



2027: INEC partners Google, Microsoft to block cyber attacks

NEWS PAGE 3



Parents, CP differ on ransom payment as police confirm release of 20 NYSC members

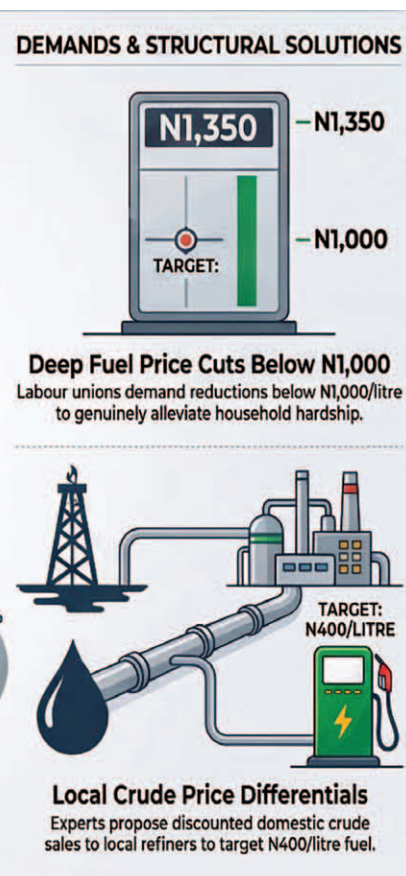
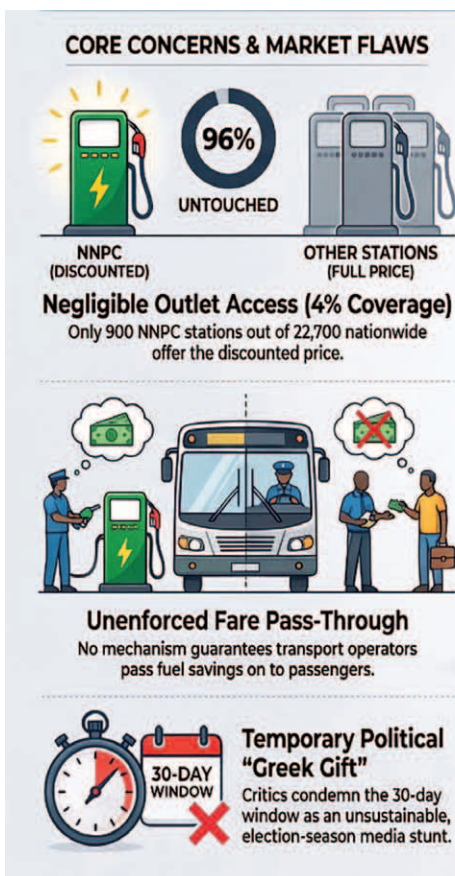
NEWS PAGE 3



FG, W'Bank agree economic reform outcome not yet at desired destination

NEWS PAGE 3

Labour, opposition flay FG's panic measure, 'inadequate' fuel discount **P6**



Doherty faults LASG over failure to translate revenue to services

NEWS PAGE 5

NGE denies partisanship, reaffirms commitment to journalism ethics

NEWS PAGE 4



NLC gives FG two-week ultimatum on wage talks, petrol price

NEWS PAGE 3



Govs, Fayemi, Afenifere, NBA, others laud late Akeredolu's state police vision

NEWS PAGE 5



EKITI 2027 BUDGET: Ekiti State Governor, Mr Biodun Oyeibanji, presenting the 2027 Budget Proposal to the State House of Assembly, Ado-Ekiti, yesterday.

FG urges steelworkers to suspend strike, return to negotiation

NEWS PAGE 29

Panorama

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria

GuardianNigeria

08136370421

Guardiannigeria

Lassa fever: Nigeria records 1,115 confirmed cases, 263 deaths in 2026

NIGERIA recorded 1,115 confirmed cases of Lassa fever and 263 deaths between January and September 2026, with the case fatality rate rising to 23.6 per cent, according to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC). The latest Lassa Fever Situation Report, covering Epidemiological Week 38 (14-20 September 2026), showed that 11 new confirmed cases were recorded during the week, down from 17 cases reported in Week 37. The new cases were reported in Ondo, Edo and Taraba

states. The NCDC said 24 states have recorded at least one confirmed case across 119 Local Government Areas since the beginning of the year. Five states — Bauchi, Ondo, Taraba, Benue and Edo — accounted for 87 per cent of all confirmed cases. The agency said the 21-30-year

age group remained the most affected demographic. It also reported that no new healthcare worker was infected during Week 38. The latest figures represent a slight increase from Week 37, when cumulative infections stood at 1,104 confirmed cases and 259 deaths, with a case fatality rate of 23.5 per cent.

The NCDC noted that the 2026 case fatality rate remained considerably higher than the 18.5 per cent recorded during the same period in 2025. Lassa fever is an acute viral haemorrhagic illness endemic in parts of West Africa. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are critical to improving survival.

Nigeria remains Tier 2 country in U.S. trafficking report for 15th year

By **Tope Templer Olaiya**
FOR the 15th year, Nigeria has been classified as a Tier 2 country in the 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. Department of State yesterday.

The report documents how criminal organisations and repressive regimes exploit trafficking for financial gain, and calls for government accountability in prosecuting traffickers and protecting citizens.

Countries ranked Tier 2 are those whose governments "do not fully comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's minimum standards but are making significant efforts to comply with those standards." The Trump administration said it will deploy all available tools to prosecute traffickers and their enablers.

"Human trafficking is a direct assault on the values of freedom and dignity that define America. The 2026 Trafficking in Persons Report reveals new ways criminal organisations and repressive regimes use this

abhorrent practice for financial gain. The report also calls for accountability for governments that fail to punish traffickers and protect their citizens. The Trump Adminis-

tration will use all available tools to fight traffickers and their enablers and bring them to justice," spokesman for the State Department, Tommy Pigott said.

Anthropic updates Claude usage policy to curb abuse, misuse

ANTHROPIC has overhauled its Claude AI usage policy for the first time in more than a year, introducing stricter rules on election interference, weapons development, surveillance, and certain health and financial applications. The update also explicitly bans "sustained and needless abusive or cruel behaviour" toward Claude, marking one of the most talked-about changes for users in Nigeria and around the world.

The revised policy prohibits extreme, repeated cruelty toward Claude with no clear purpose, while clarifying that ordinary frustration, pushback, dark creative writing, and model testing are not vio-

lations.

Anthropic says ending conversations remains the main enforcement tool, though it did not confirm whether repeated offenders could face account-level penalties such as bans.

The company frames the rule as a narrow safeguard for "model welfare," reflecting ongoing internal research into whether advanced AI systems might merit some form of ethical consideration.

Anthropic also consolidated scattered restrictions into a clearer ban on deceptive commercial or political campaigns, targeting AI-generated propaganda and inauthentic amplification.

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2016 - USA

Defiant Donald Trump squared off against Hillary Clinton in a bitter presidential debate, capping an extraordinary week that saw top Republicans call on Trump to end his presidential run following release of a 2005 videotape showing him boasting about sexually assaulting women.

• 2014 - Gambia

Pres. Yahya Jammeh signed to law a bill that calls for life imprisonment for homosexual acts.

• 2012 - Pakistan

A gunman attacked a bus taking children home from school, and in failed assassination attempt shot Malala Yousafzai, 14-year-old activist known for championing education of girls and publicizing atrocities of the Talibans.

• 2009 - USA

Pres. Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

• 2006 - USA

Google acquired YouTube, leading video-sharing website founded by Chad Hurley and Steve Chen, for \$1.65 billion.

• 1967 - Bolivia

A day after his capture, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, Argentine/Cuban revolutionary, was executed for attempting to incite a revolution in Bolivia. His stylized visage has become a symbol of rebellion and global insignia in popular culture.

TODAY'S QUOTE



There is no force, however formidable, that a united people cannot overcome.

Practice without thought is blind; thought without practice is empty.

KWAME NKRUMAH

There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women.

MALALA YOUSAFZAI

RANDOM FACTS

- LiFi is 100 times faster than WiFi and uses light instead of radio frequencies.
- If the earth didn't have the moon, our days would only be six to eight hours long and there would be between 1,100 to 1,400 days in a year.
- When you're happy, you enjoy the music. But when sad, you understand the lyrics.

... DAY 4548
OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya,
News Editor

@TopeTempler



TheGuardian WEEKEND

Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

OCTOBER 10 - 11, 2026

SPECIAL FEATURE

The Long Wait In Nigerian Cells



POLITICS

Rainbow Coalition, OK Movement And Imperatives Of Nigeria Political Action Committee



Chekwas Okorie: Ethnic And Religious Sentiments May Becloud 2027 Elections

NEWSFEATURE

As Nigeria Celebrates Teachers, Certification A Drive Raises Pressure From TRCN



SHOWBLAST



Seyi Vibe Brings 'SWAGUU' Energy To Lagos GTA

WEEKENDBEATS



Shodey: Music Is Not Something You Just Wake Up One Day To Start Singing

IBRUCENTRE

Heaven And Its Holy Inhabitants (2), By **Pastor W. F. Kumuyi**

The Danger Of Lukewarmness, By **Pastor Lazarus Muoka**

Beyond Inheritance, By **The Venerable Stephen Wolemonwu**

Healing Your Mind When Your Spouse Hurts You, By **Bishop Charles Ighele**

Maximising God's Grace (10), By **Reverend Abel Ukachi Amadi**



ARTS

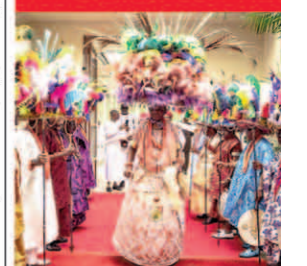
Exploring Nuances Of Colours In Aderinsoye's *Voice In Pigment*

Holloway, Phillips On Loots, Restitution And African Heritage

Interrogation Of Osundare's *Truth Is Trouble*

Broadcast Content Across Borders

Onitsha Agog For Ofala Festival



These and more in **The GuardianWeekend**. Grab your copy just for **N500**

2027: INEC partners Google, Microsoft to block cyber attacks

From John Akubo, Sodiq Omolayo and Andrew Oota, Abuja

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) data-auditing tools and advanced cyber-defence systems in partnership with global technology giants, Google and Microsoft, to protect Nigeria's electoral database from cyber-attack.

It also vowed to immediately dismiss and prosecute electoral officials found engaging in partisan activities, administrative carelessness or other ethical compromises during the

FG, W'Bank agree economic reform outcome not yet at desired destination

By Joseph Chibueze and Isaac Chibuike

NIGERIA'S economic recovery is gaining strength, but improved revenues and macro-economic indicators have yet to translate into stronger social outcomes for citizens, the Federal Government and World Bank have said.

Meanwhile, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has sarcastically "congratulated" the Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Policy Communication, Daniel Bwala, for acknowledging that the administration's economic reforms increased poverty and hardship among Nigerians.

Bwala had acknowledged that the administration's economic reforms increased poverty but insisted that the government had made significant progress since introducing the measures.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyeadele, stated yesterday at the launch of the latest World Bank Nigeria Development Update (NDU) in Abuja, that macroeconomic stability was only a foundation for sustainable growth, not the destination.

"The fact that the economy is growing does not mean that we have arrived. We must avoid complacency," Oyeadele said.

He pointed out that the government wanted economic growth that would create jobs, raise incomes and improve living standards, rather than simply produce higher headline figures.

"We want growth, but not growth for the sake of it. We want growth that creates jobs," he said.

The World Bank report, entitled 'Beyond the Federal Purse: How Higher Revenues Reshaped State Priorities', showed that Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4.2 per cent in the first half of 2026, compared with 3.9 per cent in the corresponding period of 2025 and 3.5 per cent in 2024.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

- Don't surrender PVC for cash or salary, Obi warns electorate
- We'll collate, share results, ADC tells INEC

elections.

Similarly, the Peter Obi Media Office has raised the alarm over alleged attempts by politicians to turn Nigerians' economic hardship into a weapon for controlling their votes.

The office alleged that some members of the ruling party were offering money for Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs), while some state governors were allegedly demanding PVCs from citizens, including civil servants, before they received their salaries and allowances.

African Democratic Congress (ADC), on its part, has stated that it will document, collate and share polling unit results with the public during the 2027 general elections, while re-

specting INEC's statutory responsibility to declare official election outcomes and to announce winners.

The party was responding to the INEC chairman's warning against the sharing of private-collated results.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, while delivering the keynote at the 10th Annual Conference of the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GO-COP) in Lagos, yesterday, said the technological measures were part of efforts to ensure that public confidence in the 2027 elections was based on verifiable processes rather than assurances.

Speaking on the theme, '2027 Elections: Trust, Transparency

and Shared Responsibilities', Amupitan said the commission had embarked on major technological, structural and logistical reforms to strengthen the integrity of the elections.

Amupitan, who was represented by the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for Lagos State, Prof. Ayobami Salami, said the deployment of AI and advanced cyber-security infrastructure was aimed at protecting INEC's databases against cyber intrusions, Distributed Denial-of-Service (DDoS) attacks and unauthorised data injection.

On dismissing partisan staff, the INEC Chairman said every electoral official was required under Section 26 of the Electoral

Act 2026 to take a binding oath of loyalty and absolute neutrality.

He declared that officials who compromise the process would face immediate consequences. "As I told our field officers during our North-West assessment in Kaduna: To the voter in a local ward, INEC is not the Chairman in Abuja; INEC is you."

"Pursuant to Section 26 of the Electoral Act 2026, every official must take a binding oath of loyalty and absolute neutrality. Partisanship, administrative carelessness, or ethical compromises will be met with immediate dismissal and statutory prosecution."

THE Obi camp warned Nigerians not to surrender their voting power because of poverty, insisting that anyone who takes their PVC today could use it to determine their political fu-

ture tomorrow.

The warning was contained in a statement issued yesterday by the spokesman for the Peter Obi Media Office, Idris Zekeri Jnr., who urged Nigerians to reject cash and other inducements offered in exchange for their votes, PVCs, or participation in schemes that could compromise the electoral process.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

NLC gives FG two-week ultimatum on wage talks, petrol price

ASSBIFI urges govt to cushion workers' economic hardship

By Gloria Nwafor

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) has given the Federal Government a two-week ultimatum to commence negotiations for a new national minimum wage and take immediate steps to reduce the price of petrol, warning that failure to meet its demands could trigger fresh industrial action.

The ultimatum, which takes effect today, October 9, was issued at a joint meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) and Central Working Committee (CWC) of the NLC in Abuja.

Similarly, the Association of Senior Staff of Banks, Insurance and Financial Institutions (ASSBIFI) has urged the Federal Government to implement policies to alleviate workers' economic hardship, particularly the rising costs of food, transportation, healthcare, housing, education, and provide adequate security.

The labour centre demanded that the Federal Government begin the renegotiation of the national minimum wage before the end of October, arguing that the current wage had been rendered worthless by the continued depreciation of the naira and rising cost of living.

It also demanded that petrol prices be reduced to the level prevailing when the present national minimum wage was signed into law in 2024, saying the high cost of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) had triggered increases in transportation, food and other essential commodities.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



Bwala



Amupitan



Ajaero

Parents, CP differ on ransom payment as police confirm release of 20 NYSC members

From Rotimi Agboluaje (Ibadan) and Andrew Oota (Abuja)

RELATIVES of the 20 released National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members have voiced their grievances following the state operation, asserting that they were forced to pay multi-million naira ransom to the kidnappers prior to the release.

But Imo State Commissioner of Police (CP), Audu Bosso, denied knowledge of any ransom payment before the release of the 20 abducted corps members and one other who regained freedom from their abductors in the state.

This was as the Force Headquarters (FHQ) in Abuja confirmed the rescue of 20 prospective NYSC members abducted last week in Imo State.

Meanwhile, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has expressed relief over the release of prospective corps members of Oyo origin, while urging the Federal Government to intensify efforts to tackle kidnapping and banditry across the country.

The abducted corps members and another hostage were re-

Makinde urges FG to intensify anti-kidnapping efforts

portedly rescued by security agencies, including the military and the Department of State Services (DSS), on Wednesday. The corps members were abducted on October 1 after gunmen attacked two 18-seater buses travelling from Ibadan, Oyo State, along the Owerri-Onitsha expressway.

A mother of one of the freed victims said she paid N6 million ransom to secure her son's release. She said the kidnappers initially demanded N50 million for each victim before eventually accepting N6 million for her son.

"Three days ago, they called and said we should pay N15 million. We kept begging them that all we had was N5.5 million. They said no and insisted on N6 million. So, it's that N6 million we paid."

The woman said the abductors asked the parents of the victims to send representatives to meet them in Ibadan as part of arrangements for the ransom payment.

She narrated: "They called all the parents of all the victims. Twenty of them are in the bush.

They then asked us to send three people each to meet with them in Ibadan. My husband and my son's elder brother went."

"When they got to the meeting place, they asked them to send the money to an account and that when they got to Imo, they should change the money into dollars."

HOWEVER, Bosso, during an interview with Channels Television yesterday, said the kidnappers succumbed to pressure from security agencies who combed the forest during a rescue operation.

According to him, the released victims were receiving attention at the DSS office, Aleshinloye, in Ibadan South West Local Council of the state.

After the kidnapping, security agencies launched a coordinated search-and-rescue operation to locate the victims and their abductors.

The Imo State Police Command had earlier said its operatives located the kidnappers' camp through drone surveillance but were unable to immediately enter the loca-

tion because Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were planted on the roads.

The police were said to have deployed additional operational assets as efforts intensified to reach the victims.

The victims were, however, released from the Amakohia-Ubi forest in Owerri West Local Council on Wednesday.

Another relative of the victims also said they paid more than N3 million, while others paid up to N6 million.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

TheGuardian

For Advert Enquiry, Call:

0802 301 5115
0803 193 0899

ABUJA OFFICE
0802 319 5673

GUARDIAN COMMERCIAL/PRINT

0803 348 9497

GUARDIAN DIGITAL
0808 597 3490

GUARDIAN LIFE
0803 056 7059

Plane crash: Air Chief honours officers, vows thorough probe, support for families

From **Adewale Momoh, Akure**

CHIEF of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sunday Aneke, has described the officers who died in the Monday crash involving an ATR-42 aircraft in Igbokoda, headquarters of the Ilaje Local Council Area of Ondo State, as highly trained, professional, and intelligent officers. According to Aneke, the best

I knew everyone on board, Aneke says

that can be done is to honour the sacrifice the fallen officers made while on board the aircraft.

The Air Chief stated this yesterday when he visited the crash site as the recovery and evacuation efforts of the crashed and submerged aircraft with tail number NAF 931 entered day four.

The aircraft, which went down on Monday morning, is buried and submerged deep in the swamp, making it a herculean task for the

search team to operate optimally.

The crash, which has plunged the country into mourning, occurred when the aircraft, which was on a routine mission from Benin, the Edo State capital, to Lagos, fell into the Igbokoda creeks with 25 souls on board.

The Air Chief disclosed that he had directed his Superintendent of Safety and Evaluation to assemble a high-level delegation com-

prising military and civilian safety experts, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Accident and Emergency Management Board, retired senior officers, and experienced Air Force officers to get to the root of what happened.

While urging the public to avoid speculation while the investigation runs its course, Aneke said, "I basically knew everyone on that flight. I've flown on this aeroplane. My family has flown on this aeroplane. I know each of the crew personally.

"This is not the time to start speculating, and I plead with you, general public. We've lost people who are fighting for the nation. The best we can do for them is to be a little bit patient and let those who are the specialists get to the bottom of what has happened.

"If you know the aviation environment, you understand that the more activities you have, the more likelihood you have of incidents like this. We in the Air Force leave no stone unturned.

When it comes to safety, everything is ensured."

Aneke appreciated the Ondo State Government and residents, who were the first responders, saying, "Words cannot describe how we Nigerians come together when things go sour."

He also assured the families of the deceased personnel that the Nigerian Armed Forces would stand by them and ensure they are safe, describing the loss as one that no words could adequately console.

Moove trails Uber, ends Nigerian operations, leaves N35b vehicles

By **Benjamin Alade and Moyosore Salami**

MOOVE, a global mobility company founded in Lagos, has announced it will close its Nigerian operations, six years after it began operating in the country.

The exit comes barely a month after Uber announced its withdrawal from Nigeria after 12 years of operations.

Moove said it would conclude its operations in Nigeria and transfer vehicles worth approximately N35 billion to eligible customers who currently use them, with no further payment required from October 1, 2026.

Moove was founded in 2020 by Ladi Delano and Jide Odunsi after they identified the difficulty faced by gig workers who wanted to earn through mobility but lacked access to vehicle financing.

The company began operations in Lagos with 76 vehicles and introduced its rental and drive-to-own model.

Google unveils 'SynthID Detector' to combat deepfakes, AI spin

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

AS Nigeria's digital economy expands rapidly and political tension builds ahead of the upcoming election season, Google has launched a major tool to safeguard media integrity and defend public trust online.

Starting Thursday, Google is expanding its SynthID Detector into a globally accessible public web platform at synthid.com.

Available in English, the platform enables creators, journalists, researchers, and everyday citizens in Nigeria and around the world to instantly check whether an image, video, or audio file was generated or modified using artificial intelligence.

"Anyone with a Google, Apple, or OpenAI account can upload content to the platform and receive verification results within seconds, no technical expertise required," Google said in a statement.

According to Google, in Nigeria's fast-moving online media landscape, synthetic media, voice clones.



Widow of former Governor of Ondo State, Betty Akeredolu (left); Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun; Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa; his wife, Esther; former Governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, and son of the late former Governor and Chairman, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu Foundation, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (Jnr.), during the 70th posthumous birthday colloquium held in honour of Rotimi Akeredolu in Ibadan, yesterday

Nigeria to leverage agric infrastructure drive to end food dependency

From **Terhemba Daka, Abuja**

NIGERIA is stepping up efforts to transform agriculture into a major engine of economic growth, with the Federal Government focusing on infrastructure, mechanisation, improved seeds and climate-smart farming to unlock the country's vast agrifood potential.

The government also plans to draw extensively from Ethiopia's agricultural transformation experience, particularly the Oromia model, which Vice President Kashim Shettima described

* **Shettima: Food dependency threatens sovereignty, Nigeria, Ethiopia can feed Africa**

* **VP targets 20b trees, adopts Ethiopia's farm transformation model**

as a template for Africa's drive towards food self-sufficiency.

Shettima spoke yesterday while leading the Nigerian delegation on a tour of farms and agricultural facilities in Ethiopia's Oromia Regional State as part of the Ethiopia-Nigeria Leadership Exchange.

The Vice President said Nigeria's agricultural strategy would increasingly focus on eliminating supply-chain and logistics bottlenecks, reducing investment risks

and creating the infrastructure needed to support large-scale commercial farming and agro-processing.

He said the ultimate objective was not merely to increase food production but to achieve food sovereignty, warning that excessive dependence on imported food could undermine a nation's independence.

He identified Ethiopia's progress in wheat production as a major lesson for

Nigeria, noting that the country had moved from spending about \$1 billion yearly on wheat imports to achieving self-sufficiency and generating surpluses for export to neighbouring countries, including Djibouti and Kenya.

He also cited Ethiopia's progress in rice production, describing the country's growing self-sufficiency as evidence that sustained investment in modern agriculture could rapidly transform food systems.

NGE denies partisanship, reaffirms commitment to journalism ethics

NIGERIAN Guild of Editors (NGE) has denied partisanship following an editorial by *The Nation* newspaper's Editorial Board accusing journalists of failing journalism, insisting that the newspaper's comment fell short of professional standards by reaching conclusions without establishing the facts.

NGE, in a statement issued by Eze Anaba and Onuoha Ukeh, President and General Secretary respectively, in response to the editorial published on Thursday, October 8, 2026, said *The Nation's* editorial board omitted key facts concern-

ing the 22nd All Nigeria Editors Conference (ANEC) held in Enugu, particularly the efforts made by the Guild to secure the participation of major political parties and their representatives.

The newspaper's editorial, titled "Journalists failed journalism," had questioned the decision of the NGE to allow Mr Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), and Prof. Pat Utomi, a chief-tain of the party, to address editors at the conference.

The Nation's editorial reportedly portrayed their appearance as evidence of partisanship by the Guild, a position

the NGE strongly rejected.

According to the Guild, the conclusion was not supported by the facts surrounding the conference, which it said was designed as a "professional forum for editors and stakeholders to discuss critical national issues, including democracy, elections, journalism, artificial intelligence, disinformation and the future of Nigeria."

The NGE said the conference programme specifically provided for an "Executive Session" on the second day, involving governors, political party chairmen, heads of government agencies and other key actors in the politi-

cal and public space.

It argued that the participation of Obi and Utomi should therefore be understood within the broader framework of the conference rather than isolated and presented as evidence that the Guild supported the NDC or any political candidate, stressing that its decision to provide a platform for political engagement did not amount to endorsement of any party or candidate.

The Guild said it officially invited representatives of major political parties, including the Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Ahead of elections, Rotary plans peace summit

By **Isaac Taiwo**

ROTARY International President, Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, is set to host a peace summit in Nigeria ahead of the forthcoming general elections.

He said the All Nigeria Rotary Peace Summit 2026 would be held in Lagos on November 7, 2026.

A statement by the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the summit, and past District Governor, Kazeem Mustapha, said the Rotary International president would use the forum to bring together Rotarians, leaders, peace advocates and key stakeholders.

He quoted Babalola as saying that with the theme, "Good Governance, Justice and Equity: Foundations for Sustainable Peace," the summit would be held at the Victoria Garden Event Centre, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

"The message behind the gathering is simple but urgent: peace cannot be separated from the conditions in which people live."

ADC inaugurates presidential campaign

From **Andrew Oota, Abuja**

NATIONAL Chairman of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Senator David Mark, will today inaugurate the Atiku Abubakar and Rotimi Amaechi presidential campaign council in Abuja.

Indeed, the yet-to-be-inaugurated campaign has described the Federal Government's decision to reduce the price of petrol for only 30 days as a desperate, shameless and insulting attempt to bribe Nigerians ahead of the 2027 general election.

The ADC presidential campaign also declared the FG's decision a gimmick that would not save the Tinubu administration from electoral rejection.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Special Adviser to the National Chairman on Media and Publicity, Kola Ologbondiyan, said the event would bring together leaders of the party and candidates participating in the 2027 General Elections.

