeria's top two national teams, as the race for both the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics continues across the continue across the continent.

In the AFCON race, the Super Eagles are in a three-pointer they know they cannot afford any slip-up in the current international window if they are to keep their campaign on track for next year's finals to be jointly-hosted by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Super Eagles came from behind to defeat Madagascar's Barea at the Godswill Akpabio Stadium, Uyo, on September 25, but then suffered a 0-3 reverse against Guinea Bissau four days later to put their chances of a spot in the finals on the wire.

However, earning the maximum six points against Tanzania – in Uyo today and in Zanzibar on Tuesday – would re-ignite high hopes of a place in the Pamoja finals, depending on how Madagascar cope in the clash against Guinea Bissau's Wild Dogs in their own quickfire-double.

Head Coach Éric Chelle and Captain Wilfred Ndidi have reiterated the need for the three-time African champions to obliterate their loss to Guinea Bissau with a credible six-point grab against the Taifa Stars.

"We must work hard in these two matches and do everything to win. It is important to sustain the hope and all the players are in that mood to banish the memory of that defeat to Guinea Bissau and show their true quality.

"The spirit in camp is high and everyone is focused on achieving victory in both matches," Chelle said.

Former junior international Benjamin Fredricks, Chibuike Nwaiwu and Abdullahi Ibrahim Bewene provide exciting options for Coach Chelle at the rear, while the presence of Fisayo Dele-Bashiru, Samson Tijani and Tochukwu Nnadi could mean a fresh-look midfield for the Super Eagles.

Olympic Eagles dare DR Congo, in Lubumbashi

The Super Eagles will again be without ace forward Victor Osimhen, who sustained an injury in a Turkish league game with his club Galatasaray, days before Chelle unveiled his roster for the two matches.

In his absence, the Franco-Malian tactician will most likely rely on the combined strength of Atletico Madrid's Ademola Lookman, Italy-based Akor Adams and Ajax Amsterdam of The Netherlands' Tolu Arokodare, who has netted 13 goals across the Dutch League and the UEFA Conference League this season.

Veteran Moses Simon, who plays his club football in France like Tanzania's most experienced and dreaded striker Mbwana Samatta, is one of the on-field marshals that Nigeria will look to for inspiration today.

Simon Msuva, Selemani Mwalimu and Bernard Kamungo are the other aces that Taifa Stars' Argentine Coach Miguel Ángel Gamondi will rely on to deliver at the Godswill Akpabio Stadium.

After today's encounter, both teams will again square up to each other on Tuesday at the Amman Stadium in Zanzibar, which is part of Tanzania.

The players in Coach Eric Chelle's camp ahead of the double header are goalkeepers Arthur Okonkwo (Charlton Athletic, England); Francis Uzoho (Omonia FC, Cyprus); and Stanley Nwabali (Chippa United, South Africa).

The defenders are Bruno Onyemaechi (Olympiakos, Greece); Olaoluwa Aina (Nottingham Forest, England); Benjamin Fredricks (Brentford FC, England); Oluwasemilogo Ajayi (Hull City, England); Calvin Bassey (Fulham FC, England); Chibuike Nwaiwu (Trabzonspor FC, Turkey); Bright Osayi-Samuel (Birmingham FC, England); and Abdullahi Bewene (Banik Ostrava, Czechia).

Vying for spots in the midfield are Skipper Wilfred Ndidi (Besiktas FC, Turkey); Alex Iwobi (Fulham FC, England); Alhassan Yusuf (New England Revolution, USA); Tochukwu Nnadi (Olympic Marseille, France); Samson Tijani (FK Podbrezova, Slovakia); Fisayo Dele-Bashiru (SS Lazio, Italy); and Mubarak Suleiman (SK Slavia Prague, Czechia), while the attackers are Moses Simon (Paris FC, France); Taiwo Awoniyi (Coventry City, England); Akor Adams (Venezia FC, Italy); Ademola Lookman (Atletico Madrid, Spain); Tolu Arokodare (Ajax FC, The Netherlands); and Moses Usor (LASK FC, Austria).



Super Eagles Moses Simon trying to outwit Morocco's Hakimi at the 2025 AFCON. Nigeria and Morocco are among the countries fighting to qualify for the 2027 edition this weekend.

2026 FIFA U-17 Boys' World Cup

U.S. withdraws from tourney over war with Iran

THE United States have withdrawn from the U-17 World Cup in Qatar because of the risk of armed conflict, reports *BBC*.

In a letter sent to players and seen by news agency Reuters, U.S. Soccer said it made the decision "in light of current circumstances."

It cited advice from the US Department of State, which issued a level three travel advisory, external for Qatar last month.

That came a day after Yemen's Houthi movement carried out a deadly attack on an airport in neighbouring Saudi Arabia, while air strikes have continued on Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

The 48-team tournament runs from November 19 to December 13, and the U.S were due to play group games against Montenegro, Chile and Algeria.

The U.S. travel advisory mentioned Houthi attacks on civilian airports and critical infrastructure, and warned that hostilities "have the potential to escalate rapidly beyond that immediate area".

The update told Americans to reconsider travel to Qatar because of "risk of armed conflict".

"The well-being of our players and staff will always be our top priority," US Soccer said in the letter.

It said it would notify the players' clubs and asked players not to comment publicly until their withdrawal has been announced by tournament organisers Fifa.

The 2027 Asian Cup - Asia's version of the European Championships - was due to take place in Saudi Arabia from January 7 to February 5, but has been postponed by almost a year because of the conflict.

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Pochettino agrees Man United deal as Red Devils finally sack Carrick

Crystal Palace also sack Sage

MICHAEL Carrick has been sacked as Manchester United manager. The decision comes after a catastrophic start to the season, with the fallen giants falling into the Premier League relegation zone, reports *dailystar.co.uk*.

Carrick avoided the sack in October after a crisis meeting was held between the owners the Glazers and Sir Jim Ratcliffe, alongside Omar Berrada and Jason Wilcox following their 3-0 loss to Bournemouth.

However, it proved to be just a temporary stay of execution, with the legendary midfielder now out of the club after a dramatic 4-4 draw at home to Aston Villa. United twice came from two goals down, including two strikes in injury time to rescue a point, but the big picture required the hosts to win and climb out of the drop zone.

Carrick arrived at Carrington yesterday morning, alongside executives Jason Wilcox and Omar Berrada, and the club later officially confirmed his exit in a statement on their website, which reads: "Manchester United can confirm that Michael Carrick has departed his role as men's first-team head coach.

"Michael rejoined the club in January and guided the team to a third-placed Premier League finish by winning 12 out of the remaining 17 games of the 2025/26 season, accumulating the highest points tally in the league during that period.

"After a disappointing start to the season, the club has come to the extremely difficult conclusion that a change is necessary in order to achieve our ambitions.

"Michael is, and always will be, a Manchester United legend. Just as he did as a player, he has conducted himself with the highest standards of dedication and professionalism throughout his time back with the club. His leadership and achievements last season will always be fondly remembered.

"The club intends to appoint a permanent successor as quickly as possible."

The hunt for his replacement is already done with former Chelsea and Tottenham boss Mauricio Pochettino set to take the job after reaching an agreement to become the new Old Trafford boss earlier this week.



Incoming Manchester United Manager, Mauricio Pochettino.

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