



NLC mobilises for nationwide strike over minimum wage, petrol prices as talks collapse

NEWS PAGE 3

NEC backs 90-day plan to cut living costs, boost jobs, investment

NEWS PAGE 3

NAFDAC raises alarm over unregistered herbal remedies for STDs, hypertension

NEWS PAGE 30



Ebola:

PAGE 6

FG quarantines contacts, denies plan to ban gatherings, rallies



Senate advances bill to establish research, innovation fund

NEWS PAGE 29

Reps seek ban on advance rent above 12 months

NEWS PAGE 31



Senate demands security overhaul as 113 killed in Benue

NEWS PAGE 31

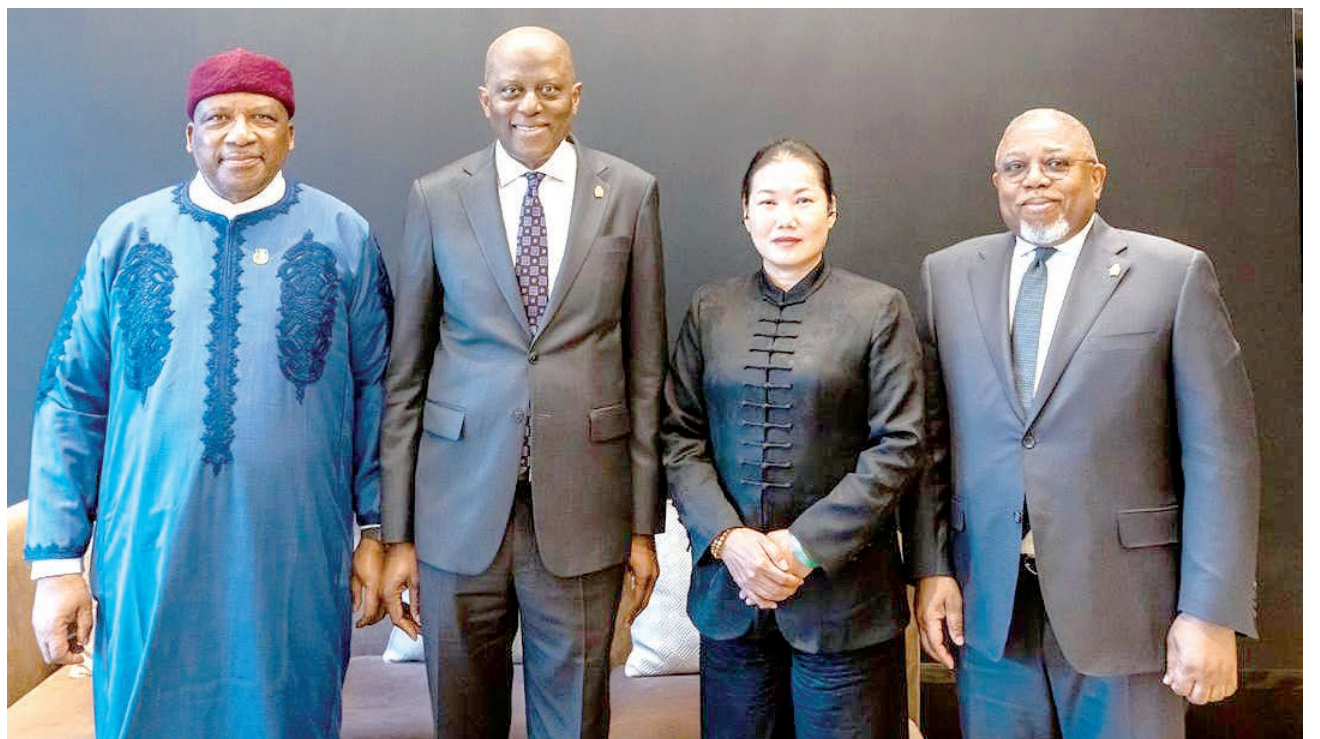
IPOB member gets 20-year jail term for belonging to proscribed group

NEWS PAGE 30



Dilemma over 'Rainbow Coalition' as Tinubu begins campaign

NEWS PAGE 6



Strengthening the Nigeria-China Financial Corridor: Nigeria's Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau (rtd) (left); Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Mr Olayemi Cardoso; Chairperson of CIG Motors, Chief Diana Chen; and Deputy Governor (Economic Policy) at the CBN, Mr Philip Ikeazor, at the meeting between the CBN and business, financial and industry leaders actively engaged in the Nigeria-China corridor, held in Beijing, China, on Wednesday.



Secretary, Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID), Olumide Adetiba (left); Editor of the book, *Ladbene life in Print*, Dapo Olorunyo-mi; Mrs Biodun Ozurumba; Celebrant, Lade Bonuola, his wife, Esther; Former Governor of Ogun State, Olusegun Osoba and Bolupe Maborukoje, during the 80th birthday celebration of Lade Bonuola and public presentation of his book titled *Ladbene life in Print*, in Lagos, yesterday.

Psychiatrists decry low research funding amid escalating mental health cases

NEWS PAGE 7

Panorama

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

Boat tragedy: Kula indigenes protest, take bodies to Rivers State House

From Godfrey Gabriel

INDIGENES of Kula Kingdom in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State on Thursday marched through Port Harcourt with the bodies of victims of a boat tragedy to demand answers from the state government.

The protesters reportedly marched along Aba Road towards the Rivers State Government House following the deaths of youths whose boat capsized during a confrontation over the movement of an oil vessel from the community.

The incident occurred amid a dispute over an alleged oil spill and demands by residents for compensation and remediation of the affected environment.

An elder statesman and Kula stakeholder, Chief Anabs Sara-Igbe, accused the vessel owner of attempting to remove the vessel without meeting the community's demands.

Sara-Igbe called on Governor Siminalayi Fubara to intervene urgently to prevent the situation from escalating and stop youths in the community from taking the law into their hands.

He urged the state government to address the grievances of the community and ensure that the circumstances surrounding the

deaths were investigated.

Responding to the protesters, the Chief of Staff to the governor expressed sympathy with the families of the deceased.

He assured the protesters that the state government would investigate the incident to establish the facts and ensure that justice was served.

China backs Tinubu's reforms, seeks continuity beyond 2027

From Terhemba Daka, Abuja

THE Chinese government has expressed confidence in Nigeria's ongoing economic reforms under President Bola Tinubu, describing them as yielding tangible results and calling for their consolidation beyond 2027.

China's Ambassador to Nigeria, Yu Dunhai, stated this during a courtesy visit to the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, in her office in Abuja.

The envoy cited growing trade between the two countries, improved macroeconomic indicators and renewed investor confidence as evidence of Nigeria's economic transformation, urging the country to sustain the reform momentum.

He disclosed that bilateral trade volume had reached \$18 billion in the first half of the year, while Nigeria's exports to China had also recorded significant growth over the past three years.

Dunhai said the developments had strengthened confidence in Nigeria's economic

prospects, adding that China was prepared to deepen its investments in the country.

He assured that Beijing would pursue mutually beneficial partnerships guided by the

principle that Africa's resources belong to Africans, with emphasis on high-quality investments and the utilisation of local human capital.

Kaduna, Bayelsa, Yobe, A'lbom okay State Police Bill

MORE state Houses of Assembly yesterday approved the establishment of a state police service as part of its consideration of proposed amendments to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as the proposal gradually inches towards the 24-state benchmark for the state police bill to sail through.

With yesterday's passage by Kaduna, Bayelsa, Yobe and Akwa Ibom Assemblies, about 22 out of 36 states have already sent their agreement to the constitution amendment decentralising the Nigeria Police Force.

The Yobe State House of Assembly passed the bill following deliberations by

lawmakers on proposed constitutional amendment bills transmitted by the National Assembly for consideration and voting.

The Kaduna State House of Assembly also endorsed the proposed amendment to the 1999 Constitution that would allow the creation of state police services. Lawmakers gave their consent during Thursday's plenary, chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Henry Magaji Dajuma.

Similarly, the Bayelsa State House of Assembly approved the proposed sixth alteration to the 1999 Constitution to provide for the establishment of state police services and other related matters.

TODAY IN HISTORY

• 2023 - UK

Justice Robin Knowles of the Commercial Courts of England ruled in favour of Nigeria quashing enforcement of \$11 billion arbitration award in favour of Process & Industrial Developments (PID). He upheld Nigeria's prayer that the ill-fated gas processing contract was obtained by fraud

• 2022 - China

Xi Jinping was elected General Secretary of Chinese Communist Party, beginning a third term of the paramount leader of China.

• 2011 - Libya

National Transitional Council declared civil war over in wake of Gadhafi's death, saying new Libya will be governed by sharia law, but would remain a moderate Muslim country.

• 2005 - Nigeria

Stella Obasanjo (59), wife of Pres. Obasanjo, died after a liposuction surgery in Spain. In 2009, a court in Malaga convicted plastic surgeon Antonio Molina of negligent homicide. He was sentenced to a year, barred from medicine for three years, and ordered to pay \$175,000 in damages to Stella's son.

• 2002 - Nigeria

Federal Government rejected a World Court ruling that granted possession of disputed oil-rich Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon.

TODAY'S QUOTE



Aspiration for democracy and freedom knows no race or colour. It has no geographical boundaries. It is a universal aspiration

AHMED SALIM

I want to be remembered as a loving 'carer' who loved God; and cared about Nigeria, my family, husband, workers, friends, women-folk, disabled, orphaned children and my Child Care Trust Foundation.

STELLA OBASANJO

RANDOM FACTS

• World's highest number of people living in extreme poverty (2026)

1. Nigeria - 73.1 million
2. DR Congo - 71.6m
3. Afghanistan - 35.2m
4. Mozambique - 25m
5. Yemen - 24.2m
6. Tanzania - 23.9m
7. Madagascar - 20.1m
8. Uganda - 18.2m
9. India - 14.46m
10. Ethiopia - 14.3m.

... DAY 4562
OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya,
News Editor

@TopeTempler



TheGuardian WEEKEND

Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

OCTOBER 24 - 25, 2026

SPECIAL FEATURE

Public Schools, Private Lifelines
...Alumni Interventions Expose Poor Funding For Education



NEWSFEATURE



No Refund, No Redress And Consumer Protection Dilemma

SHOWBLAST

Felabration 2026: New Generation Of Artistes Keeps Fela's Legacy Alive

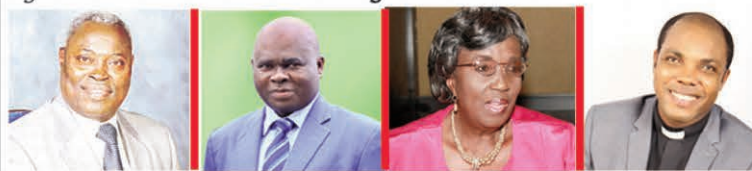


IBRUCENTRE

Our Gracious Benefactor (2), By Pastor W. F. Kumuyi
Is Your Name Written In The Book Of Life? By Pastor Lazarus Muoka

The Cost And Crown Of Truth (2), By Venerable Stephen Wolemonwu

Stop Talking And Listen (8), By Prof. Yetunde Mercy Olumide



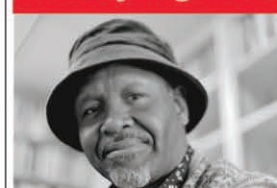
ARTS

Exploring Nuances Of Colours In Aderinsoye's Voice In Pigment

In Apata Boys, Omeje Interrogates Power, Loyalty In Ibadan Of 80s

Broadcast Content Across Borders

Okeke-Agulu's Freedom Bird Explores Art, Memory, Migration



POLITICS



2027: Dissecting The Re-match Between Mbah And Nnaji In Enugu Race

INTERVIEW



Adams Oshiomhole: Why Petrol Subsidy Is No Longer Feasible In Nigeria

WEEKENDBEATS



Gaise Baba... Variety Is What Stands African Music Out

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

NLC mobilises for nationwide strike over minimum wage, petrol prices as talks collapse

May meet October 27 over unresolved workers' demands

From **Collins Olayinka** (Abuja) and **Gloria Nwafor** (Lagos)

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) has directed its affiliates, state councils and civil society allies to begin mobilising for possible nationwide action after its meeting with the Federal Government failed to resolve outstanding workers' demands.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Labour in Abuja, yesterday, ended without concrete commitments from the government, prompting organised labour to warn it would consider its next line of action if the next session, scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, makes no meaningful progress.

Labour's demands include a reduction in petrol prices to 2024 levels, renegotiation of the national minimum wage, implementation of agreed tax relief measures, and resolution of the Joint Health Sector Unions (JOHESU) terms of settlement.

It also demanded the resolution of issues raised by the Joint Public Service Negotiating Council (JPSNC) concerning peculiar allowances, wage awards and hazard allowances.

In a statement issued after the meeting and signed by its Acting General Secretary, Benson Upah, the NLC expressed disappointment that the government's delegation arrived without the necessary mandates to engage substantively on the issues.

The congress said the lack of relevant authorisations prevented the meeting from producing concrete outcomes, leaving workers' demands unresolved.

According to the statement, the Minister of Labour requested an adjournment till October 27 to allow the government prepare adequately for a more productive meeting, including the participation of relevant Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

While reaffirming its commitment to dialogue, the NLC warned that it would not accept indefinite delays in addressing workers' concerns. The congress said it would report the outcome of yesterday's meeting to its organs, namely the National Executive Council (NEC) and the Central Working Committee (NWC), which would determine the next course of action if the government failed to demonstrate meaningful progress at the rescheduled meeting.

NEC backs 90-day plan to cut living costs, boost jobs, investment

From **Terhemba Daka** (Abuja), **Tobi Awodipe** (Lagos) and **Segun Ayinde** (Abeokuta)

THE National Economic Council (NEC) has endorsed a 90-day economic action plan to ease the cost of living, improve food affordability, attract investment and accelerate projects with direct benefits to Nigerians.

In Ogun State, Governor Dapo Abiodun announced plans to introduce a government-backed bulk food purchase scheme to reduce the cost of essential commodities, while promising to expand the state's mass transit fleet to ease transportation challenges facing workers and other residents.

NEC also approved a national dashboard to track projects across the federation, with an emphasis on transparency, accountability, and the utilisation of funds saved from the removal of the petrol sub-

- **Shettima tasks govs on affordable transport, healthcare**
- **Minister allays fears over Ebola, urges states to strengthen preparedness**
- **Ogun govt to cut food prices, expand bus fleet**

sidy.

The decisions were reached at NEC's 161st meeting, held virtually yesterday and chaired by Vice President Kashim Shettima, following a presentation by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyeadele.

The development came as Shettima charged governors and relevant government institutions to ensure that the gains of President Bola Tinubu's economic reforms translate into tangible improvements in Nigerians' living conditions.

He identified affordable transportation, accessible healthcare, job creation and greater financial security as critical measures of the suc-

cess of the administration's economic policies.

The 90-day action plan prioritises five areas: food affordability, tax harmonisation, completion of high-impact projects, removal of investment bottlenecks and regulated household support.

Presenting the economic outlook, Oyeadele expressed optimism about the progress of the administration's reform programme, identifying further reductions in headline inflation and interest rates, with a target of single-digit levels by 2027, as key policy objectives.

He stressed that the next phase of reforms would require coordinated implementation by federal and state institutions to translate

macroeconomic gains into measurable benefits for households and businesses. The plan is expected to focus on targeted interventions, improved fiscal coordination and the removal of barriers to investment.

Addressing council members, Shettima said economic reforms must ultimately be judged by their impact on citizens' daily lives, rather than by policy announcements or headline economic indicators alone.

"The first dividend of prosperity should be the confidence to plan a life. Our task is to make such confidence less dependent on fortune," he said.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng



Dr Benjamin Uzochukwu (left); Chairman, Board of Trustees (BoT), West African College Physicians (WACP), Dr Sonny Kuku; WACP President, Dr Mamadou Mourtalla; President Bola Tinubu and Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Muhammad Ali Pate when WACP conferred honorary fellowship on the President at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

2027: INEC faces litigation over voter register, staff redeployment

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

WITH the 2027 general election fast approaching, a civic group has threatened legal action against the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over the alleged inaccessibility of the preliminary voter register and unanswered questions about the redeployment of key electoral officials.

Meanwhile, not confident that the human element will deliver, the commission is deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI) to curb errors in election result management, as experts warn that the technology could also be exploited to manipulate voters and undermine public confidence in the electoral process.

Also, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar accused INEC of undermining public confidence in the 2027 general election, demanding expla-

- **Turns to AI to check result discrepancies**
- **Atiku accuses commission of hiding 103m voters' register**

nations for the alleged failure to make the preliminary voters' register available online during its announced period for public scrutiny.

The group, Concerned Citizens for Nigerian Democracy (CCND), said it would approach the Federal High Court if INEC failed to publish the preliminary register online by October 30, warning that restricted public access could weaken scrutiny of the register ahead of the January 16, 2027 presidential election.

It disclosed that INEC had acknowledged receipt of its letter to its chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, dated October 22. CCND said its check of INEC's voter registration portal on October 21 returned the message, "Service temporarily un-

available", preventing it from accessing the preliminary register.

It argued that online publication was critical to enabling voters, political parties and other stakeholders to identify possible irregularities, including duplicate entries, deceased persons remaining on the register and questionable voter transfers.

Citing Section 19 of the Electoral Act, 2026, which it said provides for public display of the register and a 14-day window for claims and objections, it warned that the objection period would be less meaningful if citizens could not properly examine the register and verify the information it contains.

CCND also questioned the redeployment of Mrs Oluyemi

Titilayo Adeyemi-Showunmi to head INEC's Electoral Operations Department at its Abuja headquarters, while the department's former head, Isah Gummi, was moved to the Voter Registry Department.

Read the remaining story on www.guardian.ng

Makinde slams Tinubu's economic management, alleges budget misalignment

- **Bauchi governor warns against infiltration of APM**
- **Opponents not enmity, Momoh cautions against divisive rhetoric**

From **Adewale Momoh**, Akure

GOVERNOR of Oyo State and Allied People's Movement (APM) presidential candidate, Seyi Makinde, has taken a swipe at the Federal Government's fiscal management, stressing that Nigerians can no longer tell which budget the President Bola Tinubu administration is operating.

Speaking yesterday at the South-West town hall meeting in Akure, Ondo State capital, Makinde said the Federal Government was confused.

Governor Bala Mohammed of Bauchi State, who is also an APM senatorial candidate, hailed Makinde for the Akure outing, stating that he was able to do it due to his capacity, pedigree and energy.

Meanwhile, the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of Channels Media Group, Dr John Momoh, has urged political parties to refrain from utterances capable of fuelling disunity in the country as political opposition is not enmity.

While emphasising that he operated a full budget cycle with performance consistently above 70 per cent, Makinde emphasised that energy, not age, would decide the 2027 presidential race.

At the town hall meeting attended by party leaders, stakeholders and supporters from across the six South-West states, the presidential candidate stressed that APM offered a superior model of governance, describing the party as the only answer to the problems bedevilling Nigeria.

On why he was contesting when the South-West already had someone in the presidency, Makinde recalled the 1999 precedent, when the entire country ceded the presidency to the South-West, but Olusegun Obasanjo and Olu Falae contested.

"Under the Tinubu administration right now, we don't know which budget they are even operating on for Nigeria. Is it 2023, 2024, or the 2026 budget? And then they are coming with the United Nations (UN) budget to say, look, this is the UN budget."

TheGuardian

For Advert Enquiry, Call:

GUARDIAN COMMERCIAL/PRINT

0803 348 9497

0802 301 5115
0803 193 0899

GUARDIAN DIGITAL
0808 597 3490

ABUJA OFFICE
0802 319 5673

GUARDIAN LIFE
0803 056 7059

Harvest of commendations,

By Gbenga Salau and Sunday Aikulola

SOME of the finest practitioners of the open profession gathered in Lagos yesterday to celebrate one of their best – Lade ‘Ladbone’ Bonuola.

Ladbone, who turns 80, was the former Managing Director of *The Guardian* Newspapers.

The *crème-de-la-crème* of the newspaper profession in Nigeria, led by the former Ogun State Governor, Olusegun Osoba; the *Premium Times* publisher, Dapo Olorunyomi; and former Editor of *The Guardian*, Femi Kusa, opened the floodgates of tributes for the octogenarian, Bonuola, proudly reminiscing about the stellar qualities of the senior newsman who shaped the destinies of several renowned journalists.

In unison, they described him as a great, serious-minded, and meticulous journalist who was passionate about his craft.

The special occasion was marked by the launch of a commemorative book, titled *‘Ladbone: A Life in Print’*. The book was edited by Dapo Olorunyomi and published by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID).

Osoba, who chaired the event, recalled that Bonuola joined the *Daily Times* as a sub-editor when he (Osoba) was Editor of *Sunday Times*.

According to Osoba, both often had a tough time during production, as Bonuola wanted to ensure that all the stories were edited painstakingly by going through the copies, which slowed the pace of production.

He noted that Bonuola often paid much attention to detail, while he was always conscious of the need to meet deadlines and get the paper to the newsstand early the next day.

Osoba felt it was one of the reasons Bonuola started a column called ‘Caught Out,’ in which he looked for errors in all the newspapers.

“When *The Guardian* was established, the late publisher, Alex Ibru, wanted a serious-minded newspaper patterned along the *London Times*, and I told him that the best editor is Bonuola. He created a standard that others started following, with his good

• Osoba, Olorunyomi, Kusa, others extoll Bonuola’s media legacy

• Ladbone thanks Michael Ibru, Alex-Ibru, Jose, Osoba, others for their support

friend, Kusa.”

Osoba also called for a one-minute silence to honour Prof. Idowu Sobowale and Ambassador Patrick Dele Cole.

To Olorunyomi, the 750-page book explores dimensions of Bonuola’s life, moments of excellence, the architecture of his genius, and the extraordinary record of his mentorship.

Olorunyomi stated that Bonuola had few equals, describing him as the best editor among his generation. “We are grateful for his labour of love to the country and our profession.”

Olorunyomi stated that the book’s idea is part of CJID’s ongoing efforts to strengthen journalism in the country.

He recounted that Bonuola wanted to shut down the project but later realised it was unwise. “I want to thank the contributors who helped shape the project.”

On his part, Kusa noted that Bonuola would not take any inadequate report, as he would tear it to pieces and rewrite the entire article.

He also recalled how they set a standard that all news stories must be backgrounded, which meant they would breathe into all news copies. “When *The Guardian* started, we maintained quality writing. Nduka Irabor joined us later. We found him a wonderful person in the newsroom. Mr Emeka Izeze also helped sanitise the quality of news writing,” he stated.

Just before the book was unveiled, there was a panel discussion around the future of Nigerian journalism. On the panel, moderated by Azu Ishiekwene, were Kadaria Ahmed, Ifeanyi Mbanefo, and Chiamaka Ozurumba.

The discussion highlighted the changing phase of journalism, concluding that how journalism was practised in the era of Bonuola cannot be wholly replicated, though issues around integrity and ethics remain the same.

On his part, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Lagos, Frank Keurhorst said the occasion was not only about celebrating Bonuola, but also an opportunity to reflect on the role of journalism in society.

“Nigeria has a rich media landscape that has helped reform the country. Bonuola’s contribution reminds us of his professional integrity and editorial independence.

“An independent press is essential to strengthening democracy, and it is important we preserve the stories of those who defend it. This is why the CJID Living Archives Initiative is important: it documents journalists’

experiences and helps ensure this important history is not lost. We are proud of our long-standing relationship with CJID.”

Expressing his appreciation, Bonuola recounted how Alhaji Babatunde Jose spotted him, gave him all the necessary training at home and abroad.

He also talked about how Chief Osoba had a lot of confidence in him while Kusa was unwavering. According to him, the late publisher of *The Guardian*, Mr Alex Ibru, never interfered in his work for once.

“I was sending news schedules to him, but he never opened them. He would say, ‘You are the expert while I am a businessman’.”

Bonuola urged the attendees to thank Jose, Osoba, Michael, and Alex Ibru for helping shape his journalistic destiny. He pleaded that anytime the participants had time, they should help offer prayers for the four.

Reviewing the book, Mr Kunle Ajibade noted that Bonuola is a man of institutional building. He added that many of the contributors, when discussing Bonuola, recounted their own stories passing through him.

Ajibade described him as a journalism exemplar, statesman, the legend, the great teacher, the standard bearer, the architect of truths, the editor of editors, the bone of our bones, the engine room of *The Guardian*, a solid bridge across generations, a consummate workaholic, a media policeman, a veteran of note, an extraordinary talent supporter, and a disciplinarian.

“The book is inspiring and enlightening. It is an affirmation of visionary power and a celebration of significant values.”

He described the book as a masterclass for those who aspire to excellent public service. “As many of the writers tell their

stories of their interactions with him, they also tell plenty of stories of their own professional lives.”

“The conference of these stories, the narratives within narratives, give us access to the history of Nigerian journalism itself. There are many engaging recollections here of how he was an inspiration.”

Ajibade noted that former President Ibrahim Babangida, former Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, former governor of Osun State Bisi Akande, Osoba and former governor of Lagos State Babatunde Fashola attested to Bonuola’s courage and insight as a public affairs commentator. He was a voracious reader and a passionate debater in secondary school, where he won the John F. Kennedy zonal essay competition.

Some of those at the event include, former Minister of Information, Alhaji Lai Mohamed; Lagos State Commissioner for Information, Gbenga Omotoso; former Managing Directors of *The Guardian Newspaper*, Emeka Izeze and Martins Oloja; Pro-democracy activist, Ayo Obe; former Editor of *Punch*, Gbemiga Ogunleye; Sully Abu; former Managing Editor of *The Guardian*, Femi Kusa; Nigeria Guild of Editors’ President, Eze Anaba; Managing Director, *ThisDay*, Eniola Bello; former Lagos commissioner for Information, Steve Ayorinde; former NGE President, Funke Egbemode; Managing Director of *The Sun*, Onuoha Ukeh; Veteran journalist, Taiwo Obe; former Saturday Editor, Banji Adisa; former Sunday Editor, Fred Ohwahwa; former Special Adviser to Governor Babatunde Fashola on Information, Hakeem Bello.

There was a huge number of ex-Daily Times staff. There were also representatives of members of his Alma mater, and his community in Oyo State, Kishi.



Celebrant, Lade Bonuola (left); Nze Chidi Duru and Augustine Isioma Iwelu

tributes for Ladbone at 80



Mrs Sola Adeola (left); veteran journalist and co-founder of *Newswatch* magazine, Ray Ekpu; former Editorial board member of *The Guardian Newspaper*, Uthman Shodipe-Dosunmu; Chairman of the occasion and former Governor of Ogun State, Olusegun Osoba; celebrant, Lade Bonuola and former Director of Publications of *The Guardian*, Femi Kusa.



Consul General of the Netherlands in Nigeria, Frank Keurhorst (left) and Cultural Officer at the Netherlands Embassy, Praise Oluwarinu.



Former Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief, *The Guardian*, Emeka Izeze (left); Dr Tunde Abayomi and Publisher, *Ovation Magazine*, Dele Momodu.



Celebrant, Lade Bonuola (left); former Managing Director/Editor-in-chief, *The Guardian*, Martins Oloja and Chief Eric Teniola.



Former Minister of Information, Lai Muhammad (left) and former Editorial board member of *The Guardian Newspaper*, Uthman Shodipe-Dosunmu.



Founder, *The Journalism Clinic*, Taiwo Obe (left); Emeka Izeze and Publisher, *BusinessDay*, Frank Aigbogun.



Master of Ceremonies for the event, Anike Adefunke Treasure (left); Editor, *Saturday Tribune*, Dr Lasisi Olagunju; Columnist, *Nigerian Tribune*, Dr Festus Adedayo; Editor, *The Guardian*, Dr Femi Adekoya; former Editor, *Sunday Guardian*, Fred Ohwahwa; and former Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief, *The Guardian*, Martins Oloja at the event.



Former librarian, *The Guardian*, Titi Oba and former Executive Director and consultant at *The Guardian Newspapers*, Oyebanji Awosanya.

Ebola: FG quarantines contacts, denies plan to ban gatherings, rallies

From Terhemba Daka, Adamu Abuh, Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze (Abuja), Ijeoma Nwanosike and Opeyemi Babalola (Lagos)

THE Federal Government has quarantined high-risk contacts of Nigeria's confirmed Ebola Virus Disease case but said political campaigns, conferences and other major public gatherings can proceed, pending any change in the public health situation.

Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Muhammad Ali Pate, disclosed this yesterday in Abuja, saying the government had yet to identify sufficient scientific grounds to recommend changes to planned events, despite intensifying efforts to prevent the infection from spreading into communities.

The position comes as Nigeria approaches the 2027 general election, when political activities and mass gatherings are expected to increase.

Pate said the government would continue to monitor the outbreak and adjust its recommendations if scientific evidence indicated that restrictions had become necessary.

He explained that the index patient, who was asymptomatic on arrival in Nigeria, developed symptoms a few days later. The patient has since shown signs of improvement, with the latest laboratory results indicating significant progress, although the outcome remains uncertain.

The minister said identified contacts included people

- Pate: Position on public gatherings subject to continuous review
- Medical experts demand high-alert measures, better hospital preparedness
- APC council says NIOB Ebola fund remains untouched
- Tinubu tasks West African doctors on disease prevention, brain drain
- NCDC leads response as FG mobilises local, international support

linked to the hospital where the patient received care, domestic contacts and individuals associated with a private medical facility she had visited.

