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SPOTLIGHT



Publisher, *The Guardian*, Lady Maiden Alex-Ibru (middle), flanked by staff members during her 77th birthday celebration at *The Guardian* head-office in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

NIMR decries funding gaps, dependence on foreign labs for genomic sequencing

By **Ijeoma Nwanosike**

THE Nigerian Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) has decried inadequate funding for research infrastructure and Nigeria's continued dependence on foreign laboratories for genomic sequencing, calling for increased investment to strengthen the country's research capacity.

The concerns come amid growing advances in artificial intelligence, genomics, molecular diagnostics and digital health, which are increasingly shaping medical research, disease detection and healthcare delivery.

The need to harness these technologies for improved health outcomes is the focus of the Institute's 2026 Annual International Science Week Conference, themed "Health Research in the Era of Advanced Technology". The two-day event brought together researchers, clinicians, policymakers, postgraduate students and other stakeholders to examine emerging developments in health research and explore ways of translating scientific innovations into improved healthcare delivery.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference in Lagos, the Director-General of NIMR, Prof. John Oladapo Obafunwa, said inadequate funding had stalled the establishment of a major laboratory complex the Institute had planned to complete in 2025. He also expressed concern over Nigeria's continued reliance on foreign laboratories for genmic sequencing.

Adeleke dissolves Executive Council, retains SSG, CoS, spokesperson

From **Oluwole Ige**, Osogbo

PREPARATORY to his inauguration for the second term in office, Governor Ademola Adeleke, on Wednesday dissolved the Osun State Executive Council with praises and commendation for the former council members.

This was contained in a statement by his spokesperson, Olawale Rasheed.

According to the statement, Adeleke was said to have ruminated over the journey from 2023 till date and submitted that "for almost four years, we jointly run our dear state with several accomplishments and achievements.

"In our selfless service to the state, we confronted several challenges. We innovated to deliver several landmark projects. We deprived ourselves of a lot of opportunities in a bid to deliver good governance.

NAF to hold wreath-laying ceremony for Ondo crash victims as probe continues

From **Sodiq Omolaoye**, Abuja

THE Nigerian Air Force (NAF) will on Thursday hold a memorial service and wreath-laying ceremony in honour of the victims of the October 5 crash involving its ATR-42 aircraft, NAF 931, in Igbokoda, Ondo State.

The ceremony is expected to bring together military officers, families of the deceased, colleagues and other dignitaries to pay tribute to the 25 people who lost their lives in the tragedy.

The Air Force, in announcing the ceremony, said it would remember the departed with solemn hearts, honour their service and sacrifice, and stand in solidarity with their families and loved ones.

It added that the victims' commitment to Nigeria would not be forgotten.

The October 5 accident occurred when the NAF 931 aircraft, which was on a routine mission, crashed in the Igbokoda area of Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo State.

The aircraft had 25 people on board, comprising five crew members and 20 passengers. There were no survivors.

The five crew members were Squadron Leader MI Aburime, Flight Captain; Squadron Leader AP Man-Ugwueje, Co-pilot; Flight Lieutenant IS Bako, Co-pilot; Warrant Officer Abubakar A and Corporal Uguru HC, both aircraft technicians.

Catholic Knights caution against ethnic, religious politics

By **Kehinde Olatunji**

THE Order of the Knights of St Mulumba Nigeria have urged Nigerians to reject ethnic and religious sentiments, vote-buying, intimidation and political violence ahead of the 2027 general election, stressing the need for responsible political participation and credible electoral processes.

The Supreme Knight of the Order, Sir Steve Adehi, SAN, made the call on Wednesday in Lagos while addressing journalists at a world press conference ahead of the organisation's 47th Supreme Council Convention.

Adehi, who said the convention was being held under the theme, "2027 General Election: Catholic Knights, Politics, Power, and Influence for the Common Good," urged Nigerians to assess political candidates based on their competence, character, integrity and commitment to public service rather than ethnic, religious or personal affiliations.

... DAY 4596

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor
@TopeTempler

RANDOM FACTS

- Studies show that sarcasm enhances the ability of the human mind to solve complex problems.
- Strange but true: Twins can have different fathers.
- Drinking alcohol with meals can help prevent food poisoning if the drink is more than 10 per cent alcohol, studies show.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

- A consumer has the right to reject goods in the following instances:- Where the goods are intended to satisfy a particular purpose which is communicated to the supplier and upon delivery, the goods are not fit for that purpose; or where the goods are defective and unsafe.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"All great things grow noiselessly.

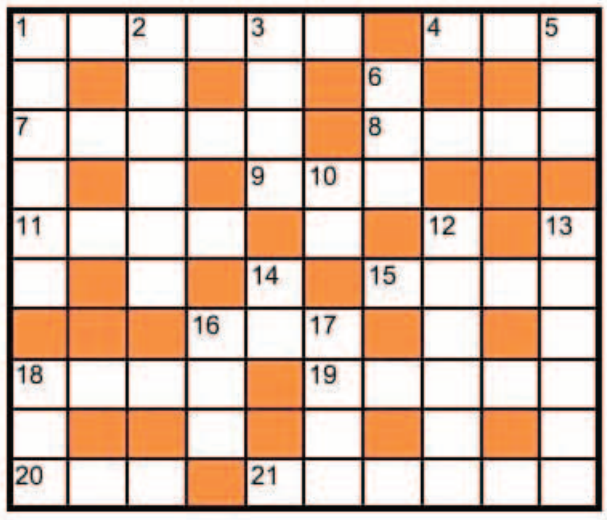
Strength of character may be acquired at work, but beauty of character is learned at home.

HENRY DRUMMOND

The best defence is a good offence. You are more likely to win if you take the initiative and make an attack rather than preparing to defend yourself.

DUTCH PROVERB"

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS

1. Complete, (6).
4. Get married, (3).
7. Of the foot, (5).
8. Frightening person, (4).
9. Town in Osun state, (3).
11. Capable, (4).
15. Young cow, (4).
16. 'Come' in Igbo language, (3).
18. Opposed to somebody, (4).
19. 'Nine' in Hausa language, (5).
20. Snake-like fish, (3).
21. Slow romantic song, (6).

• DOWN

1. Urgent request, (6).
2. Word puzzle, (6).
3. Egyptian major river, (4).
5. Liberian late President, (3).
6. Enemy, (3).
10. Opposite, (2).
12. Involving lips, (6).
13. Frightened, (6).
14. Titanium symbol, (2).
16. Piece, (3).
17. On the sea, (4).
18. Stage of life, (3).

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Check Page 47 for solution to the puzzle

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2024 - Nigeria
Operatives of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission finally arrested former Kogi Governor, Yahaya Bello over misappropriation of funds months after he was declared wanted.

• 2023 - Nigeria
Pres. Bola Tinubu settled prolonged political dispute in Ondo State instructing that the existing leadership structure remain. With the decision, Governor Rotimi Akeredolu will continue in his role, and Deputy Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa will retain his office, despite previous opposition from Akeredolu's supporters.

• 2023 - S'Leone
There was tension in Sierra Leone following an attempted coup with heavy gunshot in Cockrill Barracks. Following the frightening situation in Freetown, the Sierra Leone Government slammed a curfew. The government also reassured the people of their safety, saying the state security forces were in control of the event.

• 2021 - Nigeria
Ex-Minister for Petroleum, Diezani Allison-Madueke, finally forfeited the $40 million worth of jewellery seized from her residence to the Federal Government. The Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos upheld the final forfeiture order in a ruling. Allison-Madueke had challenged the seizure of the jewellery from her premises by the EFCC and accused the anti-graft agency of entering her apartment illegally.

• 2021 - Worldwide
COVID-19 pandemic: The World Health Organisation identified the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant.

• 2019 - Albania
A magnitude 6.4 earthquake struck western Albania leaving 52 people dead and over 1,000 injured. This was the world's deadliest earthquake of 2019, and the deadliest to strike the country in 99 years.

• 2000 - USA
George W. Bush was certified the winner of Florida's electoral votes by Katherine Harris, going on to win the United States presidential election, despite losing in the national popular vote.

• 1998 - UK
Tony Blair became the first Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to address the Oireachtas, the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.

• 1863 - USA
United States Pres. Abraham Lincoln proclaimed November 26 as a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated yearly on the final Thursday of November.

News

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Atiku accepts 'Daddy Subsidy' nickname, promises Nigerians relief

From **Joy Dennis**, Yola

•Tinubu celebrates Atiku at 80, recalls backing his presidential bid
•'Ex-VP's courage to lead opposition shows faith in Nigeria's future'

FORMER Vice-President Atiku Abubakar has adopted the nickname "Daddy Subsidy" while celebrating his 80th birthday yesterday, promising to make the country affordable once again.

President Bola Tinubu congratulated the African Democratic Congress (ADC) presidential candidate and recalled his support for the former VP's 2007 presidential bid.

Meanwhile, ADC governorship candidate in Adamawa State, Amb. Omar Suleiman, described Atiku as a symbol of political courage and perseverance, saying his decision to lead the opposition reflects his enduring faith in Nigeria's future.

Replying to a user who wished him a happy birthday and referred to him as "Daddy Subsidy", the Waziri Adamawa said the nickname was one of the names Nigerians had given him that he especially appreciated.

"Of all the names Nigerians have given me, 'Daddy Subsidy' may be the one I enjoy most on my birthday. Thank you for your kind wishes and for the prayer that warmed my afternoon," he wrote.

Atiku assured Nigerians that relief was on the way, seemingly referring to his stance on the petrol subsidy and the hardship caused by its removal.

"To the sons and daughters scattered across the country: relief is coming, and it will follow the barrel. I will make Nigeria affordable again," Atiku added.

CELEBRATING Atiku, the President recalled supporting Atiku's 2007 presidential bid, adding that despite their present political differences, Nigeria's unity and democratic stability must remain paramount.

Tinubu conveyed his felicitations in a statement yesterday entitled 'President Tinubu Felicitates ADC Presidential Candidate Atiku Abubakar at 80'.

The statement reads: "I extend my warmest congratulations to former Vice President and ADC presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, on his 80th birthday today, November 25, 2026."

He commended Atiku for his contributions to national progress and development over the years.

Tinubu said, "Of particular note are the many years of political engagement and undying commitment to democratic pluralism that I share with him, including my support for his 2007 presidential election."

THE former Nigerian Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), in a message yesterday to celebrate Atiku's 80th birthday, commended the former VP for his decades of public service, contributions to nation building and commitment to a better Nigeria.

He said Atiku's decision to offer himself for opposition leadership at a critical moment in the country's history demonstrated his conviction that Nigeria deserved better and that the vision of a united, prosperous and just society must be sustained.

The ADC candidate described Atiku's political journey as a testament to strength of conviction, resilience and an enduring belief in Nigeria's capacity for renewal.

He added that the former VP's contributions to national development and democratic engagement had earned him an important place in the country's political history and continued to inspire generations of leaders and citizens.



Borno State Governor, Babagana Zulum (left); Vice President Kashim Shettima; President Bola Tinubu; Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin; Director-General, All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC), Abdulaziz Yari; Speaker, House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas; and APC National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda, during the APC presidential campaign in Borno, yesterday.

Concerns over 4% justice rate in reported GBV cases, accountability gaps

•First Lady urges stronger protection for women, demands end to impunity
•Oxfam says 14 states lack sexual assault centres

From **Terhemba Daka** and **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

THE Public and Private Development Centre (PPDC) has decried the low rate of legal accountability for reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in Nigeria.

Therefore, the First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, called for stronger institutional protection of women and girls against all forms of violence, urging Nigerians to dismantle the systemic barriers that allow perpetrators of GBV to escape justice.

Meanwhile, 14 Nigerian states lack sexual assault referral centres, while six have neither such facilities nor shelters for survivors of GBV, Oxfam Nigeria has disclosed.

PPDC said only four per cent of 2,755 cases recorded between January and April 2026 reached legal accountability, exposing a significant gap between reporting abuse and securing justice for survivors.

It called for stronger institutions, improved survivor protection and effective enforcement of existing laws to address the problem.

The Head of Communications and Knowledge Management at PPDC, Nnenna Eze, disclosed this in Abuja yesterday during a special screening of Sanctuary, a film by Chavala Yaduma, organised as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

The screening was organised by PPDC in collaboration with HomeVida Media and Films, and followed by a panel discussion on survivor protection, access to justice, institutional responsibility and accountability.

Eze, in her opening remarks, cited the 2024 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, which found that 21 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 had experienced physical or sexual violence.

OECD, AU back productive debts as opposition queries Tinubu's budget cut

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

AFRICAN countries could lower their debt burdens by borrowing more, provided the money is invested in projects that boost economic growth, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the African Union (AU) have said.

However, the Makinde-Daura Presidential Campaign Organisation (MDPCO) queried President Bola Tinubu's announced reduction of the expenditure profile of the 2026 national budget by N3.1 trillion, while retaining the original N31.4 trillion fiscal deficit and N29.2 trillion borrowing plan.

In a joint report, the organisations argued that debt does not necessarily weaken public finances and could instead strengthen them over time, if it is used to fund productive investments that raise growth, jobs and tax revenues.

While 23 of the 38 African countries assessed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are at risk of debt distress, sovereign borrowing remains an important source of development financing, the report said.

"Debt for productive transformation can pay for itself," it said.

The report estimated that $93 billion of debt-funded investment in productive assets over five years could raise yearly economic growth by nearly one percentage point and avert $557 billion in future borrowing, equivalent to about $6 saved for every dollar invested.

It said such investment could also create more than 10 million jobs and cut Africa's debt-to-Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio by 14 percentage points.

However, the benefits depend on careful project selection, implementation and maintenance.

Debt has financed major infrastructure projects across Africa in recent years, including Kenya's Chinese-funded standard gauge railway, power plants in Tanzania, a port in Nigeria and urban development projects in Egypt and South Africa.

But critics say some projects have failed to deliver the expected returns. Kenya's railway, for example, left the government with heavy repayment obligations, prompting Nairobi to renegotiate its loans with Beijing last year.

OECD and AU said governments should improve debt transparency to strengthen investor confidence and lower borrowing costs.

THE reduction in expenditure without a corresponding reduction in the fiscal deficit and borrowing plans further exposes the seething corruption in Nigeria's fiscal coordination under the Tinubu administration, while raising apprehension of a decoy by officials to siphon public funds.

The MDPCO describes the N3.1 trillion expenditure profile reduction as infinitesimal when juxtaposed with the massive budget padding, including the appropriation of billions of naira for reportedly duplicated and non-existent projects.

Additionally, the delayed recognition of existing obligations within the original 2026 budget—occurring merely a month before it lapses—highlights systemic inefficiencies and exposes deep-seated corruption.

Subsidy removal: APC group claims FG, states, LGs shared N15.8tr

Atiku wants Tinubu, NNPCL to explain alleged N1.44tr missing oil revenue

From **Adamu Abuh**, Abuja

THE Federal Government, states and local councils have received a combined N15.8 trillion additional revenue following the removal of petrol subsidy by President Bola Tinubu's administration, the APC 360 has claimed.

However, the presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, has challenged President Tinubu and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to explain the alleged disappearance of N1.44 trillion in oil revenue.

The APC group disclosed this during the unveiling of its Renewed Hope Bulletin yesterday in Abuja, where it presented an account of the administration's economic reforms, infrastructure investments and other development initiatives since May 2023.

According to figures contained in an infographic presented at the event, the Federal Government received approximately N5.43 trillion, while state and local governments collectively received about N10.4 trillion in proceeds attributed to the removal of petrol subsidy.

The subsidy was removed on May 29, 2023, when Tinubu announced the decision during his inauguration as President, arguing that the resources previously committed to subsidising petrol could be redirected towards critical infrastructure and other development priorities.

Presenting the bulletin, the National Secretary of APC 360, Dr Christopher Enoch, said the publication highlighted the administration's major policy decisions and achievements, particularly the economic implications of subsidy removal.

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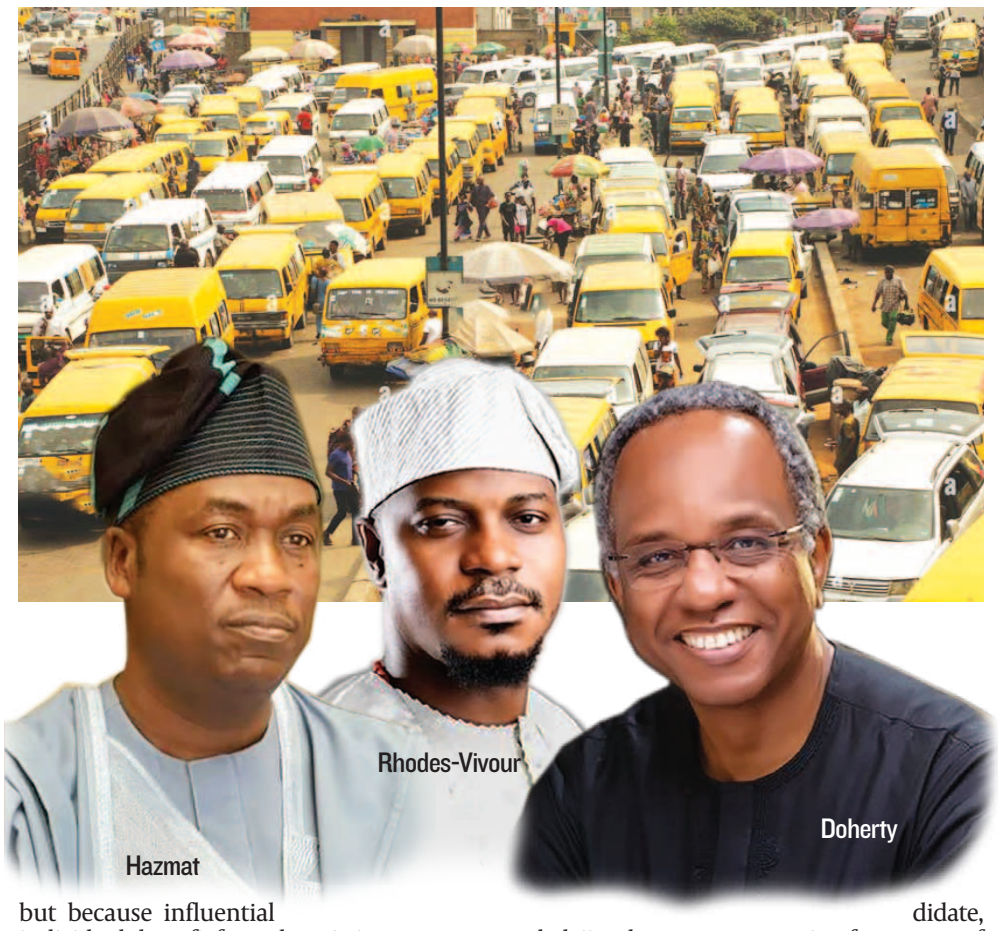
Lagos 2027:

Can *agberos* grip on motor parks be eased?

The activities of transport union members and informal operators, popularly known as 'agbero', in Lagos State are renewing concerns about commuters' safety, political violence, arbitrary levies, and the state's control of public spaces. As the 2027 governorship election approaches, ***KEHINDE OLATUNJI*** *takes a look at candidates' proposals and security experts' recommendations to dismantle the obnoxious networks that hold motor parks and commercial transport routes by the jugular.*



FOR millions of Lagos residents who depend on commercial buses and other forms of informal transportation, encounters with *agbero* often come with the fear of intimidation, arbitrary collections and violence.

From extortion and struggles over motor parks to harassment of commuters and alleged political thuggery, their growing influence raises fundamental questions about governance, law enforcement and the state's ability to regulate public spaces.

The challenge presently is whether Lagos can restore order without triggering violence in a system sustained by economic interests, political patronage, unemployment and competition for control of lucrative transport routes.

Thus far, the governorship candidates of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), the African Democratic Congress (ADC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) have all outlined different approaches to transport development and public safety.

However, security experts insist that infrastructure expansion and periodic arrests will achieve little unless government confronts the economic and political structures sustaining the informal networks.

Presently, security experts identified fragmented regulatory responsibilities as a major weakness, noting that while the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) handles transport planning, the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) focuses on traffic enforcement, local governments collect levies, and the police intervene during crises. This arrangement they find to be challenges-ridden.

Also, while the governorship candidates' positions specifically reflect competing approaches to transport reform, security experts argue that what is seen as a transportation challenge has, over time, evolved into a governance and security challenge that the state should no longer ignore.

They warned that previous attempts to curb the horrendous activities of key players in the sector sometimes resulted in violence, insisting that sustainable reform must provide alternative sources of income for affected workers.

Another challenge rocking the sector is the deployment of their organisational structures for partisan political mobilisation, a development that security experts say must be outlawed, while individual members should retain their constitutional right to participate in politics.

This explains why the NDC governorship candidate, Funso Doherty, believes that the activities of *agberos* cannot be separated from the political interests sustaining them.

He argues that the problem has persisted not simply because of poverty or unemployment, but because influential individuals benefit from the existing arrangement.

"Nothing is as difficult to solve as what you do not want to solve," Doherty said, arguing that meaningful reform would require the political will to confront the networks behind transport touting.

His position shifts attention from periodic arrests to the political economy of the transport system. He also advocates vocational education, skills acquisition, employment opportunities and institutional reforms to address the conditions that make young people vulnerable to recruitment into coercive activities.

> "When you remove cash from the park, you remove the incentive for violence. The informal transport sector is more than a transportation challenge; it has evolved into a governance and security ecosystem that the state could no longer ignore."

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) candidate, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, also identified unemployment as part of the problem but proposes ward-based skills acquisition and employment opportunities.

As part of his proposal, young people would receive free training in trades such as tiling, bricklaying and plaster of Paris (POP) installation, with beneficiaries linked to government projects to improve their employment prospects.

"This ties into skill acquisition that I've talked about, where if you want to learn tiling, bricklaying or how to do POP, you can learn these skills for free at your ward level," Rhodes-Vivour said.

The proposal addresses the gap between vocational training and actual employment. However, its impact would depend on the number of beneficiaries reached, the quality of training, available jobs and transparent selection processes.

More importantly, employment opportunities alone would not dismantle the networks controlling motor parks or stop illegal collections.

Rhodes-Vivour also promised an affordable multimodal transport system, including the completion of all rail lines within two years.

"We're going to create a truly multimodal and affordable means of transportation all over Lagos State. We're going to do all the lines in two years," he said.

For the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Adedeji Doherty, transportation forms part of a broader development agenda covering power, housing, healthcare, industrialisation and human capital development.

He promised an efficient transport system to improve residents' quality of life, recognising that mobility affects access to employment, education, healthcare and markets.

However, his proposals, as presented, offer fewer specifics on tackling the activities of these louts, financing transport expansion and measuring improvements in commuter welfare.

The All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate and incumbent Deputy Governor, Obafemi Hamzat, has highlighted infrastructure investment, technology and cleaner energy as key elements of the state's transport strategy under his government.

He pointed to investments in electric ferries and compressed natural gas-powered buses as efforts to diversify transport options and reduce dependence on conventional fuel-powered vehicles. He has also linked transport development to the state's broader electricity strategy.

Although these investments could improve transport efficiency and reduce emissions, their benefits would depend on reliable services, adequate coverage, maintenance and affordable fares.

However, infrastructure modernisation alone cannot resolve the informal structures that security experts say have entrenched themselves in the transport system.

As the incumbent deputy governor, Hamzat would also face unending questions about how the present administration has addressed illegal collections, intimidation, union rivalries and unofficial motor parks. Voters would want to know what he intends to change rather than simply extend existing infrastructure programmes.

For residents, the activities of touts go beyond commuter discomfort. Multiple collections and harassment increase the cost of moving people and goods, create uncertainty for transport operators and undermine confidence in law enforcement.

The first task, therefore, should be to establish who controls the parks, how much money is collected, who benefits and why existing regulatory institutions have been unable to exercise effective authority.

A comprehensive reform should begin with a state-wide audit and registration of motor parks, transport unions, commercial operators and legitimate levies.

Equally important is the political will to prosecute individuals responsible for violence, extortion and intimidation, regardless of their connections. Security agencies must also investigate allegations of political sponsorship and protect witnesses and complainants.

The state must also establish a coordinated security framework for motor parks, supported by intelligence sharing, surveillance, emergency reporting channels and community participation. Officers found collaborating with criminal operators or extorting drivers should face sanctions.

As the 2027 election approaches, the fundamental question for the candidates is not simply how they intend to remove *agberos* from the streets, but whether they have the political courage and practical plan to dismantle the system that gives them power.

According to the Managing Director of Beacon Security and Innovations Limited, Dr Kabir Adamu, the sector generates an estimated more than 200,000 direct operators, and daily cash flow exceeding N1.5 billion across motor parks.

Consequently, reforms undertaken without understanding its political economy could trigger widespread disruption and violence.

Motor parks, he said, have become parallel governance structures, performing functions that should ordinarily belong to government, including revenue collection, employment provision and dispute resolution. "They have become indispensable because the state ceded the space...

If you control a motor park, you control cash and men. That is why factional rivalries turn lethal," he added.

In view of the absence of coordinated authority, which has allowed informal operators to consolidate their influence, Adamu advised that rather than an outright ban, a phased, intelligence-led formalisation programme should be implemented to identify stakeholders, including union executives, route chairmen and ticket collectors.

He proposed replacing multiple cash collections with a consolidated electronic levy system managed through LAMATA, with proceeds paid into the Treasury Single Account.

Under the arrangement, transport unions would surrender revenue collection responsibilities and instead provide park management services for which they would receive agreed monthly fees.

He also recommended pensions, health insurance and official identification for transport workers to protect legitimate livelihoods during the transition.

"When you remove cash from the park, you remove the incentive for violence," he said.

For enforcement, Adamu proposed a Joint Motor Park Security Task Force involving the police, Department of State Services (DSS), Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps and LAMATA personnel.

He also advocated CCTV surveillance, emergency hotlines, biometric registration of commercial drivers and ticket collectors, and electronic records of transport operations.

He further recommended a 60-day amnesty for voluntary disarmament, particularly in high-risk locations such as Oshodi, Mile 2, Iyana Ipaja, Obalende and Mile 12, alongside opportunities for participants to join recognised transport cooperatives.

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

Travel experts decry Nigerian visa bottlenecks, query FG's policies

By **Olusegun Koiki**

TRAVEL experts have decried the high cost and cumbersome procedures of obtaining Nigerian visas.

The experts also queried the Federal Government's policy initiatives and implementations, saying they were geared only toward revenue generation.

The Managing Director of Total Aviation Integration Services Limited, John Ughulu, warned that the country's restrictive entry policy could negatively affect the government's efforts to attract international tourists, investors and business travellers.

Ughulu stated that Nigeria needed to rethink its visa policy and approach to international visitors, citing the financial and administrative difficulties he recently encountered while securing entry permits for his twin children.

According to Ughulu, he recently spent over N1 million to obtain visas on arrival for his two children, describing the process as unnecessarily complicated, expensive and stressful.

He queried why visiting Nigeria should be more expensive and cumbersome than travelling to other international destinations, especially Dubai, where he said visa processing was considerably cheaper and less stressful.

Ughulu noted that countries across the world were competing to attract tourists, investors, business travellers and members of their diaspora, stressing that Nigeria should not make entry into the country unnecessarily difficult.

He insisted that if the country genuinely intended to promote tourism, encourage foreign investment and strengthen its relationship with the international community, it must adopt policies that make visiting Nigeria easier.

He, therefore, advocated a visa-free policy for citizens of all nations, supported by appropriate security screening and immigration controls.

Also, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Omni-Blu Aviation Limited, Akin Olateru, called for a deliberate change in the operational philosophy of government agencies.

He alleged that some of the agencies place excessive emphasis on revenue generation at the expense of economic growth, trade facilitation and ease of doing business.

Olatetu advocated a visa-free arrangement for citizens of countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States and European nations, arguing that Nigeria needed to attract more tourists, investors, business people and international visitors.

Using the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) as an example, Olatetu questioned why government agencies were primarily assessed by the revenue they generated, with inadequate consideration of the economic losses caused by administrative bottlenecks.

He observed that while it was relatively easy to obtain figures showing the revenue generated by customs commands, for instance, there was little corresponding information on businesses lost, companies affected.



Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Joash Amupitan (left); Secretary, Dr Rose Oriaran-Anthony; and INEC National Commissioner, Dr Ken Nnamdi Ukeagu, during a meeting with the Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) in Abuja yesterday.
PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

I haven't received police invitation, Nduka Obaigbena insists

CHAIRMAN of *THISDAY* and *ARISE News*, Nduka Obaigbena, has denied reports that he has been declared wanted by the Nigeria Police Force, following a petition allegedly filed by the Chief Executive Officer of First Bank of Nigeria, Olusegun Alebiosu.

Obaigbena, in a statement issued by his office in Ikoyi, Lagos, described the reports as a "desperate smear campaign", insisting that he had not received any police invitation or communication from any law enforcement agency.

He said his office had checked all its addresses and found no invitation concerning any investigation involving him.