Govs, Fayemi, Afenifere, NBA, others laud late Akeredolu’s state police vision

From **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan) and **Adewale Momoh** (Akure)

GOVERNORS, former governors, the pan-Yoruba socio-cultural organisation,

COWLSO holds 26th national women confab on October 26

Says Delta, Ekiti govs, 3000 participants to attend

By **Gbenga Salau**

THE Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) has revealed that Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori and Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, would be the special guests of honour at the 26th National Women Conference.

Wife of Lagos State Governor, Dr Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, while speaking yesterday during a media briefing to announce the yearly event, stated that 3000 physical participants are expected at the conference.

She said: "Over the years, the National Women Conference has evolved into a platform for knowledge, empowerment, reflection, networking and inspiration. Each edition provides an opportunity for us to examine issues that affect women, families and communities, while encouraging women to take purposeful steps towards creating positive change.

Sanwo-Olu said that there would be a pre-conference walk, themed "Blueprint in Motion: From Vision to Action."

She said she would like to be remembered for building the capacity of women and creating opportunities for them to contribute meaningfully to their families and society.

Read the remaining part of this story on [www.guardian.ng](#)

Bridgelt renovates school for hearing-impaired students in Surulere

By **Anthony Nwachukwu**

ANON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation, Bridgelt, in collaboration with its partners, has renovated key facilities at Wesley Community School for the Hearing Impaired in Surulere, Lagos, in a bid to improve the learning environment and promote greater inclusion for children living with disabilities.

The intervention, carried out under the organisation's Include Me Surulere initiative, included fixing leaking roofs, constructing new restrooms, painting classrooms and installing road signs to alert motorists to the presence of persons living with disabilities.

Secretary to Surulere Local Council, Kehinde Agoro, while speaking at the handover ceremony, commended Bridgelt for supporting the council and the school, stressing that government could not shoulder the responsibility of providing every needed intervention alone.

Afenifere; the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Development Agenda for Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission, among others, yesterday paid tribute to the late former Ondo State Governor, Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, commending his courage, vision and campaign for state police.

The tributes came at a posthumous 70th birthday colloquium organised in his honour, held at the International Conference Centre of the University of Ibadan (UI) by the Oluwarotimi Akeredolu Foundation, themed, "Fundamentals and Governance of State Policing: Towards a New Architecture for National Security in Nigeria."

Speakers at the colloquium noted that Akeredolu's advocacy for decentralised polic-

ing, true federalism, justice and stronger regional cooperation had continued to influence national conversations on security and governance.

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, said Akeredolu played a significant role in advancing the debate on state policing and a new security architecture for Nigeria.

Aiyedatiwa said Akeredolu's establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network, Amotekun, with other South-West governors, demonstrated the need for communities and subnational governments to have a meaningful role in protecting citizens.

He said the initiative had moved beyond its regional context to become part of the national conversation on state police.

Also speaking, Ogun State Governor and Chairman of the Southern Governors' Forum, Dapo Abiodun, said Akeredolu's vision for state police would not die.

He said the strongest tribute to the late governor would be to complete the work he started, especially his advocacy for decentralised policing and a stronger regional security architecture.

Former Ekiti State Governor, Dr Kayode Fayemi, described Akeredolu as a courageous defender of the defenceless whose commitment to justice, equity and the common good transcended political affiliations.

Fayemi said Akeredolu's relentless campaign for multi-level policing was now yielding results, noting that the proposed state police framework was going through the various state assemblies.

Besides, Director-General of the Development Agenda for

Western Nigeria (DAWN) Commission, Dr Seye Oyeleye, said Akeredolu demonstrated through Amotekun that regional and state policing could work.

Oyeleye described the late governor as a "warrior" who remained determined to champion the regional security initiative despite opposition.

Secretary to the Lagos State Government, 'Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, who represented Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, also joined other dignitaries in paying tribute to Akeredolu.

The Ekiti State Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Habibab Omolara Adubiario, who represented Governor Biodun Oyebanji, also attended the event.

Afenifere, through its Publicity Secretary, Jare Ajayi, and the President of the NBA,

Oyinkansola Badejo-Okusanya (SAN), represented by Ikeazor Akaraiwe (SAN), also lauded Akeredolu's courage, visionary leadership and commitment to justice.

Lagos govt urges residents to stay alert as dry season begins

Says state recorded 1,324 emergencies in nine months

By **Bertram Nwannekanma** and **Gbenga Salau**

LAGOS State Government has appealed to residents to adopt safer habits and remain vigilant, warning that simple acts of negligence could lead to devastating loss of life and property.

The appeal follows the release of the third-quarter activity report for January to September 2026, which showed that firefighters and rescue personnel responded to 1,324 emergencies across the state during the nine months.

According to the report, of the total incidents recorded, fire outbreaks accounted for 1,135 cases, making them the most common emergencies attended to by the Service.

Other incidents included 79 rescue operations, 100 salvage missions, nine building collapses and one gas-related explosion.

Controller-General of the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Abimbola Adeseye, said the figures highlight the need for greater public awareness and strict adherence to fire-safety practices, especially as dry weather conditions increase the risk of outbreaks.

Read the remaining part of this story on [www.guardian.ng](#)

Veteran communication scholar, Idowu Sobowale, dies at 85

ACSPN, Ogwezyy-Ndisika, Akinfeleye, Lai Mohammed mourn

By **Sunday Aikulola**

A COMMUNICATION scholar and veteran in Nigeria's media and communication community, Prof. Idowu Akanbi Sobowale, has died at the age of 85.

Sobowale died yesterday, according to a statement by a member of his family, Dr Akinniyi I. Sowunmi.

The family, however, disclosed that arrangements for his funeral would be announced later.

Meanwhile, National President of the ACSPN, Prof. Rotimi Olatunji; former Head of the Department of Mass Communication, University of Lagos (UNILAG), Prof. Abigail Ogwezyy-Ndisika, and African representative at the World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC), Prof. Ralph Akinfeleye, yesterday joined distinguished personalities that paid tributes to the titan of media scholarship, Shobowale.

Read the remaining part of this story on [www.guardian.ng](#)



Wife of Lagos State Head of Service, Oyinlola Agoro (left); wife of the deputy governor and Vice Chairman, Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO), Oluremi Hamzat; wife of the governor and Chairman of COWLSO, Dr Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu; Chairman, 26th National Women's Conference, Dr Olayemi Oke-Osanyintolu, and Secretary, Olajumoke Salu, during the pre-event media briefing for the 26th conference, held at the Press Centre, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos, yesterday.

PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

Abiodun approves J4-Gao Road, sets November for deep seaport groundbreaking

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

OGUN State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, has approved the construction of the J4-Gao Road in Ogun Waterside Local Council as part of measures to open the axis and provide critical infrastructure to support the emerging investments in the area.

Abiodun disclosed this on Wednesday during an All Progressives Congress (APC) stakeholders' engagement meeting held in Ibiade, headquarters of Ogun Waterside Local Council.

Says port, LNG projects to transform Ogun Waterside into energy, maritime hub

The governor, who lamented the prolonged neglect of the area by successive administrations, said the decision to construct the road was informed by the strategic importance of Ogun Waterside to the state's emerging economic and industrial landscape.

He also disclosed that the Federal Government had approved the construction of a four-kilometre bridge that would connect the council to the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, describing the development as a major infrastructure intervention that

would facilitate access to the area and support the take-off of major investments planned for the axis.

According to him, the proposed infrastructure would complement the development of the Gateway Deep Seaport and the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) project, both of which are expected to significantly alter the economic profile of Ogun Waterside and strengthen the state's position in the maritime, energy and logistics sectors.

Abiodun expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed

Tinubu for supporting the development of the deep seaport and other strategic projects in the area, saying the projects would position Ogun State as a major energy, maritime and international trade hub.

He, however, announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the deep seaport had been scheduled for November, with construction expected to commence before the end of the year and be completed by 2030.

Read the remaining part of this story on [www.guardian.ng](#)

Doherty faults LASG over failure to translate revenue to services

By **Kehinde Olatunji** and **Daniel Anazia**

LAGOS State governorship candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Funso Doherty, has said that the state's challenge is not a lack of resources but a failure to fulfil its obligations to the people.

Doherty, who spoke yesterday during the unveiling of his running mate, Tolani Animashaun, and the launch of his manifesto tagged: "Ona Tuntun," said Lagos State remained the wealthiest state in Nigeria and generated

- Says state generates more revenue than 31 others combined
- Unveils running mate, launches 34-point 'Ona Tuntun' manifesto

more taxes and revenues than 31 states combined.

He said the figures were contained in the recently released statistics from the National Bureau of Statistics.

Doherty, who, however, said the people had done their part by paying taxes and other revenues, while the government had failed to do its part, said politics should be about the lives of the people, rather than being limited to political parties and elections.

The NDC candidate cited the experience of pregnant women who, despite being promised free healthcare, were still asked to buy medicines, drugs, undergo tests and provide syringes when they go to health facilities.

He also raised concerns about public education, saying more than half of children who started work in state public schools in 2024 did not achieve passing grades.

According to him, parents

were forced to spend their income sending their children to low-quality private schools because they had no faith in public schools.

Doherty also spoke about teachers in public schools, saying they had given their lives to serving but had not seen the government adequately supporting, equipping, compensating or training them.

Read the remaining part of this story on [www.guardian.ng](#)

News

Labour, opposition flay FG's panic measure, 'inadequate' fuel discount

By Waliat Musa and Gloria Nwafor

THE Federal Government's 30-day petrol discount at NNPC Limited stations offers no relief for millions of hard-pressed Nigerian households, economists, labour leaders and other stakeholders have insisted.

The intervention, announced by the Federal Government yesterday, targets public transporters nationwide, with the "relief" that seeks to restrict the price of fuel at N1350 per litre during the period. This suggests that its immediate impact on consumers would depend largely on how the lower fuel price results in reduced transportation fares.

While the mechanism of the price-fixing approach is not fully disclosed yet, the choice of N1,350 per litre has also caused unease among consumers who are questioning its logic and whether it actually amounts to relief considering that the current price is only N10 to N20 above the benchmark.

Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyelede, said the government was also targeting a N1,350-per-litre ceiling on the ex-gantry or landing cost of petrol.

He explained that the proposed ceiling was not a fixed pump price of N1,350 per litre, but was intended to prevent sharp movements in global crude prices and exchange rates from immediately translating into higher petrol costs. "Pump prices should not have to follow every swing in global crude or the exchange rate. The government is negotiating a ceiling of N1,350 a litre on the ex-gantry or landing cost of petrol to keep pump prices stable," Oyelede said.

According to the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), the average pump price in July was N1,271.56; in August, it was N1,294.50, while it was N1,378 per litre in September. This puts the three-month moving average at N1315 per litre, suggesting that the government's discounted price is a significant markup over the historical price path.

The discount may also create market rigidity than it seeks to grant relief. For instance, there are questions about access, with NNPC Limited's outlets accounting for only four per cent of the number of fuel stations across the country.

According to data, the pseudo-government outlets are 900, an insignificant percentage of a total of 22,700 registered filling stations in the country.

Yet, the government expects the measure to reduce transport and logistics costs and ease inflationary pressure.

However, stakeholders warned that without a mechanism to ensure that the savings are passed on to passengers, the intervention could reduce operators' fuel expenses without significantly improving household welfare.

- **Muda describes gesture as return of subsidy**
- **Economists demand disclosure of discount, fiscal exposure**
- **Atiku, Obi, Makinde reject measure, seek lasting relief**
- **Agbakoba proposes N400/litre through crude price differential**
- **Labour demands below N1,000 price cut**

The 30-day duration has also raised questions about its sustainability, particularly as Nigerians continue to face high transportation, food and energy costs.

Oyelede said NNPC would sell petrol at the benchmarked cost during the period, with priority given to public transporters.

"We are offering a discount on petrol dispensed by NNPC Limited for the next 30 days in the first instance, with priority for public transporters nationwide. So, it's not a subsidy; the government is just saying we sell to you at cost," he said.

The government has said the intervention is intended as temporary relief while it pursues a longer-term mechanism to provide greater stability for domestic refiners and consumers through forward crude sales.

However, petroleum economist and Professor Emeritus of Petroleum Economics, Prof. Wumi Iledare, said the intervention would only achieve its objective if the savings were transmitted to passengers.

"I actually see a defensible economic rationale for targeting public transporters rather than giving every motorist cheaper petrol. The objective should not be cheap petrol. It should be: lower transportation cost, lower logistics cost, reduced inflationary pressure and protection of vulnerable households," he said.

Iledare, however, warned that cheaper petrol for transporters could fail to produce a consumer benefit if fares remained unchanged.

"But there must be a measurable pass-through mechanism. If a transporter receives cheaper petrol but passengers continue paying the same fare, the public does not receive

the intended welfare gain," he said.

He urged the government to disclose the discount per litre, volume of petrol covered and maximum fiscal exposure, as well as publish the actual cost, volume sold and financial impact at the end of the 30 days.

"Those five answers will tell us whether this is genuinely a temporary market intervention or subsidy by another name," he said.

Iledare said the distinction between a discount and subsidy should be determined by who bears the economic cost and who receives the benefit, rather than by the government's terminology.

"I would call it a subsidy-equivalent risk unless the incidence is demonstrated otherwise. The test is not the name attached to the policy. The test is who bears the economic cost and who receives the benefit," he said.

He also warned against undermining downstream market reforms by turning NNPC into a government-directed price setter, saying any intervention should be targeted, time-bound, transparent, independently auditable and fiscally capped.

Chief Executive Officer, Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), Muda Yusuf, also described the arrangement as a form of subsidy, although different from the former blanket regime because it is restricted to NNPC stations. "It is a form of subsidy anyway, but it's not the subsidy in the form in which we know it because it is not a blanket subsidy," Yusuf said.

He said NNPC would bear part of the cost by surrendering some of the margin it would ordinarily earn.

"It's a concession and I'm sure this is something that will, of

course, affect the bottom line of NNPC. So they will bear some of those costs because what normally they should have made has been given away as a discount," he said.

MEANWHILE, legal practitioner and former President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Olisa Agbakoba, has called for a more structural approach to reducing domestic petrol prices through differential pricing for crude supplied to local refineries.

Speaking at the Association of Energy Correspondents of Nigeria (NAEC) Conference 2026, Agbakoba argued that the removal of the former petrol subsidy should not prevent the government from adopting a different crude pricing mechanism for domestic refining.

He proposed a crude price differential that could support a petrol price of about N400 per litre, arguing that locally produced crude should not necessarily be priced for domestic refiners in the same way as crude sold internationally.

"What is affecting Nigerians today is hunger. And the reason why Nigerians are hungry is that the price of petroleum is too high," he said.

Agbakoba cited Saudi Arabia's domestic pricing arrangements and urged political candidates to make crude pricing and affordable domestic petroleum products part of their policy discussions ahead of the elections.

FORMER Vice President and presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, rejected the 30-day intervention, arguing that it would not address the underlying pressure on households, transport operators and businesses.

In a statement issued by the Director of Strategic Communication of the ADC Presidential Campaign Council, Phrank Shaibu, Atiku questioned how much motorists would save per litre and whether transport operators would pass the savings to passengers.

"Atiku totally rejects this calendar-scheduled, election-laced subsidy package. Nigerians are not fools to be offered a month of discounted fuel after years of punishing prices and then expected to forget the hardship when the discount expires," he said.

He asked what would happen after the intervention expires, arguing that Nigerians would return to the same fuel, transport and food prices.

"Nigerians need lasting relief, not a countdown to the return of hardship," he said, calling for a longer-term mechanism tied to domestic refining and production support.

The Nigeria Democratic Congress and the Obidient Movement have condemned the Federal Government's 30-day petrol discount through NNPC retail stations, describing the measure as "tokenism," an "election year Greek gift" and an attempt to reintroduce subsidy through the backdoor.

THE Obidient Movement, in a statement by its Director of Media and Communications, Onyeka Dike, questioned why the government waited three years before introducing measures to reduce the burden of high petrol prices on Nigerians.

"For three years, Tinubu told Nigerians that the 'baby steps of pain' were necessary. Now, suddenly, a petrol discount is possible. So, what changed?" Dike asked.

He questioned whether the government's decision was linked to the 2027 presidential election, asking, "Did subsidy suddenly become good because Peter Obi said he would restore it? Why the desperation as elections approach?"

Dike described the policy as an election-season strategy, arguing that Nigerians had endured high fuel prices, increased taxes, rising tuition and food costs since the removal of subsidy.

"The pains were never necessary. They were policy choices," he said.

THE Makinde/Daura Presidential Campaign Organisation (MDPCO) has rejected the Federal Government's 30-day petrol discount, describing the measure as a "deceitful and failed media stunt."

The campaign group of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) presidential candidate, Gov. Seyi Makinde, said the discount was inadequate, arguing that Nigerians expected a more significant reduction in the price of petrol.

A statement signed by its Director of Strategic Communications, Richard Ihediwa, described the discount as an "offensive and provocative at-

tempt to beguile Nigerians".

The organisation said the measure amounted to a "slap in the face" of Nigerians who were expecting an impactful reduction in petrol prices.

According to him, where costs rise above the ceiling, refiners and importers would initially bear the shortfall and recover it later when market conditions allow.

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) urged the government to reduce the price below N1,000 per litre, with Assistant General Secretary, Chris Onyeka, describing the N1,350 benchmark as a "wicked set-up" against workers and Nigerians.

"What relief does this serve for Nigerians? It does not serve any relief. Fuel at N1,350 is a set-up. It is a wicked set-up against Nigerian workers and Nigerian people," he said.

Onyeka said the government should "go below N1,000" to achieve a meaningful reduction in transportation and living costs.

Also, the National President of the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN), Muhammed Shehu, said N1,350 was insufficient to cushion the impact of high petrol prices on workers.

He urged the government to use the 30-day window to address structural problems, particularly the failure of domestic refineries.

"N1,350 is not enough. Because we are not too sure that within the one month, within the window, the Federal Government will be able to address the hike in the fuel price," he said.

The General Secretary of the Federation of Informal Workers Organisations of Nigeria (FIWON), Gbenga Komolafe, described the intervention as "too little and too late", questioning the significance of a N50 reduction.

"If you are doing from N1,400 to N1,350, what do you end up with? What percentage is that?" he asked.

Komolafe said the impact of high energy costs extended beyond transport fares to production, electricity and food distribution, warning that expensive fuel was increasing the cost of moving food from producing communities to urban centres.

The labour leaders called for longer-term measures, particularly the rehabilitation and operation of domestic refineries, alongside broader interventions to protect workers and vulnerable households from the continuing cost-of-living crisis.

SIMILARLY, the Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) has asked the Federal Government to allocate 30 per cent of the petrol covered by its 30-day discount scheme to its members, saying the move would extend the benefit to consumers in rural and underserved communities.

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



Director of Public-Private Partnership, Ministry of Water Resources, Zacheaus Akinjogbin (left); Director-General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Dr Jobson Ewalefoh and Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power, Mahmuda Mamman during a stakeholders' meeting to review and optimise the 700MW Zungeru Hydropower Project in Abuja, yesterday.

Rivers 2027: Rainbow Coalition denies alleged state capture plot

From Ann Godwin, Port Harcourt

THE Rainbow Coalition in Rivers State, led by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has denied allegations that it was planning state capture against the people of the state.

The coalition's spokesman, Chibuike Ikenga, made this rebuttal during an interview on Arise Television yesterday.

Ikenga said the coalition is framed as a strategic effort to prioritise the interests of the Rivers' people through good governance, transparency and accountability.

"You saw what has happened recently. You also saw yesterday's video trending online, in which the Labour Party (LP) had joined the Rainbow Coalition.

"This shows the leadership that the FCT Minister is putting together in the larger interest of Rivers people.

"So, we want to discountenance the state capture narrative. We are all Rivers people. We are interested in the interests of the state, which

Enugu secures \$200m investment for 100MW solar power

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

IN a major boost to the state's drive to expand electricity supply, attract clean-energy investments and provide more reliable power for homes and businesses, the Enugu State Government has secured a \$200 million investment for a 100mw solar power programme.

The investment, estimated at N300 billion, was disclosed during a meeting between Governor Peter Mbah and a delegation from Eauxwell Nigeria Limited led by the Managing Director, Mr Edwin Enwegbara, at the Government House, Enugu.

The investment engagement, brokered through the state's Climate and Development Investment Platform (CDIP) co-ordinated by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Climate and Sustainable Development, Prof. Chukwumerije Okereke, is the first major investment breakthrough facilitated by the platform established by the Mbah administration to connect investors with government institutions, regulatory agencies and communities.

The governor, while welcoming the investment, stressed that the state government's interest went beyond attracting capital.

He insisted that the ultimate objective was to deliver reliable and affordable electricity to residents and businesses in the state at an affordable cost.

"We want an electricity market that encourages competition and gives consumers the benefit of competitive pricing," he said.

Issues, not coalition will decide elections, stakeholders say

are good governance, free, fair, and credible elections, transparency, and accountability. That's what we are pursuing, as against the shenanigans that they were doing," he said.

Meanwhile, despite the growing political alignment and realignment ahead of the 2027 general elections in Rivers State, stakeholders have stated that the impact of political parties and can-

didates will determine the decisions at the polls, not a coalition without a strong connection with the grassroots.

The stakeholders, who spoke against the backdrop of the recent political realignments in the state, said the outcome of the 2027 elections would be largely determined by issues affecting the people, including hardship, flooding, poor road in-

frastructure, and other socio-economic challenges.

They noted that the current political developments could have a limited impact if various political actors failed to reconnect with the electorate and address issues that directly affect their daily lives.

Speaking in an interview, Chairman of the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO), Sunny Dada, questioned the grassroots strength of politi-

cians involved in the coalition.

Dada asked: "What is their connection to the grassroots, and what is the level of their followership? Are they people who can move with crowds to their new destinations, or are they only moving by themselves?

"I do not think such realignments will necessarily alter the political equation in the state."

He said issues that could shape the 2027 elections

went beyond the current political alignments, noting that hardship and public dissatisfaction could influence voters' decisions.

Nigerian appointed head of World Oil Palm Body

From Joke Falaju, Abuja

THE World Coalition of Oil Palm Smallholders (WCOPS) has unanimously elected the President of the National Palm Produce Association of Nigeria (NPPAN), Amb. Alphonsus Inyang, as Chairman of its General Assembly, the highest decision-making organ of the organisation.

WCOPS was formed by the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries (CPOPC) and is supported by the governments of Indonesia and Malaysia, Solidaridad, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), and global oil palm producers, with a mandate to promote the interests of smallholders worldwide.

Amb. Inyang, who was the Vice President for Africa and the Middle East of the coalition, was elected alongside Dr Gulat Manurung of Indonesia, who emerged as President; Dr Napoleon Ningkos of Malaysia, Vice President for Asia and Europe; Mr Tuan Haji Azimi Bin Hassan of Malaysia, Vice President for Asia, the Pacific and Oceania, and Mr Allan of Honduras, Vice President for the Americas.

Dr Djono Albar Burhan of Indonesia was elected Executive Director, while Dr Paul Amaning of Ghana was appointed Director of Digitalisation and Innovation.

Otu lauds late Akpan's contributions to journalism, condoles with family

CROSS River State Governor, Bassey Edet Otu, has described the late veteran journalist, Mr Anietie Akpan, as a man of stature whose contributions to journalism and public life would remain indelible.

The governor conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family through his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr Linus Obogo, who visited the family alongside the Special Adviser to the Governor on Public Affairs, Mr Nsa Gill, and the leadership of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Cross River State Council. The delegation was received by the deceased's widow, Mrs Imaobong Anietie Akpan, and daughter, Etinyene Anietie Akpan.

Obogo said Otu had wished to visit the family personally to condole with them over the loss, but the exigencies of duty necessitated his sending a delegation to convey his message of sympathy and solidarity.



Health, Safety and Environment Officer, MainPower Electricity Distribution Limited (MEDL), Akudo Olugu-Kalu (right), addressing students of Divine Love Secondary School on electricity and electrical safety as part of activities to mark MEDL 2026 customer service week in Enugu, yesterday. PHOTO: NAN

Memoir reveals how civil war shaped careers in Nigeria's foreign service

From Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, Abuja

THE lingering consequences of the Nigerian Civil War shaped the careers of officers from the former East Central State in Nigeria's foreign service, with some allegedly subjected to prolonged posting restrictions, adverse security reports and stalled career progression, according to a new memoir by retired diplomat, Ambassador Lawrence Agubuzu.

Agubuzu, in his autobiography, *Zero Hour Graduate: A Nigerian Diplomat's Journey Through War and Service to*

Triumph, provides an insider's account of his experiences in the diplomatic service and the challenges he said confronted officers perceived to have links with the former Biafran territory after the war ended in January 1970.

The memoir also recounts cases involving delayed postings, alleged discriminatory security assessments, blocked promotions and a marriage that was reportedly vetoed by security authorities, while documenting how the civil war continued to cast a shadow over the careers of some diplomats years after

the conflict.

Agubuzu, a graduate of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, was a student when the civil war broke out in 1967. Although he did not enlist in the Biafran Army, he said he supported the war effort through the Olo and Amagu Umuokpa Civil Defence Organisation, where he helped shelter people displaced by the conflict.

He later served as an intelligence officer with the Biafran Organisation of Freedom Fighters, an experience which, according to the memoir, exposed him to considerable

danger during the conflict.

Following the war, Agubuzu said he declined a teaching appointment offered to graduates from the former East Central State in Northern Nigeria, choosing instead to pursue a career in the Ministry of External Affairs.

He joined the ministry in April 1971 and subsequently underwent training at the Foreign Service Academy.

According to his account, however, the end of hostilities did not immediately erase the suspicion surrounding officers from the former Biafran region.

2027: Amaechi rallies Delta voters against rigging

From Chido Okafor (Warri) and John Akubo (Abuja)

THE Vice Presidential candidate of the Africa Democratic Congress (ADC), Rotimi Amaechi, has urged Delta voters to defend their votes and not be rigged out by the ruling party.

Amaechi, who spoke during an ADC town hall meeting in Effurun, Uvwie Local Council, Delta State, urged voters not to leave their polling units after voting and to protect their votes.

