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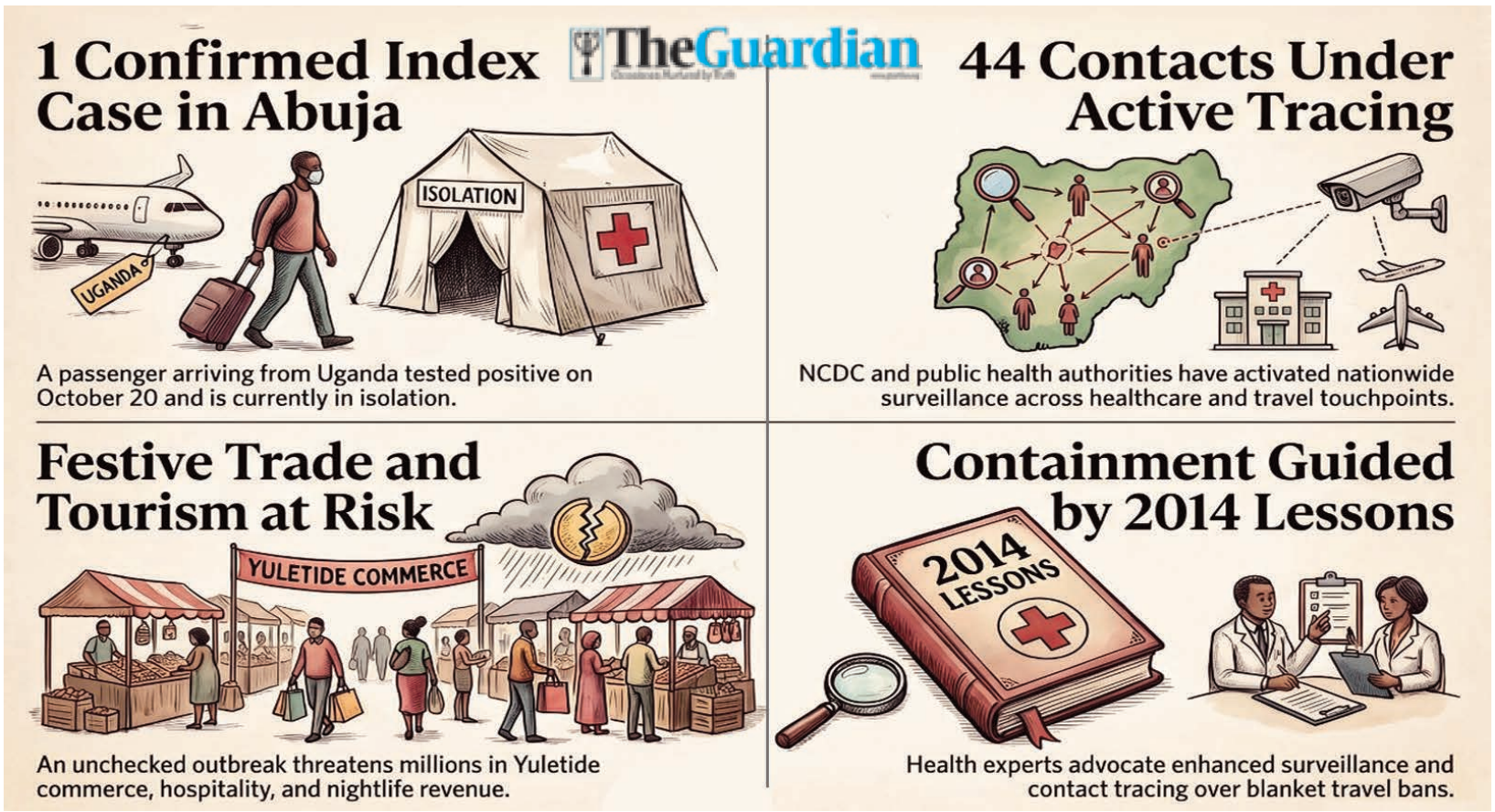
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Chief Financial Officer, Sunbeth Global Concepts, Adeyemi Aduwo (left); Executive Director, Corporate and Investment Banking, Access Bank Plc, Iyabo Soji-Okusanya; Managing Director, Sunbeth Global Concepts, Olasunkanmi Owoyemi; and Managing Director, Capital Markets, Chapel Hill Denham, Lanre Buluro, during the signing ceremony of Sunbeth's N150 billion Commercial Paper Issuance in Lagos, yesterday.

FG, Bi-Courtney end 18-year MMA2 dispute, to complete abandoned projects

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SPOTLIGHT

U.S. hails NDLEA over crackdown on Mexican meth labs

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE United States has commended the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for dismantling four methamphetamine laboratories allegedly linked to Mexican drug cartels in Nigeria, as the agency's chairman, Brig. Gen. Mohammed Buba Marwa (retd.), called for sustained or increased American support to combat transnational drug trafficking.

The commendation came yesterday during a visit to the NDLEA headquarters in Abuja by the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) for Africa and the Middle East, Michael Gonzales.

Gonzales, who assumed office four months ago, said Nigeria was the obvious choice for his first official visit because of its economic importance in Africa, the NDLEA's leadership and the agency's operational successes.

He said he wanted to see "firsthand where the magic happens", citing the strong partnership between the INL and the NDLEA.

According to him, the four methamphetamine laboratory busts recorded this year demonstrated the agency's capacity for intelligence-led investigations, inter-agency and cross-border coordination, effective operations, and thorough investigations and prosecutions.

NiDCOM hails investments as diaspora remittances near $1b monthly

THE Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) has said monthly remittance inflows from Nigerians abroad are approaching $1 billion, describing the development as a boost to the economy and a reflection of growing confidence in Nigeria's economic reforms.

The commission also highlighted rising diaspora investments in healthcare, agriculture, food processing and information and communication technology, noting that such contributions are helping to support businesses, create jobs and transfer valuable expertise to the country.

NiDCOM's Director of Media, Public Relations and Protocols, Abdur-Rahman Balogun, said the commission remained encouraged by the resilience of Nigerians abroad and their willingness to support the country despite economic challenges in recent years. He said the removal of fuel subsidy and the unification of the foreign exchange market under President Bola Tinubu were difficult but necessary decisions to address longstanding economic distortions.

Balogun added that Nigeria's external reserves, now approaching $60 billion, alongside rising remittance inflows, were encouraging signs, although the adjustment process had not been easy.

Beyond sending money to support families, Nigerians in the diaspora have increasingly channelled investments into strategic sectors, including healthcare, agriculture, the food industry and ICT.

According to the commission, these investments are contributing to economic activity through business expansion, employment generation and the introduction of skills and expertise.



Head of the Cybercrimes Unit, Federal Ministry of Justice, Mrs Jamila Kaaga-Ade (second left); Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Prince Lateef Fagbemi; Chairman, Senate Committee on ICT and Cybersecurity, Shuaib Afolabi, and others, during the yearly Cyber Crime Awareness Walk organised by the Federal Ministry of Justice in Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO: NAN

Kwara doctors suspend 7-day strike as govt approves demands

THE Association of Resident Doctors, Kwara State University Teaching Hospital (ARD-KWASUTH), has suspended its seven-day industrial action, following interventions by the Kwara Government.

The association announced the suspension in a statement issued on Tuesday in Ilorin and signed by the President of ARD-UITH, Dr Abdulfatai Abdulazeez.

The industrial action was embarked upon by doctors under the Kwara Doctors Forum. They comprise members of the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD), and the Nigerian Association of Government General Medical and Dental Practitioners (NAGGMDP).

Abdulazeez said the decision followed the state government's approval of three key demands of the association.

According to the statement, the demands approved include the payment of the reviewed 2024 Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) for doctors in the state.

Others are the payment of the 2025 Accoutrement Allowance for eligible doctors and suspension of further deductions of Kwara State Health Insurance (KWHIA) contributions from members' salaries.

The association, however, clarified that other outstanding demands were still being negotiated with the government.

Obi denies telling UK-based Nigerians to abandon families

THE presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, has denied asking Nigerians living in the United Kingdom to abandon relatives who depend on them for financial support, saying his message about hardship in Nigeria was distorted by political opponents.

Obi said he appreciated Nigerians in the diaspora who made sacrifices to support their families at home, stressing that his concern was the country's dependence on remittances to meet basic needs.

In a statement titled "My Message Has Been Twisted", posted on X on Tuesday, the former Anambra State governor said he never asked Nigerians abroad to stop supporting their loved ones.

"I deeply appreciate Nigerians in the diaspora who work tirelessly and make enormous sacrifices to support their families back home," he said.

"Their remittances pay for school fees, hospital bills, rent, and feeding expenses.

... DAY 4560

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor
@TopeTempler



RANDOM FACTS

- The summit of Mount Everest is made of marine limestone, meaning it was once at the bottom of the ocean—around 470 million years ago.
- Banana is a happy fruit. Eating just one can help relieve irritable emotions, anger and or depression.
- Dogs' sense of smell is 40 times more powerful than humans' — they have 300 million olfactory receptors.
- Owning a pet improves quality of life, enhances happiness and adds years to your lifespan.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"Never mistake motion for action.

There is no friend as loyal as a book.

The world breaks everyone and afterward many are strong in the broken places.
ERNEST HEMINGWAY

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference
REINHOLD NIEBUHR

Do not spend the evening in a house where you cannot spend the night.
ETHIOPIAN PROVERB"

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2025 - Japan
Sanae Takaichi was confirmed as Japan's first female prime minister by the Japanese Diet.

• 2021 - USA
A shooting occurred on set of *Rust*, in which actor Alec Baldwin discharged prop weapon which had been loaded during preparation for a scene, killing director of photography, Halyna Hutchins, and injuring director Joel Souza. Production was suspended. Filming resumed January 2023.

• 2020 - Nigeria
All hell was let loose the morning after Lekki tollgate shooting as hoodlums masquerading as #EndSARS protesters attacked government offices, courts, police stations, BRT buses, offices of TVC and The Nation Newspaper as the 24-hour curfew continued in Lagos

• 2011 - USA
Pres. Barack Obama announced withdrawal of United States troops from Iraq.

• 2008 - Congo
UN refugee agency said at least 5,000 people fled violence in northeastern Congo and sought shelter in neighbouring Sudan due to attacks by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army from neighboring Uganda.

• 2001- Afghanistan
U.S. launched strikes against Taliban in Afghanistan, in retaliation for the 9/11 terrorist attacks in U.S.

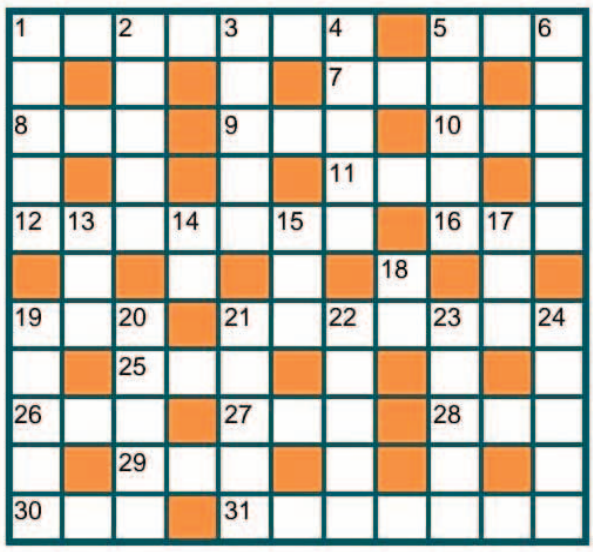
• 2000 - UK
England played their last match at the old Wembley stadium before demolition to make way for the new Wembley Stadium. The match was between old rivals England and West Germany which Germany won 1-0.

• 1999 - Nigeria
Floodgates of River Niger were opened at two dams, Jebba and Shiriro, to prevent Shiroro Lake from overflowing its banks. 400 villages were submerged.

• 1956 - Kenya
The Mau Mau Uprising in Kenya was defeated. It was a war in the British Kenya Colony between the Kenya Land and Freedom Army, known as the Mau Mau, and the British authorities.

• 1940 - USA
First edition of Ernest Hemingway novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* was published. In 1937, Hemingway went to Spain to cover the Spanish Civil War, which formed the basis for his novel. During World War II, he was present with Allied troops as a journalist. In 1952, his novel *The Old Man and the Sea* was published to considerable acclaim, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. He was awarded the 1954 Nobel Prize in Literature. He died by suicide at his house in Ketchum, Idaho, in 1961.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS
I. LGA in Sokoto State, (7).
5. Undertake legal proceedings, (3).
7. Adult male human, (3).
8. 22nd letter of Greek alphabet, (3).
9. Grade point average, abbr., (3).
10. Automatic braking system, abbr.
11. Large-scale integration, abbr., (3).
12. Zulu political party, (7).
16. Recline, (3).
19. Town in Abia State, (3).
21. Edo State Ex Governor, (7).
25. Young male, (3).
26. 'Hand' in Igbo language, (3).
27. Town in Osun State, (3).
28. Area in Ikorodu, (3).
29. LGA in Benue State, (5).
30. Young of carnivorous mammal, (3)
31. LGA in Benue State, (5).

• DOWN
I. LGA in Kano State, (5).
2. Swallow liquid, (5).
3.Between bedtime and waking, (5)
4. Yoruba yam paste, (5).
5. Crawling organism with shell, (5).
6. Follow, (5).
13. Catch somebody, (3).
14. Tool for cutting, (3).
15. Central part, (3).
17. Irritate somebody, (3).
18. Arsenic symbol, (2).
19. Plant yielding fiber, (5).
20. Backward, (5).
21. NNPC ex-M.D., (5).
22. LGA in Benue State, (5).
23. Electronic mark, (5).
24. Town in Ogun State, (5).

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Check page 47 for solution to the puzzle

News

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Falae dismisses concerns on Afenifere leadership as Fasoranti passes on at 100

- Bereaved son says demeanour amid adversity unmatched
- Osoba, Abiodun, Makinde mourn
- Awolowos says it's end of remarkable era

From **Seye Olumide** (Lagos), **Azeez Olorunlomeru** (Abeokuta), **Rotimi Agboluaje** (Ibadan) and **Adewale Momoh** (Akure)

THE death of Pa Reuben Fasoranti, yesterday, marks the passing of one of the last surviving links to the generation of Nigerian politicians whose convictions were shaped by the nationalist struggle, Obafemi Awolowo's progressive philosophy and the fight against military dictatorship.

With Fasoranti's demise, the *Olu* of Iluabo, Olu Falae, also dismissed concerns about a succession struggle within Afenifere, saying the organisation's leadership chooses itself and that a new leader will emerge without any contest.

Tributes have started pouring in from many prominent Yoruba leaders, especially past and serving governors, as his son, Taiwo, who confirmed the passing of the icon to *The Guardian* at the family residence, described it as a moment of celebration rather than mourning, given the impactful life his father lived.

Head of the Awol w Family, Dr latokunb Awol w Dosumu, said the passing of Fa ranti at the venerable age of 100 marks the end of a remarkable era in the political history of the Yoruba nation and Nigeria.

"With his departure, we have lost, in a very real sense, the last of the titans of the Awol w political tradition," stated the Chairman of African Newspapers of Nigeria (ANN) Plc, publishers of the Tribune Titles.

Fa ranti belonged to that extraordinary generation of leaders whose political convictions were rooted in principle, whose commitment to public service was steadfast, and whose loyalty to the ideals and philosophy of Awol w endured through changing times and circumstances.

The statesman, who celebrated his 100th birthday on May 11, 2026, lived through Nigeria's colonial era, Independence, civil war, successive military regimes and more than two decades of uninterrupted democratic government. His was a life that mirrored the country's political evolution, with its triumphs, disappointments, ideological battles and unfinished promises.

Yet, his legacy is not only that of a centenarian who witnessed history. It is also the story of an educationist, public administrator, pro-democracy activist and *Afenifere* leader whose final years in politics were defined by a consequential disagreement over the direction of the Yoruba socio-political organisation he spent decades building.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

2027: Nwankwo warns INEC against unclear AI use as stakeholders share concerns

From **Bridget Chiedu Onochie**, Abuja

DIRECTOR, Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), Clement Nwankwo, has warned the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) against the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in an unclear manner that could rob the 2027 general elections of credibility.

While not opposed to the deployment of technology to advance elections, he insisted that it should not be done without clear, transparent and verifiable procedures.

Nwankwo noted that any deployment of technology in elections must strengthen transparency and protect the will of voters, cautioning that an unfamiliar or poorly explained system could undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

The PLAC director spoke yesterday in Abuja at the 8th Annual Public Lecture organised by Just Friends Club of Nigeria (JFCN), with the theme, 'From Concern to Action: Making Our Votes Count in the 2027 General Elections'.

The lecture, which brought together representatives of political parties, expressed concerns over electoral malpractices and faulty recruitment processes of political office holders.

It also examined the challenges confronting Nigeria's democracy, including economic hardship, insecurity, declining civic participation and the need to strengthen public confidence and trust in elections.

Further on the proposed use of AI in elections, Nwankwo said the legal framework and operational details must be clear to voters and other stakeholders in advance, stressing that the electoral process must remain anchored in procedures prescribed by law.

Nwankwo, who was the Guest Lecturer at the forum, warned against technological innovations that citizens and political parties neither understand nor can independently verify.

He said: "INEC needs to be careful about its so-called use of AI in elections so that it does not result in the use of technology to circumvent the vote of the people."

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



President Bola Tinubu (right) receiving the Founder of Zenith Bank and Chairman of Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), Jim Ovia, at the Presidential Villa, yesterday.

ADC says Tinubu will announce fuel tax if re-elected

- Commends Yari for admitting President's failure
- Subsidy reversal advocates playing politics with economic stability, says APC group

From **Adewale Momoh** (Akure) and **Andrew Oota** (Abuja)

THE African Democratic Congress (ADC) has warned that President Bola Tinubu's planned implementation of fuel tax may be announced on inauguration day, if he's re-elected, thereby pushing petrol prices beyond N1,500 per litre and worsening the already devastating cost-of-living crisis confronting millions of Nigerians.

The party was reacting to Finance Minister Taiwo Oyedele's disclosure on the sidelines of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, that the government would introduce the fuel tax when economic conditions improve.

Also, the ADC Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) said the Director-General of the All Progressives Congress (APC) PCC, Senator Abdulaziz Yari, validated its position that the APC-led government "has failed to secure Nigeria and cannot offer credible solutions" to the country's worsening security crisis.

However, a support group within the APC, BTO4PBAT, has warned that any reversal of the Federal Government's fuel subsidy removal policy would plunge the country into another period of economic uncertainty.

The National Publicity Secretary of the ADC, Bolaji Abdullahi,said the government's real plan was to activate the tax law once Tinubu is re-elected.

"They have already enacted the law for a five per cent tax on fuel under the Nigeria Tax Act, and President Tinubu has signed it into law since June 2025. If they have not activated it yet, it is because of re-election. Once Tinubu is re-elected, he will announce the new tax law on the inauguration ground, just as he did for fuel subsidy in 2023," Abdullahi said.

The party warned that at a petrol price of N1,450 per litre, a five per cent surcharge passed directly to consumers would raise the price to N1,522.50, with potentially devastating consequences for transportation, food distribution, small businesses and household expenditure.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Reps seek tougher action against fake food, drinks, hold Nutrition Bill hearing

- NAFDAC pledges safeguards against unsafe medicines under U.S.-Nigeria deal

From **Ijeoma Nwanosike** (Lagos) and **Joel Oladele** (Abuja)

THE House of Representatives has called for stronger measures against fake and substandard food products, while advancing efforts to regulate nutrition practice through a proposed law to establish the Nutritionists Registration Council of Nigeria.

Relatedly, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) pledged to safeguard Nigerians against unsafe medicines supplied under the United States-Nigeria Government (USG-GoN) agreement, assuring that products entering the country would be subject to appropriate regulatory checks

The two developments in the House took place yesterday, with the lawmakers adopting a motion on food safety during plenary before meeting stakeholders for a public hearing on the nutrition bill.

The House urged the Presidency to intensify the fight against the production and sale of adulterated food, counterfeit beverages and other substandard consumer products, warning that they pose serious risks to public health.

The motion, sponsored by Abubakar Yalleman, who represents Madori/Kaugama Federal Constituency of Jigawa State, called for stronger enforcement of existing regulations and better coordination among agencies responsible for food safety and consumer protection.

Yalleman said access to safe, high-quality food was essential to public health, productivity, and economic development. He added that proper processing, hygiene and compliance with safety standards could prevent illnesses caused by harmful bacteria, chemical residues and contaminated ingredients.

The lawmaker expressed concern about illegal factories and counterfeit operations, citing NAFDAC's dismantling of alcohol-counterfeiting syndicates at Zamfara Plaza on Lagos Island on April 22, 2026. He also referred to the September 22 raid by the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) on an illegal, unregistered fruit juice factory in Badagry, Lagos.

He warned that such practices could expose consumers to acute poisoning, cancer and damage to vital organs, including the liver, kidneys, lungs and heart.

Earlier, House Committee Chairman on Nutrition and Food Security, Chike Okafor, said the public hearing would allow citizens, experts and other stakeholders to present their views before the House reached a position on the bill.

He assured participants that the committee had not predetermined its recommendation and would consider submissions both for and against the proposed law.

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#EndSARS: Atiku, Obi, Sowore call for answers on Lekki shooting

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

• APC govt owes Nigerians accountability, Atiku declares • Obi says Nigeria must never forget killings • Sowore vows to reopen killings probe, if elected president

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar; the presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi; and the African Action Congress (AAC) Presidential Candidate, Omoyele Sowore, have raised concerns over the October 2020 Lekki shooting, saying six years after the incident, the country is still waiting to know who ordered the shooting.

Atiku, in a statement marking the sixth anniversary of the #EndSARS protests, said the APC-led government owed Nigerians, particularly young people, accountability for the incident and a better future amid worsening economic hardship.

He also recalled President Bola Tinubu's response, who, in October 2020, questioned the circumstances surrounding the presence of protesters at the Lekki Toll Gate and the casualties recorded during the incident.

Atiku said Tinubu, rather than demonstrating the empathy and compassion the tragedy demanded, had asked: "How were they there? How long were they there? What kind of characters are they?"

According to him, the response appeared more concerned with questioning the victims than demanding accountability from those responsible for the violence against peaceful protesters.

Obi, sharing the same view, called on Nigerians to preserve the memory of the October 20, 2020, Lekki Toll Gate shootings, warning that the country must never normalise injustice or forget the sacrifices made by young people in their quest for a better Nigeria.

He also made the call yesterday in a message commemorating the sixth anniversary of the incident, which became one of the most defining moments of the #EndSARS protests against police brutality in Nigeria.

The former Anambra State governor said the anniversary remained a painful reminder of the price Nigerian youths paid while demanding an end to police brutality, accountability and improved governance.

According to him, the events at the Lekki Toll Gate left the country with troubling questions about justice, accountability and the sanctity of human life.

For Obi, the anniversary should serve not merely as a moment of mourning but also as an opportunity to renew the national commitment to justice, responsible leadership and respect for human dignity.

MEANWHILE, the AAC Presidential Candidate, Omoyele Sowore, has vowed to reopen investigations into the October 20, 2020 Lekki Toll Gate killings, to identify those who ordered and carried out the shootings, and ensure their prosecution if elected President.

Sowore made the pledge yesterday, as Nigerians marked the sixth anniversary of the #EndSARS protests, which erupted nationwide in October 2020 against police brutality, torture, extortion and extrajudicial killings.

FG orders MDAs to publish audited accounts by Q1 2027

From **Joseph Chibueze**, Abuja

FEDERAL Government has directed all government agencies to submit their audited financial statements for publication in the first quarter of 2027, in a move that could intensify scrutiny of public spending and expose financial management failures across the public sector.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr Taiwo Oyedele, announced the directive at the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) in Abuja.

The directive puts government agencies under pressure to make their financial records available for public scrutiny, although questions remain over how compliance will be enforced, whether agencies with outstanding audits will face sanctions and what consequences will follow the discovery of financial irregularities.

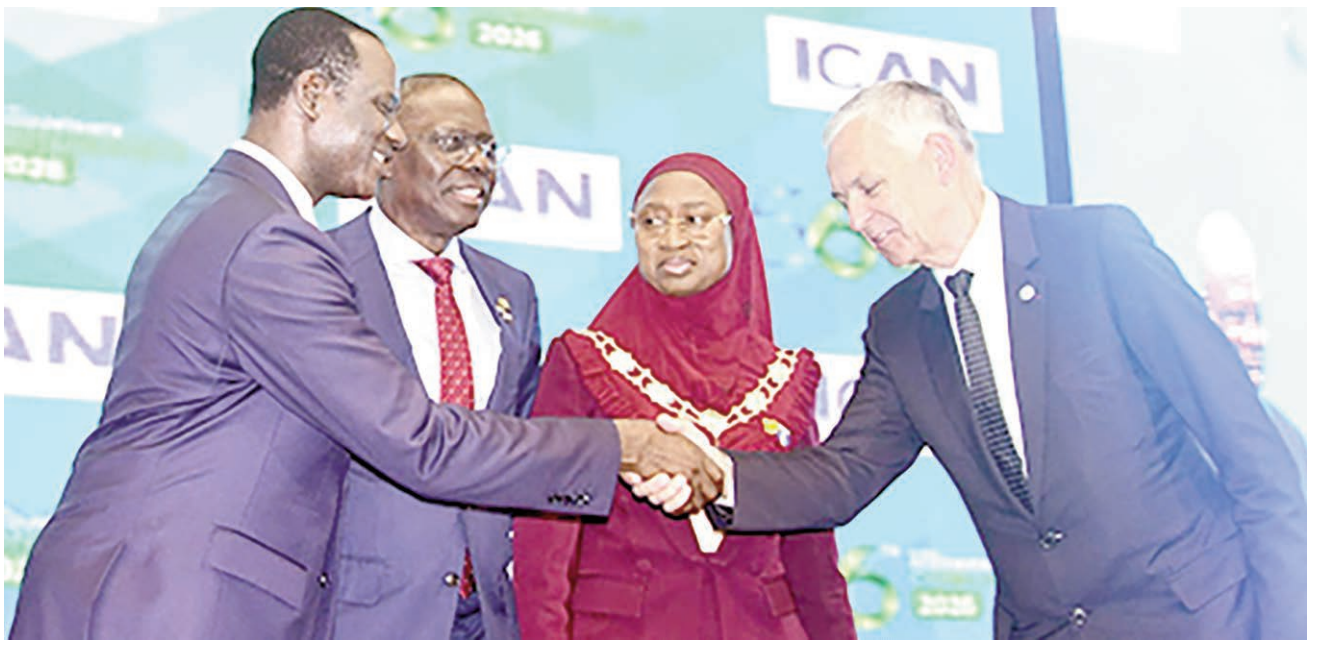
Gulf of Guinea Commission appoints Oyetola leader of blue economy policy

By **Adaku Onyenucheya**

GULF of Guinea Commission (GGC) has appointed Nigeria's Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola, to lead the development of regional policy on marine and blue economy, in a major move to strengthen maritime security, sustainable ocean governance and economic cooperation among member states.

The appointment follows Nigeria's development and approval of its first-ever National Policy on Marine and Blue Economy, which the Commission says has inspired its plan to establish a similar regional framework for the Gulf of Guinea.

Established on July 3, 2001, with its headquarters in Luanda, Angola, the GGC is an intergovernmental organisation committed to promoting peace, security, economic integration, sustainable resource development and protection of the marine environment.



Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele (left); Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; President and Chairman Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN), Queensley Sofuratu Seghosime; and President, International Federation of Accountants, Jean Bouquet, during the 56th Yearly Accountants Conference in Abuja yesterday. PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

CCT seeks embassies' support to enforce anti-corruption judgments abroad

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

• Kogo channels N30m wardrobe allowance to renovate tribunal

CHAIRMAN of the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT), Dr Mainasara Umar Kogo, has called for stronger cooperation among Nigeria, foreign embassies, and international law enforcement institutions to enforce anti-corruption judgments involving assets and investments outside the country.

Kogo said collaboration with diplomatic missions, Interpol and relevant international institutions was important to addressing cases in which individuals subject to Nigerian anti-corruption decisions have foreign links, including dual citizenship, overseas investments or assets held abroad.

He said Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts required stronger international partnerships to ensure that judgments did not lose their effect simply because relevant assets or individuals were beyond the country's borders.

The CCT chairman made the call while outlining his vision to strengthen the tribunal's capacity and address institutional challenges facing the country's accountability system.

He argued that cooperation with foreign institutions could help improve the implementation of judgments and reinforce efforts to promote accountability in public office.

Kogo also called for reforms to the legal framework governing the tribunal, proposing that it be transformed into a National Anti-Corruption Court with broader prosecutorial powers.

According to him, the proposed reform would allow more anti-corruption agencies and, potentially, civil society organisations to initiate relevant proceedings, rather than leaving prosecution within the current framework.

MEANWHILE, Kogo has said he redirected about N30 million reportedly offered to him for a wardrobe change to renovate the tribunal's dilapidated headquarters, describing the decision as part of efforts to restore the institution's integrity.

Kogo said he declined to spend the money on himself and instead channelled it towards improving the tribunal's facilities, which he claimed had suffered years of neglect.

Nigeria bigger than any political party, individual, Jonathan tells ex-deputy govs

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

• Okowa decries widening disconnect between leaders, followers

FORMER President, Goodluck Jonathan, has urged Nigerian leaders to place national unity and the country's interests above political parties, individuals and sectional interests, saying the country's future depends on responsible leadership and collective commitment to democracy.

Jonathan made the call at the fifth yearly conference of the Forum of Former Deputy Governors of Nigeria, where the Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, Bala Ngilari, represented him.

In his address, Jonathan described the forum as a unique platform capable of contributing significantly to national unity and democratic growth, given the diversity of its members in terms of political affiliation and geographical representation.

He noted that former deputy governors occupied an important position in the country's political system, having served at the intersection of political parties, government and the citizens they represented.

He urged members of the forum to sustain their commitment to national development even after leaving public office, stressing that their responsibilities to the country did not end with the expiration of their tenures.

Jonathan emphasised the need for former public officeholders to mentor younger Nigerians, urging them to provide guidance that would help the next generation make responsible decisions and contribute meaningfully to society.

According to the former President, young Nigerians require more than opportunities to succeed; they also need guidance from experienced leaders to navigate challenges and avoid mistakes that could affect their future.

Jonathan also identified Nigeria's human resources as the country's greatest asset, describing Nigerians as creative, hardworking and resilient.

He cautioned political leaders against treating public office as a permanent position, noting that although political appointments and tenures would eventually end, the consequences of decisions taken while in office can affect generations.

IN his contribution, the National Chairman of the Forum, Dr Chris Alozie Akomas, called for moral re-engineering to bridge the widening gap between leaders and citizens.

In his welcome address, Akomas said this year's theme, "Rethinking Nation-Building: Bridging the Leadership-Citizen Disconnect Through Orientation, Attitude, Character, Culture and Tradition for Sustainable Development," cuts to the core of Nigeria's existential struggle.

EFCC opposes Emefiele's no-case submission

From **Ameh Ochojila**, Abuja

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday urged Justice Hamza Mu'azu of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Maitama, Abuja, to dismiss the no-case submission filed by a former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Godwin Emefiele, insisting that the evidence presented by the prosecution established a *prima facie* case requiring him to enter his defence.

Emefiele is facing an amended 20-count charge bordering on alleged criminal breach of trust, forgery, abuse of office, conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence, including allegations relating to the withdrawal of $6.23 million and the conferment of corrupt advantage in the award of CBN contracts.

The prosecution counsel, Director, Public Prosecution of the Federation, Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, argued that the purpose of a no-case submission was to determine whether the prosecution had established a prima facie case, not to determine the defendant's guilt or evaluate the credibility of witnesses at that stage.

JPMorgan deposits N50b with CBN, moves closer to merchant banking licence

By **Isaac Chibuife**

AMERICAN multinational banking institution, JPMorgan Chase & Co, is closer to getting a merchant banking licence in Nigeria after depositing N50 billion (about $38 million) with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Bloomberg reported on Tuesday.

Citing sources with knowledge of the matter, the report said the deposit is among the last regulatory requirements that the American bank must meet before it can be approved to operate as a merchant bank in Nigeria. The sources spoke anonymously because the process is not public.

The N50 billion is the minimum paid-up capital for a nationally licensed merchant bank under the CBN's recapitalisation framework. However, the deposit does not guarantee approval, as the apex bank must still make a final decision on the application.

FG, Bi-Courtney end 18-year MMA2 dispute, to complete abandoned projects

From **Joke Falaju**, Abuja

THE Federal Government and Bi-Courtney Limited have resolved their 18-year dispute over the Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal Two (MMA2), Lagos, with an agreement on the resumption of concession fee payments and completion of the abandoned hotel and conference centre projects.

Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, disclosed this yesterday, during the formalisation of the settlement agreement involving the Federal Government, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Bi-Courtney Limited and Stabilini Visinoni Limited.

Keyamo said the settlement followed sustained negotiations aimed at resolving the dispute, which had generated multiple court cases across successive administrations.

He said the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved the framework for the negotiated settlement on April 30, 2026, under the leadership of President Bola Tinubu.

According to him, the agreement provides for the reciprocal waiver of outstanding financial and other claims by the parties, allowing them to move forward under clearly defined contractual obligations.

The minister said Bi-Courtney would resume payment of concession fees due under the original agreement, ending nearly 20 years of disputes over payments to the Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN)

He said that FAAN is set to resume collecting concession fees from the MMA2 in Lagos following a negotiated settlement

"FAAN had not earned a kobo from MMA2 for the last 20 years because of disputes. Today, FAAN begins to earn its money from this settlement," Keyamo said.

He further stated that the agreement also resolved the dispute over the General Aviation Terminal (GAT), also known as the old domestic terminal, which remains the property of the Federal Government and is operated by FAAN.

He added that Bi-Courtney had relinquished its exclusive rights under the original concession agreement, while the Federal Government had agreed to allow the company to expand its apron and accommodate regional flights within Africa at MMA2, subject to the terminal's full capacity.

Keyamo said the settlement also addressed the four-star hotel and conference centre near the airport through restored rights and separate lease agreements specifying the obligations attached to each facility.

He added that the government and relevant regulatory authorities would retain oversight responsibilities for security, emergency response, airport operations and maintenance standards.

The minister said the agreement would enable the government to generate revenue, provide greater investment certainty for the concessionaire and create opportunities for employment and commercial activities in the aviation sector.

He, however, described the resolution as a major achievement of the Tinubu administration, noting that the parties had agreed to negotiate despite years of litigation.

In his remarks, Wale Babalakin thanked Tinubu and the minister for resolving the dispute, saying the agreement would create well-paying jobs and improve the appearance of the airport environment.

He said the settlement would also demonstrate that disputes between private investors and government could be resolved through sustained engagement.

FAAN to begin revenue collection, says Keyamo



Managing Director of Tantita Security Services Nigeria Ltd., Kestin Pondi, who represented Grand Patron of PBAT Door-to-Door Campaign, Oweizide Ekpemupolo, a.k.a. Tompolo (left); Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, and Co-ordinator, Presidential Amnesty Programme, Dr Dennis Otuaro, during the PBAT Door-to-Door rally and distribution of campaign vehicles and materials in Akure, yesterday.

Gani Adams calls on FG to move tourism to concurrent legislative list

Says tourism a goldmine that Nigeria is yet to tap

By **David Emokpae**

THE Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yorubaland and Chief Promoter of the Olokun Festival Foundation (OFF), Iba Gani Adams, has urged the Federal Government to move tourism from the residual to the Concurrent Legislative List to enable federal and state governments to collaborate more effectively in developing the sector.