The contacts have been categorised according to their levels of exposure, with high-risk individuals quarantined in designated facilities and others isolated under public health supervision.

"The high-risk contacts have been quarantined fully in a facility. The others have been isolated and we're ensuring that the isolation is enforced, consistent with public health expert guidelines. We've activated the incident management system," he said.

Pate added that the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) was coordinating the day-to-day operational response in line with international health regulations.

He said hospitals had been notified to prepare bed spaces and isolation facilities and ensure that healthcare workers were adequately equipped to implement infection prevention and control measures.

The minister also stressed the need to engage private healthcare providers, noting that the index patient had visited a private facility.

"The private sector is important, because as you saw, this case went to a private facility. In 2014, it was a private facility.

So private practitioners of all kinds should also be sensitised and connect to the public health authorities," he said.

On the government's decision to allow planned public gatherings to proceed, Pate said the position was based on available evidence indicating that the case remained contained.

He, however, emphasised that the decision was subject to continuous review and did not rule out restrictions if the situation changed.

He urged political actors to avoid turning the outbreak into a partisan issue, stressing that public health emergencies required cooperation

across political, ethnic and religious divides.

The minister also called on Nigerians to remain calm, comply with public health advisories and avoid spreading unverified information about the outbreak.

Pate expressed confidence in Nigeria's capacity to contain the infection, citing the country's experience in managing Ebola in 2014, as well as its existing surveillance systems, laboratory facilities and trained personnel.

"Nigeria has been able to deal with Ebola in the past. We feel that it is possible that we can be able to deal with it. We have a great team that is running the incident management system, and we have confidence in the NCDC, their personnel, and all the pillars of support comprising the NCDC, the Ministry of Health, Port Health Services, and other agencies that are working hand in hand together," he said.

He disclosed that the government had strengthened coordination between federal and state authorities and mobilised domestic and international technical support.

According to him, the Presidential Task Force on the outbreak and the Nigeria Governors' Forum had been briefed, while the National Economic Council had also been informed.

Pate said President Bola Tinubu had authorised additional resources for the response, with funding provided

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



Chairman, Silverbacks Holdings, Ibrahim Sagna (left); Chair, AT50 Index, Gbite Oduneye; member, AT50 Index Capital Markets Readiness Council (CM-RC), Karima El Hakim; CEO, MNT Halan, Mounir Nakhla; Chairman, Egyptian Exchange (EGX), Omar Radwan; and Director, Financial Regulatory Authority Sandbox, Ahmed Khalifa, during MNT Halan's EGX listing ceremony, as the company moves from AT50 to Egypt's public markets, yesterday.

Dilemma over 'Rainbow Coalition' as Tinubu begins campaign

From Terhemba Daka, Joke Falaju (Abuja), Rotimi Agboluaje (Ibadan), Oluwale Ige and Timothy Agbor (Osogbo)

AHEAD of tomorrow's flag-off of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign for the 2027 general election in Kaduna State, the ruling party is still battling the crisis of cohesion and internal wrangling in some states.

While all seems set for a colourful kick-off with campaign posters and banners bearing photographs of President Bola Tinubu, Governor Uba Sani and other party leaders appearing on major roads and public spaces in the state capital, rumblings and misgivings over the vague 'shape and form' of the Nyesom Wike-led Rainbow Coalition are causing ripples that may hurt the APC in the general elections in key states.

The APC presidential campaign launch, scheduled for Saturday, is expected to bring together party leaders, governors, political stakeholders and supporters from across Nigeria. However, some residents of Kaduna metropolis have expressed concerns about the country's economic situation, insecurity and rising unemployment, urging

- Police restrict heavy-duty vehicles as posters, banners flood Kaduna
- Federal agency CEOs mobilise 100,000 supporters for Tinubu's campaign
- Oyetola, Oyebamiji's camp absent as Adeleke inaugurates Osun Tinubu campaign council
- Rainbow Coalition for presidency only, Adeleke clarifies
- APC scribe: No ego bigger than Tinubu's victory, APC members must support Adeleke
- Wike seeks support for candidates under rainbow coalition
- Hoodlums vandalise Tinubu re-election campaign secretariat in Ibadan
- Obasanjo's son joins Tinubu's movement, backs policy continuity, reforms

the president to use the campaign to explain how he intends to address their challenges. The residents expressed doubt that the campaign would address these concerns, saying previous political gatherings had not necessarily translated into better living conditions for ordinary Nigerians.

Already, the Kaduna State Police command has announced restrictions on the movement of trailers, tankers, lorries and other heavy-duty vehicles across the Kaduna metropolis from midnight on Thursday to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday ahead of President Tinubu's visit to the state. The Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Rabiu, announced the restriction during a security briefing, saying it was intended to reduce congestion and ensure the free movement of vehicles during the presidential visit.

He clarified that the restriction

would apply only to heavy-duty vehicles, not other commuters. "This restriction only applies to all trailers, tankers, lorries, articulated and other heavy-duty vehicles only, not other commuters. This is done because we want to decongest and make free movement of vehicles in the metropolis," he said.

Rabiu said the command, working with the military, Department of State Services (DSS) and other security agencies, had activated comprehensive security arrangements to protect the President, dignitaries, campaign participants and members of the public.

He said the deployment would include conventional police personnel, tactical teams, explosive ordnance disposal personnel, traffic management units and crowd-control teams across the campaign venue and other strategic locations. The com-

missioner also advised people without legitimate business at the venue to stay away from the site and its immediate surroundings.

MEANWHILE, the Forum of CEOs of Federal Government Parastatals (FORCEPA) on Thursday said it has mobilised more than 100,000 supporters to storm the Kaduna venue of the APC presidential campaign kick-off, reaffirming its support for President Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima's re-election in 2027.

The forum, comprising more than 500 chief executives of federal agencies and parastatals, also pledged to mobilise 10 million votes for Tinubu and Shettima, citing the need for policy continuity and consolidation of the administration's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Addressing newsmen at the Federal Secretariat, Abuja, its chairman, Dr Kazeem Kola-

wale Raji, who was joined by other officers of the forum, said members had been deployed to Kaduna to coordinate mobilisation and engage stakeholders ahead of the campaign event. Declaring that the Tinubu administration deserved a second term, he said the forum was established to harness the institutional experience and networks of federal agency chiefs to promote public awareness of government policies and programmes.

FORCEPA particularly defended the Tinubu administration's economic reforms, including petrol subsidy removal, describing them as difficult but necessary measures to strengthen public finances, attract investment and support long-term growth. However, the forum acknowledged the hardship facing households and businesses, saying the success of the reforms would depend on their ability to deliver jobs, higher incomes and improved living standards.

BUT signs that all may not be well within the party appeared yesterday in Osun State as chieftains of the APC, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Accord Party converged on Osogbo for the inauguration of the Osun State Presi-

dential Campaign Council for the re-election of President Tinubu. The council was inaugurated by Governor Ademola Adeleke, who was appointed Osun State Coordinator for the President's re-election campaign.

The event came hours after the Osun State chapter of the APC said it was not briefed about the inauguration. Chairman of the party, Tajudeen Lawal, in a statement earlier on Thursday, said the party learnt of the event only through a social media listing by the governor's spokesperson, but added that it was not opposed to Adeleke coordinating the campaign.

Despite the morning protest, the inauguration hall was filled with who is who in Osun politics, except for former Governor Gboyega Oyetola, Osun APC 2026 governorship candidate, Bola Oyebamiji and other executive members of the party who are loyal to Oyetola and captured in the Council list.

Prominent among those present were the pioneer national chairman of the APC, Bisi Akande, the National Secretary of the APC, Ajibola Basiru, former Osun Deputy Governor, Iyiola Omisore, Sola Adeyeye, Shuaib Oyedokun,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

West Africa risks return to authoritarian rule, Justice Nnamani warns

From **Lawrence Njoku**, Enugu

WEST Africa risks a return to authoritarian rule if executive excesses weakening democratic institutions and growing public dissatisfaction with governance are not urgently addressed, the President of the Enugu State Customary Court of Appeal, Justice George Chibueze

Emerging markets hold key to global growth, Nigeria tells investors

As **Oyedele** presents Nigeria's economic transformation agenda

By **Isaac Chibuike**

DIRECTOR and Head of Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-Four (G24), Dr Iyabo Masha, has informed global investors that the next phase of global economic expansion will depend substantially on how developing economies attract long-term capital, improve productivity and harness innovation. Masha delivered the message at the just-concluded ninth Annual Foreign Investment Network (FIN) Banking on Emerging Markets Forum and Awards in Bangkok, Thailand, held alongside the 2026 IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, where policymakers, finance officials, investors and business executives gathered to examine investment opportunities and the changing dynamics of the global economy.

Online violence may silence women in 2027 elections, experts warn

From **Sodiq Omolayo**, Abuja

TECHNOLOGY and digital rights experts have warned that online harassment, disinformation and other forms of technology-facilitated violence could discourage women from participating in Nigeria's 2027 elections.

The experts urged journalists and social media platforms to strengthen safeguards against digital threats.

They said the growing use of artificial intelligence, coordinated online attacks, manipulated social media trends and threats to publish intimate images could be weaponised against female politicians, journalists and other women in public life ahead of the elections.

The experts spoke at a media engagement yesterday involving digital rights organisations, including Digital Africa Research and Safety Lab (DigiAfrica Lab), TechHer, and DigiCivic Initiative, on online safety, civic participation and emerging digital threats ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Nnamani, has warned

In a keynote address at the 4th Civil Society Week for West Africa (CSWWA 2026) in Enugu, he expressed concern over the resurgence of military rule in parts of the sub-region, questioning whether the development reflected growing military ambition or widespread disenchantment with democratic governance.

He also faulted the growing dominance of the executive arm of government, warning that the subordination of the legislature and judiciary could undermine constitutional democracy and

fuel political instability.

The two-day conference, organised by Spaces for Change (S4C) West Africa in collaboration with its partners, is themed Strengthening Judicial Protection of Civic Space in West Africa.

In his address titled 'Separation of Powers: How Many Powers and How Separate?', Nnamani questioned whether the constitutional principle of separation of powers was being respected across West Africa, despite provisions in national constitutions guaranteeing the independence and functions of the three arms

of government.

He said: "Executive high-handedness, conspiratorial inertia of the legislature and acquiescence of the judiciary are trending accusations piling up against the drivers of democracy in the West African sub-region. This, incidentally, is no ordinary piffle, idle talk or rabble-rousing. While national constitutions glitter and shimmer with sublime provisions, the observance thereof by political actors remains largely in breach."

The judge lamented that the executive arm had become increasingly power-

ful at the expense of the legislature and judiciary, warning that such an imbalance was dangerous to democratic governance.

According to him, the deliberate weakening of the other arms of government sends the wrong message to citizens that the executive is the ultimate authority, while the legislature and judiciary are merely expected to endorse its decisions.

The jurist also expressed concern over the resurgence of military governments in West Africa, noting that Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali and Niger were currently

under military rule.

He questioned whether the development was a sign of renewed military ambition or reflected widespread frustration with the performance of civilian administrations.

Nnamani also highlighted the challenges facing judges as terrorism, banditry and kidnapping for ransom continue to threaten the region, noting that courts are increasingly handling cases involving extreme violence and powerful economic and political interests.

Bol disburses N644.9b, targets N1.35tr lending by 2027

Backs 12,501 businesses, supports 1.68m jobs

By **Tobi Awodipe**

BANK of Industry (BoI) disbursed a record N644.9bn to businesses in 2025, representing a 26 per cent increase over the previous year, as it targets a sharp expansion in yearly lending to drive manufacturing, small business growth and job creation.

The bank's Managing Director, Dr Olasupo Olusi, disclosed this yesterday while reviewing progress under its 2025-2027 corporate strategy, saying the institution supported 12,501 businesses and created or sustained an estimated 1.68 million jobs during the year. He revealed that the manufacturing sector was the largest beneficiary, absorbing most of the funds disbursed so far.

According to the bank's 2025 Development Impact Report, the disbursement was its highest yearly financing volume at the time, reflecting an intensified effort to provide long-term capital to enterprises operating in critical sectors of the economy.

Private sector credit falls N537.6b in Sept despite 15.7% growth

By **Tobi Awodipe**

CREDIT to Nigeria's private sector fell by N537.6 billion in September 2026, despite remaining significantly higher than its level a year earlier, raising fresh questions about the flow of financing to businesses and households amid persistent concerns over borrowing costs.

Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed that credit to the private sector declined to N83.93 trillion in September from N84.47 trillion in August, representing a month-on-month contraction of 0.64 per cent.

However, on a year-on-year basis, private-sector credit increased by approximately N11.40 trillion, or 15.7 per cent, from N72.53 trillion recorded in September 2025.



National Chairman, Allied Peoples' Movement (APM), Yusuf Mamman Dantalle (left); Bauchi State Governor and APM National Leader, Senator Bala Mohammed; Oyo State Governor and APM Presidential Candidate, Seyi Makinde; and his running mate, Alhaji Lawal Daura; Director General, Makinde/Daura 2027 Presidential Campaign Organisation, Mr Felix Hassan Hyat; Deputy Director General, Administration, Hajia Maryam Inna Ciroma; Former Governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola; and Oyo State APM Governorship Candidate, Bimbo Adekanmbi, during the Makinde/Daura 2027 Presidency South West Town Hall Meeting, held at Ondo State International Conference Centre, Akure. PHOTO: Oyo Gov's Media Unit.

Psychiatrists decry low research funding amid escalating mental health cases

By **Quadri Wahab**

PSYCHIATRISTS have decried inadequate funding for mental health research in Africa amid an escalating burden of mental health conditions, warning that limited investment is undermining efforts to develop evidence-based interventions and expand access to care.

They disclosed that most African countries spend less than \$0.50 per person yearly on mental health, while

Nigeria allocates only 0.1 per cent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to mental health research.

The experts called for increased investment to strengthen research capacity, address workforce shortages and develop interventions suited to the continent's needs.

They made the call at the International Yaba Research Conference organised by the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Yaba, Lagos.

In his remarks, the Chief Medical Director of the hospital, Dr Olugbenga Owueye, said mental health research in Africa was at a critical crossroads, with the region facing a growing burden of disorders alongside severe systemic neglect.

Owueye said that despite the high burden of mental health conditions in sub-Saharan Africa, most countries allocate less than one per cent of their health budgets to mental health. He described the

resulting average expenditure of less than \$0.50 per person yearly as grossly inadequate to address rising cases of depression, psychosis, substance use disorders and other mental health conditions.

Similarly, the President of the African Association of Psychiatrists, Prof. Taiwo Lateef, said Africa bears about 10 per cent of the global mental health burden but contributes less than two per cent of global mental health research.

Nigeria's climate policy, financing, implementation worries UNDP

By **Chinedum Uwaegbulam**

UNITED Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has called for stronger coordination of climate policies, improved access to climate finance and effective implementation of Nigeria's climate commitments to protect livelihoods and drive sustainable economic growth.

The UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria, Elsie Attafuah, said the country must strengthen the links between national climate policies, public financing and implementation across gov-

As new report outlines options to contain temperature spike

ernment institutions to deliver meaningful results under its third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0).

Speaking at the launch of Nigeria's NDC 3.0 and the inaugural meeting of its Interministerial Steering Committee in Abuja yesterday, Attafuah said climate commitments must translate into practical development gains for households, businesses and vulnerable communities.

She noted that Nigerians experienced climate change through everyday challenges, including unpredictable rainfall, flooding, extreme heat

and threats to agricultural production, adding that these realities should shape the implementation and measurement of the country's climate targets.

According to her, NDC 3.0 offers Nigeria an opportunity to guide investments in energy, agriculture, infrastructure and other critical sectors, while expanding energy access, protecting livelihoods and strengthening economic competitiveness.

MEANWHILE, with global temperature set to exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, urgent and strin-

gent cuts to greenhouse gas emissions are needed to minimise the magnitude and duration of overshoot and return to 1.5°C by the end of the century, a new United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report finds.

The Emission Gap Report 2026: The Point of Return looks at a 'lowest possible' 1.5°C overshoot scenario, in which peak warming by around the middle of the century is limited to 1.7-1.8°C and global temperature rise is returned to or below 1.5°C by 2100, with about a 50 per cent chance.

TheMetroSection

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria f GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

Edo demolishes buildings linked to alleged organ harvesting, cult activities

From Joseph Kanjo, Benin

THE Edo State Government has demolished two buildings in Uromi and Ewatto over allegations that they were used for organ harvesting and cult-related activities.

The demolitions were carried out by security agencies led by the governor's Principal Security Officer, Augustine Okoh, according to a statement by the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo, Dr Patrick Ebojele. The operation involved the Edo State Security Corps, the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies.

One of the demolished properties was a bungalow and boys' quarters belonging to a 40-year-old man, Ebhata Eromosele, at Uwalor-Oke in Uromi, Esan North-East Local

Council.

The statement alleged that Eromosele used the property for ritual activities and organ harvesting involving three young women. One of the victims, a pregnant woman, reportedly died, while another, who was hospitalised, has been discharged. The third victim is receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Esan Central Senatorial District.

The government said a body found lifeless after an alleged killing was traced to the bungalow by the Edo State Security Corps. A subsequent search reportedly uncovered a bloodstained bedspread and other items suspected to be evidence of ritual activities.

Ebojele said Eromosele had been arrested in connection with the alleged crimes, adding that the demolition

was intended to deter others from engaging in similar activities.

The government also demolished a property at Idi-Negbon Eguare in Ewatto, Esan South-East Local Council, allegedly used for cult-related

activities.

Coordinator of the Edo State Special Security Squad, Amiolemon Idemudia, said the property belonged to Bright Ejetuwamen, whom he accused of being at the forefront of cult clashes that

had disturbed the peace of the community.

Idemudia said the suspect had been apprehended and warned that the state government would not spare properties used as hideouts or for criminal activities.

He said the governor had made it clear that his administration would not tolerate crimes of such nature and would continue efforts to make the state safe for residents.



Edo officials during the demolition... yesterday

23-year-old awaiting trial inmate escapes from Edo court

From Joseph Kanjo, Benin

A 23-year-old awaiting trial inmate, Osita Thomas, has escaped from court premises in Auchi, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State, prompting the Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS) to appeal to the public for information that could lead to his recapture.

Thomas, who is being held at the Medium Security Custodial Centre, Auchi, was reportedly taken to court last week for trial but was denied bail. Sources said he fled after the court sitting.

The correctional officer who escorted him and other inmates reportedly avoided pursuing him to prevent other inmates from escaping.

An official of the NCS attributed the incident to a shortage of personnel, expressing concern that more than 1,000 officers of the service were expected to retire this year without plans to recruit replacements.

Court restrains police from arresting businessman over civil dispute

Orders return of wife's SUV seized from Lagos residence

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, has restrained the Inspector-General of Police and other police authorities and officers from arresting, detaining, harassing, intimidating or threatening Chief Francis Onyekachukwu over a commercial dispute between two companies.

The court also ordered the immediate and unconditional return of a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) belonging to Onyekachukwu's wife, which was allegedly removed from his residence at No. 10A Thompson Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos, on September 22, 2026.

Justice Yusuf Halilu issued the orders on October 21, 2026, while granting an ex-parte application filed on October 12 by Terka Aondo, SAN, on behalf of Onyekachukwu and Niger Green Dredging International Ltd. in suit number CV/4647/2026.

The respondents include the Inspector-General of Police, Nigeria Police Force, Commissioner of Police, Lagos State

Command, Police Service Commission, Divisional Police Officer, Ikoyi Police Division, Assistant Inspector-General of Police, Chukwuma Ihebom, of the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), Abuja, and Superintendent of Police Elvis Ibe, also of the FCID.

Others are Managing Director of Royal Technergy Frontier Ltd., and the company.

In his ruling, Justice Halilu restrained the first to seventh respondents, including their officers, agents, servants and privies, from interfering with Onyekachukwu's personal liberty, dignity and freedom of movement in connection with the commercial transaction between Niger Green Dredging International Ltd. and Royal Technergy Frontier Ltd.

The judge also barred the police respondents from further invading, barricading, occupying or interfering with the applicant's residence or his peaceful possession and enjoyment of the property pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice.

Police probe Rivers boat tragedy amid report of 10 deaths

From Njadvava Musa (Maiduguri) and Godfrey Gabriel (Port Harcourt)

THE Rivers State Police Command has confirmed a boat incident in Kula Kingdom, Akuku-Toru Local Council, amid reports that 10 people died.

Community leaders have also called for an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the tragedy.

The police spokesperson, ASP Agabe Blessing Kaborlo, said investigations were

ongoing to establish the exact number of casualties and determine what led to the incident.

The incident reportedly occurred on Tuesday evening amid tensions over plans to retrieve the Anambra Basin FSO, a vessel owned by Max Shipping Services Limited, and a dispute over alleged oil pollution in the community.

Community sources said some residents had opposed the vessel's removal over

concerns about the environmental impact of a reported oil spill, insisting that remediation and compensation issues be addressed.

Sukubo Sara-Igbe, a Kula indigene and President of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, alleged that six gunboats arrived in the area during the operation.

He claimed that a boat conveying community members capsized during the confrontation, leaving several people feared dead.

Respite for Magodo landowners as Lagos allocates land 40 years after dispute

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

LANDOWNERS under the Shangisha Landlords Association in Magodo, Lagos State, have expressed relief after the state government allocated land to them in a dispute that has dragged on for about four decades.

The landowners, who have been pursuing the case for years, welcomed the development as a significant step towards enforcing the Supreme Court's judgment in their favour.

However, they urged the

government to provide essential infrastructure, including access roads, to make the newly allocated land suitable for development and habitation.

Speaking after a meeting on the allocation, the association's chairman, Chief Adebayo Adeyiga, said: "I am very joyful that I am alive. So many of us who started this case are no more. It is only their children who have been communicating. We are not going to say that because they have died, we should do away with the resources they

laboured for when they were alive."

He maintained that the affected landowners would

accept the allocation despite concerns about the location and the resources required to make it habitable.



The land located at Shangisha Magodo GRA phase 2.

LASEMA warns of fresh danger from burnt tanker under Otedola Bridge

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE burnt-out diesel tanker lying beneath Otedola Bridge in Lagos has continued to pose a safety risk days after the fire incident, prompting renewed emergency operations by the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA).

The agency said its response team returned to the scene on Wednesday after receiving a distress call about a leaking pipe around the bridge, raising concerns about additional fuel spillage, a possible fire outbreak and

environmental damage.

According to LASEMA, the call came through its Central Response Mechanism at 1.50 p.m., prompting the immediate activation of the Tiger Response Team from the Command and Control Centre. The team arrived at the scene 10 minutes later.

On arrival, the responders discovered that the burnt tanker from the earlier incident was still beneath the bridge, with its contents continuing to spill. The situation was further complicated by people attempting to scoop the

leaking diesel, exposing themselves and other road users to the danger of a possible fire or explosion.

Working with the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, the emergency team immediately began blanketing operations to suppress flammable vapours and reduce the risk of the wreckage catching fire again.

The responders also cordoned off the affected area and dispersed those scooping fuel before handing over the scene to police officers for continued security surveillance.

Wife raises alarm over husband's arrest amid pending court case

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

A Lagos woman, Mrs Faith Austin Akpomreta, has raised the alarm over the alleged arrest of her husband, Austin Akpomreta, by police operatives, expressing fears for his safety after losing contact with him.

Austin, legal adviser to the GTHomes Estate Residents Association in Lekki, was allegedly arrested on Wednesday by operatives of the Police Monitoring Unit from Abuja and taken to Elemoro Police Station before being moved to the airport,

where his wife believes he was flown to Abuja.

Recounting the incident, she said her husband left home for work in the morning but called shortly after she had taken their children to school to report that he was in a frightening situation.

"They laid an ambush for him outside the estate gate. They double-crossed him with a tricycle and forcibly took him to Elemoro Police Station along the Lagos-Epe Expressway," she said.

Akpomreta added that the last information she received

indicated that her husband was at the airport with the operatives.

"I have not been able to reach him since then. I am scared. My husband has not committed any crime, and he should be freed," she said, appealing for intervention to protect his fundamental rights.

The alleged arrest occurred while a fundamental rights enforcement suit involving Austin and four other applicants was pending before the Federal High Court, Lagos Division, Ikoyi.

Hot Lines: 08034990344 and 08160223638

Lagos park-and-pay plan faces test as touts collect roadside fees

By Glory Sunday

FOR motorists in Lagos State, finding a place to park can mean more than securing a convenient space. In some areas, it also means dealing with people who demand money for roadside parking, leaving motorists uncertain about who has the authority to collect fees and whether the charges are legitimate.

The practice presents a challenge for the Lagos State Parking Authority (LASPA), which is preparing to introduce its proposed regulated on-street parking scheme to manage designated roadside spaces, regulate fee collection and improve compliance with parking rules. During visits to Adeniyi Jones, Allen Avenue, Obafemi

Awolowo Way, Ikeja Under-Bridge and adjoining streets, *The Guardian* observed vehicles parked along major roads, including locations where parking appeared poorly organised.

For motorists, the problem goes beyond finding a space. Where people demand payment for parking, it may be difficult to establish whether they are authorised agents or simply exploiting the absence of clear arrangements.

Helen Samuel, who works along Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja, said her workplace's parking space could not accommodate all staff members, forcing some to consider roadside parking.

She believes better public awareness of parking regulations could encourage com-



Parked vehicles occupying sections of Awolowo Road, Ikeja..yesterday.
PHOTO: GLORY SUNDAY

pliance, although she acknowledged that not every motorist would follow the rules.

Chika Nyesom, who occasionally visits the Ikeja Under-Bridge area to shop, said roadside parking had been con-

venient.

She admitted that she had not given much thought to using designated parking facilities before leaving her vehicle by the roadside, but said she would consider doing so in fu-

ture. Their experiences illustrate why roadside parking remains common: convenience, limited spaces and the availability of alternatives all influence motorists' decisions.

However, informal collections by people claiming control of roadside spaces add another layer of uncertainty.

An inter-state driver, Afisu Dada, said he had seen vehicles parked along roads leading towards LASPA's office at 36B Sasegbon Street, G.R.A., Ikeja, without apparent intervention by enforcement officials.

Drawing on his experience in Agboyi-Ketu and the Ikorodu axis, Dada said parking appeared more organised in some locations where mo-

torists who parked illegally risked having their vehicles towed and being made to answer to the local council.

He believes consistent enforcement could discourage indiscriminate parking and improve access to homes and businesses.

However, the specific enforcement arrangements he described in Agboyi-Ketu were not independently verified during the investigation.

LASPA has been working towards a more structured approach to roadside parking for several years. In January 2024, the authority reported identifying more than 20,000 setbacks suitable for parking across Lagos State, with over 13,000 already in use.

Plateau Insecurity: Gunmen kill NSCDC officer, abduct businessman despite curfew

From Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi, Jos

FRESH security concerns have emerged in Plateau State following the killing of a Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) officer and the abduction of a businessman in Pushit community, Mangu Local Council, despite an ongoing dusk-to-dawn curfew.

The incident came amid complaints by Muslim clerics in Barkin Ladi Local Council over alleged security threats, unlawful arrests and destruction of property, as the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) called for an investigation into the killing of a herder and the alleged burning of Fulani homes by security personnel.

The NSCDC officer, identified as Deputy Superintendent Distu

Imams seek FG's intervention over alleged arrests, killings, destruction of property

Garba Audu, popularly known as Tony, was reportedly shot dead at about 8:00 p.m. near his residence in Pushit.

According to a local activist, John Walshak, Audu was riding his motorcycle to buy meat at a local shop when he encountered the gunmen, who had earlier abducted a businessman identified only as Gilbert. Gilbert, a popular trader dealing in fuel, cement and fertiliser, was reportedly being taken away by the attackers when the headlight of Audu's motorcycle exposed his presence. The gunmen allegedly opened fire on the officer as they fled with their hostage.

As of press time, the whereabouts of the abducted businessman remained unknown, while security agencies had yet

to issue an official statement on the incident.

The attack has heightened anxiety in Mangu and other parts of the state, where authorities have imposed dusk-to-dawn curfews following recurring killings and attacks.

In a related development, five

Imams from Juma'at mosques in Dorowa-Babuje, Luggere and Jol communities in Barkin Ladi appealed to the state and federal governments to address what they described as growing security threats in their areas.

The clerics, identified as Imams Bashir Khamis, Salihu Muhammad, Idris Usman, Aliyu Mahmud and Yahaya, said the situation was becoming alarming and required urgent intervention to prevent further deterioration of peace.

The clerics, led by Imam Yahaya of the Luggere Juma'at Mosque, who spoke with journalists in Jos, alleged that members of their communities had suffered unlawful arrests, threats, destruction of property and killings.

"We are in difficult times in

these communities. Unlawful arrest of our members without any cogent reason is the order of the day," Yahaya said.

He alleged that members of their social media team, who documented and publicised their experiences, had been arrested or threatened, while houses and other property were allegedly destroyed.

The Imams said they did not oppose lawful investigations or the legitimate duties of security agencies but called for impartiality in the handling of security matters, irrespective of ethnic or religious affiliation.