The statement also disclosed that Obaigbena had been in communication with senior police authorities in recent weeks, including as recently as Thursday, November 19, when they discussed the proposed state police system and its implementation in Nigeria.

CBN raises weekly BDC dollar access to $1m

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has raised the weekly dollar cash purchase limit for *bureau de change* (BDC) operators from $150,000 to $1 million in a fresh intervention aimed at easing seasonal foreign exchange demand pressures and improving dollar liquidity in the retail market.

The move, which represents more than a six-fold increase over the previous allocation, comes amid renewed pressure on the naira and growing demand for foreign exchange as businesses, investors, and individuals make end-of-year financial adjustments.

The intervention also follows assurances by CBN Governor, Olayemi Cardoso, at the conclusion of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on Tuesday that recent volatility in the foreign exchange market was largely driven by seasonal factors and was expected to moderate as the economy moves into 2027.

Cardoso identified portfolio investors adjusting their positions ahead of year-end.

Paris Club: NGF rebuffs court order, denies liability

From **Leo Sobechi**, Abuja

NIGERIA Governors' Forum (NGF), the umbrella union of governors of the 36 states of the federation, has rejected the recent decision of the Abuja Federal High Court to slam a no-debit order on its account over the Paris Club credit refund.

The governors noted that they were aware of recent media reports regarding the November 19, 2026 interim order, obtained *ex parte* and issued by the Federal High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, in the Paris Club refund suit filed by Dr Ted Iseghohi-Edwards, concerning events that happened in 2016.

However, they contended that the forum had no hand in that transaction and did not engage any party thereto, nor held any such monies in its custody at any time.

In a statement signed by Yunusa Tanko Abdullahi, the Director of Media and Strategic Communications, and made available to newsmen, the NGF declared: "Please note that this issue emanated from allegations of transactions between the plaintiff and the Association of Local Government of Nigeria (ALGON)."

While disclosing that its legal team was currently reviewing the court processes, the Forum said it would respond accordingly, even as it reiterates its unwavering commitment to the rule of law, transparency and accountability.

Recall that the issue of consultancy fees and management of the Paris Club credit refund to Nigeria at the end of the Olusegun Obasanjo administration had been a bone of contention among the chairmen of Local Government Councils under the aegis of the Association of Local Government Councils of Nigeria (ALGON) and some legal counsel.

Adesina urges Tinubu, Kagame, others to lead $50b mobilisation for Africa's space economy

From **Joke Falaju**, Abuja

FORMER President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, has called on President Bola Tinubu to lead a continental initiative to mobilise $50 billion for the development of Africa's space economy.

Adesina also called on Presidents Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt to provide political leadership for the proposed initiative.

He made the call while delivering a keynote address titled, 'Financing Africa's Space Future: Mobilising Capital for Space Science, Innovation and Technology,' at the Africa Space Economy, Innovation and Communication Conference in Abuja.

The conference was organised by the Nigerian Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA).

Adesina, who is Chairman of the Global Africa Investment Summit, said Africa's commercial space industry was emerging, with 321 active commercial space companies across 36 countries generating approximately $373 million in revenue in 2024.

He, however, expressed concern that the continent's investment in the sector remained inadequate compared with global space powers.

According to him, the United States' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) received approximately $24.4 billion in funding in 2026, while Africa's combined government allocation to space programmes stood at about $828 million.

He said the disparity highlighted the enormous investment gap confronting Africa and the need for coordinated efforts to build the infrastructure, research and technological capabilities required to compete in the global space economy.

Adesina proposed establishing a $50 billion Africa Space Future Fund, with an initial capitalisation target of $5 billion and a long-term ambition to mobilise investment over 10 to 15 years.

He said the fund would attract investments from African governments, sovereign wealth funds, development finance institutions, pension funds, insurance companies, private investors, international partners and the African diaspora.

The proposed fund would focus on commercial space infrastructure, scientific research and innovation, including satellite communications, Earth observation, broadband connectivity.

Agbakoba urges Nigeria to deepen BRICS ties

By **Joseph Onyekwere**

FORMER President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Dr Olisa Agbakoba (SAN), has urged the Federal Government to develop a clear and sustainable economic model, deepen Nigeria's relationship with the BRICS bloc and strengthen the rule of law to attract investment and drive long-term economic growth.

Agbakoba made the recommendations at the 2026 Parthian Economic Discourse (PED26) in Lagos, where he participated in discussions and question-and-answer sessions on strategies for positioning Nigeria for sustained economic competitiveness.

The forum, themed "Beyond Stabilisation, Positioning Nigeria for Long-term Competitiveness", examined the country's economic outlook and the institutional reforms required to translate recent macroeconomic stabilisation efforts into sustainable growth.

Sanwo-Olu commissions Ijegun-Ijagemo Road, promises two new roads

- As Lagos councils begin simultaneous construction of 57 community roads
- Initiative to deliver 114 inner roads across 57 LGAs and LCDAs

By **Gbenga Salau** and **Shakirah Adunola**

LAGOS State Governor, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday commissioned the reconstructed Ijegun-Ijagemo Road in Alimosho Local Council, disclosing that approval has been given for two additional road projects in the area.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Sanwo-Olu noted that functional road infrastructure is essential to economic development, improved mobility, and the overall well-being of residents.

He added that the newly completed road would ease transportation, improve safety, and support the movement of people and goods in Lagos State.

51 days to polls, court orders, party failures disrupt 2027 candidate lists

From **Seye Olumide** (Lagos) and **Leo Sobechi** (Abuja)

- Rulings affect Omo-Agege, Suswam, Erondu's candidacies
- Olurode says INEC complying with party nominations, judicial decisions
- Uwazurike questions credibility of court rulings, electoral process
- Stakeholders warn uncertainty could erode voters' confidence

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is facing mounting pressure over the 2027 general elections as successive court orders on party nominations continue to unsettle candidate lists less than 51 days to the polls.

While a former national commissioner, Prof. Lai Olurode, insists that the commission is bound by judicial decisions and party nominations, Ohanaeze Ndigbo chieftain, Chief Goddy Uwazurike, questions the credibility of the process and warns that the uncertainty could weaken voters' confidence.

Judicial rulings, including orders directing INEC to recognise or remove candidates nominated by political parties, have continued to complicate preparations for the January 16 and February 5, 2027 general elections.

The development has left the electoral umpire and political parties uncertain about the final composition of the ballot, with fresh judicial pronouncements emerging as preparations for the elections gather momentum.

Section 31 of the Electoral Act 2026 provides a 90-day window for the statutory substitution of candidates nominated by political parties. Under the provision, a candidate's withdrawal must be communicated to INEC within the stipulated period before the election.

Section 33, however, limits the circumstances in which political parties can substitute candidates to cases of death or voluntary withdrawal. In either situation, the affected party is required to conduct another primary election within 14 days of the occurrence.

October 18, 2026, was the relevant 90-day statutory deadline for the January 2027 election. However, court interventions have continued to emerge, complicating the finalisation of candidate lists.

On Tuesday, a Federal High Court in Warri, Delta State, nullified the nomination of former Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege as the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) senatorial candidate for Delta Central Senatorial District.

Delivering judgment in suit No. FHC/WR/CS/120/2026, filed by Prof. Alexander Osondu Akpodiete, who challenged the validity of Omo-Agege's nomination, Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa ordered INEC to immediately remove his name from its list of candidates for the election.

The court also restrained the former deputy Senate president from parading himself as the NDC senatorial candidate after the plaintiff argued that he had neither resigned his membership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) nor regularised his membership of the NDC to qualify for participation in the party's senatorial primary.

The Warri judgment follows other judicial interventions involving senatorial candidates in Benue and Abia states.

On November 18, 2026, a Federal High Court in Abuja validated the nomination of former Benue State governor, Gabriel Suswam, as the APC senatorial candidate for Benue North-East Senatorial District, nullifying his substitution with incumbent Senator Emmanuel Udende.



Minister, Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike (right) being welcomed to Gokana by the APC National Vice Chairman (South-South), Victor Giadom; Senator Magnus Abe and Senior Special Assistant to the Minister on Environment and Waste Management, Dr Fred Kpakol, during the minister's visit to Gokana Local Council, Rivers State for a town hall meeting with stakeholders, yesterday.

Delivering judgment, Justice Inyang Ekwo upheld Suswam's challenge to the party's decision to replace him with Udende for the 2027 general election.

The judge affirmed that Suswam won the party's primary election and declared his substitution unlawful and contrary to the Electoral Act and the 1999 Constitution, as amended.

The Guardian learnt that, in a bid to dissuade the former governor from joining the opposition coalition, the APC national leadership had lured him into the ruling party with the promise of a senatorial ticket, despite offering incumbent senators automatic return tickets.

A day later, on November 19, 2026, another Federal High Court, presided over by Justice M. Umar, affirmed Erondu Uchenna Erondu Jnr as the substantive APC candidate for Abia South Senatorial District and nullified his substitution with Prince Paul Ikonne.

The court described the party's decision to replace Erondu with Ikonne in the revised list submitted to INEC as a violation of the sanctity of party primary election outcomes.

Earlier, on July 20, the Federal High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice Umar, dismissed a suit filed by Senator Ned Nwoko challenging the listing of Senator Ifeanyi Okowa as the valid APC candidate for Delta North Senatorial District. The court upheld the respondent's argument that the suit was defective.

The succession of judgments has raised concerns among stakeholders about the implications of the disputes for INEC's ability to conduct credible and hitch-free elections next year.

Olurode defends INEC's position

A FORMER National Commissioner of INEC, Prof. Lai Olurode, absolved the commission of complicity in the disputes over candidates' identities, insisting that it is bound by nominations submitted by political parties and judicial decisions on contested candidacies.

He argued that INEC could not be held responsible for disputes arising from the internal nomination processes of political parties, explaining that the commission recognises political parties as the entities authorised to nominate candidates rather than individual aspirants seeking tickets.

According to him, the responsibility for submitting candidates' names to INEC rests with political parties, while aspirants dissatisfied with their parties' decisions have the right to seek judicial redress.

"Where a court determines that a candidate whose name was initially submitted to INEC is not the authentic nominee, but another aspirant is legally entitled to the ticket," he noted, "the commission

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

Obi's convoy attacked as Reps, CNG decry repeated violent attacks

From **John Akubo, Ernest Nzor, Joel Oladele** (Abuja), **Joseph Kanjo** (Benin) and **Gordi Udeajah** (Umuahia)

- Lawmakers urge Tinubu to consider emergency powers over attacks in Delta
- NDC alleges plot against opposition, seeks int'l intervention
- Police hunt three suspects after Benin attack leaves one injured
- Northern coalition warns parties against inflammatory rhetoric, political thuggery
- Obi links secessionist agitations to bad governance, economic hardship
- NDC schedules Obi, Kwankwaso town hall meeting in Aba tomorrow

THE campaign convoy of Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), came under attack in Benin City yesterday, heightening concerns over the safety of political actors as preparations for the 2027 general elections gather momentum.

The attack, which left one person with gunshot injuries, came amid repeated assaults on political gatherings in Delta State, prompting the House of Representatives to call for urgent security intervention and warn that constitutional emergency powers could be considered if the situation deteriorates.

Also yesterday, the Coalition of Northern Groups (CNG) warned political leaders and their supporters against inflammatory rhetoric and violence, insisting that no political ambition was worth the life of any Nigerian.

Meanwhile, the NDC accused the Federal Government of allegedly sponsoring violence and intimidation against opposition figures, particularly Obi and his running mate, Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, and called on the international community to intervene.

The attack occurred shortly after Obi arrived in Benin City for a campaign rally ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Sources said suspected political thugs opened fire on his convoy as it drove out of the Benin Airport, before armed policemen along Airport Road repelled them.

The Edo State Police Command confirmed the incident, saying it had launched a manhunt for three suspected assailants.

In a statement yesterday, the command's Police Public Relations Officer, Eno Ikoedem, said the suspects arrived on Benin Airport Road in a black Toyota Hilux. Upon sighting police operatives, the vehicle made a U-turn, while its occupants opened fire on people in the vicinity.

One male resident, identified as Aimionkhale Micheal, sustained gunshot injuries to his thighs and was rushed to hospital, where he is receiving treatment.

The statement added that the Commissioner of Police had directed the Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Criminal Investigation Department to work with eyewitnesses to investigate the incident and bring those responsible to justice.

The attack followed an earlier alarm by the Edo State chapter of the NDC over an alleged plan to attack its members. The party had also complained about the cancellation of the venue it secured for the rally, days after making full payment.

It had, however, insisted that the development would not stop it from proceeding with its planned activities.

Reps seek emergency measures over Delta violence

THE House of Representatives has urged President Bola Tinubu to consider invoking Section 305 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, if the security situation in Delta State reaches the threshold of an actual or imminent breakdown of public order and safety.

The resolution followed a motion of urgent public importance sponsored by Benedict Etanabene, representing Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie Federal Constituency of Delta State, during yesterday's plenary.

Etanabene drew attention to repeated attacks on political activities in the state, particularly the November 23 assault on a campaign gathering organised for former Deputy President of the Senate, Ovie Omo-Agege, in Uduere community, Ughelli North Local Government Area.

The incident reportedly claimed six lives and left several others injured.

The lawmaker also recalled a political procession along Nnebisi Road, Asaba, on November 7, which left one person dead and five others injured, according to police figures.

Another attack occurred on November 11, when a political party's campaign team was reportedly assaulted at Okpai, Ward 4, Ndokwa East Local Government Area, leaving five members injured.

He further cited an incident in September during a political mobilisation exercise in Effurun, Uvwie Local Government Area, where a participant sustained machete injuries and later died in hospital.

Etanabene warned that the growing frequency of attacks could trigger a wider breakdown of law and order, undermine peaceful coexistence and threaten the credibility of the 2027 elections.

The House consequently urged the President, as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, to direct security agencies to prevent further attacks and loss of lives in the state.

It also called on the Inspector-General of Police to deploy adequate personnel, including tactical and intelligence units, to identified flashpoints.

The lawmakers demanded an independent investigation into reported attacks on political campaigns and rallies to identify the perpetrators and their sponsors.

They also urged security agencies to protect all lawful political activities, irrespective of the affiliations of their organisers.

"The police, when present, should not act as bystanders, watching the unfolding chaos," Etanabene said.

The House further mandated

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

TRUEFACT: WHO IS CHRIST; THE SON OF GOD

And Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of loving forgiveness and truth. And some of us have seen his glory—the glory of the only Son of the heavenly Father!

No one has ever actually seen God, but, of course, his only Son has, for he is the companion of the Father and has told us all about him. **(John 1:14 &18 TLB)**

Prayer: Lord, open the eyes of your children to know the power they have in you.

Email Address: g.truefact@gmail.com

Petroleumprice.ng awards record 10,987 votes, set ceremony for December 5

By **Waliat Musa**

THE 2026 Petroleumprice.ng Recognition and Awards has concluded its voting process, recording 10,987 votes across five categories ahead of its award ceremony scheduled for December 5, 2026, in Lagos.

The ceremony, which will be held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, is expected to bring together leading figures in Nigeria's downstream petroleum industry, corporate organisations, industry professionals and other stakeholders.

In a statement signed by Chairman of the Planning Committee, Olatide Jeremiah, the awards will recognise individuals and organisations for their contributions to the growth and development of the downstream petroleum sector.

The 2026 edition is supported by TMDK Group and Pivot Integrated Energy.

The five categories are Petroleum Station of the Year, Petroleum Depot Owner of the Year, Female Depot Owner of the Year, Downstream Petroleum Industry Advocate of the Year and Downstream Sector Personality of the Year.

Nominees for Petroleum Station of the Year include Nepal Energies Limited, Ardova Plc., NNPC Limited, Matrix and MRS Oil Nigeria Plc.

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

Alumni pledge professional support for NIJ's growth

Taye Ige to lead opening module at NIJ alumni capacity development programme

By **Opeyemi Banalola**

THE Nigerian Institute of Journalism Alumni Association (NIJAA) has pledged to leverage members' professional experience, expertise, networks and goodwill for the growth and development of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ).

The newly elected President of the Association, Olumuyiwa Akintunde, made the commitment during a courtesy visit of the newly elected executive committee of NIJAA to the management and Council of the Institute.

Akintunde said the Association was ready to build a productive partnership with the Board and Management of the NIJ by identifying areas of mutual interest and mobilising the vast professional resources within its alumni community to advance the Institute.

He said NIJAA recognised the important role alumni could play in the growth and sustainability of their alma mater, stressing that the Association was prepared to deploy the collective resources of its membership to support the Institute.

FG begins N1.45 trillion Lagos Ports upgrade, targets 20,000 jobs, 48-hour cargo clearance

From **Adamu Abuh** (Abuja) and **Adaku Onyenucheya** (Lagos)

Says project'll end infrastructure deficits, boost Nigeria's maritime competitiveness

THE Federal Government has flagged off the N1.45 trillion modernisation and rehabilitation of the Lagos Port Complex, Apapa, and Tin Can Island Port, with a target of creating at least 20,000 direct and indirect jobs and reducing cargo clearance time to 48 hours.

Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola, who performed the groundbreaking ceremony at Tin Can Island Port yesterday, described the project as a strategic investment aimed at repositioning Nigeria as a leading maritime hub in Africa.

Oyetola, who was supported by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, said the modernisation programme would address decades of infrastructure deficits, reduce logistics costs, attract international shipping lines and stimulate industrial growth.

The project, valued at £746 million, approximately N1.45 trillion, is also expected to strengthen Nigeria's competitiveness in global trade and improve the efficiency of cargo handling and evacuation at the country's busiest seaports.

The minister said the intervention was part of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, which prioritises infrastructure development as a catalyst for economic growth, investment and employment generation.

He said that the two ports, which had served as major gateways for Nigeria's international commerce for decades, had become increasingly inadequate to cope with the demands of a rapidly expanding economy and changing global shipping requirements.

The minister lamented that cargo dwell time at Nigerian ports had historically ranged between 10 and 18 days, compared with three to five days at leading international ports.

He said the delays had resulted in congestion, demurrage, storage charges and higher logistics costs, with the inefficiencies estimated to cost the Nigerian economy as much as $4 billion yearly.

The finance minister described the financing arrangement as Nigeria's largest sovereign export credit transaction since 2009 and the first project undertaken in the country by Poland's Export Credit Insurance Corporation, KUKE.

He said the transaction demonstrated growing international investors' confidence in Nigeria's economic reforms.



Mr Kunle Ajanaku, Mr Lekan Ogunbanwo, President of Old Grammarians' Society (OGS), Mr Dapo Fashanu; Past President, Dr Olufemi Olugbile (Lifetime Achievement Award recipient), Mr Cyril Ogbekene, Kayode Anibaba and Mr Juwon Dawodu, during the OGS merit awards ceremony in Lagos.

Bode George urges Tinubu to end political impunity, judicial interference

By **Kehinde Olatunji**

Condemns el-Rufai's continued detention

FORMER Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Olabode George, has urged President Bola Tinubu to address alleged political intimidation, judicial interference and electoral violence in the country, warning that the nation's democracy is under threat ahead of the 2027 general elections.

George, who made the call yesterday at a media briefing in Lagos to mark his 81st birthday, said Nigeria must uphold the rule of law, protect opposition parties and ensure that political power is exercised in accordance with democratic principles.

He said he remained committed to the peace, development and progress of the country despite the challenges confronting it.

George also condemned what he described as the persecution of political opponents, citing the detention of former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai and the bail conditions imposed on him.

He alleged that the former governor's continued detention was politically motivated, particularly following comments he reportedly made about President Tinubu's electoral prospects in 2027.

He, therefore, called on the judiciary to ensure that the law is applied without political interference, intimidation or discrimination, warning that selective justice could undermine public confidence in democratic institutions.

George also faulted what he described as the abandonment of the power-sharing understanding among the country's six geopolitical zones, saying the arrangement was designed by the founding fathers of the current democratic dispensation to promote equity, justice and national unity.

He, however, berated former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar for contesting for the Presidency in 2023 against the power-rotation understanding, insisting that the South should complete its eight-year tenure before power returns to the North.

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

Use second term to fix LG crisis, build institutions, Sani tells Adeleke

From **Timothy Agbor**, Osogbo

Capital project gulps N559b as Adeleke presents N927.37b budget

FORMER Kaduna Central Senator, Shehu Sani, yesterday delivered a blunt, wide-ranging keynote address at the second-term inauguration of Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, urging him to use his renewed mandate to build institutions, not just projects, warning that a democracy that ends at the ballot box is only half-built.

Sani, in his address, themed "Beyond the Ballot Box: Subnational Governance, Institutional Independence and the Future of Democracy in Nigeria," told Adeleke that a second term is not merely a political victory but a renewed social contract carrying higher expectations, sharper scrutiny and a responsibility to turn first-term experience into deeper, more durable progress.

Sani said elections determine who occupies office, but institutions determine how that office is exercised, and governance determines whether power improves lives.

"A state does not become democratic simply because elections are conducted periodically. Democracy must be visible in the quality of public schools, the reliability of health facilities, the safety of communities, the fairness of public institutions, the availability of jobs and the dignity with which citizens are treated.

"For the farmers in Iwo, the traders in Osogbo, the artisans in Ede, the students in Ile-Ife, the civil servants in Ikire and the pensioners in Ilesa, democracy must mean something tangible. It must mean a road that remains passable, a primary healthcare centre that is open and equipped, a school where children are learning, a market where goods can move, and a government that listens when citizens complain.

"A democracy that ends at the ballot box is only half-built. And no matter how impressive the opening ceremony may be, nobody wants to live permanently in a half-built house," he said.

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

Magodo land dispute: S'Court judgment stalled as residents, beneficiaries clash over access to disputed wetland

By **Yetunde Ayobami Ojo**

THE execution of a Supreme Court judgment involving the allocation of 549 plots of land to judgment creditors in Lagos State has been stalled by a disagreement between the beneficiaries and residents of Magodo Estate over access roads to the property.

The dispute, which has generated tension between the Shangisha landowners who obtained judgments from the apex court and the Magodo Residents Association (MRA), escalated yesterday but was calmed by the Lagos State Task Force, during which the Chairman of the MRA, Leo Odusi, and two estate security personnel were reportedly arrested.

While the judgment creditors insisted that residents are obstructing the implementation of a subsisting Supreme Court judgment by preventing them from accessing the allocated land, the residents expressed concern that opening the estate to construction activities and heavy-duty vehicles could undermine their security and damage existing infrastructure.

One of the solicitors to the judgment creditors, Deji Fasusi, however, said that the creditors had been unable to gain full access to the property to commence preliminary engineering works because of disagreements over the proposed access routes.

Fasusi alleged that truck drivers engaged by the judgment creditors to carry out work on the property were assaulted last week while attempting to access the land, adding that photographic evidence of the incident was available and had been reported to the appropriate authorities.

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

Ondo govt issues alert on heat wave, warns residents of health risks

Urges residents to take precautionary measures

From **Adewale Momoh**, Akure

ONDO State Government has alerted residents to the prevailing heat wave and rising temperatures, urging members of the public to take necessary precautions to protect themselves and their families from the potential health risks associated with excessive heat.

In a statement, the state's Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Idowu Ajanaku, advised residents to drink sufficient water regularly to maintain proper body hydration, even when they do not feel thirsty.

Residents were also encouraged to avoid unnecessary exposure to direct sunlight, particularly during the hottest periods of the day, and to wear light and comfortable clothing.

TheMetroSection

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NDLEA busts N303.9b-worth meth lab, arrests kingpin, five Mexicans

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has dismantled an industrial-scale methamphetamine laboratory in Enugu, arresting a Nigerian businessman accused of masterminding the operation and five Mexican nationals allegedly brought into the country to manufacture the illicit drug.

The operation uncovered 1,512 kilogrammes of methamphetamine valued at about N303.9 billion. It also exposed an elaborate international drug network that allegedly used forged passports, multiple travel routes and a secluded industrial complex to establish a production base in Nigeria.

The Nigerian suspect, 63-year-old Chuks Enoch Ezeike, popularly known as 'Over Size', reportedly built the clandestine laboratory behind San Savanna Oil Company Limited, along the Abakaliki Expressway, Emene, Enugu. He also provided living quarters for the Mexican specialists to enable them to work and reside within the facility without attracting attention.

The NDLEA also recovered 6.68 tonnes of precursor and essential chemicals, comprising 20 different substances, as well as industrial equipment used in methamphetamine production.



The Mexicans with suspected illicit drugs



Nigerian suspect, Ezeike

The agency's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Brigadier-General Mohammed Buba Marwa (rtd), disclosed the breakthrough at a press conference at its national headquarters in Abuja yesterday, describing it as one of the agency's most elaborate intelligence-led operations.

According to him, the investigation lasted seven months and traced the alleged drug network from Mexico through Colombia, France and the Republic of Benin before leading operatives to Lagos and eventually Enugu.

Marwa said the agency's Special Operations Unit began investigating Ezeike in April 2026 after intelligence linked him to the establishment of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories and a Mexican drug specialist, Oscar Ramos-Cardenas, allegedly known for industrial-scale production of the substance.

The investigation gathered momentum in August when the NDLEA received information that five Mexican nationals, identified as methamphetamine experts, were travelling to Nigeria to establish an industrial laboratory.

Working with the Nigeria Immigration Service, the agency prevented the men from entering the country when they arrived in Abuja on August 28 and sent them back to Mexico.

Delta killings: Family, CSOs demand justice for slain ex-lawmaker, activist, two others

From **Monday Osayande** (Asaba) and **Chido Okafor** (Warri)

Protesters demand probe of Ughelli North council chairman, police over alleged failure to prevent attack

THE family of slain former Delta State lawmaker, Moses Anaughe, and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have demanded justice for victims of a deadly political attack in Uduere community, Ughelli North Local Council of Delta State, calling for the arrest and prosecution of everyone involved.

Anaughe's younger brother, Godwin, said the killing had shattered the family, leaving his deceased brother's wife and two children, their 95-year-old mother and other relatives devastated.

He described the killing as senseless and wicked, insisting that his brother was a peaceful man who dedicated his life to public service and the development of Delta State.

"I am broken. My family is broken. Moses was a good man, a loyal son of Delta State who served his people with dedication and was loved by many. He would not hurt a fly. His killing is senseless and wicked," he said.

Anaughe, a former member of the Delta State House of Assembly and former Federal Commissioner of the Federal Character Commission, was reportedly killed during the political campaign attack in Uduere, alongside three other persons, including human rights activist, Comrade Efemena Kelly Umukoro, popularly known as Akima.

Reacting to the killings, a coalition of CSOs yesterday staged a peaceful protest in Warri, demanding a comprehensive investigation and the prosecution of those responsible.

The protesters, who converged on the secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Warri Correspondents' Chapel, carried placards bearing inscriptions such as "Justice for Comrade Umukoro Kelly Efemena, aka Akima" and "We Say No to Election Violence", while chanting solidarity songs.

The coalition comprised the Conference for the Actualisation of Human Rights (CONFAB), Ijaw People's Development Initiative (IPDI), Human Rights Protection Congress (HRPC) and other organisations.

Godwin said he was speaking out because his brother could no longer defend himself, urging eyewitnesses to assist security agencies in establishing the circumstances surrounding the killings and ensuring that the perpetrators were brought to justice.

He called on the police and other security agencies to arrest everyone allegedly involved in planning, sponsoring and executing the attack, warning against attempts to shield influential persons.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
SPECIAL RESOLUTION
FOR THE
VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF NES GLOBAL TALENT NIGERIA LIMITED (RC NO: 1329648)
("THE COMPANY") PURSUANT TO SECTION 620 OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020

We the undersigned being the shareholders of NES Global Talent Nigeria Limited ("the Company") entitled to attend and vote at the Company's general meetings, hereby signify our assent to the passing of the resolutions set out below, to the effect that such resolutions shall be deemed to be valid as if they were passed at the Company's general meeting duly convened and held.

1 That the Company be voluntarily wound up in accordance with Section 620 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020.
2. That Mr Stephen Ezeagu (of Stephen Ezeagu & Co a firm of Chartered Accountants, Plot 12A Block 75 Utomi Aire Street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos), be and is hereby appointed as the Liquidator for the purpose of voluntarily winding up the Company.
3. That the necessary filings be made at the Corporate Affairs Commission.
4. That this resolution may be executed in counterparts, each copy is considered an original.

Dated this 25th day of November 2026

Signed for and on behalf of the Shareholder - NES Global Limited:

Stephen Buckley
Director

Simon Coton
Director

WACOL records 1,026 GBV, rights violation cases in S'East in one year

From **Lawrence Njoku**, Enugu

THE growing burden of gender-based violence (GBV) in South-East Nigeria has been highlighted by the Women Aid Collective (WACOL), which says it recorded 1,026 cases of gender-related violence and human rights violations across the region in one year.

The cases, documented between November 2025 and October 2026, included disputes over child custody and maintenance, physical and emotional abuse, sexual violence, trafficking, harmful widowhood practices and denial of women's inheritance rights.

