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25 states endorse state police amid rights abuses, guardrail concerns **P6**

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS & THRESHOLD

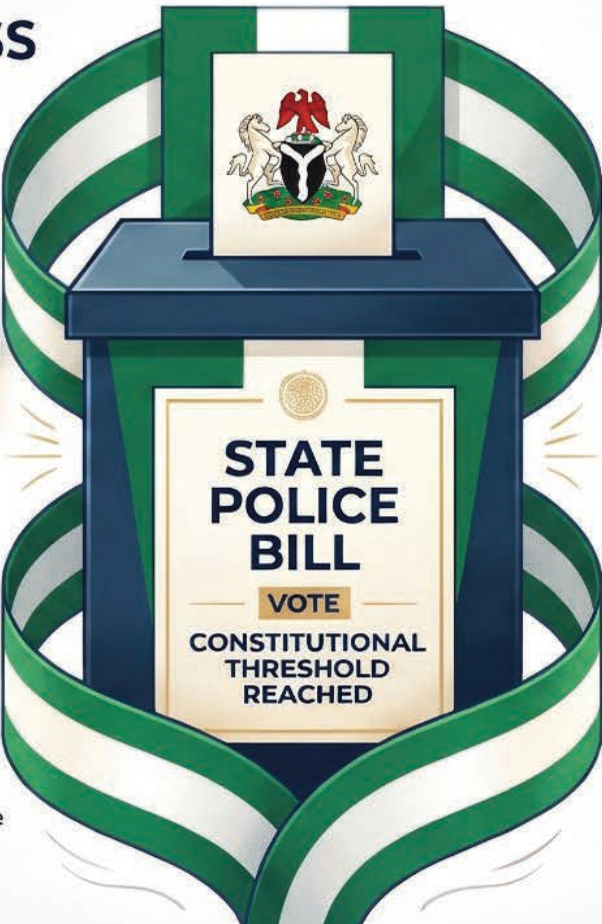


25 of 36 STATES PASS THE BILL REQUIRES 24 STATES

Exceeds the required two-thirds constitutional threshold of 24 states needed for amendment.

OCTOBER 30: FINAL FRAMEWORK REVIEW TARGET SET

States must meet prescribed governance standards before establishing their respective police services.



CORE CONCERNS & SAFEGUARD GAPS

- HIGH RISK OF POLITICAL CONTROL BY STATE GOVERNORS**
Rights advocates warn governors could convert state police into political instruments against opponents.
- UNRESOLVED AUTONOMY AND OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES**
Friction persists regarding command hierarchy, federal oversight, funding mechanisms, and inter-state operations.
- LEGAL DISPUTES OVER POST-APPROVAL BILL ALTERATIONS**
SANs argue post-passage edits require sending the bill back to states for re-approval.

The Guardian
Conscience, Nurtured by Truth



Energy costs gulp 40% of manufacturers' OpEx, threaten productivity
BUSINESS PAGE 19

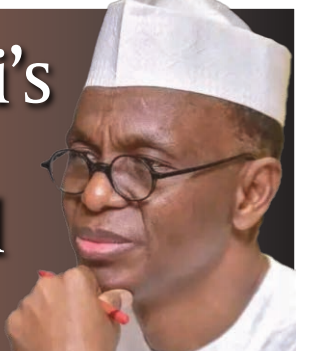


2027: CJN asks judges to avoid conflicting orders, rulings that compromise justice
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NSA, UN warn terrorists using AI to recruit, spread fear across Africa
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Ebola: Nigeria not yet out of woods, says NCDC, intensifies surveillance, contact tracing
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Court rejects el-Rufai's no-case plea in phone-tapping trial
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Panorama

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SPOTLIGHT

ECOWAS honours slain *The Guardian* reporter 36 years after death

By Oludare Richards

THE Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission has posthumously honoured late *The Guardian* war correspondent, Krees Imodibie, 36 years after he was killed while covering the Liberian Civil War in 1990, recognising his sacrifice and service to humanity.

The recognition was part of the public presentation of

FBI arrests nine in Nigeria over cybercrime targeting Americans

THE Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has announced the arrest of nine people in Nigeria as part of an international operation targeting cybercriminal networks accused of defrauding Americans and operating scam centres across national borders.

FBI Director, Kash Patel, disclosed this in a post on X, stating that the operation, code-named Operation Blackout, also resulted in the seizure of 53 electronic devices and the identification of \$11 million in funds considered eligible for freezing across countries.

Patel said the operation was aimed at dismantling international cybercriminal networks responsible for large-scale financial fraud against American victims. "Operation Blackout is taking the fight directly to the international cybercriminal networks stealing billions from Americans."

According to Patel, the networks operated scam centres where victims were deceived into surrendering their money, with some losing their life savings to fraudulent schemes.

... DAY 4566

OUR GIRLS STILL MISSING

Tope Templer Olaiya, News Editor

@TopeTempler



the Commission's definitive publications documenting its peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peacemaking interventions across West Africa, where other journalists, former military commanders and victims of regional conflicts were also recognised.

Presenting the commemorative plaque at *The Guardian* of-

fice in Lagos, Arthur Oghogho Obayuwana, a former Foreign Affairs Editor of the newspaper, currently with the Directorate of Political Affairs at the ECOWAS Commission, said the recognition was intended to acknowledge journalists who risk their lives reporting from conflict zones.

Obayuwana, who received the plaque on behalf of the late journalist before bringing it to the newspaper, said ECOWAS considered it appropriate to recognise Imodibie for his service to humanity and the circumstances surrounding his death while on professional assignment.



Editor, *The Guardian*, Dr Femi Adekoya (left); Directorate of Political Affairs at the ECOWAS Commission, Arthur Oghogho Obayuwana and Weekend Editor of *The Guardian*, Dr Kabir Alabi Garba, at the presentation of the posthumous award to Krees Imodibie at the corporate head office in Lagos, yesterday.

PHOTO: MARVELLOUS OBASA

Mom reacts after police was called on three-year-old soccer star

THE mother of Nevada, the three-year-old soccer standout whose family had police called on them at a youth game in Winter Park, Florida, says her son walked away from the field believing he did something wrong.

Martasia Griffin spoke with Lauren LaRosa of *The Breakfast Club* and confirmed that police were called during her son's 19 Sports game. Griffin says it all comes back to how good Nevada is.

"He's been targeted throughout the season because of his talent even though it's not my son's fault that he plays really good," Griffin said. "They used to send bigger kids over to like knock him over."

Nevada is the youngest player on his team. He is 3, and his teammates are 4 and 5. His family has been posting his highlights online for months, and his goals and dribbling regularly go viral. According to Griffin, things came to a head at this game when the coaches, league directors and several parents gathered in a circle on the



Soccer star Nevada

sideline. One parent complained that none of the other kids had been able to play and threatened to pull out of the program. Griffin says the director did not stand up for her family and instead offered her a refund.

She refused to sit her son down. "I cannot explain to my three year old son that he cannot play today because he's so good," she said. "I continue to let him play. The police walked in."

Griffin says the other parents argued that they paid for the league just like she did. Her response was that sitting Nevada out for the whole game meant her son was not getting to play either. "You're trying to fault my kid for actually playing soccer. He's three years old," she said.

RANDOM FACTS

- Abulia is the inability to make decisions.
- A sheep and a goat can mate to produce a hybrid. It's called a 'Geep'.
- African men's sperm count and quality is declining including locations like Nigeria and North Africa. Studies show a decline of up to 72.6% over a 50-year span.
- Crying is how your body speaks when your mouth can't explain the pain you feel.
- The constant fear of death or losing someone you love is called Thantophobia.

TODAY'S QUOTE

Begin with the beautiful, which leads you to the good, which leads you to the truth.

We are exceptionally good at seeing the faults in others and exceptionally adept at ignoring the faults in ourselves.

ROBERT BARRON

True peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR

A colonized mind will fight harder to protect the master's image than to recover its own dignity.

FRANTZ FANON

TODAY IN HISTORY

• **2021 - Nigeria**
Nigeria's digital currency, eNaira app was no longer available for download as it disappeared on Google Playstore just 48 hours after launch of the product.

• **2020 - Nigeria**
Pres. Muhammadu Buhari re-appointed Mahmood Yakubu as Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
• 81 Division of the Nigerian Army, Lagos, said its troops were invited by the state government to enforce the curfew imposed on the state during #EndSARS protest. Court papers filed by former Managing Director of Alpha Beta Consulting, Dapo Aparo against ex-Lagos State governor, Bola Tinubu at the Lagos High Court, Igbosere, were destroyed by fire that razed the court last week.

• **2019 - Syria**
Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) founder and leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi killed himself and three children by detonating a suicide vest during U.S. military Barisha raid in northwestern Syria.