They also appealed for protection for their communities and places of worship during Juma'at prayers, an end to the alleged destruction of property and permission for cattle to graze.

Police, veterinary association partner to tackle quackery, regulate animal movement

By Ayonote Clement

THE Abia State Police Command and the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), Abia State Chapter, have explored areas of collaboration to curb quackery in veterinary practice, regulate animal movement and strengthen public health protection.

The partnership was discussed when the Commissioner of Police, Abia State Command, Wilfred Oluotunbo Afolabi, received the association's delegation, led by its state chairman, Dr Jude Stephen.

The delegation visited the commissioner to welcome him to the state and commend the command's efforts to maintain security, particularly through its community policing initiatives.

It also sought police collaboration in addressing concerns such as the activities of unqualified veterinary practitioners, the movement of animals across state and national borders, and public sensitisation on animal health and safety.

The association warned that quackery in veterinary practice could endanger both animal and human health, particularly when unqualified practitioners administer inappropriate or unsafe vaccines to animals.

It noted that the consequences could extend to consumers of affected animals and their products, raising concerns about food safety and public health.

The delegation stressed that protecting animal health was inseparable from safeguarding human health, given the close links between animal welfare, safe food production and public wellbeing.

In his response, Afolabi welcomed the association's initiative and assured its members of the command's willingness to collaborate with relevant professional bodies and stakeholders to address the concerns.

LSSTF, Customs urge stronger collaboration against smuggling, crime

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE Lagos State Security Trust Fund (LSSTF) has called for sustained efforts to combat smuggling and transnational crime, stressing the importance of co-operation among security and law enforcement agencies.

Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of LSSTF, Dr Ayodele Ogunsan, made the call when the Comptroller of the Federal Operations Unit, Zone A, of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Oladapo Olukayode Afeni, paid him a courtesy visit at the Fund's office in Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos.

The meeting focused on strengthening cooperation be-

tween the two organisations to support security operations in Lagos and the wider South-West.

Ogunsan welcomed the proposed partnership, expressing the Fund's readiness to explore areas of mutual interest with the NCS, particularly in providing equipment, logistics and other institutional support to strengthen security operations.

"There are a lot of things we could do together," he said.

He noted that security efforts extended beyond conventional policing and military operations to include the work of agencies responsible for preventing the entry of prohibited goods, inter-

cepting illicit consignments and enforcing laws governing the movement of goods across Nigeria's borders.

According to him, Customs enforcement plays an important role in protecting lives, safeguarding public institutions and preventing criminal elements from exploiting importation channels to bring dangerous or prohibited items into the country.

Ogunsan illustrated the deterrent effect of Customs operations with an account of a driver who became apprehensive after spotting Customs officers on the road while travelling at high

speed.

He said the presence of officers could discourage potential offenders and encourage compliance with the law, particularly where criminal networks sought to exploit weaknesses in enforcement.

Afeni thanked Ogunsan for the reception, describing the visit as an opportunity to build a stronger working relationship between the Customs and the LSSTF in pursuit of their shared security objectives.

He said that the Federal Operations Unit, Zone A, headquartered in Lagos, was responsible for anti-smuggling operations

and enforcement across the South-West.

Afeni expressed optimism that closer cooperation between the two organisations would strengthen efforts to tackle crimes in Lagos and neighbouring states.

"I believe we can synergise to ensure that Lagos State is free and, by extension, the entire South-West is free of crimes," he said.

He also commended the Comptroller-General of Customs, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, for his leadership, noting that national priorities and border security remained central to the Service's operations.



IGP Tunji Disu



The Guardian Classifieds
Change of Name
Property
Guardian Jobs
SME's/Business Page
Metro Mart

ENQUIRIES:
LAGOS OFFICE:
08028411767
07069747993

PUBLIC RETRACTION AND APOLOGY

I, **IDRIS OLUGBENGA**, of 121/123, Darsalam Bus Stop, Akute, Ogun State, the father of **IDRIS MICHAEL**, aged 17 years, hereby issue a retraction on behalf of my son concerning a video he posted on his Whatsapp status on 13th October 2026, relating to **OLUSOLA ISRAEL**, aged 16 years, which portrayed him as a criminal.

I hereby retract the video and sincerely apologise to Olusola Israel and his family for any reputational harm it may have caused.

I undertake to ensure that such an incident is not repeated and to cooperate with the appropriate authorities should any further circulation of the said video be established to have originated from or been authorised by my son.

SIGNED: IDRIS OLUGBENGA
Father and Guardian of Idris Michael

WE ARE MOVING
Rania Insurance
Brokers
Current Address
5 Samuel Adedoyin
Street Ikate Lagos
New Address
242 kofo Abayomi
Victoria Island, Lagos

PUBLIC NOTICE
ORIMEDU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED NAME HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "F" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE :

- Oyedele Yissa Toheeb Abidemi -- CHAIRMAN
- Olowa Abdullahi Sesan -- SECRETARY
- Oyedele Olabode Kacheef

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE :

- To protect the interests of members and other indigenes of the Community.
- To acquire Landed properties and other Assets from the Government or/ and Individuals for the benefit and development of the Community and the indigenes.

ANY OBJECTION TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, 420, TIGRIS CRESCENT, OFF AGUYI IRONSI STREET, PMB 198, MAITAMA ABUJA WITHIN 28 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

Happy Birthday

Sir Kesington

Aremo Olusegun Osoba, CFR, FNGE, FNIJ, the Chairman, Governing Council on behalf of the Board, Management, Staff and Students of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ), Lagos celebrates a distinguished statesman, Sir Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu, OON, CON, CFR, KJW, FGPS, FISM, FNIJ, FAMedS, the Pillar of Methodism in Nigeria and the Odole-Oodua of the Source as he clocks 91 years (tomorrow).

At 91, the Odole-Oodua continues to positively impact humanity with his uncommon compassion and generosity of the spirit.

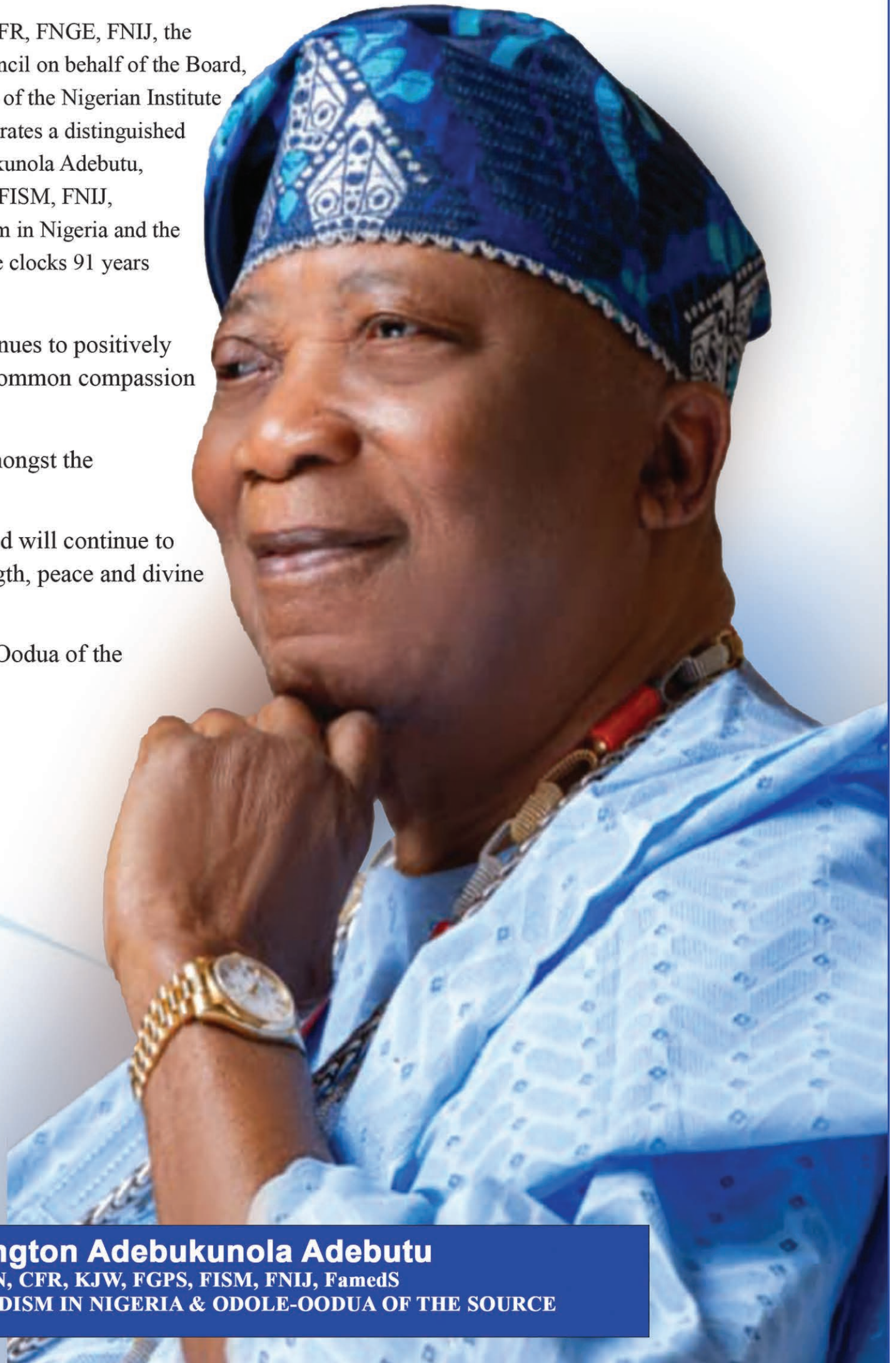
The NIJ is privileged to be amongst the beneficiaries.

We pray that the Almighty God will continue to uphold Sir Kesington in strength, peace and divine grace.

Happy birthday to the Odole-Oodua of the Source.

Signed

Aremo Olusegun Osoba
CFR, FNGE, FNIJ



Sir Kesington Adebukunola Adebutu

OON, CON, CFR, KJW, FGPS, FISM, FNIJ, FamedS

THE PILLAR OF METHODISM IN NIGERIA & ODOLE-ODUA OF THE SOURCE



NEW COVENANT GOSPEL CHURCH



PRESENTS
BIBLE ALIVE BELIEVERS INT'L
CONVENTION 2026

Stir it Up

2 TIMOTHY 1:6



Rev. Dr. Felix
& Pst. Theodora
Omobude Host

REV. NTIA INTIA

BISHOP FRED
OMORUYI (USA)

BISHOP MON
IGBINOSA

EVANG. KINGSLEY
NWAROGU

PST. AYO
ORITSEJA FOR

APST. LAWRENCE
ACHUDUME

PST. AYO AJIM
(USA)

REV. BEN ERAGBAI

PST. BOLAJI IDOWU

A N D O T H E R A N O I N T E D M I N I S T E R S

26TH OCT. - 1ST NOV. 2026

9AM & 3PM DAILY



Free transportation
to the venue at
designated site

COME REFUEL,
REFRESH AND REFIRE

VENUE: NCGC, Peniel Convention Centre,
Ohovbe Road, Opp Agbor Park Ikpoba Hill,
Benin City, Edo State

Email: glimng.aol.com

Tel: 0803 706 3618, 0803 726 8374

streaming live on NCGCHISGLORY   GLIMMEDIA

Ministering: Pst. Kingsley Ike
Covenant Praise Mass Choir
And Other Anointed Singers



FOUNDER: ALEX U. IBRU (1945 – 2011)

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

Editorial

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

Towards sustainable border reforms

UNTIL recently, Nigeria's borders have long been where the country's administrative weaknesses are most visible: queues at passport offices, opaque visa decisions, touts at airport terminals, and security agencies struggling to identify who enters or leaves the country. Hence, the decision to extend Comptroller-General Kemi Nanna Nandap's tenure, alongside that of Nigerian Correctional Service Controller-General Sylvester Nwakuche, is more than a routine official decision. It is a decision about whether to let a reform agenda already reshaping immigration, travel and border security mature. President Bola Tinubu approved the extensions on the recommendation of Interior Minister, Dr Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, with Nandap now serving until June 30, 2028 and Nwakuche until May 26, 2028.

The Presidency argued that the extensions were intended to address succession gaps and give the relevant boards time to appoint successors, while commending both chiefs for reforms achieved under their leadership. For the Nigeria Immigration Service, however, the deeper issue is not merely administrative continuity. The question is whether Nigeria can turn its promising digital reforms into durable institutions that are secure, commercially useful, and resistant to the corruption that once defined too many travellers' experiences.

When Nandap was confirmed as Comptroller-General in March 2024, she inherited an institution whose public credibility had been badly eroded. Passport scarcity, prolonged delays and informal payments had made ordinary services feel like privileges rather than rights. Her response has focused on reducing discretionary human contact in high-risk processes: online applications, contactless processing, decentralised change-of-data services and improved passport availability.

These reforms matter. A Nigerian student renewing a passport abroad, a businessperson seeking a visa, or a family travelling through Nigerian airports does not experience policy as a communiqué. They experience it as waiting time, predictability, cost and dignity. By moving key services online and reducing face-to-face interference, the Service has begun to shift the incentive structure away from rent-seeking and towards service delivery.

The e-visa regime, operational from May 1, 2025, is perhaps the clearest example. Within its first six weeks, the Federal Government reported more than 14,000 applications processed through the system. The significance is not only the volume. It is that Nigeria has begun to make entry decisions more rules-based, auditable and accessible to visitors, investors and members of the diaspora who previously had to navigate uncertain physical processes.

Border reform is often presented as a choice between openness and security. Nigeria's recent experience suggests a more useful framing: poorly

managed borders produce both insecurity and economic loss, while well-managed borders can improve both.

The deployment of Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) systems gives immigration authorities the ability to receive and analyse passenger data before travellers arrive. By late January 2025, the system had flagged 97 persons of interest. The value of such technology lies in prevention: identifying risk earlier, targeting scrutiny more intelligently, and allowing legitimate travellers to move with less friction.

The NIS has also invested in training personnel on API/PNR data analytics and global passenger-data standards, an essential complement to the technology itself. Systems do not secure borders; trained, accountable people operating credible systems do. The Service's more recent airport overhaul, including automated e-gates, biometric surveillance, passenger profiling and queue-management reforms, points in the same direction.

The central test, however, is implementation. Biometric gates and surveillance tools can reduce opportunities for extortion, but they can also create new risks if data protection is weak, oversight is thin, or technical failures are met with improvisation. Nigeria must therefore pair digital border control with clear privacy safeguards, independent audit, transparent complaint mechanisms and consequences for abuse. A modern border should not simply replace human discretion with opaque algorithms.

Immigration reform is economic policy. Every unnecessary delay at an airport, every unclear visa requirement and every informal payment raises the cost of doing business in Nigeria. For a country seeking investment, tourism, academic exchange and stronger diaspora engagement, predictable traveller processing is not a cosmetic issue.

The e-visa and contactless passport systems can help Nigeria compete more credibly for global mobility. So can the introduction of electronic landing and exit cards, electronic CERPAC and temporary work permits, which reduce the need for physical visits to immigration offices. These measures make Nigeria easier to enter legally, while preserving the state's ability to screen, track and enforce its immigration laws.

But technology alone will not deliver competitiveness. Nigeria must ensure that online systems are reliable, inclusive and affordable. Applicants without strong internet access, diaspora applicants facing payment barriers, and travellers with unusual documentation needs must not be pushed into a new layer of frustration. The measure of reform is not the launch event; it is whether the system works consistently at 2 a.m., during peak travel seasons and in remote passport offices.

Nigeria's border reforms cannot be understood in isolation from West Africa. Nandap's emergence as chairperson of the ECOWAS Heads of Immigration Forum placed Nigeria at the centre of regional efforts to modernise mobility while managing shared security threats.

The ECOWAS National Biometric

Identity Card, intended to replace the ECOWAS travel certificate and residence permit, is particularly important. It aims to simplify movement and residence rights for community citizens while strengthening identity verification across member states. For Nigeria, regional cooperation is not optional. Trafficking networks, irregular migration, counterfeit documents, arms flows and insecurity in the Sahel do not respect national boundaries.

Nigeria's leadership should therefore be judged not only by domestic digitisation, but by its ability to promote interoperable standards, data-sharing protocols and mutual trust among ECOWAS states. A border that is digitally advanced but regionally disconnected will remain porous in the ways that matter most.

Supporters of Nandap's extension argue that reforms of this scale require time. That argument has merit. The planned biometric Single Travel Emergency Passport, further passport and visa upgrades, and the expansion of contactless solutions are not one-off projects; they require procurement discipline, staff retraining, maintenance budgets and political protection from reversal.

Yet continuity must not become immunity from scrutiny. The honest measure of the extension will be whether the NIS publishes measurable performance data: average passport processing times, e-visa approval timelines, complaint resolution rates, corruption cases investigated, border interception outcomes and system downtime. Public institutions earn trust not by announcing reforms but by allowing citizens to verify them.

There are also unresolved challenges that need special attention. Touts have not disappeared from every passport environment. Digital systems remain vulnerable to poor connectivity, insider

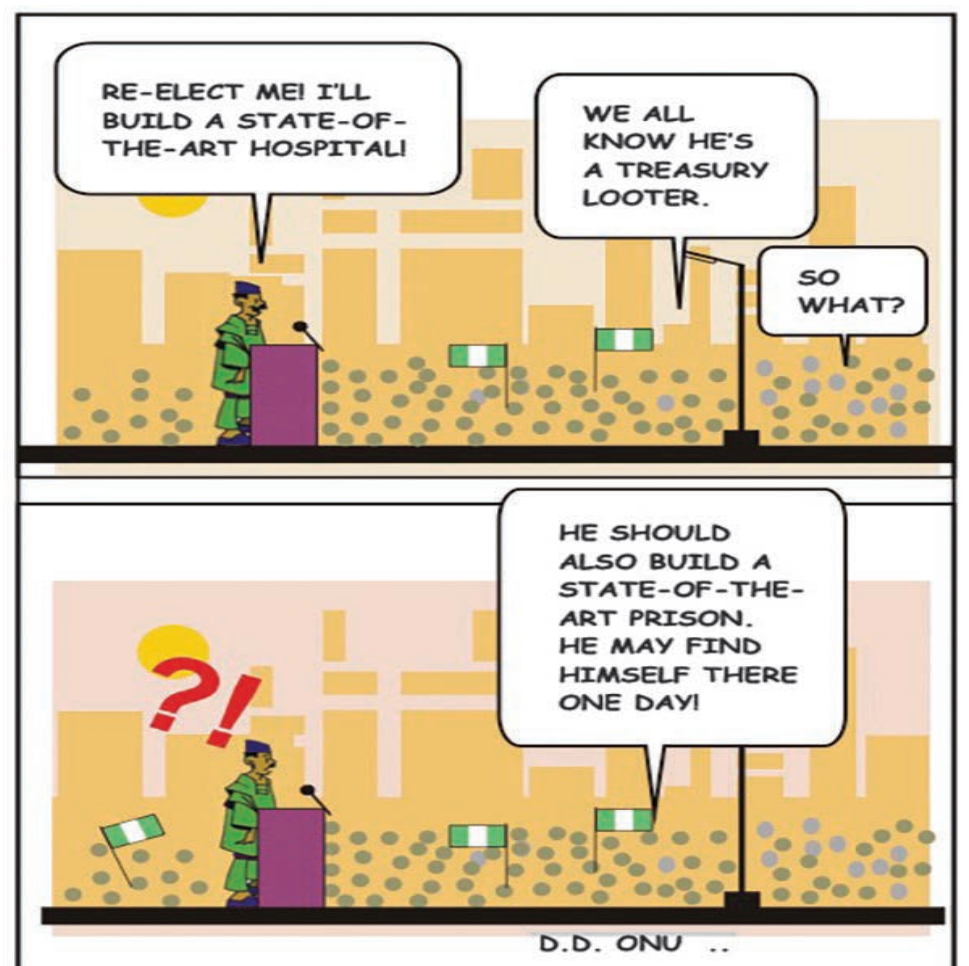
abuse and weak enforcement. And modernisation must not become a pretext for excluding citizens who cannot navigate digital platforms. These are not reasons to halt reform; they are reasons to supervise it rigorously.

Tunji-Ojo's role deserves recognition because institutional reform requires political cover. A minister who insists that visas should not depend on personal connections, and who supports automation as a tool for both security and convenience, has helped create the policy space in which the NIS can act. But ministers, like comptrollers-general, should be assessed by outcomes rather than announcements.

Nandap's extension is best understood as a conditional investment. The President has given the Service time to consolidate gains; citizens should expect visible returns. Those returns should include shorter and more predictable passport queues, fewer informal payments, faster visa decisions, safer airports, stronger data protection and deeper ECOWAS cooperation.

Nigeria does not just need a tougher border regime. It needs one that is smarter: able to welcome legitimate travellers, facilitate trade and investment, protect citizens, and deny criminals the anonymity on which they depend. The reforms since 2024 have moved Nigeria closer to that ideal. The next 18 months must prove that the progress is structural, not episodic, especially in the light of the Ebola scare and the need to protect the nation's major port of entry for passengers.

If the NIS sustains transparency, invests in its people and treats technology as a public good rather than a prestige project, Nigeria's borders can become what they should always have been: gateways of opportunity, guarded with competence and administered with integrity.



Opinion

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria f GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardnigeria

Preliminary thoughts on Lagos-Calabar coastal highway

By Tony Afejuku

LET me state from the outset one or two or three or more things about this composition I am composing on a rainy day that is a rainy day: The rain is raining rains where I am in a nameless riverine land that is not a nameless riverine land. The rain is raining and raging and raging and descending and descending. Lucky the Glitterer and unlucky the Glitterer at the same time! How is he sounding? Serious? Humorous? Or both at the same time? I am digressing, writing a parenthesis, doing an aside. ... And my one or two or three or more thoughts disappear as the rain rains and rages and lands me where I am now – on President Tinubu's Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway Mr David Umahi is making in his make-believe world on our splendid president's behalf. Oh! How our president believes the deception and every deception of the engineer, his engineer the works minister who knows nothing about the terrain that is under his engineering view and spectacle.

President Tinubu's coarse funnyman engineer has said numerous times that the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway has been re-designed to cut out the Ilaje areas in Ondo State and the Itsekiri territories in Delta State from the Coastal Highway because of the prohibitive cost it would take to accommodate the Ilaje and Itsekiri respective regions in the original budget. In other words, according to President Tinubu's crude engineer-comedian, the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway has been re-designed. The new plan by-passes the Ilaje and Itsekiri territories entirely because incorporating them into the original design would be far too expensive.

Without mincing words, the Glitterer says

openly here that this man called Engineer David Umahi, in addition to what has been stated above, must be a very dangerous enemy of Ilajes and Itsekiris. On Saturday, 19 September, 2026 I accidentally went to Eko Atlantic City. I navigated it, if I must say so, via the Lagos-Coastal Highway. What a Coastal Highway I found appealing on account of what I am calling here its art and scope as displayed for all lovers of beautiful beauty to see and applaud. Yet this coastal highway of very high quality even in its current state of incompleteness is what an engineer of double standard wants to deny Ilajes and Itsekiris, whose homelands are homelands of oil wealth that is oil wealth.

I saw Dr Benson Erukomehin, a smart Ilaje lawyer, on TVC give what I hereby call his sermon on why Ilajes (and Itsekiris) more than deserve the coastal highway.

Dr Erukomehin, a major champion of his people, knows their terrain intoto as a thorough Ilaje home-boy. He demolished Mr David Umahi's contrived argument with respect to the prohibitive cost it would take to incorporate Itsekiri and Ilaje territories in the budget. Lagos State, for example, as per its Atlantic City terrain is not in any way different from Ilaje and Itsekiri regions. In fact, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos which is the beginning of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway in every respect shares a very similar coastal terrain with the Itsekiri and Ilaje homelands where the coastal highway was originally designed to pass through. And the catch? Lagos is not an oil-producing state – unlike Ondo and Delta States.

Besides, the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway was meant for oil-producing coastal states that have for decades been politically discriminated against and economically de-

prived and robbed of their resources. The coastal highway that should and must remain coastal was expected to drag development to the riverine communities in every conceivable and inconceivable way. Itsekiri and Ilaje communities must no longer be victims of their robbers and oppressors. They must be free from all contriving.

These thoughts and more were part of the luxury of my questioning mind as I set no limit to the possible efforts, discoveries, and successes relating to the painted picture of the coastal highway meandering through the deprived oil-rich communities in a manner best known to this patriotic composer and wholesome Itsekiri and Ilaje citizens.

Let it be said loud and clear: the Glitterer is reflecting deeply on a piece of art or a vision that represents the stark contrast between wealth and poverty in the Nigerian oil coast, a reality intimately understood by the locals and the creator. Unmistakably, he is indulging in deep, unrestricted brainstorming and philosophical questioning about the future.

The visual subject he and the wholesome Ilaje and Itsekiri citizens and champions of a supremely worthy cause are looking at and thinking about is a literal or metaphorical "painting" (the design, the "painted picture") of a coastal highway – which runs through areas that are paradoxically oil-rich but deeply impoverished ("deprived oil-rich communities" in Ilaje and Itsekiri territories).

Will President Tinubu's dean of roadless roads allow himself to be persuaded by the socio-economic inequality that abounds in our riverine communities which this social critique is drawing his attention to in the hope that it will nullify his negative attitude toward our people and Niger Delta denizens

as a whole? Will this social critique help the seeming hater of Itsekiris and Ilajes to have a change of heart and show them patriotic love? Will our one and only frontline dean of Niger Delta Coastal Highway now love Itsekiri and Ilaje peoples (indigenous ethnic groups of the Nigerian coastal oil regions), and demonstrate this love by his open admission that he now truly understands the complex reality of how infrastructure (the coastal highway) interacts with the neglected local population – a reality intimately understood by the locals and their champions he will now proudly be part of?

The Glitterer's preliminary rhetorical thoughts on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway should go a long way to re-illustrate his patriotic character and engineering feat and trait for the great benefit and betterment of our country. Our President and his appointee should re-speak their words to the advantage of Itsekiris and Ilajes.

Then his name shall adorn Itsekiri and Ilaje stories for a long, long time. As for President Tinubu, his name shall be in the reservoir of new Itsekiri and Ilaje folklore for near eternity for giving geographical, infrastructural, political, commercial, economic, and moral justice to the oil-rich Itsekiri and Ilaje communities who earnestly want a complete modern life devoid of complete illusion.

These preliminary thoughts must end with the Glitterer's outright mystical quotation to Itsekiris and Ilajes: "Have no fear for where there is darkness, there is also equal light. That is the law of balance". You will need this mystical thought to put you in supremely good stead in the coming days. The law of balance never fails.

Afejuku can be reached via 08055213059.

Why Delta's contributory retirees cannot wait past the May batch

By Austine Ihonor

FOR 35 years, they were the silent engine of Delta State. They taught the children, managed the hospitals, and kept the machinery of the civil service moving. Today, however, many of these same senior citizens find themselves spending their retirement waiting anxiously for a phone call or a name to appear in a newspaper layout. Behind the cold financial ledgers of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) lies a deeply human crisis of aging men and women caught in a slow-moving bureaucratic web.

The most glaring evidence of this agonisingly slow pace is the current silence surrounding the payment schedule. While the Delta State Bureau for State Pensions made headlines in May 2026 by commencing the collection of certificates for the second batch of retirees, the system has since fallen quiet. Months have passed, and thousands of senior citizens slated for the third and fourth batches are completely in the dark.

For a retiree, a multi-month gap between batches isn't just an administrative delay—it is a period of intense economic vulnerability. In a country navigating severe inflation, food insecurity, and skyrocketing medical costs, leaving retirees without a clear timeline for successive batches erodes the goodwill Governor Oborevwoji earned with his initial N10 billion allocation.

The Association of Contributory Retirees (ACR) and the broader public are left asking: why has the momentum stalled since May? If the money is there, the execution must match the urgency of the elderly.

Oborevwoji and Sir Eddy Ogidi-Gbegbaje

It is impossible to discuss the current state of pensions in Delta without acknowledging the immense political will of Governor Sheriff Oborevwoji. Inheriting a staggering mountain of pension liabilities that predated his administration, the governor chose not to look the other way. Under his MORE Agenda, Governor Oborevwoji made headlines by approving the immediate release of N10 billion specifically targeted at clearing outstanding pension backlogs

and harmonised benefits.

Crucially, implementing this directive has fallen squarely on the shoulders of the Bureau for State Pensions, meticulously headed by Sir Eddy Ogidi-Gbegbaje. The Bureau deserves immense commendation for its tireless efforts in auditing, sorting, and structuring a highly fragmented database of inherited liabilities.

Under Ogidi-Gbegbaje's focused leadership, the Bureau successfully rolled out the first and second batches with strict administrative transparency, ensuring that the initial wave of funds went directly into the hands of verifiable senior citizens without disappearing into bureaucratic voids.

Yet, while the funds are approved and the Bureau's administrative machinery is intact, the physical reality on the streets of Asaba, Warri, and Ughelli tells a different story. The process of translating government approvals into cash in a retiree's bank account remains frustratingly slow.

Take the case of Pa Anthony, a retired school principal who gave his youth to shaping Delta's future leaders. "We read about the billions in the news, and we thank the governor and the Bureau," he says, his voice strained with emotion. "But my health is failing now. I cannot eat the headlines. The harmonisation arrears I am owed are stuck in verification loops while the price of my heart medication triples every month."