He urged Deltans to secure the victory of the ADC governorship candidate, Great Ogboru's in 2027 as well as deliver the presidential candidate of the party, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

Activist warns against voter intimidation

He said: "Don't be allowed to be rigged out. After voting, wait till results are announced instead of rushing home to do nothing. If you make a mistake this time, it means that Ogboru will again not be sworn in."

The former Rivers State governor also urged ADC candidates for the Senate, House of Representatives and State Assembly to work for Atiku's victory to secure their own, rather than rely on appointments from an incoming Federal Government.

He said no candidates will be given appointments if they do not win their constituency, urging all ADC candidates to

defend their votes and ensure that the party records victories from the presidential election down to the state legislature.

On the country's economy, Amaechi criticised the Federal government's removal of the fuel subsidy, which he said had triggered what he called "spiral inflation."

He stressed that higher transportation and energy costs had affected farmers and businesses and eventually pushed up the prices of food, healthcare, education and other essential services. He said an ADC government would introduce a production subsidy for locally refined petroleum products as part of efforts to re-

duce fuel prices and ease the cost of living.

MEANWHILE, with political parties intensifying mobilisation ahead of the 2027 elections, an activist, Prince Babawale Sayo, has warned that threats from political actors could frighten voters and weaken participation in the polls.

Sayo said politicians risk turning elections into contests that citizens associate with danger rather than the peaceful exercise of their democratic rights.

He spoke on The Policy Room anchored by Lemmy Ughegbe while reacting to a string of controversial remarks attributed to political figures across the country.

TheMetroSection

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

Families reveal ransom payments as HURIWA demands clarity on release

By Bertram Nwannekanma

FAMILIES of the 20 prospective National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members abducted in Imo State have revealed that they paid millions of naira in ransom before the victims were released, raising fresh questions about the circumstances surrounding their rescue by security agencies.

Some of the families reportedly paid between N3 million and N6 million to secure the release of their loved ones, according to accounts reported by News Central Television.

The revelations came after the corps members, who had spent seven days in captivity while travelling to their orientation camp in Imo State, were released alongside

another abducted person during an operation involving the Nigerian Army, Department of State Services (DSS), Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies.

One of the mothers told the television station: "I paid as much as N3 million as ransom while I was hoping that nothing happened to my child. I ran helter-skelter to raise the money. I eventually got the money and sent someone to Imo State to deliver the ransom."

The father of another rescued corps member said: "We had to converge somewhere in Ibadan, Oyo State, to put the money together. Some of us even changed the money to dollars and sent it to Imo State to meet whoever was coming to pick it."

While expressing relief over

his son's return, the father said the ransom had left him with a heavy financial burden, adding: "I'm just a farmer."

The revelations have given fresh context to questions raised by the Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria

(HURIWA) over how the victims regained their freedom.

HURIWA, while commending the security agencies for the safe return of the prospective corps members, said Nigerians deserved clarification on

whether the victims were rescued from the kidnappers' hideout or released following negotiations with their abductors.

The organisation said the issue was important because no suspected kidnapper had been

publicly reported arrested in connection with the abduction.

The Imo State Police Command had earlier disclosed that its operatives traced the kidnappers' hideout through drone surveillance but encountered difficulties accessing the location after reportedly discovering that the area had been planted with improvised explosive devices. Additional equipment, including bulldozers and armoured personnel carriers, was subsequently deployed to facilitate access.

HURIWA asked what happened after the security agencies located the hideout.

"Were the 20 prospective corps members actually rescued by the security forces, or were they released after the payment of ransom?" the group asked.



Relatives of abducted corps members during their visit to the Olubadan of Ibadanland on Saturday.

Prophet's son arrested over alleged N18m scam

From Azeez Olorunlomu and Segun Ayinde, Abeokuta

OPERATIVES of the Ilaro Division of the Ogun State Police Command have arrested Adewale Ogoemi Arojah for allegedly impersonating a renowned cleric on X (formerly Twitter), and defrauding unsuspecting members of the public of more than N18 million under the guise of offering prayers and spiritual assistance.

The arrest followed a complaint lodged on October 3, 2026, by Muiyiwa Akogun, popularly known on Facebook as "Prophet Dr Muiyi-

wa Akogun."

He alerted the police that members of the public had complained about fraudulent activities being carried out in his name through a duplicated X profile.

Following the complaint, the Divisional Police Officer of the Ilaro Division immediately deployed intelligence and detective operatives to track down the suspect.

Through technological monitoring and intelligence-led analysis, the suspect was traced to a village in Ajegunle, along the Ilaro-Ibogun axis, where he was arrested.

During interrogation, the suspect allegedly confessed to impersonating Prophet Akogun on X.

He reportedly admitted using the cleric's identity to deliver fake prophecies and offer prayer services to individuals seeking spiritual assistance.

Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspect allegedly targeted people seeking spiritual assistance through the prophet's X page,

gained their trust and defrauded them of funds amounting to more than N18 million.

The victims were said to be both within Nigeria and in the diaspora.

The suspect has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Elewera, Abeokuta, for further investigation to ascertain the extent of the alleged crime, identify possible accomplices and determine the next steps.

Woman arraigned over alleged cyberstalking of Eleganza MD

By Joseph Onyekwore and Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

A 35-year-old woman, Ifeoma Vivian Nwafor, was yesterday arraigned before the Federal High Court, Lagos, over alleged cyberstalking of the Managing Director of Eleganza Industries Limited, Mrs Folashade Noimat Okoya.

Nwafor was brought before Justice Dipeolu on a three-count charge filed by the Inspector-General of Police, bordering on conspiracy and al-

leged cyberstalking.

The prosecution alleged that Nwafor conspired with others still at large and used Instagram to publish offensive, false and malicious material concerning Okoya.

Okoya is the wife of the Aare of Lagos, Chief Razaq Akanni Okoya, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Eleganza Group of Companies.

Nwafor, a graduate of Oduduwa University, Ipetumodu, Osun State, and indigene of Orumba North Local

Council of Anambra State, pleaded not guilty to the charges after they were read to her.

The case, marked FHC/LAG/CR/819/2026, was prosecuted by the Legal Department of the FCID Annex, Alagbon, Ikoyi, Lagos, under the supervision of CSP Adewuyi Taiwo Oyewale, Officer in Charge of the department. Stanley Nwafoaku appeared for the prosecution, while O.J. Aduwa represented Nwafor.

Three arrested over alleged sale of fake motorcycle, tricycle number plates in Niger

From Bala Yahaya, Minna

THE Niger State Police Command has arrested three suspects over the alleged production and sale of counterfeit motorcycle and tricycle number plates in Suleja Local Government Area of the state.

The suspects, identified as Obinna Sunday, 21, of Rafin-Sanyi, Suleja; Sunday Fajobi, 71, of Jubilee Road, Suleja; and Aisha Ismail, 41, also of Jubilee Road, Suleja, were arrested following a complaint

over fake number plates found on tricycles operated by a leasing company in the area.

According to the command's spokesman, Superintendent of Police (SP) Wasiu Abiodun, the complaint was lodged at the Maje Police Division, Suleja, on September 29, 2026, after officials of the Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO) raised concerns about the authenticity of number plates on tricycles belonging to the

company.

Abiodun said the complaint prompted detectives at the di-

vision to commence an investigation, which led to the arrest of the three suspects.



Suspects with exhibits

LSSTF donates vehicle, security gear to Agege security trust fund

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) has donated a brand-new operational vehicle and other security equipment to the newly established Agege Security Trust Fund, in a move aimed at strengthening community-based security efforts in the area.

The Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of LSSTF, Dr. Ayodele Ogunsan, who made the donation yesterday at the official launch of the Agege Security Trust Fund at the Agege

Local Government Secretariat, also pledged additional protective equipment for security personnel operating in the area.

The intervention, according to Ogunsan, was part of efforts to encourage structured community-led security initiatives across Lagos State and complement the efforts of the state government under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

He described the Agege initiative as a significant step towards improving security at

the grassroots, stressing that government, residents, secu-

rity agencies and the private sector must work together to tackle insecurity.



CP Tijani (left); LSSTF boss, Dr Ogunsan; Executive Chairman, Agege Local Council, Hon. Vinod Obasa; Olu of Agege, Oba Kamila Oyedeji; Vice Chairman, Agege LGA, Hon. Adewale Azeez and Director, Admin, LSSTF, Mr Adegbola Lewis during the event ...yesterday

URGENT VACANCY HIGH RISE PLUMBER

A reputable Real Estate Company based in Lagos, is seeking to engage the services of an Experienced Plumber in a High Rise Building.

Location: Lagos

Minimum age: 50 years

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing and maintaining all plumbing works in our high rise buildings.

Competitive salary and benefits.

HOW TO APPLY:

If you are a motivated and experienced person, please, submit your application letter to the Email Address below:

thehiringcommittee@outlook.com

Hot Lines: 08034990344 and 08160223638

Police intensify crackdown on cult groups, nab 20 in Bayelsa

Communities declare support for anti-cult campaign

From Julius Osahon, Yenagoa

The Bayelsa State Police Command has intensified its crackdown on cult-related activities following the arrest of more than 20 suspects across the state.

The operation, ordered by the Commissioner of Police, Ajao Saka Adewale, has seen police operatives deployed to Swali, Akenfa, Down Yenagoa, Agudama and other communities identified as hotbeds.

According to the police, the operation is aimed at disrupting cult groups, preventing clashes and apprehending persons suspected of involvement in

cult-related violence.

Police sources said divisional police commands, supported by tactical teams, had made several arrests and curtailed the activities of suspected cultists in parts of the state.

The command also said some known suspects had been arrested, while efforts were ongoing to track down others believed to be involved in cult-related activities.

Following the police operations and warnings against harbouring suspected cult members, some community leaders and youths in Swali, Agudama, Akenfa and other communities have reportedly begun publicly

distancing themselves from cult groups.

However, a separate police operation in the Onopa area of Yenagoa has generated controversy, with some residents alleging that officers attached to the anti-cult team carried out indiscriminate arrests and shooting.

The residents also alleged that the police officer who shot a young man during the operation, as well as an informant who reportedly identified the victim as a member of the Vikings cult and accused him of selling illicit drugs, were allegedly members of a rival cult group known as Bobos.



CP Ajao Saka Adewale

The allegations could not be independently verified as of the time of filing this report.

The aggrieved residents called on the Commissioner of Police to investigate the allegations

and determine whether any police personnel were involved in cult activities or acted outside their official duties.

The young man, who was reportedly operating a point-of-sale (POS) business and was accused of selling illicit drugs, was shot during the police operation on Tuesday.

Police authorities, however, said the young man survived the shooting and was receiving treatment at the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa.

The command also dismissed reports that the victim had died, describing such reports as untrue.

The police have not publicly confirmed the allegations that the officer involved in the shooting or the informant

belonged to a rival cult group.

The latest police operation followed renewed cult-related violence in Yenagoa, where no fewer than five people were feared killed at the weekend.

The clashes, according to sources in the affected communities, reportedly began on Friday between rival groups identified as Bobos and Greenlanders.

The violence was said to have affected areas including Agudama, Obele and Back of St Peter's in the state capital.

Sources also alleged that the renewed violence had disrupted a peace agreement previously reached among various cult groups under the former leadership of the state police command.

Murdered female politician buried amid tears in Bauchi

From Rauf Oyewole, Bauchi

THE remains of a former Zonal Women Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi South, Mrs Jemimah Dutse, who was murdered by unidentified assailants, were laid to rest on Wednesday amid tears and grief.

Dutse, 51, was reportedly found dead in her residence at Muazu New Layout, Yelwa, Bauchi metropolis, over the weekend, with her throat slit.

A neighbour, Jonathan Josiah, said the deceased appeared to have been attacked with a pestle and a knife before her throat was slit.

"She was hit with a pestle on the head, stabbed with a knife

on the chest and slaughtered like a ram," Josiah said.

She was buried at Lafiyan Sara (Kwara) Village in Bogoro Local Government Area of the state.

Hundreds of sympathisers gathered at the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) Cen-



Late Jemimah Dutse

tre, Bauchi, for her funeral service, where family members, friends and political associates paid glowing tributes to her.

They described Dutse as calm, kind, loving and peaceful, recalling her warmth and the positive impact she had on those around her.

Her only daughter, Deborah, struggled to hold back her grief as she described her mother as a woman who gave her everything.

She said her mother did not deserve the manner of her death, describing the loss as one that had left her heartbroken.

"She was my first teacher, my protector and my comfort. Her voice calmed me and her prayers covered me.

Ogun's So-Safe Corps arrests suspected vandal over alleged theft of iron polez

From Segun Ayinde, Abeokuta

OPERATIVES of the Ogun State Community, Social Orientation and Safety Corps (So-Safe Corps) have arrested a man, Friday Amos Gabriel, for allegedly vandalising and stealing an iron pole at Mosa/Balogun River in the state.



Suspect with vandalised iron pole.

Gabriel was arrested on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, following a distress call received by the Ilogbo Area Command from the Chairman of the New Life Community Development Association (CDA), Mr Akinbobola, at about 630 a.m. Akinbobola reportedly

alerted the command after a man was sighted carrying an iron pole in the community.

The Corps Commander, Soji Ganzallo, confirmed the arrest in a statement issued yesterday in Abeokuta by the Director of Information and Public Relations, ACC Adegunwa Adegbuyi.

Ganzallo said that following the alert, the Area Commander, Ilogbo Area Command, ACC Odukunle Oloyede, led his team to the area, where they allegedly caught Gabriel in the act.

He said that when questioned about the source of the pole, the suspect reportedly told the operatives that it had been removed from the Mosa/Balogun River area.

After nearly four decades without a leg, Lagos father seeks N3.5m prosthesis

By Eniola Daniel

FOR Brown Uko Udoh, getting a prosthetic leg is more than a medical need. It is a chance to move with greater ease, earn a better living and shoulder the responsibilities of caring for his family.

Udoh, 56, has lived without a leg for nearly four decades after what initially appeared to be a harmless boil turned out to be cancer.

He recalled that the swelling first appeared in 1988 and gradually grew larger. Concerned, he sought medical attention, where a biopsy revealed that it was not a boil but sarcoma.

He was subsequently referred to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH),

where doctors amputated his leg.

The amputation, which took place when Udoh was in his 20s, changed the course of his life. Since then, he has had to navigate adulthood, marriage, parenthood and the struggle to earn a living with one leg.

"Life has been tough. It has been very, very difficult," he said.

Udoh is now appealing to Nigerians to help him raise N3.5 million for a prosthetic leg, which he believes would greatly improve his mobility and quality of life.

"I need an artificial leg. It is very difficult living without a leg," he said.

Despite the challenges, Udoh did not allow his condition to stop him from building a family. He got married after the amputation, saying his wife

accepted him despite his physical disability.

The couple now have three boys. But providing for his family and meeting the demands of raising three children have remained a difficult task.

"I've been coping with this situation. I've been managing without the leg, but it has been rough. It has been very rough," he said.

Udoh currently sells garri and beans in small quantities from a shop along Liasu Road in the Akowonjo area of Lagos. The modest business provides him with a means of survival, but he said the income is barely enough to meet his needs.

For Udoh, a prosthetic leg could make a significant difference. Beyond restoring some mobility, he hopes it would enable him to move around more easily, improve his ability to work and ease the burden of providing for his family.

"I just want to be able to move better and support my family," he added.

Udoh's rehabilitation could be supportive through donations to his Access Bank account.

Name: Brown Uko Udoh; Account Number: 1808494873

He can also be reached on +2347017410378.



Udoh

FCID Annex commits to people-centred policing

Hails Ogunsan at 50

By Ayonote Clement

THE Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Annex, Alagbon, Lagos, has reaffirmed its commitment to professional, responsive and people-centred policing, stressing the importance of stronger partnerships between security agencies and the communities they serve.

The Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) in charge of the FCID Annex, AIG Simeon U. Akpanudom, made the commitment as the command joined the Inspector-General of Police and other institutions across the country to commemorate the 2026 Customer Service Week, themed, "Going the Extra Mile."

LAWMA resolves 1,291 of 2,230 waste complaints in Q3

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) resolved 1,291 of the 2,230 waste-related complaints it received from residents in the third quarter of 2026, as it intensified efforts to improve waste collection and monitor service providers across the state.

The complaints were among 2,791 customer interactions recorded by the Authority

through its customer care channels between July and September.

The figure comprised 2,230 complaints and 561 enquiries and other interactions.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of LAWMA, Dr Muyiwa Gbadegesin, said on Wednesday that feedback from residents was providing valuable information for identifying service gaps and directing operational interventions.

"Every complaint gives us an opportunity to identify where the system is not working as it should and take appropriate action.

"We are strengthening our response mechanism so that residents' concerns translate into operational decisions, direct interventions and improvements in service delivery," he said.

According to the Q3 customer care report, LAWMA received 851 complaints in July, 567 in

August and 812 in September.

Of the 2,230 complaints received during the quarter, 1,291 were resolved, while 939 remained under review at the end of the reporting period.

Gbadegesin said complaints about service gaps had prompted stakeholder engagements and direct waste evacuation operations in several communities, including Abraham Adesanya, Isefun, Oshodi, Oke-Ira and Ramoni Ward in Lawanson.

MOGBOH & CO.

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS • CORPORATE CONSULTANTS • NOTARY PUBLIC.

Plot 56 City Layout New Haven, P.O. Box 545 Enugu, Nigeria

+234 803 346 2263

+234 809 374 8686

RE: CAVEAT EMPTOR

The attention of Umuonarude Village has been drawn to a publication made by a group ostensibly signed by Umuolarude Stakeholders in the West Africa Business News of 28th July, 2026; and same has been brought to our attention.

Upon this publication we hereby advice the general public to be weary of any group purporting to be in charge of the affairs of the village, but to deal directly as regards the parcel of land at Agu-Ika, with the recognised leaders and executive of the Umuonarude Village: namely the Chairman Mr. Kingsley Ifejika, Secretary Pastor Aloy Chukuwnonye.

Signed: MOGBOH & CO.

Chief, A.O. Mogboh, SAN; A.O. Mogboh Jnr, SAN; Emeka Asogwa, Blessing Okoye (Managing Solicitor) Chukwuma Edeh, Onyinye Enechi Onyia, Chinelo Eze, Frank Asogwa Jnr, Chidi Ezenwa, Daniel Ishiwu, Chibuzor Agbale, Edith Ezeora, Kenechukwu Onah.



Times Higher Education
**Sustainability
Impact Ratings 2026**

AFE BABALOLA UNIVERSITY, ADO-EKITI (ABUAD)
Km 8.5, Afe Babalola Way, P.M.B. 5454, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Ranked by Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings as No. 1 in Nigeria for five consecutive years: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026, No. 2 in Africa, No. 72 globally, thus making it the only Nigerian University to break into the top 100 universities worldwide, with an overall score of 90.8%.

The Vice-Chancellor

Professor E. Smaranda Olarinde, FCArb, FCAI

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Governing Council,
Senate, Congregation, and Students of the University



Cordially invites you to the

Convocation Ceremony

**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR THE 14TH
CONVOCATION CEREMONY
CLASS OF 2026: AURORA**

WEDNESDAY, October 14, 2026

- I. 2026 Pre-Convocation Press Conference
Speaker: The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. E. Smaranda Olarinde, FCArb, FCAI
Venue: White Rock, Senate Chambers **Time:** 10:00 am

THURSDAY, October 15, 2026

- i. Induction of ABUAD Graduating Medical Laboratory Science Students
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 9:00 am
- ii. Investiture of ABUAD Graduating Law Students as Associate Members of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 3:00 pm

FRIDAY, October 16, 2026

- i. 2nd Edition of the International Hydrogen Summit
Theme: Charting a Pathway to Clean Energy: Science, Policy and Industrial Nexus
Venue: Alfa Belgore Hall (In-person) & Online **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. Jumat Service
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 1:00 pm
- iii. CPN Induction/Oath-taking Ceremony of ABUAD Computer Science Graduating Students
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 3:00 pm

SATURDAY, October 17, 2026

- I Sporting Activities
Venue: Sports Pavilion **Time:** 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, October 18, 2026

- i. Convocation Thanksgiving Service
Venue: Alfa Belgore Hall **Time:** 8:30 am - 10:00 am
Ministering: Bishop Dapo Asoju (Bishop of Ilesha Anglican Diocese)
- ii. Afe Babalola Day
Venue: Alfa Belgore Hall **Time:** 11:00 am

MONDAY, October 19, 2026

- i. Induction of ABUAD Graduating Economics Students into the Nigerian Economics Society (NES)
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. NSE/COREN Induction Oath-taking Ceremony for ABUAD Engineering Graduating Students
Venue: Owolabi Hall **Time:** 1:00 pm
- iii. Convocation Play
Venue: PTCF Building **Time:** 7:00 pm

TUESDAY, October 20, 2026

- i. Convocation Lecture:
Speaker: Professor Obiora Okonkwo, OFR, FNIPR
Topic: Functional Education and the Nigerian Project: Strategic Human Capital Development for National Renewal
Venue: Alfa Belgore Multi-purpose Hall, ABUAD **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. Induction of Graduating Students into the Alumni Association of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti
Venue: Alfa Belgore Multi-purpose Hall, ABUAD **Time:** 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 21, 2026

Convocation Grand Finale & Awards

- i. Awards of Bachelor's, PGD, Master's and Ph.D. Degrees
 - ii. Conferment of Honorary Doctor of Laws by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA, on Aare Afe Emmanuel Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, LL.D. (London), LL.D (UNILAG), LL.D (UI), LL.D (UNAD), LL.D (UNIJOS), FNSE, FNIALS, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE
 - iii. Conferment of Honorary Degrees on:
 - Professor Obiora Okonkwo, OFR, FNIPR
 - Princess Dr. (Mrs.) Rosemary Osula Mku-Atu.
 - Mr. John Olajide.
- Venue:** Alfa Belgore Hall **Time:** 10:00 am

Courtesy:

Lady Christie Oluborode (MNIM)
Registrar & Secretary to Council

ABUAD... a vision in action

Be Our Special Guest at

THE ZENITH BANK
GIRL-CHILD
 Empowerment Programme

THEME: BANKING ON HER TOMORROW

DATE: MONDAY 12, OCTOBER 2026

TIME: 10:00am

Virtual

***966*911#** (SELF-SERVICE EMERGENCY USSD CODE TO BLOCK ACCOUNTS)

SCAN TO REGISTER



For enquiries and feedback, kindly contact **ZenithDirect**, our 24hr interactive Contact Centre:



+234 201 278 7000, 091-1987-7000, 0700ZENITHBANK
 zenithdirect@zenithbank.com

Zenith Intelligent Virtual Assistant (ZiVA) -
 0704 000 4422 (WhatsApp)

www.zenithbank.com

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

Editorial

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria fGuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

As Nigerians await the \$1b HOPE-SP implementation

THE unveiling of new economic empowerment initiatives by the Federal Government in response to the plight of the growing population of vulnerable citizens across the country suggests a commitment to tackling the worsening hardship. According to the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, who delivered the keynote address at the launch of the programme on August 27, 2026, the new initiatives, headlined by the \$1 billion Household Prosperity and Empowerment Social Protection Project (HOPE-SP), are “designed to provide immediate stabilization assistance while placing the households on a pathway to recovery, empowerment, and self-reliance.” The Federal Government should prioritise institutionalised interventions aimed at delivering sustainable economic emancipation for households.

The focus should go beyond the emergency stimulus, which, over time, has only offered temporary relief without bridging the gaps of impoverishment or reducing economic disparity among vulnerable households. While the \$1bn earmarked for the programme is expected to bring about significant relief to millions of households, if properly channelled, there are genuine concerns regarding the tim-

ing of the scheme and the government’s determination to faithfully deliver on implementation.

The challenge is not merely reaching millions of households but ensuring that those who are genuinely vulnerable benefit without any form of discrimination or alienation caused by favouritism and corrupt practices. The government should be genuinely concerned that Nigerians appear not to be excited by the unveiling of the new schemes, which include the “One-Humanitarian-One Poverty Response System (OHOPRS)” and the “Emergency Cash Transfer Programme”, with sketchy implementation strategies. Unfortunately, the cash transfer component of the recently announced poverty alleviation initiative has heightened renewed scepticism in the wake of fresh allegations by the Auditor-General of the Federation that the Federal Government could not provide sufficient evidence to justify that the N33.75bn in cash transfers meant for more than 3.29 million vulnerable households reached the targeted beneficiaries. Therefore, implementing the new initiatives places a compelling duty on the Tinubu administration to address the trust deficit ahead of the forthcoming general elections.

In the recent past, Nigerians have witnessed many such hitherto promis-

ing poverty alleviation schemes going down the drain due to a lack of political will to sustain implementation. Moreover, unveiling another poverty alleviation scheme on the eve of contentious general elections tends to create the impression that the intervention is driven more by political exigencies than by a desire to strategically bridge the gap of poverty on a long-term basis.

Notwithstanding, it is good enough that the government recognises that a large population of citizens currently faces threats of extreme poverty primarily due to policies that are arguably inevitable. Therefore, recognising that the interventions are “important steps towards improving the lives of vulnerable individuals, families and communities across the country,” it is hoped that the implementation will offer significant relief beyond mere palliatives by charting the long-anticipated pathways for poverty reduction.

Some legitimate questions remain unanswered regarding the implementation of poverty alleviation schemes such as the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT)/Household Uplifting Programme, and the Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) under which the TraderMoni, MarketMoni and FarmerMoni programmes were implemented. Nigerians are sceptical about the government’s sincerity regarding the implementation of yet another \$1 billion poverty alleviation intervention precisely because of the

enormous resources committed to similar initiatives in the past without commensurate impact on the populace.

Therefore, given the trust deficit arising from the inadequacies that accompanied the mishandling of previous programmes, the government needs to clearly communicate its determination to make a difference through the implementation of HOPE-SP and other components of the new packages to mitigate widespread scepticism and restore public confidence.

More concerning is the lack of assurance that implementing the recently unveiled schemes will be free from the habitual political encumbrances and systemic dysfunctions that plagued previous initiatives. Indeed, the implementation appears fraught with a propensity for mismanagement in the absence of a comprehensive social intervention register to ensure that genuinely vulnerable households are targeted.