WACOL's Founding Executive Director, Prof. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, disclosed the figures in Enugu yesterday, describing the trend as a source of concern for families, women and children across the region.

She said custody and maintenance disputes accounted for the highest number, with 436 cases, followed closely by 411 cases of physical and emotional abuse and assault.

According to her, custody and maintenance cases increased by 22.7 per cent between the first and fourth quarters of the reporting period, reflecting the growing difficulties confronting families and children amid economic and social pressures.

The organisation also recorded 126 cases involving denial of inheritance, harmful widowhood practices and other property rights violations.

Other reported incidents included 22 cases of rape, defilement and incest; 18 cases of trafficking and child abuse; seven cases of forceful ejection and abandonment of spouses; four cases of forced marriage; and two cases of cyberbullying and blackmail.

Ezeilo, who spoke during a media briefing to mark the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the launch of the 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, said the figures exposed the multiple forms of abuse confronting women and vulnerable members of society.

She noted that the high number of custody and maintenance disputes showed how family instability affected children's welfare, while worsening economic hardship had heightened tensions in households.

Traders await demolition of burnt Lagos Island high-rise

By **Ayonote Clement**

FOR traders and residents on Lagos Island, the charred remains of the Great Nigeria Insurance (GNI) Building have become a troubling reminder of the fire that gutted the high-rise, leaving businesses and adjoining properties exposed to concerns over the safety of the unstable structure.

With the demolition now 60 per cent complete, the Lagos State Government has assured residents and business owners that the operation is progressing without casualties, despite the technical challenges of bringing down the damaged building in a densely populated commercial district.

The Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Dr Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu, gave the assurance yesterday during a press briefing at the demolition site, saying no injuries had been recorded since the exercise began on October 15, 2026.

He said the operation, being carried out under the supervision of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, involved emergency responders, structural engineers and other technical experts working round the clock to dismantle the compromised building safely.

According to him, one of the most challenging aspects was the deployment of a stationary crane to the site, given the building's condition and its location within the busy commercial district.

He explained that the demolition had moved beyond the halfway mark, with workers systematically bringing down the structure layer by layer under the supervision of structural, civil and technical engineers.



Burnt GNI building PHOTO: AYONOTE CLEMENT

Magodo residents, Shangisha landowners clash over access road

By **Eniola Daniel**

RESIDENTS of Magodo Estate, in Kosofe Local Council of Lagos State, yesterday blocked a major access road in the estate, disrupting movement and triggering a confrontation with members of the Shangisha Landlords Association over access to recently allocated land.

The protest, which began shortly after 8:00 a.m., followed the passage of trucks conveying equipment and materials to the land allocated to the Shangisha landlords by the Lagos State Government.

The residents, who opposed the use of the estate road by the trucks, argued that the heavy vehicles could damage roads they had constructed and maintained through collective efforts. They demanded that the government provide an alternative access route to the newly allocated land.

The situation escalated when residents used two minibuses and other objects to block the road, preventing trucks and other vehicles from gaining access to the area.

The Lagos State Task Force Chairman, Akerele Adetayo, arrived at about 8:45 a.m. and engaged the protesters, urging them to reopen the road.

However, the residents reportedly insisted that their security guards and other persons arrested during the confrontation be released before they would leave.



Residents engaging with Lagos State Task Force Chairman, Akerele Adetayo. PHOTO: ENIOLA DANIEL

After more than two hours of disruption, the task force deployed towing vehicles to remove the minibuses and other obstructions from the road.

The dispute followed the Lagos State Government's allocation of land to members of the Shangisha Landlords Association about four weeks ago, in what was described as a breakthrough in a legal battle spanning more than four decades.

The allocation involved 549 plots and was part of efforts to enforce a Supreme Court judgment delivered in 2012.

The Lagos State Solicitor-General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Hameed Oyenuga, who represented the Attorney-General, Lawal Pedro, presented the allocation map and explained the distribution process.

However, the development has sparked disagreements over how the beneficiaries would access the land without passing through the adjoining Magodo community.

Speaking with *The Guardian*, the *Baale* of Magodo, Michael Yusuf, described the confrontation as a misunderstanding, insisting that the residents were not opposed to the Shangisha landlords taking possession of their property.

He said the Magodo community also had an interest in the area and had made several efforts to reach an amicable agreement with the landlords.

"This is a matter of misunderstanding. The same Lagos State Government that allocated land to them also allocated a portion to us. I have met with them several times on how we can work amicably, but they have refused us access to our land.

"We have a Supreme Court judgment on the matter, and we have been patient for 42 years," he said.

Yusuf argued that his community, as creditors, should have been given priority in the access arrangements but had been prevented from reaching its property.

He said meetings had been held with the parties at the Lagos State Government House, as well as with the Department of State Services and the police, but the residents were repeatedly asked to find alternative access to their land.

"We are not fighting them. We only want access to our property, and there is no other way to get there except through this road," he added.

NSCDC trains personnel, journalists in AI, drone technology, media reporting

By **Ayonote Clement**

THE Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Lagos State Command, has trained public relations practitioners and journalists in artificial intelligence (AI), drone operations and modern media reporting to strengthen their capacity to tackle misinformation and improve public communication.

The one-day capacity-building programme, organised in collaboration with SOL Media Bridge, also covered media editing and other digital skills considered essential for effective information gathering, verification and dissemination.

The training, held at the Conference Hall of the Federal Ministry of Works, Obalende, Lagos, brought together media professionals, security agencies and other stakeholders.

The State Commandant of the NSCDC, Lagos State Command, Adedotun Keshinro, who was represented by Assistant Commandant of the Corps, Adeogun Segun, said the programme was designed to equip participants with the skills required to operate effectively in an increasingly technology-driven media environment.

Adeogun said training in AI, drone technology and media reporting would enable public relations officers and journalists to gather aerial footage safely, analyse large volumes of information, verify digital content and communicate accurately while observing aviation regulations and professional ethics.

He commended the command's Public Relations Unit for initiating the programme, noting that the growing influence of artificial intelligence, ChatGPT, cloud technology and other digital innovations had made continuous professional development imperative.

The Managing Director of SOL Media Bridge, Samson Oluwapile, who facilitated the training alongside members of his team, introduced participants to practical skills and techniques for improving media reporting through the effective use of AI and drone technology.

Similarly, the Lead Consultant and Chief Executive Officer of Onward Public Relations, Basil Agboarumi, stressed the importance of truth, transparency and adequate information in public relations practice.

He said the profession should be built on providing accurate and complete information to the public rather than misleading people through false narratives.

The Chairman of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN), Lagos State Chapter, Ambassador Olatutu Oladunni, also commended the NSCDC for investing in professional development through strategic partnerships.

HURIWA urges AGF to withdraw appeal against N420m compensation for slain miners

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has urged the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), Lateef Fagbemi (SAN) to withdraw the Federal Government's appeal against a judgment awarding £420 million in compensation to the families of 21 miners killed by British colonial police at the Iva Valley Coal Mine in Enugu in 1949.

The organisation also demanded an explanation from the AGF over the alleged involvement of Federal Ministry of Justice lawyers in representing foreign parties in the case, warning that such action, if established, would amount to a conflict of interest and a betrayal of the victims' families.

In a statement signed by its National Coordinator, Comrade Emmanuel Nnadozie Onwubiko, on November 25, 2026, HURIWA described the reported appeal as shameful, arguing that the Nigerian government should be defending the interests of the victims rather than taking steps that could undermine their compensation.



AGF Lateef Fagbemi

The massacre occurred on November 18, 1949, when colonial police opened fire on unarmed coal miners protesting poor wages and working conditions.

Twenty-one miners were killed, while 51 others sustained injuries. The incident became a significant moment in Nigeria's labour and nationalist movements.

Police arrest suspected cultist, recover pistol, ammunition in Ogun

CP urges residents to embrace cultural diversity, collective security

From **Azeez Olorunlomeru** and **Segun Ayinde**, Abeokuta

A 25-year-old man suspected of belonging to the Aiye confraternity has been arrested by operatives of the Ogun State Police Command, with a locally made pistol and ammunition recovered from his residence in Bode Olude, Abeokuta.

The suspect, identified as Yusuf Olasunkami, was arrested on November 21, 2026, following intelligence reports about suspected criminal activities in the area.

The command's spokesperson, DSP Oluseyi Babaseyi, disclosed this in a statement issued in Abeokuta, explaining that operatives of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) unit conducted discreet surveillance before storming the suspect's residence at Odo Eja, Bode Olude.

According to him, the operation was led by the Officer-in-Charge of SWAT, SP Obeh Eneye, while a search of the premises yielded a locally made pistol, two expended cartridges and one live cartridge.

Babaseyi said preliminary investigations had linked Olasunkami to the Aiye confraternity, adding that he remained in police custody as detectives investigate the case and work to identify other persons who might be connected to the alleged activities.

The Commissioner of Police, Olubode Ojajuni, reaffirmed the command's commitment to intelligence-led policing and efforts to rid the state of cultism and other criminal activities.

Ojajuni also called on residents to provide credible and timely information to security agencies, stressing that public cooperation was essential to protecting lives and property.



Suspected cultist paraded with arms and ammunition

Coroner orders release of Pelumi Onifade's remains for burial within 14 days

By **Silver Nwokoro**

After six years of waiting for answers over the death of their son, the parents of late journalist, Pelumi Onifade, have secured a court order directing the Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH), Yaba, Lagos, to release his remains for burial within 14 days.

The order was issued by the Lagos State District Coroner, Mrs Temitope Oladele, during the ongoing inquest into the death of the Gboah TV reporter, who was reportedly shot during the #EndSARS protests in October 2020 and subsequently died in police custody.

The coroner granted the application by the family's counsel, Alimi Adamu, who also represents Media Rights Agenda (MRA), following years of investigation into the circumstances surrounding the journalist's death and the continued retention of his remains at the hospital.

The court also issued fresh witness summons to two persons considered crucial to establishing what happened to Onifade before and after he was shot.

The inquest followed a July 19, 2024 judgment by the Federal High Court in Lagos, which directed the Lagos State Attorney-General to investigate Onifade's death, conduct a coroner's inquest to establish its cause and identify and prosecute those responsible.

The judgment was delivered by Justice Ayokunle Olayinka Faji in a suit filed by MRA against the police and the Lagos State Government.



Onifade

Oyo firefighters rescue guard trapped in diesel tank while siphoning fuel

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

A 45-year-old security guard narrowly escaped death after being trapped inside a diesel tank at a telecommunications base station in Odo-Ona, Apata, Ibadan, Oyo State.

The Oyo State Fire Services Agency rescued the guard following a distress call.

According to a statement by the agency, the emergency call was made by one Seun Aribikola, who reported that a man was trapped inside a diesel tank at the telecommunications facility, identified as mast IB037.

Firefighters led by Chief Fire Superintendent Adesina were immediately dispatched to the scene. On arrival, they discovered that the security guard had become trapped inside the tank while allegedly attempting to siphon diesel from it.

The rescue team promptly launched an operation, deploying appropriate safety measures and rescue knots to pull the man out of the tank.

He was successfully rescued and handed over to a team of police officers led by CSP Andrew from the Apata Divisional Police Headquarters.

The agency said its fire appliance returned safely to the station at 11:24 a.m., barely 25 minutes after the distress call, and remained on operational standby.

Reacting to the incident, the Special Adviser on Fire Services Reform and Chairman of the agency, Dr Moroof Akinwande, cautioned residents against engaging in activities that could put their lives at risk, stressing that life had no duplicate.

He also urged building owners and occupants to install appropriate first-aid firefighting equipment to enable them to contain fire outbreaks before they escalate.

Akinwande further advised residents to report emergencies promptly and provide accurate location details to ensure swift response by emergency services.

BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT
(CAP. L11, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE OF THE DIRECTION OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.

WHEREAS the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee of the Body of Benchers, by its Direction dated the 22nd day of May, 2017, found **EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.**, a Legal Practitioner, guilty of infamous conduct in the course of the performance of his duties as a Legal Practitioner, contrary to Rules 23 and 55 of the Rules of Professional Conduct in the Legal Profession, 2007, and punishable under Section 12(1)(a) of the Legal Practitioners Act, as amended;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the said Direction, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee directed the **Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria to strike out the name of EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE from the Roll of Legal Practitioners**;

AND WHEREAS the said Direction was subject to an appeal before the Supreme Court of Nigeria in **Appeal No. SC/986/2017 – EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE v. NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION & ANOR**, which appeal came before the Supreme Court on the 25th day of March, 2025, and was withdrawn and consequently struck out, with the appeal deleted from the Cause List;

AND WHEREAS following the withdrawal of the said appeal, **EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.** subsequently filed an Application before the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for the restoration of his name to the Roll of Legal Practitioners;

AND WHEREAS the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, in its Final Direction delivered on the 29th day of July, 2026, considered the said Application and, having found that the Applicant had not established sufficient grounds for the exercise of the Committee's discretion in his favour, held that the Application failed and was consequently struck out.

NOW THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Chief Justice of Nigeria; the President of the Court of Appeal; the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation; the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court; the President of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria; the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; the Grand Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; all Chief Judges of the High Courts of the States of the Federation; all Attorneys-General of the States of the Federation; all Grand Khadis of the Sharia Courts of Appeal of the Federation; and all Presidents of the Customary Courts of Appeal of the States of the Federation, that:

1. The name of **EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.**, with Enrolment No. **SCN019368**, was directed to be struck out from the Roll of Legal Practitioners pursuant to the Direction of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee dated the 22nd day of May, 2017.

2. The subsequent appeal arising from the said Direction, being **Appeal No. SC/986/2017**, was withdrawn and struck out by the Supreme Court of Nigeria on the 25th day of March, 2025, and the appeal was deleted from the Cause List.

3. The subsequent Application for restoration of the name of **EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.** to the Roll of Legal Practitioners was considered and struck out by the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee in its Final Direction delivered on the 29th day of July, 2026.

4. Accordingly, the Direction of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee dated the 22nd day of May, 2017, striking out the name of **EPHRAIM EMEKA UGWUONYE, ESQ.** from the Roll of Legal Practitioners, remains the operative Direction in respect of his status as a Legal Practitioner.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026.

HON. JUSTICE DR. ISHAQ BELLO, OFR
CHAIRMAN,
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

BODY OF BENCHERS NIGERIA
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT
(CAP. L11, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AS AMENDED)

LEGAL NOTICE OF THE DIRECTION OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN RESPECT OF JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ.

WHEREAS the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee of the Body of Benchers, in Complaint No. **BB/LPDC/273/2020 – CHIEF WILFRED A. EJINDU v. JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ.**, delivered its Direction dated the 20th day of November, 2023, finding **JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ.**, a Legal Practitioner with Enrolment No. **SCN049518**, guilty of infamous conduct in the course of the performance of his duties as a Legal Practitioner, contrary to Rules 1, 24(2) and (3), 32(3)(k) and 55(1) of the Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, 2007, and punishable under Section 12(1) of the Legal Practitioners Act, Cap. L11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, as amended;

AND WHEREAS pursuant to the said Direction, the Committee directed that **JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ. be suspended from the Roll of Legal Practitioners and from engaging in the business of practising law for a period of three (3) years from the date of the Direction**, and further directed the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria to effect the order and make the appropriate notation against his name on the Roll of Legal Practitioners;

AND WHEREAS the said Direction was appealed against by **JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ.** before the Supreme Court of Nigeria in **Appeal No. SC/CV/1160/2023 – JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ. v. CHIEF WILFRED EJINDU & ANOR.**;

AND WHEREAS on the 25th day of March, 2026, the Supreme Court of Nigeria, upon the Appellant's application to withdraw the appeal and in the absence of objection from the Respondents, ruled that, the appeal having been withdrawn, it stood dismissed;

AND WHEREAS Section 12(8)(b) of the Legal Practitioners Act provides for the coming into effect of a Direction of the Disciplinary Committee where an appeal against the Direction has been brought and is withdrawn or struck out;

NOW THEREFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the Chief Justice of Nigeria; the President of the Court of Appeal; the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation; the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court; the President of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria; the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; the Grand Khadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; all Chief Judges of the High Courts of the States of the Federation; all Attorneys-General of the States of the Federation; all Grand Khadis of the Sharia Courts of Appeal of the States of the Federation; all Presidents of the Customary Courts of Appeal of the States of the Federation; the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria; the President of the Nigerian Bar Association; and all other relevant authorities and institutions, that:

1. The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, by its Direction dated the 20th day of November, 2023, directed the suspension of **JIDEOFOR OKONGWU, ESQ.**, with Enrolment No. **SCN049518**, from the Roll of Legal Practitioners and from engaging in the business of practising law for a period of three (3) years from the date of the Direction.

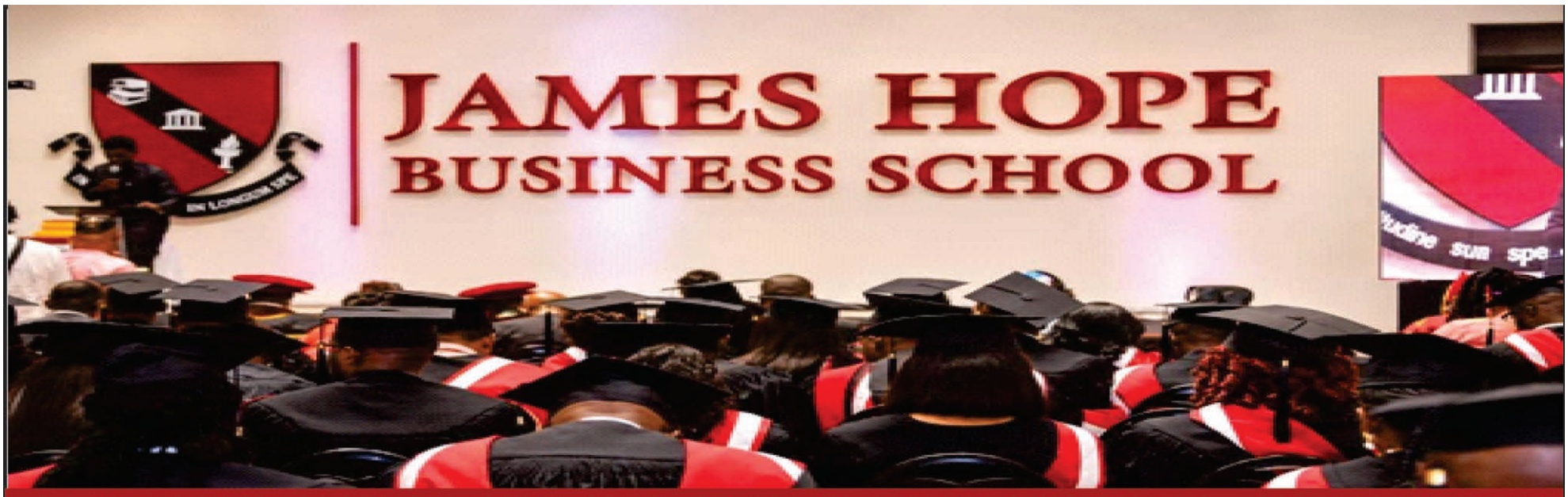
2. The appeal against the said Direction, being Appeal No. **SC/CV/1160/2023**, was withdrawn and consequently dismissed by the Supreme Court of Nigeria on the 25th day of March, 2026.

3. Following the withdrawal and dismissal of the appeal, the statutory provision in Section 12(8)(b) of the Legal Practitioners Act governing the coming into effect of the Committee's Direction upon the withdrawal or striking out of an appeal is applicable.

4. Accordingly, the Direction of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee dated the 20th day of November, 2023, is to be given effect in accordance with the Legal Practitioners Act. The Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and all other relevant authorities are hereby notified for the necessary implementation of the Direction, including the appropriate notation on the Roll of Legal Practitioners and the circulation of the notice to the relevant courts and professional bodies.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2026.

HON. JUSTICE DR. ISHAQ BELLO, OFR
CHAIRMAN
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE



JAMES HOPE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES INAUGURAL GRADUATION

(Class of 2025 and 2026)
[Lagos, Nigeria – 25th November]

On Saturday, 21 November 2026, James Hope University (JHU) marked a historic milestone with its inaugural graduation ceremony, celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2025 and 2026 under the theme, **"Beyond Today: Positioning for a Rapidly Evolving World."**

The graduation ceremony celebrated how far the Postgraduate Institution has come. Following the charge of the Founder & Chancellor, Dr. Jim Ovia (CFR) – (to build the Harvard of Africa). This milestone reflects that indeed JHU can achieve anything at an accelerated pace!The James Hope University community was honoured to welcome its keynote speaker Dr. Oby Ezekwesili, Founder and CEO of Human Capital Africa, former Minister of Education and former Minister of Solid Minerals of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The University also welcomed Mr. Idris Bello Osagie, who attended as the representative of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The ceremony also included members of the University's Governing Council and Senate, faculty members, representatives from sister universities, corporate partners, as well as family members and friends who joined in celebrating this historic milestone.
Keynote speaker, Dr. Oby Ezekwesili (Founder and CEO, Human Capital Africa) charged the students to have integrity in all that they do. In her words, she said, "Intelligence is one thing but integrity is what gets you far. Make a decision on what your values are ahead of time".



Representing the Founder and Chancellor, Dr. Jim Ovia (CFR), Mrs. Zephia Ovia-Ikem expressed her profound appreciation to the Founder and Chancellor and the Co-Founder, Mrs. Kay Ovia for their vision, commitment and investment in the establishment and continued development of James Hope University, home to the James Hope University Business School

the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the graduation of its pioneer cohorts for 2025 and 2026.



Dr. Jim Ovia's (CFR) vision of leveraging transformative education to empower individuals, advance society and drive sustainable development is steadily becoming a reality. This is reflected in the University's remarkable progress, marked by its attainment of full accreditation from

Mrs Zephia Ovia-Ikem further appreciated the University management for its commitment to this milestone and shared insight into the institution's inspiration and ambition: **to become the #1 Business School on the continent.** Zephia also highlighted wider aspirations of the Chancellor: *" Our goal is to build a university that is open to local and global collaboration in research, business and knowledge exchange. An institution that helps shape policy, produces the best Founders and Experts. A University that opens its doors to wider partnership between African countries – where our student population becomes diverse to include citizens of other nations and not just Nigerians"*



Our Pro-Chancellor (Prof. Chukuka Enwemeka) and Vice-Chancellor & President
(Prof. Olu Akinkugbe) celebrated the graduates by highlighting 5 key pillars, which are summarized as:

- Be willing to leverage emerging technology
- Use your qualifications as a foundation to building the future
- Become job creators and disruptors (one day become the likes of Warren Buffett or Dr. Jim Ovia (CFR)
- Your integrity is a great asset and guiding principle
- Remembering that failure is part of the journey

The ceremony concluded with the conferment of degrees and the presentation of awards and prizes to the best graduating students and best student leaders.
JHU had a total of 7 best graduating students from 5 programs across two sets (2025 and 2026). Among the best graduating students were **(Borokinni Adebisi Azizat- MSc Innovation, Intrapreneurship and Entrepreneurship (IIE) Class of 2026, Onyike Uguru – Economic Development and Policy Analysis (EDPA) Class of 2026, Jide-Adejana Yetunde Remi- Executive MBA (EMBA) Class of 2025, Mary Otuka – MBA Class of 2026) and Helen Sule as the overall best class Governor of 2025, winning the award for leadership.**



The University is thankful to all the student prize sponsors:

Founders Prize: Overall Best Graduating Students
Proshare: Sponsorship for MSc. Economic Development and Policy Analysis
Zenith Bank Plc: Sponsorship for M.Sc. Finance
Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA): Sponsorship for Overall Best Graduating Students in the 2026 set
Huawei: Sponsorship for EMBA and MBA
Cyberspace: Sponsorship for MSc Fintech & Analytics
Space Finish – M.Sc Innovation, Intrapreneurship and Entrepreneurship
Symans Consulting – Outstanding Class Governor of 2025 and 2026 Sets
Robinsleek - Best Supportive Student 2025 and 2026 sets

This marked the graduation of the first cohort of 68 students—51 students (75%) in the distinction class. Out of the 68 students, our gender representation recorded 51% male, and 49% female!

Congratulations to our graduates!!!
What a monumental milestone in the History of JHU!!

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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Limits of NSCDC intervention in farmer-herder disputes

THE revelation that the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) resolved 379 disputes that might have led to fatal clashes between farmers and herders in Oyo State between January and October this year looks cheering on the surface. But it is a worrisome indication that the problem that has led to the loss of thousands of lives and destruction of livelihoods across the country is far from being resolved. Although in recent times, conflict between farmers and herdsmen has not been making many mind-troubling headlines as was the case during the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, there are no statistics to suggest that the tempo has subsided or that the problem is over.

What the situation portends so far is that mediation by NSCDC between farmers and herders, however useful it may be to the enthronement of peace, is only face-saving. There is a need for a lasting solution to the frequent confrontation between farmers and herders. If the injustice associated with the destruction of farmers' investments by cattle taken to the farmlands by herders, and the retaliation by farmers in the form of poisoning the animals, is not stopped completely, Nigeria risks escalating insecurity that will worsen food insecurity, disunity among citizens, and economic stagnation. It is the government's responsibility, and it must not fail to fulfil it.

At the presentation of the operational achievements of the Oyo State Command of the NSCDC between January and October 2026, the Commandant, Augustine Padonu, disclosed that the security agency succeeded in resolving 379 disputes between farmers and herders, involving 386 cases of what he declared as malicious damage to farmlands and 11 cases of poisoning of cattle across the state. A breakdown shows that 64 cases were recorded in January, 53 in February, 45 in March, 31 in April, 17 in May, 26 in June, 32 in July, 32 in August, 50 in September, and 47 in October. According to Padonu, the interventions prevented conflict from escalating and promoted peaceful coexistence among residents of the rural agricultural communities and other stakeholders.

The reality of continued conflict between farmers and herders is not only in Oyo State but across the nation, and it still poses a grave security challenge. Reports indicate that violence also remains very active in some states in the northern part of the country, including Benue, Plateau, and Niger. For instance, two attacks on Benue communities in April 2025 claimed the lives of at least 56 people, while an August 2026 attack in Plateau State left not less than 25 people, mostly women and children, dead. The report by the Oyo NSCDC command made no reference to injuries and deaths, but Nigeria has lost too many lives to the menace.

The government should wake up to its most crucial constitutional responsibility of protecting Nigerians. Section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria states unambiguously that 'The security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government'.

Despite the strong argument that cattle rearing is a private business just as farming, and that one cannot destroy the other in order to survive, the Federal Government has apparently not seen it politically expedient to ban open grazing that leads to destruction of farmlands, and to prevent poisoning of the animals in retaliation, and thereby prevent clashes between herders and farmers. Rather, the Federal Ministry of Livestock Development has been pursuing a gradual, structured transition from open grazing to modern ranching, which is now the practice worldwide. But the slow pace of the programme is unhelpful to efforts aimed at ending the conflict

In December 2018, when deaths from farmers-herders clashes peaked, Al Jazeera, quoting Amnesty International, reported that more than 3600 people had been killed during clashes between farmers and herders since 2016, while thousands more had been made homeless. In the report titled 'Harvest of Death: Three Years of Bloody Clashes Between Farmers and Herders', the Director of Amnesty International Nigeria, Osai Ojigho, said: "The Nigerian government has displayed what can only be described as gross incompetence and has failed in its duty to protect the lives of its population and end the intensifying conflict between herders and farmers. The official lethargy has allowed impunity to flourish and the killing to spread to many parts of the country, inflicting greater suffering on communities who already live in constant fear of the next attack.

"Our research shows that these attacks were well planned and coordinated, with the use of weapons like machine guns, AK-47 rifles. Yet, little has been done by the authorities in terms of prevention, arrest, and prosecution, even when information about the suspected perpetrators was available."

Amnesty International's position in 2018 remains valid today. Failure of the Federal Government to take a decisive stand on open grazing, which has been rejected by states across the country is emboldening armed herders to continue to lead their cattle to eat and destroy the crops on farmlands that cost farmers huge sums of money to plant. Under no circumstance is it permitted for anyone to destroy other people's businesses for his own to survive? It is lamentable that the government has refused to see this as an injustice. It also disappointing that many states, including Oyo, that enacted laws against open grazing, have failed to enforce them.

The Federal Government should declare a criminal ban on open cattle grazing that destroys farmers' agricultural investments and causes conflict with herders. Perpetrators of violence should be prosecuted and punished. The government must protect the herders by sincerely addressing the root causes of their migration to the south, including climate change and desertification, insecurity and rural banditry, and porous national borders in the north that make possible trans-boundary influx of pastoral groups from neighbouring West African countries into and through Nigeria in search of viable ecological conditions, thereby competing with local pastoralists for food for animals.

The Livestock Ministry should intensify efforts to transition to ranching to also protect herders, save their animals from being poisoned, and thereby prevent violence associated with open grazing and its socio-economic impacts. The states, especially in the northern part of the country, that have enacted laws against open grazing should seek to enforce them and encourage and assist herders to adopt ranching, which is the practice in modern times. Oyo and other southern states should enforce relevant laws to check the impact of herders' activities on host southern communities.