Adams made the call yesterday during the 24th edition of the Olokun World Festival, held at Kakanfo-Falola Beach, Badagry, Lagos, where he advocated policies to attract tourists, improve infrastructure, strengthen security and encourage investment in Nigeria's tourism industry.

He said that placing tourism on the concurrent legislative list would enable states to work more closely with the Federal Government and its agencies to harness the country's tourism potential.

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

Experts task FG on enabling environment for local food manufacturers

Advocate need to fix Nigeria's food supply chain

By **Gbenga Akinfenwa** and **Divine Yusuf**

THE Federal Government has been urged to create an enabling environment for local food manufacturers through affordable financing, reliable infrastructure and policies that encourage local production.

Chief Executive Officer of Spectra Industries Limited, Oko-Oba, Lagos, Duro Kuteyi, who gave the advice during the celebration of World Food Day 2026, also appealed to financial institutions, farmers and private investors to work together to strengthen the country's food value chain.

He said: "We must invest in modern processing technologies, reduce food waste, improve food safety and make nutritious foods more accessible to vulnerable communities. Tackling malnutrition requires more than producing food. It requires ensuring that people can afford and access safe, balanced and nutritious diets."

MEANWHILE, an agricultural development expert, Olakunlehin John Oladapo, has called for reforms in Nigeria's food supply chain, saying increased production alone would not make food affordable to struggling families.

ARCON DG raises concern over continued violation of political advertising rules

By **Sunday Aikulola**

THE Advertising Regulatory Agency of Nigeria (ARCON) has expressed serious concern over continued violation of political advertising rules in the country.

Director-General of the agency, Lekan Fadolapo, while speaking at a political advertising forum in Lagos yesterday, however, observed that violations during the political era are unimaginable, insisting this calls for concern.

He said: "We are less than 90 days away from the general elections. We are at the peak of campaigns.

"Most of the campaigns have no value proposition, and they are attacking the opponents. They are not speaking to the substance of their manifestos.

"Our mandate is to ensure that all advertisements are decent, legal and responsible. Nigeria is a country that is sensitive when it comes to communication. So, we must continuously engage the political gladiators to ensure that, in planning and executing their political campaigns, they ensure they comply with ARCON rules and regulations.

"We are pleading with political parties to ensure full compliance. We will ensure full implementation of the law."

Fadolapo said that ARCON had mandated state governments that before an advert is exposed in any media, it must first be submitted for approval.

In his keynote address, Director-General, Centre for Media Law and Development, Charles Odenigbo, described political advertising as very volatile.

"The national and state party chairmen should be arrested and prosecuted accordingly by the Advertising Offences Tribunal. Heads of advertising agencies that are also found wanting should be arrested and prosecuted," he said.

He, therefore, urged all stakeholders, regulators, political parties, advertising agencies and media houses to play a common role in the political communication environment.

He also suggested that campaign organisations should submit materials to the advertising standards panel before exposure, rather than treating approval as an afterthought.

Lagos PDP faults Sanwo-Olu over refuse, environmental decay

By **Kehiunde Olatunji**

SDP guber candidate seeks review of waste management system

THE Lagos State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has blamed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration for the worsening waste management crisis in the state, describing the exit of the Managing Director of the Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Dr Muyiwa Gbadegesin, as evidence of administrative failure.

The party, in a statement yesterday, signed by its Publicity Secretary, Christopher Odianarewo, said the development vindicated its repeated warnings about environmental degradation and the accumulation of refuse across major roads, residential areas, markets and drainage channels.

It accused the state government of relying on publicity campaigns and temporary sanitation exercises instead of addressing what it described as systemic failures in waste management.

The PDP also raised concerns about the public health risks associated with decomposing refuse, blocked drainage systems and the stench reportedly affecting neighbourhoods in the state.

It alleged that the situation had increased residents' exposure to preventable diseases and heightened the risk of flooding during rainfall, while faulting the government for failing to establish an effective and sustainable waste disposal system.

The opposition party said replacing the LAWMA chief executive would not resolve the crisis without broader institutional reforms, improved efficiency and long-term planning.

It, therefore, called on Sanwo-Olu to take responsibility for the state's environmental challenges and ensure effective waste management.

ALSO, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) governorship candidate in Lagos State, Femi Olaniyi-Ferrari, has called for a comprehensive review of the state's waste management system amid concerns over refuse disposal in parts of the state.

Olaniyi-Ferrari gave the charge yesterday in Lagos while reacting to a media report that Sanwo-Olu had asked Gbadegesin to resign over waste management challenges.

He said the situation required a holistic assessment of waste collection, transportation, disposal and recycling, rather than focusing solely on the leadership of the agency.

United Nigeria Airlines to commence cargo operations at Ekiti Airport in January

Donates health facilities, boreholes to Ekiti community

From **Olusegun Koiki** (Lagos) and **Ayodele Afolabi** (Ado-Ekiti)

UNITED Nigeria Airlines has unveiled plans to commence commercial cargo operations at Ekiti Airport in January 2027.

The airline also said that it would begin daily passenger flights to the state as soon as the airport's infrastructure is upgraded.

Chairman of United Nigeria Airlines, Prof. Obiora Okonkwo, disclosed this yesterday during the commissioning of Reeve Energy Limited's aviation fuel tank farm facility at the airport.

Okonkwo assured that the airline would be ready to transport agricultural produce and other goods from Ekiti State to destinations across Nigeria and eventually, international markets, including London, once the state government was prepared to commence commercial cargo exports.

He, however, pledged that United Nigeria Airlines would be the first airline to lift commercial cargo from the airport when the state was ready.

Okonkwo said the commissioning of the fuel tank farm would support the airline's operations, describing United Nigeria Airlines as the second-largest consumer of aviation fuel in the country after Air Peace.

However, Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to completing ongoing airport infrastructure projects and providing an enabling environment for private investors.

Oyebanji said the state government was working towards completing the airport upgrade by the end of the year, including improvements to its Instrument Landing System (ILS) and the installation of aerodrome ground lighting infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the airline has donated a community health centre and a solar-powered borehole to Aso-Ayegunle, a community in Ado-Ekiti, the state capital, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, while urging other state governors to take a cue from Oyebanji's public-private partnership initiative.

Fresh Ebola case sparks fears, emergency surveillance measures

From **Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze** (Abuja) and **Ijeoma Nwanosike** (Lagos)

- Govt traces 44 contacts, intensifies surveillance nationwide
- Multi-million dollar festive tourism, hospitality, nightlife industry at risk
- W'Bank warns of billions in losses from prolonged outbreak
- Rising food costs leave households vulnerable to further economic shocks
- Experts oppose blanket travel bans, urge evidence-based restrictions
- Health specialists call for stronger surveillance, contact tracing
- Africa CDC seeks urgent global funding, medical supplies, emergency responders
- 2014 containment success offers lessons for current response

THE Federal Government yesterday confirmed a new Ebola case in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), raising the prospect of fresh pressure on Nigeria's economy and threatening to complicate preparations for the Yuletide season if the outbreak spreads or undermines public confidence.

With increased travel, retail activity, hospitality bookings and commercial transactions expected in the coming weeks, authorities face the dual challenge of containing the disease and preventing avoidable disruptions to businesses and livelihoods.

The patient, a woman who recently arrived in Nigeria on an international flight from Uganda, was admitted to a private hospital in the FCT, where she received care for several days before laboratory tests confirmed the infection on October 20, according to a statement by the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Muhammad Ali Pate.

The Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC), FCT Health Services Secretariat and other relevant authorities have activated containment measures, with contact tracing already under way for 44 close contacts, including healthcare workers, patients, caregivers and travel contacts who may have been exposed to the virus.

The government said surveillance had been intensified, while the hospital was receiving immediate support to strengthen infection prevention and control measures. It also directed public and private healthcare facilities nationwide to remain on high alert, promptly identify and isolate suspected cases, observe strict infection prevention protocols and report suspected infections to public health authorities.

Seeking to reassure Nigerians, Pate said the country had successfully contained Ebola in 2014 and had the experience and public health systems needed to respond to the latest case. He stressed that early detection, prompt reporting and public co-operation were critical to preventing further spread.

The ministry explained that Ebola spreads through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person who is ill or has died from the disease, or through contact with contaminated materials. It advised Nigerians to maintain good hand hygiene, avoid contact with the body fluids of suspected cases and watch for symptoms including fever, severe weakness, headache, vomiting and diarrhoea, particularly after possible exposure.



Pate



Idris



Ghebreyesus

Those who may have been exposed were urged to report promptly to public health authorities, while anyone who develops symptoms should avoid close contact with others and seek guidance from health officials before visiting a healthcare facility. The government also urged people identified through contact tracing, including relevant airline passengers, to co-operate with public health teams and follow official advice.

The government said investigations were continuing and that the Presidential Taskforce on Ebola Virus Disease and the NCDC would provide further updates.

It also urged Nigerians to avoid spreading rumours and stigmatising affected persons, stressing that timely reporting and public co-operation would be essential to containing the infection.

Billions in festive trade at risk if outbreak spreads

THE economic stakes of the latest Ebola outbreak are particularly significant as Nigeria approaches its yearly festive-season boom, when millions of people travel to reunite with family, attend events and patronise businesses across the country.

According to figures published by *The Guardian,* in Lagos alone, tourism, hospitality and entertainment generated more than $71.6 million in reported revenue during the 2024 Detty December celebrations. Hotels accounted for more than $44 million, highlighting the scale of commercial activity associated with the influx of visitors.

The season's economic benefits also extend to nightlife, transport, short-let accommodation, event centres and recreational facilities.

A separate report by *The Guardian* put the combined earnings of Lagos's top 15 nightclubs at N4.32 billion during the 2024 festive period, while other businesses benefited from increased bookings and visitor spending.

While these figures do not establish the potential losses from the current Ebola case, they suggest the commercial interests at stake.

The World Bank's assessment of the 2014 Ebola epidemic found that fear of infection could discourage customers, disrupt transportation and raise the cost of doing business, even beyond areas experiencing widespread transmission.

This compounds the economic consequences of the outbreak.

The speed of containment and the effectiveness of public communication are therefore central to limiting the risk of similar behavioural and economic disruptions.

The Bank had warned that the Ebola epidemic could cost West Africa up to $32.6 billion

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State Police: 13 Assemblies approve bill in race to meet 24-state threshold

From **Terhemba Daka** (Abuja), **Monday Osayande** (Asaba), **Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi** (Jos) and **Azeez Olorunlomeru** (Abeokuta)

- Presidential panel submits 29 amendments to policing bill for AGF's review
- Kwara, Nasarawa, Ogun, Delta, Taraba, Cross River, Plateau, Enugu pass bill
- Edo, Osun, Oyo, Rivers, Zamfara transmit approval to NASS ahead of 30-day deadline

LIKE a blitz, eight State Houses of Assembly yesterday swiftly approved the proposed constitutional amendment to establish State Police in a last-minute attempt to beat the 30-day deadline set by the National Assembly for the state legislatures to communicate their positions on decentralising Nigeria's policing system.

State lawmakers in Kwara, Taraba, Nasarawa, Ogun, Delta, Cross River, Plateau and Enugu unanimously approved the bill seeking to establish state police in Nigeria, in a move aimed at strengthening security, improving crime prevention and enhancing public safety across the states. This brings the number of states already with legislative backing for state police to 13. Only five of the 36 State Houses of Assembly had already approved the bill before yesterday.

Also yesterday, the Presidential Working Group on the National Policing Bill completed drafting the proposed legislation and submitted it, alongside 29 consequential amendment bills, to the Federal Ministry of Justice for review and validation. The submission was made to the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, in line with the Working Group's work plan. Chief of Staff to the President and Chairman of the Working Group, Femi Gbajabiamila, disclosed this in a statement in Abuja.

Earlier, there had been fears that the State Police bill may have suffered a setback, with only five of the 36 State Houses of Assembly having approved the bill as of Thursday, October 16, leaving the proposed reform short of the constitutional requirement for approval by at least 24 state Houses of Assembly. The bill was transmitted to the state legislatures on September 16, 2026, following its passage by the Senate on June 24 and the House of Representatives on July 23. The 30-day period given to the Assemblies was due to expire on October 16.

Section 9(2) of the 1999 Constitution requires a constitutional alteration to be approved by resolutions of at least two-thirds of all state Houses of Assembly, representing 24 of the 36 states, before it can be presented for presidential assent. The bill is still 11 states short of the required threshold for eventual passage into law. The establishment of state police has featured prominently in Nigeria's security debate amid persistent challenges involving banditry, kidnapping, terrorism, communal violence and other criminal activities.

Gbajabiamila said the Ministry's review would ensure that the bills complied with legislative drafting standards and conventions and did not conflict with existing laws. The Ministry is expected to return the validated draft bills to the Working Group on or before October 30. The Working Group will then give the bills final consideration before presenting them to President Bola Tinubu, thereby concluding its mandate.

The proposed National Policing Bill seeks to establish the constitutional and legislative framework for a dual policing structure comprising the Federal Police Service and State Police Services. The Working Group said the process remained rigorous and transparent, with the aim of producing a comprehensive legislative proposal for the President's consideration and subsequent transmission to the National Assembly.

The drafting process is proceeding alongside the ongoing consideration of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026, by the State Houses of Assembly. The constitutional amendment process must be completed before the bill is transmitted to the National Assembly.

The working group said it remained committed to a rigorous and transparent process that would produce a comprehensive legislative proposal for the President's consideration and subsequent transmission to the National Assembly.

The development comes as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026, is undergoing consideration by the state Houses of Assembly. The constitutional amendment process must be completed before the bill is transmitted to the National Assembly, highlighting the parallel legislative steps required to advance the proposed policing reforms.

In the states, Enugu State House of Assembly yesterday passed a resolution backing the creation of the state police. The lawmakers passed the resolution during plenary and Speaker Uche Ugwu announced the resolution in a statement. Ugwu, who represents Udi North State Constituency in the assembly, said, during the plenary, members of the House voted in support of the bill seeking alteration of the Nigerian constitution to provide for the establishment of the state police.

The Speaker said lawmakers extolled the vision and courage of the All Progressives Congress (APC)-led government and the leadership of the party at all levels to listen to the "heartbeat of Nigerians" by supporting state police creation. The agitation for creation of state police has raged on for more than two decades, as Nigeria increasingly grappled with widening security challenges.

The campaign also divided Nigerians, with antagonists expressing fears over possible abuse by state governors and supporters insisting that its benefits outweigh its downside. But President Bola Tinubu later adopted the creation of state police as one of his cardinal programmes to address insecurity across Nigeria. The proposed model is intended to bring policing closer to communities, allowing officers to respond more quickly to local security challenges and draw on better knowledge of the communities they serve.

Also, the Delta State House of Assembly approved the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026, paving the way for the establishment of State Police in the country. The bill was passed during plenary, presided over by the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Emomotimi Dennis Guwor, with all 23 members present voting in support of the proposed constitutional alteration. No member voted against the bill, while none abstained from voting, reflecting unanimous support among the lawmakers who participated in the exercise.

Following the passage, Guwor directed the Clerk of the House to formally communicate the Assembly's approval to the National Assembly for further legislative action in accordance with the constitutional amendment process.

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

Reps demand higher fiscal support to tackle erosion in Bayelsa community

Communities groan over earth tremor incident in Bayelsa, Rivers

From **Joel Oladele** and **Adamu Abuh** (Abuja)

THE House of Representatives has called for increased budgetary allocation to tackle severe erosion threatening Odi Kingdom in Bayelsa State.

The lawmakers warned that the historic Ijaw community could face further destruction without urgent federal intervention and sustained funding for shoreline protection.

The House made the call yesterday after adopting a motion of urgent public importance sponsored by Oboku Oforji.

It urged the Federal Government to mobilise relevant agencies to protect homes, farmlands, public infrastructure and residents' livelihoods from the advancing erosion.

Oforji's motion linked the worsening shoreline erosion to an earth tremor reportedly recorded in the community in 2025. It said the incident accelerated the destruction of buildings and other vital assets.

"The persistent erosion continues to consume large portions of the community daily, threatening lives, livelihoods, critical infrastructure, and the very existence of Odi Kingdom," the motion stated.

The lawmakers expressed concern that the relevant federal agencies had yet to undertake a comprehensive intervention despite the scale of the environmental crisis.

They urged the Federal Ministries of Environment, Works, and Water Resources and Sanitation to work with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Ecological Project Office and other relevant agencies to address the problem.

The House called for an emergency assessment of the affected areas, followed by permanent shoreline protection, erosion control and land reclamation projects.

It also stressed the need for adequate budgetary provisions to finance comprehensive environmental restoration and stabilise the threatened shoreline.

As part of its response, the House mandated its committees on Environment, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Ecological Funds, and the NDDC to conduct a joint on-the-spot assessment of the community.

The committees are expected to submit their findings and recommendations for immediate legislative action within four weeks.

MEANWHILE, Communities along the Bayelsa-Rivers border are seeking answers after recurring earth tremors shook buildings and sent people rushing out of their homes and business premises, with the cause of the latest incident still unknown.

The latest occurrence, reported on October 8, 2026, affected Kalaba and Ikarama communities in Yenagoa Local Council Area of Bayelsa State, as well as Mbiama and Iluma in Ahoada West Local Council Area of Rivers State.

For residents, the sudden vibrations brought confusion and fear, with some initially suspecting that a heavy vehicle had passed nearby or that a building was about to collapse. However, after the shaking stopped, the question of what caused the movement remained unanswered.

A report by Environmental Conservation, Agriculture and Rural Development (ECARD) described the latest incident as the third or fourth similar occurrence recorded in the area within about 12 years. Previous tremors were reported in June 2014 and July 2016.



All Progressives Congress (APC) Deputy National Chairman (South) and National Coordinator South, Tinubu Must Stay Movement (TMS), Dr Benjamin Obi Nwoye(left); Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)/Chairman and Coordinator of TMS, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi and Member of the Boad of Trustees of TMS, Sanusi Musa, during the Inauguration of the Boad Trustees of TMS, held in Abuja, yesterday.

WAMELA drags Uzodimma to CCB over Senate ambition

By **Joseph Onyekwere**

THE Association of West African Media Lawyers (WAMELA) has petitioned the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), requesting an investigation into the reported decision by Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma, to seek a Senate seat while his tenure as governor remains unexpired.

In the petition dated October 20, 2026, and addressed to the Chairman of the Bureau, the Association asked the CCB to determine whether the governor's reported senatorial ambition raises issues of abuse of office or conflict of interest under the Code of Conduct for Public Officers.

The Association anchored its petition on paragraph 1 of Part I of the Fifth Schedule to the 1999 Constitution (as amended), which prohibits public officers from abusing their offices.

It also relied on constitutional provisions that empower the Bureau to receive and investigate complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct and, where appropriate, refer matters to the Code of Conduct Tribunal.

Ogoni disability group demands inclusion in oil talks, NNPC jobs

By **Opeyemi Babalola**

THE Ogoni Association of Persons Living with Disabilities (OGAPWD) has called on President Bola Tinubu, the Federal Government, the Ogoni Dialogue and Consultation (ODC) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) to address the exclusion of persons with disabilities from discussions on oil resumption in Ogoniland.

The association also demanded fair access to 40 employment opportunities reportedly created by NNPC in connection with Ogoni engagement, insisting that qualified persons with disabilities must not be discriminated against.

In a statement signed by its President-General and Founder, Baridapdoo Joy Ngo, on October 20, 2026, the group said dialogue on Ogoniland's future would be incomplete without meaningful representation of persons with disabilities.

Scores feared dead after clash over OML 55 oil spill in Rivers

From **Ann Godwin**, Port Harcourt

AT least 10 people are feared dead after a community boat reportedly capsized during a confrontation between residents and alleged military personnel over an oil spill at Oil Mining Lease (OML) 55 in Kula, Akuku Tory Local Council Area of Rivers State.

The Guardian gathered that the confrontation followed an oil spill allegedly linked to operations involving a businessman at the oil asset.

It was learnt that community members reportedly sought to halt further operations pending remediation of the affected environment and compensation.

However, the situation allegedly escalated when military personnel arrived at the scene, leading to a confrontation with youths from the community.

A community leader, Chief Anabs Sara-Igbe, who confirmed the incident to *The Guardian,* alleged that the deployment of military personnel escalated the situation and undermined efforts to resolve the dispute peacefully.

According to him, the community had been making efforts to prevent a breakdown of law and order before the military confrontation.

Sara-Igbe called on the police and other relevant security authorities to investigate the incident and establish the circumstances surrounding the alleged military operation.

He also questioned the decision to deploy military personnel to the area by the businessman, alleging that the operation was undertaken without adequate efforts to pursue a peaceful resolution.

He said: "The confrontation occurred amid attempts by residents to resist the alleged forceful re-entry to the site, during which a community boat capsized while trying to resist them."

He added that all the people feared dead were male, while other details surrounding the incident remained unclear.

The Guardian could not independently verify the exact number of casualties as of the time of filing this report.

2027: Rivers stakeholders urge INEC to relocate collation centres

POLITICAL party leaders and civil society organisations in Rivers State have urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to relocate result collation centres from local council secretariats to police stations ahead of the 2027 general elections, citing issues of intimidation by opposition agents and manipulation of results during previous polls.

The stakeholders called on the electoral commission to consider alternative venues for collation, arguing that the move could improve transparency, ensure equal access for political parties and strengthen public confidence in the electoral process.

The call was made in Port Harcourt yesterday.

Former Labour Party (LP) Chairman in Rivers State, Favour Reuben, alleged that opposition party agents had been denied access to collation centres by ruling party officials at the local council level during previous elections.

Reuben proposed the use of police stations as alternative venues, suggesting that access should be restricted to duly accredited party agents to ensure order and transparency during the exercise.

The Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC) Secretary in Rivers State, Ben Ogbugbulam, also backed the call, urging INEC to consider the proposal ahead of the 2027 elections.

Similarly, a human rights advocate, Dr Jackson Omenazu, called on the commission to investigate the allegations and take appropriate measures to safeguard the interests of voters.

Omenazu stressed the need for the electoral umpire to address concerns surrounding the conduct of elections and ensure that the collation process protects the integrity of votes cast by citizens.

The Coordinator of the PILEX Centre, Courage Nsirimovu, urged citizens to monitor INEC and its ad hoc staff throughout the electoral process to promote transparency and accountability.

Nsirimovu said public vigilance would be important in ensuring that electoral officials discharge their responsibilities in accordance with established procedures.

The calls come ahead of the 2027 general elections, with the stakeholders urging INEC to consider measures that would guarantee political parties equal access to collation centres and strengthen confidence in the credibility of election results.

PANDEF rejects coastal highway diversion, urges Tinubu to intervene

From **Joseph Kanjo**, Benin

THE Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) has called for the immediate cancellation of the planned diversion of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway from its original route, warning that failure to do so "risks avoidable youth and community reactions across the Niger Delta."

The youth wing of PANDEF made the call in Benin yesterday while reacting to an announcement made last week by the Minister of Works, Dave Umahi, about plans to redesign and divert the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway from its original coastal alignment to link it instead to the existing East-West Highway through Ondo State into Edo State.

Addressing journalists during a press briefing, National Youth Leader of PANDEF, Chief DonBen Donyegha, said: "Rerouting the project inland via the chronically failed East-West Road to avoid the coast is the opposite of what was promised and what justice requires."

Oborevwori condoles with late Uduaghan's family

Fayemi, Ogamu mourn late gov, Cole

From **Monday Osayande**, Asaba

DELTA State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, has visited the family of the late Governor Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan to offer his condolences.

Oborevwori, who was accompanied by his wife, Deaconess Tobore Oborevwori, and top government functionaries, described the late Uduaghan as a great leader whose contributions to the development of Delta State would remain indelible.

The governor had earlier joined family members and other dignitaries, including Uduaghan's daughter, Orode, and former President of the Nigeria Football Federation, Amaju Pinnick, to receive the former governor's remains at Osubi Airport.

Speaking during the condolence visit to Uduaghan's widow, Mrs Roli Uduaghan, and family members, Oborevwori said the outpouring of grief and the large number of people who gathered to mourn the former governor reflected the impact he had made on many lives.

He recalled his relationship with the deceased, describing him as his former boss and a man who played a significant role in his political journey.

Nataro tells Tinubu to replace or defend aides' stewardship

From **Leo Sobechi**, Abuja

FORMER governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Kebbi State, Salihu Nataro, has urged President Bola Tinubu to consider reconstituting his cabinet if they cannot convince Nigerians of their stewardship.

He noted that since democracy is a collective responsibility, the president's ministers and appointees should be at the grassroots explaining the measures taken by the administration in the last four years.

Nataro, who was reacting to media criticism of Tinubu's decision to attend his re-election rallies in only 12 states, argued that such discussion would not have arisen at all if the appointees had kept in touch with the people.

Nevertheless, he contended that if the president was prepared to condone his ministers, he should have to defend his mandate.

He added that, having been a strong ally of the president, he has been canvassing a review of his economic policies to engage local entrepreneurs to invest heavily in Nigeria.

Tompolo deploys 52 vehicles for Tinubu's re-election campaign in Ondo, Gombe

By **Seye Olumide**

THE Grand Patron of the PBAT Door-to-Door Movement, Government Ekpemupolo, popularly known as Tompolo, has deployed 52 vehicles to support grassroots mobilisation for President Bola Tinubu's re-election in Ondo and Gombe states.

He made 26 vehicles available to each state yesterday during the inauguration of the movement's local council coordinators in Akure and Gombe, respectively.

Represented by the Managing Director of Tantita Security Services Limited, Kestin Pondi, Tompolo urged the coordinators to intensify door-to-door campaigns across communities, council areas, religious institutions and other public spaces.

In Akure, he charged the coordinators to convert the state's two million registered voters into votes for Tinubu in the 2027 presidential election. Describing Tinubu as a son of the South-West region, Tompolo urged the coordinators to highlight the administration's achievements, including eliminating fuel queues and paying salaries and pensions.

For their part, Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, and his Gombe counterpart, Inuwa Yahaya, thanked the donor and the movement for providing the vehicles.

North-West seeks N20b climate fund, targets 10,000 youths for green skills

From **Terhemba Daka**, Abuja

•FG warns of desertification, food insecurity

STAKEHOLDERS, including the federal government and regional authorities, are seeking to mobilise N20 billion over the next four years to tackle climate change challenges in the North-West, while targeting to train 10,000 youths in climate resilience, adaptation and other green skills.

Unveiled yesterday at the maiden North-West Climate Summit 2026 at the State House Banquet Hall, Abuja, the initiative comes as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, and presidential aides warn that climate change is deepening environmental degradation, threatening food security and undermining livelihoods across the country.

Abbas warned that climate change posed a growing threat to food security, economic stability and rural livelihoods, particularly in a region heavily dependent on agriculture and livestock production.

Represented by Kama Nkemkama, Abbas said irregular rainfall, prolonged drought, desertification, soil degradation and flooding demand coordinated interventions across state boundaries.

He called for greater investment in irrigation, flood control, watershed protection, groundwater conservation and climate information systems to help farmers anticipate changing weather conditions and minimise losses.

Also, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Climate Finance and Stakeholder Engagement, Ibrahim Shelleng, said Nigeria must begin financing its climate priorities from domestic sources rather than depend excessively on international support, particularly amid fiscal constraints and changing global geopolitics.

Meanwhile, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Community Engagement (North-West), Abdullahi Tanko Yakasai, disclosed plans to establish a regional climate marketplace, a training academy and a dedicated climate fund.

Yakasai said the initiative was designed to attract domestic and international climate financing, strengthen collaboration among state and local councils, and equip young people with the skills needed to respond to the growing threats posed by climate change.

He described the summit as a pioneering regional platform intended to connect subnational governments with international development partners, financial institutions and other investors interested in supporting climate-related programmes.



Katsina State Deputy Governor, Faruk Jobe (left); the Director-General, Katsina State Enterprises Development Agency, Babangida Ruma, and Governor Dikko Radda during the flag-off of the state's Nano, Micro, and Small Enterprises (nMSMEs) empowerment programme in Katsina, yesterday.

Customs targets N11.07tr revenue, intelligence-driven border control

From **Rotimi Agboluaje**, Ibadan

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has stated that intelligence, data and joint patrols by international neighbours are more effective than shutting the borders as an anti-smuggling strategy.

The Comptroller-General of Customs (CGC), Dr Bashir Adeniyi, made this position yesterday at the third Distinguished Personality Lecture of the TETFUND Centre of Excellence in Security Management (TECESM), the University of Ibadan.

However, Adeniyi said the service would pursue its 2026 revenue target of N11.07 trillion through compliance, data-driven operations and trade facilitation rather than harassment of traders and importers.

He described the target as demanding but stressed that achieving it should not come at the expense of legitimate trade.

Speaking on "Why Customs Matters: Revenue, Security and Nationhood in a Borderless World," he stressed that while revenue generation remains central to the government's ability to provide essential services, "a target met by choking trade would be a false victory."

Adeniyi also advocated intelligence-led border management, data sharing and joint patrols with neighbouring countries as more effective measures against smuggling than shutting borders.

He noted that though the land border closure of August 2019 to December 2020 curbed some smuggling, field research published this year found that the closure did not destroy but rather reorganised the smuggling networks.

According to the CGC, the lesson is that a nation is protected by intelligent control of its border, not by sealing it, just as closure is a blunt instrument, while intelligence, data and joint patrols with neighbours are sharper ones.

Speaking on waivers, he explained that while large informal sectors make income tax hard to collect, imports, by contrast, pass through a few points that could be watched.

Ministry, NECA, SON reject regulatory overlaps, others in new NAFDAC bill

By **Benjamin Alade** and **Gloria Nwafor**

• Seek exclusion of tobacco products in legislation

LABOUR and regulatory bodies have raised concerns over the proposed Food, Medical Products and Related Products (Registration, Etc.) Bill, 2026, which seeks to expand the regulatory framework for food, medical products and related items, warning that it could create overlapping mandates, increase compliance costs and disrupt businesses.

Opposing the bill, which seeks to repeal the Food, Drugs and Related Products Act, 2004, and establish a new regulatory framework, are the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON).

Also, in its submission to the Senate Committee on Health during a public hearing, NECA urged the National Assembly to exclude tobacco products from the proposed legislation, arguing that the sector is already being governed by dedicated laws and regulations.

NECA warned that extending the legislation to tobacco products could conflict with the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015, the National Tobacco Control Regulations, 2019, and the SON Act, 2015, and also create overlapping responsibilities among the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, SON and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS).

According to the association, such overlaps could lead to multiple registration requirements, duplicated approvals, conflicting enforcement decisions, higher compliance costs and uncertainty for businesses operating within the existing regulatory framework.

Among others, it criticised the proposed ceiling-list mechanism, which it said could give NAFDAC excessive administrative discretion to restrict products without adequate statutory safeguards and oversight.

Consequently, NECA urged the lawmakers to amend the bill to prevent unilateral regulatory decisions, clarify the responsibilities of relevant agencies and strengthen coordination among existing institutions.

APC's PCC holds inaugural meeting, denies alleged plot to kill Atiku

From **Adamu Abuh**, Abuja

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council has denied allegations that the federal government was plotting to assassinate former Vice President Atiku Abubakar.

This comes as the council held its inaugural meeting in Abuja yesterday ahead of the kick-off of its campaign in Kaduna.

Challenging the African Democratic Congress (ADC) chieftain, Timi Frank, to substantiate his claim, the council disclosed that President Bola Tinubu has also directed security agencies to reinforce protection for presidential, vice-presidential, governorship and deputy governorship candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections.

In a statement yesterday, the council's spokesperson, Dele Alake, described the allegation as grave and urged security agencies to invite Frank to substantiate it, stressing that any credible threat to life should be investigated irrespective of political affiliation.

NITDA tracks 2.76m digital literacy records, targets 70% by 2027

From **Joel Oladele**, Abuja

THE National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) said its digital literacy dashboard has captured about 2.76 million training achievements since January 2022.

Pointing to the need for more inclusive digital skills programmes, however, the agency noted that women account for only 32.9 per cent of the recorded participation even as Nigeria targets 70 per cent digital literacy by 2027, and 95 per cent by 2030.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja at the 2026 National Digital Literacy Workshop, NITDA Director-General, Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, said 248 organisations were reporting their interventions through the dashboard, with records covering all 774 local council areas in the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

Abdullahi explained that the agency was not merely introducing another technology platform but strengthening the foundation of evidence-based human capital development.

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Why North should support Tinubu for second term, by Sani

Senator Shehu Sani, who represented Kaduna Central in the Eighth National Assembly, speaks with SAXONE AKHAINE on President Bola Tinubu's 2027 re-election bid, power rotation, insecurity, his return to the Senate and plans for his constituency.

You have expressed support for President Bola Tinubu's second-term ambition. Why do you believe the North should support him in 2027?

I believe we must consider the issue within the context of national stability and the understanding that has developed around power rotation. The late President Muhammadu Buhari spent eight years in office, and I believe it is reasonable for the South to complete its current turn before power returns to the North.

This does not mean Northerners should be prevented from expressing their political preferences or exercising their democratic rights. It means political leaders should consider the wider implications of their decisions and avoid turning regional aspirations into a source of unnecessary division.

The North is not a single political bloc. Its people have different religious, ethnic, economic and political interests. Some may support Tinubu, others may support opposition candidates, while many will decide based on the candidates' records and their assessment of the economy.

I believe the APC should make its case through its achievements, policies and plans for the future. The government must recognise that support cannot be sustained by appeals to regional loyalty alone. People want security, jobs, accessible healthcare, better education and relief from economic hardship.

> My support for Tinubu is based on my view that the South should complete its current turn and that continuity could provide an opportunity to pursue national development. It does not mean that every government policy should escape criticism.

My support for Tinubu is based on my view that the South should complete its current turn and that continuity could provide an opportunity to pursue national development. It does not mean that every government policy should escape criticism.

The important thing is to conduct the debate without promoting hostility between regions. Nigeria's unity depends on citizens believing that they have a stake in the country and that their concerns will be taken seriously.

But then some still argue that power must return to the North in 2027 for justice and equity. Their arguments is that the North has a deficit of four years following the death of former President Umaru Yar'Adua?

I believe in the principle of power rotation because it can promote inclusion and strengthen confidence among the different parts of the country. Buhari spent eight years in office, and it is only logical, in my view, that the South should complete its current turn.

The debate should not be reduced to whether a particular individual deserves to become president. It should also consider political stability and the expectations that have developed around the distribution of power.

Atiku Abubakar has contested the presidency on several occasions. My question to those who argue that the North should automatically support him is this: why did he not receive overwhelming northern support in every previous contest? His electoral fortunes have varied, showing that the region is not politically uniform.

My position is that the South should be allowed to complete its four-year turn. Candidates should contest on their respective party platforms, and the electorate should make its choice in a credible election. Rotimi Amaechi can contest under the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Peter Obi under the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), and Tinubu under the APC, subject to the relevant party and electoral processes.

Nigeria is a diverse country, and different communities have concerns about representation, inclusion and their place in the federation. A political arrangement that gives regions a sense of participation can help strengthen national cohesion. However, rotation alone cannot solve every national problem. Good governance, accountability and respect for the Constitution remain essential.

There are people in different parts of the country who hold separatist views. Political inclusion may help address some of the grievances underlying such sentiments, but the country must also confront the social, economic and security concerns that contribute to alienation.

I also believe that some opposition to Tinubu in the North is influenced by political calculations. Economic hardship has created understandable frustration among citizens, and political actors will naturally seek to mobilise that dissatisfaction. But voters deserve an honest discussion of policy choices and their consequences.