Official explanations often point to regulatory compliance, technological migrations on the National Pension Commission (PenCom)

But to a 70-year-old grandmother who needs her money today, "regulatory bureaucracy" feels like an excuse for institutional cruelty.

This is where the Bureau for State Pensions must dig deeper—not just as fiscal managers, but as leaders of compassion. The need to fast-track the payment of the backlog of harmonised pension arrears for contributory pension retirees cannot be overemphasised. Time is a luxury these senior citizens simply do not have.

While we appreciate the Bureau's insistence on a thor-

ough and transparent process to avoid fraud, conventional bureaucratic timelines are a luxury for the young, but a death sentence for the vulnerable.

We urgently urge Ogidi-Gbegbaje and his team to deploy the same administrative efficiency they used in the initial rollout to break the current logjam holding back the third and fourth batches.

The Bureau must act on the following critical adjustments to accelerate relief:

It must break its silence and release a definitive schedule for the verification and payment of the third, fourth, and subsequent batches to restore transparency.

It should shift from cumbersome, centralised verification queues in Asaba. Deploy mobile pension verification teams to local government areas or utilise basic, secure digital verification apps so elderly retirees do not have to travel long distances in poor health.

The Bureau should work more aggressively with the Governor's office to resolve the specific regulatory roadblocks sitting between the State Bureau, the PenCom platform, and the Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs).

It should establish a fast-track emergency fund within the Bureau to immediately pay out harmonised backlogs to any verified retiree facing documented, life-threatening medical emergencies, bypassing the standard batch numbers.

Governor Oborevwoji's legacy and Ogidi-Gbegbaje's administrative record will ultimately be judged by how they treated those who can no longer work.

The approval of N10 billion was a triumph of governance, and the Bureau's transparent execution was a triumph of structure. Now, it is time for a triumph of empathy. By cutting through the red tape, breaking the post-May silence, and aggressively fast-tracking the harmonised pension backlog, the state can ensure that Delta's elder statesmen do not just survive to see their money, but live long enough to enjoy the dignity they so richly deserve. *Ihonor is a veteran journalist, senior citizen and media consultant based in Delta State.*

Opinion

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria f GuardianNigeria 08136370421 i Guardiannigeria

Witchcraft accusation: A woman-degrading treatment in Enugu

By Leo Igwe

THE Advocacy for Alleged Witches (AfAW) urges Nigerian state authorities to bring to justice those who allegedly abused and violated the rights of an elderly woman in Enugu, Southern Nigeria. In a video that circulated on social media and was forwarded to AfAW, a local mob was seen parading a woman with some palm fronds in a community in Enugu. She was allegedly branded a witch.

On receiving the video, AfAW also contacted the police, state chapters of the National Human Rights Commission, the International Federation of Women Lawyers, journalists and civil society groups in Enugu, drawing attention to the video. AfAW also sent one of its regional advocates to confirm the incident.

In his report, the advocate stated: "It all started with a disturbing video that was circulating online on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, wherein an old woman was being paraded around her community, with palm fronds tied all over her head, while she was forced to eat faeces and some were rubbed on her face too. Dr Leo Igwe of AfAW told me to proceed to the community.

Upon reaching the community, Amanfu, Ugbawka, Nkanu East LGA, on Thursday, October 8, 2026, I headed straight to the Catholic

Church behind Smart School, Ugbawka Campus, hoping to speak with the priest or anyone in charge. "Unfortunately, the priest wasn't around, so they got the contact details of the catechist.

The catechist told me that the old woman was a member of Emmanuel Anglican Church, Amanfu. He politely asked me to go to the Anglican Church as they were in a better position to address my concerns. On my way to the Anglican Church, I met one Auntie Ugo who teaches at Comprehensive Secondary School, Ugbawka.

She narrated that the said old woman was seen pouring faeces on the grave of the late wife of her stepson, and when confronted, she ran to the church for safety, but the villagers followed her to the church and pleaded with the priest to release the woman to them. The priest tried to intervene on behalf of the woman, but circumstances forced him to exonerate himself and his church from the allegations, stating that he didn't teach his church members to act un-
ruly."

Auntie Ugo further said that the old woman had long been accused of committing several other crimes in the community. Going further, I proceeded to Emmanuel Anglican Church, Amanfu, and met with the priest, Pastor Michael Chukwunonso Ezeude. He narrated how the old woman was seen pouring faeces on the grave of the late wife of her stepson. The old woman was

confronted, and she accepted the allegations and justified her actions by claiming that the late wife of her stepson kept visiting her in her dreams to torment her.

So the pouring of faeces on the grave was simply an act of ending the torments, and she didn't have any bad intentions. Neither is she the killer of the late wife of her stepson. He said that the old woman had been worshipping in his church when about 30 women from the community stormed the church and demanded that the woman be brought to face the laws of the community. All attempts to intervene were resisted, but that didn't stop him from staying close to the old woman to witness whatever would happen. He ended up leaving the matter for the community to handle, since it was tagged a communal issue."

The advocate further recounted his visit and meeting with the accused woman: "I had equally visited the village youth Chairman, Mr Sunday, in his house, but he wasn't around when I got there. I proceeded to the old woman's house. At the house, she welcomed me warmly and narrated her own side of the story. Claiming that the late wife of her stepson had been visiting her in her dreams to torment her and that she actually excreted and poured the faeces on the grave of the late wife of her stepson in a bid to stop further torments from the dead woman. Unfortunately,

she was apprehended by villagers who accused her of killing the stepson's late wife. She denied having a hand in the death. She showed me where she sustained injuries as a result of flogging by the villagers she cried for justice to prevail."

The Advocacy for Alleged Witches condemned the abuse and maltreatment of this woman. AfAW is working with the NHRC, Ministry of Gender, and the police to ensure justice. Enugu State authorities should take custody of this woman, take her to a hospital for some medical examination, and provide her some counseling, and rehabilitation.

The authorities should arrest and prosecute those who mobbed and dehumanised her. The government should ensure that this revolutive act of gender-based violence is not allowed to happen again.

AfAW declares that people do not appear in dreams as believed. Dream experiences are not real; they are not prophetic or predictive experiences, as churches and other religious bodies teach and preach. Dream encounters are wishes, fantasies, and imaginations that well up from the subconscious during sleep. Nigerians should abandon superstitions and superstition-based abuses. Nigerians should embrace science, reason, and critical thinking.

Igwe directs the Advocacy for Alleged Witches.

Buhari, Tinubu and Nigeria's debt surge: What the numbers really reveal

By Abba Dukawa

THE question is no longer whether governments should borrow, but how much they borrow, what the money is used for, and whether the resulting investments generate sufficient economic growth and government revenue to service the debt. As Nigeria approaches another election cycle, insecurity, rising living costs, economic hardship and fuel prices will dominate public debate. Yet another issue deserves equal attention: the country's growing debt burden.

These questions are particularly relevant when comparing the administrations of former President Muhammadu Buhari and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Buhari substantially increased Nigeria's debt during his eight years in office, while Tinubu inherited that burden and has overseen a further rise in the recorded debt stock. However, understanding their respective borrowing records requires more than comparing headline figures.

When Buhari assumed office in 2015, Nigeria's public debt was considerably lower than it is today. By December 2022, it had reached approximately N46.25 trillion, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO). The increase occurred amid significant economic challenges, including falling oil prices, recession and the COVID-19 pandemic. These shocks weakened government revenue and intensified pressure on public spending, making borrowing an important source of financing.

These circumstances provide context for Buhari's borrowing record, but they do not remove the need for accountability. Despite the economic challenges, questions remain about whether borrowed funds were invested efficiently in infrastructure, productive capacity and other projects capable of generating lasting economic benefits. The central issue is not simply whether borrowing was justified, but whether it delivered sufficient value for money.

The N22.7 trillion Ways and Means question

A fair comparison between Buhari and Tinubu must account for the N22.7 trillion in Ways and Means advances from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

The DMO reported Nigeria's total public debt at N87.38 trillion as of June 2023, shortly after Tinubu assumed office. This figure included N22.712 trillion in securitised Ways and Means advances, which were formally incorporated into the public debt stock.

This distinction is crucial. The increase from N46.25 trillion in December 2022 to N87.38 trillion in June 2023 cannot reasonably be treated entirely as fresh borrowing by Tinubu. A substantial portion represented an existing obligation accumulated before his administration and subsequently recognised in the official debt figures.

However, the fact that the liability was securitised under Tinubu does not erase its origins from Buhari's fiscal record. A fair assessment must distinguish between the administration that accumulated an obligation and the administration under which it was formally incorporated into the reported debt stock. Inherited liabilities should neither be misattributed nor ignored.

Tinubu: reforms amid rising debt

Tinubu inherited an economy grappling with many of the structural weaknesses that confronted Buhari, including low government revenue, fiscal deficits, rising debt-service obligations and distortions in the fuel and foreign-exchange markets.

His administration introduced major reforms, particularly the

removal of the petrol subsidy and changes to foreign-exchange policy. These measures were intended to reduce fiscal distortions, improve resource allocation and strengthen public finances.

However, the reforms have not eliminated the government's reliance on borrowing. According to the data released by the DMO for the second quarter of 2026, Nigeria's total public debt stood at N166.79 trillion (\$120.93 billion) as of June 30, 2026. This represents a 4.67 per cent increase from the N159.35 trillion recorded at the end of March 2026. As the DMO has yet to formally publish the official public debt figures for the third quarter of 2026, which ended on September 30, the Q2 figures remain the latest available official data. Nigeria's total public debt increased by N79.41 trillion, representing a nominal increase of approximately 90.9 per cent between June 2023 and June 30, 2026.

One thing that amused people, Tinubu administration generated a combined N157.786 trillion in oil and non-oil revenue from 2023 to 2026 (up to the latest available reporting period in 2026). This comprises N52.956 trillion in oil revenue and N104.83 trillion in non-oil revenue, covering the three full years from 2023 to 2025 and part of 2026. The key questions are straightforward: How much additional debt has the administration contracted? What has the money financed? How much has been repaid? And what economic benefits have resulted?

Who has borrowed more?

The answer depends on what is being measured. On the basis of the cited figures, Nigeria's recorded public debt increased by approximately N65.02 trillion between June 2023 and June 2025 under Tinubu. Buhari, meanwhile, presided over a substantial expansion of public debt during his eight years in office. However, comparing the two administrations solely by the nominal increase in debt can be misleading. Their periods in office differed in duration, economic conditions and exchange rate circumstances. Changes in the treatment of existing liabilities also complicate the comparison.

A definitive assessment would require consistent data covering net new borrowing, repayments, inherited obligations, debt restructuring and exchange-rate effects across comparable periods. The available figures establish that Nigeria's recorded debt burden rose substantially under both administrations. They do not, by themselves, establish which president contracted more fresh debt or which administration made more effective use of borrowed funds.

That distinction matters because borrowing is not inherently harmful. Governments can use debt to finance infrastructure, electricity, transport, education, healthcare and industrial development. When properly managed, these investments can improve productivity, stimulate economic activity and expand future government revenue.

The danger arises when borrowing repeatedly finances deficits without creating sufficient productive capacity to support repayment. Nigerians should therefore look beyond political arguments over who borrowed more and ask a more fundamental question: What did the country get in return?

Tinubu's real test is revenue

The sustainability of Nigeria's debt depends not only on how much the government owes, but also on how much revenue it generates and how much of that revenue is consumed by debt servicing. A country with a strong and growing revenue base can sustain a larger debt burden than one with weak revenue and limited capacity to meet its obligations. Nigeria's historically low public revenue makes this challenge particularly serious.

Tinubu's revenue reforms must, therefore, be assessed against measurable results. Higher revenue can reduce the need for bor-

rowing and improve the government's capacity to service existing obligations. However, increased revenue alone does not guarantee fiscal sustainability if expenditure and debt continue to grow faster.

Claims about the administration's oil and non-oil revenue performance should also be supported by clearly identified official records. Reliable comparisons require consistent reporting periods and a clear distinction between gross collections, net government receipts and revenue attributable to particular reforms.

Ultimately, the objective should be to establish whether revenue is growing sustainably, whether public expenditure is becoming more efficient and whether the government is reducing its dependence on borrowing.

Revenue reforms cannot become a justification for unlimited debt accumulation. Nigerians deserve evidence that additional borrowing is creating productive assets and that government income is growing sufficiently to meet future obligations. The same standard must apply to both administrations.

The real test for both administrations

Buhari governed through major economic shocks and responded to weak revenue with extensive borrowing. Tinubu inherited the resulting fiscal challenges and introduced reforms intended to address some of their underlying causes, while continuing to rely on borrowing.

Their circumstances differed, but the fundamental test remains the same: Were borrowed funds properly accounted for and invested productively? Did they improve infrastructure, expand economic opportunities and strengthen government revenue? Were the resulting benefits sufficient to justify the financial obligations incurred?

Nigeria cannot borrow its way out of a revenue problem indefinitely.

A meaningful assessment of the country's fiscal position must go beyond political slogans such as "Buhari borrowed more" or "Tinubu borrowed more". It must examine net new borrowing, debt-service costs, debt-to-revenue and debt-to-GDP ratios, capital expenditure and the economic returns generated by publicly funded projects.

It must also establish whether completed projects are delivering their intended benefits and whether government revenue is growing fast enough to support the country's debt obligations.

The available figures show that Nigeria's public debt increased substantially under both Buhari and Tinubu. However, determining which administration undertook more fresh borrowing requires a consistent comparison that accounts for inherited liabilities, securitisation, repayments and exchange-rate effects.

Ultimately, Nigeria's creditors will focus on the country's ability to repay, not the political party responsible for accumulating the debt. Nigerians should be equally concerned about whether public borrowing is improving their lives and strengthening the economy.

The issue is not merely how much Nigeria owes, but whether the country can convert borrowed money into productive growth, stronger public revenue and a sustainable future.

The central takeaway is clear: Nigeria's debt debate should move beyond partisan claims and headline figures. Both administrations must be judged by the quality of their borrowing, the transparency of their spending, the revenue generated and the tangible benefits delivered to citizens

Dukawa wrote from Abuja and can be reached via: abba-dukawa@gmail.com

The life and times of P.D. Cole

To all who may be discerning, we are indeed living in unusual times, not just in our country, Nigeria but in nearly all parts of the world. There are protests even in relatively stable countries. There have been explosions with overturning of fuel tankers in Benin and the notorious Otedola Bridge in Lagos, long bitten by the bug and attendant deaths. The spate of deaths can't but be terrifying. Many loved ones departing, literally speaking, in droves.

The incidents re-awaken what Funke Aboyade, lawyer and a one-time Law Pages Editor described movingly what she saw as slow darkening in the horizon. In her words: "It is getting dark slowly." As an illustration, of the Second Republic 1979 class of governors none was alive when she made her observation in 2023. They had all departed earthly life.

In the distant past, when the death of a prominent person occurred, it would be on the lips of many a man on the street for days and run in newspapers for not less than a month. If the deaths occurred through accidents, the report would run for much longer in what editors call follow-ups. What does autopsy report say? When will investigation into the cause be held? Following the investigation when will those culpable be charged to court? Some say before they recover from the shock and perhaps attendant pains many other deaths have occurred in succession! Four eminent Nigerians have passed away within the past three weeks.

Every such exit reminds us of our own. When and how it will come, it is hard to say. Life begins in a cycle, the freshness of the body of a baby, followed by charm of youths in the melancholy age bracket, the solidity and firmness that defines the age of action and the weathering folds and wrinkling of old age! Look at the grasses of the field and the trees of the forest. We are all creatures. The Law of Development drives the cycle. It brings about the period of flowering, and the period of fruit bearing, the years of a man's full estate. Then the ensuing period when the phlegmatic temperament takes hold, marked by calm, quiet and reflexion, then the cycle closes—death. The driving of the cycle helps us to understand the inevitability of an end for both man and plant; their cloaks being material going back to dust. "Dust thou art, and to dust shall thou return," our clerics are wont to say.

However, we are made to note that in a storm both ripe and unripe fruits fall. In other words, much as we long for old age, it is not everyone that gets there. It bears also stating that when a person has fulfilled the purpose of his sojourn, he can be called away, otherwise what would he still be doing. In the limited knowledge of man, it will be said of him, even a child, that he left prematurely which is not necessarily always so.

Take for example, a soul sent on a helpful mission of bearing a certain radiation to open up the fallopian tube of a childless woman, ridiculed for years as barren, what else should that soul wait doing after accomplishing the mission through being the first baby? He could leave almost immediately after the christening.

Imagine what such a woman overwhelmed by a sense of hopelessness would typically want to do to herself. But then after regaining her composure, with the tube cleared, she begins to have babies in succession! What does man know? What do we know? We must bow our spirits in worshipful adoration of our Maker and Lord for the Grace of His Omniscience.

We learn about Temperament from the matchless Work, "In the Light of Truth" The Grail Message, by Abd-ru-shin as follows:

"As the physical body ages the blood composition also changes. Thus, when healthy blood changes through increasing age a corresponding change of temperament occurs at the same time.

"Besides advancing age in the body, however, there are still other things that have an influence on the change in blood composition, such as the characteristics of different regions and everything pertaining to them, i.e., the climate, the radiations of the stars, different kinds of nourishment, and many other things as well. They all affect the temperament directly because they are part of the world of matter and therefore linked very closely with it.

"In general, one can distinguish between four basic temperaments in mankind—the sanguine, the melancholic, choleric and the phlegmatic—and men themselves are described accordingly. In reality, however, there are seven tempera-

ments and, with all the gradations, even twelve. But the principal temperaments are four in number."

When a cycle of life closes which may be called death, the knowledge of the temperaments helps relations and friends recognising its inevitability and in absorbing the pangs of pains that come with its definitiveness. The nation has witnessed the passing of prominent leaders here and there, within the last three weeks among them Professor Idowu Sobowale, veteran journalist and communication scholar of note; Dr. Patrick Dele Cole, scholar, newspaper administrator and diplomat; Dr. Emmanuel Uduaghan, former Governor of Delta State.

As I wrote this came the breaking news that Chief Reuben Fasoranti has departed earthly life. Professor Sobowale left at 85; Dr. Dele Cole at 86, Dr. Uduaghan at 71 and Chief Fasoranti, the national leader of the powerful and influential Yoruba socio-cultural and political organisation departed at 100.

The departed were men of eminence and influence held in high esteem for being role models in their respective area of responsibility, each deserving of befitting national conversation and truck-load bags of tributes. What is tribute if it is not looking back to catch legacies and shed light on what has made the departed iconic? Why are they our loved ones, some unforgettable in our hearts?

Dr. Richard Ikiebe, Adjunct Senior Fellow, School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University, and currently Chairman, Board of Directors, *BusinessDay* gives us what may be said is a hint.

He had long had an extensive interview with Dr. Patrick Dele Cole as part of a drive to record what he called contributions of media leaders in Nigeria. The interview is available in "Nigerian Media Leaders: Voices Beyond the Newsroom" published in 2013. Of course, Dr. Cole was my boss both at the *Daily Times* where he was Managing Director and *The Guardian* where he was Special Adviser.

Before his years at the *Daily Times*, Dr. Cole had been Visiting Professor, University of Pennsylvania, United States of America (1969-1973); Fellow King's College, Cambridge, England (1969-1973); Administrative Officer, Political Department, Cabinet Office, Lagos (1973-1976); Managing Director, *Daily Times* of Nigeria (1976-1979); Special Adviser to *The Guardian* from 1980 and years later, his last roll-call as Member, Editorial Board. He was Member, Presidential Panel on the History of Nigeria Since Independence; Member, Nigeria-U.S. Forum, Italy (1977); Nigeria-China Forum (1979); Nigerian Ambassador to Brazil (1987-1990); Deputy National Chairman (South-South), Peoples Democratic of Nigeria (1998-1999); Special Adviser on International Relations to the President (1999-2001); Delegate to the United Nations and the Organisation of African Union (now African Union) 1976, 1989, 1989 and 1990); author of *Modern Elites in the Politics of Lagos*; *A Call on the Black World, Communities in Nigerian Foreign Policy*.

In the interview, Dr. Cole was asked: *You are a Cambridge-trained historian, how do you see the journey of the media to date?*

P.D. Cole: From the earliest days of British colonisation, I think six years or so, there were newspapers already in Nigeria, and they have continued to exist and be vibrant throughout our history. So, the history of journalism and Nigeria are coterminous. And from that early time, the job of the Nigerian Press has been to play a watchdog over British colonial government. There were a large number of ex-slaves—Brazilians, Sierra Leoneans, etc who could say: "Hey, what you cannot do in Britain. You cannot do here; if we are all British subjects, then we are subject to the same law.

For the educated Saro and Brazilian elite, being British citizens was important. They held up as it were, a mirror. They took pride in being British subjects, and therefore held the colonial government to account for all it was doing here: British Administration was very economical; they didn't want to spend that much money and they want-

ed to develop the colonies to pay for themselves while propping up home government by regular remittances. So, all the money went out, and a little came back.

Frankly, I don't see too much of a difference between what happened then and what's happening now. We were primarily regarded as producing countries, to produce things for the factories in Europe. The model was quite simple: colonies were to produce raw materials for the industries in Britain. To do this, peace must prevail. There was also a belief by the British colonialists that their administration was to be paid for by taxing the people, hence excise and customs duties, stamp duties, and a host of other regulations aimed at raising finance. The template of colonialism has not changed. Africa is still a colony. The methods and terminologies may have changed but not the essence. To the West, Africa is a continent to be exploited for raw materials, including human; its wealth is to be developed, not for the benefit of its people but for the benefit of Europe and the West in

general. It is this mentality that was responsible for the large-scale mining of mineral resources in South Africa, Congo Brazzaville, Zimbabwe (where Europeans also farmed and mined). In the 20th and 21st centuries, large parts

of Africa were sold to Arab countries and to the West as an eventual food bank for the development of Arab countries.

Question: One hundred and fifty years ago, did the media play a different role? Are they playing the role that they played then now?

P. D. Cole: No, I don't think that the media is awake to this kind of new interpretation because of its almost instant nature, so "news" is always a two-day wonder: the thing happens, you report it, send the message, comment on it, and move on. What's the next thing? The media has not been able to step back to say: 'Hang on a minute, what is it that has changed?' When you take structure that are formulated elsewhere and transpose them to our society and follow through almost automatically like a robot, when do we stop to consider the effects of the things we mimic, whether banking, insurance, or even our style of consumption. It becomes a little frightening and ironic, that the West has to preach to us today about breastfeeding, that shows you, for example, how far we have veered from our traditional culture. Today they have foundations which have come to teach Africans that say, "Look, my friend, the mother's milk is still the best."

QUESTION: You were already in the Cabinet Office, and were among those Cambridge and Oxford graduates working with the military, the people they respected, obviously well educated but people with the guns were still those calling the shots. In the case of Daily Times, Obasanjo was said to have been misled, but by the time he came to realise it, the government couldn't reverse itself. And so, you came in, how did you handle the military?

P. D. Cole: Okay, let us say there was a mistake in the intervention, in the sense that wrong information got to the military. But it was already done. I had two constituencies; I had the journalists who were noticeably nervous. 'Who is this guy who has come from nowhere to run this place? We don't know him. And he is going to be listening to those guys from Dodan Barracks.' So, first I had to try to gain the confidence of the journalists, and the only way to gain the confidence of anybody working with you is to be able to tell and show that you can protect him/her. Hence the need for reassurance: 'My friend, while I am here, I assure you that no journalist will be arrested; they will not close



this place. Do your job and no one will ever call you and tell you what to write.' I can't remember one single instance when I called somebody and said, "This is the way you are going to report." They were professionals.

So, the idea was to bridge the two constituencies and to build a wall protecting the journalists. The journalists also went out and did the work. And for that, Nigeria responded by buying the newspaper. So we were at 350,000 copies a day, 600,000 copies on Sundays—heights which had never happened since. This was not because they were reading a government gazette; they were reading things about themselves which they believed. We also introduced many features; we brought the best writers that we could find. I went round bringing back people to Nigeria from overseas, because at that time I believed that the country needed the people. So not only bringing people into *Daily Times*, I brought them back to do other things.

For the military, I cannot tell you how many times they threatened to shoot and lock me up, and all that. But in the long run, I think they adopted the attitude of: 'Look, leave him alone to run the newspaper, he is a crazy man, it is better we leave him alone to run the place than stir the pot further by trying to lock him up.' They also had a problem, which I think we were able to solve.

Transition government is always difficult because you had to sell the transition. You had to sell the programme; so how do you move from military to civilians. And you know, there was friction within the military elite itself. And I think, (for want of a better word) self-preservation taught them that it was time to leave. Yes, they left because they had fulfilled their programmes and promises, but they knew that if they stayed in politics, they would continue to subdivide and the idea of oneness in the military would dissolve with time, and that would be an anathema. In short, the military left to preserve its unity."

It was not all smooth sailing for Dr. Cole. Exposed and connected as he was, after leaving the *Daily Times* he became jobless and homeless. Even though President Shehu Shagari would like him to keep his job as the MD, the community of government courtiers around him made staying unattractive. He left to get back to the civil service. The reception was cold. He left, and his dark days ensued. He soon found he had only N253 in his account and had to squat with a friend at 1004 Estate, Victoria Island, with a wife and six children, for two and a half years.

When Mr. Alex Ibru heard about his condition, he privately placed him on a monthly pay and presented him a new car. How he bounced back is a story for another day. And also, tributes to my bosom friend that the world calls ID Noble—Professor Idowu Sobowale, the renowned Communication scholar. He exited earthly life, aged 85.

The Laws governing Creation are now infused with intensifying Light Pressure, awakening all that is in slumber, heating up and hastening things in our world and universe.





NIGERIAN AGIP EXPLORATION (OPERATOR)
NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANY LIMITED
SHELL NIGERIA EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY LIMITED
CO-VENTURE PARTNERS

TENDER OPPORTUNITY
PROVISION OF SUBSEA WELLHEADS (EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES) FOR THE OFFSHORE
NIGERIA ZABAZABA & ETAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
NipeX Ref.No. 1000008514

1. INTRODUCTION

Nigerian Agip Exploration Limited (hereinafter referred to as "NAE"), hereby invites reputable Operators to apply to be considered for inclusion in the bid list for the proposed contract for provision of 36" – 18.3/4" 103.5 MPa / 15,000 psi rated working pressure subsea wellheads (equipment and services) through the NipeX portal.

The proposed contract term shall be fixed for a period of three (3) years, with Two (2) successive options to extend for an additional two (2) years for each option. One (1) single contract will be awarded at the end of the tender exercise to the lowest technically accepted responsive applicant.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope under this tender request will be to manufacture, test and deliver high pressure subsea wellhead systems and to provide all required spare parts, consumables, running tools, capping materials, etc. and related engineering services for installation of these wellhead systems for Zabazaba deep water drilling campaign in compliance with the specification STAP-146-S 'Subsea Wellhead System 36" – 18.3/4" 103.5 MPa / 15,000 psi Rated Working Pressure. The scope shall also include the provision, on a rental basis, where applicable, of the complete running and testing tool package, including contingency equipment, backup units, spare parts, remedial tools and emergency intervention tools required to support the entire drilling campaign. In addition, the Contractor shall demonstrate adequate local operational support capability in Nigeria, including availability of qualified personnel, warehousing and spare parts management, and maintenance and servicing capacity for running and testing tools to ensure efficient and continuous operations throughout the campaign.

Main SSWH System Equipment Service Conditions (per STAP-146-S) are as follows:

- Rated Working Pressure: 103.5 MPa (15,000 psi).
- Temperature Rating: Class V [2°C (35°F) to 121°C (250°F)].
- Material Class: DD-NL (Sour Service).
- Product Specification Level: PSL 3.

Specifically, Contractor shall:

- Manufacture, test and deliver no. 19 subsea wellhead systems (consisting in 16 firm wells + 2 relief wells + 1 contingency well) rated 15,000 psi minimum working pressure of a firm basis, plus other 6 on optional basis.
- Manufacture, test and deliver subsea wellhead system accessories (seal assembly, etc.).
- Supply Company on the initial delivery date, the required quantities of Wellhead Systems and spares parts according to the scheduled delivery plan.
- Ensure that technical data sheets, including safe handling recommendations, are available for all products delivered.
- Deliver additional spare parts to the best of its ability in the event Company requires emergency delivery of such items.

Further details to be found in the Technical Specification attached to the ITT. The ITT is expected to be launched by Third quarter of 2026 and contract issued by Second quarter of 2027.

3. MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for this tender exercise, interested Contractors are required to be pre-qualified with live status by the advert closing date in the **1.01.07 – Wellhead Equipment, Xmas Trees and Accessories (Categories A to D)** in NipeX Joint Qualification System (NJQS) database. **All successfully pre-qualified suppliers in this category will receive Invitation to Technical Tender (ITT).**
- To determine if you are pre-qualified and to view the product/service category you are listed for: visit <https://vms.nipex.org/login> and access NJQS with your log in details. Click on the **'Subscription'** tab on the left-hand side of the dashboard to view your status and click on the **'Product Code'** tab to view your registered product codes.
- If you are not listed in a product/service category and you are certified by Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to do business in this category, contact NipeX office at Post Square building, 1-3 (Building B) Ologun Agbaje Street, off Adeola Odeku Street Victoria Island, Lagos customersupport@nipex.com.ng, 08032850332, 0903845285 with your NUPRC certificate as evidence for verification and necessary update.
- To initiate the NJQS pre-qualification process, access <http://www.nipex-ng.com>, click on the **'Registration'** tab, and select **'Start NipeX New Vendor Registration Here'**.
- To be eligible, all tenders must comply with the Nigerian Content requirements in the NipeX system.