To ensure that the initiatives deliver on the objectives, it is imperative that funds to be committed to the implementation are appropriated for the purposes of accountability and transparency. Finally, while emergency response aimed at alleviating poverty should be encouraged, if the resources are properly channelled, such intervention should not be deployed as a weapon for political endorsement. It would be a great disservice to the country if the implementation of the recently unveiled schemes turned out to be a repeat of the past ugly experiences.

LETTER

Wike: Breaking the 16-year Apo-Karshi road jinx

SIR: Some infrastructure projects are measured not only by their length or financial value, but by the years of hardship endured by the people waiting for their completion. The Apo-Karshi road is one such project.

First awarded in 2010, the road remained uncompleted for approximately 16 years. For residents of Apo, Karshi and surrounding communities, the prolonged delay translated into difficult journeys, traffic congestion, increased transportation costs and lost economic opportunities. What should have been a strategic alternative route into Abuja gradually became a painful reminder of an unfulfilled government promise.

Today, however, the story is changing. Through the determined intervention of the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, the once-stalled Apo-Karshi road is finally approaching completion. The road is expected to be handed over by the contractor in November and opened to residents by December 2026.

This is not merely the continuation of an inherited project. It is the result of purposeful leadership, political will and a deliberate decision to confront a long-standing

challenge that previous administrations could not resolve.

Upon assuming office, the FCT Minister did not ignore the condition of the Apo-Karshi road or hide behind the fact that the contract predated his administration. The stalled contract was reviewed, revoked and re-awarded, while closer supervision was introduced to ensure that work progressed according to an agreed timeline. This is the hallmark of the Wike leadership style: identify the problem, take responsibility and pursue results.

During his inspection of the project on September 24, 2026, the minister expressed satisfaction that the road, after years of delay, had finally reached an advanced stage of completion.

The significance of the Apo-Karshi road goes far beyond asphalt and concrete. When completed, it will improve connectivity between the Abuja city centre and rapidly growing communities along the corridor. It will provide an alternative access route, reduce travel time and ease pressure on other major roads.

The project will also support commercial activities, improve access to markets, schools and healthcare facilities, increase the value of properties and create new economic oppor-

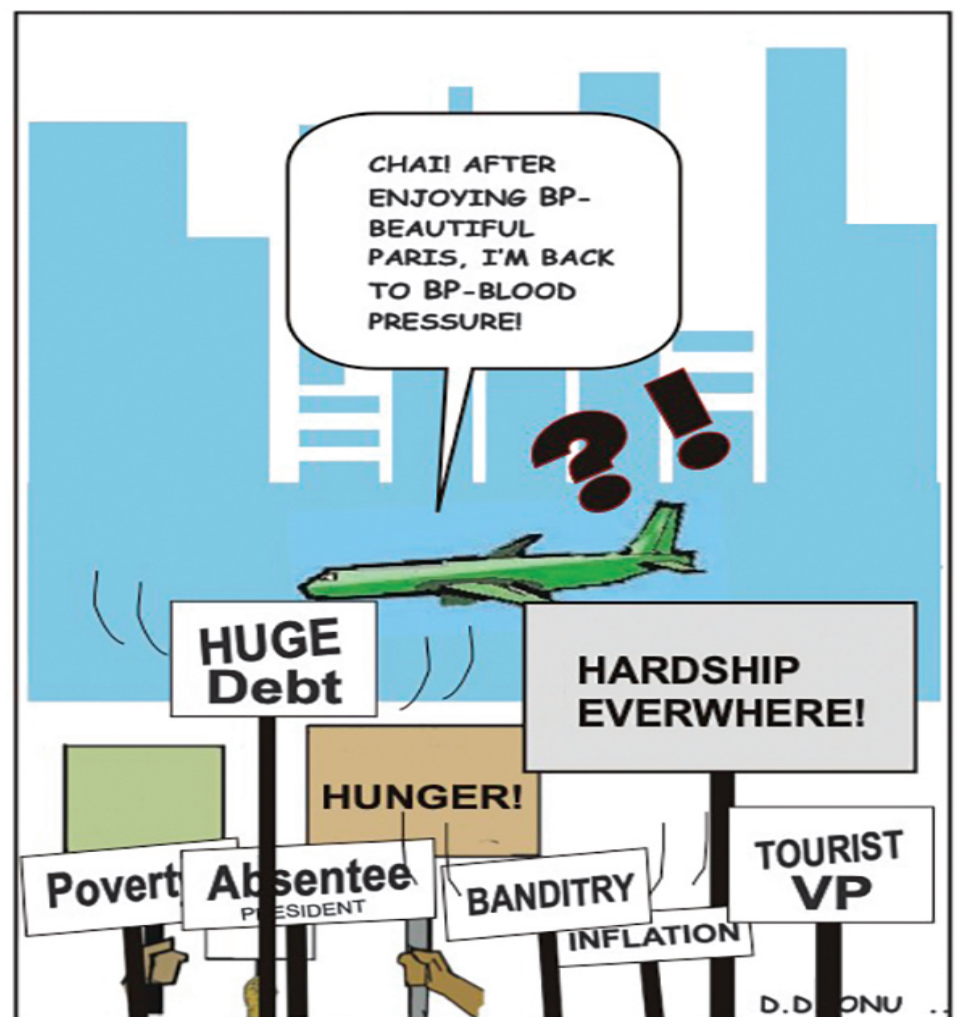
tunities for residents. The revival of the Apo-Karshi road is part of a broader and deliberate strategy to extend development beyond Abuja’s city centre. People naturally identify with a government that listens to them, acknowledges their challenges and takes practical steps to address them.

For many years, residents of satellite towns watched major infrastructure projects concentrated largely within the city centre. Under the present FCT Administration, that narrative is being rewritten. Roads and other essential facilities are now reaching communities that had previously felt excluded from Abuja’s development.

The Wike-led FCT Administration is gradually restoring public confidence by completing inherited projects, initiating new ones and ensuring that infrastructure development reaches both urban and satellite communities. The scale, pace and geographical spread of the transformation are redefining expectations of what an FCT Administration can accomplish.

After 16 long years, the people of Apo, Karshi and neighbouring communities can finally see the end of their wait.

Read the remaining part of this article on www.guardian.ng
Dr. Jumai Ahmadu is the Director, Reform Coordination and Service Improvement Department, FCTA.



Opinion

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

The art of forgiveness

By Tony Afejuku

THE Glitterer wishes to make not so comprehensive remarks about a subject to which he considers affixing a comprehensive title. In other words, the Glitterer, this Glitterer, wants to give a very short, brief speech or comment about a topic, but he wants to give that speech, this comment, that is, a massive, official-sounding, and deeply detailed title. Herein lies the Glitterer's art: His planning to make a very short, minor comment about a topic, but he is going to dress it up with a massive, incredibly complex, and official-sounding title to make it seem much important than it actually is.

Is this composer sounding humorous or ironic here? Are his sentences trying to describe a humorous or ironic contradiction in someone's behaviour? Are the sentences describing or trying to describe a picture of someone who cares a lot about the "packaging" (the title, the chosen title) but is not putting much substance into the actual "content", the actual "substance", the actual "illustration" (the speech, the comment)?

Now, let the composer terminate the perceived (or unnoticed) suspense his art may have generated so far; for it is time for the Glitterer to end the perceived (or unseen) tension and mystery that his composition has created up until this point.

His purpose is to put into form presently certain of his thoughts or ideas on the point or mystery of forgiveness and its art with respect to our politics. How do we tell the frank and stimulating story of the unforgiving spirit of every political gladiator in our land? Very recently a handsome columnist/regular *Guardian* contributor whose association with me is handsomely favourable sent me the following newspaper report of ages ago:

"How I Became a Drug Abuser and Trafficker – Gov Tinubu of Lagos".

The story was published as the lead (front page) report of *PM News* of Monday, May 17, 1999.

The Glitterer feels the need to affix (or re-affix?) the comprehensive report to a Nigerian newspaper again as he hereby does in this column – somewhat in its original form. The Glitterer is doing so genuinely to indicate that we should not be indifferent to the art of forgiveness, and the comprehensive remarks it surely will generate. Here is the massive report:

"Lagos State Governor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, yesterday made a shocking revelation of his past, confessing that he became a drug abuser and trafficker during his younger years.

"In an emotional and candid interview with *PM News*, the governor said he got involved in drug abuse and trafficking while he was still a young man, a period he described as one of the darkest chapters of his life.

"I became a drug abuser and trafficker, Tinubu said. It was a difficult time for me, but I have since turned my life around and chosen the path of service to my people and to Nigeria."

"The Governor, who is also the national leader of the All Progressive Congress (APC) said his experience with drugs exposed him to the darker side of life, but it also taught him valuable lessons about the dangers of addiction and the need for a better society.

"I don't say this for sympathy, he said. 'I say it so that others, especially our youths, can learn from my mistakes. Drugs destroy lives, families and communities. I thank God for giving me a second chance and I will continue to work for a Nigeria where our young people are protected and given real opportu-

nities.

"The admission has since sparked wide reactions across the country, with many Nigerians commending the governor for his honesty."

The confession of the then Governor of Lagos State who is now the President of Nigeria, our mysteriously great and greatly mysterious country, is the proof of a life and curiosity of a man whose curiosity is indisputable and which will remain indisputable in the consciousness of those who are studying him earnestly with the intention to bring him down. Bola Tinubu's confession proves that he is an undeniably curious man, and this trait will always be recognised by the people who are closely studying him to find a way to ruin him. In other words, this confession serves as evidence of his life choices and his undeniable habit of being curious or investigative.

His political enemies or critics who are closely watching his every move to find a weakness to destroy him, cannot deny how curious and sharp he is. Even his fiercest critics who belong to the brotherhood of journalists must acknowledge this in the same way that their readers, and the man's political enemies cannot dispute his sharp intellect.

If President Bola Ahmed Tinubu were a devout Roman Catholic, he would have gone to a priest as a penitent to confess his sins or alleged history with drug abuse and trafficking. Without a doubt his sins would have been forgiven. Instead he went public, holding a conflicted sense of remorse and optimism that the public – acting as his confessor – would forgive him which they ultimately did. This is the strategy of a masterful performer – one that cannot be faulted if we view politics as an art form meant to be accepted

at face value rather than over-analysed.

This is the comfortable, good-humoured presumption of this writer, columnist and composer that cannot really be queried in the spirit of art that is a pudding which is a pudding, and that our only concern with it is to taste and swallow it – whether or not our tongues wholesomely accept it.

In closing, the Glitterer wishes to ask as follows: In publishing Governor Bola Ahmed Tinubu's curious alluded-to confession in 1999, did the four (ex-) guerilla journalists – Bayo Onanuga, Babafemi Ojudu, Dapo Olorunyomi and Kunle Ajibade, who co-founded *PM News* – deliberately lob their journalistic grenade into Tinubu's enemies' lines just on general principles to help him stay on course for the pursuit of the biggest prize in the land (which he eventually got, and wants to re-get, by all means possible and impossible)? What or who gives me the temerity to tender this question? Answer: My zeal and enthusiasm for truth and nothing but the truth, and my open-mindedness and objectivity, and other things art demands of/from all of us pushers of the mighty pen and readers of our jocular or serious texts.

However, a critical detail came to light upon completing this piece: the quoted *PM News* report was actually an AI-generated hoax created by those who oppose and hate President Tinubu and Nigeria. Embarrassed by this revelation, The Glitterer, This Glitterer, mutters to himself and seeks forgiveness from President Tinubu and *PM News*. Nevertheless, he still foresees Nigeria's ultimate ruin from 2027 onward – unless President Tinubu, his allies, his presidencynologists, his opponents, and the rest of us reject AI-generated deception and play politics by standard democratic rules.

Afejuku can be reached via 08055213059.

World Teachers' Day: They are architects of Nigeria's future

By Anthony Amahwe

MOST of us remember only a fraction of what we were taught in school. The formulas fade, the definitions slip away and even some of the books we read for examinations become unfamiliar. Yet when asked about a teacher who made a difference, many of us can recall the person, the classroom, the words they used and the moment they made us believe we were capable of more.

The relationship between a teacher and a student is one of the least visible dimensions of education. Conversations about learning understandably focus on curriculum, results and access, but a teacher's influence on a young person is far harder to measure. Children spend a large part of their formative years in school, which makes teachers some of the most consequential adults in their early lives. Through encouragement, guidance and the expectations they set, teachers shape how students see themselves, what they believe is possible and how confidently they engage with the world.

For many students, it begins with being encouraged to raise a hand, attempt a difficult question, write a story or try again after getting something wrong. These moments never appear on a report card, but they build confidence, character and ambition long after the school year ends.

The work of a teacher has always extended beyond the subject being taught. A teacher may enter a classroom to teach mathematics or science and still spend the day encouraging a struggling student, recognising an emerging talent or challenging a young person who has begun to doubt their ability. Today, they are also helping students navigate new technologies and a world that demands critical thinking and adaptability.

That is why I think of teachers as quiet architects. They are building something that may take years to understand, often without knowing what the finished structure will look like. A teacher may encourage a child at ten years old without ever seeing where that encouragement leads, yet that student may become an engineer, entrepreneur, artist, doctor or teacher whose work is shaped by the confidence received years earlier.

World Teachers' Day is an important opportunity to recognise this contribution, but it should also prompt a broader conversation about what it means to value the teaching profession.

To truly value teachers is to recognise the conditions they need to do their work well: the opportunity to continue developing professionally, the resources to teach effectively, a working environment that supports them and the professional respect to have a voice in the systems they serve. UNESCO's 2026 World Teachers' Day focus reflects this broader understanding, highlighting the need to strengthen teachers' recognition, professional standing and working conditions.

The quality of education depends not only on what we expect from teachers, but also on the support we give them to meet those expectations. As UNESCO puts it, "The working conditions of teachers are the learning conditions of students." If teachers are expected to prepare young people for an increasingly complex world, then the systems around them must give teachers the tools, support and environment to meet that challenge.

Supporting teachers cannot begin and end with a message of appreciation. It has to show up in the systems, resources and everyday environments in which they work. Governments have a role in shaping policy and providing the resources education systems require.

Schools and education leaders must create environments where teachers can do their jobs effectively. Parents and communities have a role in reinforcing the value of education and the work of educators. The private sector can contribute through partnerships, resources and initiatives that complement these efforts.

At BIC, this connection is close to our work. For decades, our products have been part of everyday moments of writing, learning and self-expression, from the first letters a child learns to write to the notes, assignments and examinations that form part of their education. But the tool is only one part of the experience. Before a young person has the confidence to put an idea on paper, there is often a teacher who encourages them to try.

That belief has shaped our approach to supporting education and educators. Through initiatives such as Canvas of Change, BIC has worked with teachers across Nigeria to help them leverage creative methods and hands-on tools that make learning more engaging. We have also supported edu-

cators with teacher guides, lesson resources and classroom aids, ensuring that teachers are not only recognized but also equipped to succeed. Through our Back-to-School and Global Education Week activities, BIC continues to place essential writing instruments into the hands of both students and teachers, helping to provide some of the everyday tools needed for learning.

In September 2025, BIC also backed teachers on a larger stage. As headline sponsor of the Let There Be Teachers Conference, convened by One Million Teachers, BIC stood with over 5,000 educators who gathered at Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos to celebrate teachers and set a Guinness World Record for the largest gathering of teachers. The conference closed with a call for reform, urging governments and stakeholders to strengthen policies on teacher welfare, curriculum development and education financing.

These efforts reflect a simple principle: recognising teachers should go hand in hand with supporting them. The people shaping the next generation need the resources, professional support and wider ecosystem required to do that work well.

There is often a teacher behind the stories we tell about who we have become. It may be the one who encouraged us when we struggled, challenged us when we doubted ourselves or introduced us to an idea that changed how we saw the world. Many of these teachers may never know the full extent of their influence. Yet the confidence they built, the curiosity they encouraged and the possibilities they helped us see can stay with us long after we leave their classrooms.

This World Teachers' Day, we should recognise teachers not only for what they teach, but for the possibilities they help create. Their work extends beyond lessons and examinations. They help young people find their voice, believe in their abilities and imagine futures they may not yet see for themselves.

Because long after the lesson is forgotten, the belief a teacher placed in a student can remain. That is the quiet power of teaching, and it is why those who shape our future deserve to be supported, respected and recognised, not just on World Teachers' Day, but every day.

Amahwe is the General Manager, BIC Nigeria. He wrote from Lagos.

Opinion

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

How can Chuks Nwanne rest in peace?

By Onyekachi Sobechi

AS one of the purveyors of information and popular culture, yours sincerely wakes and breathes with the news. But, last Saturday, October 3, 2026, turned out to be a day that breaking news became so abhorrent. Breaking news: The Guardian loses its General Manager, Abuja and Northern Operations!

That was one breaking news that one found so hard to process. Early that sad Saturday, in less than three hours, a surfeit of calls had hit my GSM line. As if a conspiracy was afoot, nearly all the callers were vending the hurtful breaking news. And, as if to ensure that the calls achieved deepest hurt, the callers rounded off their message with, "May his soul rest in peace!"

Those six words aggravated my pain. How can Chuks Nwanne rest in peace at barely 46, 20 years short of retirement? How can the young and ebullient General Manager, who transited from the pressure-filled office as Editor on Saturday to the converse of administration, rest in peace?

How can he rest in peace with a lot of memoranda on his in-tray? What becomes of the many ambitious ideas he nursed? How can the plan to introduce story-telling in political campaign messaging be turned into a mission or even his resolve to amplify niche marketing in a very competitive media industry?

dustry?

As many puzzles pulsed in my brain, my mind ran to the young family he was leaving behind. For the greater part of that sad Saturday, I was disconsolate, wishing that the entire thing ended up as fake news. But, instead of receiving any call with contrary information, the news of Nwanne's demise continued to trend on the various social media.

The pain ran so deep, reminding of similar sudden exit from the land of the living by Femi Adebesein Kuti, the affable ace photo-journalist. Nwanne's goodnight is heart-wrenching still, and I wish Chuks had looked back and seen reasons to stay back. Oh, how agonising!

What is in this life after all? How can a green tree wither and dry up in a rainy season? Even a flood of tears fail to wash away the laceration of the mind caused by this one death at spring time: Here was a young man, who paved his path to the future with focus and friendliness, only for death to deal its false hand.

Nwanne had a unique interpersonal relationship style. He dressed hard decisions with quiet diplomacy that ends up in a win-win situation. I recall my first meeting with the warm young man that fateful September 1, 2015. Journeying from the East to resume at the Rutam House, *The Guardian* on Sunday team, headed by Abraham Ogbodo

and Alabi Williams, was receiving a latest addition.

From Ogbodo came the question, Where do we station the fresh hand? Nwanne was ready with an easy answer in his usual problem-solving quick wit. The chatter that followed inside what was formerly the Life Magazine office space, revolved around the evolution and growth of newsmagazines and challenges facing Nigeria's newspaper industry.

Opportunity to put some of the suggested ideas into action came around 2021, when Nwanne became the Editor of Saturday edition of *The Guardian*. With his creative dexterity in graphics, the first step was to reconfigure the cover page design, simulating a medley of the Bristol Post and the Sunday Mail.

Fast forward to 2023, we found ourselves together once again in Abuja to revisit the conversations that were paused in Lagos. But, apart from the change of municipality, there was also a variation of job description. Nwanne has crossed over to administration, yet he found time to craft designs intended as guide for the novel idea of niche marketing, especially at a time of political contestation.

The last time I saw Nwanne was on July 15, when the executives of Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) paid a courtesy visit on his office. But, quite unlike he was

usually wont, he did not peep into our office before leaving. What would be the next and last meeting was at his hospital bed, when I visited in the company of Jenniepher and Kingsley.

We looked forward to a quick recovery. But, now, the images from that last meet have become mental reminders of the torment that trailed that hospital visit. Could it be that the sight of his sister bringing in Chuks' travelling box was a metaphor of his eventual flight to the land of see him no more?

I never anticipated that that bye-bye was to be a final wave. There was no real conversation; it was more of a pantomime. Now, I have to close my misty eyes trying to see the young man who came for me at a period of great social distress. So, it is true after all?

Chuks, why go away this way? Why leave me questioning what life is all about? You took your quiet laughter to embark on this long journey like a vapour. But, like Dido sang, life is a rent, nothing we own is truly ours. How can I tell you to rest in peace, when there are much to do and talk about?

Odogwu n'oyi, you may have changed location, but wherever you are, and knowing that you are not indolent, my prayer is that you occupy yourself with joyful activities in the land of luminescence.

Sobechi wrote from Abuja.

Clarifying SEC circular on IFRS sustainability standards

By Innocent Okwuosa

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Nigeria in a circular dated September 23, 2026 drew attention to the Financial Reporting Council (FRC) of Nigeria's roadmap for the adoption of IFRS S1 and S2 which has been structured into three phases (1) Early Adoption - for accounting periods ending on or before December 31, 2023; (2) Voluntary Adoption - for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2024 through periods ending on or before December 31, 2027; and (3) Mandatory Adoption for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2028. Small and Medium-sized Entities (SMEs) will be subject to mandatory adoption for accounting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2030.

The circular drew attention to Nigeria's commitment to adopting the IFRS sustainability disclosure standards and the fact that the FRC developed the roadmap for the adoption of the IFRS standards in Nigeria in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the commission. This to me suggests a complementary and supportive role of SEC in ensuring the implementation of IFRS S1 & S2, which is good.

The circular then stated that all public companies and significant public interest Capital Market operators are required to commence preparations for sustainability reporting in accordance with the IFRS sustainability disclosure standards and the implementation timelines as set out and prescribed in the FRC roadmap. Many voluntary adopters did not understand this as they have already gone past preparation for adoption stage.

To enable the commission to monitor the preparedness of regulated entities and facilitate a smooth transition to mandatory sustainability reporting, the circular directed every public company and significant public interest Capital Market operator to submit to the commission, on or before October 15, 2026 an implementation plan which should address as a minimum, the following:

(1) Governance arrangements for sustainability reporting, including Board oversight; (2) Gap assessment against the requirements of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2; (3) Implementation roadmap and timelines; (4) Data collection and reporting systems; (5) Internal control and assurance arrangements; (6) Capacity building and training plans; (7) Expected year of first sustainability reporting in accordance with the FRCN Roadmap; and (8) Key implementation challenges.

The commission, according to the circular, will continue to engage with regulated entities and monitor compliance with the implementation timelines as part of its oversight of financial reporting and corporate governance practices in the Nigerian capital market.

The circular, in drawing attention to the monitoring role of SEC over regulated entities transitioning to mandatory reporting and compliance role with the implementation timeline, as part of its oversight of financial reporting, has sent panic among listed entities. They argue that the circular has raised many questions seeking clarifications, to which they want us to provide answers.

The first question they want to clarify is whether the eight listed items (documents) to be included in the SEC's implementation plan to be submitted by October 15, 2026, are different from the FRC's 17 implementation documents which the Early and Voluntary Adopters have already submitted to FRC. The second question is whether the content of the documents that SEC is asking for is the same as those of FRC.

For example, the FRC 17 documents distinguish between implementation plan and gap analysis unlike the SEC's circular that has embedded separate FRC documents into implementation plan. Data collection and reporting system is not among FRC 17 documents. Expected year of reporting is not a separate document but is part and parcel of implementation plan.

These clarifications are pertinent because the implication of the timeline given by the SEC's circular is that a voluntary adopter is expected to submit all the eight documents to SEC by October 15, 2026 which to me sounds like a big bang. This big bang differs from the phased approach of the FRC Roadmap.

The roadmap sequences the submission of its 17 implementation documents into phases - Phase one to Phase three spread over 12 months, making them manageable for submission to the regulator. For example, Items (documents) one to three listed in the SEC's implementation plan are Phase 1 documents under FRC 17 documents, which are to be submitted three months before the beginning of the first financial year of adoption.

Item (document) four under the SEC implementation plan which is on data is an issue of consideration throughout the FRC implementation period. Item six on capacity building and training and Item 1 on governance are Phase two activities under FRC Implementation. Specifically, item (document) five which is on internal control over sustainability reporting is a Phase 3 document under the FRC 17 documents.

The third question that arises is, if FRC implementation roadmap has phased the submission of these documents, why is the SEC circular demanding the submission of all these documents by October 15 all at once. This is where the listed entities in the capital market require clarification and education. They need education to understand. Many have

argued that if the SEC circular is specifically asking entities to submit to SEC what they have submitted to FRC, the circular may have become clearer.

However, asking for what has been submitted to FRC is compounded for an entity that has not opted to be a voluntary adopter. As stated above, an entity has a free choice to wait and become a Mandatory Adopter. As at today, Mandatory Adopters have not submitted any of the 17 documents to FRC. According to the roadmap, their first three of the 17 documents are due for submission to FRC by October 2027 for those whose financial year runs from January to December every year. What the circular has now done is to require such entity to submit some Phase one to Phase three documents by October 15, 2026. This is not only a big bang but a contradiction of the FRC Adoption roadmap which SEC seeks to support its implementation.

Following from the above is the fourth question around whether SEC will sanction entities that do not meet its 15 October 2026 submission deadline. This question has troubled banks more, because of the market interpretation of regulatory sanction as a governance failure issue. They call for more clarification on the part of SEC because the FRC roadmap has promised no regulatory sanction during the voluntary adoption phase. If SEC sanctions any entity for not meeting the October 15 deadline, it will conflict with and contradict FRC Roadmap.

That last point now leads them to ask whether it is no longer enough to want to comply with the FRC roadmap and whether they are no longer allowed the option to become a mandatory adopter, raising a kind of frustration and panic, which again requires clarification and education.

Clearly, this is not the intention of SEC in that circular, a reason more clarification is required, but above all, the reason listed companies in the capital market should not panic because SEC is known to rise and be on top of situations like this. I am aware of the Regulatory Round Table which provides opportunity for interaction between FRC and SEC as well as other sectoral regulators like CBN, NDIC, NAICOM, and PenCom. I am also aware of the excellent coordination between FRC and SEC in working towards a harmonious implementation of IFRS sustainability standards in Nigeria, which is the original intention of the circular.

I am optimistic that the above provides a good background for the clarification that will come from SEC in the days ahead of October 15, 2026.

Okwuosa PhD is the immediate past Chair, NIRC; the 59th President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and an Adjunct Associate Professor at Pan Atlantic University, Lekki, Lagos.