Tinubu has a longstanding commitment to market-oriented economic policies. Those campaigning against him should explain what alternatives they propose, how they would finance them and whether their promises are consistent with their previous positions.

The same scrutiny should apply to the ruling party. The government must explain its policies, demonstrate how they will improve living conditions and address the concerns of people facing rising costs and economic uncertainty.

Insecurity remains a major challenge in Nigeria. Some people believe the issue is being politicised. What is your position?

Insecurity has caused enormous suffering in Northern Nigeria and other parts of the country. Communities have experienced attacks, kidnapping, displacement and the destruction of livelihoods. Farmers have faced difficulties accessing their farms in some affected areas, while families have had to cope with the consequences of abductions and other violent incidents.

In the North-West, banditry and kidnapping remain serious concerns. In the North-East, Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) continue to pose security challenges. The effects extend beyond individual communities because insecurity disrupts education, agriculture, commerce and social life.

These problems have persisted across successive administrations. They also form part of a wider regional security challenge affecting countries around the Lake Chad Basin and parts of the Sahel.

My concern is that public discussion of insecurity sometimes changes according to who occupies the presidency. Former President Goodluck Jonathan faced criticism over the security situation during his administration, particularly following the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls. When Buhari came into office, many Nigerians expected his military background to translate into substantial improvements in national security.

However, further school abductions and other attacks occurred during Buhari's tenure. These included the Dapchi abduction and attacks on schools and educational institutions in parts of the North-West and North-Central regions.

The lesson is that no administration should be judged by its promises alone. Governments must be assessed by their ability to protect lives, prevent attacks, rescue abducted persons and restore confidence in affected communities.

I am not suggesting that Tinubu has resolved Nigeria's security problems. Kidnapping, banditry and terrorism remain concerns, and the government must continue to demonstrate measurable progress. My argument is that the same standards should apply to every administration, irrespective of the president's ethnic or regional background.

When people criticise the current administration, they should also be willing to examine the records of previous governments. Equally, those defending the present government must acknowledge the difficulties citizens continue to experience.

We cannot address insecurity effectively if the issue becomes merely an instrument of partisan competition. The victims are Nigerians, regardless of their religion, ethnicity or political affiliation. Their lives and livelihoods should be the central concern.

The government must strengthen intelligence gathering, improve coordination among security agencies, support personnel on the front line and ensure that communities receive timely protection. It must also address the conditions that allow criminal groups to recruit and operate.

Political leaders, regardless of party, should work towards a common national objective: making the country safer. Security is too important to be reduced to arguments over which region produced a president.

You have decided to stage a comeback to the Senate in 2027. Why?

My decision is primarily to represent my people, defend their interests and ensure that they benefit from development at the federal level. I believe I have the experience and capacity to project their aspirations, particularly those of the people of Kaduna State, which occupies a strategic position in the political history of Northern Nigeria and the country.

Representation goes beyond occupying a seat in the Senate. It requires someone who understands the challenges confronting the people, can articulate their concerns and has the courage to speak on their behalf. Those elected to represent us must be competent, capable and experienced.

The North continues to face significant challenges in education, healthcare, infrastructure and economic development. These are areas where our representatives must demonstrate commitment and the ability to attract federal interventions. If we do not send capable people to represent us, we risk allowing these challenges to persist.

I also believe the region needs to participate more effectively in national debates. We must have representatives who can contribute to discussions on national policy, engage their colleagues and ensure that the concerns of their constituents receive adequate attention.

How would you assess the quality of debates in the National Assembly, particularly the representation of Kaduna State in the Senate?

We need representatives who can speak authoritatively on national issues, project the concerns of their constituents and ensure that their states benefit from federal programmes and projects.

The National Assembly is an important institution, and its effectiveness depends partly on the quality of the people elected into it. Senators must be prepared to debate legislation, scrutinise government policies and hold the executive accountable where necessary. They must also maintain contact with their constituents so that the issues they raise in Abuja reflect the realities at home.

During my previous tenure, I pursued interventions in healthcare, education, women's empowerment and support for young people. We worked on primary healthcare facilities, scholarships, training programmes and assistance intended to improve the economic circumstances of our constituents. We also sought to attract federal projects and support for organisations.

There were also periods of disagreement between the National Assembly and the executive under the previous administration. Such differences can affect cooperation between the two arms of government, although the legislature must retain its independence.

This time, I believe that a constructive working relationship with Governor Uba Sani and President Tinubu could improve the prospects of attracting development to Kaduna State. Cooperation does not mean abandoning the responsibility to scrutinise government policies. It means engaging constructively while defending the interests of the people.

If you return to the Senate, what do you intend to do for your constituency? Are you satisfied with how citizens were treated under the previous state government?

My constituency is diverse, with Christians and Muslims living alongside one another. I have often emphasised that representation must serve everybody, regardless of religion, ethnicity or political affiliation.



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REJOINDER TO THE GUARDIAN PUBLICATION OF 16 OCTOBER 2026 TITLED "LAWYERS PETITION IGP OVER DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO JAZA ENERGY WORKERS"

Jaza Energy Limited ("**Jaza**" or "the **Company**") refers to the publication by The Guardian on 16 October 2026, titled *"Lawyers petition IGP over disappearance of two Jaza Energy workers"* (the "**Publication").** The Company considers it necessary to clarify certain assertions contained in the Publication, particularly the suggestion that it failed to acknowledge or respond to correspondence from the legal representatives of the families of its two missing employees, Mr. Oluwagbenga Akinluyi and Mr. Samuel Adesanya Bilewomo.

THE ALLEGATION THAT JAZA IGNORED THE FAMILIES' LEGAL REQUESTS IS UNTRUE AND UNSUPPORTED BY THE DOCUMENTED FACTS

The suggestion that Jaza ignored the requests made by the families' legal representatives is untrue, unfounded and inconsistent with the documented course of events. The Company categorically rejects any suggestion that it disregarded the correspondence or failed to take steps to address the concerns raised on behalf of the families.

Following receipt of the letter dated 2 October 2026 from Abope Chambers, acting on behalf of the families, Jaza, through its solicitors, made several attempts to contact the firm by telephone and email using the contact details provided in the said letter. Thereafter, a substantive written response addressing the questions raised by the families' legal representatives was delivered to Abope Chambers on 5 October 2026.

For the avoidance of doubt, Jaza retains a copy of the said response, duly acknowledged as received by Abope Chambers on 5 October 2026. The Company is therefore able to substantiate its position that it responded to the correspondence received from the families' legal representatives. This documented chronology directly contradicts the suggestion that Jaza failed to respond to their requests.

The substantive response addressed the questions raised concerning the employees' assignments, accommodation arrangements, last known communications, and the steps taken by the Company to report the disappearance and assist the relevant authorities. The suggestion that the Company ignored the families' requests therefore fails to reflect the documented correspondence and the steps actually taken.

Jaza considers it regrettable that a publication accessible to the public should convey an impression inconsistent with the documented facts, particularly in a matter as sensitive as the disappearance of its employees. The Company respectfully urges that public reporting of this matter reflect the complete and accurate factual position.

JAZA REPORTED THE DISAPPEARANCE TO THE POLICE AND HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPORT THE INVESTIGATIONS

Jaza further rejects any suggestion that it failed to take appropriate steps to report the disappearance to the relevant authorities.

The Company's records establish that the disappearance was reported to the police on 10 September 2026, following the loss of contact with the employees on 9 September 2026. An initial telephone report was made to the Imo State Police control room at approximately noon on 10 September 2026, followed by an in-person report at the Police Divisional Headquarters in Owerri later that day.

Jaza retains records relating to these reports and the subsequent engagements undertaken with the relevant law enforcement and security agencies. Thereafter, the Company, through its representatives and legal advisers, made further formal petitions and engaged with the relevant authorities.

Jaza has continued to cooperate with the Police and the Department of State Services (DSS), providing information and assistance in support of their ongoing investigations. The Company remains committed to supporting these efforts and assisting the relevant authorities in establishing the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and locating the missing employees.

Given the sensitive nature of the matter and the fact that investigations remain ongoing, Jaza considers it inappropriate to disclose further operational or investigative details that could compromise those efforts. The Company will continue to provide appropriate assistance to the relevant authorities as required.

JAZA REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE WELFARE OF ITS EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES

Jaza recognises the profound distress and uncertainty experienced by the families following the disappearance of their loved ones. The Company shares their concern for the safety and whereabouts of the employees and remains committed to supporting the ongoing efforts to locate them.

The Company's actions since the disappearance, including its reports to the authorities, continued cooperation with the investigations and substantive response to the families' legal representatives, demonstrate that it has not treated this matter with indifference or disregarded the concerns raised by the families.

Jaza respects the families' right to seek information and pursue legitimate avenues for obtaining answers. At the same time, it is important that public statements concerning the Company's conduct accurately reflect the available facts. Allegations that the Company ignored the families' legal requests should not be presented as established facts without due regard to the documented correspondence and the steps taken by the Company.

Jaza therefore calls for responsible, balanced and accurate reporting of this matter, with due regard to the available facts, the interests of the families and the ongoing efforts of the relevant authorities to establish the whereabouts of the missing employees.

PUBLIC APPEAL FOR INFORMATION

Jaza appeals to members of the public who may have any credible or useful information concerning the disappearance or whereabouts of Mr. Oluwagbenga Akinluyi and Mr. Samuel Adesanya Bilewomo to come forward.

Anyone with relevant information is encouraged to contact Jaza Energy through its established communication channels or report such information directly to the appropriate police authorities. Information that may appear minor could prove valuable in assisting the ongoing investigations and establishing the whereabouts of the missing employees.

The Company respectfully urges members of the public to assist the families and the relevant authorities by providing any information that may help clarify the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and facilitate the safe return of the two employees.

Jaza remains hopeful that the ongoing investigations will yield positive results and that both employees will be found safe

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Delta community leader loses N5.475m to appointment fraud, three arrested

From **Monday Osayande**, Asaba

• Suspects allegedly impersonated SGF Akume, others; 17 SIM cards, 12 ATM cards recovered

A COMMUNITY leader in Otu-Jeremi, Delta State, allegedly lost N5.475 million to suspected fraudsters who promised to secure his appointment as president-general of his community, using the identities of senior government officials to lend credibility to their scheme.

The Delta State Police Command said it had arrested three men in connection with the alleged fraud, in which the suspects reportedly impersonated the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), George Akume, and aides to the Delta State governor to convince victims that they had access to government appointments and other privileges.

The suspects were identified as Aghogho Okpogbodu, 51; Moses Exist, 48; and Benjamin Owah, 49. They were arrested by detectives attached to the Area Command, Effurun, following an investigation into the alleged activities of the syndicate.

The police spokesperson, Bright Edafe, said preliminary investigations indicated that the suspects allegedly used SIM cards registered under the identities of prominent public officials to carry out the scheme.

The identities allegedly exploited included those of Akume; Chief Onoriode Sunday, Director of Protocol to the Delta State governor; and Prince Johnson Erijo, identified in the police report as the governor's Chief of Staff.



The suspects

According to Edafe, the suspects also allegedly used a caller-identification application to display names associated with the officials they impersonated, creating the impression that their calls originated from genuine government functionaries.

In one of the alleged transactions, the suspects reportedly posed as the governor's Director of Protocol and collected N5.475 million from the community leader under the pretext of facilitating his appointment as president-general of Otu-Jeremi.

The police did not disclose the victim's identity or provide further details about how the money was transferred. However, they said investigations were continuing to establish the full extent of the alleged operation and determine whether other people had been defrauded.

A search of the suspects' premises reportedly led to the recovery of seven mobile phones, 17 SIM cards, 12 automated teller machine (ATM) cards bearing different names and a Point-of-Sale (PoS) terminal.

Police also recovered documents containing financial and identification details belonging to different individuals.

Edafe said the items would assist investigators in tracing financial transactions, identifying the owners of the accounts and SIM cards, and determining whether other people were involved in the alleged fraud.

Suspended NSCDC commandant apologises to families of 37 miners who died in custody

By **Bertram Nwannekanma**

THE suspended Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Niger State, Siaka Suberu Aniviye, has reportedly apologised to the families of 37 suspected illegal miners who died while in the corps' custody.

According to a security source, Aniviye tendered the apology while testifying before the Justice Mohammed Mohammed Commission of Inquiry established by the Niger State Government to investigate the deaths.

The commission, sitting in Minna, heard his testimony during its second sitting as it continued its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of the detainees.

Makama reported that Aniviye admitted that the incident could have been avoided, described it as a costly mistake and appealed to the bereaved families for forgiveness.

The reported apology came as the commission sought to establish the circumstances that led to the deaths and determine whether any lapses occurred in the handling and custody of the detainees.

The NSCDC State Legal Officer, Assistant Commandant of Corps Stephen Tsado, and the corps' Command Nurse, Maryam Etang, also testified before the commission.

As part of its investigation, the commission, led by its chairman, Justice Mohammed Mohammed, visited the mortuary at Minna General Hospital, where the bodies of the deceased were kept.

The commission was informed that three of the bodies remained unclaimed.

The inquiry is expected to establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths and determine whether any individuals or institutions bear responsibility.

Ogun shuts down steel firm over worker's death

From **Gbenga Akinfenwa** (Lagos) and **Segun Ayinde** (Abeokuta)

THE Ogun State Government has shut down Kan Steel Holdings Nigeria Limited in Sagamu following the death of a worker, Abdulfatai Nuru, in an operational accident.

The closure followed a stop-work order issued after safety officers inspected the facility and identified potential breaches of workplace safety regulations.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Kafayat Lawal, said yesterday that the company would remain closed until the government concluded its investigation into the circumstances surrounding the worker's death.

Lawal said preliminary findings had indicated possible lapses in workplace safety but stressed that a comprehensive investigation was ongoing to establish the circumstances that led to the incident.

"As a precautionary measure, the state government, through the Ministry of Environment, has directed the facility to suspend operations with immediate effect pending the conclusion of the investigation and further directives," she said.

She expressed condolences to the deceased's family and colleagues, assuring them that the government would not tolerate negligence that puts workers' lives at risk.

Lawal said the incident would be thoroughly investigated and appropriate regulatory sanctions imposed if violations were established.

Police warn against cyberbullying, sharing of nude images in Adamawa

From **Charles Akpeji**, Yola

THE Adamawa State Police Command has warned residents against cyberbullying, blackmail and the unauthorised sharing of nude images and private videos on social media, describing such acts as criminal offences.

The Command said the unauthorised posting, forwarding or distribution of nude photographs, sex videos and other private images violate the law and could attract prosecution.

In a statement by the Command's spokesperson, Suleiman Yahaya Nguroje, the police expressed concern over the increasing cases of cyberbullying, blackmail and circulation of private images on social media.

Nguroje said that sharing explicit content without the consent of the individuals involved was punishable under the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 as amended, and other applicable laws.

He said the state Commissioner of Police, Kabir Umar Hassan, had directed divisional police officers, area commanders.

And tactical teams to arrest and prosecute anyone found engaging in cyberbullying, sextortion or the unauthorised distribution of explicit contents.

According to the statement, the directive was part of efforts to protect residents from online harassment, blackmail and violations of their privacy.

The Command, therefore, urged parents and guardians to monitor their children's online activities and guide them on responsible social media use to prevent them.

from becoming victims or perpetrators of cyber-related offences.

It also encouraged victims of cyberbullying, sextortion and the unauthorised sharing of private images to report such incidents to the nearest police station or contact the Command through its emergency lines.

The police assured residents that the Command would not tolerate online harassment or invasion of privacy and urged members of the public to cooperate with security agencies in addressing the menace.

NEDC deploys 1,330 electric vehicles to cut transport costs, create jobs

From **Njadvara Musa**, Yola

THE North-East Development Commission (NEDC) has distributed 1,330 electric vehicles, comprising buses, taxis and tricycles, as part of efforts to reduce carbon emissions, ease transportation challenges and create jobs for young people across the region.

The vehicles comprise 1,000 electric tricycles, 300 taxis and 30 buses, intended to improve access to affordable transportation and provide business opportunities across the six North-East states.

The NEDC Adamawa State Coordinator, Khalifa Lawan, disclosed this at a stakeholders' engagement and sensitisation workshop on seamless commuting in Yola.

Lawan said the initiative was designed to promote environmentally friendly transportation while ensuring that the commission's interventions improved the livelihoods of households across the region.

He noted that the NEDC was established to accelerate development in the North-East through interventions in education, infrastructure, skills training, transportation and other critical sectors.

According to him, Adamawa State is expected to receive more than 1,000 electric tricycles, alongside electric taxis and buses, under the initiative.

He said the programme would help reduce transportation costs, improve mobility and enable beneficiaries, particularly young people, to establish businesses and earn a living.

However, Lawan stressed that adequate charging infrastructure would be essential to the success of the initiative. He said the commission planned to establish at least two or three charging stations in each North-East state, with the possibility of expanding the facilities to meet growing demand.

He added that the project aligned with the Federal Government's efforts to reduce transportation costs and improve the welfare of people at the grassroots.

Police complaint unit, ECAPI to sensitise Lagos residents on reporting misconduct

By **Ayonote Clement**

THE Nigeria Police Force Complaint Response Unit (NPF-CRU), in partnership with the Eagle Crime Awareness and Prevention Initiative (ECAPI), will hold a mega sensitisation rally in Lagos on Friday, October 23, to educate residents on reporting police misconduct and seeking redress.

The rally, which will begin at the Lagos State Police Command headquarters in Ikeja, will feature roadshows, market outreach, distribution of information materials and demonstrations of the CRU's complaint-reporting platforms.



IGP Tunji Disu

The campaign aligns with the reform agenda of the Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Rilwan Disu, who was recently invested as Grand Patron of the CRU-ECAPI partnership. Established in 2015, the CRU receives and tracks complaints of alleged extortion, harassment, illegal bail demands and other human rights violations.

According to the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Anietie Edem, the unit is being strengthened to improve transparency, enhance case tracking and reduce resolution time to 21 days.

Despite recording 459 complaints in the first quarter of 2024 alone, the police acknowledge that many Nigerians remain unaware of the unit and its reporting channels, which include WhatsApp, telephone lines, social media and walk-in petitions.

The Lagos rally is intended to bridge that awareness gap. The partnership was formally launched at the Force Headquarters in Abuja about two weeks ago, when a 15-member ECAPI delegation led by its founder, Ambassador Eniola Samuel Adam, met with the IGP through the CRU leadership. ECAPI has since supported the campaign with branded clothing, banners, billboards, jingles, flyers and public address equipment.

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TheMetroSection

Police fire teargas at #EndSARS memorial

By **Bertram Nwannekanma** and **Ayonote Clement**

- Victims' families demand justice, reparations six years after Lekki shootings
- CAPPA seeks apology, prosecution of culpable officers, compensation for survivors

PARTICIPANTS at a #EndSARS memorial at the Lekki Toll Gate in Lagos were reportedly dispersed with teargas yesterday, disrupting a planned wreath-laying ceremony to honour victims of the October 20, 2020, protests, as families and survivors continued to demand justice six years after the incident.

Among those reportedly affected were Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, the African Democratic Congress (ADC) governorship candidate in Lagos State, and Funso Doherty of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC). Videos of the incident showed participants scrambling for safety as what appeared to be teargas spread across the area. The circumstances surrounding the reported deployment of teargas were not immediately clear.

The organisers had scheduled the ceremony for 11:00 a.m. to commemorate those killed, injured or reported missing during the protests. However, *The Guardian* learnt that police officers arrived at the venue as early as 9:15 a.m., when no organisers were visible. The smell of teargas was noticeable, although its source could not immediately be established.



Smokes from expended cannisters at Lekki Toll Gate, Lagos, yesterday

The organisers planned to lay 15 wreaths: nine for people listed as dead in connection with the Lekki incident, four for those listed as missing and presumed dead, one for journalist Pelumi Onifade and another for other unidentified victims.

Those listed as dead were Victor Sunday Ibanga, Abuta Solomon, Jide, Olalekan Abideen Ashafa, Olamilekan Ajasa, Kolade Salami, Folorunsho Olabisi, Kenechukwu Ugoh and Nathaniel Solomon. The four listed as missing and presumed dead were Abiodun Adesanya, Ifeanyi Nicholas Eji, Tola and Wisdom.

The Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC) condemned the reported use of teargas, describing it as part of a troubling pattern of restrictions on commemorative gatherings.

Its Executive Director, Okechukwu Nwanguma, questioned why authorities would use force against citizens gathered to honour victims of the 2020 protests, insisting that peaceful assemblies were constitutionally protected.

RULAAC said the disbandment of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) had not ended allegations of police brutality, torture, extortion, unlawful detention and extrajudicial killings. It urged the authorities to enforce the Police Act 2020 and the Anti-Torture Act 2017, investigate allegations of abuse and prosecute officers found culpable.

The organisation also called for stronger civilian oversight of the police and urged officers to facilitate peaceful gatherings, manage traffic and address specific offences rather than disperse participants indiscriminately.

The incident came as Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA) renewed calls for justice, reparations and official acknowledgement of the violence that accompanied the #EndSARS protests.



Onifade

Six years after the demonstrations, families who lost loved ones and survivors living with physical injuries and psychological trauma are still seeking answers, compensation and adequate support.

DSS arraigns five over abduction of 24 persons in Imo

From **Sodiq Omolaoye** and **Andrew Oota** Abuja

THE Department of State Services (DSS) yesterday arraigned five men before the Imo State High Court over the alleged abduction of 20 prospective corps members and four other persons in separate kidnapping incidents in the state.

Three of the defendants, Usman Aliyu, 25, also known as Chonge; Babangida Aliyu, 21; and Mohammed Ali, 23, alias Smallie Pepper, were accused of abducting the 20 prospective corps members on October 1, Nigeria's Independence Day.

The other two defendants, Aminu Haliru, 27, and Tange Ibrahim, 20, also known as Jijji, were charged over the alleged abduction of four persons on October 4.

The five defendants face charges bordering on conspiracy, hostage-taking and unlawful possession of firearms. According to the prosecution, Usman Aliyu, Babangida Aliyu, Mohammed Ali and others still at large allegedly abducted the prospective corps members along the Owerri-Mgbidi-Onitsha Expressway while they were travelling from Ibadan to orientation camps in Abia and Akwa Ibom states.

The victims were reportedly held captive for seven days before they were rescued.

In the charge filed before the Imo State High Court, Oru Judicial Division, Mgbidi, the prosecution accused the three defendants of conspiring to take hostages, an offence punishable under Section 6 of the Imo State Prohibition of Hostage Taking and Related Offences Law No. 4 of 2009.

They were also accused of unlawfully possessing three AK-47 rifles, four magazines, a pistol and 81 rounds of live ammunition.

In the second case, Haliru and Ibrahim were accused of abducting four persons around Owerri and Mgbidi on October 4.

The prosecution alleged that the two defendants and others still at large collected N8 million in ransom for the release of the victims. They were also accused of unlawfully possessing an AK-47 rifle and a pump-action gun.

The prosecution listed N1.8 million as money recovered in connection with the second case.

A DSS investigator and the victims were listed as witnesses in both cases.

Police deny providing security cover for Ibezim at disputed church service in Anambra

From **Osiberoha Osibe**, Awka

THE Anambra State Police Command has denied providing security cover for the embattled Bishop of Awka Diocese, Most Rev. Alexander Ibezim, during a church service at St Faith's Anglican Cathedral, Awka, on Sunday, following speculation that the deployment of heavily armed personnel was intended to shield him amid an escalating leadership crisis in the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion).

The command's spokesperson, Tochukwu Ikenga, described reports surrounding the deployment as misleading, insisting that the presence of officers was intended to maintain law and order, protect lives and property, and prevent a breakdown of peace.

In a statement made available to journalists in Awka, Ikenga said police deployments were guided by security considerations, irrespective of the affiliations or positions of those involved in a dispute.

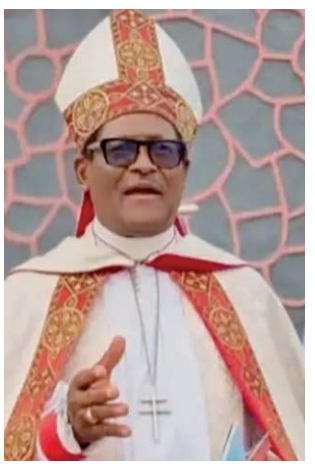
"The Command emphasises that police presence should not be interpreted as an endorsement of any party or position in an ecclesiastical disagreement," he said.

He urged media organisations, social media users and other stakeholders to verify information before publication and avoid narratives capable of inflaming tensions within the religious community.

The command reaffirmed its commitment to enforcing the law impartially and preventing the dispute from degenerating into a breach of public peace and security.



Most Rev. Alexander Ibezim



Supervising Bishop of Awka Diocese, Rt. Rev. Samuel Ezeofor

The controversy arose after Ibezim conducted the service despite a directive by the Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Most Rev. Henry Ndukuba, ordering him to proceed on six months' compulsory leave.

In a letter dated October 13, 2026, Ndukuba directed Ibezim, who is also Archbishop of the Province of the Niger, to step aside pending investigations into allegations against him, including alleged forgery and the sale of diocesan land reportedly valued at about N2 billion.

The directive followed petitions concerning alleged criminal offences within the diocese, Ibezim's dealings with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and reports from administrative investigations. Ndukuba reportedly cited Section 29(1), Chapter V of the 2020 Constitution and Canons of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) as the basis for the order.

The Primate also barred Ibezim from officiating at activities of the Church of Nigeria, the Province of the Niger and Awka Diocese during the leave period.

To oversee the affected ecclesiastical jurisdictions, Ndukuba appointed the Bishop of Nnewi Diocese, Rt. Rev. Samuel Ezeofor, as Supervising Bishop of Awka Diocese and Coordinating Bishop of the Province of the Niger.

NAF airstrikes kill 103 terrorists, destroy ISWAP logistics hubs in Borno, Adamawa

From **Njadvara Musa**, Maiduguri

THE Nigerian military has said that airstrikes targeting Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters in Borno and Adamawa states killed 103 terrorists and destroyed key logistics assets during operations conducted between October 10 and 18, 2026.

The strikes, carried out by the air component of the North-East Joint Task Force, *Operation Hadin Kai* (OPHK), targeted terrorist positions in Guzamala and Monguno local councils of Borno State and Gombi Local Council of Adamawa State.

In a statement in Maiduguri, the acting Media Information Officer of OPHK, Captain Mohammed Goni, said the operations were intelligence-led and involved coordinated air assets deployed against ISWAP positions.

He said: "The airstrike successes were recorded through the coordinated employment of Nigerian Army Aviation, the Nigerian Army Remotely Piloted Aircraft (NARPAS) Regiment and Air Component assets, reinforcing the military's resolve to dismantle terrorist networks and deny them freedom of action."

Goni said seven strikes were conducted during the period, targeting Gudumbali in Guzamala on October 10, Badu in Monguno on October 11, Mairari in Guzamala and an area east of Badu on October 13, Duste Uku in Gombi, Adamawa State, on October 16; and the reported alternative residence of Abu Saleem, ISWAP's Wali of South Lake Chad, in the Arina Woje area of Monguno on October 18.

According to him, subsequent human intelligence reports confirmed the death of Jindullah, a prominent ISWAP fighter said to have served as Abu Saleem's chief security guard, and Abul Kissa, a member of the group's Shura Council.

Anietie Akpan for burial October 23

From **Solomon Azu**, Calabar

THE remains of Anietie Akpan, former Deputy South-South Bureau Chief of *The Guardian* newspaper, will be interred on Friday, October 23, 2026, in his hometown of Ekpenebo Community, Esit Eket Local Council of Akwa Ibom State.

Akpan, popularly known as Roro Chief, died at the age of 63.

He was a veteran journalist and respected member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Cross River State Council.

The burial arrangements were announced in a statement issued in Calabar by his family and the NUJ Cross River State Council.

The programme started yesterday with a Night of Tributes organised by the NUJ at 4:00 p.m. at Prince Otu Hall, State Library Complex, Calabar. The opening of the mourning house in his hometown holds today, October 21, at 6:00 a.m. Tomorrow, October 22, Akpan's body will lie in state at the NUJ Secretariat, Calabar, from 7:00 a.m. A sing-song night will also hold in his hometown from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The funeral and thanksgiving service will take place on Friday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m., followed by his interment in Ekpenebo Community, Esit Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Described by colleagues as an icon of the profession, Akpan was a consummate journalist who served The Guardian meritoriously as Deputy South-South Bureau Chief. He also made significant contributions to journalism in Cross River State and beyond.

His death is a loss to the journalism community, particularly colleagues who knew him through his professional service and involvement in the NUJ.



Akpan

NLNG

...Inspiring a Sustainable Future

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Provision of Treatment Service & Supply of Chemicals for Open/Closed Cooling Water Systems

1.0 INTRODUCTION

NLNG is a leading energy company committed to driving innovation and meeting the evolving energy needs of the future through its world-class production Plant on Bonny Island, Rivers State, Nigeria. The Plant comprises six (6) natural gas liquefaction trains with a combined annual capacity of twenty-two (22) million tons of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and five (5) million tons of Natural Gas Liquids (NGL). Operations at the Plant are sustained by a dedicated team of operators, technical specialists and service providers who ensure reliable and continuous production. These core activities are complemented by a range of supporting functions across NLNG's operational locations, all working together to maintain optimal performance and efficiency.

NLNG requires the supply of specialty treatment chemicals and associated technical support for corrosion and biological control in industrial open and closed cooling water systems. The objective is to maintain system integrity, optimise cooling efficiency, control corrosion and biological growth, and support reliable long-term operation of plant equipment and utilities. NLNG hereby invites interested companies with the requisite experience as detailed below to express their interest in participating in the tendering for this service.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK

1. Supply of specialty treatment chemicals for corrosion and biological control program in the open and closed cooling water systems to maintain corrosion within the target limits and extend the plant service life.
   These chemicals include:
   - Corrosion inhibitor (Preferably separate Zinc & Phosphate based)
   - Dispersant (phosphate based or otherwise based on a later technology)
   - Azole for yellow metals
   - Oxidizing Biocide (preferably sodium hypochlorite as compared to sodium hypobromite)
   - Non-oxidizing biocide
2. A system survey of NLNG's open and closed cooling water systems, resulting in a treatment program proposal, including a description of the treatment process and product functionality, dosing rates/frequencies, estimated annual chemical consumption, control tests and target values.
3. Supply of at least 1 service engineer to be on site continuously for the contract period to advise and manage the program application
4. Provision of initial operator-level training
5. In addition, the contractor shall provide the following services:
   - Analysis of corrosion coupons in all the cooling water systems to monitor corrosion and fouling rates.
   - Heat exchanger performance studies shall be carried out for critical heat exchangers.
   - Cooling tower efficiency studies to enhance the train efficiency
   - Analysis of samples or deposits from cooling water systems to support investigations
6. Cooling Water expert/consultant to provide remote or onsite support when the on-site technical engineer experiences challenges

3.0 MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for consideration, interested companies are required to respond to this invitation by submitting the following information/documents for consideration. Failure to submit any of the underlisted documents may lead to disqualification.

1. Company's Certificate of Incorporation.
2. Complete copy of Form CAC 7 (Particulars of Directors), its equivalent, or the most recent complete Status Report issued by the CAC.
3. Complete copy of Form CAC 2 (Statement of Share Capital and Return of Allotment of Shares), its equivalent, or the most recent complete Status Report issued by the CAC. Please note that where a shareholder is a corporate entity, we require the entity's most recent complete Status Report, up to the level where all ultimate beneficial owners are clearly identified
4. Complete copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association
5. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years (2025, 2024, 2023).
6. Three (3) years financial accounts audited by a licensed accountancy firm which shall be a member of a recognised institute of accountancy. The most recent accounts should not have an end-of-year date more than 18 months before the date of the EOI.
7. Current/Valid relevant MDOGISP and to do business in the Nigerian oil and gas industry as issued by the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) for the Chemical Supply (Gen. Purpose/Analar Grade) Major category.
8. Health, Safety & Environment Plan and/or Policy including HSE statistics over the last 3 years.
9. Quality Plan and/or Policy including ISO certification
10. Letter of reference/support from a bank or financial institution.
11. A detailed list of relevant experience with evidence to demonstrate capability and experience in undertaking the scope of the provision of operations support and specialist services within the last five (5) years with supporting evidence, such as contracts, award letters, purchase orders and work completion certificates. Kindly provide the clients' names and contact details, the location, and the cost or volume of services provided, together with supporting evidence.
12. Approved HR policy, manual and/or management system
13. Industrial relations policy and/or plan
14. Community Relations plan and/or policy
15. Company Profile showing:
    - Organisational chart (including size, structure, partnerships, alliances, joint ventures, and any subsidiary or parent companies)
    - OEM agency/technical partnership, if any

NLNG

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Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Provision of Treatment Service & Supply of Chemicals for Open/Closed Cooling Water Systems

- Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of the management team
- Curriculum Vitae (CVs) of key technical personnel within the organisation available for the work.

16. Evidence and documentation supporting compliance with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010 (see Section 4.0, NIGERIAN CONTENT REQUIREMENTS) (NOGICD ACT 2010)

4.0 NIGERIAN CONTENT REQUIREMENTS

The Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010 supports and details expected Nigerian Content deliverables within contracts and projects in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry. NLNG is committed to the NOGICD Act 2010 and Nigerian Content Development. Companies responding to this advertisement for services are required to submit the following in compliance with the NOGICD Act 2010.

1. Documentation to demonstrate that the entity is a Nigerian-registered company. Submission of certified true copies of CAC Forms 2A & 7A (or their equivalent) including the company Memorandum and Articles of Association. All companies shall be Nigerian Indigenous Service Companies having 51% and above Nigerian equity in the shareholding and ownership structure of the tenderer's entity legally registered in Nigeria under CAMA (Companies and Allied Matters Act).
2. Evidence of registration on the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) NOGIC Joint Qualification System (JQS).
3. Evidence of a valid and relevant Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC) for Manufacturing and Related Services (MS) or Procurement and Supplies (PS) for the work scope of this service.
4. The processes and procedures that explain the methodology the company intends to use to comply with the requirements of the NOGICD Act 2010 (Nigerian Content Plan) and how to achieve the set target(s) in the schedule of the NOGICD Act and any targets set by the Board.
5. Details of the company's corporate organisation and overall human resources structure (management, supervisors, senior & junior skilled officers, etc.), identifying positions manned/occupied by Nigerian nationals with evidence of the type of employment in-country and identifying the positions manned/occupied by other nationals.
6. Proposed organogram for this work scope populated with nationality, qualifications of personnel and years of experience of personnel on the job (attach the CVs of key finance, operational and technical personnel) Include a succession plan for this scope of work.
7. A detailed description of the location of facilities and infrastructure (assets, equipment, technical office, administrative space, storage, etc.) in Nigeria to support this contract, together with evidence that 50% of all equipment deployed to work by multinational and international companies is owned by the local subsidiaries
8. Demonstrate willingness to carry out Human Capital Development (HCD) in compliance with the Human Capacity Development guidelines of NCDMB.

Failure to comply with the Nigerian Content Act or demonstrate commitment to Nigerian Content Development shall result in disqualification from this process.