4. TENDER MINIMUM REQUIREMENT

- Compliance with Technical Specification No. STAP 146-S and project specification;
- Delivery to Port Harcourt / Onne Base (to be confirmed by Company) no later than 12 months from call off;
- At least 5 years of experience in deepwater;
- Operation manager located in Nigeria.
- Compliance with HSE Minimum Requirements

5. NIGERIAN CONTENT REQUIREMENT

Contractor must ensure full compliance with Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act 2010 (NOGICD Act) April 2010. Please note the following:

Bidders that do not meet the Nigerian Content criterion will not be allowed to participate in next Tender Stage.

Pursuant to enactment of the NOGICD Act, the minimum Nigerian Content in any project, service or product specification to be executed in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry shall be consistent with the level set in the schedule of the Act and any other target as may be directed by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

Bidders are invited to express complete understanding and willingness to comply with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010.

Pursuant to the above, bidders' submissions shall be evaluated strictly with the minimum evaluation criteria defined in the NOGICD Act provisions/Schedule. Only bidders whose submissions are in compliance shall proceed to the next stage of the tendering process.

The following are some of the Nigerian Content requirements bidders are expected to comply with in their technical bid submission:

- Provision of detailed description of all work bidders will accomplish using Nigerian Resources (Labour, Materials & Services).
- Tenderer shall provide Nigerian Content Plan with detailed description of how it intends to achieve the work scope using Nigerian resources for Engineering, manufacturing, testing, supply, and delivery of high-pressure subsea wellhead systems and to provide all required spare parts, consumables, running tools, capping materials, etc. and related engineering services for installation of these wellhead systems.
- Tenderer shall provide in country and out of country work scope split detailing where each activity will be carried out in percentage not limited to Project management, Engineering, Fabrication, Procurement, Assemblage and Integrations, testing, transportation etc. Of the subsea well head systems.
- Tenderer shall provide detailed description of the location of in-country committed facilities & infrastructure. (well head assembling facility, Technical/Administrative offices). in Nigeria to support this contract.
- Tenderer shall demonstrate that all the underlisted services will be executed in Nigeria with the name of the local vendor/partners executing the services.
 - Subsea Wellhead Systems and Installation service for offshore wells
 - All Fabrication not limited to structural pipes and wellhead extension joints.
 - Well head assembly.
 - Well head testing.
- Tenderer shall provide evidence of Category 1 or 2 for underlisted NCEC to demonstrate ownership of Subsea Wellhead Systems and Installation equipment to be utilized in the execution of the work scope.
 - Manufacturing Services (MS) group NCEC
 - Fabrication and Construction (FC) group NCEC
- Tenderer shall commit to and ensure that they engage qualified and categorized Nigerian companies for the production and supply of anodes, steel ropes, steel plates, protective paints and coating, welding electrodes, electrical and instrumentation cables, panels, cable trays, ladders, gaskets, flanges, bends, PPE, bolts and nuts, valves, welding consumables and other goods, materials and equipment.
- Tenderer shall commit to and ensure that they engage qualified Nigerian companies for the in-country assembly, integration, production, testing and supply of:
 - 19 subsea wellhead systems
 - subsea wellhead system accessories (seal assembly, etc.).
- Tenderer must provide evidence and assurance of having/building facilities in country in partnership or compliance with Nigerian content law to be able to perform but not limited to:
 - System Integration Testing (SIT)
 - FAT
 - EFAT
 - Pressure testing of hydraulic and chemical tubing
- Tenderer must commit to and ensure the engagement of qualified and categorized Nigerian Companies to provide subcontracted services such as but no limited to:
 - Inspection, QA/ QC, NDT and certification services
 - Freight forwarding and logistics
 - Package/ Product transportation services
 - Heavy Lift Services, Loadout & sea fastening
 - Security services
 - Mechanical Testing Services
 - Shipping, Clearing, Freight forwarding.
 - Custom Clearance & Landing logistics
 - Weld Qualification & Certification Services
 - Certification of Lifting Equipment
 - Offshore Safety Certification
 - Legal, Insurance and Financial Services
 - Tax and external audit consulting
 - Satellite/ Telecommunications
- Details of Company ownership and shareholding structure with certified true copies of CAC forms CAC2 and CAC7, including company memorandum & article of association and other evidence of entity's incorporation. registration on NOGIC IQS and NUPRC certificate.
- Copy of Nigerian Content Equipment Certification.
- Evidence of what percentage of your key management positions is held by Nigerians and what percentage of the total work force are Nigerians. Also, show overall percentage of work to be performed in Nigeria and those by Nigerian resources relative to total work volume.
- Comply with the latest approved version of NCDMB HCD guideline by committing (via a letter of undertaking) to providing Project-Specific training, man-hour, budget, skill development and understudy plan for Nigerian personnel utilizing OGTAN registered trainer(s) or other approved NCDMB training institution(s).
- Evidence of NCEC certification
- Project-specific organogram showing Names and Nationalities of all key personnel that will execute the work scope for this service.

6. CLOSING DATE

Only tenderers who are registered with NJQS Product/Service category **1.01.07 – Wellhead Equipment, Xmas Trees and Accessories (Categories A to D)** as at 16.00 hours Friday, 06 November 2026 being the advert closing date, shall be invited to submit Technical Bids.

7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This advertisement of "Tender Opportunity" shall not be construed as a commitment on part of NAE, nor shall it entitle Applicants to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from NAE and/or any of its Partners by virtue of such Applicants having responded to this Advert.

Please visit the NipeX Portal at www.nipex-ng.com for this Advert and other information.



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TOWN PLANNERS

wishes to inform the General Public of its

Fellowship Investiture Ceremony

24 October
2026



Lagos
D'Podium International
Event Centre

09:00hrs
Prompt



Tpl. AKANDE, Joseph Oluwale
FNITP 528



Tpl. ADEJOBI, Margaret
Ojewemimo Omokunmi
FNITP 529



Tpl. AHMED AKINTOLA,
Oluwarotimi
FNITP 530



Tpl. UGWU, Lucy Nkeiruka
FNITP 531



Tpl. OLAYOYE, John Tunde
FNITP 532



Tpl. AFOLABI, Olaide
Adebake Latifat
FNITP 533



Tpl. ALAKA, Yemisi Olayinka
FNITP 534



Tpl. ADEGUN,
Olufunke Afusat
FNITP 535



Tpl. SHAMMAH,
Mercy Monday
FNITP 536



Tpl. BASORUN,
Joseph Omoniyi
FNITP 537



Tpl. OLUGBAMILA,
Omotayo Ben
FNITP 538



Tpl. ADEYANJU,
Gabriel Adekunle
FNITP 539



Tpl. SALAU, Funke Doris
FNITP 540



Tpl. UTHMAN, Hafeez
Abiodun Fusho
FNITP 541



Tpl. OLATUNJI,
Oluabusola Opeyemi
FNITP 542



Tpl. SHORUNKE,
Isiki Oluwafemi
FNITP 543



Tpl. IDOWU, James Ayodele
FNITP 544



Tpl. OLADIRAN,
Ibiyinka Olaide
FNITP 545



Tpl. BECKLEY,
Oluwaseyifunmi Akinkunmi
FNITP 546



Tpl. RAJI, Oluwaseun
FNITP 547



Tpl. GIWA, Olayinka
Moh'd Sanusi
FNITP 548



Tpl. NUHU, Hannatu Ozaeyiza
FNITP 549



Tpl. NWADOBEH,
Ndubuisi Everest
FNITP 550



Tpl. UMAR, Dauda Musa
FNITP 551



Tpl. ADEYEMI Felix Mayowa
FNITP 552



Tpl. OLUWADARE,
Oluabunmi Adebola
FNITP 553



Tpl. DIHS Joseph Jonathan
FNITP 554



Tpl. YAKUBU, Grace Lohya
FNITP 555



Tpl. FADINA, Oluseye
Olufunso
FNITP 556



Tpl. MURAINA, Musibau Alimi
FNITP 557



Tpl. BUNUNU, Yakubu Aliyu
FNITP 558



Tpl. OLAYINKA - BELLO,
Bolanle Christianah
FNITP 559



Tpl. ZAKARI, Nanre Sarah
FNITP 560



Tpl. ODUKOYA, Adebayo
Sikiru Oluwagbeminiyi
FNITP 561



Tpl. SAMBO, Abbas
FNITP 562



Tpl. AMODU, Idowu
Emmanuel
FNITP 563



Tpl. HUSSAIN - YUSUF,
Mansurah Olubukola
FNITP 564



Tpl. IBETRUS, Grace Joshua
FNITP 565



Tpl. ASA, Moses Jaiyeola
FNITP 566



Tpl. ATISELE, Ngozi Bessie
FNITP 567



Tpl. EWEYIA, Olusegun
Ayedogbon
FNITP 568



Tpl. NGENE, Chuks Charles
FNITP 569



Tpl. NWOKAEZE,
Edmund Chinem
FNITP 570



Tpl. OGABA, Christiana
FNITP 571



Tpl. OSUJI, Sabina
Chiaka Nnenna
FNITP 572



Tpl. TOFOWOMO,
Abimbola Olanrewaju
FNITP 573



Tpl. UDEH, Johnpaul
Chukwaeze
FNITP 574



Tpl. IBEKWE, Juliet Chinenye
FNITP 575



Tpl. EZE, Faith Oluchi
FNITP 576



Tpl. ABUBAKAR, Aliyu
Muhammad
FNITP 577



Tpl. OLAWOYE,
Olakunle Samson
FNITP 578



Tpl. IBRAHIM, Yahaya
Makarjula
FNITP 579



Tpl. OGUNMODEDE,
Tunde Ezekiel
FNITP 580



Tpl. AFOLABI Adeniyi Samson
FNITP 581



Tpl. OBOT, Ekaette Ekaaba
FNITP 582



Tpl. OREBIYI,
Ebenezer Olusola
FNITP 583



Tpl. WORAHU, Faithful
Ndukweze
FNITP 584



Tpl. ADENIJI, Dolapo Nur'deen
FNITP 585



Tpl. ABIMAJE, Mohammed
FNITP 586



Tpl. ODEYEMI,
Babatunde Noah
FNITP 587



Tpl. IDRIS, Umar
FNITP 588



Tpl. NWAZUE,
Chukwudi Stephen
FNITP 589



Tpl. SULEIMAN,
Hadeezah Yusuf
FNITP 590



Tpl. NINALOWO,
Hazezat Titilayo
FNITP 591



Tpl. OKAFOR, Christian
Izuchukwu
FNITP 592



Tpl. UMAR SULAIMAN,
Abdulkadir
FNITP 593



Tpl. OKE, Oladunni Fatimat
FNITP 594



Tpl. ATOYEBI, Olumuyiwa Sola
FNITP 595



Tpl. SHITTU, Abolaji Mutiu
FNITP 596



Tpl. OCHEA, Nnenna Sam
FNITP 597



Tpl. ADEGBOLA,
Yetunde Sherifat
FNITP 598



Tpl. OJO, Michael
Mukaila Akinwale
FNITP 599



Tpl. OSINOWO,
Rasheed Adeolu
FNITP 600



Tpl. BELLO, Olufunmilayo
Oluwayinka
FNITP 601



Tpl. OGONOR,
Mudlaga Clever
FNITP 602



Tpl. SALIMAN, Dauda
FNITP 603



Tpl. ENYADIKE, Nwasa Stella
FNITP 604



Tpl. EKOM, Juliana Haruna
FNITP 605



Tpl. DAVID - ADEKUGBE,
Subuola Adewale
FNITP 606



Tpl. AGUMMADU,
Elias Maduakolam
FNITP 607



Tpl. HAMMADU, Umar
FNITP 608



Tpl. OLUSEGUN,
Samson Oladele
FNITP 609



Tpl. ESHIEMOKHAI,
Bernard Oshibugie
FNITP 610



Tpl. JOHNBULL,
Simeipini Wenike
FNITP 611



Tpl. YAKUBU,
Shekwonce Stephen
FNITP 612



Tpl. ADAMU, Sani
FNITP 613



Tpl. BABAJIDE,
Rotimi Matthew
FNITP 614



Tpl. MOHAMMED,
Yalwa Ibrahim
FNITP 615



Tpl. ALIYU, Ramatu Tijani
FNITP 616



Tpl. MODEBOLA - FADIMINE,
Funmilayo Tokunbo
FNITP 617

20
CLASS of
26

NITP
COLLEGE OF
FELLOWS

Honorary Fellows



Mr. Williams Akin-Funmilayo
The Commissioner for Lands,
Housing and Urban Development, Oyo State

His Excellency
Dr. Ahmad Aliyu Sokoto, FCNA
Executive Governor, Sokoto State

Lagos 2026

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

FOREX MARKET UPDATE

I&E Window: NI,326.00

Nigeria's petrol supply up 39%, imports fall as Dangote hits 105% capacity

By Waliat Musa

NIGERIA's domestic petrol supply increased by 39 per cent in August, but the country's stock cover remained 7.1 days below the 30-day benchmark, while all three Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) refineries were listed as not producing.

Consumption falls 8.5m litres short of daily benchmark

This is according to the latest figures from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) August 2026 factsheet released yesterday. It showed that domestic petrol receipts rose from 25.8 million litres per day in July to 35.9 million litres per

day in August, while imports fell from 19.7 million litres per day to 14.6 million litres per day.

Over the same period, Dangote Refinery recorded average capacity utilisation of 105.21 per cent, producing 41.94 million litres of petrol daily.

However, the increase in domestic receipts did not translate into stock levels

meeting the regulatory benchmark as petrol stock sufficiency stood at 22.9 days, against the required 30 days, leaving a deficit of 7.1 days.

These expose a contrast in the country's downstream petroleum market where domestic petrol receipts increased and imports declined, but national stocks remained below the prescribed threshold, with the state-owned refineries still

shut down.

The factsheet listed the Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna refineries under NNPCL as "Not producing," underscoring their continued absence from domestic refining output in the period covered by the report.

Dangote Refinery across three major products produced an average of 41.94 million litres of petrol per day, with domestic receipts of

35.87 million litres per day, exports of 9.73 million litres per day and closing stock of 360.4 million litres as of August 31, 2026.

For automotive gas oil, commonly known as diesel, the refinery recorded production of 18.01 million litres per day, domestic receipts of 12.37 million litres per day, exports of 8.75 million litres per day and closing stock of 137.2 million litres.

Nuhu, Demuren to attend SAPTCO lecture on African aviation market

By Olusegun Koiki

FORMER Director-General, Civil Aviation (DGCA), Musa Nuhu and former Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Dr Harold Demuren, have confirmed their attendance at the 2026 yearly lecture organised by SAPTCO Communication Limited, with the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) expected to dominate discussions.

Nuhu, who also served as Nigeria's representative on the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Council, confirmed his participation in a conversation with the organisers, citing the quality of participants, the guest speaker and the relevance of the lecture's theme as reasons for his deci-

sion.

Demuren, who delivered the inaugural lecture last year, also confirmed his attendance as the Father of the Day, describing his participation as a demonstration of honour and support for the SAPTCO team.

The lecture is expected to bring together aviation professionals, policymakers and other stakeholders to examine the slow implementation of SAATM, a flagship African Union initiative designed to liberalise air transport across the continent.

The programme would be delivered by a former Secretary-General of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), Ms Iyabo Sosina, who played a key role in advancing the initiative during her tenure at the continental aviation body.



Head Corporate Banking, Union Bank of Nigeria, Ali Kadiri (left); Executive Director, Corporate Bank and Business Banking - Lagos and Southwest, Taiwo Shote; Chief Financial Officer, Renaissance Africa Energy, Olusegun Banwo and Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Renaissance Africa Energy, Tony Attah during the Bank's signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Vendor Financing Scheme with Renaissance Africa Energy Limited held at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Nigeria, China seek better cross-border payments as CBN engages businesses

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is seeking stronger banking links and more efficient cross-border payment arrangements with China to facilitate trade, investment, and financial flows between the two economies.

The CBN convened a high-level business and financial roundtable in Beijing, where Nigerian and Chinese business leaders identified practical challenges affecting financial transactions and explored ways to improve access to banking and investment services across both markets.

The meeting, held at the Pan Pacific Beijing, under the theme: "Strengthening the Nigeria-China Financial Corridor," brought together financial and business stakeholders to examine how stronger financial connectivity could support commercial activities between the two countries.

CBN Governor, Olayemi Cardoso, said direct engagement with businesses was important to understand the opportunities and constraints affecting financial transactions between Nigeria and China, particularly as the Bank seeks to deepen the country's financial markets.

Discussions focused on the need for more efficient cross-border payment systems, stronger banking relationships, and the potential benefits of expanding Nigerian banks' presence in China.

Participants also examined broader opportunities to facili-

tate financial flows and improve access to financial services and investment opportunities in Nigeria.

Deputy Governor for Economic Policy at the CBN, Philip Ikeazor, delivered the opening remarks, outlining the objectives of the engagement and the importance of translating improvements in Nigeria's macroeconomic fundamentals into increased investment and deeper financial markets.

Nigeria's Ambassador to China, Lt. Gen. Abdulrahman Bello Dambazau (rtd), also addressed the gathering.

Other speakers included the Chairperson of Blue Diamond Group, Festus Mbisiogu, and the Chairperson of CIG Motors, Chief Diana Chen, who provided perspectives on the experiences of businesses operating across the Nigeria-China corridor.

An interactive listening session formed a central part of the meeting, allowing participants to share firsthand accounts of the difficulties encountered in conducting transactions between the two countries and suggest areas for improvement.

The roundtable also featured a presentation on Nigeria's economic reforms, improved macroeconomic fundamentals and emerging investment opportunities in its financial markets.

Cardoso, in his closing reflections, stressed the importance of using the feedback from businesses to identify financial and institutional issues requiring further attention.

Dangote tasks African investors on funding home-grown businesses

By Helen Oji

PRESIDENT and Chief Executive of Dangote Industries Limited, Aliko Dangote, has cautioned that African investors risk losing out on the prosperity generated by the continent's industrial expansion if they continue channelling funds abroad instead of backing businesses at home.

Speaking during a conversation with the Financial Times, Dangote outlined his ambition

Popoola urges business leaders to unite capital, build champions

to expand the Group's industrial investments across Africa, while urging governments and business leaders to take greater responsibility for the continent's economic future.

He said the continent needed a stronger commitment from its own investors to finance businesses capable of transforming its economies, arguing that African capital should play a greater role in building globally

competitive companies.

Dangote decried the gap between Africa's investment potential and the willingness of its own investors to commit capital to businesses operating on the continent, describing what he sees as a weakness in Africa's approach to financing its development.

"We are doing it in reverse, where we take our own money to their banks, strengthen their

banks, and we don't really keep our money on our own continent," he said.

He noted that the challenge is not simply attracting foreign investment but ensuring that African investors participate in the businesses being built around them.

He argued that local capital should help establish industries, create jobs and retain a greater share of the value generated from the continent's resources.

Nigeria's non-oil exports hit record N12.36tr, expands to 120 countries

By Isaac Chibuike

NIGERIA's non-oil exports reached N12.36 trillion in 2025, with shipments to more than 120 countries, as the Federal Government stepped up efforts to diversify exports and strengthen domestic production.

The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment disclosed this in a media update yesterday, adding that non-oil products accounted for 14.5 per cent of total exports in 2025, up from 11.7 per cent in 2024. The number of distinct non-oil products exported also rose to 281 from 246, while Nigeria's intra-African trade increased by 21 per cent. The number of certificates of ori-

gin issued under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) grew by 500 per cent during the period.

Despite the gains in exports, manufacturing and trade made a smaller combined contribution to Nigeria's economic growth in 2025 than in the previous year.

According to the ministry, the two sectors contributed 0.43 percentage points to real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 3.87 per cent in 2025, down from 0.46 percentage points in 2024, when the economy grew by 3.38 per cent.

Trade contributed 0.31 percentage points, compared with 0.35 percentage points in 2024, while manufactur-

ing's contribution increased to 0.12 percentage points from 0.10 percentage points. Manufacturing grew by 1.41 per cent in 2025, up from 1.2 per cent in 2024, while trade growth slowed to 1.77 per cent from 1.97 per cent.

The ministry said foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows improved to \$920 million in 2025 from \$680 million in 2024. Total capital importation rose to \$23.22 billion from \$12.32 billion, although the ministry acknowledged that direct investment remained modest.

It also reported stronger manufacturing performance in the first quarter of 2026, when the sector grew

by 3.29 per cent. Cement production expanded by 11.53 per cent, pharmaceuticals by 6.15 per cent, automotive assembly by 5.44 per cent, and food, beverage and tobacco by 4.10 per cent. Vehicle assembly increased by 40.6 per cent in 2025, while cassava starch production rose by 474.74 per cent and light electronics production by 16.67 per cent.

To deepen domestic value addition, the ministry is developing a framework to guide the allocation of shea nuts to local processors before any surplus is exported. The current ban on raw shea nut exports expires on February 25, 2027.

NGX penalises 15 firms N123.17 million for late financial filings

By Helen Oji

THE Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX) has listed penalties totalling N123.17 million against 15 listed companies for delays in submitting their audited and interim financial statements, raising fresh concerns about compliance with disclosure requirements and the effectiveness of existing sanctions.

The penalties were contained in the NGX Regulation Limited (NGX RegCo) X-Compliance Report, which provides information on listed companies' compliance with the Exchange's disclosure and listing requirements.

According to the report, the total penalties comprise N87.30 million relating to audited financial statements and N35.87 million for interim financial reports. The compliance list contains 22 penalty entries involving the 15

companies.

International Energy Insurance Plc recorded the highest penalty of N28.20 million, followed by Caverton Offshore Support Group Plc, with cumulative penalties of N19.20 million across both reporting categories, and Legend Internet Plc, which attracted N16.80 million.

The three companies accounted for N64.20 million, representing approximately 52.12 per cent of the total penalties.

Other companies on the list include Oando Plc, with penalties of N10.40 million; Fidelity Bank Plc, N4.20 million; Ecobank Transnational Incorporated, N1.30 million; International Breweries Plc, N1 million; and PZ Cussons Nigeria Plc, N600,000.

Caverton Offshore Support Group, NCR (Nigeria) Plc, Cornerstone Insurance Plc, Jaiz Bank Plc, Sterling Financial Holdings Company Plc and

Regency Alliance Insurance Plc appeared in both categories of filing defaults. Their combined penalties amounted to N56.10 million.

The repeated appearance of some companies on the compliance list has raised questions about whether financial penalties alone are sufficient to ensure that listed firms submit their financial statements within the prescribed deadlines.

Timely financial reporting is a

SON certifies 17,866 products, steps up war against substandard goods

By Tobì Awodipe

THE Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) said it has certified 17,866 locally manufactured products from 8,634 companies under its Mandatory Conformity Assessment Programme (MANCAP), up from 1,930 products by 458 companies when the scheme commenced in 2006.

SON's Director-General, Dr Ifeanyi Okeke, disclosed this at the 2026 National

Quality Presentation stakeholders' forum, marking the programme's 20th anniversary, amid growing concerns over the proliferation of fake and substandard products that have taken over the market.

He said the scheme was introduced to promote fair competition among local manufacturers, protect consumers from unsafe and fake products as well as support economic diversifica-

tion by ensuring that locally manufactured goods meet the requirements of the Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS). He added that enforcing standard certification in the production of locally made goods, among other steps, is an effort the organisation is taking to fight substandard goods and restore sanity in the space.

According to him, the growth in certified products and participating

companies reflects efforts to strengthen quality assurance and improve the competitiveness of made-in-Nigeria products.

MANCAP is mandatory for locally manufactured products and involves factory inspections, product sampling, laboratory testing and compliance reviews before certification. Certificates are renewable every three years, subject to annual surveillance inspections and testing.

Falling battery prices expose Africa's energy storage investment gap

By Benjamin Alade

FALLING battery prices have yet to translate into significant investment in energy storage across Africa, with funding constraints, regulatory gaps and inadequate infrastructure planning limiting the deployment of technologies needed to support renewable energy growth.

According to the latest ESI Africa Industry Insights: Energy & Storage Volume 5 (2026), stationary battery pack prices fell to about \$70 per kilowatt-hour in 2025, representing a 45 per cent year-on-year decline, based on figures from BloombergNEF.

However, only \$666 million of the \$13.84 billion invested in Africa's energy transition in 2025 went into energy storage and flexibility, accounting for less than five per cent of the total, according to data tracked by Electron Intelligence.

The report highlighted the disconnect between the declining cost of battery technologies and the investment required to scale up storage

capacity across the continent.

Editor-in-Chief of ESI Africa, Nicolette Pombo-van Zyl, said energy storage had become a critical factor in determining the viability of energy projects, grid stability and the effective use of renewable electricity.

"Storage has become the part that decides whether a project gets financed, whether a grid stays stable after sunset and whether the clean energy already being generated is actually used," she said.

Pombo-van Zyl added that capital, regulation and data had yet to catch up with the growing importance of storage in Africa's energy sector.

The publication examined the economics of battery storage, including modelling in South Africa that identifies lithium iron phosphate (LFP) as a leading option among competing battery chemistries for stationary applications.

It also assesses factors affecting project profitability, including deployment scale, battery degradation in hot climates, financing costs, import tariffs and freight charges.



Partner, CMC Connect LLP, Adetola Odusote (left); Director, Data Governance and Compliance, IHS Nigeria, Richard Ebuetsse; Associate Director, Government and External Relations, IHS Nigeria, Bond Abbe and Lead Partner, CMC Connect LLP, Yomi Badejo Okusanya, displaying the Best Culture Moment Campaign Award received by IHS Nigeria, during the Third Nigeria Digital PR Awards held in Lagos.

LCCI raises alarm on multiple grid failures, tackles DisCos on poor service delivery

By Abigail Ikhaghu

THE Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) has regretted the multiple grid failures and called out electricity distribution companies (DisCos) for frustrating independent power producers and creating bottlenecks to electricity supply.

It warned that their actions could undermine efforts to improve power delivery to businesses and households.

Chairman of the LCCI Power Sector Group, Olufemi Bakare,

stated this yesterday while speaking at the Chamber's Power Sector Group Conference held in Lagos.

With the theme: "Gas to Power: Unlocking Nigeria's Energy Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth," Bakare explained that some DisCos were exploiting their dominant position in the electricity value chain to create bottlenecks for independent power producers and other licensed operators seeking to deliver electricity to con-

sumers.

According to him, such practices undermine the Federal and state governments' ongoing efforts to address Nigeria's persistent electricity supply crisis.

"It is unfortunate when certain players in the sector, distribution companies to be exact, decide to use their strong position and advantage that they have been given by this country to choke and cause bottlenecks. That is totally unacceptable," he said.

Bakare said the consequences of resistance to power projects in Lagos extended beyond the state, given its importance to the country's commercial and industrial activities.

He urged DisCos, power generators and gas suppliers to work together, stressing that the success of electricity reforms depends on cooperation across the value chain rather than actions that prevent licensed operators from supplying power effectively.

Oyetola inaugurates NIMBEX committee, eyes maritime investment boom

By Adaku Onyenucheyá

THE Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Dr Adegboyega Oyetola, has inaugurated a committee to organise the Nigeria Marine and Blue Economy Expo (NIMBEX), in a strategic move to position Nigeria as a leading destination for maritime investment, innovation and trade in Africa.

The expo is expected to bring together policymakers, international investors, industry leaders and technology innovators to support the Federal Government's efforts to unlock the vast economic potential of Nigeria's marine and blue economy.

NIMBEX will focus on key areas such as deep-sea mining, port development, shipping development, inland waterway development, logistics, offshore energy, maritime finance, fisheries, marine biotechnology, maritime security and environmental sus-

tainability.

Oyetola said the initiative would provide a platform to translate the country's maritime advantages into tangible investment opportunities, economic growth and job creation.

"Nigeria's marine and blue economy holds enormous potential to drive economic diversification, attract investment and create sustainable employment. NIMBEX will provide a strategic platform to bring together the capital, expertise and partnerships needed to unlock these opportunities," the minister said.

Oyetola, who was represented at the inauguration by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, Mrs Fatima Mahmood, said the expo would help bridge the gap between Nigeria's vast maritime resources and the investments required to harness them for national development.

Nigeria, UK deepen collaboration on AI standards, digital economy

By Adeyemi Adepetun

THE British High Commission in Nigeria has reaffirmed the UK's commitment to supporting Nigeria's digital transformation agenda following a successful suite of events and engagements during a recent visit by the British Standards Institution to Nigeria.

Central to the visit was the successful delivery of an Executive Workshop on Artificial Intelligence Governance and Standards in partnership with the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) under the UK Government's Digital Access Programme.

The four-day workshop brought together senior government lead-

ers, regulators and technology practitioners to strengthen Nigeria's capacity for responsible AI adoption, governance and oversight. It explored practical approaches to implementing internationally recognised standards for AI governance, risk management, assurance and accountability, while supporting Nigeria's ambition to become a leading AI economy in Africa.