THE yearly World’s Teachers’ Day was marked in our land on Monday. It is a celebration inaugurated by UNESCO to draw attention to teachers and invite appreciation for their high tasks as the primary builders of society. They mould character of children; they impart knowledge to them. They set their gaze high. Many of the teachers want to be seen as role models in conduct and application to work. Their guidance and admonitions ring loud in the hearts of many a pupil or students even long after they have left school. Their responsibilities are onerous and their duty is sacred.

The celebration of Teachers Day began in 1994, and this year marks the 60th anniversary of when serious thought was given to the status of teachers by ILO in collaborative working with UNESCO. In our clime Teachers’ Day is a time of exhortation by the political leaders in government to trigger reflection by all and sundry on how the teachers are faring, and on what encouragement and support they are receiving from every sector of society. How high is the esteem in which they are held? Undoubtedly, teachers work under harsh conditions, especially in rural areas—outside towns and cities where there may be no access roads.

As I did allude to the deterioration in the facilities last week, in many town, school building walls are dilapidated. Classrooms are congested and in some rural areas, pupils sit on the floor. Desks and chairs are broken. The National Secretary-General of the National Union of Teachers said on television, commenting on the workload of teachers in remote towns and villages, there could be just two teachers and the headmaster in a whole school, teaching all the classes! One can’t but reflect deeply on the difference in the gap between the old and the present in terms of working conditions, workload and the esteem teachers were held then and are held today. To demonstrate the appreciation for the crucial roles that teachers play in raising the citizens of the future and to honour them, Oyo and Ogun states declared last Monday a work free Day.

What could be more sobering than in remembering that at different times, the Almighty Creator sent down to this earth Teachers of Mankind apart from Prophets. I have mentioned them a few times in the past. To remind us, they are Lao-Tse, (600 B.C.) sent to China; Buddha born (550 B.C.) in India; and Zoroaster born also (600 B.C.) as Lao-Tse. I can’t but mention Jeremiah in particular among the Prophets, described as admonition prophet born in Palestine (630 B.C.). There were some referred to as Helping Messengers sent also from On High. There are also Nature Beings who teach and admonish human beings—those who are not closed and can hear them. As Terence McKenna was to say in his great words: “*Nature is not mute, it is man that is deaf.*”

In the course of my reflection, I reached out for a piece I wrote back in 1994 in these pages which dealt largely on the concept of time, and briefly in response to how Dr. Omololu Olunloyo, a Wizkid, saw it at the time in his column in the *Nigerian Tribune*. I am also drawing attention on the occasion of the Teachers’ Day to Olunloyo’s tenure as Commissioner for Education in the old West and the reforms he brought about in the field of education in the Region, such as academic

What is time?

excellence which put him in his own elements, and the minimum institutional standards all schools must meet. The piece at the time, some 32 years ago, also touched briefly on that tenure as Education Commissioner. Come with me:

“Dr Omololu Olunloyo is a very visible public figure. He is a multi-talented enigma often remembered as the dynamic Commissioner for Education in the old West in General Adeyinka Adebayo during General Gowon’s era. He loved his job and brought the freshness and energy of a youth to bear on his responsibility in the portfolio. His mistake in the assignment, in my view, was the dramatic redeployment of many secondary school principals long established in their colleges. They were synonymous with the schools and colleges they headed.

Talk of Olivet Baptist High School (Olivet Heights), Oyo and your mind would immediately go to Lafinhan. Mention Government College, (GCI), Ibadan, your mind would go to Bullock, or talk of Ijebu-Ode

Grammar School, and your mind would race to N. E. Ade Oshisanya. Talk of Ibadan Grammar School and you would fix your inner mind’s eye on Alayande. And Muslim College, Ijebu-Ode, there could be no other than Sanni. Dr. Olunloyo was also governor of Western State briefly before Muhammadu Buhari’s troops rolled in their tanks to disperse Shagari’s jolly men on December 31, 1983.

I don’t intend to discuss Olunloyo’s memorable tenure as Educational Commissioner nor his politics. It is to his clear, uncluttered thinking for which mathematicians are generally known that I prefer to advert my mind. Mathematicians, from my experience with them, appear to pay a great deal of atten-

tion to and lay stress on principles out of which logic flows. Two plus two can only be four. The figure becomes immutable. Development can, therefore, only be built on the principle that 2 plus 2 is 4. If what is arrived at is 3 then the structure must collapse. The straight line, the mathematician will insist, is the shortest distance between two points.

Predictably, Olunloyo has sought in his column to hew a logical way out of a labyrinth of thoughts and ideas with which the world has been inflicted. Lately, he has sought to unravel the concept of time. Olunloyo has been chewing the knotty question for two Mondays running in the *Nigerian Tribune*. ‘What is time?’ he asked last Monday in a follow-up to ‘The Riddle of Time’ published the other Monday.

I do not think he has landed, and, so, cannot yet fully join the debate. But he has provided a good deal of food for thought to encourage, at least, a passing observation and make preliminary remarks. It is possible for

one to see a picture different from Olunloyo’s which nevertheless points to a common direction in some respects. Olunloyo, it would appear, sees a jungle of human conceptions of TIME, which at the end of the day boils down to a foggy vision. What is TIME really?

All the odds are that there would be as many answers as the number of people asked to define this common word that is on the lips of everyone practically every day. Olunloyo has shown that on the loose today’s language can get in trying to form an audible channel to capture intuitive essence. Really, don’t we ask what time of the day or year it is, that is, that something is, talk of a time piece, say the committee finished its work ahead of time, wonder if we would have time to attend a party, explain that our time is choked or that we have no time? Nor can we forget, as Dr. Olunloyo has suggested we should not, the popular saying, ‘there is time for everything...?’

TIME: We even say time flies. To where? It may be asked. But really, does it fly? Let us consider two scenarios. What we call one year on earth is the number of days and nights it takes the planet to go round the sun. This is 365 or 366 days as the case may be. We call it one year. But it takes another planet, Pluto 90, 658.2 earth days and nights or 247.7 earth years to go round the sun and yet another planet, Neptune, 164 earth years to accomplish the same task. In other words, as one year on earth measures 247 years on Pluto and 164 on Neptune, time cannot hold the same value always for a

“
A person genuinely with a lot to do finds he does not have time to accomplish everything as he would like to. Time, therefore, stands a constant timeless, spanless, ageless, unchangeable and eternal. Time, in fact, stands still.
”



Victor Omololu Olunloyo who has to live on earth today, in Pluto tomorrow and on Neptune the next.

Perceptions of time, therefore, must be related to the rhythm of the movement of that which is experiencing time and its distance from reality. An enjoyable day thus appears to fly past whereas a five-minute encounter with armed robbers seems like ages. Consider our dreams. In a dream of five minutes or even one minute, we perceive and go through experiences covering a lifetime. We travel; we hold meetings; we celebrate or attend wedding ceremonies or attend funeral rites. We weep; we cry and wake up surprised. We encounter friends and relations who may have passed away. Sometimes we cannot keep the experiences within ourselves. We look to share the experiences with friends or with a person believed to have the ability to interpret dreams. Nothing fetters the spirit that is in activity when the frontal brain, the cerebrum with its density, is resting. The dream is with the hind brain, the cerebellum which is the spiritually receptive part of the brains. With the dream experiences we can begin to understand the statement that in the Light Region, Paradise, experiences of a thousand years on earth are as one day!

We are told, drawing from “In the Light of Truth”, the Grail Message by Abd-ru-shin: “The further a human spirit shinning forth from out of its body receives the possibility of sensing real life through a lighter, less dense environment, the more it will be able to experience inwardly, so that in the time of one earth-day it can absorb far more experiences in its particular environment than can an earth-man with his denser brain in his heavier and more solid surroundings.

“According to the nature of the perviousness, i.e. according to the less dense and more luminous nature of its environment, a human spirit is able, through easier receptivity, to experience in the time of one earth-day as much as in the time of one earth-year, until in the Spiritual Realm itself it can experience in the time of one-earth-day as much as in a thousand earth-years!”

A person genuinely with a lot to do finds he does not have time to accomplish everything as he would like to. Time, therefore, stands a constant timeless, spanless, ageless, unchangeable and eternal. Time, in fact, stands still. As we are permitted to know in the new and higher knowledge available on earth today, time flies not. It moves not. It is we the forms, swinging in the waves of its power, who march into time. We rush into it.

We and the worlds came into being through it, are permitted continued existence by it, journey in the currents of its power, cull from its records to enrich our knowledge for what has been collected there as time has lost nothing. It has recorded all things for us some day to mature thereby and come to flower. Ladies and gentlemen, Time is life, the perfect Equilibrium. Any wonder, the riddle surrounding Time!”

Upon reading the Column and considering the thoughts expressed on the concept of Time novel, Dr. Olunloyo got in touch with me and from then we got close until he departed earthly life in April last year, aged 89. Indeed, he was only a week to being 90 when he took his exit.

LAST WEEK’S FACTUAL ERROR: I did state that Dr. Tunji Braithwaite attended King’s College. He was a product of C.M.S. Grammar School, Lagos. The mix-up occurred remembering that his bosom friend, Ikemba Emeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, briefly attended the college, the first secondary school in Nigeria. Ojukwu started there at the age of 10 in 1943. By 1944, he transferred to King’s College. The error is regretted.



Olunloyo

Politics & Policy

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

How cultism, garage gangs threaten post-election peace in Osun

The August 15 governorship election may have ended, but a troubling pattern of killings, cult-related violence, clashes involving transport union factions and the alleged use of street-level enforcers is leaving Osun State grappling with a fresh security challenge, OLUWOLE IGE reports.

THE dust raised by the August 15 governorship election may have settled politically, but the violence associated with the period appears to have acquired a life of its own, with cult-related killings, transport union disputes and the activities of suspected street gangs generating fresh concerns across Osun State.

Rather than disappearing with the conclusion of the poll, violence has continued to surface in different parts of the state, reviving questions about the networks linking political mobilisation, transport unions, motor parks, cult groups and other non-state actors whose activities can become difficult to separate from broader contests for influence at the grassroots.

The concern is not limited to killings recorded after the election. Some stakeholders have also alleged that cult-related activities formed part of the violence witnessed in the build-up to the poll. That allegation, however, remains a matter requiring investigation rather than a settled conclusion.

More significantly, the Osun State Police Command has described the pockets of violence as “purely cult-related”, while assuring residents that security agencies are working to prevent further escalation.

For many stakeholders, however, the challenge goes beyond identifying those responsible for individual killings. It is about confronting the networks that make violence possible: illicit arms, cult groups, transport-union factions, political thugs and other informal structures that can be mobilised when political, commercial or personal interests collide.

The August 15 contest exposed the intensity of political competition in Osun, but incidents that followed have shifted attention from the ballot box to the streets.

On August 19, a shooting incident occurred when Governor Ademola Adeleke's entourage, including his nephew and global hip-hop star, David Adeleke, popularly known as Davido, visited the Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Olanipekun Oyetunji, at his palace in Oja Oba, Osogbo.

The incident was followed by the killing of Olalekan Oyeyemi, popularly known as Emir Ajagunbade, around Mayfair Motor Park, Ile-Ife. Oyeyemi, a political appointee of the Adeleke administration, was reportedly killed after attending a meeting with the Commissioner for Transport, Sesan Oyedele, in Modakeke.

His death intensified attention on the activities of transport associations and their alleged links with political interests. Oyeyemi was reportedly being considered for the chairmanship of the proposed Park Management System. That claim, however, has not been independently established.

Police later recovered another corpse near the scene of the killing, while allegations emerged linking another aide to Adeleke, Wakeel Nurudeen Alowonle, and a transport union member identified simply as Sibi to the incident. Both men denied involvement in a viral video.

Five days after the August 19 incident, two people were reportedly killed at Naira and Kobo Junction, Ikire, in Irewole Local Government Area. The Police subsequently arrested four suspects in connection with the incident.

The suspects were identified by the Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Zungura, as Sikiru Ademola Adedeji, 21; Olalere Taiwo, 21; Olalere Ademola, 26; and Bankole Abiodun, 20.

Zungura said a police team from the Ikire Division, led by its Divisional

Police Officer, Bamidele Olatona, responded to a distress call at the scene when one of the suspects allegedly snatched an AK-47 rifle from a policeman.

Although the Police described the incident as stemming from a factional crisis among transport unions, the development added to concerns about the capacity of violent groups operating around motor parks and other informal commercial structures.

One of the victims, Fatai Shobowale, was reportedly travelling to Bayelsa State when he was killed.

Cultism and the pre-election violence

THE post-election incidents have also brought back questions about the killings and attacks recorded before the August 15 election.

The Police had earlier said more than 30 politically related killings were recorded before the poll, amid a series of violent incidents that heightened fears over the possibility of a bloody election.

Although heavy security deployment and the eventual conduct of the election without the widespread breakdown of order feared by many helped prevent a larger crisis, questions remain about the identity and motivation of some of the violent groups involved in the pre-election incidents.

The distinction is important because political thuggery, cultism, criminal gangs and transport-union disputes can overlap in the field without necessarily being the same phenomenon.

For security agencies, identifying the networks, financing, recruitment channels and sources of weapons behind such groups may therefore be more important than merely responding to individual killings.

Politicians and the motor-park networks

A former Director of the Department of State Services, DSS, and security expert, Akin Adeyi, believes the problem must be traced to its source.

He said the patronage of thugs and criminals by politicians, and the benefits derived from such relationships, had become a major problem, noting that the preparation, conduct and aftermath of the Osun election were all dogged by violence.

Adeyi was particularly concerned about the relationship between politicians and transport-union networks.

“How our politicians have become regular customers of motor garage touts is very disheartening,” he said.

He argued that the solution should include the recovery of illicit weapons from non-state actors, suggesting that a buy-back mechanism could be

considered to encourage criminals to surrender illegal arms.

His position raises a broader question about the nature of political mobilisation in Osun: whether conventional party structures are gradually being supplemented, or in some cases displaced, by informal networks capable of delivering both political mobilisation and physical enforcement.

The political dimension has inevitably complicated efforts to address the violence.

The Osun APC Director of Media and Information, Kola Olabisi, urged security agencies to take charge and rein in what he described as terror elements in the state.

He, however, rejected any attempt to associate the APC with the post-election violence, arguing that the Ile-Ife incident was an internal crisis involving transport-union members with political leanings towards the Accord Party.

“Between the last election up to the point the election was held, no fewer than 37 of our members had been killed. We believe in the rule of law and we would not depart from it, which has become our hallmark,” he said.

But the Adeleke administration has equally rejected any suggestion that it encourages violence.

The governor's Senior Special Assistant on Media, Hezekiah Bamiji Oladele, said Adeleke abhorred violence and had consistently advocated peace.

“Anyone caught involved should be arrested. Our governor has said anyone involved in violence should be picked, even if his child is involved,” he said.

Oladele also placed responsibility on the Police to be proactive in preventing violence and killings.

Meanwhile, the Police Command appears to have identified cultism as a significant component of the emerging security challenge.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Abiodun Ojelabi, said the recent incidents were not necessarily evidence of renewed political violence.

“The pockets of incidents we are seeing in the state are purely cult-related and we are not folding our hands,” he said.

According to him, the Commissioner of Police had directed Area Commanders and Divisional

Police Officers to monitor developments in their jurisdictions and work with relevant stakeholders.

He added that maintaining relationships with community stakeholders was important because such relationships could help security agencies obtain information capable of preventing violence.

The Police position is significant because it shifts part of the discussion from electoral politics to organised youth violence and cult-related criminality.

It also raises the question of whether the state is witnessing a transition from election-related violence to a more entrenched

form of street-level violence whose perpetrators may no longer require direct political motivation to operate.

A sociology professor at Osun State University, John Agbonifo, said political leaders must publicly condemn violence and killings.

He argued that managing post-election violence should not end with the signing of peace agreements, adding that political actors must educate their supporters about the consequences of violence and publicly disown anyone found to be involved in criminality, regardless of political affiliation.

The Coordinator of Dialogue 365, Waheed Saka, said the political class must accept responsibility for encouraging the proliferation of non-state actors.

Saka accused politicians of arming thugs and other hoodlums, arguing that violence would remain a threat until such practices stopped. The allegation, however, requires evidence on a case-by-case basis.

The immediate task for the authorities, therefore, is not merely to promise arrests after each killing. It is to dismantle the structures that enable such violence to recur.

That includes tracing illegal weapons, investigating cult networks, monitoring motor parks and transport-union disputes, prosecuting those responsible for killings and establishing whether political actors or other influential interests provide financial, logistical or protective support to violent groups.

The state government's Election Violence Relief Committee, headed by the Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Adewale Egbedun, and the Commission of Enquiry into the Ikire killings are among the measures announced to address the situation.

Adeleke has also directed the Police to investigate the killing of Oyeyemi.

But the effectiveness of these interventions may ultimately depend on whether investigations are allowed to proceed without political interference and whether those found culpable are prosecuted regardless of their political connections.

Beyond the election

THE central concern for Osun now is whether the violence associated with political competition can be prevented from becoming a permanent feature of the state's social and political environment.

The August 15 election has ended, but the networks that operated around the contest did not necessarily disappear with the declaration of the result.

Cult groups, transport-union factions, political thugs and other informal actors operate within a wider environment shaped by unemployment, commercial interests, political patronage and the struggle for control of local spaces.

That makes the challenge bigger than the APC, Accord Party or any other political organisation.

For the Police and other security agencies, the immediate priority is to establish the facts behind the recent killings, identify the perpetrators and recover illicit weapons.

For political leaders, the test is whether they can publicly reject and isolate violent actors even when such individuals may previously have been useful to their political interests.

And for the people of Osun, the larger question is whether political competition can return to the ballot box without allowing the streets, motor parks and informal power structures to become extensions of the political battlefield.

Until that question is answered, the post-election peace in Osun may remain fragile.

“The challenge goes beyond identifying those responsible for individual killings. It is about confronting the networks that make violence possible.”



THE FINAL IPO ROADSHOW

 **MONDAY,
OCTOBER 12, 2026**

 **10:00AM**
WEST AFRICA TIME

 **HOTEL
PRESIDENTIAL**
PORT HARCOURT

BACK TO WHERE IT ALL **BEGAN**

 **PORT HARCOURT**
RIVERS STATE



SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR
His Eminence King (Dr.)
M. Daukoru (CON)
Mingi XII, the Amanyabo of Nembe,
Bayelsa State



HOST
Aliko Dangote, GCON



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Mr. Bismarck Rewane



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Professor Akpan Ekpo



ANCHOR/MODERATOR
Ladi Williams

PANELISTS

Mr. Dublin Green · Engr. Dan Kunle · Mr. Femi Awoyemi · Prof. Yinka David-West

 **JOIN ONLINE** | **bit.ly/3UdCQLF**

DANGOTE PETROLEUM REFINERY PLC · OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION · ₦525 PER SHARE · SEPTEMBER 14 TO OCTOBER 13, 2026



DANGOTE PETROLEUM
REFINERY & PETROCHEMICALS
LIMITED



FINANCIAL
DERIVATIVES
COMPANY

CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE Brent crude: \$107.0 | WTI crude: \$94.96

FOREX MARKET UPDATE

I&E Window: NI,326.00

CBN commits to data localisation, insists on January deadline

By Adeyemi Adepetun

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has said data localisation is no longer merely a technical regulatory requirement but a fundamental pillar of national economic security and digital sovereignty.

The apex bank has therefore rallied financial, fintech and payment sector players to ensure compliance with its directive, insisting that the January 1, 2027 deadline remains sacrosanct.

By insisting on full compliance without further extensions, the CBN said it aimed to catalyse local infrastructure investment and drive demand for domestic data centres, technology talent and cloud service providers.

The apex bank advised affected institutions to immediately commence data migration and localisation, if they had not already done so, to meet the deadline.

The Director, Payments

Systems Supervision Department, CBN, Dr Rakiya Opemi Yusuf, disclosed this in Lagos during her welcome address at the 'CloudReady Nigeria Financial Services Roundtable', organised by Africa Hyperscalers.

Yusuf, who was represented by the Assistant Director, Payments Systems Supervision Department, CBN, Babatunde Ajiboye, said the regulator's task was to ensure the effective implementation of its directive on local storage and management of payment transaction data.

"Our task is to ensure proper implementation of the directive of the CBN for local data storage and management of

payment transaction data into practical, reliable implementation. The CBN circular of June 15, 2026 requires payment transaction data generated within Nigeria to be stored and managed in Nigeria, with full compliance set for January 1, 2027," she said.

Yusuf said: "The compliance date hasn't changed. It is January 1, 2027. So, while you go about your implementation, you must know that it has to address the full data lifecycle from creation through processing and storage to eventual disposal.

"This calls for a complete data audit. The practical sequence is to audit and classify the data, agree on the

local architecture and contracts, then mitigate, test and independently verify completion."

The National Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC), Dr Vincent Olatunji, stressed the need to protect Nigeria's data hosted outside the country.

Olatunji, who was represented by the Head, Regulations Unit, NDPC, Ibukunoluwa Owa, said Africa accounted for less than one per cent of global data centres, describing the situation as economically unstable, unsustainable and strategically vulnerable.

"The Federal Government

has established a clear national mandate under the National Digital Cloud Policy to transition Nigeria from being a primary consumer of global cloud infrastructure into a globally competitive hub for digital infrastructure, local skills and cloud exports," he said.

Executive Director, Africa Hyperscalers, Temitope Osunrinde, said Nigeria had taken critical steps in recent years, particularly in the past few weeks, towards strengthening digital sovereignty through policies including the National Cloud Policy, National Sovereign Cloud Policy, Nigeria Data Protection Act and CBN regulations.

BRF returns with N200m rewards

THE Bvndle Rewards Festival (BRF) will return for its second edition on December 11 and 12, with organisers announcing N200 million worth of rewards, prizes, gadgets and experiences for participants.

The two-day festival, themed 'Be The Moment', will hold at Landmark Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos, as part of efforts to deepen customer loyalty and engagement between consumers and businesses.

The announcement was made at the BRF 2026 press conference held at Miliki, Lagos, where organisers unveiled plans for a bigger edition featuring brand activations, interactive experiences, conversations, rewards and entertainment.

The festival builds on its inaugural edition in December 2025, which attracted more than 5,000 attendees and 26 participating brands, including MTN, NGX, UBA and VFD Bank.

According to the organisers, the 2026 edition will provide consumers with opportunities to dis-

cover brands, participate in interactive activities, earn and redeem rewards, access exclusive offers and engage with businesses.

The programme will culminate in the Rewards Concert, featuring live music and performances designed to bring artists together with their audiences.

Managing Director, Bvndle Rewards Festival, Elmer Aluge, said the event was designed to celebrate the relationship between brands and their customers.

"Nigerians have always understood loyalty. We call it Jara: the little extra you receive for showing up and coming back. Bvndle has built that instinct into an ecosystem that rewards people every day of the year. December is when we come home and celebrate together, and loyalty deserves to be celebrated the same way," he said.

He said the theme, "Be The Moment," reflected the festival's focus on meaningful experiences and recognition of customers who consistently patronise their preferred brands.



Executive Director, VFD Group Plc, Folajimi Adeleye (left); Director, Bvndle Rewards Festival, Nicole Asinugo; Chairman, Bvndle Rewards Festival, Adeniyi Adenubi; Managing Director, Bvndle Rewards Festival, Elmer Aluge; Founder, KONIODR Gaming, Sidney Esiri; Vivian Eke of NGX Group Plc and Managing Director, VFD Microfinance Bank, Nonso Okoye at the BRF 2026 press conference in Lagos.

Business activities peak despite cost pressures

By Abigail Ikaghah

NIGERIA'S business activity climbed to a record high in September even as the surge in demand failed to translate into stronger financial performance, with businesses mired in high operating costs, financing constraints and other structural bottlenecks.

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), in its latest Business Confidence Monitor, said the Current Business Performance Index rose to 117.8 points in September from 112.7 points in August and 107.9 points a year earlier, surpassing the pre-

vious record of 117.2 points recorded in February.

The report, titled Strong Demand Ignited Business Growth amid Persistent Cost Pressures, however, showed that the improvement in business activity was not matched by an equally strong performance in business finances.

While most confidence sub-indices remained in expansion territory, the Financial Results Index slipped into contraction after several months of expansion, underscoring the pressure businesses continue to face despite stronger demand.

The divergence was also reflected in the NESG's cost indicators, with the Cost of Doing Business and Prices sub-indices remaining deeply below the 100-point neutral threshold at 39.2 and 58 points, respectively.

The figures suggest that businesses are recording higher levels of activity while still operating under severe cost pressures.

Trade emerged as the biggest driver of the September expansion, with its Current Business Performance Index jumping to 128.5 points from 112 points in August and 107.6 points a year earlier.

NESG attributed the strong performance partly to increased trade stockpiling linked to back-to-school shopping and stronger consumer demand, with both wholesale and retail trade benefiting from the improvement.

Agriculture also strengthened, rising to 117.7 points from 110.5 points in August and 107.3 points a year earlier, although forestry and fishing moved into contraction.

The improvement in overall activity was moderated by weaker manufacturing and services performance.

DisCo to protect consumers' data, pledges end to estimated billing

From Kingsley Jeremiah, Abuja

THE Abuja Electricity Distribution Plc (AEDC) has assured electricity consumers that their personal information will be protected under its new digital platforms, while pledging to progressively eliminate estimated billing across its franchise area.

At the launch of the AEDC MyPower Mobile and Web applications in Abuja yesterday, the Chief Executive Officer of AEDC, Chijioke Okwuokenye, FNSE, said the platforms were designed to give consumers greater control over their electricity services and improve transparency in the relationship between the DisCo and its customers.

Okwuokenye said the initiative was part of a broader digitisation of AEDC's operations aimed at improving customer satisfaction, rather than being driven primarily by cost reduction.

According to him, the platforms would allow customers to buy electricity tokens, pay bills, report outages and other service issues, lodge and track complaints, access bills and payment receipts, monitor energy consumption and manage multiple

accounts and meters.

He said the digital platforms would also provide customers with information that could help them understand whether power interruptions were linked to their feeders, transformers or other parts of the distribution network.

He explained that the initiative was intended to address one of AEDC's longstanding challenges: understanding customers' needs and using that information to develop appropriate solutions.

The AEDC chief said digitisation would also improve accountability within the company by enabling management to monitor customer complaints and fault responses from end to end.