5.0 CLOSING DATE

11 November 2026

6.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submissions in response to the above requirements shall be completed strictly in accordance with the instructions given in this publication. Failure to submit any of the documents may result in the disqualification of the application.
The documents required for the expression of interest should be submitted electronically in PDF format via the link:
https://eoiportal.nlng.com/eoi-portal

Please note that this EOI is being administered through the new NLNG EOI portal. Interested participants are required to register on the portal prior to submitting their responses. Please note that registration is free of charge. Responders are also strongly encouraged to review the user guide provided to acquaint themselves with the platform and its functionalities. **Please contact the portal administrator by email at vendorservices@nlng.com or by telephone on +234 911 223 5588 for support, if required.** Submissions must be received by NLNG not later than **11 November 2026.**

Disclaimer

a. This is not an invitation to tender. The full tendering procedure will be provided to applicants that are successful at this EOI stage, in accordance with NLNG's relevant procedures.
b. Notwithstanding the submissions of the documents for the expression of interest, NLNG is neither committed nor obliged to include any company and/or its associated companies, agents or sub-contractors on any bid list or to award any form of contract to any company and/or its associated companies, agents or sub-contractors.
c. Please be aware that this invitation to express interest does not guarantee that any company will be requested to submit an offer to NLNG; it does not constitute any form of agreement or contract between NLNG and any Company.
d. NLNG shall not be responsible for any cost incurred in responding to this invitation.
e. This EOI advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment by NLNG, nor shall it entitle respondents to claim any indemnity from NLNG and/or any of its shareholders by virtue of having responded to this advertisement.

This is a simple invitation for interested companies to express their interest in the indicated work scopes and does not warrant any further feedback from NLNG hereafter. If you do not hear from NLNG within three (3) months of submitting your EOI in response to this publication, please assume that your application was not successful.

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Conscience is an open wound; only truth can heal it. Uthman dan Fodio 1754-1816

Editorial

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Nigerian universities should move from rankings to national development

THE improved performance of Nigerian universities in the latest global research rankings offers a welcome reason for optimism. It shows that, despite years of inadequate funding, decaying infrastructure, industrial disputes, and the migration of academics abroad, Nigeria retains considerable intellectual capital. However, the country must move beyond celebrating rankings to confront a more fundamental question: to what extent do university research and scholarship translate into innovation, employment, industrial productivity, and national development?

According to the AD Scientific Index, an independent international academic ranking and research- evaluation platform established in 2021 by Professor Murat Alper, Nigeria ranks third in Africa and 48th globally among 221 countries. The latest ranking, announced on October 1, 2026, reportedly indexed 53,580 Nigerian scientists across 384 institutions. This gives Nigeria a substantial research footprint and underscores the depth of academic talent within its tertiary education system.

The University of Ibadan (UI) retained its position as Nigeria's highest-ranked university, placing 889th globally among nearly 19,800 universities and within the top 4.5 per cent worldwide. The University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), came second nationally, ranking 1,227th globally and 31st in Africa. Covenant University, the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), the University of Ilorin, Ahmadu Bello University, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, and Bayero University, Kano, also featured prominently. Covenant University deserves commendation for its reported improvement of 457 places, moving from 1,857th globally in the 2026 edition to 1,400th in the 2027 edition. The reported expansion in the number of ranked Nigerian universities, from 257 in the 2024 edition to more than 300 in 2026, is another encouraging development. The strong representation of federal universities among the country's top-ranked institutions further demonstrates their continuing importance to Nigeria's research capacity.

Individual scholars have also distinguished themselves. Professor Mayowa Owolabi of the University of Ibadan reportedly emerged Nigeria's most cited scholar, with 257,748 citations, placing 676th among more than 2.6 million indexed researchers worldwide. Shafiu Mohammed of Ahmadu Bello University followed with 242,300 citations, while Olayinka Ilesanmi of the University of Ibadan ranked third nationally, with 185,602 citations. These achievements deserve recognition. They reflect the intellectual commitment of Nigerian academics who continue to produce research of international relevance, often under difficult institutional circumstances.

Yet, while these achievements are commendable, they must not become a convenient excuse for overlooking the structural weaknesses of Nigeria's university system. A country cannot measure the success of its universities solely by their global rankings, the number of indexed researchers or the citations their publications attract. These indicators are useful, but they do not, by themselves, establish the extent to which research has improved the material circumstances of citizens or strengthened the productive capacity of the economy.

The central challenge is that Nigeria has not sufficiently connected university research to national development. Too much academic activity remains detached from the practical problems confronting the country. Research findings are published, conferences are held and papers are cited, but the journey from scholarly discovery to commercially viable innovation, improved public services and industrial transformation is often incomplete.

This is the gap that must now be closed. Nigerian universities should be centres of knowledge creation and, equally, engines of innovation, enterprise and social progress. Research must respond more directly to the country's developmental priorities, including food security, affordable healthcare, electricity generation, clean energy, transportation, manufacturing, housing, digital technology and environmental protection. Academic freedom and curiosity-driven research must remain protected, but they should coexist with a stronger commitment to solving practical problems.

The experience of successful innovation ecosystems elsewhere offers useful lessons. Silicon Valley, for instance, developed through decades of interaction among universities, researchers, entrepreneurs, private investors and government-supported research institutions. Its success cannot be attributed to a single discovery or institution. Rather, it illustrates how scientific knowledge can be transformed into products, businesses and industries when research is supported by capital, technical expertise, an entrepreneurial culture and access to markets.

Nigeria must build its own version of this productive relationship. Universities cannot achieve this transformation in isolation, and industries cannot continue to treat academic institutions as distant establishments concerned only with teaching and publications. Manufacturing companies, agricultural enterprises, technology firms, pharmaceutical businesses and public institutions should work with universities to identify research priorities, finance projects, develop prototypes and commercialise successful discoveries.

The Federal Government has a critical responsibility in creating the conditions for this partnership. It should establish transparent and dependable mechanisms through which research institutions and industries can collaborate. Competitive research grants, innovation funds, technology-transfer offices, university-based incubators and clear intellectual-property arrangements can help researchers move discoveries from laboratories into the marketplace. Incentives should also encourage businesses to invest in university research rather than depend excessively on imported technology.

The objective should not be to reduce universities to commercial enterprises or judge every academic discipline by its immediate financial returns. Fundamental research, the humanities, social sciences and the liberal arts are indispensable to a society's intellectual and cultural development. However, a university system that produces knowledge without developing effective pathways for its application is failing to realise much of its potential. The proper task is to balance intellectual freedom with social responsibility and practical relevance.

Adequate funding is indispensable to this transformation. For too long, Nigerian universities have struggled with insufficient resources, deteriorating laboratories, poorly equipped libraries, overcrowded lecture halls and inadequate student accommodation. In many institutions, researchers lack the equipment, reliable electricity, digital infrastructure and research assistance required to compete effectively with their counterparts abroad. No amount of exhortation can substitute for sustained investment in these essentials.

Government must, therefore, treat higher education and research as strategic investments rather than residual items in the national budget. Public universities require predictable funding for teaching, maintenance, laboratory equipment, staff development and research. Funding allocations should be transparent, monitored and linked to clearly defined institutional responsibilities. At the same time, university management must be accountable for the prudent use of public resources, while retaining the autonomy necessary to make academic and research decisions without improper political interference.

It is particularly troubling that a country like Nigeria with immense human and natural resources continues to struggle to provide its universities with the facilities needed to fulfil their mandate. Where public expenditure is mismanaged or diverted from its intended purposes, the consequences extend beyond university campuses. They affect the quality of graduates, the competitiveness of businesses, the capacity of public institutions and the country's ability to generate home-grown solutions to its problems.

The recurrent industrial disputes between university lecturers and government are another source of concern. The grievances of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), including disputes over remuneration, funding and the implementation of agreements, must be addressed through good-faith negotiations and durable settlements. Repeated strikes disrupt academic calendars, prolong students' stay in school and undermine public confidence in the university system. Government should honour legitimate agreements, while university unions and administrators should pursue sustainable solutions that protect students' interests and preserve academic stability.

Equally important is the exodus of Nigerian academics to foreign institutions. When experienced professors and promising researchers leave because of inadequate remuneration, poor facilities, limited research opportunities or uncertain career prospects, the country loses valuable expertise and the return on its educational investment. Nigeria should improve working conditions, provide competitive research support and create opportunities for academic advancement. International collaboration and academic mobility should be welcomed, but the country must also make it possible for its scholars to build productive careers at home.

Curriculum reform is necessary as well. Universities should strengthen practical learning, entrepreneurship, technical competence, interdisciplinary research and problem-solving without sacrificing rigorous scholarship. Partnerships with industry should expose students to real production challenges, while technical and vocational education should receive the attention necessary to support manufacturing, construction, agriculture and other productive sectors. The goal is not merely to produce graduates who seek employment, but also graduates equipped to create enterprises, develop technologies and contribute meaningfully to society.

Ultimately, the value of university research must be assessed through a balanced set of indicators. International rankings and citation records matter, but so do the number of useful innovations developed, technologies adopted by local industries, businesses created from university discoveries, jobs generated, public services improved and practical solutions delivered to communities. Such measures would help the country determine whether its investment in knowledge is yielding the expected social and economic benefits.

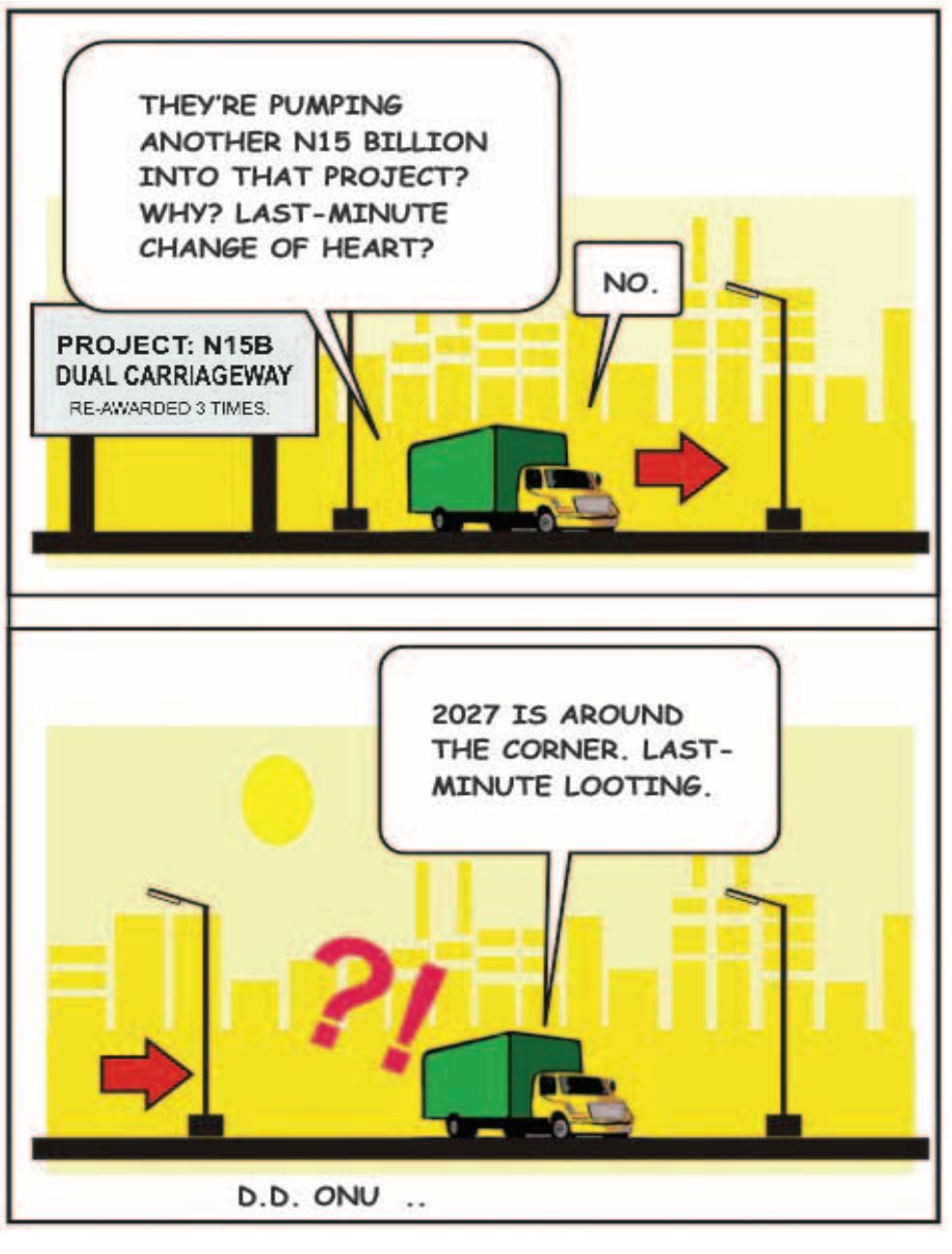
The Federal Government, state governments, university administrators, research institutions and private-sector operators must, therefore, work towards a coherent national research and innovation policy. Such a policy should identify strategic priorities, guarantee fair and competitive access to research funding, encourage collaboration, protect academic autonomy and establish mechanisms for translating research into practical outcomes. Nigeria's universities must also strengthen their links with local communities, whose problems and experiences can provide valuable starting points for meaningful research.

The latest AD Scientific Index rankings are encouraging, and the universities and scholars concerned deserve commendation. But celebration must be followed by deliberate action. Nigeria has demonstrated that it possesses researchers capable of attracting international recognition. The next challenge is to ensure that their knowledge produces benefits that citizens can see and experience.

A country that neglects its universities undermines its own future. Nigeria cannot hope to build a competitive economy, reduce unemployment, strengthen public health, improve food security or achieve technological independence while leaving its research institutions underfunded and disconnected from industry. Education is not an ornament of development; it is one of its principal foundations.

Nigeria's universities have earned a place in the global research conversation. The urgent task is to convert that recognition into national progress. The true measure of academic excellence is not simply how highly a university ranks abroad, but also how effectively its knowledge serves humanity, improves lives and advances the country's development.

Nigeria must now move from research visibility to research productivity, and from academic distinction to tangible national transformation.



Opinion

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A Nobel for the poor people's lawyer

By Adekeye Adebajo

From growing up in a slum outside Durban to studying law in a segregated university, Navi Pillay's experience in apartheid-era South Africa instilled in her a lifelong belief in the importance of international courts in defending people's rights. Now she should use her newly won stature to advance the rule of law at home.

THE choice of South African jurist Navanethem "Navi" Pillay for this year's Nobel Peace Prize was a striking show of support for the rules-based multilateral system. It was also a slap in the face to U.S. President Donald Trump, who has shamelessly lobbied for the prize while simultaneously attacking the international legal order. At a political rally shortly after the announcement, Trump dismissed Pillay as "a liberal person who works at the United Nations, who nobody has ever heard of."

The Nobel committee was clear in its message, noting that Pillay's "independence, expertise, and steadfastness have made her one of the most respected international jurists of our time," and warning that "a world operating without the rule of law is unjust, unwise, and inhumane." But it failed to mention Pillay's pivotal role as the chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, in finding that Israel's actions in Gaza constitute genocide—a reflection of her life's work supporting the downtrodden.

Pillay, the fifth South African and the fourth African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, was born in Clairwood, a slum outside Durban, during the apartheid era. The daughter of a bus driver and a homemaker, she grew up in a large, poor family of Indian Tamil origin—her grandparents came from India as indentured servants. As a teenager, she witnessed brutal crackdowns on Black protesters, recalling later that "the government was oppressive, the laws were oppressive, and the courts cooperated with these laws." After excelling at her segregated high school, Pillay studied law at what was then the University of Natal, partly thanks to donations from her local community. Despite being forced to attend night classes for Black students, she graduated at the top of her class.

Pillay's experience living in and dealing with a racist regime that used lawfare to oppress its Black majority instilled in her a lifelong belief in the importance of international courts in curbing the abuses of authoritarian states. The toughness and resilience she developed served her well throughout her career. It was fitting, then, that Pillay learned about her Nobel win during a human-rights conference in Nuremberg, at the site where Nazi leaders were tried after World War II. Reading the transcripts from those trials helped cement her interest in international law.

After earning her degree, Pillay worked with an anti-apartheid lawyer of Indian descent, N.T. Naicker, before becoming the first woman to establish her own law firm in what was then the province of Natal in 1967. She made a name for herself defending imprisoned anti-apartheid activists, including Nelson Mandela, and attended Harvard Law School on a fully funded fellowship, eventually graduating with a Doctor of Juridical Science in 1988. On her return to South Africa, she co-founded an organisation to defend women against domestic violence.

In 1995, after apartheid ended, Mandela appointed Pillay to the High Court of South Africa, where she was the first Black woman to sit on the bench and fought tirelessly for women's rights. She joined the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda the same year, and was later elected president judge, serving eight years in total. Under Pillay's watch, the tribunal helped criminalise mass rape and hate propaganda in the context of genocide. As she observed: "From time immemorial, rape has been regarded as spoils of war. Now it will be considered a war crime."

In 2003, shortly after the International Criminal Court was founded, Pillay was elected as a judge and served until 2008, when she was appointed UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The first woman from the Global South in the post, Pillay proved adept at managing the highly politicised UN Human Rights Council. During her tenure, she excoriated Myanmar's junta for its atrocities against the country's Muslim Rohingya minority, pushed for the recognition of preventable maternal deaths as a human-rights issue, and was invited in 2011 on a mission to Israel, which praised her even-handedness on the Palestine issue.

Israel's position changed when Pillay chaired the UN Commission of Inquiry between 2021 and 2025. The body found that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant, and President Yitzhak Herzog had "incited the commission of genocide." When the report was released, Pillay argued in The New York Times that every state has an obligation to prevent genocide using all available diplomatic and legal means. She wrote, "To do nothing is not neutrality. It is complicity." Predictably, Israel's foreign ministry posted on X that the decision to award Pillay the Nobel Peace Prize was "the grotesque weaponisation of an award to legitimise anti-Israel hatred and prejudice."

Humble, down-to-earth, and a mentor to many young African lawyers, Pillay is undeniably the most distinguished South African international civil servant. As she received news of the prize, she noted that "I see this award as the voice of the majority of the world." A staunch defender of the "wretched of the Earth," she was consistently on the side of the masses of those countries suffering from a grossly unjust system of "global apartheid." Following xenophobic attacks against African migrants in Durban in 2015, she led the Special Reference Group on Migration and Community Integration in KwaZulu-Natal, which urged the South African government to "ensure that all of its policies and civil servants respect the rights and dignity of all human beings."

More remains to be done to protect the rights and dignity of all people in South Africa, or else vigilantism—mob violence and the absence of law—will tear the country apart. The hope is that Pillay will now use her newly won stature to help prevent that scenario.

Courtesy: Project Syndicate.

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When shall we boast of uninterrupted power supply?

By Anene Umennaka

Power is the most important discovery of humanity in the past 1,000 years. It is the key to unlocking human dignity and economic prosperity.
President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (2025)

THE incessant collapse of the national grid by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) is no longer tolerable. The problem and other decades-old bottlenecks in the nation's power sector have just got to be fixed. Joseph Tegbe, the new Minister of Power promised at his swearing-in ceremony in Abuja about two months ago, to tackle head-on the challenges, but cautioned that they would not be fixed in weeks or months. He will not however, be the first to so raise Nigerians hope.

Records from the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and other bodies say the grid collapsed at least 105 times in the last ten years as at 2024. Some say 140 times. In 2024 alone, the grid collapsed 12 times, up to three times in October, with the last in that year being on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 2.00pm. In 2025, Nigerians began the New Year with the grid collapse on Saturday January 14th of at 1.00pm and the last in that year occurring on December 29th. The first this 2026 was on January 23 and the sad tales continue ad infinitum.

However, on Thursday, the April 17 2025 after the grid collapsed once again, the then Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, announced that the national grid will be decentralised into the three regions of Nigeria, so that if anything happens in one region, it will not necessarily affect the others. As if daring the Minister, the nation was once again plunged into near total darkness on September 10, of 2025, at 11.23am. The grid load plummeted from 4,500Mw to just 120Mw, according to real-time data from Nigerian System Operator (NISO) representing one of the most severe power system disturbances of 2025. Nigerians are tired of the same old story every time.

Even Nigeria's seat of power, Aso Rock, has since exited from the national power supply and is now on solar, leaving the rest of Nigerians and residents to their fate. The Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies spent a staggering N220 billion on solar power installations in 15 months in their growing dependence on alternative energy sources particularly solar. Nigerian's national grid continues to hover around an average capacity of 4,000 megawatts (MW), far below demand and plagued by frequent systems collapses. When shall we boost of uninterrupted power supply?

Chantelle Abdul, Group Managing Director of Majec International Ltd, at a conference of Energy Correspondents of Nigeria in Lagos not too long ago, disclosed that for Nigerians to enjoy constant electricity supply, there is a need for more investment in the sector that will culminate in the country being able to generate 200,000 megawatts based on international standards of 1GW (1,000MW) to one million people, estimating Nigeria's population to be 200 million people. He therefore said that the country needs 195,400 megawatts extra, generating currently an average of 4,600MW. World Bank says that Nigerian businesses suffered a combined annual loss of $29 billion because of unreliable power, an estimated 2 per cent of its GDP! Africa Trade Barometer reports put it this way, power cuts, cost cause Nigeria Economy around $26 billion annually as businesses sink $22 billion yearly on fuel for off-grid solutions like generators. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of self-generation globally.

Meanwhile, about a month past, Tegbe announced that Nigeria is positioning itself for a major transformation of its electricity sector, with plans to grow installed power capacity to 277 Gigawatts (GW) by 2060, while leveraging renewable energy and private sector investment to drive industries competitiveness. He also highlighted the approval of the National Integrated Electricity Policy (NIEP) by Federal Executive Council (FEC) in May 2025, comprehensively replacing the countries outdated 2001 electricity policy framework.

92 million Nigerians (4 in 10 Nigerians) are not connected with electricity, also according to a report from World Bank. That is, over 45 percent of Nigeria's entire population, a deficit that is among the world's highest. The challenges is complicated by low investment in electric power infrastructure, growing energy demand due to rising population and climate change. The mean electricity use of a sub-Saharan dweller is put by Hawitti, an investment research agency as "lower than that of a household fridge in the United States". Nigeria presently ranks 25th in terms of electricity generation per capital in Africa at 0.338MWH according to the International Energy Agency (IEA).

However in August, 2024, the Vice President, Kashim Shetima had called on the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to double efforts to accelerate Nigerian's quest towards Universal electricity access and to ensure that citizens get more access to power supply, as well as creating awareness and keeping Nigeria's posted with ongoing efforts to address the electricity deficit in the country. The agency, REA, said it had secured a grant of $750 million from the World Bank and African Development Bank (AFDB) for rural electrification projects across Nigeria. But the said grant, is now said to be cancelled.

Electricity use is a prerequisite for political and socio-economic growth of a country. When electricity is not there, the well-being of the people is compromised. According to a former Chief Executive Officer of Royal Dutch Shell, Peter Voser, "Energy is the oxygen of the economy". As posed by an expert in Energy, Dr. Sam Nzekwe: ". . ..it is sad that we have not been able to develop our infrastructure, especially power. What meaningful thing are you going to do in an economy without power? Our manufacturers are spending a large chunk of their capital to provide power for their factories. That is why goods are so costly in the market. So the government should tackle the issue of power and deal with it". Most companies who are the biggest consumers of electricity are off the grid because of unreliability and dismal qualify of supply. Companies like Guinness, Dunlop and others have since relocated to Ghana, our next door neighbour, where there is reliability and better service delivery. Ghana has recently evinced readiness to sell electricity to Nigeria! Unemployment in Nigeria has almost reached 40 per cent.

As a way out of the challenges of the power sector, the Goodluck Jonathan administration, Privatised the sector in 2013 into 17 companies- six (6) generating companies (Gencos), and eleven distribution companies (Discos). But still till date we are not out of the wood. Infact, the last administration, the Muhammad, Buhari presidency had accused the Obasanjo government of spending over $15 billion in the sector without any result. But equally the Buhari regime, spent over N4 trillion, with several interventions from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), World Bank, Siemens, African Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation(JICO), France Development Agency, and other financiers, and yet we are still where we were. Infact between the privatisation era and now, the Federal Government has sunk N7 trillion in the power sector indirect intervention.

As earlier said, the national grid has collapsed in the past 10 years over 105 times, as at 2024 (some say 140 times), despite over $2.6 billion investment from donor funds expended on it. The sector has been moving from bad to worse- worse that the pre-privatisation era. Currently the installed capacity is still 13,000 megawatts and power generated stand at 4,500 megawatts, while the daily power load which is distributed to the eleven (11) distribution companies hovers around 3,000 MW. Very poor indeed, for population of 216 million Nigerians and myriads of industries whose estimated demand as at 2020 was 17,566MW and expected to grow to 45,662 MW by 2030. Our peers, South Africa and Egypt can boast of 58,095MW and 59,063MW respectively. Infact, some expert's say that Nigeria needs at least 100,000 megawatts. Chantelle Abdul, earlier mentioned at the beginning suggested in generating 200,000 megawatts(MW) based on international standards of 1GW (1,000MW) to one million people, estimating Nigeria's population to be 200 million people.

Be that as it may, it is envisaged in the Service-Based Tariff (SBT), between Nigerian Electricity Regulation Commission (NERC) and the eleven (11) Distribution companies (Discos) that before NERC increases the tariff, there should be corresponding increment in power. That is why customers are categorised into Band A, B,C, D and E segments. But, in practice, the reverse is the case. The more there is less power supply, the higher the end-user tariff goes up. Some stakeholders describe the practice as "a grand scam", or "419."

To be continued.

Umennaka, a lawyer, is President, Friends of the Sick International, an NGO.

Opinion

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Similarities between Benin and Opobo (2)

By Eric Teniola

Continued from yesterday

OBA Ovonramwen reigned at a precarious time in the history of Benin. He succeeded to an empire that was on its decline, "probably because of attacks by other indigenous powers on the peripheral peoples of his Empire, which led invariably to a shrinkage of his dominions and possibly too of his throne". As Idugbowa, Oba Ovonramwen had to fight off opposition to his accession to the throne of his father in 1888; even after that he could only consolidate his rule through purges and executions.

Yet Oba Ovonramwen was determined from the beginning to make his reign as purposeful as possible by maintaining court in the tradition of his ancestors which he hoped to preserve. The human sacrifices at which the British protested were part tradition which the Oba could not abandon. He lost his throne and power in the bid to defend that tradition against foreign aggression. One result of the aggression was the looting of vast quantities of Benin's excellent works of art, now scattered over the world.

In 1914, the monarchy was restored under Oba Ovonramwen's eldest son, Eweka II, who was succeeded in turn, in 1933, by Akenzua II.

Let us now look at the Jaja, King of Opobo. He was famous for his resistance to the imposition of colonial domination. He was a slave sold into house of Anna Pepple of Bonny and rose to the headship of his master's "house". He later established himself as the most dominant figure in the politics of the Delta states when he became King of the newly founded Kingdom of Opobo. Succession to the headship of an Ijaw trading "house" was not based on heredity but on one's ability to provide for the welfare of the members of the house. Jaja's accession to the headship around 1869 caused resentment in other members of the Anna Pepple house. This culminated in a civil war from which Jaja emerged the victor.

After the civil war in Bonny, Jaja led his house to the Opobo river where he founded the Kingdom of Opobo. Here his business acumen and capacity found full scope; he soon established plantations and built a port and strategically placed trading settlements on the creeks which not only enabled him to control the supply of palm oil to the European merchants along the coast but also made Opobo one of the richest Delta states.

With the wealth came political influence and military power. Such was the strength of Jaja's army that during the Ashanti war he committed a contingent of his soldiers to the British effort, for which he was awarded a sword of honour by Queen Victoria in 1875.

In 1870, having consolidated his new settlement, he proclaimed Opobo an independent state consisting of 14 of the 18 houses of Bonny. Three years later the new state was recognised by Britain which in 1884 entered into a "treaty" with Opobo, placing the latter under the protection of the British Crown. However, the proclamation of a British Protectorate over the Oil Rivers in 1885 not only heralded the demise of the independence of the coast city-states but also precipitated a quarrel between Jaja and the British.

Jaja was the only ruler in the Delta area who questioned the new political order by seeking a definition of the word "protectorate" from the British, who replied vaguely that Her Majesty's Government would only extend to his kingdom her "gracious favour and protection". He accepted the explanation, believing that Opobo's new relationship with Britain would not affect its independence. Accordingly, he continued to monopolise the oil trade, forbidding anyone to deal directly with European merchants on the coast while continuing his direct exports to Britain. As a result, Jaja saw the British insistence on "free" trade as interference and a violation of the 1884 treaty.

The British Consul in Oil Rivers, Harry Johnston, was opposed to Jaja's continued independence. In 1887, Johnston abrogated his power to impose customs duties on oil exports from the state. Jaja sent a delegation to London to protest to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Meanwhile Consul Johnston had written to the British Government requesting permission to expel Jaja who had requested successive threats to compel him to meet British demands. The King was "invited" on board a British gunboat, HMS Goshwk, to meet Consul Johnston. Jaja was reassured by Johnston on the eve of their meeting that "I hereby assure you that whatever you accept or reject my proposals tomorrow no restraint whatever will be put on you—you will be free to go as soon as you have heard the message of the government".

But once on board, Jaja was asked to choose between being tried for violating the treaty and seeing Opobo bombed by the British Navy. The King opted for trial, which was then held in Accra, Ghana. He was found guilty and banished in 1887 to the West Indies on a pension of 800pounds per annum. This paved the way for the establishment of an effective colonial authority over the region which in the first year provided nearly 90,000 from import duties alone.

King Jaja's deportation caused much discontent in the Oil Rivers states. After repeated appeals to British Government, the Colonial Secretary set up a commission to investigate and make recommendations for the administration of the new policy. In 1891, the commission, headed by Major Claude MacDonad, recommended that, in response to popular demand in Opobo, King Jaja should be returned and reinstated. In the same year, King Jaja was allowed to return, but on the way back died on July 7, 1891. His body was subsequently transported to Opobo where it was buried.

There are some countries that fought wars before achieving their independence. I have in mind the Mahdist war fought in Sudan between the British and Egypt. The Xhosa wars between Xhosa kingdom and the British Empire. The Algerian war between France and Algeria, the Dahomey war between Dahomey kingdom and France. The Battle of Mbwila between Congo and Portugal. The Mau Mau rebellion (1952–1960), also known as the Kenya Emergency, was a brutal guerrilla war fought between the Kenya Land and Freedom Army and British colonial forces. The Kenya Land and Freedom Army (KLFA) was led by Dedan Kimathi.

KLFA members mostly belonged to the Kikuyu ethnic group, although there was a great number of people from the Meru, Maasai and Kamba people, among others.

The Rhodesian Bush War was a civil war between three forces: the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA), the military wing of ZANU led by Robert Mugabe; the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army (ZIPRA), of ZAPU and Joshua Nkomo, and the Rhodesian Security Forces of Ian Smith.

The Anglo-Zulu War was fought between the Zulu Kingdom and Britain. It had many bloody battles; Britain lost more soldiers than usual for colonial wars.

Britain wanted to war against the Zulu Kingdom so that it could control the region and use African labour in sugar plantations and mines.

In December of 1878, Sir Bartle Frere sent an ultimatum to the Zulu King Cetshwayo. The king did not accept it and Britain invaded the Zulu Kingdom.

The Anglo-Zulu War lasted close to six months, from January to July 1879. It took place in the Zulu Kingdom which is in northeastern modern-day South Africa.

The Maji Maji Rebellion was war between various peoples in Tanzania and Germany.

During colonialism Germans forced Tanzanians to labour for them. Tanzanians had to build their roads and were forced to grow cash crops like cotton for Germans to sell overseas.

Tanzanians warred against the Germans to put a stop to their suffering.

The Maji Maji Rebellion took place on the land of many ethnic groups like the Matumbi and Ngoni peoples in Tanganyika which is now southern Tanzania. It lasted 2 years, from 1905 to 1907.

After Germany won the Maji Maji Rebellion there was a famine called Ukame, or the Great Hunger because of the scorched-earth policies the governor G.A. von Götzen used during the war.

It took more independence movements, led by people like Dr. Julius Nyerere with TANU for Tanzania to become independent from Britain.

The Rif War was a war between the Rif Republic and Spain, later joined by France. Different Amazigh ethnic groups formed the Rif Republic.

At the Berlin Conference Spain decided that the Rif region was Spanish territory, however, until then Spain had no real power there.

The Rif was rich in high-grade iron, that Spain soon started mining, something that Riffians did not want.

The War of the Golden Stool, or the Fifth Anglo-Ashanti War, was a war between the Ashanti Kingdom and Britain.

The Golden Stool was a royal and sacred throne and the symbol of power in the Ashanti Kingdom.

In 1900, at a meeting with Ashanti leaders, Governor Sir Frederick Mitchell Hodgson, demanded to have the Golden Stool and to sit on it – so that Britain could rule the Ashanti and their land, which was rich in gold.

Soon after, the Ashanti kingdom, led by the Queen Mother Yaa Asantewaa, fought back to protect the Golden Stool.

The War of the Golden Stool lasted 7 months, from March to September 1900. The war took place in the Ashanti Kingdom, in the modern-day Ghana.

The Portuguese Colonial War was a war between various African independence movements and Portugal.

Major movements include the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the Mozambique Liberation Front (FRELIMO).

During Portuguese colonialism Africans were forced to work, often with no pay, their land was made into official overseas provinces of Portugal.

Africans fought Portugal to end colonialism and take back their land and freedom. During the Portuguese War most African countries were already independent.

The Portuguese Colonial War was fought during the Cold war between 1961 and 1974, it lasted 13 years.

It took place on three different territories, known as Portuguese Africa at the time, today they are the countries of Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique.

All three countries became independent from Portugal between 1973 and 1974.

Nigeria is lucky, we did not take part in any military adventure before we got our independence. Our independence was negotiated diplomatically. But some units within the country like Benin, Bonny and Opobo kingdoms experienced brutal British colonization. The great grandson of Oba Ovonramwen, the current Oba of Benin, Oba Eheneden Erediauwa, Ewuare II, was crowned on October 20, 2016. King Charles Douglas MacPepple Jaja, Jeki VI of Opobo has just begun an expected long reign. May their era be peaceful and progressive.

Teniola, a former Director in the Presidency, wrote from Lagos.

Strength of leadership: Reassessing Matawalle's stewardship at defence

By Abiodun Oluwadare

IN public leadership, attention is often drawn to those who occupy the highest offices, command the largest institutions or make the loudest declarations. Yet, the effectiveness of government is not determined solely by the visibility of its principal officeholders. It also depends on the capacity of other members of the governing team to exercise restraint, sustain institutional relationships and contribute to the achievement of collective objectives without allowing differences in status or authority to become sources of discord. It is against this background that the stewardship of Dr Bello Mohammed Matawalle, Nigeria's Minister of State for Defence, deserves closer examination.

Since assuming office in August 2023, Matawalle has served within a ministry entrusted with one of the most consequential responsibilities of the Nigerian state: the defence of the country's territorial integrity and the protection of its citizens against an increasingly complex array of security threats. His tenure has coincided with persistent challenges involving terrorism, armed banditry, kidnapping and other forms of organised violence. These circumstances make the defence portfolio exceptionally demanding and provide an important context for assessing his contributions. His performance should neither be judged by ceremonial appearances alone nor separated from the difficult national security environment in which the ministry operates.

One of the more interesting features of Matawalle's tenure is the continuity of his service through a change in the ministry's substantive leadership. Appointed alongside former Minister of Defence Mohammed Badaru Abubakar in August 2023, Matawalle continued in office following the appointment of General Christopher Musa as Minister of Defence. The arrangement provides an opportunity to reflect on an often-overlooked dimension of leadership: the ability to function effectively within a hierarchy while maintaining the dignity of one's office and respecting the responsibilities of others.