LETTER

Beautiful quotes of a lifetime

Musings on the evil traits of war!

SIR: You know how over the years your mind becomes stocked with all kinds of jingles and rhymes on all sorts of topics - holy or profane, rude or romantic. Reflecting on the above sentence in relation to childhood memories, this poem comes to mind:

"*War begets Poverty*
Poverty Peace.
Peace begets Plenty
Then riches increase
Riches brings Pride
And Pride is War's ground.
War begets Poverty
So goes the round."

This is a rhyme with much sense in it, a rhyme which if taken to heart by statesmen, leaders of countries, nations, tribes, and clans, could help them to see the dangerous and catastrophic signs of the breakdown of peace and the deadly consequences of war.

It would also make them reason positively and see the bitter taste of war so as to prevent the outbreak of hostilities and disaster coming from war. Of all the inhumanities inflicted by man on man, war must be the most terrible, gruesome and monstrous!

There is a particular witty saying that, "It is better to jaw-jaw than to war-war." Which implies that it is better to sit on a round table for discussion, make peace and settle issues than to undergo war of catastrophic magnitude which could destroy millions of lives and create excruciating poverty and hunger, resulting in humongous damages and setback that would take hundreds of years to rebuild.

Nothing good comes out of war and anger but blood, more blood, loss of lives and debilitating poverty, perennial tears and agony!

"*Ogun jija kii bi omo ayo ati idunu afi ibanuje.*" meaning, "War does not beget joy and happiness but harrowing sadness."

If present day political leaders of countries, technocrats and opinion leaders can think deeply over the unnecessary bloodletting, destruction and catastrophic consequences of war and welcome peace and love in their hearts the whole world would be a great, blissful and beautiful place to live and everybody will be happy. Ponder over this.

Segun Durowaiye can be reached via 08055356855.



Opinion

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Hard road to stability: Is Tinubu worth another mandate?

By **Bode Babatunde**

A WOMAN stands behind her provision stall in Oyingbo Market, Lagos. A customer approaches, asks the price of a bag of rice and hesitates. After a moment, she walks away with only a small quantity of food. The trader watches helplessly. Her stock is becoming more expensive to replace, while customers can no longer afford to buy as much as they need. For both women, the economic statistics announced in Abuja offer little comfort. Their reality is measured not in GDP growth or foreign reserves, but in what they can afford to take home.

This encounter captures the central dilemma of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's first administration. As Nigeria approaches another presidential election, the question is whether his ambitious economic reforms have placed the country on a sustainable path to recovery or merely transferred the burden of adjustment to an already impoverished population. Is Tinubu deserving of another mandate?

The strongest argument for continuity is that his administration has confronted structural weaknesses successive governments failed to address. For decades, petrol subsidies placed an enormous burden on public finances, while multiple exchange-rate arrangements distorted the foreign-exchange market and discouraged investment. Removing the subsidy and moving towards exchange-rate unification were therefore not without economic justification. The real controversy lies in their abrupt implementation, inadequate social protection and the hardship imposed on households and businesses.

The Emir of Kano and former Central Bank Governor, Muhammadu Sanusi II, has offered a notable technocratic endorsement of the administration's economic direction. Speaking at the Oxford Global Think Tank conference, he reportedly highlighted improvements in GDP growth, inflation and foreign reserves, suggesting that Nigeria was moving away from the brink of fiscal collapse. Figures attributed to his assessment include GDP growth of 4.48 per cent in the second quarter of 2026 and foreign reserves approaching $55 billion. While such indicators suggest improvement, they must be interpreted cautiously. Economic growth does not automatically translate into better living standards, and higher reserves do not necessarily demonstrate a transformed productive economy.

Nevertheless, there are developments worth acknowledging. The Dangote Refinery represents an important step towards domestic refining capacity and reduced dependence on imported petroleum products. The Supreme Court judgment affirming local government financial autonomy also offers an opportunity to strengthen grassroots development. Similarly, the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) and the Nigerian Consumer Credit Corporation (CREDICORP) seek to widen access to education and structured credit. These initiatives are promising, but their success will ultimately depend on effective implementation, transparency and measurable benefits to ordinary citizens.

Yet, the strongest argument against another Tinubu mandate remains the human cost of his reforms. The removal of the subsidy and the sharp depreciation of the naira contributed to rising transportation, food, energy and production costs. Workers' purchasing power collapsed, businesses struggled with higher operating expenses, and millions of households were pushed into difficult choices between food, healthcare and education.

Although inflation may decline, that does not mean prices return to their former levels. It merely means they may be increasing more slowly. For families whose incomes have already been eroded, this distinction offers little relief.

The administration's failure to provide sufficiently effective social protection at the earliest stages of adjustment remains a major weakness. Economic reform cannot be judged solely by its long-term promise; its immediate consequences must also be managed responsibly. Citizens are more likely to endure sacrifice when they see a credible connection between present hardship and future improvement. Without that assurance, reform risks appearing less like national reconstruction and more like an unequal distribution of suffering.

Security presents another formidable challenge. Banditry, kidnapping, insurgency and farmer-herder conflicts continue to threaten communities across parts of the country. Beyond the tragic loss of lives, insecurity undermines agricultural production, disrupts trade and worsens food inflation. Farmers cannot cultivate their land when they fear attacks, while rural businesses cannot flourish without safe roads and communities. Military operations remain necessary, but they must be complemented by effective intelligence, policing, community engagement and the dismantling of the financial networks sustaining criminal groups. For any president seeking another mandate, restoring security must be a central measure of performance.

There is also the question of public accountability. Nigerians have been repeatedly urged to endure austerity, yet public frustration persists over the cost of governance, political appointments and official privileges. A government demanding sacrifice from citizens must demonstrate comparable restraint within its own institutions. Reducing wasteful expenditure, improving procurement transparency and strengthening public financial management would not only release resources for development but also help restore public confidence.

Ultimately, the second-term question is not a choice between blind continuity and automatic change. Those opposing Tinubu's re-election have legitimate grounds: persistent hardship, insecurity, inadequate social protection and the failure of economic recovery to translate sufficiently into improved living conditions. Those supporting continuity can equally argue that the administration has confronted difficult structural problems and initiated reforms previous governments avoided. Reversing them without a credible alternative could recreate some of the distortions that made reform necessary.

In conclusion, deciding whether Tinubu deserves a second term requires balancing the immediate hardship Nigerians have endured against the promise of long-term economic recovery. The argument against his return is understandable, but Nigeria cannot indefinitely sustain an economic order built on distortions and unsustainable fiscal arrangements. Having embarked on difficult structural reforms that successive administrations avoided, abandoning the process without a credible alternative could risk reversing the gains and recreating the problems that made reform necessary.

On balance, I believe Tinubu should be given another opportunity. This is not an endorsement of every decision his administration has made, nor a blank cheque for continuity. Rather, it is an opportunity to consolidate necessary reforms, correct their shortcomings and translate economic adjustments into tangible improvements in people's lives. His second term must deliver greater security, food affordability, employment, reliable electricity and fiscal discipline.

The hard road to stability may have been necessary; Tinubu should now be given the opportunity to prove that it leads to a destination in which ordinary Nigerians, too, can share the benefits.

Dr Babatunde wrote from London, UK.

Who killed Bola Ige? The limits of state terrorism

By **'Gbade Ojo**

IN a podcast broadcast recently by an ace broadcaster with a private radio station in Ibadan, the capital of Oyo State the interviewer asked the Octogenarian Chief Bisi Akande in a profound interview poignantly: Who Killed Bola Ige? The late Cicero of Esa Oke as he was fondly called governed the old Oyo State as a Governor between October 1979 and December 1983. Chief Bisi Akande was one of his surrogates then, who served as Secretary to the State government and later Ige's Deputy Governor. In essence Akande was one of his acolytes. Ige was brutally murdered in his Ibadan home on December 23, 2001 while serving as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation under Chief Olusegun Obasanjo's administration. It was an embarrassment for the country that a serving law officer could be so brutally murdered in cold blood.

This million dollar worth question remained unanswered either categorically by Chief Akande also a one-time governor of Osun State or by the federal government Ige served till date. This has made it imperative and continually relevant to query the spate of mysterious assassinations and disappearances of persons in Nigeria which are undoubtedly tied to the possibility of state terrorism against the citizenry.

It is expedient to recall that the precursor to state terrorism is the political philosophy and doctrine of Niccolo Machiavelli (1469-157). He was an Italian by birth. No doubt, Machavelli commanded a huge reputation as no other thinker in the annals of political theory. "The murderous Machiavelli' as William Shakespeare (1564-1616) called him, was depicted on the Elizabetan stage as a professional inventor of stratagems, a guide to rogues, usurpers and tyrants and the term "Machiavellism" symbolised villainy. The initial reaction to Machiavelli's writings was one of shock, and he himself was denounced as an inventor of the devil. "A damned Machiavelli", commented Shakespeare, 'holds the candle to the devil himself', referring to the devil as "Old Nick" after Machiavelli's first name. This was because Machiavelli sanctioned the use of deception, cruelty, force, violence, extermination and the likes for achieving the desired ends in a polity.

Having observed the local politics of Italy, his home country which was fragmented into several principalities, Machiavelli was of the view that Italy needed a strong leader who would perceive politics as an act of possibility that nothing is impossible - the ultimate is to compete for power - grab it and preserve it! He advocated further that a political leader should be judged by his ability to guarantee stability and continuity of the polity. He called it "morality of success". For him a ruler should do anything on earth to achieve stability of the polity and this could be achieved through any means, be it civil war, violence or force. He owns the maxim 'the end justify the means'. No wonder, our contemporary leaders have borrowed a leaf from Machiavelli with the statement that 'all is fair in politics'! Former President Obasanjo too also described election as 'a do or die affair'. What a mark of a dictator putting on the toga of a democrat?

Nevertheless, no matter the way and manner a leader attains power, 'moral success must be ensured'. In essence, politics is not for the faint hearted and the weak. This is because so many things are involved in the game such as: blackmail, murder, manipulation, cajole, thuggery and ability to hoodwink others.

In a nutshell, one is not surprised that the likes of Uncle Bola Ige, Dele Giwa, Funso Williams, M.K.O. Abiola, Alfred Rewane and Kudirat Abiola (all of blessed memories) amongst the sixty top state suspected assassinations were wasted by the power that be simply as a matter of "a moral success" to achieve stability of the polity at all cost.

Be that as it may, any one perceived or considered to be a quisling by the leader is taking a big risk of their lives! Whether a journalist, human rights activists, a radical scholar, preacher/teacher, they may not know where and when they may be exterminated by state agents the moment they are tagged non-conformists or an anti establishment. The irony of it all is that the executive head of the state may not be aware of such heinous crimes being perpetrated under them to curry their favours by their hangers on.

At international level, super-powers don't toy with whoever that can tinker or make them compromise their national interests for whatever reason(s). Taking America for an example in intentional political arena once you put on the toga of a terrorist the person becomes object of state terrorism. A number of case studies suffices to buttress this point. For example, Osama Bin Laden was pursued for well over a decade before he was liquidated in Pakistan. He was tagged a terrorist which negated the national interest of the U.S. His corpse was buried in the sea for him not to ever walk on the surface of the earth. Using the instrumentality of the United Nations, Saddam Hussein of Iraq was removed for trying to annex Kuwait. One cannot easily forget how Moummar Ghadaffi the strong man of Libya and an advocate of United States of Africa was wasted too and his corpse buried in hot sand in the desert where no man had ever stepped before. This was joyfully announced by the Obama administration in the U.S. Recently, the President of Venezuela was abducted dead in the night beside his wife and taken to the United States for his uncompromising stance against America *vis-a-vis* oil politics. Likewise, the killing of the spiritual leader of Iran not long ago during Israel/Iran/U.S. war is tied to America's national interest in the Middle East which sought to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear power as a state that can not be trusted in the region with the acquisition of nuclear power.

Back to Machiavelli in his all time book - *The Prince* - which he wrote as a guide to future rulers in Italy on how to acquire political and power and retain same; no doubt the book has become a manual for contemporary rulers and despots on what to do to retain influence. It is about the mechanism of government. Another similar manual is the 48 Laws of Power. Machiavelli strongly advocated that man should not be entrusted with power that it could be abused. He argued further that politics is a service matter and a ruler need not be weighed down with private morality. Thus, a ruler should not be a moral personality. The only morality expected of a ruler is to retain power and maintain continuity of the polity. No wonder, millions of Igbo people were exterminated during the Nigeria's 30-month agonising civil war between 1967 and 1970 all in an attempt to sustain the polity and maintain the asymmetric relationship in a warped federal arrangement.

Conclusively, Machiavelli concluded that whatever happens a leader should not be judged by Christian ethics or moral standard. The caveat however is that one should be extra careful with whoever that wields power! Mallam El-Rufai the former Governor of Kaduna state should be wiser now having been incarcerated for long all because of power struggle. It could be very dangerous to be on the other side of the law. This does not mean that all must be docile this may even emboldened the ruler more to misrule but we must recognise the boundary. Some rulers may knowingly or unknowingly become nihilists who derive joy in inflicting pains on the citizenry.

Professor Ojo teaches Political Science at the University of Ilorin, Kwara State.

Opinion

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Rethinking Nigeria's fluoride habit for biomimetic oral care

By **Anthony Oseghale**

FOR over half a century, Nigerian households have shared a virtually identical morning ritual: squeezing a ribbon of minty paste from a tube stamped with the promise of "strong teeth and cavity protection." Across Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, and Enugu, fluoride toothpaste has long been accepted as an undisputed law of personal hygiene.

Yet across global toxicology circles, functional medicine networks, and integrative dental research, a paradigm shift is taking place. Emerging science and the rise of biomimetic dentistry prompt a critical question: Has our reliance on fluoride overlooked its potential risks, and is it time to adopt safer, bio-identical alternatives?

The unspoken risks: Toxicological scrutiny and systemic warnings

To understand why toxicologists and integrative health experts are sounding alarms, one must examine how fluoride interacts with the human body beyond the tooth surface.

In young children whose swallowing reflexes are still developing, regular ingestion of fluoride toothpaste poses a direct threat: dental fluorosis. Characterised by mottled, chalky white spots or brown staining on developing enamel, fluorosis is no longer just an aesthetic nuisance—it is a visible sign of systemic overexposure.

Beyond enamel, recent toxicological reports scrutinise systemic accumulation. Studies, including a landmark monograph by the U.S. National Toxicology Programme (NTP), highlight potential links between high fluoride exposure and subtle neurodevelopmental changes in children. Prominent medical authorities have voiced growing concern:

"Fluoride is a neurotoxin that carries zero essential physiological function in the human body. Accumulating research indicates that ingested fluoride during early developmental windows can impair cognitive development."
Dr Philippe Grandjean, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

"When applied topically, fluoride alters tooth mineral surface, but when ingested systematically—as occurs routinely with young children swallowing toothpaste—the safety margin between cavity prevention and systemic toxicity is dangerously narrow."
Dr Paul Connett, Professor Emeritus of Toxicological Chemistry, St. Lawrence University

While industrial defenders argue topical toothpaste is harmless if spit out, pediatric dentists acknowledge young children consistently swallow up to 40 per cent of their toothpaste. In Nigeria, where clean water access varies and dietary variables fluctuate, adding daily ingested fluoride to a child's chemical load carries unnecessary risks.

A global policy shift: Mass fluoridation under siege

Skepticism surrounding fluoride is no longer confined to academic journals—it has reached the highest corridors of global policy.

In the United States, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. spearheaded a federal campaign to re-evaluate community water fluoridation under his "Make America Healthy Again" initiative, instructing the CDC to drop its support due to developmental risks.

This federal push reflects growing state-level action:

Utah's Historic Ban: Utah became the first U.S. state to enact a total legislative ban on fluoride in public drinking water.

Legislative Momentum: Multiple state legislatures introduced bills aiming to eliminate added fluoride from municipal water supplies.

If major global powers are actively dismantling mid-20th-century mass fluoridation policies over health concerns, continuing to view fluoride as an irreplaceable requirement in consumer products requires urgent re-examination.

Evaluating source bias: Why has fluoride dominated so long?

If evidence against unmonitored fluoride intake is mounting, why does traditional guidance remain immovable?

Funding sources and institutional inertia: Major oral care conglomerates heavily funded dental research chairs, public health campaigns, and professional endorsements for decades. Reversing an established regulatory standard is financially and bureaucratically difficult.

Methodological limitations: Conventional studies championing fluoride often evaluate it in isolation against zero-treatment controls rather than comparing it directly against modern biomimetic agents under real-world conditions.

The local reality: In Nigeria, public health bodies historically promoted fluoride as a cheap, mass-market intervention for tooth decay in under-resourced communities. While well-intentioned, this one-size-fits-all model overlooks modern chemical sensitivities and clean-ingredient alternatives.

Acknowledging the counter-argument

Defenders of fluoride correctly note that decades of public health data link fluoridated regimens to reduced dental decay. Fluoride reacts with natural tooth minerals to create fluorapatite, an acid-resistant barrier on enamel. In populations with zero access to preventive dental care or balanced nutrition, fluoride served an unquestioned historical purpose.

However, acknowledging fluoride's past utility does not mean ignoring its modern flaws. The crucial point isn't whether fluoride can prevent decay—it is that we no longer need to accept toxicity risks to achieve optimal oral health.

The clean alternative: Hydroxyapatite and xylitol

Modern dental science has opened the door to biomimetic oral care—products designed to work with human biology rather than forcing synthetic chemical reactions.

Hydroxyapatite (HAp): Hydroxyapatite is the actual calcium-phosphate mineral making up 97 per cent of human tooth enamel and 70 per cent of dentin. Instead of altering enamel chemically, Hydroxyapatite deposits microscopic, identical tooth building blocks into enamel micro-fissures. It repairs early cavities, relieves sensitivity, and restores shine. Crucially, HAp is 100 per cent non-toxic and biocompatible—if swallowed by a toddler, the body processes it as a harmless mineral.

Xylitol: Derived from natural plant fibers, Xylitol is a natural birch-sugar alcohol that starves cavity-causing bacteria (Streptococcus mutans). Unlike harsh antibacterial chemicals, Xylitol prevents bacteria from adhering to teeth without disrupting the oral microbiome.

A new era for Nigerian oral care

As Nigerian consumers become increasingly conscious of ingredient lists in skincare, food, and wellness products, oral hygiene deserves the same scrutiny. Relying on mid-20th-century chemical standards when bio-identical, non-toxic alternatives exist is an unnecessary compromise.

By switching to Hydroxyapatite and Xylitol, Nigerian families can achieve superior enamel remineralization, pristine cavity protection, and lasting freshness—without the systemic burden or toxicological shadow of fluoride. It is time to retire the blue tube and step into the future of clean, biomimetic dentistry.

Dr Oseghalo is a family dentist with over 20 years clinical experience as a dental surgeon, with vast experience as a turnkey leader and health care management.

Epiphanic excursions: The Feast of Tabernacles

By **Hope O'Rukevbe Eghagha**

THE city of Warri Delta State will be agog with dances, singing, and doctrinal sermons and exhortations from December 13 to 20 2026 when members of the God's Kingdom Society (GKS – Church of the Living God) will assemble for the annual Christian Feast of Tabernacles. One of the most colourful aspects of the Feast is the procession or street religious carnival by peopled by different groups and branches (local and international) of the church in selected streets of Warri. But what is the Feast of Tabernacles?

Among the Old Testament festivals, few are as joyful, visual, and prophetic as the Feast of Tabernacles. Known in Hebrew as Sukkot, or the Feast of Booths, it was one of the three great pilgrimage festivals of Israel, when Jewish men were required to appear before the Lord in Jerusalem. It was a feast of harvest, memory, joy, and hope. For Christians, it remains profoundly relevant as it held in honour of the Prince of Peace, the Greater and more Perfect tabernacle of God. It points backward to God's faithfulness in the wilderness, forward to Jesus Christ, and onward to God's eternal dwelling with His people.

The feast was instituted in Leviticus 23:33-44. It began on the fifteenth day of the seventh Jewish month, Tishri — in September or October — and lasted seven days, followed by a solemn eighth day. It came five days after the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur, and at the end of the agricultural year, after the harvest had been gathered. Hence it was also called the Feast of Ingathering (Exodus 23:16; 34:22).

During the feast, Israelites left their houses and lived in temporary booths made of branches. Leviticus 23:42-43 gives the reason: "You shall dwell in booths for seven days... that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt." The booth recalled forty years of wilderness wandering, when Israel had no permanent home and depended entirely on God for manna, water, and guidance.

It was also a time of rejoicing. Deuteronomy 16:13-17 commands Israel to rejoice before the Lord with sons and daughters, servants, Levites, strangers, orphans, and widows. In Leviticus 23:40 they took branches of palm, myrtle, and willow, with citron fruit, and rejoiced before the Lord. After the exile it was revived under Ezra and Nehemiah; Nehemiah 8:14-18 records that the people built booths on rooftops, in courtyards, and in streets, "and there was very great gladness."

The Feast of tabernacles appears at a decisive moment in the narrative provided by John. John 7:2 notes that "the Jews' Feast of Tabernacles was at hand," and Jesus went to Jerusalem, first quietly and then openly teaching in the Temple. On the last day, "that great day of the feast," Jesus stood up cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (John 7:37-38).

The setting makes the words more powerful. As water was poured out in the Temple, Jesus declared Himself the true source of living water. As the lamps blazed, He declared, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life" (John 8:12). He claimed to fulfil the wilderness symbols: the Rock that gave water, the pillar of fire that gave light, and the Presence that dwelt among the people. John had already prepared readers for this: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14). The Greek verb for "dwelt" is 'skenoo' literally to pitch a tent or tabernacle. In Jesus, God has pitched His tabernacle among humanity.

The Feast of Tabernacles reminds Christians that they are pilgrims on earth, marching from the typical to the anti-typical land which God has promised mankind in the Third World, the world without end. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob lived in tents because, as Hebrews 11:9-10 explains, they waited for "the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God." Paul uses the same image: "if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Corinthians 5:1). Peter calls believers "sojourners and pilgrims" (1 Peter 2:11). Christians live in this world as in a booth: real, but not final.

The Feast also teaches dependence on and gratitude to God. Israel in the booth remembered that it could not provide for itself. Likewise, Christians remember that every provision is a gift. Sukkot corrects trust in wealth and achievements, and calls believers back to joyful dependence on God. Its command to include the poor and the stranger remains a challenge: true rejoicing before God is never private; it overflows in generosity.

Third, it points to Christ as fulfilment of the Law. The festival was a shadow; Christ is the substance. In Him, believers receive the living water of the Holy Spirit, walk in His light, and experience God's presence continually.

Fourth, it carries future hope. Zechariah foresaw a day when the Lord would reign over all the earth and surviving nations would go up yearly to Jerusalem "to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16). Revelation uses the same imagery: a multitude from every nation stands before the throne with palm branches (Revelation 7:9-10), and a voice declares, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people" (Revelation 21:3). Sukkot ends where the Bible ends: with God dwelling forever with humanity.

The Feast of Tabernacles was never merely about booths. It was about memory, joy, provision, presence, and promise. Israel remembered the wilderness; Jesus fulfilled the symbols of water and light; Christians live as pilgrims awaiting a permanent city; and the followers of Christ look forward to God tabernacling with His people forever. The Feast of tabernacles therefore remains deeply relevant. It teaches believers to rejoice, to depend on God, to welcome others into the joy, and to live with eternity in view. The God who once dwelt in a tent in the wilderness, and then dwelt among us in Jesus Christ, will one day dwell with us in glory.

In terms of personal growth, the Feast offers celebrants an opportunity for a sober reflection and to recalibrate their minds for service to God. In these days of a biting and harsh economy, attending the Feast provides succour and relief for believers by helping them to focus on the word of God. The God's Kingdom Society has hosted or celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles since its inception in 1934 in Lagos. Salem City Warri Nigeria, the headquarters of the Church always hosts the Feast. In the past different cities such as Lagos, Ilesha, Aba, Benin, Port Harcourt, and Sapele had hosted the Feast.

Prof. Eghagha is of the University of Lagos.

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

NIMASA, MWUN review dockworkers' wages, pensions

By Adaku Onyenucheya

THE Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) have begun reviewing minimum standards and conditions of service for dockworkers for the 2026–2028 period, with wages, pensions, occupational safety and welfare among the key issues under consideration.

The review commenced at a reconvened meeting of the National Joint Industrial Council (NJIC), facilitated by NIMASA, where employers, labour unions and other industry groups presented their proposals.

The submissions cover wages, workers' welfare, occupational safety and health, pension provisions, working conditions, protective equipment and skills development, forming the basis for further consultations towards establishing an improved and harmonised framework for the dock labour industry.

The NJIC provides a platform for government, employers and organised labour to negotiate minimum conditions of service, promote decent work and strengthen industrial relations in the sector.

Participants at the meeting included representatives of the Seaport Terminal Operators of Nigeria (STOAN), Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), Association of Bonded Terminals Operations of Nigeria (ABTON), National Association of Stevedoring Operators (NASO) and MWUN.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman of NJIC and Executive Director, Maritime Labour and Cabotage Services at NIMASA, Jibril Abba, said workers' welfare, safety and fair treatment remained critical to efficient port operations and the overall competitiveness of Nigeria's maritime industry.

He said the review was necessary to address disparities in wages and employment conditions, strengthen compliance with industry standards and respond to changing operational realities driven by technology and evolving port activities.

"Dockworkers are an indispensable part of the maritime value chain. Ensuring fair remuneration, decent working conditions, adequate safety provisions and opportunities for professional development is not only a labour issue but also fundamental to the efficiency and sustainability of our ports," he said.

Abba urged all parties to approach the negotiations with a shared commitment to fairness, mutual understanding and industrial harmony.

He reaffirmed NIMASA's commitment to reviewing the submissions and sustaining consultations with stakeholders towards achieving a mutually acceptable framework that balances workers' welfare with the operational realities of the industry.

The President-General of MWUN, Francis Bunu, stressed the need to conclude the review promptly and translate the outcome into tangible improvements in workers' conditions.



Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola (left); Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority, Dr Abubakar Dantsoho; Managing Director of ITB-Hitech JV, Ramzi Chidiac and the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele at the groundbreaking ceremony of the modernization of Apapa and Tin-Can Island Ports, Lagos, yesterday.

Reports expose yawning gap between subscriber experience, service delivery

By Adeyemi Adepetun

•Says half of 5G-capable device activities runs on older networks

DESPITE improvements in Internet speeds and expanding fifth-generation (5G) adoption in major cities, Nigerian mobile subscribers are becoming increasingly dissatisfied with their network providers, exposing a widening gap between technical performance and everyday user experience.

This is contained in three reports released by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) under its Network Improvement Programme, covering network performance, comparative assessment of quality of service and experience (QoS/QoE), and battery consumption and thermal status.

Powered by crowdsourced Speedtest data from Ookla Advanced Analytics covering January 2025 to August 2026, the reports showed that all four major mobile network operators (MNOs)—MTN, Airtel, T2 and Glo—recorded improvements in network speed scores between February and August 2026, even as customer satisfaction deteriorated across the industry.

MTN maintained its position as the national benchmark, with its Speed Score rising from 48.7 in February to 50.8 in August. Airtel recorded the second-largest overall gain, increasing from 33.5 to 41.2, while T2 climbed from 30.2 to 36.7.

Glo recorded the sharpest improvement, adding 7.8 points to rise from 19.5 to 27.3, although it remained behind its competitors in overall national network performance.

On actual throughput, MTN led with average download and upload speeds of 21.76 megabits per second (Mbps) and 13.54 Mbps, respectively, alongside the lowest national jitter of 11.3 milliseconds (ms).

T2 ranked second in download speed at 21.24 Mbps and recorded the lowest download latency under load, but its average upload speed of 1.03 Mbps remained a significant weakness.

Airtel averaged 18.03 Mbps in downloads and 7.98 Mbps in uploads, with competitive video-streaming performance, while Glo recorded 10.45 Mbps and 3.41 Mbps, respectively, reflecting persistent national bottlenecks despite its leading speed ranking in Taraba State.

T2 also outperformed competitors in Gombe, Kebbi, Katsina and Benue states.

The reports showed a sharp increase in 5G utilisation across Lagos and Abuja. Between February and August 2026, the proportion of 5G-capable device activity actually connected to 5G networks rose from 31.4 per cent to 52.3 per cent in Abuja and from 27.5 per cent to 43.6 per cent in Lagos.

MTN accounted for the largest share of 5G-capable device activity in both cities, with 51.3 per cent in Lagos and 52.2 per cent in Abuja. Airtel followed with 37.7 per cent and 37.5 per cent, respectively, while T2 recorded 25.7 per cent in Lagos and 12.0 per cent in Abuja. Glo's 5G activity was negligible at 0.1 per cent in both cities.

However, the growing adoption of 5G has not eliminated coverage gaps, with roughly half of 5G-capable device activity in the two cities still relying on older network generations.