• **2019 - Rome**
Catholic Bishops approved a proposal allowing some married men to be ordained as priests in the Amazon region. The proposal passed by a vote of 128-41, applies only to churches in the Amazon region that are experiencing a shortage of priests.

• **2018 - UK**
Leicester City Thai owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha died in a helicopter crash with four others after a Premier League match against West Ham United at the King Power Stadium in Leicester, England.

• **2017 - Spain**
The Parliament of Catalonia declared the region's independence from Spain; The central government in Madrid decided to impose direct rule on Catalonia.

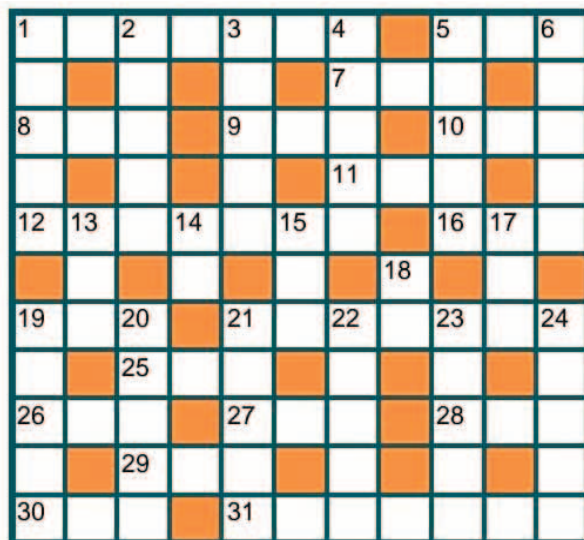
• **2014 - UK**
Britain withdrew from Afghanistan at the end of Operation Herrick, after 12 years, 4 months and 7 days.

• **2006 - UK**
Opening of Arsenal F.C.'s Emirates Stadium that replaced Highbury Stadium which had only 38,419 seats and was too small for the need of modern football.

• **1992 - USA**
United States Navy radio-man Allen R. Schindler, Jr. was murdered by shipmate Terry M. Helvey for being gay, precipitating debate about gays in the military that resulted in the United States' "Don't ask, don't tell" military policy.

• **1275 - Netherlands**
Traditional founding of the city of Amsterdam.

CROSS WORD PUZZLE



• ACROSS

1. Town in Oyo State, (7).
5. Indicating refusal, (3).
7. Expert, (3).
8. Large passenger vehicle, (3).
9. The atmosphere we breathe, (3).
10. Contend, (3).
11. Protective cover, (3).
12. Scottish language, (7).
16. Empty of something, (3).
19. Honey-making insect, (3).
21. Infertile, (7).
25. Latitude, abbr., (3).
26. Hebrew judge, (3).
27. Auto. Transmission Fluid, abbr.
28. Lagos suburb, (3).
29. Barrier across a river, (3).
30. Stop living, (3).
31. Self-punishment for sin, (7).

• DOWN

1. Tag, (5).
2. Of the nose, (5).
3. Lagos electronics market, (5).
4. British noblemen, (5).
5. At no time, (5).
6. Tendency, (5).
13. Type of beer, (3).
14. Pound, abbr., (2).
15. Mesh, (3).
17. Unwell, (3).
18. Indicating alternative, (2).
19. Fit in, (5).
20. Omit something, (5).
21. Imprint, (5).
22. Like an elf, (5).
23. Bony projection on head, (5).
24. Cleverly escape, (5).

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Check page 39 for solution to the puzzle

Again, FG defends reforms as foundation for sustainable growth

From **Tobi Awodipe** (Lagos) and **Joseph Chibueze** (Abuja)

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has said his administration is rewriting Nigeria's decades-long story of economic underperformance through far-reaching reforms designed to dismantle structural barriers, unlock the nation's enormous potential and deliver jobs, productivity and shared prosperity.

This was as the Federal Government ruled out a return to petrol subsidy, insisting that Tinubu's administration would sustain its economic reforms despite mounting pressure over the rising cost of living and calls by opposition politicians for a policy reversal.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja when he formally declared open the 32nd Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#32), Tinubu, who was represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, noted that his administration began on a difficult note because "there is no shortcut to economic growth and rescuing the economy means rescuing livelihoods" and transforming the fortunes of young jobseekers, farmers, manufacturers, entrepreneurs and innovators. He observed that the summit's theme, 'Growth That Works: Delivering Jobs, Productivity and Shared Prosperity', built on the ambition of the previous edition of the yearly event to achieve a prosperous and inclusive Nigeria by 2030.

Tinubu noted that his reforms were dismantling the structural barriers that prevented the nation's abundant human and natural resources from yielding prosperity. Acknowledging that creating jobs was only half the task, he stressed the need to improve the quality of work, reduce underemployment and harness the potential of Nigeria's underutilised workforce. "We must judge our industrial policy by the competitiveness of our firms and investment incentives by the capital, technology, exports and jobs they attract."

He cited figures from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) indicating that Nigeria's inflation-adjusted GDP grew by 3.89 per cent in Q1 2026, compared with 3.13 per cent in Q1 2025.

United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Dr Amina Mohammed, acknowledged the gains while urging their urgent consolidation and stabilisation as well as effective management of expectations among citizens and other stakeholders.

She applauded the African Development Bank (AfDB) for its new financial architecture for development across the continent.

INEC bows to pressure, uploads voter register online, final list out December

From **Sodiq Omolayo** and **John Akubo**, Abuja

FOLLOWING concerns by Nigerians and other stakeholders over the accessibility of the voter register, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has uploaded the preliminary register of voters for the 2027 general election to its online platform.

But the National Democratic Congress (NDC) has vowed to do everything necessary to ensure that its candidates omitted from the INEC final list are allowed to participate in the 2027 general elections.

The commission said the online publication was intended to complement the physical display of the preliminary register conducted nationwide from October 9 to 15, 2026, and enable more Nigerians to inspect their

NDC vows to fight over omitted candidates, warns against split-ticket voting

particulars.

Chairman of INEC's Information and Voter Education Committee, Mohammed Haruna, said the register could be accessed through <https://display.inecnigeria.org>.

The commission said it had taken note of concerns expressed by Nigerians and stakeholders about the need to make the register available online in addition to the physical display already conducted at registration areas.

INEC said it was still processing claims and objections arising from the exercise ahead of the certification and publication of the final register of voters on December 15, 2026.

The commission added that the additional measure was part of its commitment to

transparency, accessibility and public confidence in the electoral process.

It urged Nigerians and stakeholders to continue engaging with the process, reiterating its commitment to implementing the Electoral Act, 2026, and delivering credible elections.

NDC also faces the challenge of members who may vote for its presidential candidate, Peter Obi, while supporting candidates of other political parties for governorship, National Assembly and House of Assembly seats. The development raises concerns about the party's ability to translate support for its presidential ticket into votes for its candidates across other levels of government.

NDC's National Chairman, Senator Moses Cleopas, gave

the assurance yesterday at the party's third National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Abuja, pledging that the leadership would take all necessary steps to secure the participation of candidates omitted from INEC's final list. Cleopas said the party would not abandon any of its candidates, insisting that it would work to resolve the discrepancies and ensure those affected could contest in the forthcoming elections.

He did not want the affected candidates to be left behind as the party prepared for the 2027 polls.

The issue featured amid broader discussions on the party's electoral preparations, internal reconciliation and the need to strengthen its structures ahead of the elections.



Anambra State Governor, Charles Soludo (left); Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN); Amina Mohammed; Vice President Kashim Shettima; Chairman, National Economic Summit Group (NESG), Olaniyi Yusuf and Chairman, BUA Group, Abdul-Samad Rabi'u during the opening ceremony of the 32nd National Economic Summit (NES#32) in Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO: LUCY LADIDI ATEKO

OK Movement kicks over NDC's 2027 campaign council structure

From **John Akubo**, Abuja

NIGERIA Democratic Congress (NDC) has unveiled its National Campaign Council (NCC) for the 2027 general elections, bringing its key leadership figures under a coordinated campaign structure as preparations for the polls intensify.

The party disclosed that it retained about N6.13 billion from N8.53 billion in reported financial inflows, while appealing to members and supporters to contribute more funds as it prepares for the 2027 general elections.

But the Obi-Kwankwaso Movement faulted the composition of the NDC-NCC, questioning the party's preparedness for the 2027 general elections and boasting of a stronger grassroots structure.

The NDC-NCC is chaired by

• Party discloses N6.13b war chest, seeks more funds

the party's National Leader, Senator Henry Seriake Dickson, with presidential candidate Peter Obi as co-chairman. The National Chairman, Senator Cleopas Zuwoh, has been named vice-chairman, while vice-presidential candidate, Senator Rabi'u Kwankwaso, is co-vice-chairman.