On the potential cost benefits, Okwuokenye said AEDC had not launched the platforms as a cost-cutting initiative, although digitisation would eventually reduce some operational expenses, including the cost of printing physical bills.

He added that improved customer information and transparency could also reduce resistance to payment, increase revenue and improve customer satisfaction.

By Helen Oji

TRADING in the shares of Multi-Trex Integrated Foods Plc has resumed on the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) after the company submitted its outstanding financial statements, ending an almost eight-year suspension.

The Nigerian Exchange Regulation Limited (NGX RegCo) said the suspension was lifted on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, after the

company submitted the relevant financial statements and the exchange confirmed that they complied with applicable rules.

The shares were suspended on November 1, 2018, after the company failed to file its financial statements within the required period, preventing shareholders and other investors from trading the stock on the exchange.

In a market notice signed by the Head of the Issuer Regulation Department,

Godstime Iwenekhai, NGX RegCo said the lifting of the suspension was in line with its Default Filing Rules, which allow trading to resume after an issuer submits the relevant accounts and the exchange is satisfied that they comply with its rules.

The development comes as Multi-Trex filed its 2026 year-end financial statement, which showed a sharp increase in revenue but a wider loss.

The company reported

unaudited revenue of N3.61 billion for the year ended April 30, 2026, compared with N47.9 million recorded in the previous financial year.

Despite the sharp increase in revenue, Multi-Trex recorded a loss after tax of N615.06 million, compared with N423.20 million in 2025.

The company's latest results also showed operating expenses of about N1.1 billion and cost of sales of about N3.10 billion during the year.

Issuing houses seek deeper capital market participation

By Isaac Chibuike

THE Association of Issuing Houses of Nigeria (AIHN) has pledged to work with regulators, government and investors to deepen the capital market and broaden participation as it marked its 30th anniversary in Lagos.

The President of the association, Kemi Awodein, made the commitment at the anniversary and yearly awards dinner, noting that instruments such as green bonds and book-building were not available when the association was established three decades ago. She said the association would continue to promote transparency, good governance and innovation to strengthen investor confidence and expand participation in the market.

According to her, the capital

market remains critical to mobilising funds for investment, economic growth, job creation and national development.

The Chairman of Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX), Umaru Kwairanga, said AIHN members had contributed significantly to the development of the market by raising capital for governments and businesses and handling major corporate transactions.

He said the market had evolved from manual processes to fully digital transactions, describing technology as critical to the industry's future.

Kwairanga described the ongoing Dangote Refinery initial public offering (IPO) as an opportunity to bring more retail investors into the capital market, noting that the offer targets 10 million investors.

He said Nigeria had recorded fewer than six million capital market investors since independence, adding that the offer could significantly expand the investor base.

On the economy, Kwairanga

said NGX had informed President Bola Tinubu that the capital market could play a major role in helping the Federal Government achieve its \$1 trillion economy target.

According to him, market capitalisation has risen from below N50 trillion three years ago to more than N160 trillion, while NGX is targeting N300 trillion.

He said the group had also urged the government to list more state-linked companies on the exchange, particularly those in the energy and technology sectors.

NSDC hails Oyo sugar firm as plant prepares for production

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

THE National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) has congratulated Oyo Sugar and Derivatives Industries Limited (OSDL) on reaching the commissioning and test-running stage of its factory in Iseyin, Oyo State, describing the milestone as the culmination of more than a decade of financial, technical and institutional support.

The 300-tonnes-per-day (TCD) greenfield sugar mill,

developed under the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP), is one of the few new-build sugar factories to emerge from the plan's Backward Integration Programme.

The Council commended the promoters and farming communities in Iseyin for taking the project from a cooperative farming venture to an operational factory.

The NSDC funded the procurement of the factory's

core 300 TCD sugar mill at a cost of approximately N1.64 billion and subsequently provided additional funding for cane development and operational support, bringing its total financial commitment to about N2.2 billion.

The Oyo State Government contributed an estimated N850 million in equity funding towards the completion of outstanding works.

The Council said the facto-

ry's readiness for commissioning was the result of sustained commitment by the NSDC, Oyo State Government and the promoters.

It added that the NSDC would remain engaged as OSDL moved into full-scale commercial production, expressing the expectation that the project would demonstrate the potential for Nigeria's sugar sector to be built around locally grown sugarcane.

WayvePay surpasses 100,000 customers, expands digital offerings

By Olusegun Koiki

WAYVEPAY, the digital banking platform of Wayve Microfinance Bank, has surpassed 100,000 customers less than a month after its rebranding.

The milestone marks a significant step in the platform's growth and ambition to make everyday banking, payments and financial services more accessible to Nigerians, its Head, Corporate Communications and Marketing Manager, Kingsley Ezenwa, said in a statement.

Ezenwa said the milestone came shortly after the platform transitioned from Bankit to WayvePay, introducing a broader digital financial proposition under its new positioning.

The transition, which took effect on September 18, 2026, represents more than a change of name and identity, as the platform is also expanding its technology, functionality and range of services, the statement said.

Ezenwa said the 100,000-customer milestone represented both the progress made by the platform and the opportunity ahead.

"Crossing 100,000 customers is an important milestone for WayvePay, but we see it as the beginning rather than the destination. Our ambition is to build a financial platform that becomes part of how Nigerians move, save, spend, grow and manage their money every day," he said.

The milestone follows WayvePay's recent expansion of its customer proposition and comes at a time when Nigerians are increasingly adopting digital channels for everyday financial transactions.

WayvePay's proposition also extends into investment and financial opportunities, including access to the Dangote Refinery share offer through the platform, giving eligible Nigerians an opportunity to participate in the ownership of one of the country's major industrial projects.



Legal Manager, BIC Nigeria, Chinelo Anosike (left); Vice Chairman, Lagos NIPR & Managing Partner, StepCraft Communications, Eniola Mayowa and Marketing Manager, BIC Nigeria, Foluke Femi-Sanda at the 2026 Edge Awards in Lagos.

CBN targets Asian capital with Singapore financial partnerships

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is seeking to deepen Nigeria's access to Asian capital and strengthen financial-market links with Singapore as part of efforts to translate recent economic reforms into sustained investment and greater market participation.

The CBN Governor, Olayemi Cardoso, disclosed the strategy during a series of high-level engagements in Singapore ahead of the

IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok.

The engagements included discussions with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Finance & Technology Network (GFTN), and a Nigeria-Asia Financial Connectivity Dialogue convened by the CBN in partnership with J.P. Morgan, Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX) and FMDQ Group.

The CBN said the engagements were aimed at strengthening institutional cooperation, developing deeper financial markets and creating practical channels for investment, trade and financial innovation between Nigeria and Asia.

At the Nigeria-Asia Financial Connectivity Dialogue, Cardoso said the objective of Nigeria's financial-sector reforms was to create deeper, more liquid and internationally connect-

ed markets capable of attracting and retaining long-term capital.

"The real test of reform is not whether you can attract capital once; it is whether you create the confidence for capital to stay, return and grow," he said.

The governor said reforms to the foreign-exchange market were designed to remove distortions, improve transparency and strengthen confidence in the rules governing market participation.

Firm empowers teachers, students to leverage AI

HYDROGEN Payment Services Company Limited, in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education and its Education District III office, has concluded its inaugural AI4Learning Initiative, a practical education programme designed to help teachers and students understand and responsibly use artificial intelligence for learning, teaching and everyday life.

The initiative held in Lagos was designed for secondary schools run by the Lagos State Government, reflecting Hydrogen's commitment to supporting access to emerging technologies and creating opportunities for teachers and students within the public education system to develop relevant AI skills.

The initiative featured dedicated learning programmes for teachers and students. The Teachers Learning Programme

was hosted at Victoria Island Senior Secondary School, while the Students Learning Programme was held at Kuramo Senior College, both located on Bishop Aboyade Cole Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The programmes were tailored to reflect the different ways teachers and students can apply AI. Teachers explored how AI can support lesson preparation, differentiated learning, creativity and teaching, while students examined its use for studying, critical thinking and creativity.

Both programmes placed informed and appropriate AI use at the centre, reinforcing the message that AI should assist learning and teaching rather than replace human judgement.

The initiative also adopted a train-the-trainer model, equipping educators to apply AI in their own work and support colleagues and students in using the technology effectively and responsibly.

Insurers leverage digital product devt to deepen market penetration

By Bankole Orimisan

THE search for affordable products and easier access to insurance is driving a new wave of innovation in Nigeria's insurance industry, as underwriters increasingly turn to technology and simplified covers to break the barriers limiting wider adoption of insurance.

The development is being reinforced by the launch of an enhanced third-party motor insurance policy and a digital insurance application by Anchor Insurance Company Limited, highlighting growing industry efforts to move beyond conventional products and reach millions of Nigerians who remain either uninsured or

inadequately insured.

At the unveiling of the products in Lagos, Chief Executive Officer of Anchor Insurance, Ebose Augustine, said the company's latest initiatives were designed to address two critical challenges confronting insurance consumers: affordability and accessibility.

The enhanced third-party motor policy, he explained, is intended to provide motorists with more meaningful protection than conventional third-party insurance while remaining cheaper than comprehensive motor cover.

Augustine said the product was developed in recognition of the fact that many motorists are

caught between buying basic third-party insurance to satisfy statutory requirements and paying the substantially higher premium required for comprehensive cover.

"For years, motorists have faced a difficult choice. They could purchase basic Third-Party Motor Insurance to satisfy legal requirements and remain largely unprotected against damage to their own vehicles, or they could purchase Comprehensive Motor Insurance at a significantly higher cost," he said.

According to him, the new product seeks to bridge the protection gap by offering additional cover at a price that remains accessible to

individuals, families, institutions and small businesses.

The development is significant for an industry that has struggled to translate Nigeria's large population and expanding economic activity into widespread insurance ownership, with affordability, awareness, distribution and consumer confidence continuing to constrain market penetration.

Industry analysts have increasingly argued that expanding insurance coverage would require insurers to develop products around the financial realities of ordinary Nigerians rather than relying predominantly on conventional annual policies and established distribution channels.



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE - IFE, NIGERIA

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCIES FOR ACADEMIC AND NON-TEACHING STAFF — 2026

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following academic and non-teaching positions in Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. This advertisement is open to both internal and external candidates and will run for six (6) weeks from the date of publication.

A. ACADEMIC STAFF

Vacancies are available in the following Faculties/Units and Departments. Applicants should indicate the specific Department/Unit and cadre applied for.

FACULTY OF ADMINISTRATION

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
International Relations	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Accounting	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557 - ₦2,594,922)
Business Administration	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Local Government and Development Studies	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Public Administration	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)

FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Agricultural Extension	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Agricultural Extension, Isoya Project	Junior Research Fellow CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Family Nutrition & Consumer Sciences	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Forestry Resources & Wildlife Management	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Animal Science	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)

FACULTY OF ARTS

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Linguistics and African Languages	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922))
Dramatic Arts	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)

English	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Foreign Languages	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
History	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Music	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Philosophy	Assistant Lecturer (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Religious Studies	Lecturer II (Arabic Studies) CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer (Islamic Studies)CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Institute of Cultural Studies	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Junior Research Fellow CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)

FACULTY OF BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Human Nutrition	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Physiological Sciences	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Medical Rehabilitation	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Medical Biochemistry	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)

FACULTY OF BASIC CLINICAL SCIENCES

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Medical Pharmacology & Therapeutics	Lecturer I CONUASS 4 (₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Chemical Pathology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4 (₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Haematology/Immunology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Medical Microbiology & Parasitology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Morbid Anatomy and Forensic	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE - IFE, NIGERIA

FACULTY OF CLINICAL SCIENCES

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Community Health	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Otorhinolaryngology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Dermatology & Venereology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Mental Health	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Orthopaedic Surgery & Traumatology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)

FACULTY OF DENTISTRY

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Restorative Dentistry	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Preventive & Community Dentistry	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery/Oral Pathology	Lecturer I CONUASS 4(₦3,511,653 – ₦4,387,475)

FACULTY OF NURSING SCIENCE

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Medical-Surgical Nursing	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Maternal & Child Health Nursing	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Community/Public Health Nursing	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Adult Education & Lifelong Learning	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Counselling & Human Development	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268) Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Educational Foundations	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268) Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Educational Management	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Kinesiology & Health Education	Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Arts & Social Science Education	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)

Institute of Education	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Science & Technology Education	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Educational Technology	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557 – ₦2,594,922)

FACULTY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Building	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Estate Management	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Fine Arts	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Quantity Surveying	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Surveying & Geoinformatics	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Urban & Regional Planning	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)

FACULTY OF LAW

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Business Law	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Jurisprudence & Private Law	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Public Law	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);

FACULTY OF PHARMACY

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Clinical Pharmacy & Pharmacy Administration	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Drug Research & Production Unit	Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Pharmaceutical Chemistry	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Pharmaceutics & Industrial Pharmacy	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268); Junior Training Fellow CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Pharmacognosy	Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Pharmaceutical Microbiology & Biotechnology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138) Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Pharmacology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE - IFE, NIGERIA

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Botany	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);
Chemistry	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Geology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Mathematics	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1 (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Microbiology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Physics	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Statistics	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Zoology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Demography & Social Statistics	Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Economics	Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Geography	Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Sociology & Anthropology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)

FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Aerospace Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Agricultural Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)
Chemical Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Civil Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);

Food Science and Technology	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Food Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Mechanical Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138);
Materials Science and Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)

FACULTY OF COMPUTING SCIENCE

Department / Unit	Cadre(s)
Computer Science and Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer CONUASS 2 (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)
Computer Science and Cyber Security	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Assistant Lecturer (₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268);Graduate Assistant (₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Software Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Intelligence Systems Engineering	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)
Information Systems	Lecturer II CONUASS 3 (₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138); Graduate Assistant CONUASS 1(₦2,327,557- ₦2,594,922)

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Department / Unit	Cadre
Institute of Public Health	Junior Research Fellow CONUASS 2(₦2,599,713 – ₦3,040,268)

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Department / Unit	Cadre
Library	Librarian I CONUASS 3(₦2,887,448 - ₦3,366,138)

Minimum Academic Requirements

- Graduate Assistant: A good honours Bachelor's degree, with at least Second-Class Upper Division (or equivalent), in the relevant discipline; evidence of academic potential and research interest.
- Assistant Lecturer: A good honours Bachelor's degree and a relevant Master's degree from a recognized university (Ph.D. in progress), with evidence of teaching/research potential. Relevant professional registration is required where applicable.
- Lecturer II: A relevant PhD from a recognized university, with evidence of teaching, research and scholarly potential. Professional registration is required where applicable.
- Lecturer I: A PhD in the relevant discipline plus the requisite teaching/research experience and scholarly publications required under the applicable University Regulations/Scheme of Service.
- Junior Research Fellow: Relevant postgraduate research qualification, a PhD or equivalent research qualification as prescribed for the cadre, with demonstrable research potential; disciplinary requirements apply.
- Junior Training Fellow: Relevant professional/academic qualification appropriate to Pharmacy and the discipline, with eligibility for professional registration where applicable and demonstrable training/research potential.
- Librarian I: Relevant degree in Library and Information Science/related field and professional qualification/registration as applicable, with experience and other requirements in accordance with the University Scheme of Service.

B. NON-TEACHING STAFF

The following positions are available. Candidates must meet the stated minimum requirements and any other applicable requirements under the University's approved Scheme of Service and extant regulations.



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE - IFE, NIGERIA

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

S/N	POST / GRADE LEVEL	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.	Senior Assistant Registrar (CONTISS 11) (₦3,139,253–₦4,233,944)	Degree with at least Second Class Lower Division; minimum of 9 years' relevant administrative experience, preferably in a university or comparable higher-education institution; a postgraduate qualification in administration/management is an advantage; computer proficiency and membership of a relevant professional body are required.
2.	Assistant Registrar (CONTISS 9) (₦2,597,237–₦3,554,620)	Degree with at least Second Class Lower Division; minimum of 6 years' relevant administrative experience in a university or comparable higher-education institution; postgraduate qualification in administration/management is an advantage; computer proficiency and membership of a relevant professional body required.
3.	Administrative Officer I (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156)	Degree with at least Second-Class Lower Division; minimum of 3 years' post-qualification experience in the public sector, preferably higher education; computer literacy required.
4.	Administrative Officer II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	Degree with at least Second Class Lower Division; five O'Level credit passes including English Language; computer literacy required.
5.	Confidential Secretary I (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	HND in Secretarial Studies, Office Information and Management, or Office Technology and Management; ICT proficiency required. Degree holders should also possess an ND in Secretarial Studies/OTM unless the degree itself is in Secretarial Studies/OTM.
6.	Executive Officer (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	Five relevant O'Level subjects and ND in Administration, Humanities, Social Sciences or a relevant discipline.
7.	Confidential Secretary II (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	Five O'Level credit passes including English Language; ND with at least Lower Credit in Secretarial Studies/OTM; proficiency in electronic data processing required.
8.	Deputy Chief Secretarial Assistant (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156)	a. Three O' Level credit passes at one sitting or five credits at two sittings, including English Language, plus 50 w.p.m. typing proficiency and the prescribed experience in the Secretarial Assistance cadre; b. HND with at least Lower Credit in Secretarial Studies/OTM; proficiency in electronic data processing required. c. 3 years' relevant experience is required
9.	Senior Secretarial Assistant II (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	a. Three O'Level credits at one sitting or five credits at two sittings, including English Language, plus 50 w.p.m. typing proficiency and the prescribed experience in the Secretarial Assistant cadre. b. ND with at least Lower Credit in Secretarial Studies/OTM; proficiency in electronic data processing required
10.	Secretarial Assistant I (CONTISS 5) (₦1,103,706–₦1,409,344)	Three O'Level credits at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language, plus 50 w.p.m. typing proficiency and the prescribed experience in the Secretarial Assistant cadre.
11.	Clerical Officer (CONTISS 3) (₦952,989–₦1,168,816)	Five O'Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language/Literature in English. For Bursary/Internal Audit duties, a credit in Mathematics or Principles of Accounting/Book-keeping is required.
12.	Office Assistant (CONTISS 3) (₦952,989–₦1,168,816)	Three O'Level credit passes at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language.
13.	Principal Data Processing Officer II (CONTISS 13) (₦4,256,157–₦5,512,176)	HND/Degree with at least Lower Credit/equivalent in Data Processing, Computer Operations or a related field; at least 12 years' relevant experience at the appropriate level; ability to coordinate operating methods/standards and pass prescribed proficiency assessment; relevant professional membership and evidence of relevant training are required.

BURSARY STAFF

S/N	POST / GRADE LEVEL	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.	Accountant I (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156)	Degree in Accounting or relevant discipline, with at least Second Class Lower Division; minimum of 3 years' post-qualification experience; computer proficiency required. Membership of a recognized professional accounting body such as ANAN, ICAN/ACA, ACCA or equivalent is an advantage.
2.	Executive Officer (Account) (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	Five O'Level subjects and ND in Accounting or a related discipline.
3.	Higher Executive Officer (Account) (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	Degree/HND in Accounting or a relevant field; relevant professional qualification such as ACIS is an advantage.

HEALTH SERVICES STAFF

S/N	POST / GRADE LEVEL	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.	Health Assistant II (CONHESS 4) (₦966,146–₦1,215,719)	Three O'Level credits at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language, plus 6 years' cognate experience.
2.	Medical Laboratory Scientist (CONHESS 9) (₦2,388,908–₦3,238,831)	Degree in Medical Laboratory Science or equivalent registrable with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN); completion of internship; ICT literacy required.
3.	Head Mortuary Attendant (CONTISS 5) (₦1,103,706–₦1,409,344)	Four O'Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language, plus 6 years' cognate experience.
4.	Medical Record Officer I (CONTISS 8) (₦2,094,793–₦2,873,068)	Degree in Medical Records Science or equivalent plus 6 years' cognate experience; OR Master's degree in Medical Records Science plus 2 years' cognate experience; ICT literacy required.
5.	Higher Health Technician (CONHESS 7) (₦1,871,561–₦1,256,371)	HND/Degree in a relevant health discipline; appropriate professional/technician registration, as applicable; ICT compliance required.
6.	Medical Record Officer II (CONHESS 7) (₦1,871,561–₦1,256,371)	HND/ND in Health Statistics, Medical Records Science or equivalent; five O'Level credits including Mathematics and English Language; appropriate professional/associate membership or equivalent recognized credential.

TECHNICAL STAFF

S/N	POST / GRADE LEVEL	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.	Senior Technical Officer II (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156) Library (Electrical)	Degree/HND or equivalent in the relevant field plus 3 years' post-qualification cognate experience.
2.	Senior Technical Officer II (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156) Natural History Museum	Degree/HND or equivalent in the relevant field plus 3 years' post-qualification cognate experience.
3.	Technologist II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447) Department of Human Nutrition and Dietetics	Five O'Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language, Mathematics and relevant Science subjects; relevant Degree/HND.
4.	Technologist II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447) Department of Linguistics and African Languages	Five O'Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language, Mathematics and relevant Science subjects; relevant Degree/HND.
5.	Technologist II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447) Department of Haematology and Immunology	Five O'Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language, Mathematics and relevant Science subjects; relevant Degree/HND.
6.	Higher Technical Officer (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447) Institute For Entrepreneurship and Development Studies	Degree/HND or equivalent in the relevant technical field.



OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU), ILE - IFE, NIGERIA

7.	Lab Supervisor (CONTISS 5) (₦1,103,706–₦1,409, 344) Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology	Five O’Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including two relevant Science subjects; 6 years’ relevant experience and prescribed proficiency certification.
8.	Lab Supervisor (CONTISS 5) (₦1,103,706–₦1,409, 344) Natural History Museum	Five O’Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including two relevant Science subjects; 6 years’ relevant experience and prescribed proficiency certification.
9.	Workshop Supervisor (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164) CTLW	Five O’Level credits; Government Trade Test Class I; 9 years’ post-qualification experience.
10.	Workshop Supervisor (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164) Division of Works and Maintenance Services	Five O’Level credits; Government Trade Test Class I; 9 years’ post-qualification experience
11.	Senior Craftsman (CONTISS 4) (₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371) Division of Works and Maintenance Services	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language; Government Trade Test Class I; 3 years’ experience as a Craftsman.
12.	System Programmer (Network Engineer II) (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447) Computer Centre/INTECU	A bachelor's degree from an accredited university with a major in one of the computer sciences or management information systems one year of experience in computer systems analysis and/or computer programming (Second Class, Lower Division); or A holder of a first degree (not lower than 2nd Class Lower Division) in any of the following disciplines: Computer Science, Information Communication Technology, Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Computer Engineering, Telecommunications, Cybersecurity or a closely related field from a recognized higher institution of learning plus NYSC Discharge Certificate or evidence of exemption with at least 1 year post qualification cognate work experience, knowledge and demonstrable skills in Network Troubleshooting, IP Engineering and Network Monitoring. The candidate should also possess strong analytical skills

OTHER SUPPORT STAFF

S/N	POST / GRADE LEVEL	MINIMUM REQUIREMENT
1.	Security Officer II/Fire Officer II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	Five O’Level credit passes including English Language at not more than two sittings; HND/Bachelor’s degree in relevant fields such as Criminology, Security and Crime Management, or Cyber Security.
2.	Farm Assistant (CONTISS 4) (₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language and a relevant agricultural subject; 3 years’ cognate experience.
3.	Artist II (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	Degree/HND in Theatre Arts, two-year Diploma in Theatre Arts, or Certificate in Drama plus 7 years’ post-qualification experience. In exceptional cases, candidates with specialized skills and at least 13 years’ continuous experience may be considered, subject to evidence from recognized theatre companies.
4.	Catering Officer (CONTISS 7) (₦2,051,825–₦2,800,447)	Degree/HND in Hospitality Management or Hotel and Catering Management.
5.	Assistant Catering Officer (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	ND in Catering and Hotel Management/Hospitality Management from a recognized institution.
6.	Catering Supervisor (CONTISS 5) (₦1,103,706–₦1,409, 344)	Five O’Level credit passes at not more than two sittings, including English Language and at least one relevant subject such as Food &

		Nutrition, Home Economics or Catering Craft Practice; relevant catering certificate; 3 years’ experience. Advanced NABTEB and/or OND in Catering and Hotel Management is an advantage.
7.	Head Cook (CONTISS 4) (₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language, plus 6 years’ cognate experience.
8.	Chief Hall Attendant (CONTISS 5)(₦1,103,706–₦1,409, 344)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language, plus 6 years’ cognate experience.
9.	Senior Hall Attendant (CONTISS 4)(₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language, plus 3 years’ cognate experience.
10.	Hall Attendant (CONTISS 2) (₦935,074–₦1,114,746)	Three O’Level credit passes at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language.
11.	Security Officer II/Safety Officer II (CONTISS 8) (₦2,305,048–₦3,186,156)	Five O’Level credit passes including English Language at not more than two sittings; HND/Bachelor’s degree in relevant fields such as Criminology, Security and Crime Management, or Cyber Security; 3 years’ cognate experience.
12.	Chief Security Assistant (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	Five O’Level credit passes including English Language at one or two sittings; 9 years’ relevant experience; basic professional Fire Fighting Certificate from a recognized fire service authority.
13.	Assistant Chief Zoo Keeper (CONTISS 4) (₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371)	Three O’Level credit passes at one sitting or five at two sittings, including English Language, plus 3 years’ cognate experience.
14.	Principal Gardener (CONTISS 6) (₦1,571,938–₦2,133,164)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language, with a relevant subject such as Biology, Agricultural Science, Forestry, Crop Husbandry/Horticulture or Tourism; 3 years’ cognate experience.
15.	Senior Motor Driver II (CONTISS 5)(₦1,103,706–₦1,409, 344)	Secondary School Certificate with at least five credits including English Language; valid professional driving licence appropriate to the duties; proficiency in handling heavy vehicles; Trade Test III in Driver’s/Motor Vehicle Mechanic’s Work; 6 years’ relevant experience after obtaining the driving licence.
16.	Senior Library Attendant (CONTISS 4) (₦1,005,561–₦1,256,371)	Three O’Level credits at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language, plus 3 years’ cognate experience.
17.	Farm Attendant I (CONTISS 3) (₦952,989–₦1,168,816)	Three O’Level credit passes at one sitting or four at two sittings, including English Language.