The workshop builds on several years of collaboration between BSI and Nigerian government institutions to promote standards as a catalyst for economic growth and digital transformation.

Working closely with the National Information Technology

Development Agency (NITDA), Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Nigeria Data Protection Council (NDPC), National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR) and other stakeholders, BSI has supported capacity building, policy engagement and awareness raising on the application of international standards to emerging digital technologies.

As Nigeria accelerates its adoption of emerging technologies, standards are increasingly recognised as a critical foundation for innovation, providing common frameworks that build trust, strengthen cybersecurity, enhance data governance, improve interoperability and support responsible technolo-

gy deployment. Through this partnership, the UK and Nigeria are working to promote international best practice in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital trust, data governance, cybersecurity, smart infrastructure, digital public services and electronic waste management.

The Executive Workshop on AI Governance and Standards represents another milestone in this collaboration. Over three days of intensive training, senior public sector leaders explored how international standards can help organisations manage AI risks, improve institutional oversight and create enabling environments for innovation.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN INDEPENDENT ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK (IEDN) PURSUANT TO SECTION 82 OF THE LAGOS STATE ELECTRICITY LAW 2024

Prest-Energy Distribution Company Limited, whose office is situated at No. 2, Yinka Bello Street, Off Admiralty Way, Lekki Phase I, Lagos State, hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission, whose principal office is situated at Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos, for a distribution licence to Lekki Phase I, behind Doom, Off Freedom Way, Lagos.

Notice is hereby given that persons who have objections to the grant of the licence should send their written comments clearly articulating the basis for any objection, in accordance with the provisions of the Lagos State Electricity Law 2024 and LASERC Rules and Regulations, no later than **twenty-one (21) days** of this publication to:-

***Chief Executive Officer
Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission,
Lagos Revenue House,
Wing B&C First Floor,
Assbifi Road,
Alausa – Ikeja,
Lagos.***

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AN EMBEDDED GENERATION LICENCE PURSUANT TO SECTION 71 OF THE LAGOS STATE ELECTRICITY LAW 2024

Telmek Energy Solutions Limited, whose office is situated at No. 2, Yinka Bello Street, Lekki Peninsula Residential Scheme I, Eti-Osa L.G.A., Lagos, hereby gives notice that it has made an application to the Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission, whose principal office is situated at Assbifi Road, Central Business District, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos, for a 2MW embedded generation licence at Plot 12, Egbeyemi Street, Off Adesegun Okunuga Street, Off Amore Freedom Way, Lagos.

Notice is hereby given that persons who have objections to the grant of the licence should send their written comments clearly articulating the basis for any objection, in accordance with the provisions of the Lagos State Electricity Liwa 2024 and LASERC Rules and Regulations, no later than **twenty-one (21) days** of this publication to:-

***Chief Executive Officer
Lagos State Electricity Regulatory Commission,
Lagos Revenue House,
Wing B&C First Floor,
Assbifi Road,
Alausa – Ikeja,
Lagos.***

Experts advocate stringent checks on airlines amid safety concerns

Stories by **Olusegun Koiki**

EXPERTS in Nigeria’s aviation industry have called for a rigorous audit of local airline operators following a serious incident in which a Challenger CL60 aircraft, operated by Triton Aviation, lost a door shortly after take-off from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (NAIA), Abuja, last week.

The experts queried aircraft airworthiness, maintenance standards, flight crew competence and regulatory oversight of the operators, especially those operating in business aviation. They insisted safety must remain the overriding priority in the aviation industry.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Nigame Aircraft Consultancy based in the United States, Olufemi Adeniji, said the incident revealed the urgent need for a comprehensive and uncompromising audit of operators in the country.

Adeniji, in an interview with *The Guardian*, warned that the consequences could have been catastrophic had the aircraft been at cruising altitude.

Adeniji, who expressed concern over the growing number

of aviation incidents, said the latest occurrence should not be treated as an isolated event, but as a serious warning about the state of safety oversight in the industry.

He questioned whether the aircraft’s door-warning and locking systems had functioned as intended, noting that modern aircraft are equipped with cockpit indications that alert flight crews when doors are not properly secured.

“Once again, just when we believed the series of aviation incidents had ended, another one surfaces. Following the runway overrun at Ibadan Airport, the road landing in Asaba, the overrun at Benin, the military crash at Igbokoda in Ondo State, and now, a door coming off during takeoff at Abuja.

“The aircraft has system and cockpit indicators that alert and indicate when all doors, including the main entry door, are safely closed and locked. Could the cockpit indicator light be faulty? Is there corrosion on the main entry door hinge? Is the flight crew adequately qualified?

“Every operator in Nigeria requires a rigorous, uncompromising audit. This event took

place in a pressurised cabin; imagine the outcome at cruising altitude. Has anyone assessed the damage on the ground? A detailed investigation is imperative. Safety must remain the guiding principle of aviation.”

In his comment, aviation security expert, John Ojikutu, queried the aircraft’s operational status, the qualifications of its crew and the regulatory requirements governing foreign-registered aircraft operating within Nigeria.

Ojikutu wondered if the cabin crew were aboard the aircraft and whether the cockpit had a functioning warning system capable of alerting the pilots to a door-related technical defect

before take-off.

He also asked whether the flight was commercial and whether the aircraft had obtained the necessary security clearance to operate within the country.

“This is a foreign-registered aircraft possibly flown by foreign crew. Was the aircraft on a commercial flight and has it a security clearance for flying within the country?” he queried.

Ojikutu further expressed concern about what he described as another instance involving a foreign-registered aircraft operated by foreign crew experiencing an operational problem in Nigeria.

He wondered if the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), had

verified the crew’s licences and the aircraft’s airworthiness documentation, while also seeking clarity on the outcome of an earlier incident involving a foreign-registered aircraft that landed on an uncompleted highway in Asaba, rather than Asaba airport. According to him, the latest incident should prompt the relevant authorities to review the movement and operational activities of foreign-registered private aircraft in Nigeria, particularly amidst increased global and domestic security concerns.

Ojikutu posited that foreign registered aircraft should not operate beyond their authorised points of entry or outside the conditions and duration of their security clearances without the

necessary approvals.

He also called for closer scrutiny of aircraft that operate within Nigeria without being registered locally, insisting that the authorities must ensure compliance with applicable aviation and security regulations.

The latest incident occurred last week in Abuja when the aircraft, with registration number: T7-SEI and flight identification: DWC052 and owned by Triton Aviation, was operating a flight from Abuja to the Murtala Muhammed Airport (MMA), Lagos.

According to an incident report obtained by *The Guardian*, the aircraft departed Runway 22 at approximately 4:17 p.m. Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and was climbing through 3,000 feet, about three nautical miles from the airport, when the crew declared an emergency.

The crew transmitted a “Mayday” distress call after reporting that a door had opened in flight, prompting air traffic controllers to direct the aircraft back to Abuja for an emergency landing. Airport fire and emergency personnel, as well as the medical team, were immediately placed on standby to respond to any eventuality.

The aircraft subsequently landed safely on Runway 22 at approximately 4:34 p.m. UTC, about 14 minutes after the distress call.

An inspection after landing confirmed that the door was missing from the aircraft’s fuselage. The aircraft was later taxied to the international apron extension and parked.



Chairman of Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited (BASL), operators of Murtala Muhammed Airport Two (MMA2), Lagos, Dr Wale Babalakin (left) and Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, after signing a new agreement to resolve the contractual crisis on the operations of MMA2 18 years after, recently.

Transport summit holds in Lagos today

THE Executive Director, Operations and Technical Services, Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, Warri, Eni Eni, the former Managing Director, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Dr Richard Aisuebeogun and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CITA Energies, Dr Thomas Ogunbangbe, are among the dignitaries who will participate at a transport summit scheduled for today in Lagos.

While Eni Eni has been appointed as Chairman of the occasion, Aisuebeogun would deliver the keynote address at the summit with the theme: ‘Navigating Global Disruptions and the Road Ahead: Mobility,

Energy and Trade Facilitation for a Resilient Future.’

Also, Ogunbangbe, is expected to provide an energy-sector perspective, focusing on the implications of oil-market disruptions, energy supply challenges and the relationship between reliable energy, infrastructure investment and the operational sustainability of transport systems.

Besides, a transport specialist from the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Dr Femi Aiyegbaje, would lead discussions on mobility systems, transport planning, and the development of an integrated and sustainable transportation network through effective rail connectiv-

ity capable of withstanding global disruptions.

Commenting on the event, the Managing Director of JustAlive Communications Limited, Pearl Ngwama, said the summit was conceived as a platform for industry players, policymakers, and other stakeholders to examine emerging challenges in transportation and develop practical solutions to build a more resilient transport ecosystem.

Ngwama said the discussions would address the impact of global disruptions on Nigeria’s transportation system, with particular attention to mobility, infrastructure development, energy security, trade facilitation

and the implications of international economic and operational developments for the country.

She explained that the objective was to facilitate robust, solution-oriented deliberations that could generate actionable recommendations to support the development of a more efficient, sustainable, and future-ready transport sector.

She added: “The summit’s theme indicates the growing interdependence of transportation, energy supply chains and international trade, where disruptions in one segment can trigger operational and economic consequences across the wider value chain.

Air Peace promotes two captains to lead flight operations

IN a strategic move to strengthen leadership capacity, deepen operational expertise and sustain its growth trajectory, Air Peace has elevated Captains James Adaviruku Onipe and Ikechukwu Paul-Ugochukwu to the positions of Director of Flight Operations (DFO) and Chief Pilot (CP), respectively.

A statement by the Communications Manager, Air Peace, Efe Osifo-Whiskey, said

the appointments take effect effective November 1, 2026.

According to him, the appointments underscored the airline’s commitment to developing experienced aviation professionals, strengthening its leadership structure and sustaining operational excellence.

Onipe, an accomplished airline pilot with almost two decades of experience across multiple aircraft fleets, currently served as Air Peace’s Embraer

145 Fleet Manager and Trainer/Check Airman.

Also, Paul-Ugochukwu brings 22 years of experience in the aviation industry to his new role. He currently serves as a Boeing 777 Type Rating Instructor and Check Airman, contributing to pilot training, technical proficiency and the maintenance of operational standards.

He emphasised that the appointments followed the

elevation of the outgoing Director of Flight Operations, Augustin Kamano, and former Chief Pilot, Martin Okunpolor, to higher positions within the Air Peace Group.

As the handover process commences, Air Peace said it remained focused on nurturing aviation talent, reinforcing professional standards and building the leadership capacity required to support its expanding operations.

Delta unveils major upgrade to dining, hospitality facility

DELTA Airlines has unveiled the next era of Delta One, an investment that elevates dining, hospitality and rest.

Informed by two decades of customer insights and backed by the airline’s largest investment to-date, building upon more than \$1 billion invested in fleet, the refined Delta One was designed, spanning thousands of touchpoints and delivering an unmatched journey.

The overhaul is available first on transoceanic Delta One routes departing Los Angeles International Airport, where Delta offers more premium seats and resides as the city’s number one airline, this fall and will expand across the full global network in early 2027.

“Delta’s fully reimagined experience is rooted in solving real customer needs and desires, with intentionality behind every detail.

“Every investment we make is deliberate and designed to deliver the industry’s most premium end-to-end travel experience. This elevated dining and hospitality experience reflects our relentless focus on raising the bar while giving customers greater control throughout their journey,” said Delta’s Chief Marketing and Product Officer, Ranjan Goswami.

A central feature of the redesign is an expanded

culinary programme featuring upgraded ingredients, refreshed menus and new beverage selections.

The menu includes a Delta One Wagyu beef burger, roasted sea bass, braised lamb, beef short rib and seasonally rotating risotto. Customers will also continue to have access to familiar favourites, including macaroni and cheddar cheese, alongside new mid-flight meal options.

Delta has worked with chef Simon Hulstone and Master Sommelier Andrea Robinson to refine its food and beverage offerings, with additional input from chefs Norio Ueno and Jereme Leung to support regional authenticity.

The airline is also introducing redesigned tableware featuring its iconic widget logo, with each piece developed to improve presentation, functionality and the onboard dining experience.

The beverage programme includes a new wine selection curated with Andrea Robinson and SkyMiles members, featuring Napa Valley favourites and international labels. Champagne Taittinger will feature more prominently, including on domestic Delta One services.

Additional offerings include Blanton’s single-barrel bourbon, available from December 1, 2026, and DASAI 45 sake on flights to and from Tokyo-Haneda from November 3, 2026.



2027 NNPC/RENAISSANCE JV SABBATICAL AND POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited (Renaissance), operator of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), Renaissance, TotalEnergies and Agip Energy and Natural Resources Joint Venture (Renaissance JV), invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to apply for the 2027 Sabbatical and Postgraduate Research Internship Programme.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Postgraduate Research Internship provides opportunities for Nigerian postgraduate students (MSc, M.Phil., and PhD) to gain industry-related work experience and conduct topical research within Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited.



Duration: 12 Months (Non-renewable)

TEAMS / DISCIPLINES:

- **Environment:** Impact Assessment and Environmental Compliance Monitoring.
- **Occupational Health:** Health Promotion; and Epidemiology / Statistics.
- **Pipeline Availability:** PhD candidate in Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Materials Engineering, or Oil & Gas Engineering, with at least three (3) years of pipeline engineering experience in design, construction, or integrity assessment.
- **Exploration:** PhD Intern - Geology / Geophysics, AI in exploration workflow.

SABBATICAL ATTACHMENT FOR UNIVERSITY LECTURERS

The sabbatical attachment offers University lecturers from the rank of Senior Lecturer and above, opportunity to undertake research and other activities that will contribute to Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited's business objectives. It also provides an avenue to acquire industry-related experience and contribute to teaching and research activities at the Renaissance JV Centres of Excellence (CoEs).



Duration: 12 Months (Non-renewable)

TEAMS / DISCIPLINES:

- **Environment:** Impact Assessment and Biodiversity, Environmental Toxicology, Air Quality Assessment, Hydrobiology, Water Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Ecology, etc.
 - **Corporate Relations:** Social Performance (Social Impact Assessment and Management).
 - **Corporate Relations:** Host Community Development Trust (HCDD)/ Stakeholder Relations.
 - **Community Health:** Consultant Community Health, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Pediatrics.
 - **Nigerian Content Development:** A Professor in any Engineering Discipline with interest in either Process or Project Engineering.
 - **NNPC/Renaissance-JV Centre of Excellence in Geosciences and Petroleum Engineering, University of Benin, Benin City:** Geology, Geophysics, and Petroleum Engineering.
 - **NNPC/Renaissance-JV Centre of Excellence in Marine and Offshore Engineering, Rivers State University, Nkpulu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt:** Marine/Offshore Engineering and Naval Architecture.
- Exploration:** Geology / Geophysics, AI in exploration workflow.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

All applications and supporting documents should be sent to **university-relations@renaissanceafrica.com** with the relevant Team/Discipline clearly stated as the email subject.

Applications from candidates should consist of the following:

- Application letter stating team/discipline of interest.
- Curriculum vitae including contact phone number, email address, and contact information of three referees.
- For sabbatical position, a titled, one page summary of how the candidate intends to add value to the Renaissance business during the 12 months sabbatical.
- For the Research Internship position, a proposal including: study background, technical objectives, methodology, data required and expected outcome.

Note:

- » Applications open on 23 October 2026 and close on 6 November 2026.
- » Renaissance and Its Joint Venture partners DO NOT DEMAND PAYMENT FROM APPLICANTS. The application is entirely FREE of charge.
- » Renaissance and Its Joint Venture partners DO NOT ASSIGN 'Representatives'/'Agents' to assist applicants' process applications.
- » Applications from persons who have previously participated in the programme will not be considered.
- » Application letter without Team/Discipline of interest clearly stated will NOT be considered.
- » Applications received after the deadline will not be considered and ONLY shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

DATA PROTECTION NOTICE

- Data Protection Notice.
- The Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited is committed to data privacy.
- Processing of Personal Data Collected by NNPC/Renaissance-JV.
- Personal data collected by The Renaissance African Energy Company Limited, Operator of the NNPC/Renaissance /TotalEnergies/AENR Joint Venture will be used exclusively for the purpose of selection of candidates. The information will not be used for an incompatible purpose.
- Renaissance is the Controller for the processing of your personal data and will not use your personal data for direct marketing purposes.
- In the event the personal data needs to be processed by, transferred to, or exchanged with a third party, appropriate contractual safeguards will be put in place to ensure that the third party will take adequate measures to safeguard the privacy of the data.
- As a data subject, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data on legitimate compelling grounds except when it is processed to comply with a legal obligation or is to be used for a purpose for which you have given your implied consent.
- The Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited, Operator of the NNPC/Renaissance/TotalEnergies/AENR Joint Venture will only retain the data for as long as it is necessary to serve the purpose of collection or to the extent necessary to comply with applicable law or to protect the rights itself, affiliates, joint venture or the data subject concerned.
- We have implemented technology and policies with the objective of protecting your privacy from unauthorised access and improper use. For inquiries or concern, please contact: **university-relations@renaissanceafrica.com**

Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited

Operator of the NNPC/Renaissance/TotalEnergies/AENR Joint Venture



www.renaissanceafrica.com



@renaissance afr

Energy for people and planet...



IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE AWKA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT AWKA
ON FRIDAY THE 26TH DAY OF MARCH, 2019
BEFORE THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE B.O. QUADRI
JUDGE

CHARGE NO: FHC/AWK/CS/58/2018

BETWEEN:

1. TISCO INDUSTRIES LIMITED
2. TISCO NIGERIA LIMITED
AND
1. REGISTRAR OF TRADE MARKS
2. DYNATECH SYSTEMS LTD

JUDGMENT

By an amended Writ of Summons dated and filed on 11/03/2019 and an amended statement of claim dated and filed on 11/03/2019, the Plaintiffs seek the following reliefs.

- A Declaration that the Plaintiffs are the only body corporate licensed and authorised to use the name "WISDOM 212" as Trade Mark for their products.
- An Order of perpetual injunction restraining the 1st defendant from issuing a Certificate of Registration of Trade Mark in respect of "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH" to the 2nd Defendant.

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

1

which was being put forward for certification to the MANCAP requirements by the 2nd Defendant.

The Defendants did not file any processes to present their own side of the story despite the service of hearing notices on them as well as correspondences from the learned counsel for the Plaintiffs.

DETERMINATION OF SUIT

I have noted the issue formulated and argued by the Plaintiffs as identified above, I also adopt the sole issue for prompt consideration and disposal of this suit.

During trial, which commenced on the 12th December, 2019 Mr. Niyi Olaifa testified as PW1 wherein he adopted his witness statement on oath and 13 exhibits were tendered through him. To wit;

- Memorandum and Articles of Incorporation of the 2nd Plaintiff – Exhibit A
- Certificate of incorporation issued to the Plaintiffs – Exhibit B
- Acknowledgment form issued and dated 15th May, 2001 – Exhibit C
- Certificate of Registration of trade mark – Exhibit D
- Certificate of Registration from the National Agency for Food and Drugs administration and control (NAFDAC) – Exhibit E
- WISDOM licensing Agreement – Exhibit F
- MANCAP certificate – Exhibit G

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

4

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

On a final note, counsel submitted that even where the original of the trade mark in Part A of the register has expired after a period of seven years from the date of that registration, the original registration (now expired) can still be taken to be valid in all respects unless that registration was obtained by fraud or that trade mark offends against the provisions of Section 11 of the Act. On this, reliance was placed on Section 14 (1) of the Trade Marks Act, Cap T 13, LFN 2004 and urged the court to grant the Plaintiffs reliefs as contained in their statement of claim.

The above represents the summary of argument and submissions as put forward by the Plaintiffs.

The suit has been brought to determine whether the Registered Trademark of the Plaintiffs, as guaranteed and protected by the **Trade Marks Act, Cap T 13, LFN 2004** has been breached by the 2nd defendant.

To effectively determine this suit, this Court must examine the facts of the case in line with the relevant provisions of the **Trade Marks Act** said to have been breached by the 2nd Defendant.

Now, **Section 5 (1) & (2) of the Trade Marks Act** which anchorage has been placed provides as follows:

5. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section and of sections 7 and 8 of this Act, the registration (whether before or after the commencement of this Act) of a person in Part A of the register as proprietor of a trade mark (other than a certification trade mark) in respect of any goods shall, if valid, give or be

7

- An Order compelling the 2nd Defendant to desist forthwith from dealing in and/or parading products in the name of "WISDOM 212" or any other name, howsoever, closely resembling the said name.
- An Order directing the 2nd Defendant to pay damages in the sum of #250,000,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Million Naira) only for the infringement on the Plaintiffs Trade Mark and the attendant loss in goodwill, reputation, patronage and income occasioned to the business of the Plaintiffs by the said infringement.
- An Order further directing that all goods belonging to the 2nd Defendant found either in its warehouse or market place, whether locally manufactured or imported, which constitute a faker to the registered product of the Plaintiffs be confiscated.
- An Order directing the 2nd Defendant to pay an interest rate of 21% on the judgement sum for every day it remains unpaid from the date of the judgement until same is completely liquidated.
- Cost of the action in the sum of #3,000,000.00 (Three Million Naira) Only.

Also filed with the Statement of claim is the Plaintiffs' witness statement on oath filed on 11/03/2019 which made reference to 13 Exhibits later tendered through him at trial, Plaintiffs' written Address dated and filed on 18/11/2020 wherein a sole issue was formulated and argued as follows:

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

2

- Letter of invitation from Standards Organization of Nigeria Dated 7th March, 2018 – Exhibit H
- Minutes of Meeting dated 28th March, 2018 – Exhibit I
- Minutes of Meeting dated 17th May, 2018 – Exhibit J
- Samples of WISDOM product – Exhibit K
- Samples of product by other fakers – Exhibit L
- Bill of Charges – Exhibit M

The Plaintiffs closed their case and thereafter filed their final written address dated and filed on 18/11/2020 wherein learned counsel for the Plaintiffs formulated a sole issue for determination, to wit:

"Whether from the totality of Evidence before the Court, the Plaintiffs have proven their case to be entitled to the reliefs being sought?"

In urging the court to grant the reliefs sought, learned counsel for the Plaintiffs argued that where a Defendant fails to file a defence to the suit of the plaintiff, the averments in the statement of claim are taken as admitted. On this, reliance was placed in the case of **Oladipo v. Moba Local Government Authority (2010) % NWLR (Pt. 1186) 117**.

Going further, learned counsel relying on Sections 131(2), 132-133 and 136 of the Evidence Act 2011, submitted however, that the burden lies on the party who alleges the existence of facts to prove same in other to succeed in his claim. Counsel also relied on the case of **Ibrahim v. Garki (2017) 9 NWLR (Pt. 1571) p. 390, Paras, G-H**.

Counsel also relied on the cases of **Onyero & Anor v. Nwadike (2011) LPELR 1847 SC; Egwa v. Egwa (2006) LPELR-5389(CA)** to the effect that the standard of proof required in civil cases is preponderance of evidence.

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

5

deemed to have given to that person the exclusive right to the use of that trade mark in relation to those goods.

5. (2) without prejudice to the generality of the right to the use of a trade mark given by such registration as aforesaid, that right shall be deemed to be infringed by any person who, not being the proprietor of the trade mark or a registered user thereof using it by way of the permitted use, uses a mark identical with it or so nearly resembling it as to trade, in relation to any goods in respect of which it is registered, and in such manner as to render the use of the mark likely to be taken either:

- As being use as a trade mark; or
- In a case in which the use is use upon the goods or in physical relation thereto or in an advertising circular or other advertisement issued to the public, as importing a reference to some person having the right either as proprietor or as registered user to use the trade mark or goods with which such a person as aforesaid is connected in the course of trade.

I have noted earlier that the Defendants did not file any processes to contest the suit. It is trite that not filing processes by a Defendant to counter claims presented before a court is

8

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 20/6/21

Whether from the totality of Evidence before the Court, the Plaintiffs have proven their case to be entitled to the reliefs being sought?

It is imperative to note that the Defendants did not file any processes nor was any legal representation entered on their behalf in defence of the suit despite the service on them processes of court and hearing notices.

The above represents the processes filed by the Plaintiffs in this suit. The plaintiffs opened their case on 12th December, 2019 when the matter came up for hearing, Mr. Niyi Olaifa testified as PW1 wherein he adopted his witness statement on oath.

BACKGROUND FACTS

The Plaintiffs case is that they had made a formal application to the 1st defendant on the 14th May, 2001 for WISDOM TRADE MARK in Class 5 which was acknowledged and that the said application was dully registered with a certificate issued and sealed on the 18th of April, 2018 by the 1st Defendant. However, that the respective certifications of the Plaintiffs product by both the 1st Defendant, the Standard Organization of Nigeria, as well as the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) did not deter fakers from flooding the Nigerian market with substandard and fake products, similar to that of the Plaintiffs, from the Republic of China. In consequence of these, the 1st Plaintiff was invited by the Standard Organization of Nigeria for a meeting connected with some products, especially "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH"

3

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

Counsel further argued that in determining whether a trademark has infringed another, it is the offensive or offending trademark that is considered such that whether the person who sees the offending trademark in the absence of the one breached, is likely to be deceived into thinking that the trademark before him is the authentic one. On this, reliance was placed on **International Tobacco (Nig.) Ltd. & Anor. (2009) 6 NWLR (Pt. 1138) P. 634, Paras. G-H**

Going further, counsel argued that the invitation for a meeting by the Standard Organization of Nigeria on grounds of concerns that the 2nd Defendant had put forward for certification to the MANCAP requirements a product in the name of WISDOM 212 TOOTH which is the Plaintiffs product, is very likely to deceive the public and as such an infringement to the Plaintiffs trade mark. Reference was also made to Exhibits K (samples of the Plaintiffs' product) and Exhibit I (samples of the other (fakers) including that of the 2nd Defendant)

Also, relying on **Section 5 (1) of the Trade Marks Act, Cap T 13, LFN 2004**, to the effect that the registration of a person in Part A of the register as proprietor of a trademark in respect of any goods, shall if valid, give or be deemed to have given to that person the exclusive right to use that trademark in relation to those goods. And as such, empowers the holder to institute an action to protect its breach. Reliance was also placed on **Protector and Gamble Company v. Global Soap and Detergent Industries Ltd. & Anor. 2 NWLR (Pt. 1336) P. 461, Para. A and on Section 5 (2) of the Trade Marks Act, Cap T 13, LFN 2004** which is to the effect that, the right shall be deemed to be infringed by any person who not being the proprietor of the trademark or a registered user thereof, uses a mark identical with it so nearly resembling it as to be likely to deceive or cause confusion, in the course of trade, in relation to any goods in respect of which it is registered.

6

FEDERAL HIGH COURT
AWKA
CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
SIGN: H.N.E. DATE 18/6/2021

tantamount to an acceptance or admission of the case put forward by a Plaintiff party before a court. The Defendants failed to use the avalanche of opportunities graciously offered by the Court to present their own side of the story. In case of **Bauchi State v. Gumau & Anor (2019) LPELR – 47061 (CA)** the court held thus:

"It is trite law that the net effect of the failure of a defendant to file pleadings is that the assertions of the claimant in his pleadings stand unchallenged and are deemed admitted and established."

It is also trite that the effect of a defendant's failure to call evidence in defence of the claims against him at the trial is that he is presumed to have admitted the case made against him by the claimant. See Ifeta v. Shell Petroleum Development Corporation of Nig. Ltd. (2006) 8 NWLR (Pt. 983) 585.

However, these do not translate to an automatic victory for the plaintiffs as they must succeed on the strength of their case and not rely on the weakness of the defence and the absence of a statement of defence. See **Harka Air Services Ltd v. Keazor (2006) 1 NWLR (Pt. 960) 160.**

In **Adewuyi v. Odukwe (2005) 14 NWLR (Pt. 945) 473**, the court held that the benefit derived by a claimant is that in

9



view of the failure of a defendant to either file a statement of defence and/or lead evidence, the onus on the claimant will be discharged on minimal evidence as there is no evidence to put on the other side of the imaginary scale.

On the basis of the above therefore, the Court must accept as true and accurate the propositions of facts made by the Plaintiffs in the suit against the Defendants and simply evaluate the legal effect created by the facts deemed admitted.

The kernel of the Plaintiffs' case resides particularly in paragraphs 8, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 21 of the witness statement on oath.

Upon a combined reading and application of the above sections said to have been breached by the Defendants in the light of the unchallenged facts as put forward by the Plaintiffs in this suit, can it be said that the Registered Trademarks of the Plaintiffs has been infringed upon by the defendants?

In **Dyktrade Ltd v. Omnia Nig. Ltd (2000) 7 SCNJ 90** it was held that the rights conferred by the registration of a trade on the proprietor is the exclusive use and right to sue for infringement.

In **Ayman Enterprises Ltd v. Akuma Industries (2003) 6 SCNJ 307**, the Supreme Court set out what the plaintiff needs to prove to establish an action for infringement of a trade mark. (1) The plaintiff must establish his title either as proprietor or as a registered user entitled to sue. (2) He must then prove that the defendant has acted or threatens to act in a way as to infringe the right conferred upon him by the registration of the trade mark under the Act.