The NCC identified 1,031 micro-areas in Lagos and 287 in Abuja as high- or critical-priority zones for 5G expansion, where device demand overlaps with coverage deficits, particularly around civic centres, mixed business-residential districts, airports and transport corridors.

In a striking contrast to the improvements in network speed, customer satisfaction declined across all four operators between February and August 2026, leaving them with negative Net Promoter Scores (NPS), a measure of customer loyalty and willingness to recommend a service.

MTN retained the highest relative customer sentiment score but slipped from -0.26 to -0.28. Glo declined from -0.22 to -0.30, T2 fell from -0.22 to -0.38, while Airtel ranked lowest, dropping from -0.36 to -0.40.

The findings suggest that subscribers' frustrations extend beyond download speeds to inconsistent network availability, latency and limited access to reliable 5G services.

Geographical disparities also remained pronounced, with Lagos recording the highest state Speed Score of 48.78 and average download speeds of 22.42 Mbps, followed by Delta at 46.20 and 20.35 Mbps, respectively. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) recorded a Speed Score of 44.66.

Nigeria loses N86tr yearly to untapped potential of female professionals

By Tobi Awodipe

NIGERIA loses an estimated N86 trillion yearly because of the underutilisation of women's professional capabilities and their limited access to economic opportunities and leadership positions, stakeholders have warned.

The economic cost highlights the consequences of excluding a significant segment of the workforce from decision-making, business opportunities and other productive activities, according to the No More Shrinking® Full Capacity Report 2026.

Based on a survey of 3,324 women across Nigeria, the report found that respondents rated the extent to which the marketplace recognised and utilised their capabilities at an average of 5.3 out of 10, suggesting that a substantial proportion of their professional potential remained untapped.

It also found that 88 per cent of the women surveyed had experienced some form of professional shrinking in the preceding year, including holding back their voices, ambitions, ideas or capabilities in workplace and business environments.

The report was unveiled in Lagos by the convener of The Peak Performer Africa and CHAMP GLC, Dr Abiola Salami, at the No More Shrinking: The Full Capacity Experience summit, held at the MUSON Centre under the theme, 'Women at Full Capacity: From Potential to Influence.'

Salami disclosed that 28 per cent of the women surveyed had declined professional roles because they did not consider themselves sufficiently prepared to take them up. Another 36 per cent had downplayed their achievements, while only 30 per cent asked for compensation that reflected their value.

Speaking during a panel session on converting capacity to influence, Elizabeth Ngozi Ebi of Futureview Financial Services said professional competence alone was insufficient to guarantee women access to leadership positions and decision-making opportunities.

She argued that although many women possessed the qualifications, experience and ability to deliver results, they often remained excluded from conversations where critical institutional and business decisions were made.

According to her, closing the gender gap requires deliberate efforts by organisations and institutions to move beyond symbolic inclusion and ensure genuine representation of women in positions of influence.

FG revises account officers' promotion timetable, begins screening

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

THE Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation (OAGF) has revised the timetable for the 2026 promotion exercise for Account Officers on Salary Grade Levels 06–13, directing eligible candidates in federal ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to undergo a fresh screening and verification exercise.

A circular dated November 24, 2026, directed eligible officers in the OAGF and MDAs in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to participate in the screening between Monday, November 23, and Thursday, November 26, 2026.

The exercise, which is part of the Federal Government's yearly staff promotion process, is expected to precede the promotion examination and interview for eligible officers in the federal public service accounting cadre.

According to the circular issued by the OAGF's Administration Department, the screening and verification exercise will take place at the Treasury House, Abuja.

The notice, which referenced an earlier circular dated November 18, 2026, said the timetable for the 2026 promotion examination and interview had been reviewed, with the revised dates covering the accreditation and verification of eligible candidates.

The exercise covers Account Officers on Salary Grade Levels 06–13 under the OAGF pool, whose responsibilities include public sector accounting, expenditure documentation, financial reporting and compliance with established government financial management procedures.

The promotion exercise is an important component of career progression and workforce management within the federal public service, particularly in strengthening professional capacity and efficiency in government financial operations.

However, the circular did not disclose the number of officers expected to participate or provide details of the revised dates for the promotion examination and interview.

It was addressed to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, permanent secretaries, directors-general and chief executives of agencies, directors of finance and accounts, internal auditors, heads of accounts and internal audit, zonal treasury coordinators and federal pay officers.

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A*- A	GRADES: 96%
A*- B	GRADES: 99%
A*- C	GRADES: 100%

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LAGOS

Dates: **Saturday, 30th January and 13th February, 2027**
Location: James Hope College, Twin Lakes Estate, Lekki, **Lagos.**
Time: 10AM

ABUJA & PORT HARCOURT

Date: **Saturday, 13th February, 2027**
Locations: 71 Usuma Street, Opp. Transcorp Hilton, Maitama, **Abuja.**
15 Nnamdi Azikiwe Road, Port Harcourt, **Rivers State.**
Time: 10AM



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DATE: SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2026 & SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2027
TIME: 9AM TO 12:30PM

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Ibom LNG seeks $1.5 billion financing to expand gas supply

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

IBOM LNG & Logistics Base Limited has stepped up efforts to raise $1.5 billion for its proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Akwa Ibom State, following a financial advisory agreement with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank).

The proposed investment, which includes a 200 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) gas-processing facility in Eastern Obolo, within the Liberty Free Trade Zone, is expected to expand domestic gas supply, create employment and strengthen Nigeria's capacity to generate industrial and export value from its natural gas resources.

The agreement provides a financial advisory framework to mobilise the estimated investment and advance the project towards financial close.

Beyond its financing prospects, the facility could stimulate investments across the gas value chain, create opportunities for local businesses and strengthen Nigeria's capacity to convert its gas resources into industrial output and export revenue.

The project, which has secured an establishment licence, is designed to serve both domestic and international markets, potentially increasing gas availability for industrial and energy-related activities while positioning Akwa Ibom as a hub for gas-based investments.

Its development comes amid the Federal Government's renewed push to harness Nigeria's natural gas reserves as a driver of industrialisation, economic diversification, export growth and employment generation.

Speaking on the agreement, Company Secretary of Ibom LNG & Logistics Base Limited, Anietie Isonguyo, described the engagement with Afreximbank as an important step towards securing the financial and technical partnerships required to deliver the project.

He said the facility would create direct and indirect employment opportunities for host communities and the wider state, support indigenous enterprises and expand gas supply to domestic and export markets.

"We are committed to translating Nigeria's gas resources into lasting economic value for Akwa Ibom State, the Niger Delta and the country," he said.

Afreximbank's Senior Executive Vice President, Denys Denya, said the bank remained committed to supporting Africa's oil and gas value chain as a catalyst for industrialisation, employment generation and intra-African trade.

Firms expand solar, storage portfolio

By Waliat Musa

KARTEL Energy and LuxWatt Nigeria have expanded their solar and energy storage product offerings amid growing demand for alternative electricity solutions and concerns over product quality in Nigeria's fast-growing renewable energy market.

The two brands of Skyville Company Limited showcased their latest offerings in Lagos, including hybrid inverters, lithium batteries and solar panels targeting household, commercial and industrial applications.

The Chief Executive Officer of Skyville Company Limited, Ola Ogunsemowo, said the company was expanding its portfolio to meet changing market requirements, identifying product quality, counterfeit goods and inadequate consumer awareness as major challenges confronting the sector.

Through LuxWatt, the company offers low-voltage lithium batteries ranging from 1.28kWh to 25kWh, while its high-voltage series has capacities of up to 705kWh.



General Manager, Technical Inspectorate Services, Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA), Ibrahim Haruna Ndabida (left); Chairman, Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria (REDAN) FCT Chapter, Dr Tony Okoruwa; Mrs Ifenyinwa Onwuakagba; Chief Operating Officer, Abuja Electricity Distribution Plc (AEDC), Blessing Ogbe and Chief Regulatory and Efficiency Officer, AEDC, Emmanuel Ogwuche, during the AEDC Real Estate Developers Stakeholder Forum in Abuja, held to strengthen collaboration on sustainable electricity infrastructure planning and service delivery in Abuja, on Tuesday.

300 exhibitors, 60,000 buyers leverage China-Nigeria trade fair for deeper ties

By Tobi Awodipe

ABOUT 300 international exhibitors and more than 60,000 visitors converged on the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, for the opening of the five-in-one Zhejiang International Nigeria-China Trade Fair and Exhibition, amid renewed calls for stronger manufacturing partnerships, technology transfer and investment in Nigeria.

The exhibition, which opened yesterday, brings together five concurrent trade fairs covering textiles, automotive parts and equipment, household products and gifts, hardware, tools and mechatronics, as well as photovoltaic power and energy storage.

With exhibitors from about 10 countries and regions, including Nigeria, China, India, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, the event provides a platform for manufacturers, importers, distributors, investors and professional buyers to explore business opportunities across different sectors.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Lagos State Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, said the exhibition offered an opportunity to deepen Nigeria-China economic relations beyond the exchange of finished products to manufacturing, industrial collaboration and technology transfer.

She described the five sectors represented at the fair as interconnected components of a modern industrial economy, noting that construction, automotive production, consumer goods and renewable energy depended on efficient manufacturing systems, equipment and technological innovation.

According to her, bilateral trade between Nigeria and China exceeded $28 billion in 2025, representing growth of more than 28 per cent, while trade between both countries reached approximately $18 billion in the first half of 2026, an increase of about 35 per cent. Chinese imports from Nigeria, she added, grew by 81 per cent within the period.

Aviation stakeholders seek solutions to Africa's growth barriers

By Olusegun Koiki

AVIATION stakeholders have called on the Federal Government to move beyond policy statements and provide practical solutions to the structural and operational challenges limiting the growth and competitiveness of Nigeria's aviation industry.

The Nigeria College of Aviation Technology Alumni Association (NCATAA) said its forthcoming Pan-African Aviation Conference would provide a platform to examine these challenges and develop actionable recommendations for strengthening the industry's growth and sustainability across Nigeria and Africa.

In a statement yesterday, NCATAA President, Ali Magashi, said the two-day conference, scheduled for December 1 and 2 in Lagos, would bring together policymakers, regulators, airline operators, airport managers, aviation agencies, financiers, service providers, training institutions and other industry professionals.

The conference, themed 'The Aviation Industry in Nigeria Today and the Way Forward', will also explore how air transport can promote African integration and strengthen connectivity across the continent.

According to Magashi, the gathering will feature seven strategic conversations, an industry exhibition and interactive panel discussions involving more than 100 aviation professionals from Nigeria, other African countries and beyond.

He said the conference was designed to move beyond discussions to develop practical recommendations for addressing some of the industry's longstanding challenges.

Major highlights will include

Mastercard appoints Tukur as Country Manager for West Africa

MASTERCARD has appointed Kari Tukur as Senior Vice President, and Country Manager for West Africa, where she will oversee the company's strategy, operations, customer relations and business growth across the region.

Tukur's responsibilities will include managing the company's relationships with governments, financial institutions, fintech companies, merchants and other business partners across West Africa.

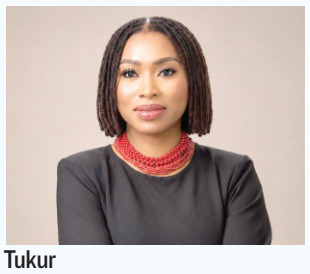
She has more than 20 years of experience in banking, payments, digital innovation and market development. She joined Mastercard in 2019 and has since held various leadership positions covering product development and solutions across East and West Africa.

Before her latest appointment, she served as Vice President for Core Payments in West Africa, with responsibilities that included payment acceptance, partnerships and product innovation.

Tukur previously held senior positions at Standard Bank Group, Standard Chartered Bank, Diamond Bank and Access Bank. Her experience across the institutions spans retail and digital banking, wealth management, product development and business transformation.

Commenting on the appointment, Mastercard's Division President for Africa, Gabriel Swanepoel, said West Africa was an important market for the company, citing opportunities for growth in digital payments and financial inclusion.

He said Tukur's experience in the payments industry and familiarity with the region informed the decision to appoint her to the position.



Tukur

CIoTA plans transport ranking for states, airlines

By Benjamin Alade

THE Chartered Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria (CIoTA) has unveiled a four-pillar strategic agenda for its 2026–2028 administration and announced plans to rank transportation performance across the country's 36 states, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and domestic airlines.

The proposed ranking, alongside plans for regular policy advisories and stronger industry collaboration, is part of the Institute's efforts to deepen professional accountability and influence transportation policymaking.

The initiatives were announced at CIoTA's virtual pre-investiture press briefing on Tuesday, ahead of the formal investiture of its incoming President and Chairman of Council on December 3, 2026, at Makanjuola Hall, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos.

Speaking at the briefing, CIoTA President, Prof. Samuel Gbadebo Odewumi, said the incoming administration would focus on strengthening the professional body while expanding its contribution to transport policy, research and national development.

The four pillars, described as Build the Base, Build the Budget, Build the Benefits and Build the Brand, are designed to strengthen the Institute's membership and governance structure, improve financial sustainability, enhance value for professionals and establish CIoTA as a credible voice in transportation policy.

PAU, SMEDAN, AGRA seek improved financing, market access for agribusinesses

By Abigail Ikhaghu

THE Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) of Pan-Atlantic University, the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and Kaduna Business School have called for stronger market linkages, improved access to finance and better business support to accelerate the growth of agricultural enterprises in Nigeria.

The stakeholders made the call at a two-day Agribusiness Network Meeting in Oyo State, where they identified inadequate financing, weak business management capacity and limited market access as major constraints facing agricultural small and medium-sized enterprises (Agri-SMEs).

Speaking at the meeting, Lead, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning at EDC, Dr Stanley Ibeku, said access to finance alone would not guarantee the success of agricultural businesses without the management skills and market connections needed to deploy funds effectively.

He said entrepreneurs required financial literacy, investment readiness and sound business management capabilities to build competitive and sustainable enterprises.

"We must build an agribusiness ecosystem where entrepreneurs are not only trained but empowered; where financing is not only available but accessible and appropriately structured; and where businesses are not only connected to networks but to real markets and opportunities," Ibeku said.

The meeting is part of an AGRA-supported project, Systems Strengthening for the Provision of Business Development Services and Access to Finance for Agricultural SMEs in Nigeria, implemented in partnership with EDC, Kaduna Business School and SMEDAN.

Speaking on behalf of AGRA Nigeria Country Director, Rufus Idris, Dr Godswill Aguiyi said many agricultural businesses struggled to secure funding because of weaknesses in financial management, corporate governance, technology adoption and market intelligence.

"Finance is a major constraint for Agri-SMEs, but finance alone is not the solution," he said.

Aguiyi disclosed that AGRA had committed an initial $100,000 to a Multi-Donor Business Development Services Cost-Sharing Facility aimed at making professional business support more affordable for agricultural enterprises.

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NOTICE OF 39TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

Graduands, Parents/Guardians and the public are hereby notified that the 39th Convocation Ceremony of the Federal University of Technology, Owerri, and Admission to First Degrees, Higher Degrees, Postgraduate Diploma and Award of Prizes will be held as follows:

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

(1) Tuesday, December 1, 2026

a. Pre-Convocation Press Briefing by the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ikechukwu Nosike Simplicus Dozie
Venue: Council Chamber, FUTO
Time: 11:00 a.m.
To Attend: The Media, FUTO Principal Officers, Deans, Directors, Professors, HODs/HOUs & Co-ordinators

b. Exhibition- Students' Research and Innovation Exposition Show
Venue: Convocation Arena, FUTO
Time: 12.00 noon

(2) Wednesday, December 2, 2026

a. Convocation Tree Planting
Venue: Selected Sites in FUTO
Time: 10.00am

b. Ecumenical Service
Venue: Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri International Conference Centre, FUTO
Time: 12.00 noon

(3) Thursday, December 3, 2026

Chancellor's Cocktail /Alumni Night
Venue: Glo-Ran Hotel & Event Place, Plot H/I Industrial Layout by SUBEB Junction, off PH Road, Owerri
Time: 6.00 p.m.

(4) December 4, 2026

Convocation Lecture entitled: **"Re-imagining The Nigerian University: From Degree Production to Knowledge Creation, Technological Enterprise and Global Competitiveness"** by Dr Maruf Tunji Alausa, Hon. Minister of Education
Venue: Prof. C.O.E. Onwuliri International Conference Centre, FUTO
Time: 12.00 noon

(5) Saturday, December 5, 2026

a. Inspection and Commissioning of Projects in FUTO by the Visitor
Venue: University Wide
Time: 10.00 am

b. Award of First Degrees, Higher Degrees, Postgraduate Diploma, Award of Prizes
Venue: Convocation Arena, FUTO
Time: 11.00 am.

To Attend: First Degree Graduands, their Parents/ Guardians & Guests, Higher Degree Graduands, other Special Guests of the University and the University Community.

(6) Other Necessary Information

a. Graduands and recipients of prizes are expected to be physically present to be admitted to their Degree and/or to receive their awards during the ceremony.

b. Each Graduand is entitled to two invitation cards for his/her guests. Graduands are expected to collect the invitation cards from their respective Departmental Administrative Officers.

c. Academic gowns/scrolls will be issued only on presentation of official payment receipt of N15,000 for First Degree, and N20,000 for Postgraduate Diploma, Masters, and Ph.D., and N10,000.00 for scroll respectively.

(7) Mode of Payment

a. Visit the University website www.futo.edu.ng
b. Click on the link "Portal" or School Portal with the url: www.portal.futo.edu.ng
c. Click on Bursary Collections
d. Select Payment Category (Student related payment)
e. Select your category item for the payment
I. Undergraduate
ii. Postgraduate PGD
iii. Postgraduate Masters
iv. Postgraduate Ph.D
f. Complete the form to generate the payment invoice
g. Proceed to any bank for payment; alternatively pay online with your debit card after generating invoice.
h. Proceed to Bursary Unit for your Official receipt.
i. All gowns should be returned not later than Wednesday, December 9, 2026. Thereafter, the non-return of the regalia will attract a penalty of N1,000.00 for each extra day.
j. Further information may be obtained from the Coordinator, Records and Statistics Unit, Examinations Unit, or Student Affairs Unit.

You are all invited.

Signed:

CHIEDOZIE UBA
Registrar

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ii. Reader
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ii. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE ARTS
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
i. Assistant Lecturer (Language)
ii. Lecturer II (Language)
iii. Lecturer II (Literature)
iv. Senior Lecturer (Literature)
E. DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN STUDIES
E1. FRENCH
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
E2. GERMAN
i. Assistant Lecturer
E3. RUSSIAN
i. Assistant Lecturer
F. DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
i. Assistant Lecturer
G. DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND AFRICAN LANGUAGES
i. Assistant Lecturer in Igbo Language or Literature
ii. Assistant Lecturer in Yoruba Literature
iii. Lecturer II Linguistics (Sociolinguistics/Applied Linguistics)
iv. Lecturer I in Linguistics (Phonetics and Phonology)
v. Lecturer I in Linguistics (Phonetics and Phonology)
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i. Lecturer II
ii. Assistant Lecturer
H. DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
I. DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
J. DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
i. Assistant Lecturer (Voice, Speech and Accent)
ii. Assistant Lecturer (Children's Theatre and Drama/Theatre-in-Education)
iii. Lecturer II (Technical Theatre/Theatre Technology): Stage Set and Lighting Design; Props Design; Scenography; Pyrotechnics; Film Design; and Festival Designing
2. FACULTY OF SCIENCE
A. DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
A1. ANTHROPOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
A2. ARCHAEOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
B. DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
i. Lecturer II (Lower Green Plants)
ii. Lecturer II (Ethnobotany)
C. DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Assistant Lecturer
iii. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Lecturer II
iv. Reader
E. DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
i. Assistant Lecturer (with options in Numerical Analysis/Financial Mathematics/ Stochastic
ii. Assistant Lecturer (Functional Analysis with option in Harmonic Analysis)
iii. Lecturer II (Ordinary Deferential Equations/ Partial Deferential Equations/Algebra/Topology)
F. DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY
i. Criteria For Assistant Lecturer in Food Microbiology
ii. Criteria For Assistant Lecturer in Industrial Microbiology
iii. Criteria For Lecturer II in Environmental Microbiology
G. DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
i. Assistant Lecturer
H. DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
i. Assistant Lecturer (Computational Statistics)
I. DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
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B. DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
i. Assistant Lecturer: Molecular Drug Metabolism and Toxicology
ii. Lecturer II: Cancer Research and Molecular Biology
iii. Lecturer II: Membrane Biochemistry and Biotechnology
C. DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
E. DEPARTMENT OF VIROLOGY.
i. (2) Lecturer II position
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A. DEPARTMENT OF ANAESTHESIA
i. Lecturer I
B. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY MEDICINE
i. Position in Clinical Epidemiology – Lecturer I
ii. Position in Clinical Epidemiology – Senior Lecturer
iii. Position in Family Medicine -Lecturer I
v. Position in Family Medicine – Senior Lecturer
C. DEPARTMENT OF HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
i. Lecturer 1
ii. Senior Lecturer
D. INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
i. Medical/Research Fellow II
ii. Assistant Research Fellow (Non-Medical)
iii. Assistant Research Fellow (Non-Medical)
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i. Senior Lecturer
F. DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR MEDICINE
i. Lecturer I
ii. Senior Lecturer
G. DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY
i. Lecturer 1
H. DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
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i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
L. DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
i. Lecturer 1
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i. Lecturer I
GENERAL OR SUB SPECIALTY RADIOLOGY
N. DEPARTMENT OF RADIATION ONCOLOGY
i. Lecturer I (Radiation Oncology)
O. DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY
i. Senior Lecturer – Department of Surgery (Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery)
ii. Lecturer I – Department of Surgery (Paediatric Surgery/General Surgery/Urology/ Cardiothoracic Surgery)
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ii. Lecturer II
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i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
C. ANIMAL SCIENCE
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Lecturer I
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i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Assistant Lecturer
E. DEPARTMENT OF CROP PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY
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F. DEPARTMENT OF SOIL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT.
i. Assistant Lecturer (Agricultural Mechanization) -
ii. Assistant Lecturer (Soil Conservation) -
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i. Assistant Lecturer
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ii. Lecturer II- Social Studies Education
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iii. Lecturer II in Educational Foundations – (Philosophy of Education)
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ii. Lecturer II
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H. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH EDUCATION
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ii. Lecturer II
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i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
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ii. Lecturer II: Area of Specialization: Publishing and Copyright Studies
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iii. Educational Technology (Lecturer II and Assistant Lecturer)
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i. Assistant Lecturer- Industrial Social Work
ii. Assistant Lecturer- Social Welfare
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i. Assistant Lecturer - Gifted and talented Education
ii. Assistant Lecturer –Visual impairment
iii. Lecturer II -Speech-Language Pathology
M2. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
i. Lecturer II
M3. SPEECH PATHOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
AUDIOLOGY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
N. DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS EDUCATION
i. Assistant Lecturer
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B. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
i. Lecturer II (Ruminant Medicine)
ii. Lecturer II (Small Animal Medicine)
iii. Lecturer I (Avian Medicine)
C. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MICROBIOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PARASITOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
E. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PATHOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
F. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY
i. Professor (Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology)
ii. Lecturer II (Veterinary Pharmacology)
G. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Senior Lecturer
H. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
iii. Reader
I. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SURGERY AND RADIOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
J. DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY THERIOGENOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
9. FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY
A. DEPARTMENT: AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Lecturer I
B. DEPARTMENT OF AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
C. DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer I: Water and Environmental Engineering
ii. Lecturer II: Highway and Transportation Engineering
E. DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
F. DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
G. DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL & PRODUCTION ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
H. DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
I. DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
J. DEPARTMENT OF WOOD PRODUCTS ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II–Wood Products Engineering (Biomaterials Processing and Bio-composites Option)
ii. Lecturer II – Wood Products Engineering (Pulp and Paper Engineering and Bioenergy Engineering
K. DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICAL AND AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
iii. Senior Lecturer
L. DEPARTMENT OF MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Senior Lecturer
10. FACULTY OF PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
A. DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL PHARMACY AND PHARMACY PRACTICE
i. Lecturer II
B. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICS AND PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACEUTICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
ii. Senior Lecturer
E. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOGNOSY AND HERBAL MEDICINE
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
F. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY
i. Lecturer II
ii. Senior Lecturer
11. FACULTY OF LAW
A. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAW
i. Lecturer II
B. DEPARTMENT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE AND PROPERTY LAW
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
D. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW
i. Lecturer II
ii. Lecturer I
12. FACULTY OF PUBLIC HEALTH
A. DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND MEDICAL STATISTICS
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Senior Lecturer
B. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCES
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT
i. Lecturer I
E. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROMOTION AND EDUCATION
i. Lecturer II
F. DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS
i. Lecturer II
13. FACULTY OF DENTISTRY
A. DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ORAL HEALTH
i. Lecturer 1(Orthodontics)
B. DEPARTMENT OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY
i. Lecturer I
C. DEPARTMENT OF ORAL PATHOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
D. DEPARTMENT OF PERIODONTOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DENTISTRY
i. Lecturer I (Periodontology)
E. DEPARTMENT OF RESTORATIVE DENTISTRY
i. Lecturer I (Two Prosthetics Dentistry)
ii. Lecturer I (One Conservative Dentistry)
14. FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES
A. DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
i. Senior Lecturer
ii. Assistant Lecturer
B. DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND FINANCE
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Assistant Lecturer
D. DEPARTMENT OF MARKETING AND CONSUMER STUDIES
i. Senior Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Assistant Lecturer
15. FACULTY OF RENEWABLE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
A. DEPARTMENT OF AQUACULTURE
i. Assistant Lecturer (Fish Nutrition)
B. DEPARTMENT OF FOREST PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTS
i. Assistant Lecturer in Wood and Fibre Science
ii. Lecturer II in Forest Biology and Silviculture
iii. Lecturer II Ethnoforestry
C. DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORESTRY
i. Senior Lecturer in Forest Biometrics
ii. Assistant Lecturer in Forest Information System
iii. Assistant Lecturer in Urban and Environmental Forestry
iv. Assistant Lecturer in Forest Extension and Rural Learning
D. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND ECOTOURISM MANAGEMENT
i. Assistant Lecturer (Aquatic Diversity and Tourism Management)
ii. Assistant Lecturer (Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conservation)
16. FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT
A. DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE
i. Lecturer II
B. DEPARTMENT OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Professor
D. DEPARTMENT OF QUANTITY SURVEYING
i. Lecturer II
ii. Assistant Lecturer
17. FACULTY OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
A. DEPARTMENT OF DATA AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
i. Assistant Lecturer
B. DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL, ENERGY, PETROLEUM ENERGY, ECONOMIC AND LAW
i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF PEACE, SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN STUDIES
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES
i. Assistant Lecturer (Climate and Society Programme)
E. DEPARTMENT OF BIOETHICS AND MEDICAL HUMANITIES
i. Assistant Lecturer
F. TETFUND CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN SECURITY
i. Research Fellow I /Lecturer I
ii. Research Fellow II /Lecturer II
iii. Senior Research Fellow /Senior Lecturer
18. SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
A. CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION
i. Lecturer II
B. BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EXECUTIVE EDUCATION
i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
19. FACULTY OF BASIC CLINICAL SCIENCES
A. DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL PATHOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
ii. Senior Lecturer
B. DEPARTMENT OF HAEMATOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
C. DEPARTMENT OF IMMUNOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
D. DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY AND PARASITOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
E. DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY
i. Lecturer I
F. DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS
i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
20. FACULTY OF NURSING
A. DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL/SURGICAL NURSING
i. Lecturer II
B. DEPARTMENT OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH NURSING
i. Lecturer II
C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSING
i. Lecturer II
D. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHIATRIC NURSING
i. Lecturer II
21. FACULTY OF COMPUTING
A. DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Lecturer I
B. DEPARTMENT OF DATA SCIENCE
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Senior Lecturer
C. DEPARTMENT OF ICT & CYBERSECURITY
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Senior Lecturer
D. DEPARTMENT OF SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
i. Assistant Lecturer
ii. Lecturer I
22. INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED MEDICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING (IAMRAT)
i. Research Fellow I /Lecturer I
ii. Senior Research Fellow /Senior Lecturer
23. INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES
i. Lecturer I
ii. Lecturer II
iii. Professor
24. INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES
i. Senior Lecturer
ii. Lecturer I
25. INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
i. Junior Research Fellow/Assistant Lecturer
ii. Research Fellow II/Lecturer II
26. DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER
FACULTY OF EDUCATION
Department of Adult Education
i. Lecturer II
27. KENNETH DIKE LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN
i. Principal Librarian
ii. Librarian I
28. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY
i. Lecturer II

ADDENDUM

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and expected to submit 10 copies of their Applications, CVs, and Credentials. Applicants are to visit: **https://vacancies.ui.edu.ng** for the required qualifications, other requirements and online application. The recruitment portal will close on **Wednesday, 09 December, 2026.**

Thank you.