NDC National Secretary, Ikenna Enekweizu, is council secretary, while Ibrahim Abdulkarim is appointed Director-General.

The announcement signals the party's move to establish a central command structure for coordinating campaign activities, strengthening nationwide mobilisation and communicating its policy agenda to Nigerians ahead of the 2027 elections.

With the campaign council now constituted, attention is expected to turn to the operational task of translating the party's national leadership into an effective campaign network across the states, local councils, wards and polling units.

For the NDC, the challenge will be to align its campaign leadership, grassroots organisation and policy messaging around a common strategy capable of sustaining engagement with voters throughout the election season.

The party said the council would drive a people-centred and issue-based campaign anchored on its vision of a new, just and prosperous Nigeria.

It called on party members,

supporters and well-meaning Nigerians to remain united and focused as it advances its preparations for the 2027 general elections.

The party's National Treasurer, Dr Peter Onigah, revealed the financial war chest at its third National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting in Abuja yesterday, where he

APC, ADC in brickbats over alleged unpaid salaries to staff, billion-naira SUV gifts

Atiku will campaign in all states, says ADC campaign council

From **Adamu Abuh** and **Andrew Oota**, Abuja

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) has criticised the African Democratic Congress (ADC) for alleged failure to pay its staff for more than 12 months, questioning the opposition party's credibility and capacity to govern the country.

However, ADC fired back by describing the distribution of seven luxury sport utility vehicles (SUVs), reportedly worth about N1 billion, to APC youth leaders as an obscene display of extravagance at a time millions of Nigerians were struggling to afford food, transportation and other necessities.

Meanwhile, the Director of Strategic Communication of ADC-PCC, Phrank Shaibu, said former Vice President Atiku Abubakar will campaign in all 36 states of the federation ahead of the 2027 presidential election.

The APC-PCC also linked the salary arrears allegation to the records of Atiku, ADC's presidential candidate, and former governor of Osun State, Rauf Aregbesola, the party's national secretary. In a statement yesterday, the APC-PCC spokesperson, Dele Alake, accused the ADC National Working Committee (NWC) led by Senator David Mark as national chairman and Aregbesola as secretary of neglecting the welfare of the party's employees. The council described the alleged failure to pay salaries as unacceptable.

said the NDC had spent approximately N2.4 billion on its activities.

The disclosure provides a glimpse into the party's financial position as it builds its structures and prepares for the political contest ahead, with its leadership insisting that accountability and prudent spending would guide the management of its resources.

TheGuardian

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News Analysis

How worsening destitution defaces Lagos' mega city status

From busy highways and crowded markets to public institutions and spaces beneath bridges, the sight of sick, destitute, physically incapacitated and psychologically distressed people struggling to survive has become a troubling feature of life in Lagos. Despite repeated government attempts to remove these vulnerable people from public spaces and rehabilitate them, many remain exposed to hunger, homelessness, abuse and neglect, raising questions about the reach of the state's welfare system and what happens after they are taken into care, ENIOLA DANIEL reports.



THE streets have become more than a temporary refuge for some. They are places of survival. Some have lost contact with their families, others have been abandoned or displaced, while many living with illnesses or disabilities lack the resources, support or access to services required to meet their basic needs.

Their circumstances expose a difficult contradiction in a city striving to maintain orderly public spaces while confronting the human cost of poverty, illness, family dislocation and inadequate social support.

Behind every person sleeping beneath a bridge, wandering through a market, or struggling to care for themselves on a roadside may be a story of abandonment, economic hardship, untreated illness, or a broken support system.

The central question is not merely how many vulnerable people are removed from the streets, but how many receive the sustained care necessary to recover, regain their independence where possible and live with dignity.

Records obtained by *The Guardian* show that the Lagos State Government's Rehabilitation and Training Centre in Majidun attended to 60,949 cases between 2020 and July 20, 2026. The figures point to sustained demand for rehabilitation services, even as vulnerable people continue to be encountered in public spaces across the state.

The records, however, do not establish how many cases involved distinct individuals, how many people completed rehabilitation, how many were reunited with their families or how many successfully reintegrated into their communities; neither do they provide a comprehensive estimate of the number of vulnerable people living on Lagos streets.

Nevertheless, the scale of the caseload raises questions about the capacity of existing facilities, the adequacy of aftercare services and the extent to which government interventions address the circumstances that leave people unable to fend for themselves. The cen-

tre recorded 8,148 cases in 2020, 8,993 in 2021 and 8,739 in 2022. The figure rose to 9,473 in 2023, 9,764 in 2024 and 10,619 in 2025, representing an increase of about 30.3 per cent between 2020 and 2025.

Between January and July 20, 2026, another 5,213 cases were recorded, bringing the cumulative total to 60,949.

Although the figures represent cases handled by the facility rather than a confirmed count of individuals living on the streets, they underscore the pressure on the state's rehabilitation system. They also raise a question about the relationship between admission, recovery and lasting reintegration.

For people without dependable family support, the consequences of inadequate care can be devastating. Without shelter, medical attention or assistance with daily living, those already struggling with illness, disability or other personal difficulties can become increasingly isolated and vulnerable to exploitation.

Sakiru Tochukwu, (not his real name), knows what it means to confront such circumstances without a reliable support system.

The Lagos-based trader, who found temporary shelter under Ikeja Bridge, began experiencing psychological difficulties about two years ago. With no family members in the city and no close friends readily available to intervene, he struggled without the support he needed.

Before long, people around him reportedly interpreted his behaviour as a personal failing rather than a possible health crisis requiring professional assessment and care.

His experience illustrates how illness and social isolation can combine to push someone from relative independence into acute vulnerability.

A person who once earned a living may, without timely intervention, become dependent on strangers, exposed to abuse or unable to navigate the process of obtaining treatment.

Similar difficulties confront people with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses and other conditions that limit their independence.

For those without family care, accessible accommodation or dependable welfare support, everyday survival can become an exhausting struggle.

The challenge, therefore, extends beyond removing people from roadsides, markets and other public spaces. It involves identifying their individual needs and ensuring that they receive appropriate medical care, shelter, social assistance and protection.

Some may require urgent medical assessment, while others need food, accommodation, disability support or help tracing relatives.

Those whose families cannot be found, or who cannot safely return to their previous living

arrangements, may need longer-term residential or community-based care. Without such interventions, street-clearance operations risk providing only temporary relief, leaving the circumstances that caused people to become destitute unresolved.

The Lagos State Government has established legal and administrative mechanisms to address the needs of vulnerable people. Under the state's mental health legal framework, relevant authorities have responsibilities in specified circumstances involving people who require mental healthcare and intervention.

The framework provides for police involvement in circumstances covered by its provisions, while relevant health, environmental and social welfare authorities are expected to coordinate interventions and facilitate access to appropriate services.

The Ministry of Youth and Social Development also has responsibilities relating to rehabilitation, social welfare and reintegration.

However, the continued visibility of vulnerable people in public spaces raises questions about coordination among these institutions, the availability of appropriate services and whether existing facilities can meet the needs of those requiring sustained assistance.

The Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Oluwatoyin Oke-Osanyintolu, acknowledged that increasing demand for rehabilitation and aftercare services was one of the major challenges confronting the ministry.

Her acknowledgement highlights a problem that goes beyond the number of people admitted into rehabilitation facilities. When demand increases and centres face overcrowding, the quality, duration and individualisation of care become important considerations.

Without adequate resources and structured aftercare, rehabilitation may not

translate into lasting recovery or reintegration.

Oke-Osanyintolu said the ministry has continued to provide care, rehabilitation, counselling, skills development and reintegration support for vulnerable people, including those experiencing mental health and psychosocial difficulties.

She also identified stigma and discrimination as obstacles to successful rehabilitation, noting that some families and communities struggled to accept and support people recovering from mental health challenges.

According to her, the ministry uses stakeholder engagements, community outreach, media programmes, public enlightenment campaigns and social media to raise awareness of mental health, child protection, social welfare, disability inclusion, substance abuse and other emerging social concerns.

She said the government's approach was to

promote early intervention, discourage discrimination, encourage families to seek appropriate help and ensure vulnerable people were treated with dignity and supported towards rehabilitation and reintegration.

The absence of reliable information on where vulnerable people live, the services they require and the outcomes of previous interventions presents another challenge for policy-makers.

Without such information, it becomes difficult to determine where additional facilities are needed, which categories of people require specialised support or whether rehabilitation programmes are producing sustainable results.