There is something instructive about the position of a minister of state. Although the office carries considerable responsibilities, it operates within a structure in which another minister holds the principal portfolio. The relationship requires an appreciation of institutional boundaries, cooperation and a willingness to contribute to a common purpose. Where such an arrangement functions constructively, it demonstrates the importance of collective responsibility in government.

Matawalle's continued presence in the ministry may therefore be read as an occasion to examine the value of humility in public service. Humility, properly understood, is not weakness, an absence of ambition or an unwillingness to exercise authority. It is the ability to recognise that public office exists to serve institutional and national objectives rather than personal pride. It is also the willingness to work within an established order, contribute to collective decisions and recognise that leadership can be exercised without occupying the highest position in a hierarchy.

This interpretation should not be mistaken for an assumption that every aspect of the ministry's internal relationships is known to the public. Nevertheless, institutional continuity is worth acknowledging, particularly in a political environment where differences in rank, influence and access can sometimes complicate working relationships. The relevant question is whether the arrangement translates into effective coordination, clear responsibilities and better public service. That is the standard against which the value of such continuity must ultimately be measured.

Beyond the question of institutional relationships, Matawalle's stewardship can be examined through his involvement in the country's security response. In March 2024, he called for intensified military operations against terrorists and bandits in the North-West and emphasised the need for greater synergy among the armed services. In January 2025, while presenting the Ministry of Defence's budget proposal to the National Assembly, he drew attention to the need for adequate funding, modern equipment and improved operational capacity. He specifically identified the limitations imposed by insufficient military hardware, including armoured personnel carriers. These interventions reflect an understanding that the performance of the Armed Forces depends not only on the courage of personnel but also on the equipment, resources and coordination available to them.

Such advocacy is relevant because national security is not achieved by rhetoric or military deployments alone. It requires sustained investment, intelligence cooperation, effective command structures, logistics, personnel welfare and the capacity to adapt to changing threats. A minister who brings these issues before the appropriate institutions performs an important part of the policy process. The ultimate test, however, is whether advocacy leads to measurable improvements in operational readiness and the protection of communities. Public statements and official engagements are evidence of activity; they are not, by themselves, conclusive evidence of security outcomes.

Another area deserving attention is the development of Nigeria's domestic defence industry. A country that depends excessively on foreign suppliers for essential military equipment may face challenges involving cost, availability, maintenance and strategic autonomy.

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

Oluwadare is a Professor of Political Science, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

The Guardian Business

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

Nigeria reaffirms $1tr GDP target by 2030 as experts overhaul devt plan

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

NIGERIA has begun a technical review of its National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2030, with the government seeking to establish a credible policy and financing framework to drive its ambition of building a $1 trillion economy by 2030.

The review, coordinated by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, is aimed at addressing structural constraints to economic growth, strengthening investment priorities and ensuring that national development targets are backed by realistic projections, sustainable financing and measurable outcomes.

Minister of State for Budget and Economic Planning, Dr Doris Uzoka-Anite, said the successor plan must build on the lessons of the NDP 2021–2025 and provide a practical roadmap for Nigeria's economic and social transformation over the next five years.

Speaking at a stakeholders' retreat to review and finalise the draft plan, Uzoka-Anite said the document must be evidence-based, measurable and ready for implementation, with clearly defined policies, credible baseline data, realistic targets and adequate financing arrangements.

She acknowledged that the review was taking place amid significant economic and social challenges, stressing the need for the plan to identify the binding constraints holding back growth and development.

The minister said the new plan must also align with Nigeria Agenda 2050 and the Federal Government's Renewed Hope agenda, while establishing a pathway towards a diversified, inclusive and resilient $1 trillion economy.

The plan is structured around seven strategic pillars: macroeconomic stability and sustainable financing; oil, gas and energy security; economic diversification and productivity; productive infrastructure and environmental resilience; governance and public-sector transformation; peace and national security; and human capital development and inclusive growth.



Vice President, Stanford Seed Transformation Network Nigeria, Toba Obaniyi (left); President, Stanford Seed Transformation Network Nigeria, Omololami Ajani; Chief Executive Officer, FSDH Merchant Bank Limited, Bukola Smith and Director of Global Partnerships, Stanford Seed, Davis Albohm during the Two Day Seed G3 2026 themed "Resilience To Relevance: Scaling African Entreprises For Global Markets" conference held in Lagos.

NUPRC gives 22 oil block awardees 18 months to deliver first oil

By Waliat Musa

- Commission targets 250,000bpd from new awards within five years
- Defaulting firms face N10m penalty, N1m daily for late work plans

THE Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has given holders of 22 petroleum licences 18 months to achieve first oil, warning that inactive blocks will be reclaimed as the regulator moves to enforce work commitments and accelerate the development of the upstream petroleum assets.

The commission also expects the awardees to contribute 250,000 barrels per day to national production within five years, while imposing a N10 million penalty on operators who fail to submit their yearly work programmes by the prescribed deadline, followed by N1 million for every subsequent day of default.

The measures formed part of the commission's effort to ensure that licences translate into exploration, development and production, rather than remain undeveloped in the hands of operators, who lack the technical capacity, financing or operational plans to progress their assets.

Speaking at the onboarding workshop for holders of petroleum prospecting licences (PPLs), yesterday in Lagos, the commission's chief executive, Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, said the immediate priority was to ensure that the awardees commenced work and fulfilled the minimum work programmes they had committed to undertake during the licensing process.

Eyesan said the workshop was designed to guide the new licence holders through the requirements of the upstream business and put them on track to begin exploration and development activities.

She said the commission expected some of the awardees to progress towards first oil within three years, while expressing the desire to see production commence within 18 months.

"So we are sure that now that we are starting on the right track, they will push the work program and ensure that we achieve in the next five years," she said.

The 22 awards, which cover the 2022, 2023 and 2024 licensing rounds, are expected to support the commission's broader ambition of raising Nigeria's oil production to three million barrels per day by 2030.

Eyesan said the Commission's focus was not merely on the volume of licences awarded but on ensuring that the companies holding them fulfilled their commitments and developed commercially viable resources.

She said the Commission had drawn lessons from previous licensing rounds and marginal field awards, where some operators struggled to develop their assets after winning licences.

According to her, some companies assembled technical teams to participate in bidding but disbanded them after securing the assets, leaving the licence holders without the capacity to proceed with exploration and development.

The commission maintained that meeting the financial obligations associated with a licence did not automatically translate into the ability to operate an oilfield successfully. Operators must also demonstrate the technical and commercial competence required to execute their work programmes.

Eyesan warned that the commission would reclaim licences from operators who failed to undertake the required activities within the stipulated periods, stressing that extensions would not be granted automatically to companies unable to secure technical partners or financing.

"An extension is not automatic. It is not automatic," she affirmed.

She said the commission had issued a directive for the recovery of blocks that remained inactive beyond the applicable periods, identified as three years for onshore assets and five years for offshore assets.

Sunbeth raises N150b to fund cocoa procurement, processing

SUNBETH Global Concepts Limited has raised N150 billion through a commercial paper issuance to finance cocoa procurement for the 2026/2027 season and support inventory needs for its planned 70,000-metric-tonne-per-annum processing facility.

The company signed the transaction documents yesterday in Lagos, marking the first issuance under its approved N500 billion Commercial Paper Issuance Programme.

The N150 billion tranche attracted strong investor interest, recording an oversubscription of 45 per cent, as the company seeks to secure working capital for its cocoa procurement activities and prepare for the commencement of operations at its processing facility in the first quarter of next year.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Sunbeth's Chief Financial Officer, Adeyemi Aduwo, said the funding would enable the company to take advantage of the procurement window presented by the new cocoa season while advancing its processing plans.

Aduwo said: "The 2026/2027 cocoa season presents a critical procurement window, and this transaction gives us the working capital to respond efficiently to that opportunity, supporting our transition towards greater value addition."

NCC, CBN move to expand fraud detection system across sectors

By Kehinde Olatunji

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is working to extend its collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to more sectors to identify recycled telephone numbers and numbers flagged for fraud, as part of efforts to prevent unauthorised access to customers' accounts and digital services.

The Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, Dr Aminu Maida, disclosed this yesterday at the 95th Telecom Consumer Parliament held in Lagos.

Maida said the commission intended to expand the use of its Telecommunications Identity Risk Management System (TIRMS) to sectors where phone numbers are used to identify customers and conduct transactions.

"Building on our collaboration with the Central Bank of Nigeria, we intend to extend its use across sectors where phone numbers are used to identify customers and carry out transactions," he said.

He added that the system would help organisations identify recycled telephone numbers and those flagged for fraudulent activities.

"By helping organisations recognise recycled numbers and numbers flagged for fraud, TIRMS can reduce the risk of someone gaining access to another person's accounts or services," Maida said.

He explained that telephone numbers had become a critical part of digital identity, with consumers relying on them to access financial services, manage pensions and shop online.

Executive Director, Consumer Advocacy and Empowerment Foundation (CADEF), Prof. Chiso Ndukwe-Okafor, urged NCC to publish telecommunications service quality data at street and community levels to expose persistent network failures and help subscribers make informed choices.

NECA backs subsidy reform, demands prudent utilisation of oil windfalls

By Gloria Nwafor

THE Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA) has thrown its weight behind the call by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, for the Federal Government to sustain Nigeria's fuel subsidy reforms, while cautioning that the success of the policy must be measured by its impact on the economy, businesses and the welfare of Nigerians rather than the volume of revenue accruing to the government.

Speaking on the development, the Director-General of NECA, Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde, acknowledged that subsidy reform remains a critical step towards restoring fiscal sustainability, reducing pressure on public finances and freeing resources for national development.

He, however, stressed that the reform would lose its economic and social justification if the resulting fiscal gains failed to translate into improved living standards, lower production costs, job creation and greater economic opportunities.

"While we support the government's resolve to sustain subsidy reform, the ultimate measure of its success must be the tangible benefits it delivers to Nigerians. Fiscal savings and increased government revenue mean little to the average citizen if businesses continue to struggle, jobs remain threatened and households are increasingly unable to meet their basic needs," he said.

The NECA boss expressed serious concern over the persistent rise in the prices of petroleum products, noting that petrol prices reportedly averaging N1,400 per litre and diesel prices of about N1,900 per litre in some locations have further escalated operating costs for businesses and compounded the hardship faced by Nigerians.

According to him, the rising costs of energy, transportation and production continue to undermine business competitiveness, particularly among micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), many of which are already contending with weak purchasing power, infrastructure deficits and other structural challenges.

"The reality is that businesses cannot remain competitive when energy costs continue to rise without corresponding improvements in critical infrastructure. The increasing cost of petrol and diesel is putting enormous pressure on enterprises, threatening business sustainability, constraining expansion and placing jobs at risk. Government must therefore ensure that the gains from subsidy reform are deliberately channelled towards reducing these pressures," he said.

Oyerinde consequently urged the Federal Government to urgently strengthen targeted social protection programmes to cushion the impact of the reforms on vulnerable Nigerians, particularly low-income households and workers.

He emphasised that such interventions must be adequately funded, transparent and data-driven, with structures to ensure that assistance reaches those who genuinely need it. He further called for stronger collaboration among the Federal, State and Local Governments to ensure that resources accruing from subsidy savings and improved crude oil revenues produce measurable developmental outcomes.

According to him, Nigeria must resist the temptation to consume its oil windfalls.

He argued that additional revenue arising from higher crude oil prices presents an opportunity to address longstanding structural weaknesses in the economy.

Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning

32ND NIGERIAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

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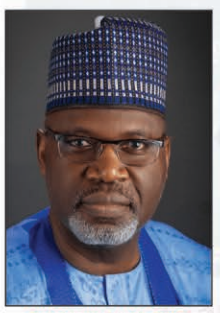
17th – 18th November, 2026 | Abuja Continental Hotel, Abuja.

Time: 10am Daily

SPEAKERS' CROSS-SECTION



RT. HON. (OBONGEMEM) EKPERIKPE EKPO
Hon. Min. of State Petroleum Resources (Gas)
Federal Republic of Nigeria



ENGR. MUSA KIDA, FNSE
Chairman
Board of Directors, NNPC



ENGR. ALI A. RABIU, FNSE, FAEng
President,
The Nigerian Society of Engineers



ENGR. PROF. SADIQ ZUBAIR ABUBAKAR, FNSE, FAEng
President, COREN



BAYO BASHIR OJULARI
Group CEO,
NNPC Limited



ENGR NGOZI ADELEKE FNSE
President of PLAN



ADACHE OMOTOSHO-OBORO
MD/ CEO, Umugini Pipeline
Infrastructure Limited



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SOLOMON EWANEHI
GCEO/Group Managing Director,
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Associate Professor
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Neconde Energy



ENGR. BABAGANA MOHAMMED FNSE
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ENGR. YUSUF USMAN, FNSE, FNSChE
CEO,
QuickFill Energies



ENGR. TONY ATTAH FNSE
MD and Chief Executive Officer
Renaissance Africa Energy Comp. Ltd.



MR NNAMDI ANOWI
General Manager Production
NLNG



ENGR. NNOLI AKPEDEYE FNSE
Non Executive Director
Aradel Holdings



ENGR. GEOFF ONUOHA FNSE
GCEO, B.G. Technical
Limited Group



ROSARIO OSOBASE
MD/CEO
Tenaris Nigeria



PROF. OLUSEGUN AYOOLA AJAYI
Department of Chemical Engineering,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria



DENNIS FANORICH
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CEO,
Amelin Projects Limited



IBRAHIM ZAKARI BIU
Sen. Reg. Officer, Host Communities
Petitions & Dispute Resolutions Unit



ENGR. FELICIA AGUBATA, PhD, FNSE
Chairman CPC

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ENGR. NGOZI ADELEKE
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SPONSORS/PARTNERS

Afreximbank commits $1 billion to finance automotive sector

By Tobi Awodipe

. Targets local manufacturing, regional value chains, jobs

THE African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) has committed $1 billion to financing Africa's automotive sector as part of efforts to boost local manufacturing, deepen intra-African trade and accelerate industrial development across the continent.

The commitment is aimed at supporting the development of an integrated pan-African automotive industry, including vehicle and component manufacturing, regional supply chains, technology transfer and investment in emerging automotive technologies.

This was disclosed at the Africa Automotive Investment Forum, organised in partnership with the African Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Egypt's Ministry of Trade and Investment and South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry.

The two-day forum brought together policymakers, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), investors and component manufacturers to explore investment opportunities and identify policy reforms needed to strengthen Africa's automotive industry.

The bank said the sector remains a strategic priority because of its potential to drive industrialisation, create skilled jobs, strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and reduce the continent's dependence on imported vehicles.

Speaking, Executive Vice President, Intra-African Trade and Export Development at Afreximbank, Kanayo Awani, said the sector is central to the bank's ambition to support structural economic transformation and expand trade under the AfCFTA framework.

She said investment in the industry would help build manufacturing capacity, integrate regional value chains, stimulate employment and position African producers to compete more effectively in the global industrial economy.

She identified vehicle component manufacturing as a significant investment opportunity, noting that Africa could leverage its growing skills base and abundant raw materials, including lithium, cobalt, manganese, nickel, copper, iron and steel, to develop a more competitive automotive ecosystem.

Taja hits 50,000 users as monthly transactions surge

By Adeyemi Adepetun

FINANCIAL technology company, Taja has reached a major milestone, surpassing 50,000 active users while driving monthly transaction volumes worth millions of dollars. This rapid growth underscores the platform's rising influence in digital commerce, fuelled by a seamless user experience and trust in its secure financial ecosystem. The achievement not only highlights strong adoption but also signals Taja's momentum as it scales to meet increasing demand across diverse markets.

Taja provides a unified platform that enables Africans to send, receive, convert and spend money globally with greater ease.

Since its launch in 2024, Taja has scaled to serve more than 50,000 users and currently processes millions of dollars in transaction volume each month. The platform operates across key African markets, including Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire, connecting users to major global currencies and payment networks across the United Kingdom and the United States.



Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, First City Monument Bank (FCMB), Yemisi Edun(left); Vice-President, European Investment Bank (EIB), Ambroise Fayolle and Deputy Director-General, European Commission, Marjeta Jager, at the signing ceremony of an €85 million credit facility to support private-sector companies across agricultural value chains in Nigeria at the annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group held at Bangkok, Thailand recently.

Robust risk management to fuel Abbey Bank's commercial pivot

By Helen Oji

STRONG risk management, improved technology and adequate capital will underpin Abbey Bank Plc's expansion into commercial banking in November 2026, as the former mortgage bank prepares to extend its services to individuals, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and corporate customers.

The transition will enable the bank to expand beyond mortgage financing and real estate development into business lending, trade finance and other financial services for individuals and companies.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Abbey Bank, Mobolaji Adewumi, said the bank was upgrading its technology infrastructure and strengthening its operational capacity ahead of the commencement of full commercial banking operations.

He said discussions on the transition began in 2023, with a formal application submitted in 2024. Regulatory approval was granted in October 2024, while the commercial banking licence was issued in June 2026 after the bank completed its capital-raising process.

Adewumi described the transition as a major milestone in the bank's history, saying it reflected the institution's growth and the confidence of its regulators, shareholders, customers and employees.

He said the bank would build on its more than three decades of experience in mortgage financing and real estate development to serve a wider range of customers and businesses.

Abbey Bank recorded an improvement in its financial performance in 2025, with profit after tax rising to N3.12 billion from N1.22 billion in 2024, according to the figures provided by the bank.

As part of its preparations, the bank is upgrading its banking application, corporate banking platform and mobile banking services.

Rewane cautions FG against overprotecting tech sector

By Benjamin Alade

MANAGING Director of Financial Derivatives Company, Bismarck Rewane, has urged the Federal Government to prioritise support for businesses over protectionist policies, saying the approach would improve productivity, promote innovation and strengthen Nigeria's competitiveness.

Rewane, who spoke at the Tech Outlook 2027 organised by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and Sath Foundation in Lagos yesterday, said government policies should focus on enabling businesses to become more productive rather than shielding them from competition.

"The government's role is not just to protect, but to support. When you try to protect, you actually protect inefficiency. But if you support, you enhance productivity," he said.

He called for a policy shift towards supporting enterprise development, enhancing productivity and encouraging stronger linkages across economic sectors.

According to him, Nigeria's economic growth prospects depend partly on the ability of businesses to collaborate across industries, expand their markets and compete effectively beyond the domestic economy.

Rewane said businesses were increasingly focused on growth and profitability, while more entrepreneurs and investors were beginning to recognise the importance of expanding beyond Nigeria into West and Central Africa.

"Being a local champion in Nigeria is not going to do it for you. You've got to actually focus on regional integration and being competitive amongst your peers," he said.

Rising U.S. demand pushes Nigeria's cocoa exports to $142 millio

By Isaac Chibuife

NIGERIA's cocoa bean exports to the United States rose more than sixfold to $142 million in 2025, from $21.7 million in 2024, according to the U.S. Mission in Nigeria.

The mission released the figures yesterday, saying that trade between the two countries runs in two directions, with wheat accounting for 67 per cent of U.S. agricultural exports to Nigeria.

Cocoa remains one of Nigeria's leading non-oil agricultural exports. The country is the world's fourth-largest producer, and hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers, mainly in Ondo, Cross River, Osun and other southwestern and south-south states, depend on it for their livelihood.

Cocoa was Nigeria's top foreign exchange earner in the 1950s and 1960s, with output peaking in the early 1970s. Investment shifted to oil afterwards, and the sector declined.

Industry observers attribute the latest rise to higher global prices and Nigeria's push to diversify exports away from crude oil. They noted, however, that most Nigerian cocoa is still shipped as raw beans rather than processed products. Stronger U.S. demand could benefit farmers and exporters if quality standards and logistics improve, they added.

On the import side, U.S. wheat supports Nigeria's milling industry, which produces bread and flour for the country's large urban population.

The U.S. Mission described the relationship as "fair, two-way trade that works for farmers, businesses, and families on both sides of the Atlantic." Sustained growth in cocoa exports could raise rural incomes and foreign exchange earnings, provided ageing trees, limited access to finance and climate pressures are addressed.

Experts urge African businesses to adopt data-driven systems for long-term growth

By Adelowo Adebumiti

CORPORATE leaders, human capital strategists, and organisational development experts have called for a fundamental shift toward data-driven systems, scientific management, and structured workplace execution to guarantee long-term business sustainability across Nigeria's rapidly evolving economic landscape.

The experts delivered the charge at the fourth edition of the High Impact Professional Seminar in Lagos.

Gathering under the thematic banner: "Impact That Scales," the experts warned that a pervasive reliance on sensationalism, unmeasured workplace activities, and informal "anything goes" business practices continues to handicap the growth and longevity of both small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and corporate institutions across West Africa.

Convener of HIPS, and Founder, The Talk Office, Njuara Njama, stressed that sustainable enterprise growth is virtually impossible without establishing robust internal structures and execution intelligence.

Njama observed that while the national economic discourse remains heavily skewed toward the glamorisation of startup culture and entrepreneurship, true macro-economic stability hinges on building functional, data-backed operational systems for the working professionals who execute those commercial visions day to day.

World Bank unveils digital strategy to drive jobs for 1.2b youth

By Isaac Chibuife

THE World Bank Group has launched its first digital strategy to expand Internet access, reduce connectivity costs and support job creation in developing countries, where 1.2 billion young people are expected to reach working age over the next 10 to 15 years.

The strategy, unveiled in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday, comes as developing economies are projected to generate only about 420 million jobs over the same period, highlighting the challenge of employing the growing youth population.

World Bank Group President, Ajay Banga, said countries needed a comprehensive approach to harness the economic benefits of digital technology, including reliable internet connections, affordable devices, digital skills and access to useful online services.

He said the strategy would help countries build the infrastructure and skills needed to benefit from digital technology, particularly small-scale artificial intelligence (AI) applications.

According to the World Bank, more than two billion people globally were offline in 2025. Internet use stood at 23 per cent in low-income countries, compared with 94 per cent in high-income economies.

The bank noted that many people live in areas covered by mobile networks but remain unable to access the internet because of the high cost of smartphones and data, limited digital skills and a lack of relevant services.

The strategy has four priorities. On connectivity, the bank will support efforts to close gaps in international cables, national networks and connections serving homes, businesses, schools and health facilities. It plans to use shared infrastructure, competition, public financing and guarantees to attract private investment. In areas lacking both electricity and internet access, the bank said the two would be planned together to improve access.

To address affordability, it will work with device manufacturers, mobile network operators, financial institutions and refurbishment businesses to reduce the cost of entry-level smartphones and broadband services. Financing options that allow consumers to pay over time will also be explored.

The strategy will support digital identification systems, electronic payments and secure information-sharing platforms, alongside digital literacy programmes and training linked to employment opportunities.

Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority

REF NO: NSIA/LA/EOI/NIFG/2026/001

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE NIGERIA INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING AND DE-RISKING PLATFORM FOR GROWTH AND JOBS (INFRAGROW)

1. ABOUT NIGERIA SOVEREIGN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority is an investment institution established by the NSIA (Establishment, Etc) Act 2011 and co-owned by all the federating units of Nigeria. The Authority was established to achieve three broad mandates, which essentially are to:

a. build a savings base for the Nigerian people
b. enhance the development of Nigerian infrastructure, and
c. provide stabilization support in times of economic stress.

These mandates are to be achieved through the management and investment of three statutorily fixed and ring-fenced funds, via the Nigeria Infrastructure Fund, the Future Generations Fund, and the Stabilization Fund.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), in partnership with the World Bank, is in the process of establishing the Nigeria Infrastructure Financing and De-Risking Platform for Growth and Jobs (INFRAGROW) (the "Platform"): a purpose-built, full-stack de-risking platform that moves infrastructure projects through an integrated conveyor belt of bankability under a consolidated Group structure. The Platform comprises a holding company (HoldCo) and four ring-fenced subsidiaries.

To mobilize private capital at scale, the Platform functions through four distinct but interlinked institutional Facilities:

a. Project Preparation Facility (PPF) – The "Factory"
b. Viability Gap Fund (VGF) – The "Bridge"
c. Risk Capital Facility (RCF) – The "Investor"
d. Credit Guarantee Vehicle (CGV) – The "Guarantor"

To complete the suite of foundational advisory services required for the operationalisation of the Platform, it is now necessary to procure a suitably qualified Legal Advisor. The Legal Advisor will be responsible for developing the comprehensive legal and regulatory architecture underpinning the Platform, bringing HoldCo and each subsidiary to legally operational, regulatory-ready and third-party capital ready status, and supporting the first institutional capital close and the Group launch.

3. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The scope of services includes but is not limited to:

- Regulatory and Enabling Framework
- Entity and Inter-Facility Documentation
- Fund Formation and Capital-Raise Documentation
- Pathfinder Transaction Interface
- Counterparty and Partnership Agreements
- Compliance and Fiduciary Framework
- The Legal Advisor will be expected to work closely with the financial and technical advisory teams (the Lender's Technical and Financial Adviser), the Unified Operating System Consultant and with the WBG's legal and fiduciary teams, to ensure a fully integrated and legally sound platform. Tax, regulatory and offshore specialist counsel may be separately engaged by NSIA and will be coordinated by the Legal Advisor.

Detailed Terms of Reference (ToR) will be provided to shortlisted firms at the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.

4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Interested law firms, acting individually or in association, must meet the following minimum eligibility requirements to be considered:

a. Each member of the applicant must be a law firm authorised to practice in its home jurisdiction.
b. The applicant must include a Nigerian law firm, whether as lead firm, joint venture partner or named associate.
c. The Applicant, or in the case of a Consortium/Joint Venture, the Consortium member(s) collectively, must have completed the following within the past ten (10) years:
   i. at least five (5) assignments establishing investment funds, investment vehicles, blended-finance platforms or guarantee platforms with development finance institution or institutional investor participation and aggregate commitments of at least US$100 million, of which the member proposed to lead the fund formation workstream must have completed at least two (2);
   ii. at least one (1) assignment for a guarantee or credit enhancement institution, or involving multilateral credit-support or risk-sharing arrangements;
   iii. at least two (2) matters involving approvals or registrations from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Central Bank of Nigeria, the National Pension Commission or the National Insurance Commission, or Federal Government clearances. It is an advantage if the applicant has carried outwork relating to investment ratings and rating enhancement for investment platforms, and can provide evidence of such work.
d. No member of the applicant, nor any proposed partner, may be debarred or cross-debarred by the World Bank Group or any other global multilateral development institution, or be subject to applicable sanctions, or have been found to have engaged in fraud or corruption within the past five (5) years.
e. No member of the applicant may:
   i. form part of the consortium appointed as Lender's Technical and Financial Adviser or Unified Operating System Consultant to the Platform;
   ii. act for InfraCredit, MIGA, any World Bank Group entity or any development finance institution in a matter relating to the Platform; or
   iii. act, or be proposed to act, as transaction counsel on a Platform pathfinder transaction. Other engagements for such institutions must be disclosed and will be assessed but are not of themselves disqualifying.
f. Applicants must confirm their willingness to contract on NSIA's standard engagement terms for professional advisers, with any proposed departures to be identified at the Request for Proposal stage.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

NSIA enforces strict conflict of interest disclosure requirements for staff and consultants involved in procurement. All actual, perceived, or potential conflicts must be declared and managed appropriately to ensure objective and impartial decision-making.

6. IMPORTANT NOTICES

- Only shortlisted firms will be invited to participate in the next stage of the procurement process.
- NSIA reserves the right to verify all information provided and to reject submissions at any stage if false or misleading information is detected.
- This invitation does not constitute a commitment on the part of NSIA to award any contract.
- NSIA shall not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred in connection with the preparation or submission of any EOI.
- The submission deadline is **11:59 p.m. (WAT)**, two weeks from the date of publication. Late submissions will not be accepted.

For more information on this REOI, please visit the NSIA website at **https://nsia.com.ng or the NSIA Procurement Vendor Management System (PVMS) at https://pvms.nsia.com.ng**

Signed:
Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority

ANRiN

ADDENDUM NO.1

TO

Specific Procurement Notice Request for Bids- Goods

(One-Envelope Bidding Process)

Country: Nigeria
Issued on: 19th October 2026
Name of Project: Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria. 2.0.- Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security.
Contract Title: Establishment Of Homestead Gardens: **Agricultural Equipment.**
Lot 1: Benue, Ebonyi, Kogi, Kwara, Nasarawa, Niger, Osun.
Lot 2: Kaduna, Kano, Katsina Kebbi, Jigawa, Sokoto, Zamfara.
Lot 3: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Plateau, Taraba, Yobe.
Credit No.: CR-IDA-77440
RFB Reference No.: RFB NO: NG-PMU-2.0-571505-GO-RFB

1.The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRIN) Project 2.0 and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Establishment of Homestead Gardens: **Agricultural Equipment**.

For this contract, the Borrower shall process the payments using the Direct Payment disbursement method, as defined in the World Bank's Disbursement Guidelines for Investment Project Financing, except for those payments, which the contract provides to be made through letter of credit.

2. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security - Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRIN 2.0) Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Homestead Gardens -: **Agricultural Equipment**
The descriptions of goods are provided in Section II –Bid data sheet (BDS) ITB1.1 and the distribution to end lines is on Annex1 attached to the bidding document.

3. Bidding will be conducted through Open National Competitive procurement using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" February A2025 ("Procurement Regulations") and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.

4.The reason for the addendum is due to the re scoping of the RFB.

Date of Originally issued: 21st September 2026.
Original Bid Opening Date: October 22, 2026
New Bid Submission/Closing Date: November 3, 2026: 12:00 PM

Key Modifications and Updates

- **Extension of Closing Date:** The deadline for the submission and opening of bids has been extended by one week. Bids must now be submitted on or before **November 3, 2026**.
- **Section IV:-Adjustment of Quantities / Price schedule:** The procurement quantities for the feed lots have been revised.
- **Section VII: - Changes to Schedule of Delivery:** The delivery timeline and schedule for the agricultural feeds have been updated. Bidders are advised to carefully review the revised delivery framework in the updated bidding document.

1. **Bid Security Amount:** The required bid security amount has been updated to reflect the revised quantities and scope. All Bids must be accompanied by **Bid Security Lot 1: USD 19,000 Lot 2: USD19,000 Lot 3: USD19,000** from a Commercial Bank.
2. **ITB 37.1 Qualification criteria: -** Cash flow requirement **Lot 1.USD 621,691. Lot 2. USD 621,691 Lot 3. USD 621,691**
3. **ITB 37.1 Eligibility criteria: -** Specific Experience **Lot 1.USD 466,268. Lot 2. USD 466,268. Lot 3. USD 466,268.**
Important Instructions to Bidders
4. **Previously Purchased Bid Forms:** Bidders who have already purchased the bid forms prior to this addendum **are requested not to purchase them again**. Your initial purchase remains valid for this revised process.
5. **Access to Updated Documents:** All interested and eligible bidders are strongly advised to visit the official ANRiN project website www.anrinproject.com.ng to download and review the updated **Request for Bids (RFB)** document, which contains the complete details regarding the revised quantities, delivery schedule, and bid security.
6. Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
7. The address referred to above is:
Accelerating Nutrition Results in Nigeria (ANRiN 2.0) Project,
Attn: - Dr. Dogara Okara– National Project Manager, Project Management Unit,
No. 21B Agadez Crescent Wuse 2, Abuja FCT, Nigeria.
Tel: +234-8034504889 & +2348034502133
E-mail: okaradb@gmail.com
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The Man Who Turned Vision Into A University — And A University Into A Nation

By Kolawole Igandan

Today marks the grand finale of all events culminating to the highly prestigious convocation at the Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti(ABUAD). Gowns will float and trumpets will sound for another set of graduates. The world will pause to honour the man who made it all possible. On this same day, two distinguished North American institutions — Trinity International University, USA, and Trinity Western University, Canada — will confer on Aare Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws. A double honour, for a double life lived in full.

It is easy to call him a lawyer. But that would be incomplete. To call him an educationist is true, but insufficient. Philanthropist, farmer, community builder, reformer — each title fits, yet none captures the wholeness of the man. What defines Aare Afe Babalola at 95 is not what he has been called, but what he has consistently done: turn impossibility into an institution.

Born into modest means in Ado-Ekiti and driven by a childhood hunger for schooling, he educated himself through sheer will — attending classes in the day, farming at dusk, studying under kerosene lamps at night. That early encounter with deprivation became his philosophy. From the village primary school to London where he earned his law degree by private study and became one of Nigeria's most brilliant advocates, he learnt that education is not a privilege to be enjoyed, but a tool to be deployed.

In law, he was forensic, fearless and famously thorough. For over six decades at the Bar, he redefined advocacy in Nigeria. Judges listened when Afe Babalola rose, because he came prepared with authorities, with facts, with logic that left little room for doubt. He produced law books, law reports, and generations of lawyers who now sit on the Bench, in Senior Advocate chambers, and in corporate boardrooms. But his greatest brief was not in court; it was for Nigeria itself.

That brief led him to philanthropy long before it became fashionable. In Ekiti, his footprints are everywhere — schools renovated, roads graded, hospitals equipped, churches and mosques supported, indigent students paid for without announcement. The Emmanuel Chambers and the Afe Babalola Foundation became conduits for quiet, relentless giving. He did not give to be seen; he gave because he remembered what it was to have nothing.

And then came ABUAD — his magnum opus. At an age when most men retire to memoirs, at 80, he decided to build a university that would shame the excuses of Nigeria. He did not ask government for land; he provided it. He did not wait for TETFund; he funded it. In 2009, on 130 hectares of rocks and gullies, he began. By 2010, ABUAD admitted its first students. Today, sixteen years later, what stands in Ado-Ekiti is nothing short of miraculous: a university ranked consistently as Nigeria's best private university, with its own industrial park, 400-bed multi-system hospital, talent discovery centre, modern farm that feeds its community, and a pedagogy that insists students must not only learn, but produce.



This is where his recent interventions matter most. While the national conversation laments unemployable graduates, ABUAD graduates are taught to be employers. While others debate theory versus practice, ABUAD built factories inside the campus. While our health sector exports patients abroad, ABUAD Hospital performs open-heart surgeries, renal transplants and advanced procedures, keeping foreign exchange at home. In agriculture, his vast farm in Ado-Ekiti and Gbagura have become laboratories for food security, creating jobs for thousands of young people.

Aare Babalola's recent voice on national issues has also been uncompromising. He has called for a new constitution, for true functional education, for a moratorium on new universities until existing ones are properly funded, for agriculture as the real oil. He speaks not as a politician seeking votes, but as a patriot burdened by what Nigeria could be.

So when Trinity International University, USA, a great evangelical institution known for law, ministry and academic rigour, and Trinity Western University, Canada, one of that country's foremost Christian liberal arts universities with global acclaim, both decide on the same convocation day to honour him with Doctor of Laws, they are not merely honouring a man. They are honouring a model — proof that an African can build a world-class institution without government funding, without foreign loan, with only vision, integrity and hard work.

On this ABUAD convocation day, as caps are thrown in joy, the double honour sits fittingly on a head already crowned by service. For those of us who have written about him for years, each new honour feels like a new chapter in a book that refuses to end.

Because men like Aare Afe Babalola do not retire. They simply open new departments in the university of life.

Congratulations, Sir.

*•**Kolawole Igandan** is a public affairs analyst and media consultant based in Lagos.*

Afe Babalola, an example of sowing and reaping

By Tunde Olofintila

The Composer of the popular song in the Christendom today, to wit: "Everything Na Double-Double" must have had the Founder & Chancellor of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, ABUAD, Aare Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE, in mind when he composed the song.