G. O. Saliu, JP, fspsp, FNIM, MANUPA, MAUA
Registrar and Secretary to Council

UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, NIGERIA

VACANCIES: INTERNAL/EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the following Non-Academic Staff positions in the University of Ibadan:

1.	Office Assistant II	CONTISS 2
2.	Assistant Clerical Officer	CONTISS 2
3.	Safetyman II	CONTISS 2
4.	Artisan III	CONTISS 2
5.	Laboratory Assistant II	CONTISS 2
6.	Assistant Clerical Officer (Accounts)	CONTISS 2
7.	Field Assistant II	CONTISS 2
8.	Health Assistant II	CONHESS 2
9.	Store Keeper Assistant	CONTISS 2
10.	Gardener	CONTISS 2
11.	Zoo Keeper	CONTISS 2
12.	Laundry Assistant II	CONTISS 2
13.	Clerical Officer	CONTISS 3
14.	Office Assistant I	CONTISS 3
15.	Senior Safetyman	CONTISS 3
16.	Driver Mechanic	CONTISS 3
17.	Data Processing Assistant	CONTISS 3
18.	Senior Porter	CONTISS 3
19.	Assistant Computer Operator	CONTISS 3
20.	Medical Laboratory Assistant	CONHESS 3
21.	Laboratory Assistant I	CONTISS 3
22.	Groundsman Assistant	CONTISS 3
23.	Photographic Assistant I	CONTISS 3
24.	Senior Zookeeper	CONTISS 3
25.	Theatre Arts Assistant	CONTISS 3
26.	Life Guard Assistant	CONTISS 3
27.	Computer Maintenance Trainee	CONTISS 3
28.	Field Assistant I	CONTISS 3
29.	Animal Health Assistant III	CONTISS 3
30.	Confidential Secretary IV	CONTISS 4
31.	Senior Data Processing Assistant	CONTISS 4
32.	Computer Operator	CONTISS 4
33.	Dental Technician	CONHESS 4
34.	Assistant Executive Officer (Admin)	CONTISS 5
35.	Assistant Executive Officer (Account)	CONTISS 5
36.	Assistant Executive Officer (Audit)	CONTISS 5
37.	Senior Assistant Technologist	CONTISS 6
38.	Technical Officer	CONTISS 6
39.	Workshop Supervisor	CONTISS 6
40.	Executive Officer (Admin)	CONTISS 6
41.	Medical Laboratory Technician	CONHESS 6
42.	Senior Teacher Grade IV	CONTISS 6
43.	Estate Officer	CONTISS 6
44.	Administrative Assistant	CONTISS 7
45.	Technologist II	CONTISS 7
46.	Accountant II	CONTISS 7
47.	Coach II	CONTISS 7
48.	System Analyst II	CONTISS 7
49.	Medical Records Officer	CONHESS 7
50.	Studio Officer II (Technical)	CONTISS 7
51.	Zoo Curator III	CONTISS 7
52.	Photographer	CONTISS 7
53.	Quantity Surveyor II	CONTISS 7
54.	Assistant Marketing Officer	CONTISS 7
55.	Procurement Officer II	CONTISS 7
56.	Environmental Health Officer	CONHESS 7
57.	Industrial Coordinator II	CONTISS 7
58.	Internal Auditor II	CONTISS 7
59.	Counselling Psychologist II	CONTISS 7
60.	Senior Teacher Grade III	CONTISS 7
61.	Assistant Editor	CONTISS 7
62.	Programmer/Software Developer II	CONTISS 7
63.	Social Worker II	CONHESS 7
64.	Producer II/ Presenter II/ Announcer II	CONTISS 7
65.	Radiographer	CONHESS 7
66.	Hardware Engineer II	CONTISS 7
67.	Nursing Officer	CONHESS 8
68.	Administrative Officer	CONTISS 8
69.	Medical Laboratory Scientist	CONHESS 8
70.	Network Analyst Administrator	CONTISS 8
71.	Legal Officer I	CONTISS 8
72.	Senior Technical Officer	CONTISS 8
73.	Architect I	CONTISS 8
74.	Physiotherapist II	CONHESS 8
75.	Editor II	CONTISS 8
76.	Engineer I	CONTISS 8
77.	Pharmacist II	CONHESS 8
78.	Medical Officer	CONMESS 2

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERICENCE

For Position No. 1: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 2: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 3: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 4: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics with Trade Test Grade III and II in relevant field.

For Position No. 5: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE which must include two science subjects and English Language.

For Position No. 6: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language, Mathematics, Accounts, and Commerce.

For Position No. 7: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 8: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE which must include English Language and two science subjects.

For Position No. 9: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics.

For Position No. 10: Candidate must possess Junior Secondary School certificate

For Position No. 11: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus two science subjects.

For Position No. 12: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 13: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 14: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 15: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language with evidence of medical fitness.

For Position No. 16: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language, a valid Group "E" Driving License, plus Trade Test Grade III, II, I.

For Position No. 17: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus proficiency in computer literacy.

For Position No. 18: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language with evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 19: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and two science subjects plus proficiency in computer literacy.

For Position No. 20: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language, Mathematics plus two science subjects and proficiency in computer literacy.

For Position No. 21: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 22: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 23: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 24: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus two science subjects.

For Position No. 25: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including Literature in English.

For Position No. 26: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics.

For Position No. 27: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and two science subjects plus proficiency in computer literacy.

For Position No. 28: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 29: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language.

For Position No. 30: Candidate must possess five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language, plus OND in Secretarial Studies, Office Administration, or other relevant professional qualification, with 3 years post qualification experience.

For Position No. 31: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus proficiency in computer literacy with 3 years post qualification experience.

For Position No. 32: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and two (2) science subjects in addition to 3 years post qualification experience and evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 33: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE with Health Technology Certificate in Dental Hygiene with 3 years post qualification experience.

For Position No. 34: Candidate must possess five O'Level Credits including English Language in WAEC/NECO/GCE, plus OND with a minimum of lower credit, in addition to 3 years post qualification experience and evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 35: Candidate must possess five O'Level Credits including English Language, Mathematics, Accounts, Commerce etc. in WAEC/NECO/GCE, plus OND with a minimum of lower credit, in addition to 3 years post qualification experience and evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 36: Candidate must possess five O'Level Credits including English Language, Mathematics, Accounts, Commerce etc. in WAEC/NECO/GCE, plus OND with a minimum of lower credit, in addition to 3 years post qualification experience and evidence of computer literacy.

For Position No. 37: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and a good OND in relevant discipline not below lower credit level plus associate membership of relevant professional body –NIST, NATE, COREN, ABICON, MIST, AAHAT **(Check the website for areas of specialization).**

For Position No. 38: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus an Ordinary National Diploma (OND) in relevant discipline not below Lower Credit. **(Check the website for areas of specialization).**

For Position No. 39: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language with Trade Test I, plus at least 5 years' experience after obtaining Test III OR National Craft Technical Certificate plus eight (8) years' experience. **(Check the website for areas of specialization).**

For Position No. 40: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division).

For Position No. 41: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics and also completed the prescribed three (3) years training programme at the School of Health Technology and obtained the registration of the relevant professional bodies for Technician Cadre.

For Position No. 42: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus NCE Teacher Certificate and registration with TRCN.

For Position No. 43: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus OND (not below Lower Credit) in Estate Management, Urban & Regional Planning, Town Planner or Building Technology.

For Position No. 44: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus a Degree in the relevant field (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) and NYSC discharge/exemption/exclusion certificate.

For Position No. 45: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics and a good HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in relevant discipline, plus Associate membership of relevant professional body – MIST, NIST, NATE, COREN, ABICON, AAHHT. **(Check the website for areas of specialization).**

For Position No. 46: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus Degree in Accounting or relevant discipline with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division and NYSC discharge/exemption/exclusion certificate.

For Position No. 47: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus a Bachelor Degree in PHE/Human Kinetic not below Second-Class Lower.

For Position No. 48: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus an HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Computer Science /Information Technology or other related discipline

For Position No. 49: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND (not below Lower Credit) in Medical Information Management from a recognized Institution or its equivalent.

For Position No. 50: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Engineering or in the relevant field.

For Position No. 51: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language, Mathematics, Biology/Agric. plus B.Sc. (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) in Animal Science, Zoology, Wildlife, Veterinary Medicine, or HND in Animal Health & Husbandry.

For Position No. 52: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Fine Arts, Photography and other relevant discipline.

For Position No. 53: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Quantity Surveying registrable with QSRBN plus NYSC certificate.

For Position No. 54: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Marketing or relevant discipline plus a Professional qualification in marketing or bookselling.

For Position No. 55: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus a Bachelor Degree or HND (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Purchasing and Supply/Business Administration/Statistics/Financial Studies/Law /Computer/Science/Accounting/Economics/Engineering/Technology/Marketing/Insurance/Quantity Survey and other relevant discipline.

For Position No. 56: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Degree (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) in Environmental Health Science, Health Education and other relevant course , registrable with recognized similar regulatory Agencies.

For Position No. 57: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus B.Sc./B.Tech. (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) in Engineering, Technology or other relevant disciplines.

For Position No. 58: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus Degree in Accounting or in other relevant discipline with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division and NYSC discharge/exemption/exclusion certificate.

For Position No. 59: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and a Degree in Guidance and Counselling, Psychology or related discipline (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division).

For Position No. 60: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus B.Ed. or BA/B.Sc. (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) with PGDE in Education with a subject appropriate for primary school teaching.

For Position No. 61: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/B.A. (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Mass Communication, English Language, Arts, and other relevant discipline.

For Position No. 62: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus an HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Information Technology and other related discipline.

For Position No. 63: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Bachelor Degree in Adult Education, Social Work, Sociology, Guidance & Counselling and Psychology with a minimum of second class lower from recognized institution.

For Position No. 64: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a good HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Mass Communication, Journalism, Communication & Language Arts or related discipline.

For Position No. 65: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/B.Sc. (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Radiography plus professional qualification.

For Position No. 66: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Computer Science/Computer Engineering/Information Technology or any other related discipline.

For Position No. 67: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus B.Sc. Nursing (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) and registration with Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and two (2) years post-qualification experience . **(Check the website for areas of specialization).**

For Position No. 68: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus a Degree in the relevant field (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) and NYSC discharge/exemption/exclusion certificate, plus three (3) years cognate experience **OR** Bachelor's degree with Master in relevant discipline.

For Position No. 69: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (BMLS) degree (Haematology/Blood Transfusion OR Histopathology/Cytopathology) with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division from a recognised institution with a current registration with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN,) plus at least five (5) years post-qualification relevant experience.

For Position No. 70: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/Degree (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Computer Science/Informatics or related discipline or equivalent professional qualifications, plus three (3) years post-qualification cognate experience.

For Position No. 71: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus LL.B/B.L (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) with three (3) years cognate experience.

For Position No. 72: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a good HND (not below Lower Credit) in relevant discipline with minimum of three (3) years post qualification experience; OR a good HND with M.Tech. in same discipline.

For Position No. 73: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree in Architecture or Bachelor of Architecture obtained from an Institution recognized by ARCON with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division, plus NYSC, with three (3) years cognate experience.

For Position No. 74: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language plus a B.Sc. in Physiotherapy registrable with the Physiotherapy Board of Nigeria plus three (2) years cognate experience.

For Position No. 75: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus HND/B.A. (not below Lower Credit/Second-Class Lower Division) in Mass Communication, English Language, Arts, and other relevant discipline with a minimum of three (3) years cognate experience in Editorial work.

For Position No. 76: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics and a First Degree (with a minimum of Second-Class Lower Division) plus three (3) year post qualification cognate experience OR Masters' Degree and membership of relevant professional bodies (NSE or COREN).

For Position No. 77: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Degree in Pharmacy with evidence of registration with the Pharmacist Council of Nigeria plus at least three (3) years cognate experience.

For Position No. 78: Candidate must possess at least five O'Level Credits in WAEC/NECO/GCE including English Language and Mathematics plus a Degree in Medicine, registrable with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria from a recognized institution and a minimum of three (3) years post registration experience.

Conditions of Service

As obtainable in Federal Universities in Nigeria

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted and expected to submit 10 copies of their Applications, Curriculum Vitae and Credentials. Applicants are to visit **https://vacancies.ui.edu.ng** for other requirements and online qualification. The recruitment portal will close on **Wednesday, 09 December, 2026**.

Thank you.

G. O. Saliu, JP, fspsp, FNIM, MANUPA, MAUA
Registrar and Secretary to Council

ITUC-Africa demands enforcement of Saudi Arabia labour rights

From **Collins Olayinka**, Abuja

THE African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa) has urged Saudi Arabia to ensure the effective implementation of its new labour rights agreement, warning that its success will depend on tangible improvements in working conditions and the protection of migrant workers.

The continental labour organisation said the Framework for Engagement and Technical Cooperation on Labour Rights, signed with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, offered an opportunity to address longstanding abuses against migrant workers, particularly Africans whose labour contributes significantly to the Saudi economy.

In a statement, ITUC-Africa General Secretary, Joel Odigie, described the agreement as an important step towards improving labour standards, including fair recruitment, wage protection, access to justice, social protection, and occupational safety and health.

He stressed, however, that the commitments must translate into measurable improvements in workers' welfare through effective implementation of the agreement's five-year workplan and monitoring arrangements.

Odigie recalled that the development followed an Article 26 complaint initiated by ITUC-Africa in June 2025, with the support of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), and submitted by workers' delegates to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Governing Body.

The complaint called for stronger intervention by the Saudi government to address alleged abuses against migrant workers, including forced labour, wage violations and discrimination.

He said the process demonstrated the importance of international trade union solidarity, sustained advocacy and accountability in securing improvements in workers' rights.

ITUC-Africa commended the parties involved in the negotiations, particularly the ITUC, Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF) and other labour organisations that had consistently advocated for migrant workers' protection.

Despite welcoming the agreement, the organisation noted that some critical issues remained unresolved, particularly the need for stronger guarantees on freedom of association and effective worker representation.

It maintained that the agreement should provide a foundation for further dialogue and reforms rather than mark the end of efforts to secure comprehensive labour protections for migrant workers.

The organisation pledged to support the implementation process and ensure that African migrant workers and their representatives had meaningful participation in monitoring progress.

It also urged African governments to strengthen recruitment oversight, consular protection and enforceable bilateral labour agreements to safeguard citizens seeking employment in Saudi Arabia and other foreign labour markets.

Odigie called on the Saudi government to demonstrate its commitment through credible reforms and effective enforcement of the agreement's provisions.

APBN urges Lagos to intensify war against quackery, counterfeiting

By **Kehinde Olatunji**

THE Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN), Lagos State Chapter, has called on the Lagos State Government to intensify efforts to combat professional quackery and the circulation of counterfeit and substandard products.

It warned that the activities of unqualified practitioners and the proliferation of fake goods pose serious threats to public safety, consumer confidence and economic growth.

The association also called for stronger collaboration between professional institutions and the government in policy formulation and decision-making, while appealing to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to accept the position of patron of the chapter.

The Chairman of APBN Lagos State Chapter, Bldr. Asimiyu-Towolawi Bashir, made the call at a briefing in Lagos at the weekend to formally flag off the 2026 Lagos Professional Week at the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers (NIESV) Secretariat, Alausa, Ikeja.

Bashir said qualified professionals had critical roles to play in safeguarding lives, strengthening institutional accountability and improving service delivery across different sectors of the economy.

He described APBN, a stakeholder in the Organised Private Sector, as a platform for fostering cooperation among recognised professional bodies and facilitating engagement with government, the private sector and other stakeholders on issues affecting national development.



Chairperson, Nigeria Marketing Awards Decision Council, Iquo Ukoh (left); Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Financial Institutions Training Centre (FITC), Dr. Chizor Malize and Founder and Convener of the Nigerian Marketing Awards (NMA), Tony Agenmonmen, during the presentation of the Marketing Icon Award to Dr. Chizor Malize at the fifth edition of the NMA awards, held recently in Lagos.

NADDC wins parastatal award for building indigenous capacity

By Victoria Nwachukwu

EFFORTS to strengthen local automotive manufacturing and build indigenous capacity have received renewed recognition, with the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) named Parastatal of the Year 2026 at The Sun Awards.

The award, presented over the weekend, recognised the Council's contributions to the development of Nigeria's automotive industry.

Receiving the award, NADDC Director-General, Oluwemimo Osanipin, said the recognition reflected collective efforts to advance local automotive manufacturing, attract investment, strengthen indigenous capacity and implement the Nigerian Automotive Industry Development Plan (NAIDP) 2023–2033.

He dedicated the award to the Council's management and staff, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, industry stakeholders, development partners and private sector collaborators for their support.

Osanipin reaffirmed the Council's commitment to strengthening Nigeria's automotive value chain, attracting investment and positioning the country as a competitive destination for automotive manufacturing.

He said the Council would sustain initiatives aimed at developing a viable automotive industry through industrial growth, technology transfer and skills development.

The recognition comes amid efforts to deepen local participation in the automotive sector, with the NAIDP 2023–2033 providing a policy framework for developing the industry and expanding domestic manufacturing capacity.

The Council said the award further reinforced its commitment to supporting the development of a sustainable Nigerian automotive industry.

Digital platform targets job access gap among informal workers

By **Eniola Daniel**

LIMITED access to job opportunities and poor visibility of skilled and unskilled workers remain major challenges confronting Nigeria's informal sector, prompting the launch of a digital platform designed to connect artisans and other service providers with potential customers.

The platform, 3HJobs, unveiled in Lagos, aims to bridge the gap between workers with practical skills and customers who need their services, while providing artisans and general workers with opportunities to secure jobs and earn income.

The initiative highlights the need to complement skills acquisition with market access, as many Nigerians with vocational skills struggle to find customers and turn their expertise into sustainable livelihoods.

Speaking at the launch, 3HJobs Project Manager, Nene Okorie, said the platform was developed to address the difficulty of finding reliable workers and the limited opportunities available to service providers to showcase their abilities.

She said the platform uses a digital matching system to connect verified customers with candidates in real time, enabling job seekers to create profiles, apply for jobs and receive notifications when prospective customers express interest.

According to her, the platform covers several occupational categories, including technology, construction, hospitality, driving, cleaning, fashion and sales.

Okorie said the initiative would also extend beyond digital recruitment to address the skills gap among underprivileged Nigerians through practical training.

She explained that the company planned to partner with training providers, organisations and sponsors to equip beneficiaries with marketable skills and subsequently showcase their competencies on the platform to connect them with paying customers.

She said the approach would help beneficiaries turn acquired skills into income, achieve financial independence and contribute to their communities.

Outdated management systems, brain drain threaten Nigeria's competitiveness

By **Gloria Nwafor**

NIGERIA must urgently overhaul its management systems, embrace digital transformation and invest in human capital to remain competitive in the global economy, the Executive Director of the University of Lagos Business School, Professor Sunday Adebisi, has said.

Adebisi warned that rigid organisational structures, outdated management practices and the growing migration of skilled professionals were undermining the country's capacity to build competitive enterprises, drive innovation and sustain economic growth.

He spoke at the 2026 Management Day Lecture of the Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered) in Lagos, themed 'The Future of Management in Nigeria: Digital Transformation, Innovation and Human Capital Development'.

The business management expert said Nigeria could not achieve meaningful economic transformation without rethinking how organisations were structured, people were managed and technology was deployed to improve productivity.

He stressed the need for organisations to move away from traditional management approaches and adopt more flexible, innovative and technology-driven systems capable of responding to changing business realities.

Adebisi's concerns come amid growing pressure on Nigerian businesses to improve productivity, retain skilled employees and compete in an increasingly digital global economy.

In his welcome address, the President and Chairman of the Council of NIM, Dr Umar Mustapha, also identified poor management practices as a major factor behind the collapse of businesses, economies and many homes in Nigeria and other parts of the world.

Mustapha said the challenges underscored the need to entrench accountability, integrity, probity, honesty, efficiency and dedication to duty across workplaces and society.

He described management as fundamental to the survival of families, businesses, institutions and national economies, arguing that its principles should extend beyond corporate organisations to everyday life.

According to him, the institute's annual Management Day Lecture provides a platform to examine challenges facing management practice and develop solutions aligned with international best practices.

Mustapha said this year's theme reflected the need to prepare Nigerian managers and organisations for emerging challenges through digital transformation, innovation and human capital development.

He also renewed the institute's appeal to the Federal Government to officially recognise November 19 as Management Day in Nigeria, saying this would strengthen its campaign for the United Nations to declare the date World or International Management Day.

He explained that the institute adopted November 19 in 2016 to coincide with the birthday of Professor Peter Drucker, widely regarded as the father of modern management.

Mustapha said recognising the day would raise awareness about the importance of sound management practices in national development and organisational performance.

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'Extreme heat, poor sanitation may increase snake encounters'

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze**, Abuja

- FMC Abuja records 11 snakebite cases
- Cautions against traditional remedies

THE Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Abuja, has warned that rising temperatures, habitat changes and poor environmental sanitation could drive snakes into residential areas, increasing the risk of human encounters.

The Medical Director, Prof. Saad Ahmed, disclosed that the hospital had treated 11 snakebite victims this year, with cases recorded almost every month. Two cases occurred in July, three in August and two in October, while the remaining cases were spread across other months.

He attributed the movement of snakes into residential areas partly to extreme heat, which forces reptiles out of their hiding places in search of cooler environments. Rapid urbanisation, indiscriminate construction and poorly managed settlements also increase the risk of encounters.

Ahmed urged Nigerians to treat snakebites as medical emergencies and take victims to the nearest hospital immediately, preferably within 15 to 30 minutes.

He warned that delaying treatment in favour of traditional remedies could result in life-threatening complications, depending on the type of venom.

While some snake venoms attack the nervous system and interfere with breathing, others destroy red blood cells, causing bleeding, oxygen deprivation and organ failure. Scorpion stings could also trigger severe pain and, in some cases, anaphylactic reactions and shock.

Ahmed said FMC Abuja had anti-snake venom supplied through the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The hospital uses polyvalent anti-snake venom when the snake species is unknown, while it administers monovalent treatment when the species has been identified and the appropriate product is available.

He advised victims against visiting traditional healers or relying on unverified remedies, stressing that prompt hospital treatment improves survival chances. He added that traditional practices could be subjected to scientific research to establish their safety and effectiveness.

The medical director identified refuse dumps, overgrown vegetation, abandoned building materials and poorly stored household items as potential hiding places for snakes.

He urged residents to clear vegetation, dispose of refuse properly, keep their surroundings clean and avoid accumulating materials around their homes.

Ahmed also disclosed that FMC Abuja had expanded its specialist services to include kidney transplantation, routine open-heart surgery, laser procedures, complex neurosurgery and advanced orthopaedic interventions.

The hospital, he said, runs postgraduate training programmes accredited by the West African College of Physicians, West African College of Surgeons and the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria. Its candidates record pass rates of between 90 and 95 per cent in postgraduate examinations.

On cancer care, Ahmed said the hospital was discussing with the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare plans to establish radiotherapy services to expand access to treatment in Abuja.

He acknowledged that disruptions to radiotherapy services at the National Hospital, Abuja, had placed additional pressure on cancer care, as patients from across the country sought treatment.

FMC Abuja's oncology department, one of its youngest units, has two consultants and other healthcare professionals. The hospital provides chemotherapy, screening and multidisciplinary care involving oncologists, pathologists, gynaecologists, nurses, pharmacists and social welfare officers.

Its preventive oncology clinic, supported by the Nigerian Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment, offers screening to detect cancer and precancerous conditions early.

On the migration of healthcare professionals, popularly known as 'Japa', Ahmed said Nigeria experienced significant staff losses between 2020 and 2022, when demand for healthcare workers increased in the United Kingdom, United States, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

Ahmed said departures had since stabilised, attributing some improvement to Federal Government efforts to accelerate recruitment in public hospitals and expand training capacity in medical, pharmacy and nursing schools.

He said the government was working with regulatory agencies and medical colleges to increase admissions, while Tertiary Education Trust Fund support was expected to improve training infrastructure and facilities.

Ahmed said FMC Abuja's monthly outpatient attendance had risen from between 5,000 and 6,000 when he assumed office in 2020 to about 30,000 currently.

To accommodate the increase, the hospital has converted several bungalow structures into two- and three-storey buildings, relocated administrative departments and introduced electronic medical records and integrated payments.

The electronic system lets patients pay through digital wallets, reducing movement between payment points and service departments. The hospital also operates telephone lines, complaint boxes, QR codes and an online platform for patient feedback.

Despite the expansion, Ahmed identified inadequate capital funding as a major constraint. He said the hospital had received its 2025 capital budget warrant but was awaiting cash backing to implement planned projects. It was also relying partly on its revolving fund to sustain operations.

He urged Nigerians to take precautions against heat-related illnesses, including dehydration and heatstroke, by drinking sufficient water, wearing light clothing, avoiding prolonged exposure to direct sunlight and seeking shelter during intense heat.

Surgeons offer free knee replacements to indigent Nigerians

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze**, Abuja

ORTHOPAEDIC surgeons across Nigeria have begun free consultations, treatments and surgeries for indigent patients at five hospitals in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), with more than 100 persons with mobility challenges receiving medical attention.

The three-day outreach, which began on Monday, covers Wuse District Hospital, Garki Hospital, Federal Medical Centre, Abuja, Cedarcrest Hospital and Alliance Hospital.

The exercise is the community-service component of the Nigerian Orthopaedic Association's (NOA) 49th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference in Abuja.

A major component is free knee replacement surgery, procedures that cost millions of naira and remain unaffordable for many Nigerians with severe joint conditions.

The association's Vice President, Dr Christian Madubueze, who represented its President, Dr Elkanah Orimolade, said the NOA was providing several knee replacement operations at no cost to beneficiaries.

Madubueze said the association was supplying surgeons with some consumables and medications, while participating hospitals had provided operating theatres, medical personnel, laboratories, imaging facilities and beds.

He said the hospitals were selected because complex orthopaedic procedures require specialised equipment and experienced personnel. Conducting joint replacement surgeries in rural communities would require temporary hospital facilities, increasing the cost of the intervention.

The Director of Clinical Services, Dr Osayande Osagiewh, who represented the Mandate Secretary for Health Services and Environment, Dr Adedolapo Fasawe, commended the NOA for providing free specialist care to residents unable to afford treatment.

He said orthopaedic consultations and surgeries were expensive in Abuja, adding that the partnership with public hospitals would allow patients to receive follow-up care after the outreach.

Osagiewh also supported the use of established hospitals, noting that patients undergoing major orthopaedic procedures require proper post-operative management.

Chairman of the Local Organising Committee, Dr Aker Ityo, said the outreach targeted patients who had lived with deformities, neglected injuries and disabling joint diseases because they could not afford surgery.

Medical directors seek support to sustain private hospitals

By **Ijeoma Nwanosike**

MEDICAL directors have called on the government to improve the operating environment for private hospitals, citing rising costs, regulatory bottlenecks, poor infrastructure and limited access to affordable financing.

The National Guild of Medical Directors (NGMD) said addressing these constraints was necessary to sustain private healthcare facilities, retain medical professionals and maintain their contribution to healthcare delivery.

The call came at the guild's 28th Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Enugu State, where Dr Chito Nwana emerged as president alongside other elected executive members.

Unveiling his agenda, Nwana identified three priorities: hospital welfare and ease of practice, advocacy for universal healthcare access, and professional standards and community trust.

Under hospital welfare, he said the guild would address operational and regulatory constraints facing private healthcare providers and advocate policies that support the sustainability of medical facilities.

He listed the rising costs of medical equipment, unstable electricity supply, increasing personnel expenses and limited access to affordable loans among the major challenges confronting private hospitals.

On healthcare access, Nwana said the guild would promote policies to improve health outcomes through collaboration among government institutions, private healthcare providers, regulators and development partners.

He said the third priority would focus on ethical medical practice, accountability, patient safety and continuous professional education to strengthen public confidence in private hospitals.

Nwana said private hospitals provide preventive, diagnostic, emergency and specialised services, but their capacity to sustain these services depends on supportive policies, reliable infrastructure, adequate financing and skilled personnel.

The new executive, drawn from different parts of the country, is expected to strengthen professional engagement, collaboration and the exchange of knowledge among medical directors.



Social Secretary, Enugu Branch, National Guild of Medical Directors, Dr Onyeka Enweani (left); Vice President II, Lagos Branch of the Association, Dr Omoniyi Fagbemi; and Assistant Secretary General (Lagos), Dr Monisola, at the Annual General Meeting in Enugu recently.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

OIL PIPELINE ACT CAP 338 LFN 1990

APPLICATION FOR OIL PIPELINE LICENCES (OPLL) FROM HELY CREEK 03 WELL TO SEPLAT GAS PLANT, DELTA STATE

1. Notice is hereby given under section 8 of the Oil Pipeline Act. Cap. 338 LFN 1990 that Platform Petroleum JV Technical Limited whose registered office is at Greystone Tower, 7, Idowu Taylor Street, Victoria Island, Lagos has applied to the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

2. ***Description***
   i. 4" x 13.2km Oil Pipeline from Hely Creek well 03 to Seplat Gas Plant, PPL 221, Delta State.
   ii. 8" x 13.2km Oil Pipeline from Hely Creek well 03 to Seplat Gas Plant, PPL 221, Delta State.