The problem is also not confined to mental health. While some people encountered on the streets may require psychiatric assessment, others may be living with physical disabilities, chronic illnesses, age-related limitations, homelessness or abandonment. Treating these different circumstances as one problem risks directing people towards interventions that do not meet their needs.

The Chairman and Chief Medical Director of the Medical ART Centre, Prof. Oladapo Ashiru, identified economic hardship, unemployment, family dislocation and substance abuse among factors contributing to some cases of psychological distress.

He said unemployment, job losses, currency devaluation and broader economic pressures could contribute to depression and increase the use of recreational drugs.

"A great number of people are depressed, and the depression is as a result of unemployment, job loss, devaluation of the currency and the economic infrastructure not supporting the system. That leads to an increase in the use of recreational drugs," Ashiru said.

He also linked some difficulties to family separation arising from migration, while noting that certain conditions could have genetic or medical causes, including family histories of depression, bipolar disorder and psychosis, as well as head injuries.

Ashiru said stigma remained a significant barrier to seeking professional help and called for stronger mental healthcare infrastructure, including facilities that provide dignified and supportive environments.

A Consultant psychiatrist at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Dr Shakiru Oyedokun, similarly advocated greater public awareness, early intervention and improved access to professional treatment.

He urged people who had experienced psychological difficulties or recovered from substance dependence to share their experiences to challenge harmful stereotypes and encourage others to seek assistance.

Oyedokun also called for mental health education in secondary schools, supportive workplace policies and professional treatment for addiction. He said families should support relatives experiencing psychological difficulties rather than stigmatise them, adding that caregivers also needed assistance because caring for vulnerable people could be emotionally and financially demanding.

The experts' recommendations point to the importance of intervention before personal difficulties become crises visible on the streets. Early access to treatment, family counselling, social assistance and community-based services could help some people retain their independence and reduce the likelihood of abandonment or prolonged homelessness.

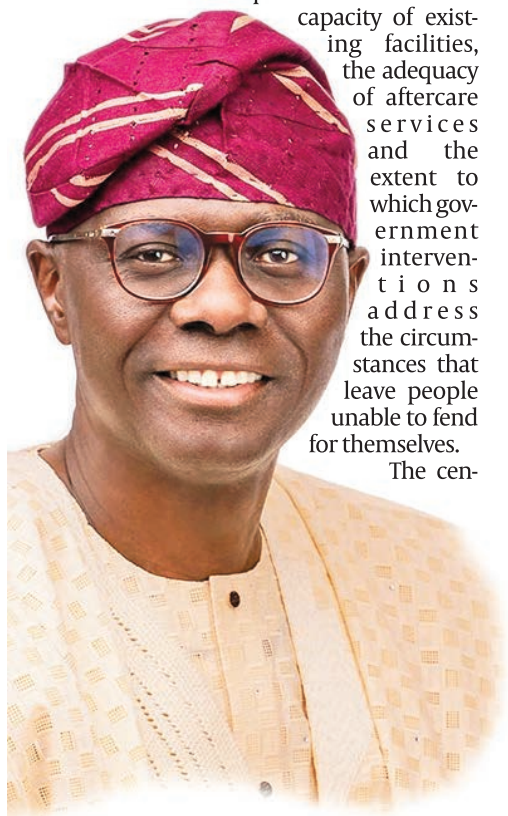
However, the wider welfare challenge requires a response that goes beyond healthcare.

People whose vulnerability stems from physical incapacity, poverty, displacement or the loss of family support may need accessible housing, income assistance, food, personal care and protection from exploitation.

Others may require a combination of medical treatment and long-term social support.

For Lagos, an effective policy would require stronger coordination among health, social welfare, environmental and security agencies, backed by reliable data on the different categories of vulnerable people encountered across the state.

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



2027: CJN asks judges to avoid conflicting orders, rulings that compromise justice

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

AS the nation approaches another election season, the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has urged judges, particularly heads of courts, to be vigilant against practices that undermine the integrity of judicial proceedings. Kekere-Ekun identified such

Shettima tackles Atiku, Obi over fuel subsidy, others

From Terhomba Daka

VICE President Kashim Shettima has criticised former Vice President Atiku Abubakar over his proposal to restore fuel subsidy, questioning his ability to govern Nigeria's modern economy. Shettima said Atiku's proposal would push the country back into poverty, accusing the former vice president of supporting the return of subsidy for political reasons.

Speaking at the Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja yesterday, Shettima said: "One of the leading presidential candidates is advocating for the return of the subsidy scheme. He wants us to backslide into penury for political convenience."

He also questioned Atiku's professional background, referring to his training at the Kano School of Hygiene as he challenged his capacity to manage the country's economy.

Afreximbank's net income rises by 24% to \$813.5m in nine months

By Helen Oji

AFRICAN Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and its subsidiaries (the "Group") have achieved a net income of \$813.5 million in its nine months of operations. This represents a 24 per cent increase when compared to \$654.3 million posted in the corresponding period of 2025.

According to Afreximbank, the improved performance was driven by growth in lending activities, improved interest income and disciplined cost management, despite a challenging global operating environment.

The group's total assets and contingencies increased by 12 per cent to \$54.1 billion, from \$48.5 billion posted in FY 2025. This growth was underpinned by an expansion of the bank's lending portfolio, with net loans and advances increasing by eight per cent to \$36.2 billion, compared to \$33.5 billion at year-end 2025.

The bank said the performance was largely driven by a 9.1 per cent increase in interest income to \$2.4 billion, from \$2.2 billion in the nine months in 2025, underpinned by growth in average loan balances.

practices to include forum shopping, concealment of related proceedings and attempts to obtain conflicting orders from courts of coordinate jurisdiction.

She spoke in Abuja yesterday during the opening session of "the 2026 roundtable for heads of courts," organised by the National Judicial Institute (NJI).

The CJN said the issues required particular attention as the country approached another election season, noting that election-related disputes often attracted intense public interest and considerable

pressure on the courts.

She added: "The Judiciary must be prepared to discharge its constitutional responsibilities with impartiality, courage and fidelity to the law.

"Political sensitivity, public sentiment or the urgency with which a matter is presented must never displace the careful application of the Constitution, the Electoral Act and the applicable rules of court.

"I urge your lordships to ensure that appropriate administrative arrangements are in place to facilitate the timely and orderly

handling of election-related matters."

According to her, judicial officers must be reminded of the need to scrutinise applications carefully, insist on full and frank disclosure of relevant facts, pay due regard to related proceedings and resist any attempt to use urgent applications or ex parte orders to secure an improper advantage.

She also stated that the integrity of judicial proceedings must not be compromised by competing political interests or pressure from any quarter.

"Forum shopping is particu-

larly damaging because it undermines consistency, encourages abuse of process and exposes the Judiciary to avoidable public controversy. "Your Lordships must therefore ensure that existing procedural safeguards are observed and that appropriate steps are taken whenever attempts to circumvent established judicial processes come to light," she added.

The CJN reminded the heads of courts that they were expected to provide the leadership necessary to ensure that election-related cases were handled competently, expeditiously and strictly in

accordance with the law.

She said the objective was to ensure that the courts remain impartial arbiters of disputes, free from political influence and guided solely by the facts, the applicable law and the demands of justice.

Speaking earlier, the Administrator of the (NJI), Justice Babatunde Adejumo retired), said the Judiciary, as custodian of justice and guardian of the rule of law, was under constant public scrutiny, placing a heavy responsibility on those steering its affairs to safeguard its image and shape positive public perceptions.

Replicate NELFUND model to end nepotism, Oye tells FG

From Owede Agbajileke, Abuja

CHAIRMAN of the Alliance for Economic Research and Ethics (AERE), Dele Oye, has urged the Federal Government to replicate the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) model across government programmes to tackle nepotism, godfatherism and political interference in the distribution of public benefits.

According to Oye, the NELFUND model offers an opportunity to build a system in which Nigerians can access government support based on clearly defined eligibility criteria rather than political connections, influential sponsors or personal relationships with public officials.

In a statement, the AERE chairman argued that the government should extend the principles underpinning NELFUND to other social and economic intervention programmes.

'Greenhouse gases trapped in atmosphere fuel extreme weather conditions'

By Victor Gbonegun

THE World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has said the levels of Carbon dioxide (CO2) and other major greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached unprecedented highs in 2025, locking in more long-term temperature increase for the planet.

The UN agency revealed this in its new report captured in the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, which reported that the globally averaged surface concentration of CO2 in 2025 was 426.8 parts per million, or 153 per cent of the 1,750 pre-industrial baseline.

It pointed out that the concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide - the second and third most important long-lived greenhouse gases related to human activities - also rose to a new record.