GENERAL CONDITIONS / METHOD OF APPLICATION

- Candidates must possess qualifications obtained from recognized institutions and, where applicable, be eligible for registration with the relevant professional regulatory body.
- Candidates must provide evidence of NYSC Discharge Certificate/Exemption Certificate where applicable, in accordance with extant Nigerian regulations and the requirements of the post.
- All certificates and qualifications will be subject to verification. Candidates must satisfy the relevant experience requirements stated for the post.
- Digital literacy is a requirement for all positions.
- Appointment will be subject to satisfactory interview/selection assessment, medical fitness and other conditions prescribed by the University.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. The University reserves the right not to make an appointment to any advertised position if it considers that no candidate meets the required standard.
- The advertisement shall remain open for six (6) weeks from the date of publication.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

OAU Job Application Website: <https://apply.oauife.edu.ng>
Interested candidates should submit, through the online application portal, soft copies of their application, detailed Curriculum Vitae in the prescribed format, photocopies of credentials and supporting documents.

Applicants should clearly indicate the specific post and Department/Unit applied for. All enquiries should be directed to: apply-enquiry@oauife.edu.ng

REQUIRED CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) FORMAT

Applicants are required to present their detailed Curriculum Vitae in the following order:

A. PERSONAL DATA

- Full Name (underline Surname)



**OBAFEMI AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY (OAU),
ILE - IFE, NIGERIA**

2. Date of Birth
3. Place of Birth
4. Nationality
5. State of Origin
6. Senatorial District
7. Local Government Area
8. Permanent Address
9. Contact Address
10. Telephone Number
11. Email Address
12. Marital Status
13. Number and Ages of Children
14. Name of Next of Kin
15. Address of Next of Kin
16. Post Desired
17. Physical Disability/Challenge

B. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

18. Educational Institutions Attended with Dates
19. Academic and Professional Qualifications

C. WORK EXPERIENCE

20. Work Experience with Full Details of Former and Present Positions
21. Membership of Professional Bodies
22. Distinctions and Awards
23. Postgraduate Supervision (Applicable to Academic Positions)
24. Current Position and Date of Last Promotion/Appointment/Regrading
25. Current Salary and Status/Grade Level
26. Research Activities (Applicable to Academic Positions)
27. Attraction of Research Grants (Applicable to Academic Positions)
28. Major Academic-related Services to the Nation outside the University System (Applicable to Academic Positions)
29. Important Learned Conferences/Workshops/Courses Attended with details of Paper Presentation (Applicable to Academic Positions)
30. Publications (Applicable to Academic Positions)
31. Extra-Curricular Activities
32. Names and addresses of 3 Referees (one of whom must be in the candidate's field of study in the case of an academic position).
33. Proposed date of availability for duty if selected

Referees: The online application form requires candidates to submit details (full name, email, phone number, etc.) of three (3) referees who shall be contacted and required to upload their reports.

NOTE: OAU is an equal-opportunity employer.

**SIGNED
K. A. BAKARE**

Registrar and Secretary to Council
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife

6

**GOVERNMENT OF RIVERS STATE
RIVERS STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (RSUBEB)
16A ELECHI BEACH MILE ONE DIOBU, PORT-HARCOURT**



EXTENSION OF TIME FOR THE PURCHASE AND SUBMISSION OF THE 2023 (3RD & 4TH QTRs), 2024 (1ST - 4TH QTRs) AND 2025 (1ST & 2ND QTRs) FGN/UBE INTERVENTION FUND INVITATION TO TENDER DOCUMENTS

Date of extension of Invitation to Tender: 9th October, 2026

The general public, especially Prospective Contractors still interested in Tendering and Bidding for the **2023 (3rd & 4th quarters), 2024 (1st - 4th quarters) and 2025 (1st and 2nd quarters) FGN/UBE Intervention Fund** projects of the Rivers State Universal Basic Education Board, are hereby informed of the further postponement and extension of time and date of purchase and submission of Tender and opening of Bids originally advertised in the **Wednesday 22nd July, 2026** edition of **THE SUN, VANGUARD** and **INDEPENDENT MONITOR** newspapers to Tuesday 1st September, 2026, extended in the Wednesday 1st September, 2026 edition of **THE SUN** and **VANGUARD** newspapers to Friday 11th September, 2026, in the 11th September, 2026 edition of same Newspapers, 12th September, 2026 edition of the **SURVEILLANCE** Newspaper to 25th September, 2026, to Friday 9th October, 2026 in the **SUN, VANGUARD** and **TIDE** newspaper is further extended to Friday 23rd October, 2026.

The new date for the purchase, submission, closing and opening of Bids is now further extended to Friday 23rd October, 2026 by 12.00noon prompt at the Rivers State Universal Basic Education Board premises. By this, the effective closing date for the purchase, submission, closing and opening of tender document is Friday 23rd October, 2026 by 12.00noon prompt.

Tender Documents are still available for Purchase at a non-Refundable fee of One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N150,000.00) only for Civil Works, Supply of Furniture & Fittings, Mobility and ICT.

Please note:

This extension is to enable the BOARD exhaust all the Lots advertised. Bidders with requisite capacity can bid for 2 lots per intervention year. All other information as contained in the INVITATION TO TENDER of Wednesday 22nd July, 2026 remains valid.

All prospective contractors should please take note.

We regret all inconveniences caused by this extension.

**WARISO, HENRY TONYE
HEAD, PROCUREMENT
FOR: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN**



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE
ABUJA
NIGERIA AIRWAYS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)**

**FULL AND FINAL MOP-UP VERIFICATION
EXERCISE FOR NEXT OF KIN**

The Federal Ministry of Finance hereby announces a Full and Final Mop-Up Verification and Validation Exercise for the Next of Kin (NOK) of deceased former workers of Nigeria Airways Limited (in Liquidation) who are eligible for payment of their outstanding pension and severance entitlements.

The exercise is scheduled to take place simultaneously across the 6 Geo-Political zones as detailed below:

LAGOS STATE (SOUTH WEST)

Venue: Sky Power Catering and Hotel Services, MM2, Airport, Ikeja, Lagos State.

KANO STATE (NORTH WEST)

Venue: Federal Pay Office (FPO), Audu Bako State Secretariat, Kano State.

RIVER STATE (SOUTH SOUTH)

Venue: Federal Pay Office (FPO), Federal Secretariat, Aba Road Rumola, Port-Harcourt, River State.

BAUCHI STATE (NORTH EAST)

Venue: Federal Pay Office (FPO), Federal Secretariat Complex, Bauchi State.

ENUGU STATE (SOUTH EAST)

Venue: Federal Pay Office (FPO), No. 1 Egeton Street, Old GRA, Beside State SME, Enugu.

FCT (NORTH CENTRAL)

Venue: Federal Ministry of Finance Headquarters, 2nd Floor, Conference Hall, Budget Building, Plot 816, Ahmadu Bello Way, CBD, Abuja.

Date: 19th - 25th October, 2026

Time: Monday – Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday: 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

ONLY NEXT OF KIN OF BENEFICIARIES WHOSE BIOMETRIC DETAILS ARE ALREADY CAPTURED IN THE APPROVED NIGERIA AIRWAYS DATABASE SHOULD REPORT FOR THIS EXERCISE.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

1. Letter of Engagement/Appointment
2. Letter of Disengagement
3. Nigeria Airways ID Card of the deceased worker
4. Letter of Administration issued by a High Court, together with evidence of newspaper publication
5. Original Notarized Power of Attorney, where applicable
6. Two (2) recent passport photographs
7. Certified True Copy (CTC) of sworn affidavit
8. Police Report, where necessary of documents such as listed from 1-4 etc.
9. Evidence of last payment voucher

NOTE: Original documents along with the photocopies must be presented for sighting and verification.

THIS IS A FULL AND FINAL MOP-UP EXERCISE

Eligible Next of Kins are advised to come with all required documents and report at the designated venue within the stated period.

**Signed:
Permanent Secretary, Finance (Special Duties)**

FridayWorship

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria fGuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

In the Name of the Almighty, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves."
Qur'an 13:11

By Kabir Alabi Garba

BRETHREN, Nigeria is popular as a praying nation. Muslims pray five times a day, in addition to other special occasions, such as Friday prayer and during eid-l-fitr and eid-l-adha. Christians fill churches for Sunday worship, vigils, prayer meetings and special programmes. Families pray before journeys; students pray before examinations; politicians pray before assuming office; communities gather to pray when insecurity, hardship or tragedy strikes. When Nigeria is in trouble, Nigerians pray.

But for a country that prays so fervently, Nigeria remains painfully familiar with the very problems its citizens repeatedly ask God to remove — insecurity, corruption, poverty, injustice, unemployment, ethnic hostility and poor leadership.

Perhaps the problem is not that Nigerians pray too much. Perhaps we expect prayer to do what we refuse to do ourselves.

The prayer is necessary. But prayer alone is not enough. The hands raised towards heaven must eventually come down to earth — to work, build, serve, protect, sacrifice and reform.

The Qur'an (Chapter 13:11) is unequivocal: "Indeed, Allah does not change the condition of a people until they change what is within themselves."

This verse places a difficult responsibility before Nigerians. We cannot ask Allah to change Nigeria while refusing to change ourselves.

The Nigerian paradox: there is something striking about Nigeria's religious culture. Prayer is everywhere. Yet corruption is everywhere too.

People pray for justice and sometimes celebrate injustice when it favours their own side. They pray for good leaders but may sell their votes. They condemn corruption in government while seeking shortcuts in their own dealings. They pray for peace while circulating messages designed to inflame ethnic and religious passions. They pray for prosperity while tolerating dishonesty, indiscipline and practices that undermine productivity. This is the paradox Nigeria must confront.

A nation cannot continuously pray against the consequences of behaviours it continues to tolerate. Prayer should not become a ritual for asking God to repair damage that human beings deliberately create.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) said: "Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock." Responsibility is therefore not the exclusive property of the President, governors, ministers or legislators. Every Nigerian carries some measure of it. The trader. The civil servant. The teacher. The journalist. The religious leader. The business owner. The tradi-

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

"Surely, the religion with Allah is ISLAM, complete submission"... Qur'an 3:19

Prayers and fixing Nigeria

tional ruler. The parent. The student. The politician. The ordinary citizen. National transformation begins when each person stops asking only, "What is government doing?" and begins asking, "What am I doing?"

Prayer without personal reform is incomplete. It is easy to blame politicians. It is harder to examine ourselves. A public official who demands a bribe is corrupt. But so is the citizen who offers the bribe to obtain an unfair advantage. A government that wastes public resources deserves criticism. But citizens who vandalise public property cannot claim innocence. A politician who exploits ethnicity is dangerous. But citizens who reward such politics are also part of the problem.

The instruction, in Qur'an 4:58, is apt: "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people, to judge with justice."

The real battle against corruption therefore begins with an uncomfortable question: Will I do the right thing when doing the wrong thing benefits me and nobody is watching? That is where national renewal begins.

Nigeria needs peacemakers, not professional provocateurs. Peace must be built in homes, neighbourhoods, markets, workplaces and communities.

Nigerians must learn again how to disagree without hatred. Political differences should not become ethnic warfare. Religious differences should not become suspicion. Social-media arguments should not become invitations to violence.

Allah (SWT) in Qur'an 49:10, says: "The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers." The responsibility is especially urgent in the digital age. A mobile phone can now spread either truth or poison to millions of people within minutes. Before forwarding an inflammatory message, Nigerians should ask a simple question: Will this bring us closer together or push us further apart?

The message of Qur'an 49:6 is instructive: "If an evildoer brings you news, verify it..." A citizen

who prays for peace but weaponises social media against another community is contradicting his own prayer.

Nigeria does not lack prayers for economic prosperity. What it needs is a stronger culture of productivity. Pray for jobs — but acquire skills. Pray for business success — but treat customers honestly. Pray for agricultural abundance — but invest in farming. Pray for industrial growth — but support innovation and local production. Pray for educational advancement — but take learning seriously. The Islamic principle is beautifully captured in the instruction: "Tie it and rely upon Allah." Tie the camel. Then trust Allah.

Faith is not an excuse for passivity. *Tawakkul* is trust combined with effort. Nigeria needs both. A nation that asks God for mercy must demonstrate mercy. The poor. The orphan. The widow. The displaced. The unemployed graduate. The child without quality education. The family unable to afford basic necessities. These people should not appear only in prayers and political speeches.

Sometimes the answer to another person's prayer is you. A scholarship can transform a life. A job can restore dignity. A meal can sustain a family. A vocational skill can redirect a young person away from crime. A compassionate intervention can prevent despair.

Nigeria will continue to pray. And it should. A country confronting insecurity, economic hardship, poverty and social tensions has every reason to seek divine help. But Nigerians must stop treating prayer as the final act. Prayer should be the beginning of action.

The Prophet (SAW) warned of the supplication of the oppressed, reminding believers that there is no barrier between it and Allah. Nigeria should therefore ask not only, "Who will help us?" We should also ask: "Whom can we help?"

Nigeria's mosques and churches have something many governments struggle to obtain: the trust and attention of millions of citizens. That influence carries responsibility. Imams, pastors and other religious leaders should not merely organise prayer programmes. They should turn prayer into moral mobilisation.

Their congregations should hear strong messages against corruption, hatred, violence, dishonesty and indifference to the vulnerable.

They should encourage young people to acquire skills. They should promote peaceful coexistence. They should challenge the abuse of religion for political manipulation. They should remind their followers that accountability before Allah is greater than accountability before any earthly authority.

A prayer gathering that ends when the congregation leaves the venue has achieved only part of its purpose. The real question is: What changes when the worshippers return home?

The battle for Nigeria's future is also being fought quietly in Nigerian homes. Children learn values before they learn politics. If they see adults rewarding dishonesty, they learn that dishonesty works. If they see corruption excused because "everyone does it", they learn that corruption is normal. If they see people hated because of their religion or ethnicity, they inherit prejudice.

But if they see honesty, discipline, compassion, hard work and respect for others, those values become part of their character. The Nigeria we pray for tomorrow is being produced in our homes today.

Prayer must remain — but so must action. None of this diminishes the importance of prayer. On the contrary, prayer should become more meaningful.

Allah (SWT), in Qur'an 2: 186, says: "And when My servants ask you concerning Me, indeed I am near. I respond to the call of the supplicant when he calls upon Me."

That assurance is profound! "Indeed I am near." But divine nearness does not remove human responsibility. We pray for peace — and become peacemakers. We pray for justice — and become just. We pray for prosperity — and work honestly. We pray for good leaders — and become responsible citizens. We pray for national unity — and refuse to hate our neighbours. We pray for divine intervention — and do everything within our lawful capacity to improve our society.

Nigeria will continue to pray. And it should. A country confronting insecurity, economic hardship, poverty and social tensions has every reason to seek divine help. But Nigerians must stop treating prayer as the final act. Prayer should be the beginning of action.

By Shakirah Adunola

THE Nasrul-Lahi-L-Fatih Society (NASFAT), through its National Women Management Committee (NWMC), has unveiled plans for its 27th Annual Women's Week Celebration, flagging off a major 500 million fundraising drive to construct a dedicated Living Facility for the Elderly.

The announcement was made during a press conference last Wednesday at the NASFAT Mosque, Fashoro, Surulere, Lagos.

Speaking at the briefing, the National Women Affairs Secretary, Alhaja Ganiyat Omowumi Babalola, stated that the week-long event will run between October 11 and 18, 2026 across NASFAT zones and branches worldwide.

This year's event is themed: "Empowered for Impact: Advancing Faith, Entrepreneurship, Technology and Financial Independence."

Babalola noted that the 2026 edition was structured to transcend speeches by delivering tangible socio-economic interventions, health support, and intergenerational welfare. "Our senior citizens deserve dignity, care, companionship and a safe environment in which to live and age gracefully," she said, appealing to philanthropists, institutions, and the public to back the 500 million elderly care project. "This initiative goes beyond providing accommodation, it represents an expression of compassion and responsibility towards elderly people in our communities."

Ahead of the official week-long activities, the organisation conducted six weekend virtual training sessions for women, focusing on practical skills suited to current economic realities. The curriculum covered Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital tools for enter-

NASFAT to build facility for elderly Nigerians



Members of Nasrul-Lahi-L-Fatih Society (NASFAT) with the National Women Affairs Secretary, Alhaja Ganiyat Omowumi Babalola (middle-sitting row) during the briefing to announce its 27th Annual Women's Week Celebration in Lagos.

prise, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) business registration, and household backyard farming to enhance food security.

According to the Chairperson of the 27th Annual Women's Week Planning Committee, Alhaja Nurat Oluwatoyin Jolaoso, the celebration spans eight days, packed with faith-based interventions, health initiatives, business summits and community outreach.

"Key activities scheduled across the global

network include, free screenings for Hepatitis, Cervical Cancer and eye health across various locations, alongside health lectures at the NASFAT Islamic Centre, Asese, Ogun State and a public 'Walk for Fitness'. The *Women Connect with Youth and Children* mentorship sessions, alongside intergenerational Qur'an recitation and Islamic quiz competitions. Strategic visits to community health centres to donate essential medical supplies, outreach programmes for widows and envi-

ronmental sanitation drives at mosque premises globally."

She emphasized that the theme reflects the organization's dedication to providing women with the resources, knowledge and confidence necessary to lead transformation within their families and broader society.

"We want the conversation about women to move beyond occasional celebration to sustained conversations about dignity, opportunity, leadership, economic empowerment, family well-being and meaningful participation in society," Jolaoso declared, urging the press to amplify stories of women driving positive change across various sectors.

Underscoring the broader social impact of the initiative, Alhaja Jolaoso called on corporate organizations, government bodies, media outlets, and the public to partner with NASFAT throughout the week.

"The success of women is a success for families. The empowerment of women strengthens communities, and empowered women contribute significantly to the development of society," she stated, closing with prayers for the Nigerian Muslim Ummah and the national leadership.

She mentioned that the grand finale on Sunday, October 18, 2026, will take place at the NASFAT Islamic Centre along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway in Asese, Ogun State, bringing together religious leaders, policy stakeholders, and delegates from across international chapters.

Harmonised data warehouse as solution to conflicting market figures

Unlike many of its peers in Europe and across Africa, Nigeria has struggled to accurately capture passenger movement data, a deficiency that creates challenges for government agencies and investors, OLUSEGUN KOIKI reports.

FOR an industry where billions of naira and dollars are invested in aircraft, airports, terminals, ground handling, cargo, maintenance and other infrastructure, one would expect passenger traffic statistics to be among the most reliable figures available to investors.

But in Nigeria, even something as important as the number of passengers who passed through the country's airports has become a matter of conjecture, with the latest controversy centring on the 2025 passenger traffic figure.

The Managing Director, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Olubunmi Kuku, recently said the country's 28 airports recorded more than 18.8 million domestic and international passengers in 2025, representing an 11.9 per cent year-on-year increase and making Nigeria Africa's fourth-largest aviation market.

She also said Nigeria's scheduled airline capacity reached 1.19 million seats in September 2026, representing a 37.4 per cent increase over the same period in the previous year, based on OAG data.

She further explained that the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, recorded a 24.1 per cent increase in scheduled seat capacity in September, the fastest growth among Africa's 10 largest airports.

The 18.8 million figure, mentioned by Kuku at the 2026 Airports Council International (ACI) Africa Regional Conference and Exhibition held last week in Abuja, has been queried by various industry experts because it contradicts figures previously published or presented by other government agencies.

The Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), for instance, reported that Nigeria recorded 15.89 million passengers in 2023, down from 16.17 million in 2022. The 2023 figure has also been cited in an International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) document on Nigeria's aviation sector.

For 2024, NCAA data put combined domestic and international passenger traffic at 15,685,273, representing a marginal decline from the 15.89 million recorded in 2023. Another industry source put total passenger movement for 2025 at 15.6 million.

Besides, experts wondered how passenger traffic could have risen from about 15.69 million in 2024 to nearly 19 million in 2025 – an increase of more than three million passengers, or about 20 per cent – while FAAN pegged the growth at 11.9 per cent.

Stakeholders reckon that a prospective investor considering an airport concession, passenger terminal, hotel, car park, cargo centre or ground handling operation needs reliable market size and passenger data for planning, warning that inconsistent data presentation poses a grave danger to investment.

Commenting on the issue, the former Managing Director of Skyway Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc, Basil Agboarumi, said data in aviation was not just academic.

Agboarumi, who is now the Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) Aviation Hub, said that contradictory passenger, cargo, and aircraft movement statistics could undermine investment, safety planning, and Nigeria's credibility as an aviation hub.

He pointed out that inaccurate or conflicting aviation data could be potentially more damaging than having no data, maintaining that it could create "false confidence" among policymakers, investors and other stakeholders.

According to him, the recurring discrepancies indicated the urgent need for the Federal Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development to revive and strengthen the Aviation Statistics Harmonisation Committee and establish a single authoritative data pipeline for the industry.

On why aviation data are always contested in the country, Agboarumi identified institutional silos as one of the major reasons, adding that the agencies collect data for different purposes.

He said: "I was aware of the Aviation Statistics Harmonisation Committee. Stakeholders – regulators, airport operators, airlines, ground handlers and others – sat together, presented captured data, reconciled it under a single system and the Ministry of Aviation released one official document as acceptable industry data.

"SAHCO staff participated in that process. If that discipline has weakened, the current discrepancies are a predictable outcome.

"The NCAA, FAAN, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), immigration, customs, airlines and ground handlers all collect data for different mandates. Each has its own template, timeline and purpose. No single source of truth. There is no fully empowered statutory custodian or clearinghouse that reconciles



Air travellers at an airport.

“
The NCAA, FAAN, Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), immigration, customs, airlines and ground handlers all collect data for different mandates. There is no fully empowered statutory custodian or clearinghouse that reconciles all data before publication.
”

all data before publication.”

Also, the Chief Executive Officer, Merchant Express Cargo Airlines, Samuel Caulcrick, said Nigeria's aviation industry was being held back by fragmented data systems and the absence of a unified standard for collecting, analysing and reporting industry statistics.

He explained that data was an “afterthought” in Nigeria, with stakeholders often using it to prepare reports or apportion blame after operational failures, rather than as a tool for improving efficiency and decision-making.

According to him, the absence of reliable and harmonised data was contributing to fragmented infrastructure, friction between operators and regulators, and inaccurate forecasting across the aviation industry.

Caulcrick said the industry collected data mainly to write reports, engage in arguments and assign responsibility after incidents, rather than deploying it continuously to improve operations.

Like Agboarumi, Caulcrick identified institutional silos as the central problem, noting that the NCAA, FAAN, and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), among others, often collect, process, and publish data differently.

According to him, the resulting discrepancies had created uncertainty over basic aviation statistics, particularly passenger traffic.

He added: “FAAN's terminal logs rarely match NCAA's consumer records. Even NBS and NCAA have published passenger traffic figures for the same year with massive percentage gaps. Which number should an investor believe?”

“When the NCAA released its August 2026 report, showing 60 per cent domestic delay across 15 carriers, Air Peace immediately pushed back. The NCAA recorded 1,864 flights for the airline; the airline says it operated 2,564. Understate the volume, and you automatically overstate the delay rate. Trust collapses.”

The former Rector of the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology (NCAT), Zaria, said the disagreement demonstrated the need for aviation stakeholders to work from a common, independently verifiable database, rather than relying on separate datasets maintained by individual organisations.

SAHCO boosts inclusive passenger handling with AmbuLift acquisition

By Olusegun Koiki

SKYWAY Aviation Handling Company (SAHCO) Plc has strengthened its commitment to inclusive passenger handling services by acquiring and deploying a high-capacity AmbuLift.

A statement by the Head of Corporate Communications, SAHCO, Vanessa Uansohia, said the acquisition made the company the only aviation ground handling firm in Nigeria to operate the specialised equip-

ment.

She said the AmbuLift was designed to provide safe, dignified and efficient embarkation and disembarkation assistance to Passengers with Reduced Mobility (PRM), including wheelchair users and passengers requiring stretcher support.

She emphasised that the acquisition built on SAHCO's earlier investment in Evac-Chairs, which facilitate the safe embarkation and disembarkation of passengers with reduced mobility on steps where specialised assistance is required.

She noted that SAHCO's premium customer, British Airways, also provided valuable guidance throughout the process, helping to ensure that the AmbuLift's deployment, procedures and operational standards aligned with global best practices and the expectations of international airlines.

Speaking on the development, SAHCO's Chairman, Dr Taiwo Afolabi, CON, said owning and operating the AmbuLift meant the company was responding directly to the needs of passengers with reduced mobility, rather than improvising.

“It gives our teams the right tool to do this sensitive work properly and gives passengers and their families confidence that they will be handled with care from the apron to the aircraft door,” he added.

“It is necessary to automate the entire process in the sector, including calculation of obligations, electronic payment, reconciliation and generation of receipts. Data needs to be believable and should be accurate.”

AgroEconomy

AgriConnect to create 2.5 million jobs, improve food security

By Gbenga Akinfenwa

AS over 31 million Nigerians face acute food insecurity – driven by inflation, insecurity and climate shocks, the Nigeria AgriConnect Compact has been tailored to improve food and nutrition security for nearly three million people and create more than 2.5 million jobs by developing value chains and strengthening market integration.

Launched by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), the World Bank Group (WBG) and development partners, the initiative is a national framework aimed at growing Nigeria's agriculture sector, creating jobs and accelerating food and nutrition security across the country's priority value chains.

AgriConnect is a World Bank Group initiative designed to help smallholder farmers worldwide move from subsistence to surplus production. It focuses on strengthening agricultural ecosystems through stronger farmer organisations, improved market linkages, enhanced access to finance and digital solutions, and greater private sector participation across food systems.

Aligned with the country's Renewed Hope Agenda and the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP), the Compact targets priority crop and livestock value chains with strong potential for productivity growth and job creation.

Over the next five years, the



Compact aims to improve food and nutrition security for nearly three million people and create more than 2.5 million jobs by developing value chains and strengthening market integration.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Country Director for Nigeria, Mohamed El-Ghazaly, said IFAD, the only international financial institution exclusively focused on rural transformation, brought a distinct contribution to AgriConnect by working with smallholder farmers at the first mile of food systems to strengthen farmer collectives, improve post-harvest management and build the commercial linkages needed to connect producers to reliable markets.