   From Hely Creek 03 Well Location to Sapele Integrated Gas Plant (SIGP) Sapele to Seplat Gas Plant, Sapele LGA, Delta State.

3. A copy of the Oil Pipeline Licenses (OPLL) can be inspected between the hours of 07:30 and 16:00 hours Mondays to Fridays in Abuja and Warri offices of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Ministry of Petroleum Resources between the hours of 07:30 and 15:30 hours at the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Development (Lands Department) ASABA, Delta State.

4. Any person who considers that his interest in the area will be injuriously affected by the grant of the license should lodge notice of objection orally or in writing, not less than seven days before the hearing date in paragraphs 6 below, with the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Development (Lands Department), ASABA, Delta State, stating his interest and ground of objection.

5. Any Public Officer who receives verbal objection in the course of his duties should record the name and address of the complainant as well as his interest and grounds of objection and forward such details to the Ministry of Land, Survey and Urban Development (Lands Development) P.M.B. 5017 ASABA, Delta State and/or the nearest office of the Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

6. The representative of the Lands Department in the Ministry of Lands, Surveys and Urban Development, ASABA, Delta State shall inquire into objections in paragraph 4 above at his office in the Lands Department in the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Urban Development, ASABA, at 10:00 am on Thursday, January 7, 2027 allowing all parties to be heard.

7. A report thereof shall be sent without delay to the Commission Chief Executive, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, No. 7, Sylvester Ugoh Crescent, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Jabi District, Abuja.

Dated this: 26th Day of November 2027.

For: **Honourable Minister**
Ministry of Petroleum Resources

Stakeholders warn uncertainty could erode voters' confidence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

is obligated to comply with the ruling."

Olurode maintained that INEC could neither substitute its judgment for that of the judiciary nor disregard a court pronouncement on the rightful candidate, stressing that the commission must operate within the law.

He said the judiciary remained the final arbiter in disputes over candidate authenticity, including determining whose name should appear on the ballot. He added that INEC could not assume the responsibility of resolving disagreements between political parties and their members.

The former commissioner, however, acknowledged that recurring nomination disputes and judicial interventions could complicate election preparations and potentially affect the commission's ability to deliver credible polls.

He insisted that, despite the difficulties such disputes might create for the electoral timetable, INEC must respect the country's laws and the principle of separation of powers, under which the legislature makes laws, the executive implements them and the judiciary adjudicates disputes.

Uwazurike questions credibility of court orders

UWAZURIKE, however, questioned the circumstances surrounding the recurring controversies, particularly the possibility of candidates being substituted or their identities altered less than 56 days to the elections.

He expressed concern that voters and political actors could be left uncertain about the candidates eventually appearing on the ballot, arguing that the opacity surrounding nomination disputes and the unpredictability of judicial pronouncements had further complicated the electoral process.

He also criticised INEC's leadership, alleging that the commission was operating in a manner that raised questions about its credibility and public confidence.

According to him, rather than allowing controversies over candidacies to dominate the process, INEC should concentrate on preparations for the elections and demonstrate consistency in its conduct.

Uwazurike warned that uncertainty surrounding candidate disputes, alongside political violence, inconsistent party activities and disruptions to rallies, could deepen public distrust and further weaken democratic participation.

He expressed fears that Nigerians would ultimately bear the consequences of the political instability, accusing political actors of placing electoral victory above democratic principles, accountability and the country's broader interests.

The opposing views underscore the tension between INEC's legal obligation to comply with party nominations and court decisions and public expectations that the commission should provide certainty, transparency and confidence in the electoral process.

While Olurode insists that the commission cannot act outside the law or assume powers reserved for political parties and the judiciary, Uwazurike's criticism raises questions about whether legal compliance alone is sufficient to reassure voters amid controversies capable of disrupting election preparations.

Party failures, late substitutions threaten electoral credibility

A FORMER spokesman of the Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), Ken Robbison, said political parties bore much of the blame for the disputes that often lead to court-ordered changes on INEC's candidate lists. According to him, many of the cases arose from irregular primaries, denial of aspirants' participation, and breaches of party guidelines.

Robbison argued that INEC should not be blamed for replacing candidates' names following court judgments. He said the commission was merely implementing judicial decisions triggered by parties' failure to conduct credible and transparent primaries.

He, however, expressed concern that courts were still issuing judgments that displace candidates weeks before elections. Such late rulings, he said, force INEC to alter its lists and create uncertainty for parties, candidates and voters.

Robbison warned that more candidates could be affected as pending cases are decided, with some parties possibly entering elections without candidates in certain constituencies. He described the situation as evidence of politicians seeking shortcuts rather than following laid-down procedures.

He urged parties to learn from the experience and comply strictly with the Electoral Act and their internal rules in future elections. According to him, politics should not be reduced to the pursuit of public office, but should produce legitimate leaders capable of serving their constituents.

Timing of substitutions and party compliance

LAWYER Ige Asemudara, however, faulted INEC for substituting candidates' names on its list months before a general election. He said the practice undermines electoral fairness and denies voters adequate time to assess those seeking their votes.

Asemudara acknowledged that substitutions arising from court decisions may be legally permissible. But he argued that repeated changes, especially close to election day, create confusion and weaken public confidence in the process.

He said voters need sufficient time to interact with candidates, scrutinise their credentials and make informed choices. Late substitutions, he added, destabilise political parties and deny newly listed candidates a level playing field.

Asemudara also criticised situations where a candidate is replaced following one court order, only for a higher court or another proceeding to trigger another substitution. He described such back-and-forth changes as untidy and damaging to electoral administration.

While electoral disputes should be allowed to run their full course through the courts, including the Supreme Court, he said INEC should ensure that consequential changes to its lists do not disrupt fairness, stability and meaningful voter participation.

Former INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner in Lagos, Dr Adekunle Ogunmola, and Chairman of the Northern Christian Association, Rev. Joseph Hayab, both faulted political parties for blaming the commission over candidate substitutions arising from court orders.

They said the disputes largely result from parties' failure to comply with their constitutions and electoral laws.

Ogunmola said it was unacceptable for parties to shift responsibility for candidate substitutions to INEC. According to him, parties should take responsibility for breaches of the rules governing their primaries and nomination processes.

He also dismissed claims that the ruling government was using INEC or the judiciary to intimidate opposition parties. He said such allegations were misplaced when party stakeholders failed to comply with internal regulations and electoral laws.

"Political parties cannot disregard laid-down procedures for selecting candidates and turn around to accuse the electoral commission of bias when disputes arising from such violations are resolved through the courts," he said.

Hayab similarly urged parties to abide by their constitutions and established procedures. He said Nigerians should not be misled into believing that INEC acted arbitrarily when it substituted candidates in compliance with judicial directives.

He explained that where courts ruled that a candidate was unlawfully nominated or did not emerge through a legitimate process, INEC was obliged to give effect to the decision in line with the law.

Hayab cautioned against accusing INEC of political vendetta or bias merely because candidates were removed. He said such claims must be supported by credible evidence, not sentiments or dissatisfaction with court outcomes.

He added that aspirants who believed they were unfairly denied tickets, or that rival candidates emerged irregularly, could seek redress in court. Those whose nominations were challenged, he said, should also be prepared to defend the processes through which they secured their tickets.

Lawmakers urge Tinubu to consider emergency powers over attacks in Delta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

its Committees on Police Affairs, National Security and Intelligence, Electoral Matters, and Political Parties Matters to engage the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies.

The committees are to submit their findings and recommendations within two weeks.

The lawmakers also asked the Inspector-General of Police to invite all governorship candidates in Delta State to a meeting to remind them of constitutional provisions and Electoral Act requirements governing campaigns.

The intervention followed the police confirmation on November 24 that six people died in the Uduere attack, prompting the Inspector-General to order a thorough investigation, including a review of the conduct of officers deployed to the scene.

Following the killings, the Delta State Government imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew across Ughelli North Local Government Area, while Governor Sheriff Oborevwori directed security agencies to arrest those responsible.

NDC alleges coordinated attacks on opposition

THE NDC has accused the Federal Government of allegedly sponsoring a campaign of violence, intimidation and political persecution against its candidates and supporters ahead of the 2027 elections.

National Chairman of the party, Senator Moses Cleopas, made the allegation yesterday during a world press conference at the party's national headquarters in Abuja, where he presented a catalogue of alleged attacks across several states and called for international intervention.

He argued that the incidents were not isolated but part of an alleged coordinated attempt to weaken the opposition, frustrate its mobilisation and force it out of the electoral contest.

"Our candidates are not the only candidates vying for elective positions in this country. Specifically, Mr Peter Gregory Obi is not the only presidential candidate in the forthcoming general elections. So the question is, why is NDC and its candidate the ones that are always attacked and assaulted?" he asked.

The chairman alleged that the ruling establishment was apprehensive about the party's political strength and had resorted to intimidation to frustrate its campaigns.

He cited incidents in Enugu, Delta, Lagos, Kano, Cross River, Anambra and Imo states, involving alleged attacks on party members, candidates, political convoys and campaign facilities.

In Enugu, he recalled an incident on September 12, 2026, when armed men allegedly disrupted a grassroots meeting at Ogofia, Akunana, in Nkana West Local Government Area, leaving eight party members with gunshot injuries.

He also alleged that thugs attacked the campaign office of the party's governorship candidate, Christian Chinyata Oha, in Enugu GRA on October 10, killing a party member identified as Kunwarie Christopher.

In Delta, Cleopas listed several incidents involving the party's governorship candidate and supporters, including attacks on political mobilisation activities in Effurun, Warri and Asaba.

He described the November 23 attack on Omo-Agege's campaign gathering in Uduere, Ughelli North, as particularly disturbing because of the reported loss of lives.

The chairman claimed that four NDC members were killed, while the police gave a preliminary death toll of six.

In Lagos, he alleged that armed men disrupted an NDC town hall meeting in Oregun, Ikeja, on November 12, assaulting a journalist and seizing his equipment.

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

NEW HOME DISTRIBUTION (AFRICA) LIMITED

RC-1421248

21, Akinyemi Crescent,
Off Fatai Atere Way, Matori,
Mushin, Lagos, Nigeria.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020
CREDITORS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP OF
NEW HOME DISTRIBUTION (AFRICA) LIMITED
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 635 - 641
RC 1421248

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR

I, Mr. Olayinka Kolawole, a chartered accountant, of YMCA Building, 77 Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos hereby give notice that I have been appointed as the Liquidator of NEW HOME DISTRIBUTION (AFRICA) LIMITED by virtue of a special resolution of the Company passed at the Meeting of the Company's Creditors held at 21 Akinyemi Crescent, Off Fatai Atere Way, Matori, Mushin, Lagos on 16 September 2026

Dated this 18th day of September 2026.

Olayinka Kolawole

Mr. Olayinka Kolawole
Liquidator

Nigeria's Slum2School Academy wins World's Best School Prize

By Iyabo Lawal

SLUM2SCHOOL Green Academy, a charity-run kindergarten and primary school in Epe, Lagos State, Nigeria, has emerged as the winner of this year's World's Best School Prize for Environmental Action.

The school is advancing learning for 250 underserved children from eight riverine communities through a first-of-its-kind, climate-smart school with an experiential, inquiry-based learning model that helps students gain up to three years of learning in one school year. It is the first Nigerian school ever to win a World's Best School Prize.

The five World's Best School Prizes, founded by T4 Education in 2022, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, to share the best practices of schools that are changing lives in their classrooms and far beyond their walls, are the world's most prestigious education prizes.

At the same time, Swiss Cottage School, Development and Research Centre in London, won the World's Best School Prize for Community Collaboration; G-School in Seoul, South Korea, won the World's Best School Prize for Innovation, while TNS Beaconhouse in Lahore, Pakistan, won the World's Best School Prize for Supporting Healthy Lives, and Escola Municipal GET IV Centenario in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, won the World's Best School Prize for Overcoming Adversity.

The winners were chosen by an expert Judging Academy based on rigorous criteria.

The winners and finalists of the World's Best School Prizes will be invited to the World Schools Summit in London on January 16 and 17, 2027, where they will share their best practices and unique expertise with policymakers and leading figures in global education.

Winning schools will also be invited to nominate a scholar for the Global Youth Council, helping to develop leaders of the future.

Founder of T4 Education and the World's Best School Prizes, Vikas Pota, while congratulating the academy, said the impact it has made on so many lives, classrooms, and communities cannot be overstated.

"I want to see that impact spread worldwide. Leaders should see all that your school has achieved and be inspired to act. To harness their education systems to meet the collective challenges we face with renewed confidence. And let your trailblazing work stand as an inspiration to students across the world, for they are the leaders of the future," Pota stated.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

ASUU demands payment of withheld salaries to avert fresh crisis

From Owede Agbajileke, Abuja

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has called on the Federal Government to pay, without further delay, the remaining three-and-a-half months of salaries withheld from its members during the 2022 nationwide strike.

Rising from its National Executive Council (NEC) meeting in Abuja, the union, in a statement by its National President, Prof. Chris Piwuna, said it has continually demanded payment of the withheld salaries since the twilight of the former President Muhammadu Buhari-led government.

The union had in 2022 embarked on a nationwide strike occasioned by the government's failure to address issues arising from the poor implementation and non-renegotiation of the 2009 FGN-ASUU agreement.

ASUU recalled that President Bola Tinubu's involvement in the matter predated his emergence as president and Visitor to all federal universities on May 29, 2023.

"As a candidate, Tinubu, like some other friends of the Buhari government, had intervened in the matter. He agreed with ASUU that the crisis could have been averted if steps had been taken early enough to address the union's grievances, and pledged his commitment to preventing a future occurrence if he emerged victorious in the presidential election.

"He alluded to the principle of clemency as a solution to the problem of withheld salaries in critical labour matters such as the case of ASUU and the Federal Government," the statement read in part.

ASUU members, the union said, heaved a sigh of relief when Tinubu won the presidential election, with the expectation of a full release of the seven-and-a-half months' salaries withheld under the late Buhari.

However, ASUU lamented that three-and-a-half years down the line, only four months' arrears have been paid.

The union said its engagements, both with the President's Chief of Staff, Femi Gbajabiamila, and Education Minister, Dr Tunji Alausa, yielded no positive response.

ASUU restated its position that the non-payment of the withheld salaries is an ill wind that blows no one any good.

It described the non-payment as an undeserved punishment for academics, which could snowball into a bigger crisis for the Nigerian university system.

Under both Presidents Buhari and Tinubu, the union said its members' rightful entitlements, including salary shortfalls, third-party deductions, promotion arrears, and others, were delayed for months and years, with no compensation paid for the depreciated value and sundry losses.

The union wondered why the government should criminalise strike action through slavish enforcement of the so-called no-work, no-pay rule.

"ASUU members made enormous sacrifices to cover the lost ground for the strike period to enable affected students graduate and move on with their lives. At great risk to their health, career progression, and families, members forfeited their annual and research leave and doubled their efforts to regularise the academic calendar and stabilise the public university system. If the Tinubu government would not commend Nigerian academics for moderating their demands to guarantee industrial harmony in the universities, it should at least release what they are owed," Piwuna stated.

While demanding the immediate payment of outstanding salaries of members in the spirit of fairness, equity, and respect for the worth of Nigerian academics, Piwuna specifically appealed to President Tinubu to resist the temptation to punish ASUU members for honouring him by suspending the 2022 nationwide strike.



Facilitators with some of the students at the Career Counselling programme for senior secondary school students held at Immaculate Comprehensive High School, Maryland, Lagos.

Olukoya Foundation urges students on authenticity, career choices

By Iyabo Lawal

THE Daniel and Fola Olukoya Biotechnology Foundation has warned secondary school students against choosing careers based on popular trends, social media influence, and peer pressure, urging them instead to base their decisions on self-knowledge, interests, and long-term aspirations.

The warning was given at a career counselling and entrepreneurship programmeorganised for senior secondary school students at Immaculate Comprehensive High School, Maryland, Lagos.

About 200 students drawn from schools in Education District II, comprising Somolu, Kosofe and Ikorodu, attended the programme, which combined career guidance with practical entrepreneurship tips designed to help them make informed choices before proceeding to higher institutions.

Addressing the students, the Managing Director of the Foundation, Dr Adebisi Otunba, said many young people were making poor career decisions because they were following the crowd and allowing distractions, particularly social media, to shape what they wanted to become in life.

Otunba said the present generation was failing to plan for the future, with many students drifting into courses and professions not because they had thought them through, but because those careers appeared fashionable at a particular moment.

"Today's generation fails because of so many distractions. People hardly plan for the future. Some follow the crowd and current trends. Don't focus on what is trending; look inwards. Your life should not be just about social media. Focus on what you want to become in life," he added.

Otunba advised the students to look inwards, plan deliberately for their future, and resist the temptation to let prevailing trends determine the direction of their lives.

He said a career chosen to impress others or to imitate influencers would rarely sustain a young person through the years of study, sacrifice and hard work that professional life demands.

He urged them to acquire not only knowledge, but also understanding and wisdom, explaining that education should go beyond learning existing facts to understanding how those facts apply in real life.

He added that students should also interrogate their preferred careers honestly and ask whether those choices genuinely reflect their own interests or are choices imposed on them by parents, teachers, peers or society.

Otunba described secondary education as a critical stage in determining the future of young people, warning that poor career decisions taken at that stage could lead to regrets later in life, including wasted years in the wrong course, frustration at work, and the painful decision to start all over again.

He said the programme was organised precisely to intervene at that stage and guide students in making informed career choices before they proceeded to higher institutions, where a wrong choice becomes more expensive to correct.

He also urged students interested in science-related careers to develop the mindset of becoming producers, problem solvers and solution providers rather than concentrating solely on obtaining academic certificates.

He said Nigeria did not need more certificate holders who could recite theories, but could not translate them into products, services and solutions.

He said the country needed more young people who could translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions and products that would address societal needs, from food production and health to energy, environment and technology.

He identified inadequate electricity supply and the absence of an enabling environment as major obstacles to scientific and technological development in the country, urging the government to address the challenges with urgency.

A stable power supply, he said, would encourage innovation, reduce production costs, and boost economic activity, particularly for young entrepreneurs trying to build businesses around science and technology.

In their separate career talks, representatives of the Nigerian Institute of Food Science and Technology in Lagos, Olivia Nnadi and Taiwo Udany, urged the students to embrace entrepreneurship and become producers of goods and services rather than waiting for employment after graduation.

Politics

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2027: How APC rally in Ibadan exposes S/West as a key battleground

President Bola Tinubu's rally in Ibadan has brought the battle for South-West dominance ahead of the 2027 elections into focus, amid economic hardship and emerging opposition challenges from Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde's APM and Adewole Adebayo's SDP. ***SEYE OLUMIDE*** *and* ***ROTIMI AGBOLUAJE*** *examine the contending forces and the region's electoral calculations.*



President Bola Tinubu, flanked by his vice, Kashim Shettima and Oyo APC guber candidate, Senator Sharafadeen Alli, at the Ibadan rally at the weekend.

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu's recent rally in Ibadan provided an opportunity for him to restate his administration's commitments to infrastructure, electricity and industrial development. Among the proposals announced were plans to revive the defunct Leyland automobile assembly plant through a partnership with Chinese manufacturer Yutong and introduce 300 compressed natural gas (CNG) buses.

Beyond the campaign promises, however, the rally demonstrated the All Progressives Congress's (APC) determination to consolidate its influence in a region central to Tinubu's political identity and re-election calculations. It also exposed the emerging challenge from opposition figures seeking to exploit economic discontent and political divisions ahead of 2027.

The South-West, comprising Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti, is far from a politically homogeneous bloc. The 2023 presidential election demonstrated that shared regional identity does not necessarily translate into common electoral choices.

The APC currently controls Lagos, Ogun, Ondo and Ekiti. Osun is governed by Ademola Adeleke of the Accord Party, who has endorsed Tinubu's second-term ambition, while Oyo is controlled by Makinde, who is pursuing a presidential ambition on the APM platform.

Makinde's entry into the presidential contest has introduced another dimension to the regional battle. His argument that the South-West should not be restricted to one presidential candidate, despite Tinubu's regional origin, challenges the assumption that the President's political influence automatically guarantees him the zone's support.

The governor has maintained that a substantial part of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) structure remains aligned with him following his movement to the APM. His ability to retain party organisers, elected officials and grassroots mobilisers could give the new platform a foothold beyond Oyo. But transferring an established political structure from one party to another is not automatic.

Former Chief of Staff to the late Governor Abiola Ajimobi, Prof. Gbade Ojo, said the PDP structure that produced Makinde had become fragmented, with some members remaining in the party, others moving to Accord and another section aligning with the governor.

Although Makinde could attract support from teachers, civil servants, pensioners, and traders, Ojo questioned whether he could consolidate support among these groups and extend his influence beyond Oyo.

A former Nigerian ambassador to the Philippines, Dr Yemi Farounbi, similarly argued that Makinde could mobilise a sizeable following into the APM but would struggle to transfer the entire PDP organisation to the new platform because political actors retain independent interests and loyalties.

He said Makinde's performance in Oyo, mobilisation capacity and ability to attract voters dissatisfied with the Federal Government would determine the APM's prospects. The party, however, must demonstrate organisational strength beyond the governor's immediate political network.

The SDP, with Adewole Adebayo as its presidential candidate, is another potential destination for voters dissatisfied with the APC and established opposition parties. Its campaign is expected to focus on the economy, unemployment, governance and accountability.

Its challenge, however, is translating its political message into a credible grassroots organisation across the six states. Ojo said the party had yet to build structures capable of mounting an effective challenge to the APC. Conflicting public claims over Adebayo's membership and nomination, following an assertion by its leadership that he was expelled in May 2026, have also raised questions about its organisational stability.

> These challenges bring into sharper perspective the political significance of the Ibadan rally. While the gathering demonstrated the APC's capacity to assemble its political machinery behind Tinubu, the size of a rally and the number of prominent figures in attendance do not necessarily translate into votes at polling units.

APC's structural advantage

Despite the emerging opposition calculations, the APC enters the contest with considerable organisational advantages. It controls four state governments and has elected representatives, party organisers, local government networks, federal appointments and established campaign structures across the region.

Tinubu's longstanding political relationships, particularly in Lagos and the wider South-West, further strengthened its mobilisation capacity.

Ekiti and Ondo are important to the party's calculations. Neither has a governorship election scheduled for 2027, allowing the APC to concentrate on the presidential and legislative contests without simultaneously defending a governorship ticket. Both states gave Tinubu substantial support in 2023.

In Ogun, Governor Dapo Abiodun and the party's organisation are expected to mobilise support for Tinubu and other APC candidates, including Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola, popularly known as Yayi, the party's governorship candidate.

Lagos, however, presents a more complicated picture. Although it remains Tinubu's strongest political base, the 2023 presidential election exposed the limits of the APC's electoral dominance when Labour Party candidate Peter Obi polled 582,454 votes against Tinubu's 572,606, a difference of just 9,848.

The result remains an important warning that urban discontent, youth participation and economic grievances could complicate the party's calculations. The APC must convince voters that its economic reforms and promised investments are beginning to improve living conditions.

Osun presents a different political arrangement. Adeleke has endorsed Tinubu for president while maintaining that he will support Accord candidates in legislative contests. His position reflects an attempt to separate presidential preferences from state-level political interests.

The endorsement could broaden Tinubu's appeal beyond the APC, but whether Adeleke can persuade his supporters to vote accordingly remains uncertain. His immediate political priority is also consolidating his own party's position in Osun.

Traditional rulers and electoral influence

The endorsement of Tinubu by the South-West Council of Obas and Traditional Rulers has provided another boost to the President's regional campaign.

At a meeting in Ibadan on November 11, the monarchs backed his second-term ambition, urged traditional rulers to sensitise their subjects to support the administration, endorsed the state police and opposed the return of the petrol subsidy.

The communiqué, read by the Alake of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Gbadebo, followed a gathering attended by the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Rashidi Ladoja; the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi; the Soun of Ogbomoso, Oba Ghandi Olaoye; the Deji of Akure, Oba Aladetoyinbo Aladelusi and other monarchs.

The endorsement offers Tinubu an avenue to engage communities through traditional institutions. Whether the monarchs can translate their political position into votes, however, is another matter.

Ojo cautioned against assuming that royal endorsements would determine electoral outcomes, arguing that traditional rulers no longer wield the influence they once exercised and that voters increasingly make decisions based on their personal circumstances.

Farounbi recalled that South-West monarchs endorsed and prayed for former President Goodluck Jonathan in 2015, but their intervention did not secure his electoral victory in the region.

He said only a few monarchs wield considerable influence as opinion-moulders, while voters' political sophistication makes it difficult for traditional rulers and other prominent figures to dictate electoral choices. He also warned against interpreting the Olubadan's position as representing all Ibadan voters, stressing that the city's electorate was not politically homogeneous.

A human rights lawyer, Comrade Femi Aborisade, similarly argued that rural voters should not be regarded as people who unquestioningly follow traditional rulers' directives. Although influential intermediaries could shape opinions, he maintained that voters retain independent agency, particularly when presented with competing political programmes.

The 2023 presidential election offers a useful indication of the region's political diversity. Tinubu won Ogun, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti, while Atiku Abubakar carried Osun and Obi narrowly won Lagos.

Tinubu polled 201,494 votes in Ekiti, 369,924 in Ondo, 341,558 in Ogun and 449,884 in Oyo. Obi secured 582,454 votes against Tinubu's 572,606 in Lagos, while Atiku polled 354,366 in Osun against the APC candidate's 343,945.

These results suggest that the South-West cannot be treated as a guaranteed electoral bloc for any party. Local alliances, candidate appeal, turnout, mobilisation and national issues all contribute to determining outcomes. Among these factors, the economy could prove decisive in 2027.

Economic hardship and voter choices

The removal of petrol subsidy and exchange-rate adjustments, alongside rising food, transport, housing, electricity and education costs, have placed considerable pressure on households and businesses.

Although the Federal Government has defended its reforms as necessary to stabilise the economy, attract investment and improve public finances, voters are likely to assess the administration by the extent to which these policies have improved their daily lives.

For traders, artisans, transport operators, farmers, civil servants and unemployed graduates, the concerns are straightforward: whether earnings can meet rising expenses, whether food is becoming affordable, whether jobs are available, and whether electricity supply is improving.

The industrial and transport proposals announced at the Ibadan rally could strengthen the administration's argument for economic recovery. Their political value, however, will depend on implementation and whether ordinary Nigerians experience tangible benefits before the election.

Farounbi warned that the election could become a referendum on Tinubu's performance, arguing that the President's policies could become his strongest opposition if economic hardship persists.

He cautioned that the APC should not assume that its number of governors, senators and representatives automatically translates into popular support. Equally, opposition parties cannot expect public dissatisfaction alone to deliver victory without a coherent programme.

Associate Professor Adebukola Ayoola of the University of Ilesa also identified the cost of living as a major influence on voting decisions, noting that citizens were more concerned about the immediate consequences of government policies than promises of future recovery.

However, he questioned whether dissatisfaction alone could unseat an incumbent, given opposition fragmentation, existing voting patterns and the challenge of securing sufficient geographical spread.

A don at Babcock University and public affairs analyst, Femi Ajayi, identified economic conditions, education and voters' social circumstances as important determinants of the election.

Katsina bars monarchs from receiving foreign guests without clearance

From **Danjuma Michael**, Katsina

KATSINA State Government has barred traditional rulers across the state from receiving foreign guests till they obtain clearance from the stipulated government body, the Commissioner for Information and Culture, Bala Zango, disclosed yesterday.

Zango, in a statement, said all traditional rulers must henceforth obtain clearance from the Departments of Protocol and Cabinet/Security Matters, under the office of the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), before receiving foreign guests.

He said the directive was intended to ensure proper coordination, security, and adherence to official protocols during foreign nationals' visits to emirs' palaces.

He added that the instruction would also place the traditional rulers under a formal regulatory framework regarding international relations.

The development comes a few days after a female Czech tourist, Mirka Czee, accused the Emir of Daura, Umar Faruk Umar, of sexually harassing her while she was at his palace.

Minister visits Kwara as three inmates die 'mysteriously'

From **Mansur Aramide**, Ilorin

THREE of the five condemned inmates who could not escape during last Thursday's jailbreak at the Oke-Kura Custodial Centre in Ilorin, Kwara State, reportedly died yesterday.

While the facility management described their deaths as mysterious, anonymous sources in the centre alleged that they were summarily killed by some personnel therein. The sources said the deaths of inmates, especially condemned ones, are a yearly ritual.

Following the development, the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Ojo, visited the state to assess the circumstances surrounding the incident leading to their deaths.