10



The complaint of the Plaintiffs is that the 2nd Defendants' act of putting forward for certification to the MANCAP requirement a product in the name of "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH" which is a product of the Plaintiffs, an act likely to deceive the public, amounts to infringement of the Plaintiffs trademarks and exclusive right to the use of that trademark in relation to those goods. It is also the case of the Plaintiffs that the 2nd Defendant has for many years flooded the Nigerian markets with substandard and fake products similar to that of the Plaintiffs.

Now applying the above decision to the instant case, the Plaintiffs has led evidence via Exhibit "A" and "B" to show that it's a registered company duly registered under the relevant Nigerian laws, applied for and obtained franchise to manufacture "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH" locally from WISDOM UK as sole distributor of the WISDOM products in Nigeria as well as all other West African Countries. They went further to apply for and obtained the WISDOM TRADEMARK in class 5 which was duly registered thereafter. The plaintiffs also obtained a certificate of registration from the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) as well as other relevant Agencies such as the MANCAP certification from the Standard Organization of Nigeria and other relevant certifications as laid out in Exhibits A – M as enumerated above.

These certifications however, did not deter the 2nd defendant from dealing in goods similar to that of the Plaintiffs as seen in Exhibit "L" and also putting forward for certification to the MANCAP requirement "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH" which the

11



Plaintiffs had already obtained an exclusive right to the manufacture and distribution of same in Nigeria.

I must say that the dealings in products similar to that of the Plaintiffs and the act of putting forward for certification to the MANCAP requirement a product in the name of "WISDOM 212 TOOTH BRUSH" which is a product of the Plaintiffs and the sale and distribution of same products to the Nigerian markets by the 2nd Defendant is a flagrant disregard of the provisions of **Section 5 (1) of the Trade Marks Act, Cap T 13, LFN 2004** which gives the Plaintiffs exclusive right to the use of "WISDOM TRADE MARK". In the absence of any legal justification, if any, for dealing in products similar to that of the Plaintiffs and using the trademark of the Plaintiffs by the 2nd Defendant, an act which negates the letters of the **Trademarks Act** thereby resulting in the infringement of the Exclusive right of the Plaintiffs to the use of the "WISDOM TRADEMARK" in Nigeria. In my view, the absence of a defence by the Defendants despite being served with court processes and hearing notices is an act of guilt/admission of the facts set out by the Plaintiffs thereby requiring no further proof. *See Ifeta v. Shell Petroleum Development Corporation of Nig. Ltd. (Supra)*

It is on the basis of the above that the sole issue as raised by the Plaintiffs in their final address be resolved in favour of the Plaintiffs. This suit therefore succeeds.

I hereby enter judgment in the following terms:

Reliefs "i, ii, iii and v" are hereby ordered as prayed

In respect of relief (iv), An Order is hereby made directing the 2nd Defendant to pay damages in the sum of #20,000,000.00

12

(Twenty Million Naira) only for the infringement on the Plaintiffs Trade Mark and the attendant loss in goodwill, reputation, patronage and income occasioned to the business of the Plaintiffs by the said infringement.

In respect of relief (vi), it is hereby Ordered that the 2nd Defendant is to pay an interest rate of 1% (two Hundred Thousand Naira) only on the judgement sum for every day it remains unpaid from the date of the judgement until same is completely liquidated.

I make no other as to cost.

HON. JUSTICE B.O. QUADRI
JUDGE
26/03/21



13



ZEENAB FOODS LIMITED

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) AND PREQUALIFICATION FOR THE SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

Zeenab Foods Limited, a leading Nigerian agro-commodity, food processing and international trading company, hereby invites **reputable farmers, farmer cooperatives, aggregators, commodity merchants and established agricultural companies** to submit Expressions of Interest for the supply of selected agricultural commodities.

The exercise is intended to identify and prequalify reliable suppliers with the capacity to supply quality agricultural commodities on a consistent basis to Zeenab Foods designated locations across Nigeria.

COMMODITIES OF INTEREST

Interested suppliers may express interest in supplying one or more of the following commodities:

- Paddy Rice
- Sorghum
- Millet
- Beans
- Sesame Seeds
- Dried Split Ginger
- Cocoa Beans
- Soybeans

DELIVERY LOCATIONS

Successful suppliers shall be required to deliver commodities, as may be specified in individual Purchase Orders or Supply Agreements, to any of the following designated locations:

- Abuja, FCT
- Kano, Kano State
- Sagamu / Ikenne, Ogun State

Specific warehouse addresses and delivery instructions will be provided to successful suppliers upon issuance of Purchase Orders.

INFORMATION REQUIRED FROM INTERESTED SUPPLIERS

Interested suppliers should provide the following information:

1. Company or business name.
2. Corporate profile and brief description of operations.
3. CAC registration documents.
4. Tax Identification Number (TIN).
5. Contact details, including address, telephone number and email.
6. Commodity or commodities proposed for supply.
7. Quantity currently available for immediate supply.
8. Estimated weekly and monthly supply capacity.
9. State and location of commodity origin.
10. Warehouse or aggregation centre location.
11. Previous commodity supply experience.
12. Details of major customers previously supplied, where applicable.
13. Evidence of capacity to mobilise and aggregate the stated quantities.
14. Details of logistics and transportation arrangements.
15. Proposed delivery location(s): Abuja, Kano and/or Sagamu/Ikenne.
16. Bank reference or other evidence of financial capacity, where required.

PRODUCT QUALITY

All commodities supplied to Zeenab Foods must comply with the Company's applicable quality specifications.

COMMERCIAL ENGAGEMENT

Following evaluation and prequalification, successful suppliers may be invited to participate in:

- Spot purchases;
- Monthly or seasonal supply arrangements;
- Framework supply agreements;
- Annual supply contracts; and
- Other mutually agreed long-term procurement arrangements.

Commercial terms, including quantity, price, payment terms, quality specifications, delivery schedule and delivery destination, shall be agreed separately and confirmed through an official Purchase Order or Supply Agreement issued by Zeenab Foods Limited.

SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Interested suppliers should submit an Expression of Interest clearly indicating:

"EOI FOR THE SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES TO ZEENAB FOODS LIMITED"

The submission should clearly state the commodity or commodities being offered, available quantity, monthly supply capacity, commodity origin and preferred delivery location.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Procurement Department

Zeenab Foods Limited

Plot 252, Victor Ayemere Street, Cadastral Zone, Idu Industrial Area, Abuja

Email: projects@zeenabgroup.com

Telephone: +234 912 222 3978

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Submission of an Expression of Interest does not constitute an offer, contract or commitment by Zeenab Foods Limited to purchase any commodity. Only shortlisted and successfully prequalified suppliers will be contacted for further engagement.

Issued By:

Procurement Department

Zeenab Foods Limited

ZEENAB FOODS LIMITED

Pate: Position on public gatherings subject to continuous review

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ed to the NCDC and other do-

mestic resources being mo-
bilised to support contain-

ment activities.

He added that a meeting in-

volving state commissioners of health and information was scheduled for the following day to strengthen coordination and ensure consistent communication nationwide.

The minister said international experts with experience in managing Ebola outbreaks had been engaged to support local health authorities, while genomic sequencing was being pursued to provide further information about the virus.

He said the government was working to prevent the infection from spreading beyond the confirmed case.

"We have one important case. We are trying to contain it so that it does not go out to the communities or become generalised. Hopefully, it will not get to that," he said.

Pate also urged journalists to report developments responsibly and rely on official and expert sources.

Explaining how the disease spreads, he said Ebola was not airborne but was transmitted through contact with the body fluids of infected people.

He advised Nigerians to observe basic hygiene measures, including frequent hand-washing, and avoid direct contact with body fluids where an individual's infection status was unknown.

He further stressed that healthcare workers must adhere strictly to infection prevention and control procedures when attending to patients.

APC campaign council says N10b Ebola fund remains untouched

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council has said the N10 billion approved by President Bola Tinubu for Nigeria's Ebola emergency response in June remains untouched, claiming that relevant agencies have been using other available resources to manage the reported infection.

The council also accused former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of politicising the public health situation, arguing that his criticism of the Federal Government's response

could turn a serious health concern into a political controversy.

In a statement issued in Abuja, the council's spokesperson, Dele Alake, said the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria and other agencies involved in disease surveillance had been deploying existing resources to manage the situation.

The council, however, did not provide documentary evidence of the fund's status or an independent account of expenditure on the emergency response.

Alake commended the agencies for strengthening surveillance at the country's entry points and responding to the reported case involving a Nigerian who had travelled from Uganda.

According to him, the surveillance network alerted the authorities to the infection and facilitated contact tracing involving 44 people who had contact with the patient.

The council's response followed comments attributed to Atiku questioning how the N10 billion approved for the Ebola emergency had been spent.

Alake criticised the former vice president's statement, particularly its headline linking President Tinubu's first name to Ebola, describing the framing as an attempt to ridicule the President rather than address the public health challenge.

The council also rejected allegations attributed to Atiku's camp that a ministerial briefing on the outbreak was intended to discourage Nigerians from attending campaign rallies or voting.

Describing the allegation as speculative, Alake challenged the opposition to provide verifiable evidence to support it.

He said the briefing had not proposed restrictions on political participation but had appealed to Nigerians to comply with protocols announced by the relevant authorities.

"A responsible opposition will applaud the Task Force for being responsive. But the

Atiku camp always goes for cheap shots at the government," he said.

The council urged Atiku and other opposition figures to refrain from politicising public health emergencies, insisting that containing the threat required cooperation among political parties, health professionals, government agencies and the public.

Medical experts urge nationwide high-alert measures, hospital preparedness

THE Medical and Dental Consultants' Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) and the Academy of Medical Sciences of Nigeria have called for urgent measures to strengthen Nigeria's preparedness for the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak, warning that gaps in hospital readiness, inadequate protective equipment and weak infection prevention measures could undermine containment efforts.

The two professional bodies urged federal and state governments to activate isolation and treatment centres, intensify surveillance and contact tracing, strengthen screening at entry points and ensure that healthcare workers have adequate personal protective equipment (PPE).

The calls followed the confirmation of an Ebola case in the Federal Capital Territory, with the experts urging Nigerians to remain vigilant, maintain good hygiene and avoid unnecessary physical contact.

MDCAN said that it had previously raised concerns about the possible importation of the virus following its resurgence in some African countries and called for increased surveillance.

The association expressed confidence in the ability of the Federal Government, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention and other collaborating agencies to contain the outbreak, while stressing that Nigeria's large population, high mobility and fragile health system required deliberate and coordinated action.

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



NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the fifty-sixth (56th) Annual General Meeting of Fellows and Members of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers will be held at the Dr. Obi Nwali Conference Centre, Port Harcourt, on 14th November 2026 for the following purposes:

1. To receive the Directors' report, the Audited Financial Statement for the year ended 30th of June 2026, together with the Report of the Auditor.
2. To receive the Report of the subsidiaries, Council Committees, Sectorial Groups, and Chapters.
3. To Elect Directors and Internal Auditors
4. To Authorize the Directors to Fix the remuneration of the External Auditor

Dated this 23rd day of October, 2026

By order of the Council

Engr. Ogheneovo Anthony, FNSChE, FNSE

Executive Secretary

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Infinite Grace House,

Plot 4, Oyetubo Street, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja, Lagos.

E-mail: nscheoffice@gmail.com, ES@nsche.org

Website: www.nsche.org

LOSS OF LAND TITLE/DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the General Public that Adamawa State Government has reported the missing of the Certify True Copy of Deed of Assignment in respect of property located at No. 2 Volta Street, Maitama Plot 2674 CADASTRAL A6 Maitama District Abuja covered by survey plan No.332/1005/SW2, dated 6th September, 1990 and the Certificate Of Occupancy No. FCT/ABJ/BD/1506 dated 3rd January, 1991 registered as No. FC109 in volume 25 of the Land Registry Abuja and all efforts made to trace the missing documents Certify True Copy of Deed of Assignment and the Certificate Of Occupancy proved abortive.

If found kindly contact the Office of the Secretary to the State Government, Adamawa State or nearest Police State.

Signed:

Ibrahim Buba,
Permanent Secretary, Political,
For: Secretary to the Government.

Police restrict heavy-duty vehicles as posters, banners flood Kaduna

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

former deputy governor, Sooko Adewoyin, Jide Omoware, Olu Aina, and former deputy governor, Titi Laoye Ponle. Others were Chairman of Osun Accord Party, Victor Akande; Chairman of Osun PDP, Sunday Bisi; Wale Oladiipo; and PDP chieftain, Adelakun Adeoye, among others.

Speaking while inaugurating the council, Adeleke said the gathering was a rainbow coalition assembled to deliver massive votes for President Tinubu. "We assemble here to mobilise and deliver even more than the 1.5 million votes we earlier promised Mr President," Adeleke said.

"In this hall is a gathering of who is who in Osun political terrain. We have all the strikers, the defenders and the midfielders. This rainbow coalition of Accord, APC and PDP structures is superbly potent to deliver Osun overwhelmingly to Mr President come next January," he added.

Adeleke clarified that the coalition is solely for the presidential election scheduled for January

16, 2027, and does not extend to other elections.

"As coalition partners on the presidential election, we must remind ourselves that the partnership does not extend to the legislative elections. While we will join hands to deliver Mr President on his party platform, coalition partners are free to work for their party candidates during the senatorial, House of Reps and House of Assembly elections. What ties us together is the presidential, not the legislative elections," Adeleke stated.

The governor also assured that both the Federal and Osun State governments are working to resolve the local government crisis in the state.

Also speaking, the APC National Secretary, Senator Ajibola Basiru, declared that no personal ambition or ego is greater than ensuring the re-election of President Tinubu, urging APC members in Osun to support Governor Adeleke. Basiru said party members must abide by the President's decision to appoint Adeleke as his campaign coordinator in the state.

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



LEADWAY

**COME FOR THE
EXPERIENCE,
LEAVE WITH A BAG
FULL OF DISCOVERIES**



**SCAN HERE
TO REGISTER**



Come shop, discover new finds and
experience the best of Naija lifestyle

 **24TH-25TH
OCTOBER**

 **SYSTEMSPECS
HQ CAR PARK, ONIRU**

Attendance is Free

FridayWorship

www.guardian.ng

Guardian Nigeria GuardianNigeria 08136370421 Guardiannigeria

In the Name of the Almighty, the Beneficent, the Merciful

"Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice." Qur'an 4:58.

By Kabir Alabi Garba

BRETHREN, as Nigeria prepares for another general election, a troubling question confronts every citizen: Will we vote for the future of our country, or sell that future for a bag of rice, a few naira notes and promises that may disappear the moment the winner takes the oath of office?

In a country where many families struggle with the cost of food, where young people search desperately for jobs, where insecurity disrupts livelihoods and where communities continue to demand better schools, hospitals, roads and electricity, elections should be a moment of serious reflection.

Yet, too often, the electoral season becomes a marketplace where poverty is exploited, ethnic loyalties are weaponised, religious sentiments are manipulated and political ambition is disguised as public service.

A politician arrives with money and food during the campaign, promises heaven on earth at a rally, and asks for the people's mandate. But what happens after the votes are counted? Who remembers the unemployed graduate, the struggling market woman, the farmer worried about security, the parent unable to afford school fees or the patient waiting for treatment in an under-equipped hospital?

When the campaign vehicles disappear and the political billboards come down, the people are left to live with the consequences of their choices.

For Nigerian Muslims, this is more than a political question. It is a question of faith, conscience and accountability before Allah. The ballot paper may be a democratic instrument, but the principles that should guide its use—justice, honesty, trustworthiness and responsibility—are deeply rooted in Islam.

What is the value of our prayers if we knowingly support injustice? What is the worth of our religious devotion if we exchange the future of our children for temporary inducements? And what answer shall we give before Allah if our choices help place public power in hands that misuse it?

Qur'an 4:58 referenced above provides a clear foundation for this responsibility: "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice."

This injunction places a responsibility on

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

"Surely, the religion with Allah is Islam, complete submission"... Qur'an 3:19

Islam and sacred duty of electing leaders

those seeking public office to protect citizens' rights, manage public resources responsibly and administer justice without discrimination. But the responsibility also extends to voters, who must make informed choices rather than allow personal interests or group loyalties to override the common good.

Qur'an 28:26 offers a useful standard for selecting people for responsibility: "Indeed, the best one you can hire is the strong and the trustworthy."

The verse highlights two essential qualities: competence and trustworthiness. Voters should therefore look beyond campaign theatrics, political slogans and the size of rallies. They should examine candidates' records, character, policies and capacity to serve.

Popularity does not guarantee competence, just as wealth does not establish integrity. Neither eloquence nor political connections should substitute for a credible record of service.

The question is not merely who can win an election, but who can be trusted with the people's mandate.

One of the greatest threats to electoral integrity is vote-buying, through which politicians offer money, food or other inducements in exchange for citizens' electoral choices.

For people struggling to feed their families, such offers can be tempting. Yet the money may disappear within days, while the consequences of poor governance can endure for years.

The warning against unlawful appropriation of wealth and bribery in Qur'an 2:188 is instructive: "And do not consume one another's wealth unjustly or send it (in bribery) to the rulers in order that (they might aid) you to consume a portion of the wealth of the people in sin, while you know (it is unlawful)."

The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: "Whoever deceives us is not one of us."

These teachings challenge both those who manipulate voters and those who knowingly participate in electoral wrongdoing. Poverty must not be trivialised, and citizens facing

hardship deserve compassion. But their vulnerability should not be exploited to purchase political loyalty. Politicians should compete through credible policies and verifiable records, not by turning hunger into an electoral weapon.

Indeed, electoral politics becomes dangerous when ethnic, religious and regional identities are exploited to secure support. Citizens may be told that only a candidate from their group can protect their interests, or that supporting someone of another religion amounts to betraying their faith.

Such appeals can transform political competition into communal hostility, turning neighbours into enemies while leaving the underlying problems of governance unresolved.

Islam demands justice even when it challenges personal loyalties. Allah (SWT) says: "O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm in justice, witnesses for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or parents and relatives" (Qur'an 4:135).

Again, Qur'an 5:8 pushes the argument further: "And do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness."

These verses leave no room for selective morality. Corruption does not become acceptable because it benefits our community, and dishonesty does not become righteous because it advances our preferred candidate.

In a diverse country such as Nigeria, citizens share fundamental interests in security, education, healthcare, employment and economic opportunity. A functioning hospital saves lives regardless of religion or ethnicity; a good school benefits children from different communities.

Voters should therefore assess candidates on their integrity, competence and commitment to public welfare rather than allow identity politics to replace critical judgement.

It is also important to note that the electoral contest now extends beyond rallies and polling stations to social media, where fabri-

cated videos, unverified allegations and inflammatory messages can spread rapidly. A clear warning is provided in Qur'an 49:6: "O you who have believed, if there comes to you a disobedient person with information, investigate, lest you harm a people out of ignorance and become, over what you have done, regretful."

Another injunction states: "And do not pursue that of which you have no knowledge" (Qur'an 17:36).

Citizens must verify information before sharing it, especially when it concerns candidates, electoral officials or religious and ethnic communities. A claim does not become true simply because it damages a political opponent or supports a preferred candidate.

Political disagreement is no justification for deception, defamation or incitement. Before forwarding a message, citizens should establish its source and seek credible confirmation.

In an age when misinformation can travel faster than corrections, responsible citizenship begins with the willingness to pause before pressing "send".

Moreover, electoral violence threatens both democratic participation and national cohesion. No candidate's ambition justifies the death of an innocent citizen, and no political disagreement warrants the destruction of another person's livelihood.

The command in Qur'an 5:2 is succinct: "And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said: "A Muslim is the one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe."

These teachings require citizens to reject intimidation, attacks on opponents, destruction of property and the recruitment of young people into political violence.

Where tensions arise, citizens should avoid mob action, refuse to spread inflammatory rumours and report credible threats to appropriate authorities. Electoral disputes should be pursued through lawful procedures rather than revenge.

A candidate may contest another election, but a life lost to political violence cannot be restored. Political competition is temporary; the pain and mistrust caused by violence can endure for generations.

Beyond the immediate consequences of elections lies a deeper question: what will every individual answer for before Allah?

Muslims should be reminded of the admonition in Qur'an 99:7-8 thus: "So whoever does an atom's weight of good will see it, and whoever does an atom's weight of evil will see it." The Prophet (peace be upon him) also said: "Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock."

UMA gets new officials, unveils N960m hostel plan, gifts N24m in scholarships

By Shakirah Adunola

THE University of Lagos Muslim Alumni (UMA) has reaffirmed its position as a major force in educational development and social intervention, electing a new National Executive Council to steer its affairs for the 2026-2028 tenure while unveiling a proposed 960 million student hostel and disbursing over 24 million in postgraduate scholarships and Zakat grants.

The developments formed the highlights of the association's 37th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Elective Congress, held on Sunday, October 18, 2026, at the University of Lagos Mosque Islamic Centre, Akoka. The gathering, which blended physical attendance with virtual participation from across the globe, underscored UMA's expanding role as a beacon of academic empowerment and social welfare rooted in Islamic values.

At the congress, award-winning sports journalist, columnist, and Executive Consultant at Complete Communications Limited, Dr. Mumini Alao, was returned as the National President of the association.

Presenting the report of the UMA Shurah Committee, its Chairman, Professor Luqman Adams, detailed the selection process that led to the nomination of the executive team. Prof. Adams revealed that the committee reviewed the association's constitution, candidate eligibility, meeting attendance, and responsiveness to duty, while evaluating the performance of the outgoing executive. Crucial consultations



A cross section of the newly elected officials of University of Lagos Muslim Alumni (UMA)

were also held with the Elders in Council before finalizing the leadership list. Commending Dr. Alao's initial term, Prof. Adams described his stewardship as a "yeoman's job" that delivered exceptional results for the Muslim community.

In his acceptance remarks, Dr. Alao offered praise to the Almighty, repeatedly declaring "Alhamdulillah" (All praise is due to Allah) for the grace to serve the Ummah. Reflecting on the 2024-2026 tenure, Alao noted: "About two years ago, we were given the mantle to steer the

ship of our association. We thank Allah that we are berthing the ship today without any loss of life in our ranks."

In line with the Islamic imperative of uplifting the less privileged and seeking knowledge ('ilm), the congress witnessed the presentation of 19.25 million in scholarships to the 2026 set of UMA postgraduate scholars, alongside 5.16 million distributed to beneficiaries of its Zakat and Sadaqat Fund.

Giving a breakdown of the association's developmental strides, Alao disclosed that UMA

raised over 100 million for its postgraduate scholarship scheme in 2025, the highest single-year generation in the initiative's history. This facilitated awards to 23 scholars in one cycle, with an additional 28 candidates slated for approximately 20 million in awards for 2026. To ensure long-term sustainability, the association has launched a 750 million Endowment Fund, which has already accumulated 130 million.

On welfare, the re-elected President emphasized that the 5.16 million Zakat disbursements directly benefited 23 needy members, with strict confidentiality maintained to preserve their dignity as prescribed by Islamic ethics.

Unveiling key priority projects for the 2026-2028 administration, Alao highlighted the proposed off-campus student hostel estimated at 960 million. The initiative follows preliminary architectural assessments led by Barrister Abdulfatai Owodunni and Architect A. A. Lawal to acquire, demolish and redevelop strategic properties near the Akoka campus after earlier joint-venture talks for on-campus renovation were discontinued.

Delivering goodwill messages, prominent alumni urged members to rally behind the infrastructure push. Senator Shuaib Afolabi Salisu (Ogun Central), a former UMA President, recalled early struggles of Muslim students accessing worship spaces on campus and urged members to view the hostel initiative as both a high-yield investment and a vital social intervention.

Senate advances bill to establish research, innovation fund

From **Joke Falaju and John Akubo**, Abuja

NIGERIA'S universities and research institutes could receive a new funding lifeline under a bill before the Senate proposing a yearly allocation of 20 per cent of the Nigerian Content Development Fund to support inventions, indige-

ABUAD confers honorary degrees on Okonkwo, Cavista chairman, others at 14th convocation

Oyebanji, Ooni, Ewi hail businessman's investments in agriculture, tourism, job creation

From **Ayodele Afolabi**, Ado-Ekiti

THE Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD), has conferred honorary Doctor of Letters degrees on the Chairman of United Nigeria Airlines, Prof. Obiora Okonkwo; Chairman of Cavista Holdings, Niyi John Olajide, and an educationist, Osula Mku-Atu, in recognition of their contributions to entrepreneurship, education, healthcare and economic development.

The awards were presented during the university's 14th convocation ceremony and 17th anniversary celebration held at the Alfa Belgore Hall, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

The university also honoured a business leader and philanthropist, Dr Rosemary Osula Mku-Atu, with an honorary Doctor of Letters degree for her contributions to the welfare of the less privileged, education and human development.

Okonkwo, an academic, entrepreneur and philanthropist, was recognised for his contributions to enterprise and the advancement of functional education, while Olajide was honoured for his investments in healthcare, enterprise, poverty alleviation and women's empowerment.

The ceremony also featured the conferment of honorary Doctor of Laws degrees on the university's Founder and Chancellor, Aare Afe Babalola, by Trinity Western University, Canada, and Trinity International University, United States, in recognition of his contributions to law, education, philanthropy and public service.

Vice-Chancellor of the university, Prof. E. Smaranda Olarinde, while speaking at the convocation ceremony, said that the honourees had distinguished themselves through their contributions to society and their commitment to initiatives that promote economic growth, education and human welfare.

She announced that the university graduated 2,194 students, comprising 1,759 undergraduates and professional graduating students and 435 postgraduate graduates, making the Class of 2026 the largest in the institution's history.

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

Subject indigenous knowledge in medicine to scientific validation, Olowolafe tells researchers

nous technologies and commercially viable research.

The proposal seeks to tackle a longstanding challenge in the country's innovation ecosystem.

The Senate advanced the National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026, for second reading yesterday, opening the way for further consideration of a funding framework designed to connect research institutions with industry and the wider economy.

The bill, sponsored by Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele and presented by Senate Chief Whip, Tahir Monguno, also proposes a National Council

on Research and Innovation to coordinate priorities and oversee the fund.

Monguno said Nigeria had universities, polytechnics, research institutes and technology entrepreneurs with the capacity to generate useful innovations, but lacked a sustainable mechanism to finance, coordinate and commercialise their work.

He said that research should deliver benefits beyond academic publications and laboratory findings.

MEANWHILE, Founder of the Tunji Olowolafe Foundation, Dr Tunji Olowolafe, has urged Nigerian researchers to subject indigenous knowledge in medicine,

agriculture, construction and food preservation to scientific validation to develop solutions to national challenges.

He cited the research of Chinese scientist, Tu Youyou, whose investigation of traditional medicine contributed to the development of artemisinin, an important treatment for malaria, as an example of how indigenous knowledge could advance scientific discoveries.

Olowolafe made the call while delivering an address at the grand finale of the Postgraduate College Week, organised as part of the 65th anniversary celebrations of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife.



Founder and Chief Executive Officer, ESG Consultancy, Francine Carron (left); Community Development and Stakeholders Manager, Segilola Resources Operating Limited (SROL), Madhuri Sarkar-Amoda; Manager, PwC Nigeria, Kayode Ashamu, and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Ziva Community Initiative, Maureen Mato, during the panel session titled "From Consent to Social License: Community Relations Across the Mine Life Cycle," at 2026 Nigerian Mining Week, held in Abuja, yesterday.

Bamidele pushes six-state alliance to tackle South-West's challenges

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

THE Senate Leader, Opeyemi Bamidele, has proposed a six-state development alliance to address the infrastructure, investment and planning challenges that cut across Lagos and the wider South-West region.

Under the proposal, Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo and Ekiti would work through a joint development and investment compact to coordinate transport links, industrial growth, urban expansion and environmental protection.

Bamidele presented the idea

yesterday at the Lagos Physical Planning Summit at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, saying that the region's economic future depends on closer cooperation among its states.

He said Lagos State could not plan effectively in isolation because its economy was deeply connected to neighbouring states through housing, labour, agriculture, manufacturing, logistics and trade.

However, the proposed compact would bring state governments together with relevant federal agencies, infra-

structure bodies, private investors, professional organisations and development partners to identify shared priorities and mobilise funding for projects that benefit the region.

The Senate Leader said the framework should focus on integrated transport networks, cross-border urban development, industrial corridors, power infrastructure, tourism and coordinated investment promotion.

He said that better alignment of state development plans would help to ensure that infrastructure and economic

Speaking on the theme, "Promoting Research Excellence and Innovation in Postgraduate Studies: Charting the Future," he described research as a systematic process of correcting societal mistakes through evidence, urging universities to challenge conventional wisdom and develop practical solutions to Nigeria's problems.

He, however, called for broader access to research opportunities, including partnerships that would allow people with practical expertise, such as experienced farmers, to participate in university's research under proper supervision without compromising academic standards.

Olowolafe also advocated expanded digital and flexible learning, stronger university-industry partnerships and greater emphasis on practical research outcomes, including patents, commercialised products and solutions to industrial challenges.

However, as part of efforts to strengthen postgraduate research and learning at the OAU, Olowolafe pledged that his Foundation would provide solar power, virtual learning facilities and digital infrastructure for the Postgraduate College of the university.

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

projects were not pursued as disconnected initiatives.

Bamidele also urged Lagos State to make digital infrastructure a central part of its development strategy by expanding broadband access, smart-city systems, digital public services and innovation hubs.