Director-General, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Segun Ajayi-Kadir (left); Chairman, Manpower Development Company Limited, a subsidiary of MAN, John Aluya; President of MAN, Ifeanyi Okoye; and Acting Managing Director, Manpower Development Company Limited, Owoh Mba-Samuel, during a news conference to announce the Manufacturers Energy Security and Energy Efficiency Summit 2026, in Lagos, yesterday.

ECOWAS, Tinubu bemoan insecurity as countries exhibit defence capacity

By Eniola Daniel

ECONOMIC Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Bola Tinubu, Minister of Defence, Christopher Musa and others have stated that transnational and local solutions were needed to defeat insurgency, banditry and other forms of insecurity confronting the region and by extension, Africa.

They made the call at the 2026 Africa International Defence Exhibition

(AFRIDEX). It's the first time a defence exhibition will be held in Nigeria.

Defence and security leaders, industry stakeholders, innovators and official representatives from over 50 countries converged on Eko Atlantic, Lagos, for the exhibition which kicked off yesterday until October 29, 2026.

The Africa International Defence Exhibition is designed to support structured engagement across capability development,

industrial capacity, training-led readiness and procurement dialogue in a formal, protocol-led environment.

Speaking at the opening, President of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMAS), Gen Birame Diop, commended the leadership of Nigeria for addressing peace and security across Africa, recognising Nigeria's efforts through the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) that restored peace

in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

He said that the exhibition is another testament to Nigeria's leadership and commitment to regional stability and that Nigeria had once again demonstrated visionary leadership, affirming that Africa's future security lies in the ability to design, develop and provide its own security solutions.

In his remarks, President Bola Tinubu, who was represented by the Senate President, Godswill Akpabio.

Tinubu seeks stronger Nigeria-Brazil ties as Silva wins re-election amid protest

From Terhomba Daka, Abuja

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has called for deeper economic cooperation between Nigeria and Brazil, identifying trade, investment, agriculture, energy and technology as priority areas for expanding bilateral relations.

Tinubu made the call yesterday while congratulating the Brazilian President, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, on his re-election, describing the renewed mandate as an opportunity to strengthen the longstanding friendship and historical ties between the two countries.

In a congratulatory message dated October 26, 2026, the Nigerian leader said both countries, as leading nations of the Global South, had a shared responsibility to advance economic integration and protect their common interests amid a rapidly changing global order.

"I congratulate my friend, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, on his re-election for a record fourth term," Tinubu said.

He expressed Nigeria's readiness to expand collaboration with Brazil across strategic sectors, including manufacturing, science and

technology, education, aviation and cultural exchange, alongside trade, investment, agriculture, food security, energy, oil and gas.

The President also reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation with Brazil and advancing shared priorities across Africa, South America and the wider Global South.

Tinubu, who conveyed his message on behalf of the Nigerian people, wished Lula a successful new term, expressing optimism that his renewed mandate would provide fresh impetus for closer relations between the two

countries.

The proposed areas of cooperation reflect the potential for Nigeria and Brazil to deepen economic ties, leverage their respective strengths and expand opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships across the Atlantic.

MEANWHILE, Silva's rival, Flavio Bolsonaro, has refused to accept his victory, saying he will seek the annulment of the election.

Bolsonaro, who had requested an extension in some regions due to heavy rains, described the decision as "unacceptable" and a "dirty trick."

25 states endorse state police amid rights abuses, guardrail concerns

From Seye Olumide, Yetunde Ayobami Ojo (Lagos), Azimazi Momoh Jimoh, Andrew Oota, Felix Uroko (Abuja), Adewale Momoh (Akure), Ann Godwin (Port Harcourt) and Murtala Adewale (Kano)

DESPITE 25 State Houses of Assembly endorsing the State Police Bill, persistent fears over political interference, human rights violations and weak accountability have raised questions about whether the proposed safeguards can protect citizens from abuse or remain largely theoretical.

The Guardian investigation has revealed concerns that decentralising the police could transfer existing accountability challenges from the Federal Government to state governments without fundamentally addressing them.

Although the endorsements have met the two-thirds threshold required for the constitutional amendment to advance, the proposed reform faces a critical test: whether its safeguards can withstand pressure from powerful political officeholders.

Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele has defended the reform as a necessary response to worsening insecurity, insisting that adequate protections have been incorporated into the legislative framework. Human rights advocates, however, warn that governors could turn state police into instruments of political control.

Their concerns centre on whether independent commissions would have the financial autonomy, institutional independence and political protection to investigate misconduct involving governors and senior gov-

- **Reps deputy speaker confirms bill meets constitutional threshold**
- **Lawyers question safeguards, legality of changes to bill**
- **HURIWA seeks financial autonomy, independent commissions to check governors**
- **Ex-police chief questions sincerity, readiness for state policing**
- **Stakeholders seek inclusive consultations, safeguards against political interference**

ernment officials. Legislative confirmation of appointments, they argue, could also offer limited protection where the ruling party controls the state assembly and partisan interests influence decisions.

As the legislative process advances through further consideration, harmonisation and consultations involving relevant committees, the Attorney-General of the Federation and the National Assembly, the effectiveness of these safeguards remains central to the proposed restructuring of Nigeria's internal security architecture.

The next stages, including consideration of the draft National Policing Bill, 2026, and 29 consequential amendment bills, will help determine how federal and state police services relate to one another and what mechanisms will hold state police accountable. **Reps Deputy Speaker confirms state police bill secures required threshold**

THE Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution, Benjamin Kalu, yesterday confirmed that 24 State Houses of

Assembly had passed the bill seeking to establish state police.

(Ondo State subsequently passed the bill, bringing the number of states that had endorsed it to 25.)

The National Assembly may give the bill final passage when plenary resumes between tomorrow and Thursday, following the receipt of responses from the state legislatures.

A constitutional amendment requires the approval of at least two-thirds of the 36 State Houses of Assembly, representing 24 states.

In a post on his verified X account, Kalu said the passage of the bill by the state assemblies would bring policing closer to the people.

He described the development as a "major milestone for Nigeria's security architecture and constitutional reform".

"State Police will bring policing closer to the people, improve local intelligence gathering, speed up response to threats, and let states design security strategies for their own unique challenges," he said.

Kalu commended the State Houses of Assembly for their commitment to the process and thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his leadership and support for the reform.

He also urged the state as-

semblies to extend similar support to other constitutional amendment bills to be transmitted to them.

The states that had passed the bill as of yesterday included Adamawa, Delta, Edo, Kwara, Nasarawa, Ogun, Osun, Enugu, Anambra, Imo, Ekiti, Kebbi, Akwa Ibom, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Taraba, Zamfara, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Abia, Yobe and Kaduna.

States yet to pass the bill as of yesterday were Lagos, Ebonyi, Kogi, Niger, Borno, Gombe, Bauchi, Jigawa, Katsina, Kano and Sokoto.

Lawyers raise concerns over state police guardrails, legal process

A SENIOR Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Dr Biodun Layonu, said any alteration to the state police bill after its ap-

PROF. MUHAMMAD ALI PATE



Director-General, Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), Major General B. I. Alaya (left); member, representing the Ikorodu Federal Constituency, House of Representatives, Babajimi Adegoke Benson; Minister of State for Defence/Chairman of the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) Board, Dr Bello Muhammed Matawale; President, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), General Birame Diop; Senate President, Godwin Akpabio; Lagos State Deputy Governor, Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, and Minister of Defence, General Christopher Gwabin at the opening ceremony of the maiden edition of Africa International Defence Exhibition (AFRIDEX) 2026 and unveiling of Nigeria's First 3D-Printed Uncrewed Surface Vessel in Lagos, yesterday.

PHOTO: SUNDAY AKINLOLU

Ebola: Nigeria not yet out of woods, says NCDC, intensifies surveillance, contact tracing

From Nkechi Onyedika-Ugoeze, John Akubo (Abuja), Ijeoma Nwanosike and Opeyemi Babalola (Lagos)

FOLLOWING yesterday's safe evacuation of 42-year-old Nigeria's Ebola index patient and her husband to Switzerland aboard a medical plane, all attention is now on the 52 contacts linked to the country's confirmed case of the Bundibugyo strain of the virus under surveillance, just as the World Health Organisation (WHO) clarified that Nigeria is yet to be declared Ebola-free.

Authorities are monitoring the contacts to identify possible infections and prevent further transmission, as WHO stressed that continued surveillance and compliance with public health monitoring requirements remained essential until conditions for officially declaring the outbreak over were met.

As it stands, Nigeria may have to wait till December 7, 2026, before declaring the Ebola outbreak over if no further confirmed or probable cases are detected in the coun-

- **Pate: Nigeria may declare Ebola outbreak over by December 7**
- **Academy calls for vigilance despite evacuation of index case**
- **Adebayo warns against election postponement**
- **Idris: Why Nigeria approved patient's evacuation to Switzerland**

try.