This is because the totality of that song tallies with today's conferment of the Honourary Doctor of Laws (LL. D) of Trinity Western University, Canada, TWU, and Trinity International University, USA, TIU, on Babalola, the valiant Entrepreneur, the unsparing philanthropist, the proponent of quality, functional and impactful education and a man with a voracious appetite for excellence.

But then, Babalola is not new to the concept of "double-double". Afterall, he earned two Bachelor's Degrees (B.Sc. in Economics 1959 and LL. B (Hons) in 1963) from the University of London through the University's International Programmes.


•Olofintila

In addition to the above and in appreciation of his incredible and immeasurable contributions to humanity, the University of London conferred on this legal giant its Honourary Doctor of Laws at an impressive ceremony attended by representatives from 92 countries on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, thus making him a triple Alumnus of the University, having obtained the University's B. Sc. (Econs) in 1959 and LL. B in 1963.

The Honourary Award has also made Babalola the first African to be so honoured with an LLD in the 179-year history of the University of London bearing in mind that former South African President Nelson Mandela received the honorary Doctorate Degree in Economics of the University in 1996 while Archbishop Desmond Tutu was conferred with the Honorary Degree in Divinity at a ceremony held in the Senate House on December 2, 2008, to celebrate the anniversary of the foundation of the University.

Without any iota of doubt, today's double Awards by two international universities of note are firmly rooted in the scriptures, to wit: Genesis 8:22, II Corinthians 9: 6 and Luke 6:38.

Whereas Genesis 8:22 says: "As long as the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest... shall not cease", II Corinthians 9: 6 says: "But this I say, He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully". On its part, Luke 6:38 says: "Give, it shall be given to you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom, for with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again".

It is a notorious fact that Nigerians have an uncanny penchant for titles. No wonder, they had since left the palatial palaces of royal fathers for the ivory tower, shopping for titles to satisfy and further inflate their already bloated egos. Unfortunately, universities are ever ready to play ball by making these academic titles available to the highest bidders, not minding whether they are worthy and deserving of such titles in the first instance.

But Babalola's case is patently

•Continued on page xxx

Afe Babalola, an example of sowing and reaping

•*Continued from page xxx*

different. In his own case, whereas some others are shopping for titles, this many-sided frontline legal icon whose life is defined by and predicated on the superlative virtues of hard work, determination, dedication, excellence, philanthropy and patriotism is being rewarded nationally and internationally for his stellar investments in education and in other spheres of human endeavour. The latest is the Honourary LL. D of TWU, Canada and TIU, US.

After making his marks in legal practice, he veered into education by establishing ABUAD in 2009 to teach Nigerians how a university properly so-called should be run. He accompanied the university with his 400-bed ABUAD Multi-System Hospital which was commissioned on October 20, 2017, and commenced clinical operations on March 21, 2018.

Luckily and in full realization of his dream, hope and vision, his university was rated by Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Ratings on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, as No. 1 in Nigeria for five consecutive years (2022-2026), No. 2. in Africa and No. 72 globally, making it the only Nigerian university rated among the Best 100 universities in the world, while the ABUAD Multi-System Hospital has been acknowledged by leading Healthcare stakeholders as "the most well-equipped Hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa".

For his sundry contributions to humanity, including building and donating towering edifices to Universities, Hospitals, Professional Bodies, Social Bodies and offering multi-million Naira scholarships to outstanding students and the needy, society, locally and internationally, has not failed to acknowledge Babalola's immense contributions to make the world a better place to live in.

Before the twin TWU and TIU Awards today, Babalola has has earned 12 Fellowships from reputable institutions and frontline Professional Bodies such as King's College, London, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Nigeria Academy of Pharmacy, and eight Honourary Doctorate Degrees from some Nigerian and foreign universities including University of London, University of Lagos, University of Ibadan and the elite Nigerian Defence Academy.

The news of today's icing on the cake of Babalola's assemblage of Honourary Degrees was made known on Friday, July 10, 2026, when Dr. Philip Laird, the Senior Vice President, Global Engagement & Government Relations, Trinity Western University, Canada, (TWU), presented the invitations from the two universities to Babalola in Ado-Ekiti.

Laird who is currently on secondment to Trinity International University, USA, (TIU) affirmed that the proposed conferral by Trinity Western University, TWU, Canada, and Trinity International University, TIU, US, represents one of the highest distinctions the universities can bestow on anyone.

Emphasizing the exclusiveness of the Awards, Laird said that "They are reserved for individuals whose lives and accomplishments have made exceptional contributions to society and whose influence extends far beyond the boundaries of their profession".

His words: "In honouring you, we recognize your extraordinary impact on legal scholarship, educational innovation, philanthropy, social development, nation-building, and leadership. Yet I must say with sincerity that the privilege belongs not only to the recipient. Indeed, the greater honour belongs to us. It is the privilege of Trinity Western University in Canada and Trinity International University in the United States to be associated with your remarkable legacy.

He added: "It is our privilege to welcome you into the fellowship of our most distinguished honorary graduates. It is our privilege to celebrate a man whose life demonstrates the noblest aspirations of humanity: excellence without arrogance, achievement accompanied by generosity, influence guided by wisdom, and leadership grounded in service.

"And so today, as we look forward with anticipation to October 21, 2026, when our institutions will formally confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, we do so with immense gratitude and admiration.

"Aare Afe Babalola, your life has enriched countless communities. Your vision has empowered generations. Your legacy has strengthened Africa and elevated global higher education. You have shown us that one person's faith, determination, and commitment to the common good can alter the course of history.

"For this reason, your name will continue to inspire students, educators, leaders, and citizens for generations to come. On behalf of Trinity Western University and Trinity International University, we thank you, we honour you, we appreciate you and we celebrate you.

"May God continue to bless you with health, wisdom, and strength. And may your extraordinary legacy continue to illuminate the path for future generations throughout Africa and across the world".

"Your remarkable legal career established standards of excellence that have earned admiration throughout Nigeria and beyond. Yet it is through education that your legacy may shine most brightly. Through the founding of ABUAD, you created far more than a university. You created a beacon. A beacon of scholarship. A beacon of innovation. A beacon of ethical leadership. A beacon illuminating the path toward a stronger and more prosperous Africa.

"ABUAD stands today as living testimony to what happens when vision is combined with courage, commitment, resources, and faith in the limitless potential of young people. Its classrooms, laboratories, clinics, farms, and centres of innovation are not merely facilities, they are instruments of transformation, preparing future leaders who will shape nations and improve lives. And while many leaders speak about change, Aare Afe Babalola chose to build it.

"While many imagine a better future, you invested your life in creating it. While many seek recognition, you have devoted yourself to service. It is therefore entirely fitting that Trinity Western University should recognize in Aare Afe Babalola a leader whose values resonate deeply with our own commitment to character, excellence, service, and transformational education".

Reacting to the dual developments, Babalola observed that it is not often that two universities of note in Canada and the US would send someone to Nigeria to inform someone who grew up on the farm, some seven miles from Ado township, without basic clothing, of impending Awards by two leading universities in the world.

Babalola, who said he did not know whether to laugh or weep about the latest developments in his life, added: "But here I am today being celebrated by two great universities, one in Canada and the other in the United States of America. I give glory to God for what He has enabled me to achieve".

He said what would surprise Laird and indeed every other person is the fact that he (Babalola) deliberately elected not to write a will which would only take care of his children but instead chose to do something that would benefit the world at large: the establishment of his private university in 2009 for the entrenchment of functional, quality and impactful education that would change the country for the better.

According to him, the June 24, 2026, rating of his university by Times Higher education Impact Sustainability Ratings as No.1 University in Nigeria for five consecutive years (2022-2026), No. 2 in Africa and No. 72 globally constitute a happy and welcome realization of his hope, dream and wish of setting up his university.

He added: "Today, the world is aware of the difference I am making through my university. That is why Dr. Laird is here to represent two universities which are honouring me with their Honourary Doctor of Laws Degrees for which I am eternally grateful".

Babalola has sowed in rain and shine. This is his harvest time. He had sowed bountifully and he is equally reaping bountifully, happily and satisfactorily. He has given. Both national and international societies are now giving back to him, good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over.

Nigerians, particularly the students should emulate Babalola. They should go a step further to always remember the mercurial words of Joseph Addison, an English Essayist, who once said that: "Education is a companion which no misfortune can depress, no enemy can alienate, no deposition can enslave. At home, (it is) a friend, abroad, an introduction, in solitude, a place and in society, an ornament. It chastens vice, it guides virtue, it gives, at once, grace and government, to genius. Without it, what is man? A splendid slave, a reasoning savage".

If we are not to become mere splendid slaves and reasoning savages, we must appreciate the place and the import of education, garnished with learning and character, as a tool to developing a person into a total man. Besides, we must always remember that the triumph of evil over good is only ephemeral.

•***Olofintila*** *is ABUAD's Director of Corporate Affairs.*

Celebrating a true Global Citizen

By Damilola Olawuyi

In 1996, the world stood still in awe when former South African President, Nelson Mandela received eight honorary doctorate degrees in one day from universities in the United Kingdom. A special ceremony had to be held in one venue in London for the universities to present the awards together.

Only a few global citizens like Nelson Mandela, Desmond Tutu, Barack Obama, and Aare Afe Babalola, SAN have managed to achieve such distinct recognition and honour locally from their own people, and from people outside the shores of their community, state and country. Like Mandela in 1996, a higher level of history is repeating itself today with two Universities, this time not from one country, but from two countries, namely Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, United States coming together to honour a global citizen of Nigerian extraction, Aare Emmanual Afe Babalola, and holding at a venue of great relevance, Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti (ABUAD), an internationally engaged world-class University, as recently confirmed by the latest Times Higher Education (THE) World University Impact Rankings which places ABUAD as no 1 in Nigeria, 3rd in Africa, 72nd globally, and the only Nigerian institution to break into the top 100 worldwide.

Today's celebration, happening at this world-class university established by this global citizen, is therefore not a recognition for a beacon of transformational education, but a global recognition of how one person's bold vision and dream to change the face of education in his own community and country, continues to underscore the transformative power of education as a passport to global citizenship and borderless possibilities.

For several years, the Nigerian education system lacked such rare breeds of global citizens capable of earning global trust. Stagnated by years of acute underfunding, perennial strikes, government neglect, and infrastructure decay, Nigerian universities waned in quality to such a pitiable extent that they would not even receive a mention in the list of top 1000 universities in the world! Students, parents, academics, and stakeholders longed for a Global Citizen who will understand the problems, challenge the old ways of doing things, and provide a path for the reform of the waning higher education system in Nigeria.


•Olawuyi

In 2001, former President Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR, known for his tireless knack for quality, found his ideal man: a sartorially elegant and well-decorated lawyer, revered advocate, relentless human rights crusader, prolific author, cerebral legal scholar, a natural leader, and the Aare Bamofin (Attorney General) of Yoruba Land - Aare Emmanuel Afe Babalola, SAN, CON, OFR, and appointed him the Pro-Chancellor of the University of Lagos. Aare Afe Babalola's impact as a seasoned and iconic administrator was immediate.

In addition to declining his salary for this role, Aare Afe Babalola, SAN single-handedly donated buildings, books, ICT tools, grants and scholarships to the University. The multi-million Afe Babalola Hall that he bequeathed to UNILAG was commissioned in 2006, as a physical reminder of Aare Afe Babalola's selfless sacrifice and impact during his remarkable tenure which won him the award of Best Pro-Chancellor in Nigeria twice. The African Iconoclast has bequeathed over 20 multi-million buildings and grants to other professional learned societies and universities, including the University of Ibadan (UCH Nuclear Medicine Building); University of Ado Ekiti Faculty of Law; Federal Polytechnic Ado-Ekiti, and more recently the King's College, London, amongst others. These and several other philanthropic donations have widely opened the door to Nigeria's poorest and often forgotten people to access quality education thereby unlocking their life potentials.

Aare Afe Babalola's pursuit of reformatory and technology-driven education led him to establish ABUAD. ABUAD has since 2009 surpassed expectations to become ranked as the best University in Nigeria and one of the first 80 in the world. Aare Afe Babalola has used his knowledge of the law to save higher education system in Nigeria from stagnation and decay. His place in history as a Global Citizen and Father of Higher Education Reform in Africa is fully assured.

When you read about Aare Afe Babalola's legal accomplishments from afar, you see excellence. When you meet him in person, you see intellect, eloquence and humility. When you move closer to him and learn of his humble beginnings, you see miracle, the impossibility made possible. Baba Aare Afe Babalola is one of the most caring mentors of all time. He considers the welfare of his junior colleagues and staff as his supreme calling.

I am one of the most fortunate beneficiaries of his kind mentoring as he single-handedly mentored, motivated and supported me to apply for the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) rank. It is beyond inspirational and only fitting that his university -Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti (ABUAD), became the very first private University in Nigeria to produce a SAN, when I was named a SAN in 2020, at the age of just 37 years. Aare Afe Babalola therefore remains the only lawyer in Nigeria to have produced SANs in both the advocate and academic categories. Like Nelson Mandela, Aare Afe Babalola's selfless passion for mentoring and societal reform carries important lessons for people of all ages and time.

Like Mandela, if one were to fully compile a list of honorary doctorates earned by Aare Afe Babalola, then his title will be Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr.... Aare Afe Babalola. At ABUAD, we are fortunate to have as our Chancellor and Founder this highly revered educationist, global citizen and exceptionally gifted administrator, whose towering and reformatory impact has won him ardent admirers, friends and adopted children in law practice, academia, agriculture, political arena, international, regional, state and local communities.

On behalf of myself and the entire legal academia, I wish our great mentor Baba Aare Afe Babalola many more years in perfect health, supernatural blessings, and divine grace. Amen.

•**Professor Damilola Sunday Olawuyi,** SAN, FCIArb

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Innovation, and Strategic Partnerships (RISP) Afe Babalola University Ado Ekiti

Chair, United Nations Working Group on Business and Human Rights

CELEBRATING
A MAN OF EXCELLENCE

The Board of Trustees, Management and Staff of Afe Babalola University Multi-System Hospital (AMSH), acknowledged by leading healthcare stakeholders as ***"The most well-equipped Hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa"*** identify with our great icon, the Founder & Proprietor of AMSH, the incomparable

AARE AFE BABALOLA,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE,

on the occasion of his conferment with the Honourary Doctor of Laws Degrees by two international universities, Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA,

today, Wednesday, October 21, 2026.



Your dedication, philanthropy, hard work and willingness to make people around you happy are truly inspiring.

You have been an inspiration to many and have impacted humanity in many positive and pleasant ways for which history will etch your name in glittering letters of gold.

We at AMSH are proud of you. We congratulate you on this uncommon milestone achievement and pray that your legacy of making Nigeria and the world a better place for all to live in will endure for generations



Hearty Congratulations & *Happy Celebrations*

Courtesy:
Prof. Akinola Akinmade
Chief Medical Director

ABUAD... A Vision In Action

Celebration & Jubilation

All of us in ABUAD Business School, Ibadan, and Afe Babalola International Study Centre, Ibadan,

congratulate our leader and mentor

AARE AFE BABALOLA,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE,

on the momentous occasion of his conferment with the Honourary Doctor of Laws of two international universities, Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA,

today, Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

These rare honours, according to Dr. Philip Laird, the Senior Vice President, Global Engagement & Government Relations, Trinity Western University, Canada, (TWU), "Are reserved for individuals whose lives and accomplishments have made exceptional contributions to society and whose influence extends far beyond the boundaries of their profession.

"In honouring you, we recognize your extraordinary impact on legal scholarship, educational innovation, philanthropy, social development, nation-building, and leadership. Yet I must say with sincerity that the privilege belongs not only to the recipient. Indeed, the greater honour belongs to us. It is the privilege of Trinity Western University in Canada and Trinity International University in the United States to be associated with your remarkable legacy".

It is entirely heart-warming that your noble contributions, which will remain indelible in the minds of this generation and those coming behind, continue to be acknowledged in the global arena

Baba, we congratulate you and we share in the joy of the moment. We pray the years ahead will bring you more successes, good health, peace of mind and numerous blessings as you continue to impact humanity in all your other endeavours.

We celebrate you and celebrate with you.

We look forward to many more of these honours in appreciation of your noble and stellar contributions to humanity.



Hearty Congratulations, Baba

From all of us at ABUAD Business School, Ibadan,
the Citadel of Academic and Professional Postgraduate Programmes,
and Afe Babalola International Study Centre, Ibadan,
the Citadel of Foundation Programmes.

Signed:
Prof. Emmanuel A. Ayodeji
Executive Director.

ANOTHER SET OF INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR
AARE AFE BABALOLA, OFR, CON, SAN

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matthew 6 [21]

The Board of Trustees, Governing Council, Senate, Staff and Students of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD)

warmly felicitate with

our revered Founder & Chancellor,

AARE AFE BABALOLA,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE, and Bamofin of Yorubaland, on yet another remarkable milestone in a life defined by service, sacrifice and excellence.

As ABUAD celebrates yet another generation of graduates, we rejoice with our visionary leader whose audacious dream and uncommon sacrifice gave birth to an institution with a global impact that continues to transcend borders.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to **law, education, leadership and humanity**, Aare Afe will be conferred with **Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees** by **Trinity Western University, Canada,** and **Trinity International University, USA**.

Aare Afe, your greatest honours are not only the titles conferred upon you, but the lives transformed by your vision. These latest distinctions further adorn a lifetime of investing in people, advancing education, upholding justice and building enduring institutions.

Two Universities. Two Continents. Two Doctor of Laws Degrees. One Extraordinary Legacy.



Hearty
Congratulations to our beloved leader

Signed
Lady Christie Oluborode
Registrar & Secretary to Council.

... ABUAD, A Vision in Action

CONGRATULATIONS SIR.

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of **BOVAS Group**, I heartily congratulate an icon, an eminent personality, and a renowned philanthropist,

Aare Afe Babalola

on this well-deserved global recognition. This double honour is a testament to your outstanding contributions to law, education and humanity, and your unwavering commitment to excellence which has Made ABUAD a pride to Nigeria.

As a fellow entrepreneur and believer in community development, You have shown that true success is measured by how many lives we impact. We at **BOVAS** celebrate you and pray that God grants you more strength, sound health and long life to continue your noble service to Ekiti State and Nigeria.



Congratulations, Sir!



Signed: BOVAS & COMPANY LIMITED

Mrs Victoria A. Samson
Group Managing Director,
Bovas and Company Limited

HURRAH! INTERNATIONAL HONOURS FOR THE ALTRUISTIC AARE AFE BABALOLA

..."He that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully" – II Corinthians 9:6



The Board, Management and Staff of ABUAD Ventures

heartily celebrate

our Founder & Chancellor,

AARE AFE BABALOLA,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE,

an uncommon man doing uncommon things in an uncommon terrain and achieving uncommon results on his conferment with the Honourary Doctor of Laws by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA, today, Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

There is no doubt that you have sown bountifully in many areas of human endeavor. No wonder you have been reaping bountifully too, be it Law, Education, Healthcare, Agriculture, Human Capital Development, Community Development and Philanthropy among others.

You have imparted many lives and mentored many across all professions, particularly in Law, wherein your Chambers, Emmanuel Chambers, has produced over 1, 000 lawyers, 33 Senior Advocates of Nigeria (the largest by any Law Firm in Nigeria), and several Attorneys-General as well as Judges/Justices up to the Appellate Courts.

This is just the beginning. Better days are ahead.

Hearty Congratulations.

Courtesy:

Yeye Aare Modupe Babalola, FSM, FNIMN, FFPA
Executive Chairman, ABUAD Ventures

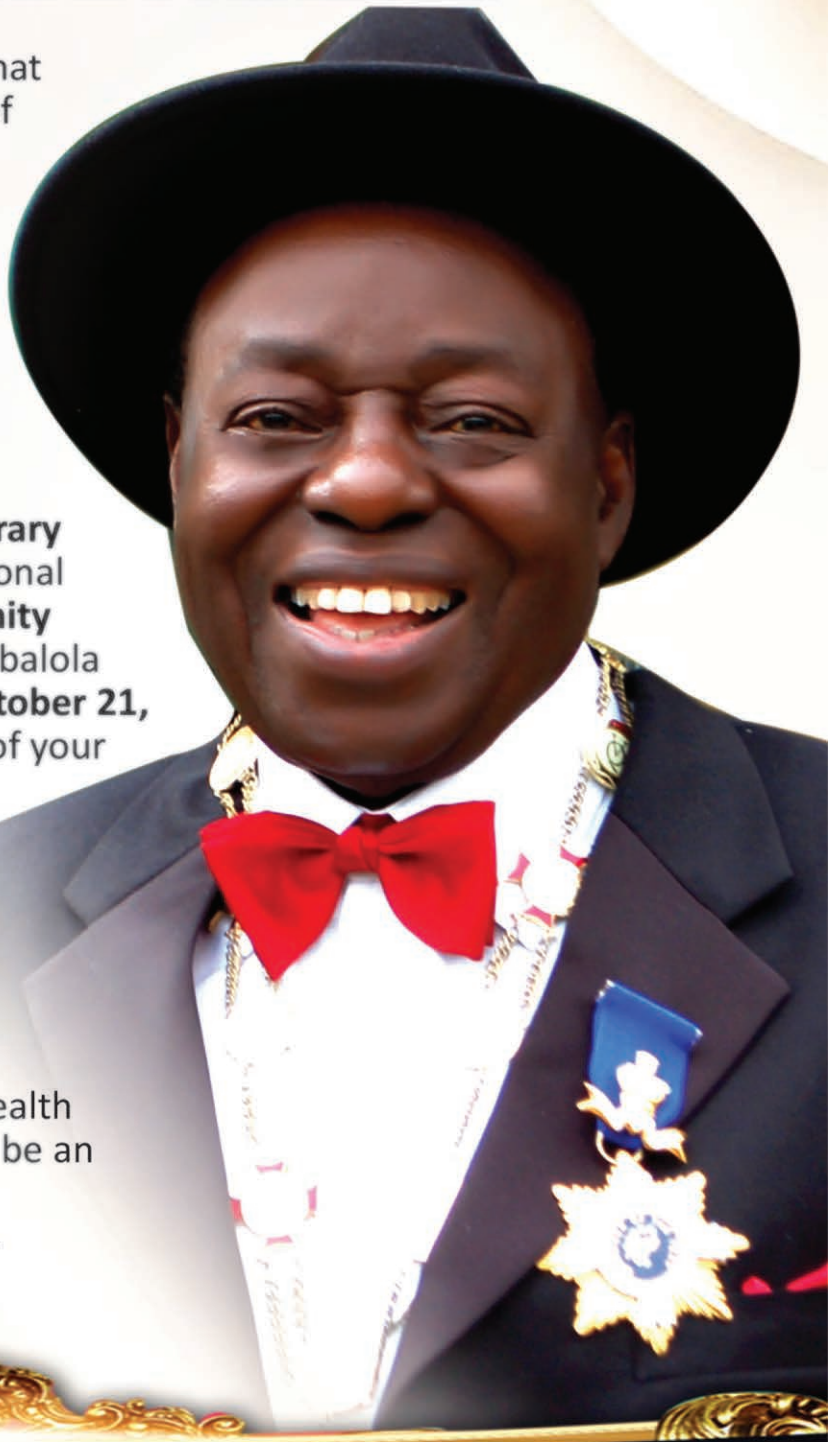
CELEBRATING A LIVING LEGEND:

AN ICON OF EXCELLENCE, LEGAL LUMINARY & VISIONARY LEADER, AARE AFE BABALOLA.

It is with profound pride, immense joy, and deep reverence that the Partners, Senior Associates, Associates, and entire Staff of

Afe Babalola & Co.

join millions across Nigeria and around the globe in celebrating our revered Founder, Leader, and Mentor: Aare Afe Babalola, OFR, CON, SAN, LL.D, D.Lit, FCIArb, FNAILS, FNSE, FNAE(Founder & Chancellor, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti) on this double harvest of historic global achievements.



We heartily felicitate you on your conferment with dual **Honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D) Degrees** by two prestigious international institutions; **Trinity Western University, Canada**, and **Trinity International University, USA**, at the grand finale of Afe Babalola University's **14th Convocation Ceremony** on **Wednesday, October 21, 2026**. These coveted honors are a well-deserved recognition of your extraordinary impact on legal scholarship, educational innovation, monumental philanthropy, social development, nation-building, and transformative leadership.

As you celebrate yet another milestone in the journey of your extraordinary life, it is our earnest prayer that the Almighty God will, in His infinite mercies, bestow His trans-generational blessings upon you. May He keep you in sound health as you remain an unfailing proof of His grace and continue to be an immense blessing to humanity.

Hearty Congratulations, Our Living Legend!

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL.D, D.Lit, FCIArb, FNAILS, FNSE, FNAE

(Founder & Chancellor, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti)

Signed:

Management

Afe Babalola & Co.

Ibadan, Lagos, Abuja and Port Harcourt



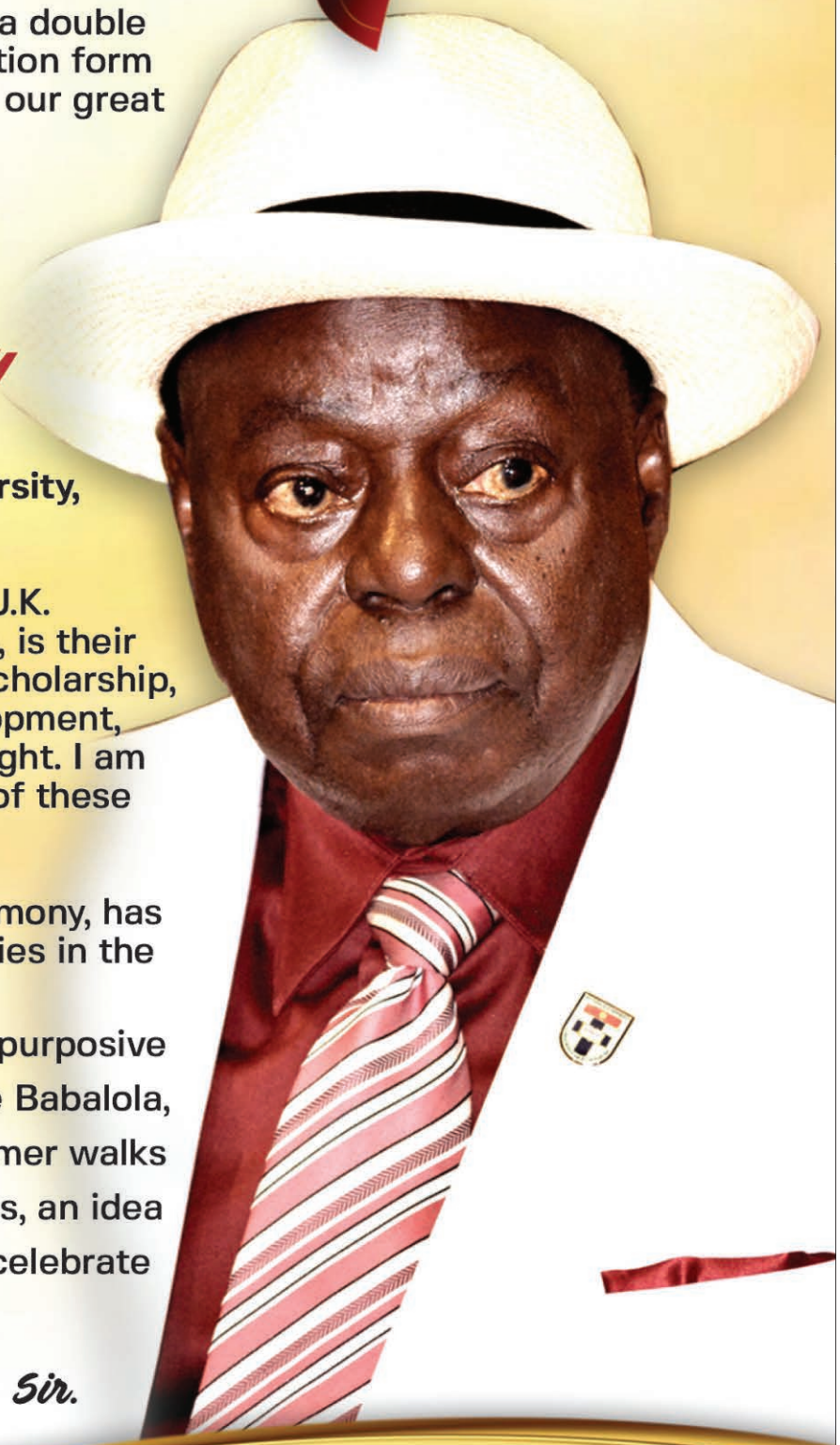
Congratulations!!!

Yet another blaze of honours for you Sir. This time, a double conferment of international awards of great distinction form Canada and United States fore-front universities on our great

Aare Afe Babalola

CON, OFR, SAN,

Chancellor and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, (ABUAD)



as earlier done by leading Universities in the U.K. Motivating the award by the top-rated Universities, is their appreciation of your "extraordinary impact on legal scholarship, educational innovation, philanthropy, social development, nation-building, and leadership". I testify they are right. I am one of the countless proud beneficiaries of some of these phenomenal legacies.

ABUAD, just approaching its 14th Convocation Ceremony, has secured a place of honour among the best universities in the world.

The achievement was not attained by fluke but by a purposive nurturing of an idea conceived by our great Aare Afe Babalola, CON, OFR, SAN. Dreams don't work unless the dreamer walks and works his dream. This is what ABUAD epitomizes, an idea translated into reality. I congratulate you Sir as we celebrate the awards.

May the good Lord continue to uphold you, Sir.

Signed:

CHIEF AKIN OLUJINMI, *CON, SAN*

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE



The Council of Traditional Rulers in Ekiti State, under my leadership, warmly felicitates with our pride,

Aare Afe Babalola

OFR, CON, SAN

Legal Colossus and Founder,
Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD),

on your well-deserved double honour of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by Trinity International University, USA and Trinity Western University, Canada.



Your life remains a lesson in excellence. From humble beginnings to becoming a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, former President of the Nigerian Bar Association, former Pro-Chancellor of UNILAG and Nigeria's most celebrated lawyer, you have redefined the law and mentored generations in the pursuit of justice.

You have matched legal eminence with communal greatness. Through ABUAD, the 400-bed Multi-System Hospital, industrial farming and life-changing scholarships for our indigent youths, you have lived the true Omoluabi values of hard work, generosity, selflessness and love for community that we hold dear in Ekiti.

These double honours are a global attestation to your over six decades of distinguished service to law, education, philanthropy and national development. You have again brought great honour to Ekiti, the Fountain of Knowledge, and to Nigeria at large.

We pray for your continued good health, long life and greater strength as you continue to serve humanity.

Congratulations, our dear Aare!



Signed:

HRM Oba (Dr) Adejimi Adu Alagbado,
Agirilala II
Ogoga of Ikere Kingdom
Chairman, Ekiti State Council of Traditional Rulers

CHIEF WOLE OLANIPEKUN | CFR, SAN, LL.D., FCIArb, FNIALS
LEGAL PRACTITIONER, CONSULTANT & ARBITRATOR

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO A GENERATIONAL COLOSSUS



On behalf of my family and the entire members of our Law Firm,
Wole Olanipekun & Co., I heartily congratulate

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, SAN, FCIArb., FINALS, LL.D.hc (Lond), LL.D.hc (UNILAG), LL.D.hc (UNIJOS), LL.D.hc (UNAD), D.LITT.hc, KSU (NDA), FKC

on the contemporaneous conferment on him of two **Honourary Doctor of Laws Degrees** by two International Universities - **Trinity Western University, Canada and Trinity International University, USA,** today, **Wednesday, October 21, 2026.**

This twin honour by two internationally reputed Universities is a fitting testament to your global pedigree as a **quintessential Ju r i s t , renowned educationist, philanthropist extraordinaire**, and **towering humanist.**

May the world continue to be your oyster, and may you continue to increase in leaps a n d bounds.

May I also use this opportunity to wish this potentate a happy **97th Birthday,** and many happy returns of the day.
As your days are, so shall your strength be.

Chief Wole Olanipekun, CFR, OFR, SAN, LL.D., D.LITT., FCIArb., FNIALS

www.woleolanipekun.com

PAN OCEAN
NEWCROSS PETROLEUM LIMITED
NEWCROSS
NEWCROSS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION LIMITED

Congratulations

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Pan Ocean and the Newcross Companies, I congratulate you on the Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees conferred on you by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA.

The honours recognise your impact on legal scholarship, educational innovation, philanthropy and nation-building, and they are richly deserved. Over a distinguished career, you have given Nigeria a body of landmark legal work and generations of lawyers trained in your chambers.

In Afe Babalola University, you have built an institution respected across Nigeria for its standards, its discipline and the quality of its graduates. Its contribution to education and healthcare in Ekiti State speaks for itself.

We celebrate with you, your family and the entire ABUAD community, and we wish you good health and many more convocations at Ado-Ekiti.

Please accept our warmest congratulations.
Yours faithfully,

Dr Festus Fadeyi
Group Chairman



CALVARY GREETINGS AND ROYAL FELICITATIONS

To God be the glory, I, Alayeluwa Oba (Dr.) Rufus Adeyemo Adejugbe Aladesanmi III, CON, JP, the Ewi of Ado-Ekiti, on behalf of my people, the Ewi-In-Council, sons and daughters of Ado-Ekiti at home and in diaspora joyfully extend our hearty congratulations to our charismatic leader and mentor,

AARE AFE BABALOLA,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE, on his exemplary, matchless and worthwhile contributions to humanity.



I congratulate you, more importantly, on the recent exploit of your university, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, ABUAD, which was rated by Times Higher Education Sustainability Impact Rankings as No. 1 in Nigeria for five consecutive years (2022-2026), No. 2. in Africa and No. 72 globally, thereby making it the only Nigerian university rated among the Best 100 universities in the world.

It is entirely heart-warming hearing about two international universities, Trinity Western University, Canada, TWU, and its sister university, Trinity International University, USA, TIU, conferring their institutions' highest honour: The Degrees of Doctor of Laws, LL. D (Honoris Causa) on you today, Wednesday, October 21, 2026.

The two universities, TWU and TIU, aptly describe you as a "builder of institutions, a champion of excellence, a servant of society and an inspiration to leaders across Africa and around the world". What a pride to Ado-Ekiti in particular and Nigeria in general!

It is my wish and purposeful prayer that God will give you the grace to receive more national and international accolades in the future.

Once more, hearty congratulations and remain ever blessed.