According to the Controller-General of Nigeria Corrections Service (NCS), Sylvester Nwakuche, who represented the minister, while two of the original seven condemned inmates escaped, three of the five others who did not have died in mysterious circumstances.

He said he was in the state under the minister's directive to assess the situation on the ground.

The Guardian recalls that Nwakuche was in the state last Thursday to assess the situation surrounding the attempted escape of the inmates during which two escaped, leaving five unlucky others behind.

Tinubu orders fresh military offensive on insurgents

From **Terhemba Daka** (Abuja) and **Njadvara Musa** (Maiduguri)

• Promises rescue of abducted schoolchildren

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu yesterday directed the military and other security agencies to intensify operations against the fleeing insurgents in the North-East, assuring residents that his administration would consolidate the security gains recorded in the region and sustain the return of peace.

He gave the directive in Maiduguri, Borno State, where he addressed supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) at a political rally ahead of the January 2027 elections.

Tinubu, who commended the military for its sacrifices and successes in the fight against insurgency, urged terrorists still operating in the region to surrender their weapons and embrace peace, warning that security operations would be intensified against those unwilling to lay down their arms.

He also assured troops engaged in counter-insurgency operations that the federal government would continue to prioritise their welfare and that of their families.

The president expressed confidence that the relative peace achieved in Borno and other parts of the North-East would be sustained and translated into accelerated economic recovery, improved livelihoods and greater development.

Addressing the gathering, Tinubu commended Governor Babagana Zulum for his leadership and efforts towards rebuilding Borno State after years of insurgency, noting that stability remained a critical foundation for economic development.

Tinubu further observed that the North-East had witnessed significant economic improvements over the last three years, citing investments in education, healthcare and infrastructure as evidence of the region's gradual recovery.

He attributed the progress to the cooperation among state governments, community leaders, residents, the federal government and security agencies.

The president also assured that the government would intensify intelligence gathering and operational efforts to secure the release of schoolchildren abducted from Askira Uba, Borno State.

According to him, "the abducted children of Askira Uba School are there, and with our prayers and intelligence, our armed forces will rescue them," he said.

Therefore, he urged residents to continue supporting security agencies with credible information, stressing that sustained collaboration remained essential to defeating insurgency and restoring normalcy to affected communities.

The president also expressed appreciation to the people of Borno for their continued support, assuring them that their loyalty and confidence in his administration would not be taken for granted.

Read the remainder of this story on www.guardian.ng



Former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai (middle), flanked by family and friends after appearing to open his defence at the Federal High Court in Abuja yesterday. PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

Benue government links APC crisis to disputed state funds

From **Adamu Abuh** (Abuja) and **Felix Uroko** (Makurdi)

'Tinubu might lose Benue over Alia-Akume feud'

BENUE State Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Solomon Iorpev, has attributed the lingering crisis within the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state to disagreements over the alleged sharing of public funds among political stakeholders.

In another development, Benue State APC governorship aspirant, Terwase Orbunde, has warned that President Bola Tinubu risks losing significant electoral support in the state at the election if the lingering feud between Alia and Akume is not resolved.

Orbunde described the party's reconciliation efforts in the state as dead on arrival, accusing Alia of frustrating genuine moves to unite the APC and disregarding judicial pronouncements on the party's leadership structure.

Iorpev, who spoke on *TVC News*' FCT Brief yesterday, insisted that Governor Hyacinth Alia remained committed to spending state resources on development. He stressed that Alia had stopped the alleged practice of distributing state funds among political interests, a development he suggested had contributed to friction within the party.

However, he dismissed suggestions that the APC had broken into separate factions in the state, stressing that the party remained one under Alia's leadership,

His comments come amid growing tensions between the governor's supporters and those loyal to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume, who were notably absent from some recent APC political activities in the state.

WHO, UNICEF hail Yusuf for prioritising healthcare investment

From **Murtala Adewale**, Kano

Governor warns against misuse of 484 ambulances

THE World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have commended Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf, for his administration's commitment to strengthening healthcare delivery through priority health projects across the state.

This came during the official launch of the One Ward, One Ambulance initiative, during which 484 specially designed tricycle ambulances were distributed to all political wards across the 44 local councils.

WHO representative, Dr Sunusi Mayana, commended the state government's commitment to strengthening healthcare services, noting that development partners remain committed to supporting government policies and mobilising resources to improve healthcare delivery.

Similarly, the UNICEF representative, Dr Muhammadu Damish, acknowledged the government's investment in healthcare, describing improvements in healthcare personnel and service capacity as important steps towards expanding access to quality medical services.

They also recognised the importance of the ambulance initiative in improving emergency medical transportation, particularly for pregnant women, children, accident victims and other vulnerable members of society.

Meanwhile, Governor Yusuf said the initiative was designed to bridge the gap between rural communities and healthcare facilities, stressing that timely patient transport remains a critical component of an effective healthcare system.

He explained that the tricycle ambulances were specially designed to navigate difficult rural terrains and ensure that emergency medical services reach communities where conventional ambulances may face challenges.

He also highlighted his administration's achievements in the health sector, including the revitalisation of 320 primary healthcare facilities across the 44 local council areas, and an increase in the availability of essential medicines in public hospitals from approximately 30 per cent to 97 per cent.

el-Rufai denies tapping Ribadu's phone, says remark political rhetoric

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

DETAINED former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai, yesterday denied intercepting the telephone communications of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, or directing anyone to do so.

He made the denial while opening his defence before Justice Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court, Abuja, during his trial over an alleged unlawful interception of Ribadu's communications.

Led in evidence by his counsel, Paul Erokoro, SAN, the former governor said he neither owned telephone interception equipment nor possessed the technical knowledge to operate it.

el-Rufai also denied having access to Ribadu's communication networks or devices, telling the court that his remarks during a February interview on *Arise Television*, which sparked the allegation, were political rhetoric and not an admission of phone tapping.

"I used 'we' to refer to opposition politicians. When I said 'tapped', it was an embellishment intended to make the government feel the pain we are feeling," he said.

"It was rhetorical and exaggerated. My objective was to engage in political retort and linguistic flourish."

Saraki warns Kwara governor against coercing monarchs

From **Mansur Aramide**, Ilorin

FORMER Senate President, Dr Abubakar Saraki, has warned the Governor of Kwara State, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, to stop what he described as undemocratic the threats and summons to traditional rulers for receiving Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leaders on a courtesy visit during campaign tours.

He also urged the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) to call the governor to order, saying his tendencies do not properly represent a progressive party on whose platform he was elected.

Saraki disclosed in a statement that Abdulrazaq has been summoning traditional rulers in the district to Ilorin or threatening to suspend those who receive the PDP delegation since he commenced stakeholder engagement in Kwara North Senatorial District last week.

Saraki said, "This is unacceptable because we are in a democracy, and traditional rulers, as fathers of all, are not politicians.

"We visit traditional rulers out of courtesy because tradition and customs dictate that we cannot be in their domain and gather leaders of thought, stakeholders, and heads of various associations for discussion without first intimating them of our presence and purpose of visit," he argued.

Young professionals tour NLNG facility for capacity building

By **Victoria Nwachukwu**

THIRTY-FIVE young professionals from Nigeria's oil and gas industry have visited the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited (NLNG) facility on Bonny Island, Rivers State, for first-hand exposure to gas processing, liquefaction, storage and export operations.

The visit was organised under the Decade of Gas Capability Building Programme and included tours of NLNG's Trains 1 to 6 and the ongoing Train 7 expansion project.

Led by the Coordinating Director of the Decade of Gas Secretariat, Ed Ubong, the delegation was received by the NLNG Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Adeleye Falade, and his leadership team.

Ubong said the programme was designed to expose young professionals to practical experience beyond classroom training, adding that bringing them to NLNG was intentional to enable them to ask relevant questions and to apply the knowledge gained in their respective organisations.

According to him, the capability-building programme was investing in engineers, geoscientists, commercial analysts and policymakers expected to drive gas-based industrialisation, power generation, liquefied petroleum gas penetration, compressed natural gas adoption and gas-to-chemicals projects.

ICAN charges accountants to leverage digital transformation, inducts 2,374 new members

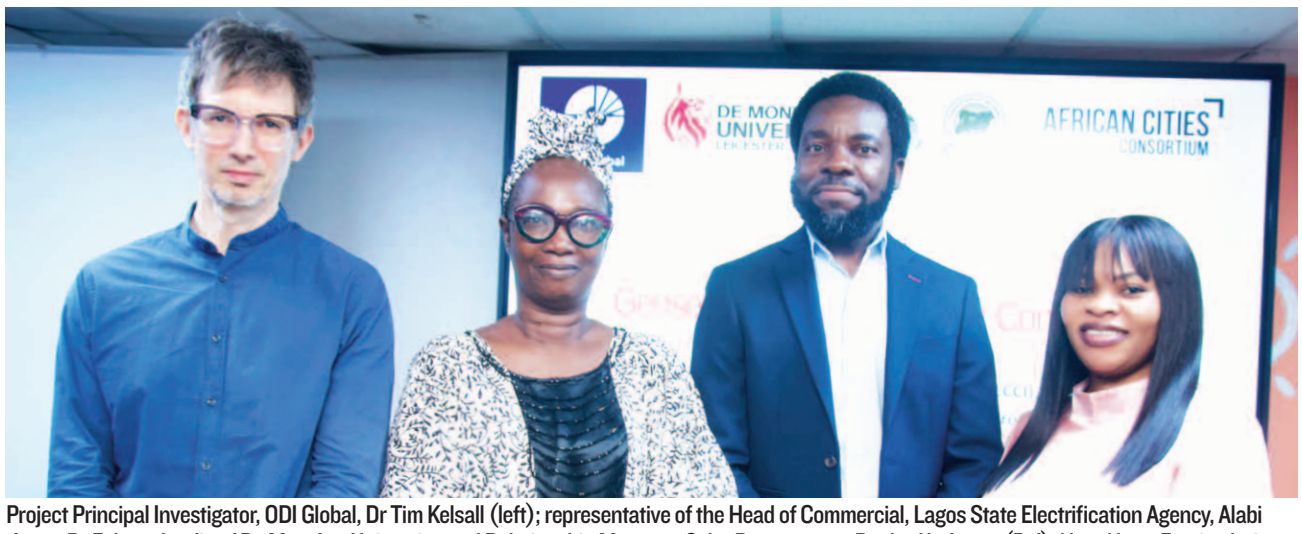
By **Victor Gbonegun**

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) yesterday challenged professional accountants to leverage emerging technology, especially the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), to enhance competence and relevance in society.

ICAN President, Queenly Seghosime, led the call at the institute's 78th induction ceremony for 2,374 new members in Lagos. She emphasised that chartered accountants needed to embrace data analytics and automation while maintaining the highest standards of professional conduct.

She further noted that technological advancement must not weaken accountants' responsibility for the accuracy and integrity of their work, but that digital tools should be deployed to improve efficiency to keep them relevant in a rapidly changing profession.

Accountants, she stated, must take responsibility for verifying technology-generated outputs and conclusions. Therefore, she charged the inductees to exercise professional judgment, objectivity and courage, particularly when confronted with irregularities or figures they cannot substantiate.



Project Principal Investigator, ODI Global, Dr Tim Kelsall (left); representative of the Head of Commercial, Lagos State Electrification Agency, Alabi Janet; Dr Eghosa Igudia of De Montfort University; and Relationship Manager, Solar Programmes, Bank of Industry (BoI), Nora Nosa-Eregie, during the stakeholder workshop on Transition from Genset to Solar Energy, organised by ODI Global and DMU-led Research, in collaboration with the African Cities Research Consortium in Lagos yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

Obidient Movement alleges police complicity, demands probe into Delta killings

From **John Akubo** (Abuja) and **Monday Osayande** (Asaba)

Reps suggest emergency rule to tame violent trend

THE *Obidient* Movement has questioned the role of the police in the deadly attack on former Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, and members of his Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) campaign team in Delta State, alleging that security operatives failed to protect the victims despite their presence at the scene.

This was as the NDC governorship candidate in Delta, Chris Iyorwaye, accused the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) of unleashing violence against opposition supporters in the state, citing the four NDC members killed and 15 others seriously injured in the latest attack.

Consequently, the House of Representatives urged President Bola Tinubu to closely monitor the security situation in Delta State and declare a state of emergency if necessary.

Also, the family of the slain former Delta State lawmaker, Moses Anaughe, has called on the police and other security agencies to immediately arrest those responsible for his killing during a political campaign at Uduere in Ughelli North Local Council Area of the state.

THE *Obidient* Movement is particularly demanding the arrest and probe of the perpetrators behind the November 23 attack in Uduere.

The attack reportedly left four persons dead, including outspoken activist Efemena Umukoro, and one of Omo-Agege's aides, Moses Anuaghe.

In a statement dated November 24 by its Director of Media and Communications, Onyeka Dike, the Movement expressed outrage at the alleged failure of security operatives to prevent the killings, despite the presence of six truckloads of policemen at the campaign venue.

MEANWHILE, Iyorwaye raised the alarm yesterday during a briefing at the NDC national headquarters in Abuja, where he presented what he said was a disturbing pattern of political violence aimed at silencing the opposition in Delta.

He alleged that the attacks had become a recurring feature of the NDC's political activities, with gunmen repeatedly targeting its members whenever they gathered for consultations or political mobilisation.

The governorship candidate said the latest attack occurred on Monday during a ward-level consultation meeting at Nure, which the party had organised after obtaining police approval.

NHRC launches 16-day activism, demands justice over 2,141 child sexual abuses

From **Lawrence Njoku** (Enugu), **Ameh Ochojila** and **Tina Abeku** (Abuja)

THE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called for stronger accountability and survivor protection in the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), as its October dashboard revealed 2,141 child sexual abuse complaints and 2,093 cases of forced child marriage in one month.

Emphasised yesterday at the launch of the 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence in Abuja, the figures expose the scale of violations against children and women and the urgent need to translate human rights commitments into effective protection and justice.

The NHRC said it also recorded 1,873 domestic violence complaints, 376 cases of forced marriage involving women, 339 cases of trafficking of women and 632 complaints of women being denied access to their children in October.

Executive Secretary of the NHRC, Tony Ojukwu, SAN, said the campaign, themed "Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Ensure Justice, Protect Survivors, End Impunity," must go beyond public declarations to ensure justice for victims and end impunity for perpetrators.

Ojukwu said violence against women and girls violates their rights to dignity, equality and fundamental freedoms, adding that the figures reinforced the need for stronger prevention, protection and access to justice.

He disclosed that the commission had recorded over 2.5 million human rights complaints across its 36 state offices and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) between January and October 2026.

MEANWHILE, a human rights and justice gender organisation, Women Aid Collective (WACOL), has lamented the increasing rate of GBV and human-related violations in the South-East region, saying it recorded 1,026 cases between November 2025 and October 2026.

Pete Edochie: Tinubu, govs mourn, say Nigeria lost great thespian

From **Terhemba Daka, John Akubo** (Abuja), **Lawrence Njoku** (Enugu) and **Daniel Anazia** (Lagos)

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has mourned the passing of veteran Nollywood actor, Pete Edochie, describing him as one of Nigeria's greatest thespians whose remarkable contributions to the film industry and African cultural heritage would remain indelible.

The ace broadcaster, who came to limelight with his role as Okonkwo in the 1980s adaptation of Chinua Achebe's bestseller, *Things Fall Apart,* died in Enugu early yesterday at the age of 79 years.

Also, the presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC) for the 2027 general election, Peter Obi, described Edochie's passing as a monumental loss to Anambra State, *Ndigbo*, Nigeria and Africa.

Still in the mourning mood, Governor Chukwuma Soludo of Anambra said Edochie's demise created a deep vacuum in Igboland and in Nollywood.

The president, in a condolence message, described the late actor as a graceful and larger-than-life personality whose remarkable performances entertained generations of Nigerians and earned him recognition across Africa and beyond.

"Pete Edochie was not only an actor; he was also an administrator, broadcaster and journalist, truly one of our finest," Tinubu said, and prayed that God would grant the late actor eternal rest.

FOR his part, Obi said Edochie was more than an accomplished actor, describing him as a cultural ambassador whose remarkable talent, deep knowledge of African traditions and mastery of English and Igbo helped project Nigeria's cultural heritage to the world.

"Pete Edochie: What a Loss!', the former Anambra State governor stated in a condolence message. Expressing deep sadness over the veteran entertainer's passing, Obi recalled Edochie's extraordinary contributions to broadcasting, acting and cultural preservation.

He particularly celebrated Edochie's memorable portrayal of Okonkwo in the television adaptation of *Things Fall Apart*, which introduced African traditions, values and cultural identity to audiences across the world.

MEANWHILE, Governor Soludo described the late Edochie as a proud son of Anambra and a cultural giant whose work carried the Igbo voice, wisdom and dignity to audiences across Nigeria, Africa and the world.

ACDF launches 'Project Shield Nigeria' for citizens' emergency cover

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

IN a move to bolster citizens' safety and rapid crisis response across the country, the African Citizens Development Foundation (ACDF) has unveiled Project Shield Nigeria - a comprehensive emergency safety cover designed to protect Nigerians.

The initiative introduces a structured, accessible safety net aimed at providing immediate intervention, medical and security coordination, and critical relief during unforeseen emergencies.

Project Shield Nigeria is a 12-month emergency safety and response subscription for Nigerians, running from December 1, 2026 to November 30, 2027.

This comes as Nigerians have faced emergencies including attacks on the road, kidnapping attempts, armed robbery, danger to children at school, sudden health crises, and commuters being stranded at night, among others, during which there may be no one to call, nowhere to run, and no way to be heard.

As such, the ACDF project bridges the gap between the outset of an emergency and the arrival of professional help. By integrating rapid-response protocols with community-level support networks, the programme ensures that individuals and families are not left stranded when every second counts.

128 earn First Class as 1,204 graduate from Igbinedion University

From **Joseph Kanjo**, Benin

THE management of Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, has reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence, as 128 students earned First Class degrees out of the 1,204 graduates for the 2025/2026 academic session.

Disclosing this at a pre-convocation news briefing ahead of the institution's 24th convocation ceremony, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Lawrence Ezemonye, said the commitment goes beyond academic excellence to discipline and responsible citizenship.

He explained that the total number comprised 961 first-degree and 243 postgraduate graduands, while the undergraduate class comprised 128 First Class, 425 Second Class Upper and 196 Second Class Lower graduates.

Ezemonye noted that the institution recorded 15 distinctions in Community Medicine, five distinctions apiece in Internal Medicine and Surgery, as well as 100 per cent in professional examinations in Medical Laboratory Science in the last two years, 81 per cent in General Nursing, and 82 per cent in Midwifery.

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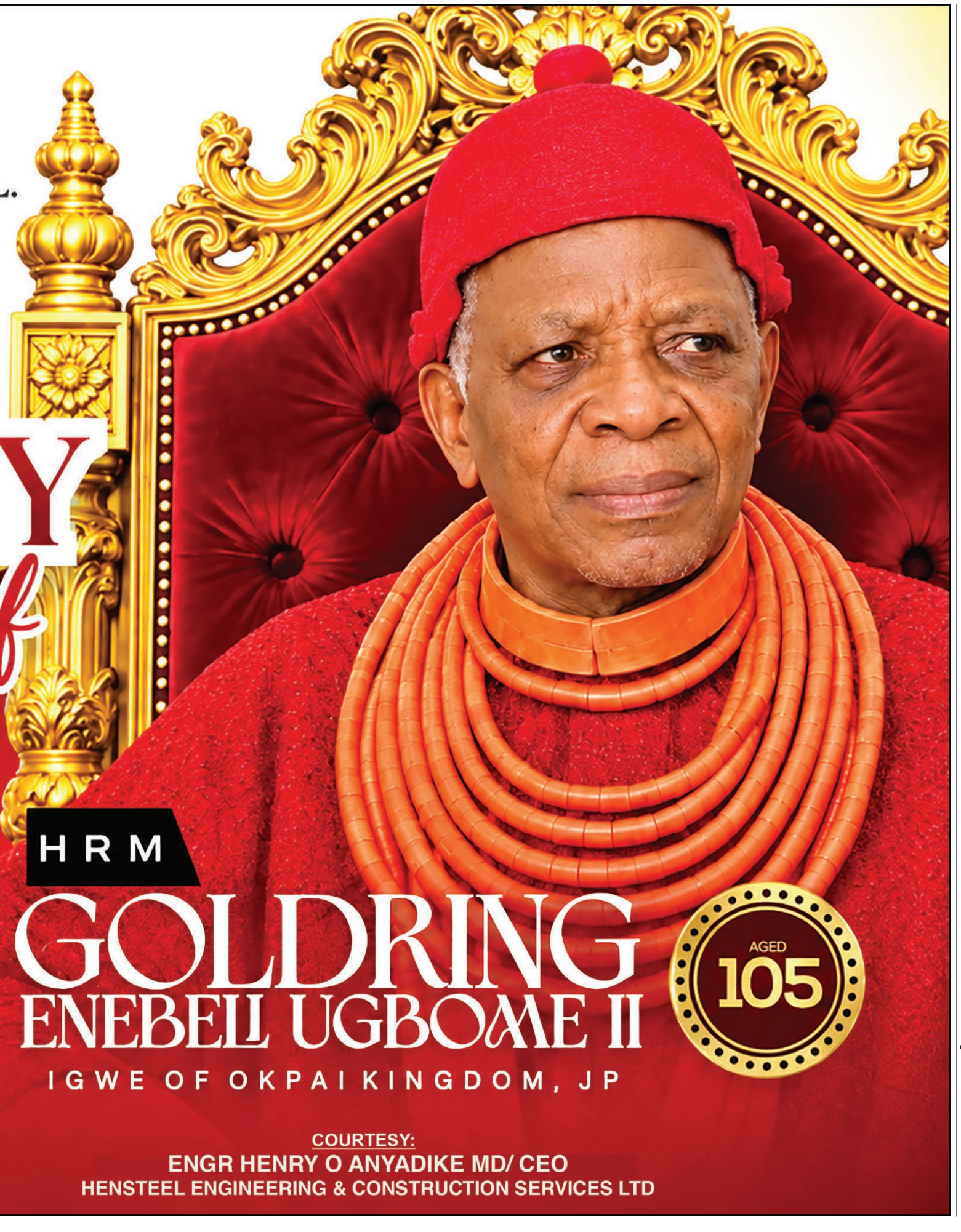

HRM

GOLDRING ENEBELL UGBOME II

IGWE OF OKPAI KINGDOM, JP

AGED 105

Date: Friday, 27th Nov 2026.

Time: 10:00am.

@ His Residence
The palace of Igwe of Okpai kingdom.
HRM, Igwe Ugboma II, JP
Ndokwa East LGA, Okpai, Delta state.

RSVP: Obi Nduka

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(Prof. Theo)

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A gentleman of exceptional grace, quiet dignity and unwavering integrity, his wisdom, warmth and kindness touched generations.

He is survived by his beloved wife Heidi, his siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and extended family.

A life of distinction. A legacy of love.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of the Lord.

The Ogunbiyi and da Silva Family

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Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

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Thursday, November 26, 2026

Group petitions FIFA over chairmanship of NFF Normalisation Committee

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

THE Advocacy For Nigerian Football Reform Initiative (AFNFRI) has asked the world football governing body, FIFA, to remove the chairman of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Normalisation Committee, Mr Sampson Ebomhe, on the grounds of 'conflict of interest and lack of neutrality.'

Last week, FIFA named a five-man committee for the NFF Normalisation Committee with Sampson Ebomhe, a lawyer, as the Chairman.

On Tuesday, FIFA included business development professional Atilola Shina Bashiru as an additional member of the committee, increasing its membership to six.

Bashiru's appointment was announced on Tuesday, five days after FIFA named the initial five members of the committee on November 18. He joins Ebomhe, Dr Joe Abah, Godwin Enakhena, Amina Yerima and former Super Eagles captain Daniel Amokachi.

His inclusion is expected to strengthen the committee's corporate sector representation, particularly in marketing, sponsorship management and digital strategy, as FIFA pursues reforms in Nigerian football administration.

Bashiru is currently an executive director at Premium Trust Bank. He is a business development professional and digital enthusiast with experience in developing and executing digital and transaction strategies.

The AFNFRI, led by Harrison Jalla, an ex-international, said in a petition to FIFA dated November 23, 2026 and made available to *The Guardian*, that the appointment of Mr Sampson Ebomhe as chairman of the committee is contrary to the "Fifth Schedule, Part I of the 1999 Nigeria Constitution as Amended and under Article 8(2) of the FIFA Statutes, Article 14 (1) (i) / Article 19 of the FIFA Statutes."



Sadio Mane and Achraf Hakimi are among the five top stars listed for the African Footballer of the Year award.

Lagos set to host 2026 CAF Awards ceremony

- Hakimi, Mane in as Morocco, Senegal dominate men's list

By **Gowon Akpodonor**

NINE years after Abuja hosted the 2017 edition of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Awards, Lagos is set to welcome some of the biggest names in African football for the 2026 event scheduled for December 2.

The ceremony marks the return of the prestigious continental football awards to Nigeria for the first time since 2017, and also ends Morocco's four consecutive years of hosting the awards between 2022 and 2025.

The journey towards hosting this year's ceremony has involved several months of preparations. In August, CAF officials visited Nigeria to inspect facilities and assess arrangements ahead of the event. During their visit, the delegation assessed proposed venues and engaged with relevant institutions and government agencies involved in organising the ceremony.

Haaland relishes Arsenal showdown

- Admits Man City 'have to perform better'

ERLING Haaland has admitted that Manchester City must drastically raise their game if they are to take anything from Sunday's high-stakes trip to the Emirates Stadium, reports *goal.com*.

The Norwegian superstar is eagerly anticipating another physical battle with Gabriel, though he acknowledges that a defeat would see City fall nine points behind the league leaders.

Manchester City's spearhead Haaland is ready to renew his fierce individual rivalry with Arsenal defender Gabriel this weekend, despite his side's recent struggles for consistency.

The striker has failed to find the back of the net in his last three outings, yet he remains excited about the prospect of testing himself against the division's most resolute backline.

City head into the clash at the Emirates Stadium having won just one of their previous seven games in all competitions, while a defeat would leave them nine points adrift of the Premier League leaders, Arsenal.

Solution

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NFF Presidency: Sadi leads 21 Kaduna legends' support for Akwuegbu

By **Ernest Nzor**, Abuja

SUPER Eagles former midfielder, Dahiru Sadi and 20 other Nigerian football legends based in Kaduna have picked former international, Ben Akwuegbu, as the candidate to steady the ship of the Nigeria Football Federation.

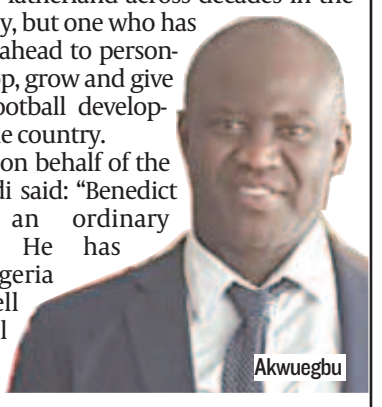
FIFA recently chose a normalisation committee to oversee the NFF and pave the way for a new leadership of the body following the mass resignation of the Ibrahim Gusau-led board of the federation.

The Nigerian game has been floundering since the country failed to qualify for the second consecutive FIFA senior men's World Cup.

But Sadi, Nasiru Sadi, Abubakar Balarabe, Abubakar Aliyu, Garba Mohammed, Akin Akinshinde, Gidi Mohammed, Rueben Jackson and Tajudeen Oyekanmi, who is the chairman of the Professional Football Association of Nigeria (PFAN), Kaduna Chapter, are convinced that 2002 World Cup star, Akwuegbu, is the right man to steady the ship.

They agree that the challenges that have bedevilled Nigerian football in the past 66 years are better understood, articulated and administered by one who has not only served the fatherland across decades in the field of play, but one who has also gone ahead to personally develop, grow and give back to football development in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Sadi said: "Benedict is not an ordinary Nigerian. He has served Nigeria very well and is still serving.



Akwuegbu

Fury vs Joshua fight to go ahead despite objections over 3.00 a.m. finish

COUNCILLORS have approved plans allowing December's highly anticipated Tyson Fury v Anthony Joshua fight in Cardiff to finish in the early hours, reports *BBC*.

Fans in hospitality boxes at the Principality Stadium will be allowed to drink alcohol until 03:00, with the venue closing at 03:30, to align with prime time viewing in the U.S.

Members of Cardiff Council's Licensing Sub Committee were told 130 police officers would help maintain order at the event on December 11, with twice the number of stewards present compared to a regular sports event.

A handful of residents had objected to the proposed late finish, raising concerns over noise, anti-social behaviour and public safety, but none came to the meeting.

Councillors were told the event was a "big deal for the city" and would boost the Welsh capital, in terms of "revenue" and "profile."

Huw Thomas, chief inspector with South Wales Police, said the challenge for officers was the length of the programme, compared with other events in the stadium, saying the fight was being viewed by the force as a "three-day event".

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