Recall that the first confirmed Ebola patients in Kenya and Nigeria were reported to have crossed paths at Uganda's Entebbe International Airport, weeks after the East African country reported no active Ebola infections and was declared Ebola-free. Both patients passed through Entebbe International Airport on October 3, according to the Head of Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), Wessam Mankoula.

This is just as the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) successfully traced the Uber driver who transported the evacuated index patient to an earlier hospital in Abuja, bringing the number of primary contacts being monitored to 54.

The Director-General of the NCDC, Dr Jide Idris, disclosed this on Monday while speaking on Channels Television's *Politics Today*, saying the new contact was identified after health officials obtained additional information about the patient's movements before her diagnosis. Idris said the new development underscored the need for continued surveillance and contact tracing, despite the medical evacuation of the index patient and her husband to Switzerland.

"As it is now, yesterday was 54, right? One has left; the index case has left, so we had 53. Today, we got one more suspected case contact, who actually was the Uber driver who drove her before to the first hospital," he said.

The NCDC boss explained that health authorities were monitoring the identified con-

tacts for 21 days, corresponding to the maximum incubation period used for Ebola contact monitoring. He said more than 40 contacts were in quarantine facilities in Abuja, while six others were under home-based self-quarantine because their risk of infection was considered low.

According to him, those under home quarantine were being contacted regularly, with their temperatures monitored in the morning and evening to detect any changes in their clinical condition. Idris disclosed that three people who were retested after developing symptoms or showing changes in their clinical condition returned negative results.

He, however, warned that Nigeria was not yet out of danger, as health officials were still identifying and tracing contacts who might have been

exposed through the primary contacts. "We are not out of the woods yet until we are sure that all the contacts have been followed up. Because the index case is out doesn't mean that we don't have an active positive case," he said.

The NCDC director-general clarified that Nigeria currently had no confirmed active Ebola case following the evacuation of the index patient, but stressed that contact monitoring and investigations remained critical to preventing further transmission. He said health officials would systematically trace secondary contacts as more information emerged from interviews with those already identified.

CONFIRMING the medical evacuation of Nigeria's first imported Ebola virus disease patient from Abuja to Switzerland, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, said the December 7 date remained provisional, pending validation of the 42-day countdown by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Pre-

vention (NCDC) and the WHO. He added that any further confirmed case would require a fresh countdown in line with WHO criteria for declaring an Ebola outbreak over.

The minister said the patient departed Nigeria earlier on Monday after showing significant clinical improvement. According to him, she was stable, conscious, communicating and had clinical laboratory test results approaching baseline levels. However, Pate cautioned that the improvement did not necessarily mean the patient was no longer infectious, noting that strict public health protocols remained in place throughout the evacuation.

He said the patient was evacuated alongside her spouse, who had remained asymptomatic, and commended the clinical staff who provided care for the patient as well as public health personnel who ensured that the evacuation complied with appropriate public health measures.

Switzerland also confirmed receiving Nigeria's Ebola in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Arik receivership trial: Court admits AMCON's board resolutions

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

THE Lagos State Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja has admitted documents containing the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) Board resolutions on the receivership of Arik Air as evidence in the ongoing criminal trial of the corporation's former Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Kuru, and others.

Justice Mojisola Dada admitted the documents yesterday after hearing arguments from the prosecution and defence counsel on their relevance and admissibility.

The proceedings, however, resumed with the continued cross-examination of Bawa Usman Kaltungo.

During cross-examination, Kaltungo maintained that Kuru, as AMCON's Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, had unfettered powers and unilaterally sanctioned the receivership of Arik Air.

The defence counsel, Uyi Giwa-Osagie, tendered AMCON's Board resolutions to establish that the receivership was a corporate decision.

The prosecution objected to the relevance and admissibility of the documents.

However, after listening to arguments from both parties, Justice Dada ruled that the documents were relevant and admissible, noting that they emanated from AMCON's Board as a corporate body and were duly certified in accordance with Section 104 of the Evidence Act.

The court, which admitted the documents in evidence, adjourned further hearing of the matter to October 27.

Adeleke-led Tinubu campaign won't succeed in Osun without us, says Oyetola's camp

From Timothy Agbor, Osogbo

FRESH intrigues have emerged over the Osun State chapter of President Bola Tinubu's re-election Campaign Council, led by Governor Ademola Adeleke, as a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state and a strong loyalist of former Governor Gboyega Oyetola has warned that the Council will not succeed without carrying the Oyetola camp along.

In a video circulating on Facebook, the APC chieftain, speaking in Yoruba and said to be a supporter of Oyetola, who is the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, declared that the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) structure announced by Adeleke could not deliver Osun for Tinubu if key APC leaders are sidelined.

The warning came as Adeleke on Thursday, October 22, 2026, inaugurated a 344-member campaign council for Tinubu's 2027 re-election bid at the Oasis Event Centre, Osogbo.

Makinde urges Nigerians to join 'Reset' agenda

From John Akubo (Abuja), Isaac Chibuike and Tunde Bodunrin (Lagos)

THE presidential candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) for the 2027 election and Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has called on Nigerians to join him and his running mate, Lawal Daura, in the agenda to make Nigeria work for everybody.

Makinde, who spoke via video during the launch of the "MAD Resetter Movement" and the inauguration of RESET agent state coordinators in Lagos State, said the nation needs to reset its economy, security architecture, educational system, and socio-political environment.

"If Nigeria is not working for you right now, then you need to be a resetter," he said.

The Oyo State governor likened claims of a rising foreign reserve to a household where the head of the house

- Calls for economic, security reset at campaign group inauguration
- How I'll bring petrol price down to N200 per litre, by Adebayo
- 2027: Show how you'll fund campaign promises, Yusuf tackles political parties

tells members they have a lot of money in a savings account, yet everyone is hungry and not being taken towards prosperity or a point where they can stand alone.

"People in that household are not being taken towards prosperity, where they can stand alone and where the youths of that household can access opportunities and live their dreams," he said.

He wished the organisers well and encouraged them to also take the movement to other parts of Nigeria.

Also speaking at the event, former Aviation Minister and Director-General of the Makinde/Daura Presidential Campaign 2027, Felix Hyat, expressed delight at what the organisers were doing.

He questioned the government's claims that its policies are working when the people

are hungry, young graduates cannot get jobs, parents cannot sleep with their eyes closed, youths are out at night trying to protect their homes from bandits and kidnappers, and companies are exiting Nigeria for smaller countries.

He said a fraction of what God has given to Nigeria is more than what is in Ghana, and asked why Ghanaians are better off today.

RELATEDLY, the presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), Adewole Adebayo, has explained how his plan to reduce petrol prices to N200 per litre would be achieved when elected as President in 2027.

His proposal, according to him, will include a domestic crude oil supply arrangement that would prioritise

local refining to shield Nigerian consumers from international market price fluctuations.

Adebayo said his proposal would involve allocating 445,000 barrels of crude oil daily to domestic refineries, which would process the crude and supply petroleum products for local consumption under a framework designed to lower petrol prices.

HOWEVER, the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), Dr Muda Yusuf, has accused political parties of failing to explain how they would fund their promises on jobs, fuel prices and the cost of living ahead of the 2027 general elections.

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



Founder and Executive Vice Chairman, Baywood Group, Chris Baywood Ibe (left); Controller-General, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye, representing Lagos State Deputy Governor; Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Service, Shakiru Amodu; Managing Director, CBI Digital Media, Gbenga Adebija, and Lagos State African Democratic Congress (ADC) gubernatorial candidate, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, during the Burning Point: Inside Lagos Fire Documentary premiere and stakeholders' dialogue, organised by CBI News in Lagos, yesterday. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

OAU clarifies admission policy, reaffirms commitment to merit, equity

By Opeyemi Babalola

THE management of Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, has denied allegations of abandonment of merit and a deliberate effort to sideline Yoruba students in the admission process for the 2025/2026 academic session.

In a statement yesterday, the university's Public Relations Officer (PRO), Abiodun Olarewaju, while debunking the allegations made by Akin

Denies allegation of ethnic discrimination

Okunowo, a self-acclaimed National Leader of Anti-Cult Activities in Nigeria, clarified that the university's admission, renowned for its enduring reputation rooted in intellectual rigour, academic distinction and the pursuit of excellence, is conducted based on candidates' performance, the number of available spaces, programme-specific requirements and the applicable

admission criteria.

He stated that the criteria are within the framework of national policies, regulatory requirements and admission guidelines established by the Federal Government and the relevant statutory authorities responsible for university education in Nigeria.