Signed:
His Imperial Majesty,
Oba (Dr.) Rufus Adeyemo Adejugbe Aladesanmi III, CON, JP
The Ewi of Ado-Ekiti

KENNA

Congratulations,

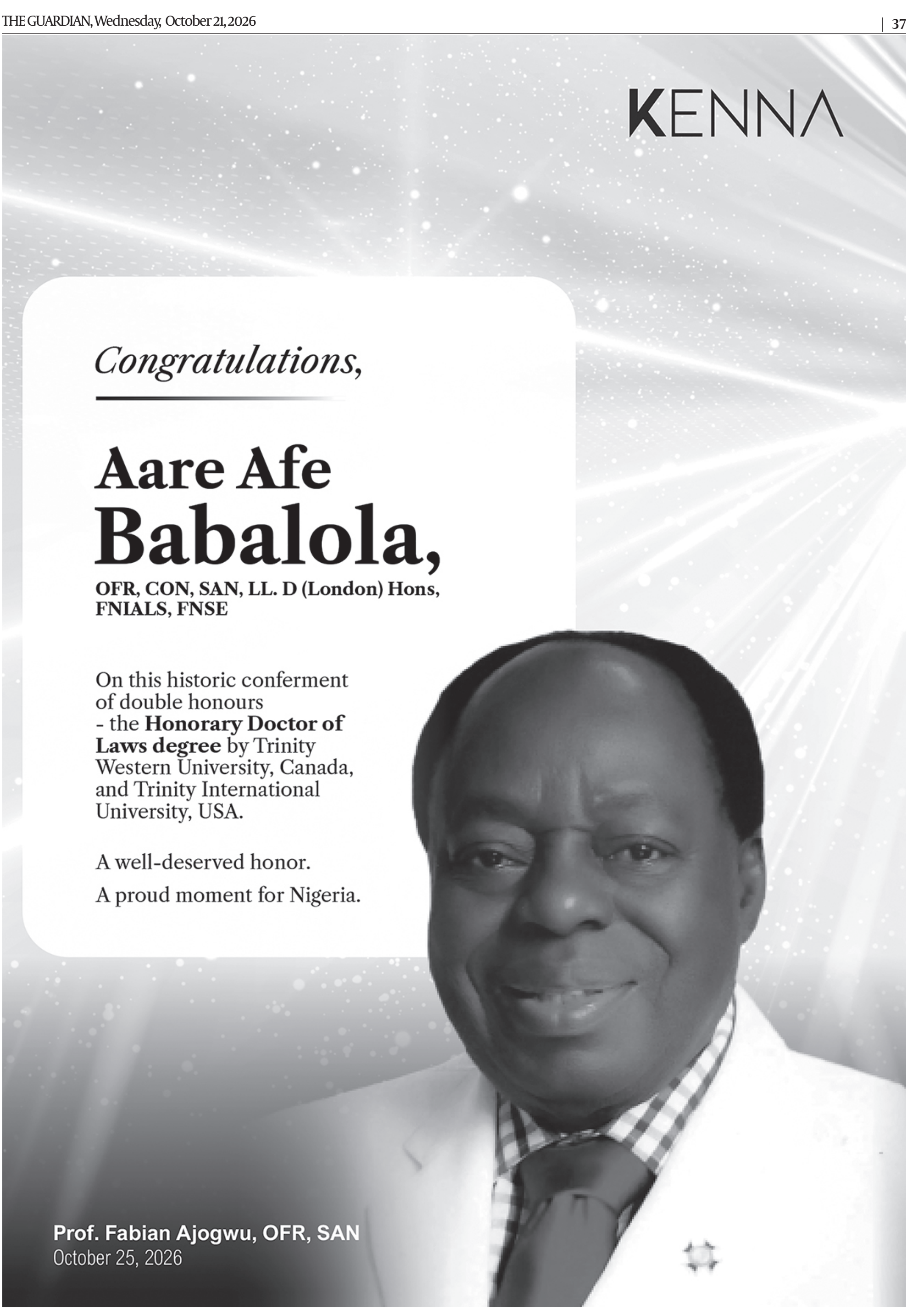
Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London) Hons, FNIALS, FNSE

On this historic conferment of double honours - the **Honorary Doctor of Laws degree** by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA.

A well-deserved honor.

A proud moment for Nigeria.



Prof. Fabian Ajogwu, OFR, SAN
October 25, 2026

CELEBRATING AN ICONIC LEADER

On behalf of my family,
I congratulate my incomparable Oga, the thoroughly distinguished

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), D. Lit (NDA) etc,
FNIALS, FCI. Arb, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE

on the award of Honourary Doctor of Laws, LL. D, by two international universities,

Trinity Western University, Canada and Trinity International University, USA, today,

Wednesday, October 21, 2026.
That you are celebrated at home and revered abroad remains uncommon and yet globally acknowledged.

It is a further affirmation of the fact that you remain that uncommon man doing uncommon things in an uncommon terrain to achieve uncommon results.

It is also a veritable way of rewarding your boundless contributions to humanity, particularly in Education, Healthcare delivery, Agriculture, Community Development and philanthropy.

This generation and those coming after will continually celebrate you and your good works.

Congratulations sir.



Courtesy:
Mr. & Mrs. Isiaka Iyadunni
MD/CEO
IAI Investments Limited



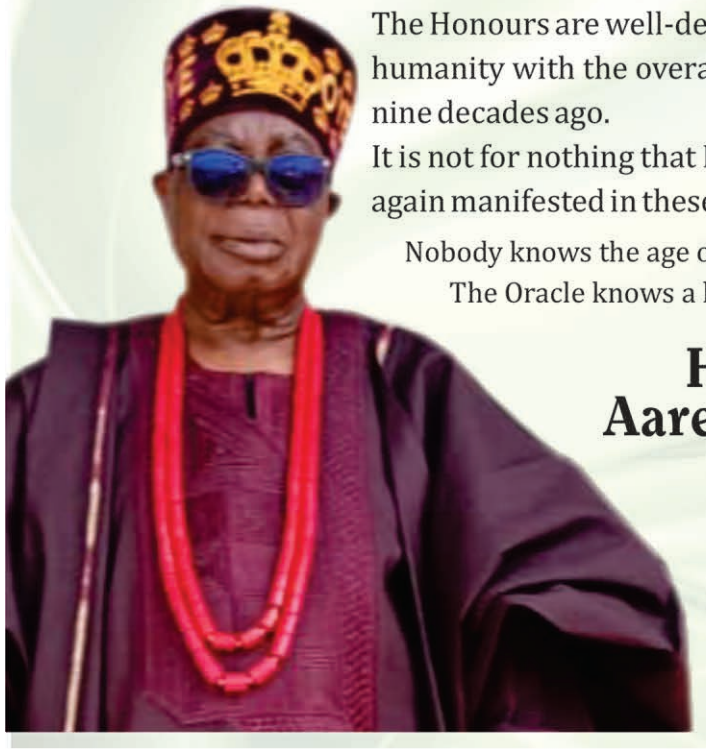
The Oracle is at it again

Hearty congratulations to the Founder & Chancellor of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti,

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE.

It remains an unparalleled inspiration that you are the only African thus far to be honoured with the Honourary Doctor of Laws Degrees of two foreign universities, Trinity Western University, Canada, TWU, and Trinity International University, USA, TIU, on the same day.



The Honours are well-deserved considering your numerous contributions to humanity with the overall aim of leaving society better than you met it over nine decades ago.
It is not for nothing that I call Your Honour **"The Oracle"**. That sobriquet has again manifested in these double Honours by TWU and TIU.

Nobody knows the age of the oracle, but the oracle knows every body's age.
The Oracle knows a little of everything. Hence his global recognition

Hearty Congratulations
Aare Baamofin of Yorubaland.



Signed:
His Royal Majesty,
Oba Oluwole Ademolaju Adugbole III,
the Oloye of Oye Kingdom

DOUBLE HONOURS FOR THE LEGENDARY AARE

On behalf of my family and the entire Management of TUNS Farms Nigeria Limited,

I congratulate *our distinguished*

Founder & Chancellor of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, ABUAD

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE,

on the occasion of the conferment of two Honourary Doctor of Laws Degrees by two international Universities, Trinity Western University, Canada, TWU, and Trinity International University, USA, TWI.





These international Honours are yet further affirmation of your continuous, selfless contributions and unparalleled impact in virtually all areas of human endeavour, be it Law, quality, functional and impactful Education, Agriculture, Industry, Philanthropy and National Development.

What you stand for will continually be appreciated and celebrated by this generation and those coming behind.

I celebrate you today and always sir.

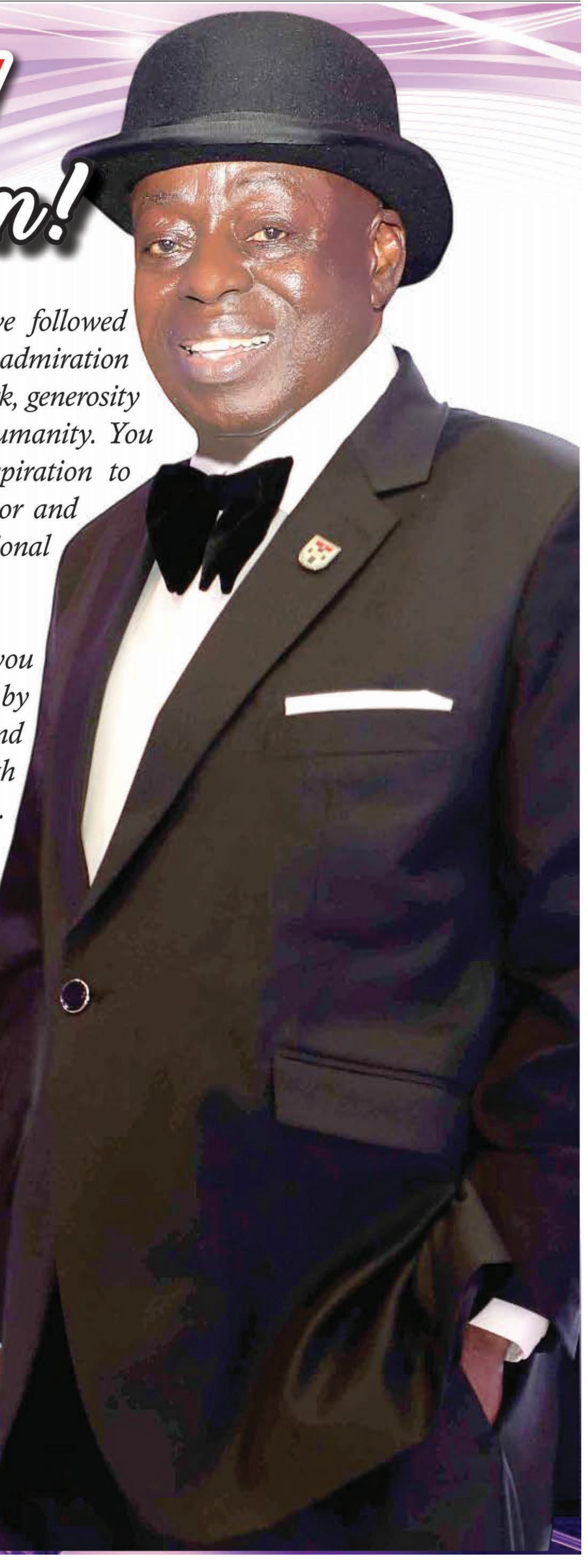
I wish you good health and peace of God as well as divine wisdom to continue the good works and to be continually relevant in the scheme of things in Nigeria and beyond.

Hearty Congratulations our peerless Baba

Courtesy:
Asiwaju (Dr.) Khamis Olatunde Badmus
Asiwaju Musulumi of Yorubaland, Edo & Delta States
Chairman, TUNS Farms Nigeria Limited

©Emagix

Hearty Felicitation!



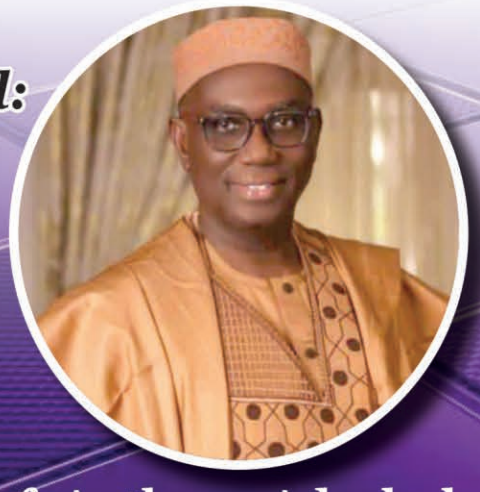
My dear Aare, I have followed your journey with deep admiration for your life of hard work, generosity and selfless service to humanity. You have remained an inspiration to many of us through your love for the poor and your belief in education as a tool for national transformation.

On behalf of my family, I congratulate you on the fitting honour conferred on you by Trinity International University, USA and Trinity Western University, Canada, with the Honourary Degree of Doctor of Laws. This double honour is most deserving and a global attestation to your over six decades of impactful service to law, education and community development.

I pray that God Almighty grants you sound health, long life and renewed strength to continue your noble works.

Congratulations, Sir!

Signed:



Prof. Anthony Adegbulugbe

LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT
LANDS BUREAU GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXTENSION OF LEASEHOLD INTEREST

1. This is to inform the General Public that **ILABERE PROPERTY COMPANY LIMITED** Lessee of the property located at ***Plot 1, Ilabere Avenue & Macpherson Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos State, Nigeria*** covered by ***Land Certificate registered as LO 3362 dated 19th February 1959*** in Lagos State, Lands Registry at Lagos has applied to the Lagos State Lands Bureau for an Extension of Leasehold Interest of the above named property.

2. In line with the Policy of Extension of Leasehold interest; members of the public who have objection /interest or any information concerning this Application for Extension of Leasehold should please come forward with any relevant/useful claim/objection within ***21 days*** from the date of this publication and address it to the Permanent Secretary Lands Bureau Block 13/14, The Secretariat Alausa Ikeja, Lagos.

3. For further enquiries, please contact the Permanent Secretary, Lands Bureau Block 13/14 The Secretariat Alausa, Ikeja Lagos.

MR. KAMAR OWODIRAN OLOWOSHAGO
Permanent Secretary,
Lands Bureau

EFCC

PUBLIC NOTICE

HEARING NOTICE

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA Jud. CI 7

HEARING NOTICE

SUIT No. FHC/ABJ/CS/207/26 20....

Between { IN RE: APPLICATION BY THE E.F.C.C Plaintiff
and
Defendant

To. INTERESTED PARTIES

.....

the above-named.....

This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for WEDNESDAY the 28TH day of OCTOBER 20 26 at 9.00AM o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.

If either party desires to postpone the hearing he must apply to the Court as soon as possible for that purpose; and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.

The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desires to rely on in support of his own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fir to impose.

Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses should apply at once to the Court to issue one or more summonses for the attendance of the witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.

If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must be particularised in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.

Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court for his expense and loss of time.

The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been fixed and deposited in the Court.

If either party desires to use in evidence tat the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.

DATED at ABUJA this 20TH day of OCT 20 26

By Order of the Court.

Registrar

CELEBRATING OUR BIG DADDY

All of us at Topfingers Investment Limited congratulate the uncommon gift to humanity,

Aare Afe Babalola,

OFR, CON, SAN, LL. D (London), LL. D (UNILAG), LL. D (UI), LL. D (UNIJOS), LL. D (Kogi State University), LL. D (UNAD), D. Lit (NDA) etc, FNAILS, FNSE, Fellow, King's College, London, FNAE,

as he is being honoured with the Honourary Doctor of Laws by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, USA, today, Wednesday, October 21, 2026.



Our uncommon and compassionate daddy, we are so proud of you and all your sterling accomplishments in the Legal profession, Legal Education, Medical Education, Community Development, Agriculture, Education and Philanthropy among other areas of human endeavour where you continue to be a beacon of hope and encouragement.

That you are being celebrated again today by the international community is a further affirmation that you are a aman of international acclaim who is not only popular at home, but also respected and revered abroad for which this generation and those coming after will etch your name in letters of gold.

Congratulations once again and we pray that God will continue to sustain all your achievements and grant you the best of all that you desire in life.

Congratulationsour dear Baba



Courtesy
Dr. & Mrs. Samuel Olajide Abiodun
GMD/CEO
Topfingers Investment Limited

GOVERNMENT OF EKITI STATE NIGERIA
LAND OF HONOUR

Celebrating

A LIVING LEGEND



Aare Afe Babalola, SAN, OFR, CON, FCIArb, FNIALS, LL.D (London)

Founder, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD)

I, on behalf of the Government and good people of Ekiti State, Land of Honour, heartily congratulate our indefatigable and highly revered leader, a distinguished legal luminary, and a philanthropist par excellence, a living legend, **Aare Afe Babalola, SAN; Founder and Chancellor, Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD)** on his conferment with honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees of Trinity Western University, Canada and Trinity International University, United States of America, on October 21, 2026.

Baba, your vision and commitment in establishing the world class Afe Babalola University and Afe Babalola University Multisystem Hospital, your towering achievements in the field of Law, and huge investments in human capital development, as well as your priceless commitment to community development and nation building continue to inspire generations.

Our prayer is that the Almighty God continues to shower you with abundant grace and blessings in your selfless service to our dear state, nation and humanity.

Congratulations Oni Uyi, Oni Eye!

Signed: H.E. BIODUN OYEBANJI, GOVERNOR | www.ekitistate.gov.ng

...Ilẹ̀ Iyì, Ilẹ̀ Ẹ̀yẹ

GuardianTech

Price surge awaits phone market as NCC enforces device policy

By **Adeyemi Adepetun** (Lagos) and **Joel Oladele** (Abuja)

• OEMs, importers fear policy will trigger phone price hikes



THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has issued a firm reminder to manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers of SIM-enabled devices about their statutory obligations under the Nigerian Communications Act 2003, the Type Approval Regulations 2024, and the Type Approval Business Rules 2024.

According to the NCC, all stakeholders in the device supply chain must strictly adhere to Type Approval requirements before devices are imported, assembled, or sold in Nigeria. Section 132 of the Nigerian Communications Act and Regulation 4 of the Type Approval Regulations 2024 make it mandatory for every device model to secure NCC approval.

Beyond approval, the Commission has introduced a technology-enabled verification process to ensure that International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) details are properly submitted and validated before devices reach consumers.

The Commission, in a statement, signed by Director, Public Affairs, Nnenna Ukoha, on Monday, emphasised that distributors and retailers must also review existing stock to confirm compliance.

NCC said devices already in warehouses or on shelves must meet the required standards, and suppliers are expected to resolve any outstanding issues promptly. For new imports, the NCC insisted that compliance must be established before such devices are placed on the Nigerian market.

In line with its participatory regulatory approach, the Commission said it has engaged extensively with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Original Device Manufacturers (ODMs), importers, and industry associations. However, businesses that have not taken part in these engagements are urged to seek guidance immediately through NCC's approved onboarding and support channels.

The regulator noted that the automated compliance process, developed in collaboration with the Nigeria Customs Service, will enhance oversight of devices entering the country. It will also reconcile import records, ensure payment of applicable duties, and promote fair competition by preventing non-compliant businesses from gaining undue advantage.

The NCC warned that, upon full implementation, devices that fail to meet the required standards may be barred from accessing Nigerian mobile networks. This enforcement framework is designed to protect consumers from substandard devices, strengthen national security, and maintain the integrity of Nigeria's communications infrastructure.

Reaffirming its commitment, the Commission stated that it will continue to work closely with stakeholders to facilitate compliance, protect consumers, and promote a fair, competitive, and sustainable market for communications devices in Nigeria.

Expectedly, the phone verification policy has triggered opposition from phone traders, who fear that disputed fees could increase handset prices and make devices more expensive for Nigerians.

The Association of Mobile Phones and Allied Products Traders of Nigeria (AMPAT) is seeking a 90-day suspension of the charges.

It argued that the fees could raise phone costs, place additional pressure on small businesses, and threaten jobs across the mobile phone trade.

The dispute centred on the cost of implementing the verification system, the transparency of the charges and the NCC's efforts to keep counterfeit and non-compliant devices out of the Nigerian market.

AMPAT first raised its objections at a press conference in Abuja on September 17. It renewed its opposition in Kano last week, where its representatives called on the commission to suspend the charges and clarify their legal basis.

Speaking in Kano on behalf of AMPAT's National President, Sani Tasiu Ibrahim, the association's Kano State chairman, Jamilu Bala Gama, said traders were being charged about N670 for smaller phones and nearly N4,000 for bigger devices.

He warned that the charges could have a disproportionate effect on low-cost handsets, which many Nigerians rely on for communication, mobile banking, education and business.

According to the association, a phone sold for N10,000 could attract a charge of nearly N4,000 before reaching the market. Traders fear that importers and distributors will pass the additional cost to buyers rather than absorb it.

AMPAT President Musa Haruna Mamza had expressed a similar concern at the Abuja briefing, arguing that manufacturers and distributors were unlikely to bear the cost themselves.

"The companies that produce the devices refuse to say they will bear the cost, and so the OEMs, dealers or distributors will be at the cost of paying that fee. Then they will transfer it to the end user," Mamza said.

The NCC has defended the verification framework on consumer protection and network quality grounds. It argues that checking devices can help buyers avoid counterfeit or substandard products that may not deliver the value they expect.

Speaking at a press conference in Abuja last week, the commission's Director of Technical Standards and Network Integrity, Edoyemi Ogoh, said consumers should consider the actual value of a device rather than its advertised price alone.

"If a subscriber knows that he's buying a phone for N70,000, and it's actually a N70,000 phone, I think that subscriber will be happier than basically buying a N70,000 phone, only to find out that that phone is actually a phone that is worth maybe N30,000," Ogoh said.

The explanation reflects the commission's position that verification could help protect consumers from paying genuine-phone prices for inferior devices.

However, the benefits of buying a compliant handset do not directly address AMPAT's concern that the disputed charges could increase the cost of bringing phones into the country.

The two sides are therefore focusing on different aspects of the policy. While the NCC emphasises device authenticity, consumer protection and service quality, traders are questioning the cost and terms under which they must comply.

AMPAT said it supports the registration of mobile phones and efforts to eliminate counterfeit and stolen devices. Its objection, Gama said, is to the financial burden and to the policy's implementation.

"We support the registration of phones. We want fake phones out of this country. We want stolen phones to become useless. We want criminals to have nowhere to hide," he said.

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

Spectranet expands home fibre in Nigeria

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

PIONEER broadband service provider, Spectranet Limited, is expanding its Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) infrastructure across the country.

The initiative marks a major milestone in the company's ongoing business repositioning as it celebrates 15 years of operations, combining its market-leading 4G LTE wireless network with high-performance Spectranet Home Fibre to deliver a multi-technology broadband ecosystem for residential and enterprise clients.

Spectranet's FTTH architecture delivers end-to-end optical fibre directly to premises, offering highly scalable bandwidth speeds.

Designed to support data-intensive applications, including streaming, low-latency gaming, remote work, and multi-device IoT environments, the service is currently available across selected high-density estates and commercial corridors in Lagos and Abuja, with network expansion actively underway.

Commenting on the strategic direction, Chief Operating Officer of Spectranet Limited, Sumit Gambhir, emphasised the changing dynamics of consumer internet consumption: "The home is no longer simply a place where people browse the web. It has evolved into a central hub for remote work, digital learning, e-commerce, and high-definition entertainment across multiple simultaneous devices. Our responsibility is to build the robust infrastructure required to power this digital lifestyle, and FTTH is central to that mission."

Gambhir clarified that the FTTH deployment is an integral component of a broader infrastructure investment strategy, not a replacement for Spectranet's existing wireless assets.

"We do not view connectivity through a single technological lens," Gambhir noted. "Our focus is on delivering the optimal solution based on location and specific customer use cases. Wireless provides exceptional flexibility and reach, while fibre delivers high-capacity, scalable bandwidth where physical infrastructure is available."

Spectranet's fibre network currently spans over 300 major locations across Lagos and Abuja, with coverage expanding regularly. To ensure optimal service delivery, potential subscribers can verify coverage availability prior to installation.

The FTTH rollout is paired with ongoing network optimisation initiatives to improve stability, latency, and service uptime. Parallel enhancements to customer self-service portals, digital payment gateways, and support channels are also being deployed to streamline user experience.

Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya split paths as OTT booms in region

By **Adeyemi Adepetun**

THE African entertainment and media (E&M) industry is entering a transformative phase, with over-the-top (OTT) video services emerging as one of the most disruptive forces across the continent.

From Nigeria's meteoric rise to South Africa's steady digital pivot and Kenya's mobile-first acceleration, OTT platforms' incursions are redefining how audiences consume content, how advertisers allocate budgets, and how traditional broadcasters fight to retain relevance.

Nigeria stands out as the continent's most dynamic OTT battleground. According to PwC's Africa Entertainment and Media Outlook 2026–2030, Nigeria's OTT video revenue is forecast to grow at a staggering 20.4 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR), expanding from $31 million in 2025 to $78 million by 2030. This makes Nigeria the fastest-growing OTT market worldwide.

Several factors underpin this surge. Telecom partnerships are lowering data costs and bundling streaming access, making services more affordable for a youthful, mobile-savvy population. Light-touch regulation has also enabled platforms to innovate with locally tailored offerings. Nollywood, already a global cultural export, is leveraging OTT platforms to reach both domestic and diaspora audiences. In 2025, local films accounted for nearly half of Nigeria's box office revenue, a milestone that signals the strength of homegrown content in fueling digital adoption.

According to the 15-page document, OTT's rise in Nigeria is not occurring in isolation. Gaming, another digital segment, is expanding from $286 million to $431 million (8.5 per cent CAGR), approaching the scale of internet advertising revenue. Together, these shifts highlight Nigeria's broad-based digital growth, where multiple categories are expanding simultaneously rather than redistributing value from traditional formats.

It noted that South Africa, the region's largest and most mature E&M market, presented a different picture. While overall industry growth is more modest at 3.2 per cent CAGR, OTT video is one of the standout segments, projected to grow from R6.4 billion in 2025 to R9.2 billion in 2030 (7.6 per cent CAGR). This expansion places OTT alongside internet advertising as the fastest-growing categories in the country.

South Africa's advanced communications infrastructure and established advertising ecosystem provide fertile ground for OTT adoption. Subscription streaming services are thriving, supported by strong demand for local music and video content. By 2025, local artists accounted for 70 per cent of the top 10 most-streamed acts, underscoring the cultural resonance of domestic talent in digital spaces.

Yet, PwC noted that South Africa's OTT growth is tempered by the decline of traditional television, which is projected to shrink from R34.7 billion to R28.8 billion by 2030 (3.7 per cent CAGR). The challenge, it noted, is less about audience expansion and more about shifting consumption patterns. As viewers migrate to streaming platforms, broadcasters must adapt their monetisation models to balance subscription revenues with advertising opportunities in digital environments.



Transport&Tourism

www.guardian.ng

Stakeholders push maritime investment to harness AfCFTA cargo

Stories by **Adaku Onyenucheya**

STAKEHOLDERS have urged operators to invest in transshipment services, bunkering, ship repair and fresh water supply to turn ports into one-stop maritime hubs if Nigeria must secure a fair share of contestable cargo in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) regime.

The call was made at the Nigerian Association of Master Mariners (NAMM) yearly general meeting (AGM) and Summit, themed: "Preparing Nigerian Ports for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) Operations: Beyond Infrastructure to Institutional Readiness," held in Lagos.

Former General Manager, Marine, at the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Captain Iheanacho Ebubeogu, pointed to the AfCFTA as a prize for ports that deliver, stressing that tariff cuts alone will not move goods without infrastructure.

He acknowledged that execution will present challenges, including temporary berth losses and construction-related congestion, calling for coordinated phasing and clear mitigation plans among regulators and concessionaires.

The master mariner maintained that Nigeria's maritime industry must move quickly from policy announcements to visible results on the quayside, or watch contestable cargo drift to rival West African ports

Ebubeogu, who presented a paper titled "Port Stimulus and Economic Growth: The Nigerian Experience," explained that ports earn their keep from cargo, which falls into two categories.

He said the captive cargo originates from or is destined for a port's immediate hinterland and stays because alternatives are impractical, while contestable cargo is discretionary freight that moves to competing ports on price or service, which he said rewards efficiency and punishes delay.

According to him, the risks are real because Nigeria's legacy ports were built about 70 years ago, and years of underinvestment have left shallow channels, heavy congestion and slow, paper-heavy clearance processes.

He noted that high handling costs and delays have already driven some importers and exporters to neighbouring countries, resulting in significant revenue losses.

A master mariner, Captain Olugbenga Abidoye, who presented a paper, titled: "Preparing Nigerian Ports for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) Operations: Beyond Infrastructure to Institutional Readiness," said Nigeria's ports were not yet ready to accommodate crewless vessels, citing a significant readiness gap.

He said Nigeria scored 1.9 out of five in a port-readiness assessment for Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), noting that autonomous vessels are already operating elsewhere in the world.

Abidoye said preparation rests on four areas: physical infrastructure, digital systems, institutional capacity and operational procedures, warning that weak coordination among maritime agencies and gaps in existing rules could complicate the arrival of autonomous vessels.

Abidoye, however, called for a review of the Merchant Shipping Act 2007, with clear procedures for emergencies, communication failures and remote vessel operations.

He said the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is working towards a mandatory framework for autonomous ships by July 2032, noting that its readiness would be vital to Nigeria's competitiveness.



Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Dayo Mobereola (left); Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola; Director-General, Nigerian Ports Economic Regulatory Agency (NPERA), Dr Pius Akutah and Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Dr Abubakar Dantsoho, during the unveiling of the gazetted copy of the NPERA Act at a stakeholders' engagement.

NAGAFF seeks customs partnership to speed cargo clearance

THE National Association of Government Approved Freight Forwarders (NAGAFF) has underscored the importance of constructive engagement between freight forwarding associations and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) in promoting compliance, improving cargo clearance processes and facilitating legitimate trade at the nation's ports.

The National President, NAGAFF, Tochukwu Ezisi, made the call during a courtesy visit to the Customs Area Controller of the PTML Command, Nura Miko, to formally introduce the newly elected executives of the NAGAFF PTML Chapter.

Ezisi reaffirmed the freight forwarding association's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the lNCS, while urging the PTML Command to sustain its support for freight forwarders.

The NAGAFF president stressed the importance of compliance, professionalism and collaboration in facilitating legitimate trade, describing the freight forwarding association as a law-abiding organisation that has maintained a long-standing relationship with the Customs Service.

He urged the Customs boss to maintain open communication with the chapter's leadership whenever disagreements or operational challenges arise, assuring him that the national leadership would intervene where necessary to resolve issues.

In his response, the PTML Customs Area Controller, Nura Miko, assured NAGAFF members of the Command's continued cooperation and described the relationship between Customs officers and freight forwarders at the terminal as cordial.

He disclosed that the command has continued to engage terminal operators on the need to improve the working environment for Customs officers and freight forwarders, expressing hope that the discussions would lead to better conditions for stakeholders.

Miko encouraged freight forwarders to report any shortcomings in the conduct of Customs officers, assuring them that the command would take feedback seriously and work towards improvement.

He also urged stakeholders to acknowledge good performance, emphasising that constructive engagement, mutual respect and collaboration were essential to effective operations.

Customs bans imported vehicles' chassis number alteration, others

THE Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Port and Terminal Multi-services Limited (PTML) Command has prohibited the alteration of imported vehicles' chassis numbers and cross-releasing of cargo.

The Command also directed that all documents submitted for cargo clearance must bear a consistent agency name from the Vehicle Registration (VREG) stage through to final delivery, warning licensed customs agents and other port users against violations of its cargo clearance procedures.

The directives were among the resolutions reached at a stakeholders' meeting between the Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA), PTML Chapter, and the Area Comptroller of the PTML Customs Command, Nura Miko.

The ANLCA PTML Chapter, in a statement signed by its Publicity Secretary, Uchechukwu Aniezechukwu, urged agents to verify their documentation thoroughly before submission to avoid discrepancies that could disrupt the cargo clearance process.

On chassis numbers, the Customs Command maintained that alteration would not be permitted under any circumstances.

The command directed agents and other stakeholders to ensure that chassis numbers remained accurate and consistent throughout documentation, assessment, examination and clearance.

The command also barred cross-releasing of cargo, directing agents to confirm the shade or location of their consignments before commencing assessment.

"Where an agent discovers that the cargo is in a different shade from the expected location, the agent should proceed for reassignment at no cost. Stakeholders are advised to follow this procedure rather than attempt any form of cross-release," the statement reads.

According to the statement, the command warned that non-compliance with the directives could result in serious operational and financial consequences, including avoidable delays, additional costs, and other sanctions.

The ANLCA consequently urged its members, importers, operational teams, punchers and other port users to comply fully with the Customs Command's directives.

The association said adherence to the resolutions would promote transparency, improve operational discipline and enhance efficiency in cargo clearance at PTML.

MMCDC empowers maritime journalists with AI training

THE Maritime Media and Capacity Development Centre (MMCDC) has trained maritime journalists on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and on integrating AI skills into daily newsroom operations to improve productivity and accelerate news production without compromising originality, accuracy, facts, and truth.

At a one-day executive training programme on AI for maritime journalists held in Lagos, the Chairman of the Centre, Sesan Onileimo, said the training comes at a critical moment when technology is transforming the way news is gathered, processed, verified and disseminated.

He said AI is creating new opportunities for maritime journalists while introducing challenges that require knowledge, skill and professional responsibility.

According to him, journalists must equip themselves to respond to these emerging challenges, as they cannot afford to remain spectators to the cataclysmic technological revolution reshaping the media profession.

Onileimo said the maritime industry plays a very strategic role, including multinational research, port operations, shipping and logistics and employment, among other areas.

He said reporting these activities requires specialised knowledge and the ability to interpret complex technical, military and economic issues, noting that when reporting on port performance, journalists may need to examine cargo throughput, best performance over time, operational costs and other indicators.

Onileimo said AI can assist in analysing such information, while journalists verify these figures and provide the necessary content for interesting, fact-based reports.

"The future of our profession requires us to combine professional experience with technological competence, sound judgment and professional responsibility. Artificial Intelligence is already assisting journalists with research, transcription, translation, data analysis, content development and multimedia production."

NIWA reaffirms commitment to improve waterways navigation, safety standards

THE National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) has reaffirmed its commitment to working with state governments, industry stakeholders, host communities and development partners to improve navigation, strengthen safety standards, modernise facilities and protect the waterways on which many livelihoods depend.

The Acting Managing Director, NIWA, Yusuf Girei, stressed that excellence in the maritime sector is a shared responsibility that requires effective regulation, investment in innovation, skilled professionals and a firm commitment to safety and environmental sustainability at the heart of operations.

Delivering his goodwill message on the occasion of the 2026 World Maritime Day celebration commemorated in Nigeria at the weekend, Girei underscored the need for stakeholders in the maritime sector to translate policies into practical actions that will improve safety, strengthen infrastructure and support trade and economic development.

"Strong policies create value only when they are translated into meaningful action. In the maritime sector, that means safer waterways, reliable infrastructure, environmental stewardship and services that support trade and economic growth," he said.

He commended stakeholders for their dedication to advancing the country's maritime sector, especially the inland water sector, noting that by working together, the sector will be competitive, inclusive and prepared for the future.

Girei commended President Bola Tinubu and all stakeholders whose commitment keeps the country's maritime industry moving, urging participants to turn shared ambition into practical results.

World Report

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Setback for Alberta's separatists as voters choose to remain part of Canada

ALBERTA and voters have rejected a proposal to begin the separation process from Canada.

Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, said Albertans have made a clear choice to reject independence.

The province was deciding whether to remain part of Canada or move forward with an independence referendum; early figures showed about three-quarters of voters voted to stay with Canada.

Alberta's leader, Premier Danielle Smith, announced in May that the question of whether the province should have independence from Canada would be put to voters, though she supports a unified Canada.

It followed a growing separatist sentiment in the oil-rich province in recent years, with separatist organisers holding town halls across the province to gauge interest from the public.

This was followed by a citizen-led petition launched earlier in the year to separate, which garnered more than 300,000 signatures.

Their petition was however quashed by an Alberta court. Organisers had failed to consult indigenous First Nations communities whose land would be affected should the province become an independent state, a judge ruled.

Meanwhile, another group collected over 400,000 signatures for an anti-separation petition called 'Forever Canadian', led by former Deputy Premier of Alberta, Thomas Lukaszuk.

Despite expressing her opposition to Alberta leaving Canada, Smith said she was "deeply troubled" by the court's decision to override the will of hundreds of thousands of Canadians.

The referendum she said, would be better than "kicking the can down the road" on a very emotional and important debate.

Leader of the left-leaning New Democratic Party(NDP), Avi Lewis, said at a morning news conference that he was truly heartened that Albertans voted in a landslide to remain in Canada.