El-Ghazaly said: "AgriConnect presents an

important opportunity for IFAD to build on our long-standing partnership with the Federal Republic of Nigeria and deepen support to smallholder farmers across the country."

Nigeria's agriculture sector remains central to the country's economy, contributing 26 per cent of GDP and employing about 30 per cent of the workforce. Yet productivity remains well below that of regional peers, and about half of the country's 37 million hectares of arable land is underutilized.

With more than 31 million Nigerians facing acute food insecurity – driven by inflation, insecurity and climate shocks – AgriConnect comes at a critical time to boost agricultural production, attract private investment and strengthen Nigeria's position

as a regional food basket.

IFAD reveals that the initiative will mobilise an estimated \$5b over five years from government, development partners and the private sector to finance stronger foundations for smallholder productivity, advance policy reforms, and expand farmers and agribusinesses' access to affordable credit, insurance and blended finance.

The international financial institution's current portfolio in Nigeria includes the Value Chain Development Programme (VCDP), the Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Project in the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND), and the forthcoming Value Chain Programme in Northern Nigeria (VCN), representing a combined IFAD financing commitment of close to \$392m.

Ogun, Oyo cassava farmers raise alarm over 98% farmgate prices collapse

From Segun Ayinde, Abeokuta

CASSAVA merchants under the aegis of the Pacesetter Premium Cassava Merchants and Value Chain Actors (PAP-CAMAVA) in Ogun and Oyo states, have cried out over the persistent decline in raw cassava farmgate prices from N220,000 per tonne to N5,000 between May 2024 and May 2026, representing 97.7 per cent fall.

The merchants said the sharp decline in the commodity's price has left farmers struggling to recover from basic costs of cultivation and also placed significant pressure on the processors, as well as other stakeholders across the value chain in the last two years.

They, however, called for urgent intervention by the Federal Government to address the situation and avert what they described as the near-total collapse of farmgate prices for raw cassava—a development that threatens the livelihoods of farmers and investors, as well as the country's long-term food security.

The president of the association, Mrs Kehinde Jokotoye, while raising the alarm at a press conference, urged FG to adopt a six-point policy framework to tackle the ongoing crisis in the cassava value chain and establish firm off-taker linkages with starch, ethanol, and high-quality cassava flour (HQCF) processors to strengthen market access for cassava producers.

Jokotoye also advocated for

greater macro-policy coherence by government, particularly through the alignment of import tariffs and commodity policies to safeguard and promote domestic cassava processing with the establishment of structured credit facilities that take into account cassava's 10 to 14-month biological production cycle.

She emphasised the need to decentralise primary processing as a strategy to reduce the incidence of perishable root gluts and the importance of strengthening collective bargaining and facilitating bulk aggregation through producer platforms to address the increasingly concerning conditions in the cassava market.

Jokotoye attributed the crisis in the cassava value chain to structural imbalances arising from uncoordinated expansion following earlier periods of high prices which resulted in concentrated harvest gluts, compounded by inadequate domestic processing capacity for starch, ethanol, and flour to absorb peak tuber supplies.

She also highlighted the high costs of transportation and mechanised harvesting, which often exceed the farmgate value of the raw crop, as well as competition from cheaper, subsidized grain imports and alternative starch sources, factors that have further weakened industrial demand for cassava.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

TAAT takes innovation to Zimbabwe farmers on improved wheat varieties

UNDER the banner "Accelerating Adoption and Scaling of Improved Wheat Technologies for Higher Yields Under Changing Climate Conditions," the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT) Wheat Compact – led by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) – is teaming up with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanisation and Water Resources Development, through its Directorate of Research, Education and Specialist Services (DRESS), to put improved wheat varieties and practices on display in real field conditions, not just in presentations.

Farmers will get to walk through demonstrations covering everything from improved varieties and fertiliser management to weed and pest control, water-use efficiency, seed production, and climate-smart production techniques – then take their questions straight to the researchers and technical specialists standing beside the crop.

The Chief Director of DRESS, Dr Dumisani Kutwayo, called the collaboration between the ministry, the

African Development Bank's Feed Africa programme and the TAAT Wheat Compact a credible example of long-standing commitment to transforming Africa's food systems, crediting TAAT's partnership with national research institutions for advances like heat-tolerant wheat varieties capable of pushing production into warmer growing zones.

"The National TAAT Wheat Field Day will bring these innovations into the field, giving farmers, researchers, seed companies, input suppliers, processors and other wheat value-chain stakeholders an opportunity to see, compare and evaluate wheat varieties that can contribute to increased productivity, reduced reliance on imports and strengthened national food security," Dr Kutwayo said.

What sets these field days apart isn't just the technology on show – it's who's doing the talking. According to the TAAT Wheat Compact Leader, Dr Wuletaw Tadesse Degu, who noted that beyond technology demonstration, the field days will place practical learning and farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange at the centre of the process.

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

NCAM boss seeks more equipment to curb Nigeria's post-harvest losses

From Odun Edward, Ilorin

THE Executive Director, National Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation (NCAM), Julius Oluwamuyiwa Oloro, has called for increased development and fabrication of agricultural preservation equipment to reduce post-harvest losses and strengthen Nigeria's food security.

Oloro made the call in Ilorin, Kwara State, while addressing staff of the centre, urging researchers, engineers and other technical personnel to deploy their ingenuity towards designing and fabricating machines capable of preserving agricultural produce, particularly perishable fruits and vegetables.

He said the development of preservation technologies should be a priority in the centre's efforts to fulfill its mandate and enhance the productivity of Nigeria's agricultural sector.

The NCAM Executive Director commended his predecessors for sustaining the vision and mission of the institution's founding fathers, but stressed the need for renewed attention to technologies that would extend the shelf life of farm produce.

"We need more equipment that can help us preserve perishable foods and fruits in Nigeria," Oloro said.

He noted that the seasonal nature of agricultural production in many parts

of the country often resulted in periods of abundance and scarcity, creating challenges for farmers, consumers and food processors.

According to him, farmers frequently experience a glut during the peak seasons of crops such as mangoes, tomatoes, vegetables, onions, guavas and pepper, adding that the resulting oversupply could depress prices and cause significant losses where adequate preservation and processing facilities were unavailable.

"When the seasons are over, prices escalate due to scarcity, occasioned partly by inadequate preservation facilities. We need to address this area as an agricultural mechanisation institute," he said.

The call comes against the backdrop of concerns over food losses along Nigeria's agricultural value chain.

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security disclosed in September 2025 that Nigeria loses an estimated N3.5tr yearly to post-harvest inefficiencies. The ministry identified improved storage, cold rooms, processing facilities and preservation technologies as important components of efforts to reduce the losses and strengthen food security.

Similarly, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations reported that fruits and vegetables recorded the highest global food-loss

rate among major commodity groups, reaching 25.4 per cent in 2023. The figure underscores the vulnerability of highly perishable produce to inadequate handling, storage and transportation.

The statistics highlight the importance of Oloro's call for greater investment in locally designed preservation and processing equipment.

Oloro also pledged to sustain periodic engagements with departments, units and sections of NCAM as part of efforts to reposition the centre for improved productivity, innovation and service delivery.

He said the engagements would provide opportunities to assess institutional performance identify operational challenges and develop practical solutions to enhance the centre's contributions to agricultural mechanisation.

The NCAM boss further reaffirmed his commitment to building on the achievements of previous administrations, while fostering teamwork, research, technological innovation and institutional excellence.

He added that the centre would pursue initiatives aimed at strengthening its contribution to agricultural mechanisation and food security in alignment with the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Gunmen kill Plateau youth leader, expatriate, two others in Kebbi

From Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi, Jos

NO fewer than three people have been killed and two others injured during a gun attack at the Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway construction project in Maiyama Local Council Area of Kebbi State. The victims included two security operatives and an expatriate working on the road project, while two civilians

sustained gunshot injuries. According to the Police Public Relations Officer of the Kebbi State Police Command, SP Bashir Usman, the incident occurred at a construction site in Gubba Village when suspected Lakurawa terrorists allegedly encroached from the Kebbe axis of neighbouring Sokoto State and attacked the site. He said two civilians were also

injured and subsequently evacuated for medical attention, even as the police also repelled another attack by suspected terrorists along the Birnin Malam axis following the intervention of tactical teams. According to him, construction activities at the affected site have been suspended following the incident, as security agencies intensify surveillance

and deploy additional operatives to the area. Nevertheless, Usman said scores of the attackers were neutralised by military personnel, and several motorcycles were recovered. In another development, gunmen also killed a youth leader and former chairman of the Berom Youth Moulders-Association (BYM), Gashish District, Rwas Danladi, and

injured two others in separate attacks in Barkin Ladi and other parts of Plateau State. Danladi was reportedly attacked at about 6 pm on Wednesday, around Rantis Village along the Gashish-Barkin Ladi Road while returning to Barkin Ladi on his motorcycle. The BYM confirmed the killing yesterday in a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Rwang Tengwong. The association condemned the killing and extended its condolences to his family, friends and the entire Gashish community, describing Danladi as a respected community leader. The association said other attacks were also recorded across parts of the Berom communities on Wednesday, leaving two persons injured. They included Mafeng Samuel Lamba, who was attacked around Gwom-Ajang in Foron and was taken to the Jos University Teaching Hospital for treatment, and Bitrus Pam Dadon, who was attacked along Sho Road and had his motorcycle stolen. Among others, the group called on the Plateau State Government and the relevant security agencies to urgently investigate the killing, apprehend those responsible, and strengthen surveillance along vulnerable roads and communities in Barkin Ladi, Jos South, Riyom and other affected areas.

Centre trains 12,000 men to counter patriarchy, support women's leadership

From Adamu Abuh, Abuja

A feminist group, the African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development (Centre LSD), has charged men to take more active and accountable roles in challenging patriarchy, preventing gender-based violence (GBV) and advancing women's rights. To this end, Centre LSD disclosed that it has trained over 12,000 men as part of efforts to challenge patriarchy, prevent GBV and promote women's rights. The centre's Project Director, Male Feminists Network (MFN), Dr Otive Igbuzor, made the call yesterday in Abuja during a capacity-strengthening programme for Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), themed "From Principles to Practice: Institutionalising Accountable Male Allyship in Women's Rights Programming." Igbuzor charged male participation to strengthen, rather than overshadow, women's leadership, voice and agency, saying that genuine allyship must translate into measurable changes in behaviour, institutions and power relations. He cautioned against "performative allyship," where men participate in gender-equality platforms for visibility, status or access to resources without confronting patriarchal practices in their own lives and institutions. According to him, accountable male allyship requires men to use their voice, influence, resources and social position to challenge patriarchy while remaining accountable to women, girls, feminist principles and women-led organisations. The centre's Project Director, Male Feminists Network (MFN), Dr Otive Igbuzor, made the call yesterday in Abuja during a capacity-strengthening programme for Women's Rights Organisations (WROs), themed "From Principles to Practice: Institutionalising Accountable Male Allyship in Women's Rights Programming." Igbuzor charged male participation to strengthen, rather than overshadow, women's leadership, voice and agency, saying that genuine allyship must translate into measurable changes in behaviour, institutions and power relations. He cautioned against "performative allyship," where men participate in gender-equality platforms for visibility, status or access to resources without confronting patriarchal practices in their own lives and institutions. According to him, accountable male allyship requires men to use their voice, influence, resources and social position to challenge patriarchy while remaining accountable to women, girls, feminist principles and women-led organisations.

FG to close Zungeru plant's 350MW generation gap

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

AN intervention by the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) is poised to address the legal and operational constraints that are limiting the performance of the 700-megawatt Zungeru Hydropower Project, which currently supplies about 350MW to Nigeria's national grid. This comes as the federal government seeks to increase electricity supply and improve the performance of power assets under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangements. The \$1.3 billion project is operated by Penstock Limited under a PPP arrangement, with the ICRC now reviewing the challenges affecting its performance. The commission brought together the Federal Ministry of Power, the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), and the concessionaire in Abuja to identify constraints and agree on measures to improve the plant's output. The meeting was significant for Nigeria's power market as the plant is currently generating roughly half of its 700MW installed capacity, leaving a potential 350MW capacity gap.

FRSC, BATMedics screen 500 drivers on World Sight Day

From Ernest Nzor, Abuja

TOWARDS driver fitness and preventive road safety, the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), in collaboration with BATMedics, has carried out comprehensive eye tests on 500 drivers and motorists. The move was part of a National Driver Health and Road Safety Outreach held in Abuja to commemorate World Sight Day 2026. Held beside Jabi Park, the intervention brought together road safety and public health officials to address visual impairment among motorists, which could lead to fatal accidents. The programme featured free medical screening, with beneficiaries receiving professional assessments and appropriate medical guidance, while cases requiring further intervention could receive subsequent treatment and surgical support. Speaking at the forum, the FRSC Corps Marshal, Shehu Mohammed, reaffirmed the agency's determination to move road safety from a predominantly enforcement-driven model to one anchored in prevention, early intervention, and human well-being.



Twin brothers, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, Adeleye Falade (left), and MD/CEO of Aradel Holdings Plc, Adegbite Falade, received Honorary Fellowships of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers at a ceremony in Lagos, yesterday.

Stakeholders seek increased funding for non-custodial sentencing

From Tina Abeku, Abuja

• NCoS operationalises Ibadan correctional centre, admits 80 inmates

STAKEHOLDERS in the criminal justice sector have called for increased funding and synergy to sustain the implementation of non-custodial measures, describing the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) Act 2019 as a shift from punitive incarceration to restorative justice. Speaking at a policy dialogue in Abuja, the NCoS Controller-General, Sylvester Nwakuche, disclosed that the agency had successfully transitioned from mere policy formulation to practical implementation. In the meantime, the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) has formally commenced operations at the new Maximum Security Custodial Centre in Olojuoro-Olomi, Ibadan, Oyo State, with an

initial admission of 80 convicted male inmates. The operationalisation of the facility followed the approval by the Minister of Interior, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, and a directive from the NCoS Controller-General, Sylvester Nwakuche, to transfer selected inmates from designated centres pending the facility's formal commissioning. A statement from the Public Relations Officer, Jane Osuji, disclosed that the new facility has a capacity of 800 inmates, with plans to expand to 3,000 upon full completion, which will include specialised cells for awaiting-trial persons, female inmates, and those on death row. Meanwhile, Nwakuche, who was represented by the Assistant-Controller General in

charge of Non-Custodial Services, Timothy Dabit, noted that Section 37 of the Act empowered NCoS to effectively administer community service, probation, parole, and other viable alternatives to imprisonment. However, criminologist and prison reform expert, Dr Uju Agomoh, cautioned against focusing solely on the financial savings of decongesting custodial facilities, noting that non-custodial measures mitigate the severe psychological and systemic tolls associated with prolonged incarceration. Beyond costs related to medication and activities within correctional centres, she listed coming into contact with other offenders and the possible consequences of pro-

longed exposure to the custodial environment as other costs. Also speaking, the Project Manager for Criminal Justice Reform at the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC Phase II) programme, Dr Oluwatoyin Badejogbin, stressed that sustaining institutional gains requires adequate budgetary allocation. Badejogbin, whose initiative is funded by the European Union and implemented by International IDEA, urged justice sector actors to unite to ensure the release of funds and the actual utilisation of non-custodial measures, stating that the NCoS cannot drive the current reforms alone without adequate funding and a robust community of practice.

Japanese firm pledges support for economic growth

From Bridget Chiedu Onochie, Abuja

JAPAN Tobacco International (JTI) Nigeria has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to Nigeria's economic growth and development, reinforcing its confidence in the country's future, responsible business practices and sustainable value creation. Speaking yesterday in Abuja, JTI General Manager, Mr Abdallah Simba, also restated confidence in the country's potential, stating its determination to continue contributing to a sustainable business environment. With 18 years of business operations in the country, the company says its enduring presence reflects a strong

commitment to the country, its people and the creation of sustainable value for stakeholders. Simba further reiterated the company's position on Nigeria's development journey to date, stating that Nigeria remains an important market for JTI, and that its continued operations demonstrate confidence in the country's long-term economic prospects. He noted that JTI's business philosophy places considerable emphasis on responsible corporate conduct, regulatory compliance, employee development and constructive stakeholder engagement. "Our commitment to Nigeria goes beyond our business operations. As Nigeria celebrates

the important milestone of its 66th Independence, we recognise the importance of building a responsible and sustainable enterprise that contributes positively to the country's development while creating long-term value for our employees, partners and stakeholders," Simba said. He explained that JTI Nigeria's operating philosophy is anchored on high standards of corporate governance, ethical business practices and respect for the regulatory environment. Simba also highlighted the company's commitment to building an inclusive workplace, where employees are empowered through professional development, diversity,

equal opportunity and a culture of mutual respect. He maintained that responsible corporate citizenship remains essential to building enduring businesses, particularly in highly regulated industries, where compliance, transparency and accountability are fundamental to sustainable operations. Simba further expressed confidence in Nigeria's resilience and capacity to create opportunities for sustainable business growth, and JTI Nigeria's determination to maintain a responsible corporate presence, strengthen stakeholder relationships and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's long-term economic aspirations.

LOVED AND REMEMBERED
Everyday!!

In loving and evergreen memory of our dearly beloved mother, grandmother great grandmother



Mrs. Ethel Omotola Ayodele
(Nee Doherty)

April 21, 1923 - October 9, 2000

We give God the glory for the fond memories.
Wishing today, as we have in the last 26 years that you were still here with us.

Your sweet memories are treasured in our hearts...never to be forgotten.

Rest on our dearly beloved.

Fondly Remembered by:
A. Gbolahan Ayodele
for the family



*In
Memory
of*



THE LATE HON. MR JUSTICE YAHYA ABIODUN OLATUNDE JINADU.

16th November 1925 - 9th October 2019.

Since your departure there's been peaks and valleys, but in all we thank the Almighty Allah for His Mercies. Your legacy of integrity, courage and unyielding faith in Allah (SWT) lives on in all of us your descendants. The torch you lit is being passed on from generation to generation.

Alhamdulillah.

Fondly remembered always by:

BABATUNDE JINADU
OLUWATOYIN JINADU
TOKUNBO JINADU
GBOLAHAN & OLAWALE BABALAKIN

BODUNRIN & BOLA JINADU
OLOYE BIODUN AND OLORI SHERIFAT AYENI
ADEBUSOLA AND KUNLE ALAKA
BIODUN AND DELODUN BOLAJI

Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, cousins, nephews and nieces including the Apatira, Alli-Owe and Olatunji families.



EuroMatch NPFL League

Friday night games' return stirs excitement

By Christian Okpara

ARE you looking for where to spend your Friday night? Look no further as the EuroMatch Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) has included Friday night games into its calendar.

Starting from today, lovers of the EuroMatch NPFL will have the opportunity to watch their favourite teams play in the cool evening with all the raznmatazz that accompany the matches on the pitch.

For those who follow the games on television, the organisers of the league have made plans to broadcast more games of the 2026/27 of the EuroMatch NPFL season live with the rescheduling of the fixtures to accommodate Friday night matches.

According to EuroMatch NPFL, its broadcast partners, Murphy Ben International, recently took delivery of another set of state-of-the-art production equipment that would see new

regional products centres that would ease logistics worries.

Recently, the Chief Operating Officer of the league, Dr Ayo Abdulrahman, in a memo to the EuroMatchNPFL clubs chairmen and general managers, explained the need to provide the broadcast partners access to more game days which was not possible under the framework of the original fixtures.

Starting with Matchday 8, fans can enjoy three live games from Katsina on Friday night and Saturday and Sunday from Kano where Ranchers Bees and Barau FC will play with visiting opponents.

Meanwhile, the EuroMatch NPFL has fined Sporting Lagos Coach, Jeffery Buter, N500,000 and cautioned to refrain from unsubstantiated public statements on the league and referees.

This was the outcome of an inquest held on Wednesday during which the

coach admitted that he was in error in his press interview after the Lagos Derby with Ikorodu City on Wednesday, September 30.

The panel said the lenient sanction imposed on the coach was based largely on his admission of error and his relatively young experience as a coach in the NPFL.

The league used the opportunity to urge other coaches and clubs officers to refrain from reckless statements that tend to undermine the perception of the EuroMatchNPFL in the minds of the public.

Coaches and clubs officers have been further advised to take advantage of official dispute resolution mechanisms to seek redress and lodge complaints.

Buter has been given seven working days to pay the fine or risk more stringent sanctions.



Chief Executive Officer of Sunshine Developmental Tour, David Udungu (second left), Chief Executive Officer of Alpha-Bravo Integrated Services, Tonbara Okoria (third left), Uche Isikaku (left) and Golf Manager, Lakowe Lakes Golf Club, Lagos, Femi Olagbenro at the signing of a three-year contract to host Alpha-Bravo Golf Classic in Lagos.

NSC sets up six-member caretaker committee for troubled judo federation

By Christian Okpara

THE National Sports Commission (NSC) has set up a six-member caretaker committee for the crisis-ridden Nigeria Judo Federation (NJF) following the dissolution of the federation's board by the International Judo Federation (IJF).

The decision, announced yesterday, is the latest development in a prolonged leadership crisis that has raised questions over the federation's administration, electoral process and international standing.

The NSC said the action was taken pursuant to Section 16 of the NSC Act, 2023, with the caretaker committee serving as a transitional structure pending fresh elections and the inauguration of a new board.

The committee is headed by Sheriff Hammed, while Ekuta Catherine Ewa, Sule Musa, Bashir Musa Bassey and Oladipupo Idowu will serve as members. Amayo Ngozi has been appointed secretary.

The committee's mandate is to oversee the federation's day-to-day affairs, amend its constitution to meet requirements set by the IJF, convene a yearly general meeting to consider

and approve the amended constitution, and organise fresh elections.

It will also oversee the transition to the newly elected board.

The latest development is a fallout of the prolonged leadership crisis, which has seen stakeholders question the legitimacy of the federation's leadership and the conduct of its electoral process, eventually drawing the intervention of the IJF.

To arrive at lasting peace, the NSC has charged the caretaker committee to operate transparently, ensure diligence and impartiality, while placing the overall interest and development of judo above competing interests.

The Commission has also directed the committee to work with all relevant stakeholders throughout the transition period.



Katsina United will host Enyimba in the first EuroMatch NPFL Friday night game of the season today.

FIFA Election

Infantino 'buys' African football leaders with investment promise

FIFA President Gianni Infantino's campaign for re-election has received a major boost after all 54 African member associations pledged their unconditional support for his candidacy ahead of the vote in March, following promises of further investment in the continent, reports *independent.co.uk*.

Infantino made his case directly to national association heads at a strategy conference in Cape Verde — a pioneering event for African football that allowed him to engage with more than a quarter of the 211 voting delegates.

The commitment of support comes after the Swiss-Italian executive was forced to shelve a controversial plan to sell a financial stake in FIFA tournaments earlier this year. The plan provoked significant opposition from mostly European and North American federations, leading many of them to withdraw their endorsement for next year's presidential contest.

'Hitman' vows to rock 'Gentle Boy' in 'Street Rumble 2' in Ajegunle

By Daniel Akinola

BOXING fans in Lagos and its environs have been assured of one of the most entertaining nights in the game when the "Street Rumble 2" holds in Ajegunle, on December 13.

Organisers of the boxing fiesta, Match Makers Sports International, yesterday, officially confirmed the blockbuster super-welterweight main event for "The Street Rumble Season 2," and it is a fiery clash between Michael "Hitman" Ani and two-time West African welterweight champion, Taiwo "Gentle Boy" Olowu, at Maracana Square in Ajegunle, Lagos.

The air in Ajegunle is already thick with tension. This is not just a prizefight—it is a reckoning long overdue.

Alpha-Bravo joins SunDev Golf Tour on three-year deal

By Christian Okpara

THE growing West African interest in the Sunshine Development Tour (SDT) got a big boost with the admission of the Alpha-Bravo Golf Classic into the series on a three-year deal.

Alpha-Bravo Golf Classic, yesterday said that it has inked a three-year deal to feature on the SDT calendar from 2026 through 2028. The event will be hosted at Lakowe Lakes Golf Club in Lagos, during the period.

The inaugural event will tee off from November 18 to 21, 2026, and further strengthens Nigeria's presence on the continental professional golf circuit.

The agreement signing has gained traction and follows the successful staging of the Lakowe Lakes Golf Classic last weekend, where Ghana's Vincent Torgah emerged champion in a dramatic sudden-death playoff.

For the SDT, the addition of the Alpha-Bravo Golf Classic represents another significant step in the Tour's expansion into West Africa and its drive to create more competitive opportunities for professional golfers across the continent.

Published by The Guardian Group, Rutam House, Isolo, Lagos Tel: 01-4489600
Abuja Office: Plot 415 Olu Awotesu Street, Off Idris Ibrahim Crescent, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Jabi District, Abuja. Tel: 08065290744
Advert Hotlines: 01-4489619, 08023015115 08031930899, advert@guardian.ng; Circulation Hotline: 07038746449
All correspondence to Guardian Newspapers Limited, P.M.B. 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria.
E-mail: Letters@guardian.ng; www.guardian.ng
Editor: OLUWAFEMI F. ADEKOYA ABC (ISSN NO 0189-5125)

What The Guardian stands for



Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

- The Guardian is an independent newspaper, established for the purpose of presenting balanced coverage of events, and of promoting the best interests of Nigeria. It owes allegiance to no political party, ethnic, community, religious or other interest groups. Its primary commitment is to the integrity and sovereignty of the Federation of Nigeria, and beyond that, to the unity and sovereignty of Africa.
- The Guardian will at all times uphold the need for justice, probity in public life, equal access to the nation's resources and equal protection under the law of Nigeria for all citizens.

- The Guardian journalist must whole-heartedly subscribe to the 1979 Code of Conduct for Nigerian journalists as amended in 1998.
- The Guardian believes, therefore, that it is the moral duty of every journalist to have respect for the truth and to publish or prepare for publication only the truth and to the best of his knowledge.
- It is the duty of The Guardian journalist to resist and refrain from earning other than his just salary or allowances from his employers: not to demand, and to refuse any reward if offered in cash or kind for publishing news or comments.
- The motto of The Guardian is Conscience Nurtured by Truth.

Please report any of our erring journalists to these dedicated telephone numbers: 014489600, 07098147948, 07098147951 Or our e-mail: Complaints@guardian.ng