He said investment in technology-driven enterprises must be matched with efforts to equip workers with the digital skills needed to participate in the changing economy.

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

Gas: Ogun govt assesses affected schools, may relocate residents

From **Azeez Olorunlomu**, Abeokuta

O GUN State Government has assured residents that the situation arising from the unusual gaseous odour reported in parts of the Ijebu axis is under control.

The assurance followed reports of the odour in Ijebu-Ode, Ijebu-Igbo and Ago-Iwoye, which triggered panic among students, teachers, parents and residents, with affected students taken to hospitals for treatment.

As part of its response, a government assessment team visited the General Hospital, where more than 30 students were attended to, before pro-

To refund parents' medical bills

ceeding to Ijebu-Igbo Girls Grammar School for further assessment and investigation.

According to findings from the affected students and information provided by the attending doctor, the symptoms included shortness of breath, stomach disorders and drowsiness, among others.

The team also inspected the school premises and surrounding areas as part of efforts to establish the extent of the incident and identify possible sources of the odour.

Also, a team from the Nigerian Upstream

Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) arrived at the scene to participate in the assessment and ongoing investigation.

Meanwhile, the state government has said that it may evacuate residents of affected communities in Ijebuland if investigations establish that recurring gas emissions pose a risk of death or permanent damage to human health.

Commissioner for the Environment, Ola Oresanya, gave the assurance yesterday during an interview on Frontline, a current affairs programme on *Eagle 102.5 FM*,

following the recent incident, which reportedly sent more than 100 pupils to hospital after exposure to a strong chemical odour.

Oresanya said the state government had recorded five incidents since April, adding that the latest occurrence was particularly concerning because of reports from additional locations, including Ago-Iwoye and Ijebu-Igbo.

He, however, said that if the incidents were linked to tectonic activity, the response would require more extensive intervention and decisions at the federal level.

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

CAC attributes JABU's rise within 20 years of existence to divine grace, sacrifice

From **Adewale Momoh**, Akure

CHRIST Apostolic Church (CAC) has attributed the rapid rise, academic excellence, and continuous development of Joseph Ayo Babalola University (JABU) over its 20 years of existence to divine grace, visionary leadership, and selfless sacrifice.

President of CAC Nigeria and Overseas, Pastor Samuel Oladele, who serves as Visitor to the university and Chairman of its Board of Trustees, stated this during a media briefing to unveil the university's 20th anniversary celebration, themed "Two Decades of Divine Grace, Growth, and Glory."

Oladele, while tracing the institution's history, leadership succession, and future priorities, noted that JABU was conceived as a lasting memorial to the life, ministry, and enduring legacy of Apostle Joseph Ayodele Babalola, one of the foremost figures in the history of indigenous Pentecostal Christianity in Nigeria.

He said that the choice of Ikeji-Arakeji as the university's location was deeply significant, as the community is associated with the prophetic call of Apostle Babalola in October 1928, thereby connecting the location of the university to the spiritual heritage it was established to honour.

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

'Nigeria Energy 2026 to tackle grid reliability, gas supply amid power crisis'

By **Waliat Musa**

AS Nigeria struggles to translate energy reforms into reliable electricity supply, industry stakeholders will meet next week to examine grid performance, gas availability and investment challenges, including whether the electricity market is ready to scale generation to 10,000 megawatts.

The 13th edition of Nigeria Energy, scheduled for October 27-29, 2026 at Landmark Centre, Lagos, is expected to attract more than 1,500 conference delegates, with over 40 sessions and more than 120 speakers addressing the country's electricity challenges.

Exhibition Director, Energy Portfolio, Inc., Ade Yesufu, said: "Nigeria's electricity challenge is no longer just about investment, policy reforms or installed capacity; it is about delivering reliable, affordable and accessible power to the people and businesses that need it most."

However, the conference programme will feature the Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe; President and Chief Executive Officer of Oando Energy Resources, Ademola Ogunbanjo, among others.

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

FG urges media to prioritise accuracy, fairness ahead of 2027 polls

From Monday Osayande (Asaba) and Johnson Eyangho (Abuja)

AS the 2027 general elections draw near, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has urged media organisations to prioritise accuracy, fairness and fact-checking, and resist sensationalism and disinformation.

Idris, however, reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to press freedom, constructive engagement and journalists' right to scrutinise public institutions, warning that AI-generated content, manipulated images and deepfakes pose growing threats to public trust.

"The credibility of our democratic process depends, in no small measure, on the integrity of the information available to citizens."

In a keynote address during the launch of "Media Trust

Oborevwo, Dafinone, Okunbor, others call for credible elections

Group AI Converged Newsroom" - publisher of the *Daily Trust Newspapers*, yesterday, Idris encouraged the Media Trust Group to make the converged newsroom a centre of innovation, investigative excellence and responsible storytelling.

According to the minister, the idea that journalism has to be exclusively adversarial is a myth that needs to be jettisoned. Journalism could in-

spire the public while retaining its independence and critical role.

Idris commended the Media Trust Group for the unveiling of its converged newsroom as a significant investment in Nigerian journalism, urging media organisations to embrace artificial intelligence and digital innovation without compromising professional ethics and editorial independence.

MEANWHILE, the Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwo, his Chief Strategist, Dr Festus Okunbor, Senator Ede Dafinone, and other stakeholders have called for credible elections, responsible journalism, and stronger institutional accountability. They made the call at the Delta Online Publishers Forum (DOPF) 2026 Annual Conference and 7th Annual Lecture Series, held in Asaba, with the

theme "Democracy Under Pressure: Electoral Integrity, Security Challenges and Media Accountability in Nigeria."

Speaking on behalf of Oborevwo, the Commissioner for Special Duties (Govt House), Dr Ifeanyi Osuoz, urged journalists and online publishers to uphold accuracy, fairness, balance, and professional integrity, warning that misinformation and hate speech could erode public trust and threaten democratic stability.

He emphasised the importance of credible elections, accountable institutions and responsible communication in strengthening democracy.

Mbah opens pharmaceutical company in Enugu

From Lawrence Njoku, Enugu

Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State has commissioned Anchorage Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, a multi-billion naira pharmaceutical company in Trans-Ekulu, Enugu.

The opening, which was held yesterday, is expected to boost local drug manufacturing, create jobs and strengthen health-care delivery in the country.

This was even as the Chairman of the company's Board of Directors, Rear Admiral Allison Madueke (rtd), commended Mbah for creating an investment-friendly environment in the state, describing Anchorage as a legacy project conceived to generate employment, develop local talent and contribute to economic development.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Mbah said the facility represented more than a pharmaceutical business, describing it as an investment in public health, economic growth and the future of young people in the state. The governor congratulated the company's founder, board and management, noting that establishing a manufacturing enterprise required substantial commitment and confidence in the state's economic prospects.

Obi pledges to assist slain supporter's mother

From John Akubo, Abuja

PRESIDENTIAL candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, has promised to support the mother of Ifeanyi Nwolie, his supporter, who was shot dead during a political activity in Enugu State, pledging to help fill the void left by her son. Obi gave the assurance during a visit to the bereaved mother after Nwolie was buried in Afa, Udi Local Council Area of Enugu State.

He reportedly pledged financial support equivalent to 15 months of the allowance that Nwolie usually sent to his mother, covering the period through December 2027.

"My humble pledge to the mother is that God Almighty, who pleased to bring Ifeanyi home, has also given her another son in me to support her, as Ifeanyi used to," Obi said.

In a statement yesterday, Obi disclosed that he travelled from the United Kingdom to Nigeria and proceeded to Enugu to attend the burial.

He said Nwolie was among his supporters who took part in an NDC political activity on October 10, 2026, which was marred by violence.



APC Vice Chairman, Delta State, Moses Iduh (left); Chairman of the Party (APC), Solomon Arenyeka; Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborevwo; his wife, Tobore; Deputy Governor, Monday Onyeme; and immediate past Governor of the State, Ifeanyi Okowa, during the inauguration of the Delta State APC Campaign Council in Asaba, yesterday.

PHOTO: BRIPIN ENARUSAI

NAFDAC raises alarm over unregistered herbal remedies for STDs, hypertension

By Ijeoma Nwanosike

THE National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has raised the alarm over unregistered herbal remedies marketed for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and hypertension, following the discovery of an illegal manufacturing facility in Agege, Lagos, where the products were produced under unhygienic conditions.

The agency said three herbal products recovered from the facility were not registered with it, while one bore a registration number belonging to a different product, a registered cough syrup. The discovery has raised concerns about the potential risks to consumers and the use of fraudulent registration details to give unapproved products the appearance of regulatory approval.

NAFDAC also warned landlords and property owners against allowing their premises to be used for illegal manufacturing activities, urging Nigerians to support efforts to identify and report suspicious production outlets nationwide.

IPOB member gets 20-year jail term for belonging to proscribed group

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

THE Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, yesterday, convicted and sentenced a member of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), Paul Okechukwu, to 20 years in prison for belonging to a proscribed organisation.

The defendant, 48, pleaded guilty to one count of a two-count charge the Federal Government preferred against him.

The Federal Government alleged in the first count that the

defendant, who is from Nnewi South in Anambra State, had, in 2021, while in Imo State, committed an offence by belonging to IPOB, a proscribed organisation, contrary to and punishable under Section 16 of the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013.

In the second count, the Federal Government alleged that the defendant participated in an attack in which two security operatives were killed, and there-

by committed an offence contrary to Section 2(1) of the Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013.

After the charge was read to him, the defendant pleaded not guilty to the second count. In view of this development, and following an application by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, who was in court to lead the prosecution, the court struck out the second

count after it was withdrawn. Relying on Section 72 of the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act (TPPA) 2022, the Attorney-General applied for the court to allow a witness from the Department of State Services (DSS) to review some facts of the case.

The witness, whose name was given as "ABC" for the trial, identified the defendant as a member of IPOB, which he said had since been outlawed.

Diri faults realignment of Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway

From Adewale Momoh, Akure

Governor of Bayelsa State, Godouye Diri, yesterday, revealed his disagreement with the Minister of Works, David Umahi, on the ongoing Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project.

Diri also disclosed the position of the South-South governors on the project, insisting that

Ex-presidential aide backs Tinubu, seeks transparency on coastal road project

they were unanimous in their support for the coastal road and against its realignment with the East-West Road.

The governor was, however, unsparing in his response to the comments made by former governor of Cross River State, Mr Donald Duke, whom he described as a jester, a pre-

tender and a politician without a base.

According to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Daniel Alabrah, the governor said this while speaking during the 200th session of the state executive council in the Government House, Yenagoa. His words: "I read, like every-

one else, that there would be a realignment and that the coastal road would be merged with the East-West Road, which I do not believe is the same project. That should be a South-South road.

"I privately called the Minister of Works and said, 'Minister, that is a no, no, no for us.

2027: Prioritise track record over election promises, Ijaw group urges Niger Delta

From Nnamdi Akpa, Abakaliki

THE Ijaw Youth Network (IYN) has appealed to the people of the Niger Delta to look beyond campaign promises and political gimmicks during the election season.

The group urged them to make informed electoral choices based on proven achievements, policies, and a commitment to the region's development.

In a statement issued yesterday by the President of IYN, Frank Ebikabo, and the Secretary, Federal Ebioridior, the group said

Group hinges Tinubu's victory in South-East on proper engagement, respect

election periods often witness a surge in promises, political slogans, and publicity stunts designed to attract voters, stressing that the people of the region must remain focused on their long-term interests.

The group said the electorate should critically assess the records of political actors, particularly their contributions to education, youth empowerment, human capital development and economic opportunities for communities across

the Niger Delta.

According to the statement, the region's future depends on its ability to recognise and support policies and initiatives that deliver tangible benefits to its people rather than being swayed by rhetoric that may not translate into meaningful development. The IYN cited the Presidential Amnesty Programme (PAP) as an example of an intervention whose impact should form part of the public's assessment of government performance in

the Niger Delta.

It noted that, under the leadership of the PAP Administrator, Dr Dennis Brutu Oturo, thousands of students have benefited from scholarship opportunities in Nigerian and overseas institutions, with many pursuing disciplines relevant to the region's human capital development.

The group attributed the opportunities to President Bola Tinubu's support, noting that the expansion of the programme's budget had strength-

ened its capacity to invest in education, skills acquisition, and other interventions for beneficiaries from the Niger Delta, thereby contributing to the region's stability and peace.

MEANWHILE, the Ndigbo for Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu 2027 Forum (NDI-ABAT) said that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is capable of winning all five states of the South-East if his party, the All Progressives Congress (APC) maintained proper engagement and respect for the zone.

Senate demands security overhaul as 113 killed in Benue

From John Akubo and Andrew Oota, Abuja

THERE was angst at the Senate yesterday over the reported killing of 113 people in four separate attacks on communities in Benue State, with the lawmakers demanding urgent security action to stop the bloodshed and prevent further loss of lives. They also expressed grave concern at the killing of six Mobile Police personnel in one of the

attacks, questioning the safety of civilians in communities that are increasingly exposed to armed violence. In a motion, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes, Emmanuel Udende (Benue North-East) said 24 people were killed in an attack on Sai community in Katsina-Ala Local Council Area, and a total of 63 in another assault on Bom and Aboajio villages in Ukum Local Council

Area. He added that 15 persons, including six Mobile Police officers, were reportedly killed in another attack on Ayilamo in Logo Local Council Area, and a further 11 people were killed on October 8, 2026, when attackers struck Tse Biliji and Tse Shishi Nyako villages in Ukum and also destroyed property. Urging immediate government action, Udende warned that the recurring attacks had also destroyed livelihoods, dis-

rupted farming and other economic activities, and increased the risk of displacement. Udende said deploying military personnel in the affected areas of his constituency would strengthen security and reassure the people of their safety. Supporting the motion, Senator Jide Ipinshagba wondered what could become of unarmed civilians if security personnel are being killed.

According to him, the reported killing of security personnel raised serious questions about the safety of ordinary residents who depend on the police and military for protection. Adopting the motion, the Senate urged the federal government to take immediate steps to halt further attacks in Ukum, Katsina-Ala and Logo councils, as well as other vulnerable communities across Benue State. They further called on the In-

spector-General of Police, the Chief of Army Staff and relevant security and intelligence chiefs to strengthen operations in the affected areas, deploy adequate personnel, operational resources, effective intelligence gathering and early-warning systems to detect threats before attackers strike. The Senate also called for rapid-response mechanisms, thorough investigations into the killings and prosecution of those found responsible.

NBC DG hails Nigeria-Cameroon border deal as dispute resolution model

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

THE Director-General of the National Boundary Commission (NBC), Adamu Adaji, has urged African countries to prioritise negotiation and the interests of border communities in resolving boundary disputes. Citing the Nigeria-Cameroon experience as a model for peaceful cooperation, Adaji said border demarcation should be guided by the spirit of African brotherhood rather than confrontation. He stressed that the concerns of local communities must be considered in the efforts to settle disputes between neighbouring countries.

Adaji, who spoke yesterday at the 2026 Abidjan Border Forum in Côte d'Ivoire, said the Nigeria-Cameroon border settlement was evidence that diplomatic engagement could help move countries away from tension and litigation towards cooperation and peaceful coexistence. The forum, with the theme, "People at the Borders: Culture, Integration, and Security," called on African countries to stop viewing borders merely as dividing lines and instead treat them as spaces for cultural exchange, regional integration and collective security.

Court permits CCTV footage in el-Rufai's NIOb suit

• Media personnel urges electorate to avenge el-Rufai's treatment

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

THE Federal High Court in Abuja has granted the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) permission to play selected portions of its closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage in the N10 billion fundamental rights suit filed by the former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai. In a ruling on separate applications, Justice Chigozie Onah declined el-Rufai's request for the complete footage, which reportedly spans over six hours, but limited each side to 20 minutes to play portions of the recordings in open court. However, media personnel Mohammed Doka has urged Nigerians to use their votes in the 2027 general elections to express their displeasure over the continued detention of former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai.



Loja of Lukosi Kingdom, Ile-Ife, Osun State, Oba Lateef Oyewale Awojobi (left); human rights activist and presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC) for the 2027 general election, Omoyele Sowore; President, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, Queensley Seghosime, and others during the closing ceremony of the 56th Annual Accountants' Conference, themed 'Beyond Numbers: Strengthening the Economy, Securing the Nation,' held in Abuja yesterday.

PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

Reps seek ban on advance rent above 12 months

From Joel Oladele, Abuja

• Bill on secondary schools funding gaps scales second reading

IN a bid to protect tenants from excessive rent demands and unfair practices, the House of Representatives is considering a bill to prohibit landlords, estate agents and property managers in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, from demanding over 12 months' rent upfront from tenants. Sponsored by Paul Nnamchi (Enugu East/Isi-Uzo Federal Constituency) and Ahmed Doro (Bindawa/Mani Federal Constituency), the bill also seeks to establish an authority to regulate rent payments and resolve disputes between landlords and tenants.

In another development,

the House of Representatives yesterday at plenary passed, for a second reading, a bill to amend the National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC) Act, 2023, to strengthen the administration, governance and funding of senior secondary education across the country. The proposed amendment seeks to expand federal interventions to cover public senior secondary schools in all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, as well as Federal Unity Colleges and senior secondary schools operated by the Armed Forces. The move comes amid the persistent challenges of in-

adequate funding, dilapidated classrooms, shortages of instructional materials and poorly equipped laboratories in public secondary schools, which affect teaching and learning in many schools. In the meantime, under the rent proposal, landlords would not be allowed to demand over a year's rent as a condition for granting or renewing a tenancy. Among others, it also seeks to prevent landlords from using estate agents, compulsory service charges, separate agreements or repeated tenancy renewals to bypass the restriction.

Individual offenders, if convicted of knowingly violating the restriction on advance rent, could face fines ranging from N500,000 to N5 million, while corporate offenders could pay between N5 million and N20 million. Under the NSSEC bill, the commission would provide infrastructure, instructional materials and laboratory equipment to eligible schools. Passed after its presentation by the House Majority Leader, Julius Ihonvbere, the proposed amendment was transmitted by the Presidency to the House last week.

NBTE seeks long-term apprenticeships for polytechnic students

From Sodiq Omolaoye, Abuja

TO equip polytechnic students with sufficient practical skills and improve Nigeria's industrial productivity, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has proposed transforming the Students Industrial Work Experience Scheme (SIWES) into structured, long-term apprenticeships. The NBTE Executive Secretary, Prof. Idris Bugaje, explained that the proposed reform would offer students hands-on experience on production lines while completing their studies. Bugaje spoke in Abuja at a strategic session organised by the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), in part-

nership with the World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organisations (WAITRO). According to the Secretary-General of WAITRO, Benjin Luo, Nigeria needs stronger institutions to bridge the gap between academic research and the practical requirements of businesses. Luo said researchers and industries often operate in separate environments, with academics focused on research while manufacturers seek solutions to production challenges and improved productivity. He said intermediary organisations could translate industrial needs into research projects and help researchers assess market demand and commercialise their innova-

tions. However, Bugaje said Nigeria needed to strengthen its Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system to accelerate local manufacturing, create jobs and reduce dependence on imported products. According to him, technical institutions must maintain closer relationships with manufacturers to ensure that students acquire skills relevant to workplace demands and the country's industrial needs. Citing China's industrial transformation, the NBTE chief said Nigeria could learn from a system in which technical institutions work closely with factories and industrial zones, enabling students to combine classroom instruction with practical man-

ufacturing experience. He also called for greater involvement of manufacturing companies in reviewing academic curricula, upgrading laboratories and workshops, and expanding students' exposure to industrial environments. Bugaje said the NBTE had provided 90 per cent of the minimum academic standards for polytechnic programmes, leaving institutions with 10 per cent flexibility to adapt their curricula to the needs of local industries. He called for the establishment of industry advisory boards at the faculty and school levels of polytechnics to ensure that training programmes reflected changing workplace requirements.

Court jails two men for aiding terrorism

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

A FEDERAL High Court in Abuja has sentenced a middle-aged man, Ali Shaban Hama, to 10 years' imprisonment for protecting Boko Haram terrorists in his Borno community. Hama, a father of 10 children, was convicted by Justice Binta Nyako yesterday after he pleaded guilty to the terrorism charges brought against him by the federal government. Similarly, Justice Hawa Yilwa of the Federal High Court in Abuja has convicted and sentenced a man, Sunday Frank, to 40 years in prison after he confessed to serving as a spy for an alleged notorious bandit leader in Benue State, Terwase Akwaza, popularly known as Gana.

The federal government, in a four-count charge brought before the court, had alleged that Frank, who hails from Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State, monitored and provided information to Gana about the movement of security agents, contrary to sections 21 and 24 of the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act (TPPA) 2022. Meanwhile, Hama admitted knowing the Boko Haram members in his village and ignorantly refused to report them to the federal troops for arrest and prosecution.

Yoruba leaders, ACF mourn Fasoranti

By Seye Olumide

YORUBA Leaders of Thought (YLT) has described the death of late Afenifere leader, Reuben Fasoranti, as an irreparable loss to the race and the nation at large, saying that he left when his wise counsel was needed to move the nation forward. In a statement by the National Secretary, Mr Bayo Aina, the group noted his selfless service to the political development of the country, particularly Ondo State, saying he would be missed as a moral compass for a better future of the Yoruba nation. The YLT also praised Fasoranti for not betraying the cause of the Yoruba race by placing common interest above personal interest. Also, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has mourned the Afenifere leader, describing his life as a remarkable record of service to Nigeria and his community. It described him as a nationalist, politician and community leader who devoted much of his life to progressive politics, good governance and the pursuit of a better Nigeria, saying he remained committed to these ideals throughout his life.



CAF Champions League

Enugu Rangers brace for Ali La Pointe Stadium's cauldron as CAF throws out protest

By Christian Okpara

ENUGU Rangers' officials have assured Nigerians that the Flying Antelopes are psychologically prepared for whatever MC Alger will throw at them when they meet in the decisive second leg of their CAF Champions League group stage qualifier today.

Rangers won the first leg in Abeokuta 2-0 and need to concede less than that to make the group stage of the CAF Champions League.

The team arrived in Algiers on Monday to begin preparation for the game, which they have vowed to lay their lives, if necessary, to get the desired result.

But reports from Algeria have warned the Nigerians to be ready for all manner of "troubles" when they file out against MC Alger.

Yesterday, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) threw out Rangers' behind closed doors without the fans following reports of a fiercely charged atmosphere in and around the stadium.

Tickets for the decisive encounter at the 40,000-capacity Ali La Pointe Stadium in Douéra were reportedly sold out in less than an hour, underlining the scale of anticipation among MC Alger supporters ahead of their

• Ezeaku: 'MC Alger's 40,000 fans no problem'

team's attempt to overturn a 2-0 first-leg deficit.

CAF's rejection of Rangers' request means that the Nigerians are in for a hostile atmosphere in Algiers.

The match will start by 8.00 p.m. with the 40,000 crowd baying for Rangers' blood. But Enugu Rangers' General Manager, Amobi Ezeaku, says that the team is not disturbed by whatever the crowd does outside the pitch.

He said: "We came to Algeria early to get used to the weather conditions and the environment."

"The game will be decided on the pitch by the players and not by whatever happens outside it. We are prepared and ready to go."

CAF has responded to Rangers' security concerns by appointing Ugandan security expert Dixon Okello as security officer for the encounter.

The governing body also named Egypt's Hisham Salaheldin Mostafa as match commissioner, Lesotho's David Molise as referee and Togo's Koku Ognankotan Ntale as referee assessor.

The appointments underline the importance of security and match management ahead of

the fixture, although they do not resolve the underlying dispute between the clubs.

There were reports yesterday that MC Alger held a meeting on Wednesday involving captain Ayoub Abdelouali and head coach Khaled Ben Yahia, with the players reportedly pledging to produce a comeback and win by at least three goals.

The Algerian side will be without suspended defender Oussama Benhaoua and injured captain Ayoub Abdellaoui, but midfielder Mohamed Benkhemassa and forward Ben Ahmed Kohili are available again.

This game has a historical precedent with MC Alger the winning side in 1976.

Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

Chelle calls 31 home boys to camp for DR Congo

HEAD Coach Éric Chelle has invited 31 players to the U-23 national team camp, as the countdown begins for next month's U-23 Africa Cup of Nations qualifying fixture against the Democratic Republic of Congo.

On the roster are four goalkeepers, nine defenders, eight midfielders and 10 forwards.

Both countries will do battle in the first leg of the fixture inside the TP Mazembe Stadium in Lubumbashi on November 13, with the return leg at the Remo Stars Stadium, Ikenne-Remo on November 17.

The winner over two legs of the fixture will reach the final round of the qualifying phase for the U23 AFCON to be held in Egypt next year, at which Africa's representatives at the Los Angeles Olympic Men's Football Tournament will emerge.

Nigeria, winners of Olympic football gold (Atlanta 1996), silver (Beijing 2008) and bronze (Rio de Janeiro 2016), have not participated in the Men's Football Tournament of the Olympics in the past 10 years.

The Olympic Eagles drew a bye into this second round, while DR Congo edged Mauritania over two legs to set up a date with Nigeria.

All the invited players are to report at the AM2PM Hotel, Ijebu-Ode on Sunday.

The players invited for the fixture are goalkeepers Chinemerem Olughu (Nasarawa United); Clinton Andy (Rivers United); Ebenezer Harcourt (Sporting Lagos); and Michael Atata (Ikorodu City).

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

Today's Football matches		
CAF Champions League		
MC Alger	v	Enugu Rangers
English Premier League		
Ipswich Town	v	Nottingham Forest
Spanish La Liga		
Alavés	v	Málaga
German Bundesliga		
Stuttgart	v	Borussia M'gladbach
Italian Serie A		
Torino	v	Monza
French Ligue 1		
Brest	v	Nice

Published by The Guardian Group, Rutam House, Isolo, Lagos Tel: 01-4489600
Abuja Office: Plot 415 Olu Awotesu Street, Off Idris Ibrahim Crescent, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Jabi District, Abuja. Tel: 08065290744
Advert Hotlines: 01-4489619, 08023015115 08031930899, advert@guardian.ng; Circulation Hotline: 07038746449
All correspondence to Guardian Newspapers Limited, P.M.B. 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria.
E-mail: Letters@guardian.ng; www.guardian.ng
Editor: OLUWAFEMI F. ADEKOYA ABC (ISSN NO 0189-5125)

FIFA approves normalisation committee for Nigerian football

• World body to appoint members soon

By Christian Okpara

WORLD football governing body, FIFA, yesterday, approved the setting up of a normalisation committee to oversee Nigerian football until March next year.

According to the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), FIFA in a letter said that the committee will manage the NFF, pending fresh elections into the federation's executive committee.

The letter signed by FIFA Secretary General, Mattias Grafström and addressed to Dr Emmanuel Ikpeme, reads: "The normalisation committee shall consist of a suitable number of members, who will be appointed jointly by FIFA and CAF as soon as possible."

FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup

It's make or mar for Nigeria against Cup holders North Korea

By Christian Okpara

NIGERIA'S women's U-17 team, the Flamingos, are faced with their toughest game of the ongoing FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup when they face North Korea today.

Nigeria risks elimination if they fail to win the game, but a Flamingos' victory today will surprise many followers of the ongoing championship in Morocco.

The North Koreans, who have lifted the trophy on two occasions since the competition was launched in New Zealand in 2008, have been impressive so far in this year's tournament, winning both of their opening matches to secure top spot in Group B. They have scored 12 goals and conceded only one, underlining their strength as they chase a third consecutive title.

Caretaker committee disqualifies Oshodi, others from judo federation's elections

• Bans former board members for five years • Oshodi: 'I am not interested; I don't recognise caretaker committee'

By Christian Okpara

THE caretaker committee set up by the National Sports Commission (NSC) "to bring sanity" to the Nigerian Judo Federation (NSC), has disqualified members of the former board of the federation, including their president, Dr Musa Oshodi, from vying for positions into the board at the forthcoming electoral congress of the federation.

The committee also proposed Oshodi and members of his dissolved board's suspension from every activities of the federation for five years.

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

Enugu Rangers hope to overcome MC Alger in Algiers today to qualify for the CAF Champions League's group stage.

What The Guardian stands for



Conscience, Nurtured by Truth

- The Guardian is an independent newspaper, established for the purpose of presenting balanced coverage of events, and of promoting the best interests of Nigeria. It owes allegiance to no political party, ethnic, community, religious or other interest groups. Its primary commitment is to the integrity and sovereignty of the Federation of Nigeria, and beyond that, to the unity and sovereignty of Africa.
- The Guardian will at all times uphold the need for justice, probity in public life, equal access to the nation's resources and equal protection under the law of Nigeria for all citizens.

- The Guardian journalist must whole-heartedly subscribe to the 1979 Code of Conduct for Nigerian journalists as amended in 1998.
- The Guardian believes, therefore, that it is the moral duty of every journalist to have respect for the truth and to publish or prepare for publication only the truth and to the best of his knowledge.
- It is the duty of The Guardian journalist to resist and refrain from earning other than his just salary or allowances from his employers: not to demand, and to refuse any reward if offered in cash or kind for publishing news or comments.
- The motto of The Guardian is Conscience Nurtured by Truth.

Please report any of our erring journalists to these dedicated telephone numbers: 014489600, 07098147948, 07098147951 Or our e-mail: Complaints@guardian.ng