He said it represents a clear rejection of the politics of division, adding that Albertans have shown that they don't fix problems by turning on each other, but coming together.

He however warned that Alberta Premier has "let the genie out of the bottle" on separatism in the province.

Lewis, who is the new leader of the federal party, which currently has five seats in the House of Commons, also criticised Smith for some of the other questions put to voters yesterday, particularly on immigration.

Beyond the separation issue, Albertans voted on nine other questions - five on immigration and four on the Canadian constitution. The first nine questions required a "yes" or "no" answer.

Among other things, voters were asked whether they supported giving Alberta's provincial government greater authority to restrict immigration to the province, limit access to certain social services and introduce legislation that requires certain additional forms of identification to vote.

The tenth ballot was the only question which did not call for a "yes" or "no" answer.

U.S. seek immediate humanitarian truce in Sudan

By **Ngozi Egenuka**

THE United States has called for an immediate humanitarian truce in Sudan and for expansion of arms embargo to curb the flow of weapons sustaining the conflict, warning that continued fighting is worsening civilian casualties and the risk of famine.

The U.S Representative for United Nations Management and Reform, Ambassador Jeffrey Bartos, made the call during a UN Security Council briefing on Sudan, saying that a humanitarian truce was necessary to ease civilian suffering and create conditions for an inclusive political dialogue.

Bartos said that beyond civilians killed by weapons and mercenaries flowing into the country, hunger and health challenges are by the conflict and the growing threat of famine.

He added that peace efforts and political negotiations must reinforce each other to ensure the participation of civilians across Sudan, including those living abroad.

He described the Quintet-led initiative under the leadership of Pekka Haavisto, as the most viable and credible path towards a peaceful political transition to civilian-led governance.

According to him, the Security Council should support a political process aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement, and a united Sudan that preserves state institutions and remains accountable to its people.

Bartos stressed that any national political dialogue must be owned and led by Sudanese citizens and free from interference by violent extremist groups linked to internationally designated terrorist organisations, as well as individuals accused of atrocities against the population.

He also urged stakeholders to reject attempts to establish competing political dialogues, insisting that priority should be to restore peace and return power to the Sudanese people.

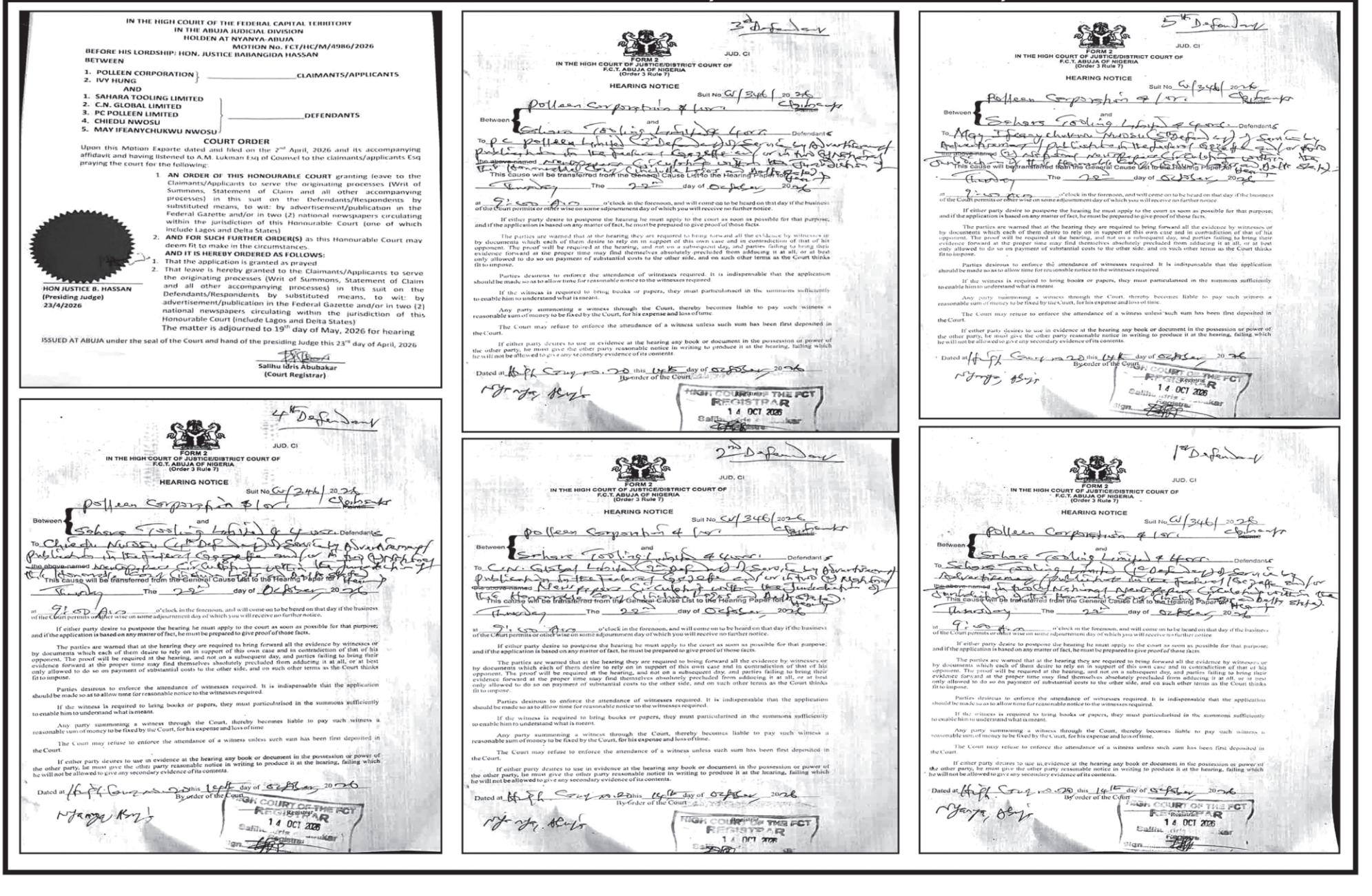
The U.S envoy said the Security Council must take concrete action to halt the continued flow of weapons into the country, citing drone attacks and air strikes that continue to kill and injure civilians.

He referenced a reported attack on a displacement shelter in Blue Nile State the previous week, allegedly carried out by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which killed more than 30 internally displaced persons.

He also cited an attack on a World Food Programme convoy that killed a driver, describing it as the ninth aerial attack on WFP operations in Sudan that year.

"An expanded arms embargo will raise the cost of continued conflict and impede the ability of external actors to provide military support to the warring parties", Bartos said.

He added that Washington will continue pushing for an expanded sanctions regime to reflect the nationwide spread of the conflict.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION, HOLDEN AT NYANYA, ABUJA

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT NYANYA-ABUJA
MOTION No. FCT/HC/M/4986/2026
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE BABANGIDA HASSAN
BETWEEN
1. POLLEEN CORPORATION
2. IVY HUNG
AND
1. SAHARA TOOLING LIMITED
2. C.N. GLOBAL LIMITED
3. PC POLLEEN LIMITED
4. CHIEDU NWOSU
5. MAY IFEANYICHUKWU NWOSU
CLAIMANTS/APPLICANTS
DEFENDANTS
COURT ORDER
Upon this Motion Exparte dated and filed on the 2nd April, 2026 and its accompanying affidavit and having listened to A.M. Lukman Esq of Counsel to the claimants/applicants Esq praying the court for the following:
1. AN ORDER OF THIS HONOURABLE COURT granting leave to the Claimants/Applicants to serve the originating processes (Writ of Summons, Statement of Claim and all other accompanying processes) in this suit on the Defendants/Respondents by substituted means, to wit: by advertisement/publication in the Federal Gazette and/or in two (2) national newspapers circulating within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court (one of which include Lagos and Delta States)
2. AND FOR SUCH FURTHER ORDER(S) as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.
AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:
1. That the application is granted as prayed
2. That leave is hereby granted to the Claimants/Applicants to serve the originating processes (Writ of Summons, Statement of Claim and all other accompanying processes) in this suit on the Defendants/Respondents by substituted means, to wit: by advertisement/publication in the Federal Gazette and/or in two (2) national newspapers circulating within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court (include Lagos and Delta States)
The matter is adjourned to 19th day of May, 2026 for hearing
ISSUED AT ABUJA under the seal of the Court and hand of the presiding Judge this 23rd day of April, 2026
HON JUSTICE B. HASSAN
(Presiding Judge)
23/4/2026
Salihu Idris Abubakar
(Court Registrar)

FORM 2
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE/DISTRICT COURT OF F.C.T. ABUJA OF NIGERIA
(Order 3 Rule 7)
HEARING NOTICE
JUD. CI
Suit No. CV/3466/2026
Between: Polleen Corporation & Ors. — Claimants
and
Sahara Tooling Limited & 4 ors. — Defendants
To: PC Polleen Limited (3rd Defendant) by Service by Advertisement/Publication in the Federal Gazette and/or in two Newspapers Circulating within the Jurisdiction of the FCT (Some Lagos and Delta States)
This cause will be transferred from the General Cause List to the Hearing Paper for Thursday
The 23rd day of October 2026
at 9:00 a.m. o'clock in the forenoon, and will come on to be heard on that day if the business of the Court permits or otherwise on some adjournment day of which you will receive no further notice.
If either party desire to postpone the hearing he must apply to the court as soon as possible for that purpose; and if the application is based on any matter of fact, he must be prepared to give proof of those facts.
The parties are warned that at the hearing they are required to bring forward all the evidence by witnesses or by documents which each of them desire to rely on in support of this own case and in contradiction of that of his opponent. The proof will be required at the hearing, and not on a subsequent day, and parties failing to bring their evidence forward at the proper time may find themselves absolutely precluded from adducing it at all, or at best only allowed to do so on payment of substantial costs to the other side, and on such other terms as the Court thinks fit to impose.
Parties desirous to enforce the attendance of witnesses required. It is indispensable that the application should be made so as to allow time for reasonable notice to the witnesses required.
If the witness is required to bring books or papers, they must particularised in the summons sufficiently to enable him to understand what is meant.
Any party summoning a witness through the Court, thereby becomes liable to pay such witness a reasonable sum of money to be fixed by the Court, for his expense and loss of time.
The Court may refuse to enforce the attendance of a witness unless such sum has been first deposited in the Court.
If either party desires to use in evidence at the hearing any book or document in the possession or power of the other party, he must give the other party reasonable notice in writing to produce it at the hearing, failing which he will not be allowed to give any secondary evidence of its contents.
Dated at High Court No. 20 this 14th day of October 2026
By order of the Court
HIGH COURT OF THE FCT REGISTRAR 14 OCT 2026
Salihu Idris Abubakar
Registrar
Sign

3rd Defendant
4th Defendant
5th Defendant
2nd Defendant
1st Defendant

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CHANGE OF NAME

ADAOLISA: I, formerly known as Adaolisa Jacinta Adaolisa now wish to be addressed as Okoye Adaolisa Jacinta. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME : I , formerly known as Kennedy Angela now wish to be addressed as Kennedy Odion Angela . All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Sunday Favour now wish to be addressed as Sunday Favour Oduwa . My DOB is 08-02-2008 not 08-02-2006. Former documents remain valid. Public note.

ADDITION OF NAME : Formerly Omotoyinbo Oluropo, now wish to be addressed as Omotoyinbo Oluropo Ebenezer. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Antigha Ema Precious now wish to be addressed as Antigha-Ema Precious Gift . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Doutimiye Ebikebina now wish to be known as Stephen Doutimiye Ebikebina. All fromer documents remain valid. General public note

ADDITION OF NAME : My name was wrongly captured as Opara Anthony instead of Opara Anthony Onyekachi. All former document remain valid public note.

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Chukwuamaka Chegwe now wish to be addressed as Chukwuamaka Nora Chegwe . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Amina Haruna now wish to be addressed as Amina Haruna Umar . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME I, formerly known as Usman Adijat Yadi now wish to be addressed as Usman Yahya Adijat Yadi . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ADDITION OF NAME: I formerly known as Aihebholria Linda now wish to be addressed as Aihebholria Linda Irhianosen. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Ehiguese Godspower now wish to be addressed as Aigbomian Ehiguese Godspower, My DOB is 23-05-1970. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known as Lawal Adenike Oluwakemi now wish to be addressed as Oluwakemi Lawal Adenike Ramat. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

AFOLAYAN : I, formerly known as Afolayan Rachael Olufunke, now wish to be addressed as Alade Rachael Olufunke. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

AIGBOKHAODE: I, formerly known as Andrew-Bassey Uduak Ima now wish to be addressed as Aigbokhaode Uduak Andrew-Bassey . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

AKHIDENOR : I, formerly known as Miss. Akhidenor Edith, now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Idodoh Edith . All former documents remains valid, general public take note.

ALARIBE: I, formerly known as Amarachi Juliana Okehie now wish to be addressed as Amarachi Juliana Alaribe . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

ALLISON: I formerly Known as Amarachukwu Karen Allison now wish to be addressed as Amarachi Karen Dublin-Green . All former documents remain valid. General public take note

ANTONIO: I, formerly known as Antonio Olubukola Olulana now wish to be addressed as Adesope Olubukola Olulana. Former documents remain valid. Public take note.

BALOGUN: Formerly known as Mrs. Balogun Monsurat Abolanle, now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Olurinde-Balogun Monsurat Abolanle. All former documents remain valid. Public note.

BOMA: I, formerly known as Boma Frank Wisdom now wish to be addressed as Anozie-Frank Boma Wisdom . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CHIEDU: I, formerly known as Chiedu Emmanuel, now wish to be addressed as Chinedu Emmanuel. All former documents remain valid General public take note

CONFIRMATION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Aregbesola Temiloluwa now wish to be addressed as Aregbesola Temiloluwa Mary . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CONFIRMATION OF NAME : That, Okosun Victoria and Okosun Omonigho Victoria is same person now wish to be addressed as Okosun Omonigho Victoria. Former documents remain valid . Public note

CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OBOH: I, Oboh Promise Freda is the same person answering Oboh Kate Freda, now Oboh Promise Freda, henceforth. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

CORRECTION OF NAME: That my name was formerly written as Adewale Olamilekan Opeyemi, now to be known as Adewale Olamilekan Abdulbasit. All former documents remain valid. Public notice

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Jasper Adeola Biodun now wish to be addressed as Jasper Abiola Abiodun . All former documents remain valid. General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME :I, formerly known as Sulaimon Awwal Toluwalase now wish to be addressed as Sulaimon Awwal Oluwasegun . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : That during BVN registration I was erroneously captured as Amalime Rejoice instead of Amalime Happy Anwuli . All former documents remain valid public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I, formerly known as Nura Mohammed Iliyas now wish to be addressed as Nura Muhammad Iliyas . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME : I,formerly known as Olatunji Aderemi Estate now wish to be addressed as Estate Of Olatunji Rasaq Aderemi. All former documents remain valid General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: I,formerly known as Ibrahim, Umoru Ahmadu now wish to be addressed as Umoru, Ibrahim Ahmadu . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

CORRECTION OF NAME: That my name was formerly written as Adewale Olamilekan Opeyemi, I now wcant to be known as Adewale Olamilekan Abdulbasit. Public take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME; I, formerly known as Mahmoud Zulaimat Abdullahi now wish to be addressed as Mahmoud Zulaihat Abdullahi . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

EKPUNOBI : I, formerly known as Ekpunobi Carlista Chiamaka now wish to be known as Obi Carlista Chiamaka. All fromer documents remain valid. General public note

EKUNDAYO: I, formerly known as Ekundayo Ifeoluwa Janet now wish to be known as Otubaga Ifeoluwa Janet. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

EPKUNOBI: I formally known as Epkunobi Carlista Chiamaka now wish to be known as Obi Carlista Chiamaka. All former documents remain valid. General public note

GRACE: I, formerly known as Miss Ojite, Ogheneovo Vanessa now wish to be known as Mrs. Omoreghae, Ogheneovo Vanessa. All former documents remain valid. Public notice

ISIKAYE: I, formerly known as Isikaye Tawa Ronke now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Obaujo Tawakalitu Ronke. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

MERCY : I , formerly known as Friday Mercy now wish to be addressed as Friday Gift. My DOB is 31-12-1974 not 29-11-1977. Former document remain valid public note

NANPON : I, formerly known as Nanpon Akor Charity now wish to be addressed as Taazenga Akor Charity. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

NKWACHUKWU : I , formerly known as Nkwachukwu Gift now wish to be addressed as Ayemere Gift, my DOB is, 01-07-1995 not 25-12-2001. Former document remains valid public note.

NLEWEDIM: I, formerly known as Chioma Stella Nlewedim now wish to be addressed as Stella Chioma Betton. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

NWEBONYI : I, formerly known as Nwebonyi Rebecca Chidubem now wish to be addressed as Iduma Rebecca Chidubem. All fromer documents remain valid. General public note

NWOSU: I, formerly known as Miss Nwosu Adaku Stella, now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Adaku Stella Ebenezer. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

OGIDAN: I, formerly known as Sadiq, Halimat Oluwatosin now wish to be addressed as Ogidan, Halimat Oluwatosin .All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKARO: I, formerly known as Miss Grace Chinatu Alaine now wish to be addressed as Mrs Grace Chinatu Okaro . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKEKE: I, formerly known as Chidinma Ifeyinwa Okeke now wish to be addressed as Chidinma Ifeyinwa Godwin. All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OKPRO: I, formerly Miss Okpro Grace Erezi now wish to be known as Mrs. Banjo Grace Erezi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLANIYAN: I,f ormerly known as Onifade Omobolanle Rachael now wish to be addressed as Olaniyan Omobolanle Rachael . All former documents remain valid . General public take note

OLUFUNMILAYO: I, formerly Miss Temitayo Esther Olufunmilayo, now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Temitayo Esther Adigun. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OMOMUWHO: I, formerly known as Miss Omomuwho Blessing Oberhiri now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Imogu Blessing Oberhiri. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

OSO: I formerly known as Miss Oso Oluwatosin Odunayo now wish to be addressed as Mrs. Atijosan Oluwatosin Odunayo. All former documents remain valid public note.

PANDA: I, formerly known as Odih Onyemeachi Panda now wish to be addressed as Odih Onyemeachi Junior. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

REARRANGEMENT OF NAME : I, formerly known as Egbeocha Godwin Azubuike now wish to be addressed as Egbeocha Azubuike Godwin.former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SANNI: I, formerly known as Miss Sanni Ayanfeoluwa Eniade, now wish to be addressed as Mrs Oloriade Ayanfeoluwa Eniade. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

UGOCHUKWU: I, formerly known as Obi Gloria Chinonye now wish to be addressed as Ugochukwu Gloria Chinonye all former documents remain valid . General public take note.

UMOLO: I, formerly known as Emmanuel Umolo now wish to be addressed as Emmanuel Oghenebredjo. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

YOMI : I, formerly known as Tonato Leo Yomi now wish to be known as Tonato Leo Mayomi, as it is on my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Public take notice.

Govt traces 44 contacts, intensifies surveillance nationwide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

in lost economic output by the end of 2015, depending on the scale and duration of the outbreak.

In its report, The Economic Impact of the 2014 Ebola Epidemic: Short and Medium-Term Estimates for West Africa, released on October 8, 2014, the Bank outlined two scenarios based on the speed of containment and the spread of the disease beyond Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the countries worst affected at the time.

Under the "Low Ebola" scenario, which assumed the outbreak would be contained by early 2015, with cases remaining around 20,000, the region's lost gross domestic product (GDP) was estimated at $2.2 billion in 2014 and $1.6 billion in 2015.

Under the "High Ebola" scenario, which envisaged slower containment and up to 200,000 cases, the projected losses stood at $7.4 billion in 2014 and $25.2 billion in 2015, bringing the total to $32.6 billion.

The report attributed the potential economic losses to both direct and indirect costs, including increased government spending on healthcare, reduced labour productivity as workers fell ill or cared for sick relatives, and deaths associated with the disease.

ALSO, the economic threat posed by a prolonged Ebola outbreak comes as Nigerian households continue to grapple with high living costs and constrained purchasing power, leaving consumers with limited room to absorb further economic shocks.

As previously reported by *The Guardian*, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed that the minimum daily cost of a healthy diet rose to N1,589 per adult in April 2026, up 3.12 per cent from N1,541 in March and 4.74 per cent above the N1,518 recorded in April 2025.

The report attributed the increase to higher prices across most food groups, underscoring the pressure on household budgets despite signs of moderation in annual food inflation.

Any outbreak-related disruption to food distribution, transport services or commercial supply chains could compound these pressures, although the extent of the impact would depend on the scale and duration of the outbreak.

Similarly, *The Guardian* reported in June, citing Credit Direct's 2025 Nigeria Credit Landscape Report and data from the Central Bank of Nigeria's Consumer Sentiment Survey, that households remained reluctant to commit significant portions of their income to major purchases, including homes, cars and other durable goods.

The High-Value Purchase Index remained below the 50-point benchmark throughout 2025, averaging between 21 and 22 points and peaking at 29.9 points in November.

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

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NOTICE OF CHANGE OF NAME

This is to inform the general public that CHRISGODDY OPTIONS COMPANY has changed its name to GOLDENCREST INDUSTRIES LIMITED.

All business transactions and correspondence shall henceforth be conducted in the new name.

The public and all stakeholders are kindly requested to take note.

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GOLDENCREST INDUSTRIES LIMITED

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CAF Champions League

Rangers land in Algiers, optimistic of victory over MC Alger

By Christian Okpara

ENUGU Rangers have landed in Algers ahead of their CAF champions League second qualifying round second leg clash with MC Algers on Friday.

The Nigerian team defeated the Algerians 2-0 on Sunday in Abeokuta and need a good result in Algiers to qualify for the group stage of Africa's most prestigious inter-club championship.

The team travelled on Monday aboard a Turkish Airlines flight, which had a stopover in Istanbul before proceeding to Algiers.

According to officials of the team, the decision to leave for Algiers early was to enable to players acclimitise with the weather and also give the team the chance to settle down properly for the game on Friday.

Rangers' Coach, Fidelis Ilechukwu, said his team would approach the second leg as if the first game did not happen.

Ilechukwu, who said that the team would avoid complacency, said that the Flying Antelopes would throw everything they have into Friday's game to gain the needed result.

This is not the first time Rangers will be meeting MC Algers with a two-goal advantage.

In 1976, the Flying Antelopes conceded three goals in Algiers after beating MC Alger 2-0 in Nigeria in the semifinal of the old Cup of Champions Club, which is now the CAF Champions League.

Rangers need to avoid defeat by more than one goal to guarantee progression to the group stage without requiring further tie-breaking procedures.

Also speaking on the game, Enugu Rangers Chief Executive Officer, Amobi Ezeaku, assured the team's fans that the Nigerian champions will defeat MC Alger in Algeria.

He said that Rangers' early departure for Algiers was to ensure that nothing stopped them from coming back to Nigeria with a group stage ticket, adding that the Flying Antelopes were aware of the Algerians' possible resort to intimidation to gain advantage in the game.

"We won't face anything. We will play and win them in Algiers. They can only shout, blow smokes and jump. We will come back to Nigeria joyous by God's grace. Amen.



Enugu Rangers

Shooting: Over 500 army personnel compete in 2026 Small Arms Championship

By Bertram Nwannekanma

MORE than 500 officers and soldiers are participating in the Nigerian Army Small Arms Championship (NASAC), with contingents drawn from the Army's 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 81 and 82 Divisions, the Four Special Forces Command, Army Headquarters Garrison and the Nigerian Army Women Command.

The Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Waidi Shaibu said the Championship provides an opportunity to assess troops' proficiency in weapon handling, sharpen marksmanship skills and strengthen operational readiness.

Shaibu, represented by the Commander, Training and Doctrine Command, Major General Peter Malla, stated this while declaring open the 2026 edition of the championship in Ajilete, Owode, Ogun State.

Ikoyi Club holds Breast Cancer Awareness Ladies' Inter-Club Tennis Tournament

ALL is set for the Ikoyi Club Breast Cancer Awareness tennis tournament expected to take centre stage on October 24.

Speaking on the competition on Monday, the chairman of the elite club's tennis section, Victor Onyenkpa, and Ladies Captain, Nora Azubuike, said that every arrangement for the forthcoming tournament has been top-notch.

Azubuike, who is directly involved in the tournament, explained that the event will feature the Ikoyi Club team and three other teams.

According to her, Lagos Lawn Tennis Club, Island Club and Heritage Club will join the host club, Ikoyi Club 1938 in the tournament that will be decided via doubles event only.

Azubuike said: "The teams will play one another to determine the best two that will play in final and the other two will vie for the third and fourth spot.

"A number of sponsors have embraced this event, which is also aimed at educating female members on breast cancer."

Record 25 Nigerian born players make NBA 2026/7 opening night roster

By Christian Okpara

THE world's biggest basketball league, the National Basketball Association (NBA), yesterday, announced a record 25 Nigerian born players in a list of more than 60 players who were either born in Africa or have at least one parent born on the continent the opening-night rosters for the 2026-27 season.

Overall, the opening-night rosters feature 125 international players from a record-tying 43 countries across six continents, including 70 European players, marking the second consecutive season and second time ever with at least that many.

CAF Women's Champions League Draw

Edo Queens to play in Group B if they win WAFU B ticket

By Christian Okpara

NIGERIAN champions, Edo Queens, will play in Group of the CAF Women's Champions League if they eventually beat Ghana's Ampen Darkoa Ladies to the WAFU B ticket.

The final draw for the CAF Women's Champions League, tagged Egypt 2026, was held yesterday in Cairo, with the winner of the WAFU B ticket placed in Group B.

Edo Queens thought they had won the ticket to represent the zone after beating Ampem Darkoa Ladies by penalties after the regular time of the WAFU B final ended in a 2-2 draw. But the Ghanaians protested the method used in arriving at the winner, arguing that the referee should have ordered the teams to play extra 30 minutes before going into penalties.

CAF upheld their protest and ordered a replay of the game in Burkina Faso on October 24.

Should Edo Queens secure qualification, they will be in Group B alongside Moroccan giants AS FAR, USFAS Bamako from Mali and Kawempe Muslim Ladies from Uganda.

UEFA Champions League

Kimmich fears Olise's absence as Bayern Munich host Arsenal

• Arteta could make five changes in today's line up

BAYERN Munich star, Joshua Kimmich, has stressed the difficulty of the upcoming clash with Arsenal in the third round of matches in the UEFA Champions League, with France's Michael Olise unavailable through suspension after being sent off during the 3-3 draw with Viking in the previous round.

As reports by "Sky", Kimmich said of the Arsenal encounter: "We have one or two players carrying a few knocks after today's match (the 6-1 win over Leipzig in the Bundesliga), and I hope it's nothing serious."

The Germany international continued: "Michael Olise won't be available because of the red card. Obviously that makes things more difficult for us, especially when it comes to replacing a player like him, in a big match like this."

"But we have a lot of quality in the squad, and we'll give everything we have," he added. "I'm really looking forward to the match."

Also speaking on Olise's absence, star striker Harry Kane said the French star's absence hands somebody else a chance to prove what they can do.

Today's Football Matches UEFA Champions League		
Como	v	Man United
Lille	v	Galatasaray
Aston Villa	v	Viking
Bayern Munich	v	Arsenal
Club Brugge	v	Lens
Inter Milan	v	Shakhtar Donetsk
Real Betis	v	Feyenoord
Real Madrid	v	RB Leipzig
Sporting CP	v	LASK
Spanish La Liga		
Levante	v	Athletic Club



Bayern Munich will resume their UEFA Champions League rivalry with Arsenal today at the Allianz Arena.

Ikeja Club, LGAN commend winners as FALDO Golfview Championship ends in style

By Eniola Daniel

CHEERS, excitement and applause filled the air on Sunday, October 18, as the maiden Faldo GolfView Junior Golf Championship 2026 came to a close.

The pulsating three-day event saw Joshua John of TYB International Golf Resort and Country Club emerge overall winner. In the Under-21 boys' category, he shot 72, 71, 76 for a gross score of 219 (+12) over 54 holes.

John was the cynosure of all eyes from the opening day to the end. His score on the challenging Ikeja course impressed the organisers, with his participation in the forthcoming Faldo Junior Golf Championship in Saudi Arabia said to be firmly guaranteed.

Second position in the U-21 boys category went to Oluwatosin Usman of Ikeja Golf Club, who played an eagle on hole 18 on the final day. He shot 76, 73, 79 for a gross of 228 (+21) over 54 holes. He was overwhelmingly celebrated by fans and Ikeja Club members - carried shoulder-high from the course to the prize presentation hall for making them proud.

Solution

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Wednesday, October 21, 2026



Enugu Rangers land in Algiers, optimistic of victory over MC Alger

/47



Guest Writer

Ojo Emmanuel Ademola

Economic imperative of staying the course of reforms



NIGERIA stands at a defining moment in its national journey, a moment that demands clarity of thought, institutional sobriety, and a willingness to confront uncomfortable truths about how nations truly grow. For decades, we have been conditioned to believe that leadership change is the panacea for all national ailments. Every election cycle becomes a referendum on personalities rather than policies, and every transition ushers in a fresh wave of disruption, resetting the national compass before any reform has had the chance to mature.

In my June 2026 column, I argued that Nigeria's real challenge is not the frequency of leadership turnover but the fragility of the systems that underpin governance. Today, unfolding economic indicators reinforce that argument with unmistakable force: continuity in governance is no longer a political preference; it is an economic imperative.

Nigeria's reform trajectory is beginning to attract the kind of global confidence that only stability can sustain. This is not a matter of partisan sentiment; it is a matter of managerial logic, institutional discipline, and economic realism. Nations that have successfully transformed their economies did not do so by constantly changing direction. They did so by staying the course long enough for reforms to take root, stabilise, and deliver prosperity.

Signals of confidence are emerging — And they are not accidental

In recent months, Nigeria has witnessed a series of developments that speak unmistakably to rising international confidence. Morgan Stanley's decision to enter the Nigerian market is not a casual gesture; global financial institutions of that calibre move only when they detect credible policy direction and macroeconomic stabilisation.

Similarly, Opay's ambition to list on a major U.S. stock exchange signals that Nigerian-rooted digital enterprises are maturing into globally compliant, investor-ready corporations. These developments are complemented by the steady growth of both net and gross foreign reserves, as well as the increasing flow of foreign currency toward the country.

These signals are not accidental. They are the early fruits of structural reforms that require discipline, patience, and — above all — continuity to mature into broad-based national prosperity. They indicate that Nigeria is beginning to regain the trust of international markets, and that the reforms currently underway are being interpreted as credible, coherent, and worthy of long-term engagement.

For a nation that has long struggled with policy inconsistency, this moment is significant. It suggests that Nigeria is finally entering a phase where reform outcomes are becoming visible, where investor sentiment is shifting, and where the global community is beginning to recognise the country's potential for sustained economic transformation.

Reforms are systems, not events

From the vantage point of an exemplary Chartered Manager, the logic is straightforward: structural reforms do not deliver prosperity overnight. They deliver stability first, then confidence, then investment, and finally broad economic benefit. This sequence is universal. It is the same path travelled by nations that have successfully transitioned from volatility to stability, and from stability to prosperity.

Nigeria is now in the most delicate phase of this cycle — the stabilisation phase. This is the period when markets quietly test policy credibility, investors watch for consistency, institutions adjust to new frameworks, citizens endure short-term discomfort, and long-term dividends begin to form beneath the surface. It is a phase that demands patience, discipline, and a refusal to succumb to the temptation of abrupt political resets.

To interrupt this moment with political discontinuity would be to uproot crops at the very point they begin to germinate. It would send a signal to investors that Nigeria remains trapped in its old cycle of disruption, where reforms are abandoned before they mature and where every new administration begins from scratch. Such a reset would not merely slow progress; it would reverse it.

Continuity is the bridge between reform and prosperity

The argument for continuity is not partisan; it is managerial. Nations that have successfully transformed their economies — from Singapore to South Korea — did so through policy consistency rather than constant political experimentation. Continuity offers what every reforming economy needs: predictability for investors, institutional learning that cannot occur under perpetual resets, and the maturation of policies long enough to reach their intended equilibrium.

Predictability is the most valuable currency in global investment. Investors do not simply seek favourable conditions; they seek conditions that will remain stable long enough for their investments to yield returns. Continuity provides that assurance. It signals that a nation is committed to its reform path, that it understands the importance of institutional memory, and that it is willing to prioritise long-term prosperity over short-term political theatrics.

Continuity also strengthens national resilience. Rising reserves enable the country to absorb external shocks, stabilise the currency, and maintain macroeconomic balance. As reforms mature, they begin to deliver human-level impact: stabilised markets translate into improved purchasing power, increased employment opportunities, and money flowing into household pockets. These are the outcomes that matter most to ordinary Nigerians, and they are the outcomes that continuity makes possible.

Nigeria's current reform cycle has reached a point where disruption would not merely slow progress — it would reverse it. The nation must recognise that it is standing at a crossroads, and that the decisions made now will determine whether the country continues on its path toward stability or returns to the familiar cycle of volatility.

> "Nigeria is now in the most delicate phase of this cycle — the stabilisation phase. This is the period when markets quietly test policy credibility, investors watch for consistency, institutions adjust to new frameworks, citizens endure short-term discomfort, and long-term dividends begin to form beneath the surface. It is a phase that demands patience, discipline, and a refusal to succumb to the temptation of abrupt political resets"

The evidence is emerging: Nigeria is stabilising

The signals are clear: international financial institutions are re-engaging, Nigerian companies are scaling into global markets, foreign-exchange reserves are strengthening, investor sentiment is improving, and regulatory systems are becoming more predictable. Taken together, these developments reinforce the thesis I advanced months ago — that Nigeria does not need another abrupt leadership reset, but rather the continuity required for reforms to mature into genuine, broad-based prosperity.

These developments also suggest that Nigeria is beginning to build the institutional credibility that has long eluded it. For decades, the nation has struggled to convince investors that it is capable of sustaining reform momentum. Today, however, the evidence suggests that Nigeria is finally beginning to break that cycle. The reforms currently underway are being interpreted as credible, coherent, and worthy of long-term engagement.

A nation must choose between perpetual planting and eventual harvest

Nigeria has spent decades planting — new leaders, new slogans, new promises — but it has rarely allowed reforms to mature long enough for harvest. The current administration's structural reforms, though imperfect, are beginning to attract the kind of global confidence that only stability can sustain. The choice before the nation is therefore stark: return to the familiar cycle of disruption, where every election resets the national compass, or embrace continuity so reforms can stabilise the economy, strengthen institutions, and translate into real prosperity for ordinary Nigerians.

Continuity is not stagnation; it is the disciplined patience required for national transformation. It is the recognition that reforms must be allowed to mature, that institutions must be allowed to learn, and that policies must be allowed to reach their intended equilibrium. Nigeria must now decide whether it will remain a nation of perpetual planting or finally become one that stays the course long enough to reap what it has sown.

Conclusion: The courage to stay the course

Nigeria's future hinges on its willingness to embrace continuity as a strategic national choice. The reforms currently underway are beginning to yield visible dividends, and the global community is responding with renewed confidence. To abandon this trajectory now would be to squander the progress made, undermine investor trust, and return the nation to its old cycle of volatility.

Continuity is not a political slogan; it is an economic strategy. It is the bridge between reform and prosperity, between potential and performance, between aspiration and achievement. Nigeria must stay the course — not because continuity is convenient, but because it is necessary. The nation stands at a defining moment. It must choose wisely.

Ademola is first African Professor of Cybersecurity and Information Technology Management; Global Education Advocate; Chartered Manager.

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