He said: "The Federal Government's admission framework incorporates considerations of merit, geo-

graphical representation and the need to promote educational access and national integration. These considerations are reflected in the admission policies applicable to federal tertiary institutions, including the principles underpinning catchment areas and the policy for educationally disadvantaged states, as applicable under the relevant guidelines."

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

Hamzat, others urge united efforts to halt fire outbreaks

By Victor Gbonegun

LAGOS State Deputy Governor, Dr Obafemi Hamzat, yesterday, charged residents, market associations, government agencies and other critical stakeholders to deepen commitment to learning, improving coordination, and strengthening public awareness about fire disasters to avert potential loss of lives and property.

He said that no single institution could achieve fire safety in isolation but through effective and efficient inter-

agency coordination.

Hamzat gave the charge during the "Screening of burning point: Inside Lagos fire," a documentary premiere and stakeholders' dialogue organised by CBI digital media, a member company of Baywood Group, in Lagos.

The panellists include Country Director, ActionAid Nigeria, Andrew Mamedu; Assistant Executive Director, Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa (CAPPA), Zikorah Ibeh; ADC gubernatorial candidate

for Lagos State, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour; and Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Shakira Amodu, who spoke on: "Beyond the flames: Rethinking disaster preparedness, response and accountability in Nigeria."

The deputy governor, represented by the Director, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Margaret Adeseye, said every fire risk corrected before an incident is an opportunity to prevent injury, loss of life, and economic disruptions.

Hamzat also appealed to stakeholders to prioritise prevention, maintain operational readiness, and ensure that emergency responders have the support they need.

Founder & Executive Vice Chairman, Baywood Group, Chris Baywood Ibe, said that the critical conversation centred on how we prepare more effectively for emergencies, strengthen response systems and improve accountability to protect lives.

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

NACC holds roundtable on investor immigration programme

Abbas assures U.S. investors of security, business opportunities in Nigeria

From Joel Oladele, Abuja

THE Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce (NACC) has organised an exclusive executive breakfast roundtable discussion aimed at enlightening Nigerian business leaders, investors and high-net-worth individuals on opportunities available through the United States EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programme.

A statement signed by Deputy President of the Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce, Ehi Braimah, stated that the event, held recently, focused on the theme, "Exploring the U.S. EB-5 Immigrant Investor Programme: A Strategic Pathway to U.S. Permanent Residency and Global Mobility."

The discussion was designed to provide insights into how eligible investors can leverage the EB-5 programme to pursue permanent residency in the United States through qualifying investments, among others.

MEANWHILE, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, has assured American investors of business opportunities and security in Nigeria, urging them to explore the country's economic potential.

Abbas, represented by the House Majority Leader, Julius Ihonvbere, gave the assurance yesterday in Abuja when a delegation of the United States Chamber of Commerce visited him.

Rise Networks partners INEC, big techs on AI hackathon ahead of 2027 polls

By Opeyemi Babalola

RISE Networks, in collaboration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Meta, Google, Microsoft and other partners, has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) hackathon to develop technology solutions to electoral challenges ahead of Nigeria's 2027 general elections.

According to a statement yesterday, the #AI4Elections Hackathon 2026-2027 will bring together Nigerian developers, researchers, university students, electoral experts, and civil society organisations to develop practical, responsible AI tools to support electoral processes.

Participants will be competing for N10 million in cash prizes across all categories. The overall winner will receive N4 million, while the second- and third-place winners will receive N2.5 million and N1.5 million, respectively.

Four additional awards of N500,000 each will recognise outstanding projects in research and policy innovation, electoral and civic inclusion and others.

PETAN rallies \$6b investment to raise oil output to 3m barrels

By Waliat Musa

THE Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) has estimated that the country needs about \$6 billion in oil and gas equipment and hardware to raise crude oil production to three million barrels per day, identifying funding constraints, inadequate infrastructure and skills gaps as major challenges to achieving the target.

PETAN Chairman, Wole

Delta APC pledges issue-based campaign, warns against electoral violence

Group rallies Cross River youths for Tinubu, Otu

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) in Delta State has pledged to conduct an issue-based campaign ahead of the 2027 general elections, warning politicians and their supporters against violence, inflammatory statements, and other actions that could threaten the prevailing peace in the state.

The party also declared that it would not resort to electoral malpractice, insisting that its campaign would be anchored on the performance of President Bola Tinubu's administration at the federal level and Governor Sheriff Oborevwori's government in Delta State.

The Chairman of the Media and Publicity Committee of the Delta State APC Campaign Council, Mr Charles Aniagwu, gave the assurance yesterday in Asaba while unveiling the committee's members to journalists.

2027: Udey rallies constituents for Mbah, Tinubu's re-election

Group endorses Oti, Anyaso, rejects third-term bid for Bende Reps

By Silver Nwokoro

THE Chief of Staff to the Enugu State Governor, Victor Udeh, has urged members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Enugu West Senatorial District to mobilise support for the re-election of Governor Peter Mbah, President Bola Tinubu and other party candidates in the 2027 general elections.

Udeh made the call at the APC Enugu West Zonal Meeting held at the Awgu Local Council Headquarters at the weekend, citing the Mbah administration's investments in education, healthcare, aviation and infrastructure as reasons for the people to support the government's development agenda.

He highlighted the establishment of Enugu Air, the construction of 268 Smart Green Schools and 260 Type-2 Primary Healthcare Centres, as well as the ongoing international hospital project.

Ogunsanya, disclosed this at a media roundtable organised by the association in Lagos yesterday, where he called for strategic investment, improved access to financing and stronger local capacity to unlock Nigeria's oil and gas potential.

He said Nigeria had the resources and market to expand production but lacked sufficient wells, surface equipment and midstream pipelines to bridge the gap between existing output and the country's potential requirements.

"So, we estimated that we need about \$6 billion of equip-

ment and hardware to get to that three million barrels of oil that we need to get," he said

He explained that the industry's capacity constraints had become more pressing as refining investments expanded, with the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, the planned rehabilitation of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited's (NNPC) refineries and other proposed private projects creating additional demand for crude oil.

According to him, Nigeria currently produces about 1.7 million barrels of oil daily, while the country's refining capacity could reach approxi-

mately three million barrels daily if the planned and existing projects achieve their potential.

He cited the Dangote refinery's 650,000 barrels-per-day capacity, the NNPC refineries' combined potential capacity of 450,000 barrels daily and the proposed 350,000 barrels-per-day refinery by BUA Group, alongside plans by Dangote to expand its facility.

However, he noted that the NNPC refineries still needed to be restored to operation, adding that the national oil company was working with Chinese partners on a rehabilitation arrangement.

Ogunsanya said the growing refining capacity presented an opportunity for Nigeria to sustain crude production even when international oil prices declined, rather than allowing the industry to follow the boom-and-bust pattern that had characterised its operations.

"Because we need to feed our refinery. People in Nigeria will continue to drive. Whether the oil price is high or low, the refined products are going to be exported," he added.

The PETAN chairman argued that sustained production would require deliberate planning and investment in

equipment before prices improved, allowing Nigeria to respond quickly when market conditions become favourable.

He said the country had struggled to produce enough crude despite the recovery in oil prices following the COVID-19 pandemic, while producers elsewhere had continued preparing their operations to capitalize on market opportunities.

Faro seeks audit of 2023 elections

From Adewale Momoh, Akure

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate for Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency in Ondo State, Babatunde Faro, has called for a comprehensive audit of the country's last general election and urgent reforms by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ahead of the 2027 polls.

According to Faro, unresolved failures in electronic transmission and voter accreditation could erode public confidence.

The PDP candidate, who stated this during a press briefing in Akure, the state capital, urged INEC to identify the shortcomings recorded in previous elections and the country's effective measures before the next general election.

He said the commission must address the reported failure of the electronic transmission system and the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), which he said produced chaos during the last presidential election, and ensure that voters' choices are respected.

Diri unveils digital learning innovations at Bayelsa varsity

GOVERNOR of Bayelsa State, Douye Diri, has unveiled Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered robotic tutors and other digital learning innovations at the Bayelsa Medical University (BMU), Yenagoa, as part of efforts to advance medical education, research and technological development in the state.

The innovations were unveiled yesterday alongside the university's 2025-2029 Strategic Plan, with the governor urging the institution to deploy technology to improve teaching, learning and research without replacing physical classroom interactions and the mentorship role of lecturers.

Diri described the initiative as a significant step towards modernising medical education but stressed that digital tools must complement human instruction and make learning more interactive.

He challenged the university's management to translate its strategic plan into measurable improvements in academic standards, research, infrastructure and the quality of graduates.



Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri (left), Vice Chancellor, Bayelsa Medical University (BMU), Prof. Dimie Ogoina; Commissioner for Education, Dr Gentle Emelah; Secretary to the State Government, Prof. Nimibofa Ayawei, and other officials of the university during the unveiling of Robotic Tutors, other digital learning tools, and inauguration of two auditoriums at the BMU campus in Yenagoa, yesterday.

FG, trade unions seek social protection for informal workers

THE Federal Government and the Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA) have called for expanded social protection coverage, particularly for workers in the informal economy across West Africa.

The call was made yesterday at the opening of a two-day regional workshop organised by OTUWA in collaboration with the Danish Trade Union Development Agency (DTDA) in Abuja.

The Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr Muhammad Dingyadi, said millions of workers remained excluded from for-

mal social security systems despite their contributions to economic growth, agriculture, trade and other productive activities.

Dingyadi, represented by the Assistant Director, Social Security in the ministry, Mr Aper Ifi, described social protection as fundamental to safeguarding human dignity, reducing poverty and promoting equality.

According to him, expanding social protection coverage is essential to ensuring that workers, irrespective of their employment status, have access to adequate social security benefits.

"It helps in reducing poverty, promoting equality and ensuring that no worker is left behind," the minister said.

He urged governments, trade unions, employers and development partners to move beyond policy discussions and take practical steps towards making social protection accessible, affordable, inclusive and sustainable.

Dingyadi also called on trade unions to champion universal social protection by organising informal economy workers and ensuring that vulnerable groups were adequately represented in national and regional policy

decisions. He expressed optimism that the workshop would produce practical recommendations, strengthen regional cooperation and promote the portability of social security benefits where applicable.

The Acting President of OTUWA, Mrs Sophie Kourouma, said social protection coverage in West Africa stood at 16 per cent, below the African average of 19.1 per cent.

"West Africa is lagging behind the rest of the regions on our continent in social protection coverage," Kourouma said.

NYSC, UNN disowned Nnaji's certificates, ICPC witness tells court

From Ameh Ochojila, Abuja

A FEDERAL High Court in Abuja yesterday heard that the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN) and the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) disowned the degree and discharge certificates allegedly presented by former Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Uche Nnaji, to the Senate during his screening.

An investigator with the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Yakubu Ibrahim, disclosed this while testifying as the first prosecution witness in

the trial of the former minister.

Nnaji is facing a six-count charge marked FHC/ABJ/CR/389/2026, bordering on alleged corruption, fraud, conferring corrupt advantage and providing false information through the alleged presentation of forged university degree and national service certificates.

Led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, J. A. Mumini, the ICPC investigator said he was part of the agency's team that investigated two petitions against the defendant.

He told the court that the team wrote to UNN to

authenticate the Bachelor of Science certificate in Microbiology/Biochemistry that Nnaji allegedly submitted to the Senate.

He said the university responded that it did not issue the certificate. The witness added that the team also contacted the NYSC regarding a 1989 discharge certificate that the defendant allegedly presented.

He said the NYSC equally responded that it did not issue the certificate. Ibrahim further told the court that UNN supplied the investigators with the defendant's academic records, including a notice of withdrawal

issued over his failure to obtain the required grade in a course.

When shown copies of the correspondence between the ICPC and the two institutions, the witness identified them, after which the prosecution sought to tender them in evidence.

Defence counsel, Wole Olanipekun, said he would allow the documents to be admitted at that stage but reserve his objection until later. On the steps taken to interview the defendant, Ibrahim said the head of his section issued an invitation, but investigators could not locate his address.

Senate: Northern caucus seeks security base in River Benue axis

From John Akubo, Abuja

WORRIED about the deadly attack on Binari community in Karim Lamido Local Council Area of Taraba State, in which about 50 people were killed, the Northern Senators Forum has called for a Forward Operating Base along the River Benue corridor to stem terrorist attacks and killings.

The forum also demanded intelligence-led patrols

• Over 50 victims buried after Taraba gunmen attack

along the Kompany-Asusar route to prevent further killings and protect vulnerable communities.

The attack last Friday reportedly claimed the lives of worshippers, vigilantes, women and children shortly after Juma'at prayers in Karim-Lamido Local Council Area.

In a condolence message yesterday, the chairman of the forum, Senator

Abdulaziz Musa Yar'Adua, described the killings as barbaric and expressed sympathy with the bereaved families and the government.

According to the senators, the proposed Forward Operating Base and intelligence-driven patrols along the Kompany-Asusar route would improve surveillance and help prevent further attacks.

The forum urged the

police, Department of State Services (DSS) and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to strengthen operations and coordinate efforts to restore security. It stressed that the response must go beyond relief efforts to the identification and prosecution of the perpetrators.

The forum also appealed to the National Emergency Management Agency and well-meaning Nigerians to provide urgent humanitari-

an assistance to affected residents, particularly displaced families.

Meanwhile, a resident of Binnari community told *BBC Hausa* that the attack has left the community in fear and confusion, recalling that the attackers invaded the community on no fewer than 150 motorcycles and started shooting indiscriminately.

For their part, the Taraba State Police Command said the death toll has reached 48, with the police

spokesperson, Victor Mshelizah, saying the figure increased after 23 additional bodies were recovered on Sunday.

The police added that investigations showed that some victims drowned while trying to escape from the attackers, while others were killed in nearby forests.

However, residents maintain that over 50 people died in the incident for which no group has yet claimed responsibility.

Court rejects el-Rufai's no-case plea in phone-tapping trial

From Ameh Ochojilla, Abuja

AFEDERAL High Court in Abuja has rejected the no-case submission by the former governor of Kaduna State, Nasir el-Rufai, in his ongoing trial over an alleged unlawful interception of the telephone communications of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu.

Dismissing the no-case submission yesterday on the grounds of sufficient evidence, Justice Joyce Abdulmalik asked el-Rufai to enter his defence, if he so wishes, and adjourned the case till November 25 for defence.

The former governor is being prosecuted by the Department of State Services (DSS) on a five-count amended charge.

Representing the prosecution during the hearing of the no-case submission on September 22, Oluwole Aladedoye, SAN, had faulted the no-case submission, urging the court to dismiss it and order the defendant to enter his defence.

NDPHC begins N7.5MVA power project in Kaduna community

By Waliat Musa

AFTER 15 years of poor electricity supply, residents and businesses at Rigasa community in Igabi Local Council Area of Kaduna State are set to benefit from improved electricity supply following the commencement of a Niger Delta Power Holding Company Limited (NDPHC) project designed to address years of inadequate power access.

The project, which includes a two-kilometre 11kV line, a 1.5-kilometre 33kV line and a 7.5MVA, 33/11kV injection sub-station, is expected to strengthen electricity distribution in the community.

Facilitated by the Bola Ahmed Tinubu Ideological Group (BAT-IG), the project reached a major milestone yesterday with a groundbreaking ceremony performed by Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani.

The governor, represented by the Deputy Governor, Dr Hadiza Balarabe, described the NDPHC intervention as a life-saving initiative that would ease the community's longstanding electricity challenges.



Director, General Services, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Mrs Yetunde Baderinwa (left); representative of the Director-General, Nura Umar; and the Director, Community Development Service and Special Projects, Chiwendu Chukwu, during the maiden workshop organised for NYSC Occupational Health, Safety and Environment Schedule Officers in Abuja yesterday.

PHOTO: NAN

NSA, UN warn terrorists using AI to recruit, spread fear across Africa

From Sodiq Omolayo, Abuja

TERRORIST groups are increasingly exploiting artificial intelligence (AI), digital platforms and synthetic media to recruit members, spread fear and expand their operations across Africa, the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, and United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed, have warned.

They spoke yesterday at the opening of the High-Level African Lessons Learned Forum on Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, Intelligence Sharing and Emerging Technologies in Abuja.

Hosted by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) of the Office of the National Security Adviser, the forum aims to strengthen

intelligence sharing, regional cooperation, and technology-driven responses to terrorism and violent extremism across the continent.

In his keynote address, Ribadu said Africa was facing an increasingly complex security environment, with terrorist groups exploiting porous borders, local grievances, illicit financial networks, misinformation and online radicalisation to advance their activities.

According to him, the evolving threats require sustained cooperation, stronger intelligence coordination and practical exchanges of experience among African countries.

The NSA said AI, digital communications, encrypted platforms, drones, synthetic

media and other technological tools were reshaping the threat landscape, presenting risks when exploited by terrorist groups.

However, adding that they also offer “opportunities for early warning, threat analysis, digital investigation, strategic communications, border security and the protection of vulnerable communities,” Ribadu said, “our task is to ensure that technology is used responsibly, lawfully and effectively in support of peace and security.”

He noted that Nigeria had adopted a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to counter-terrorism and to prevent and counter violent extremism.

According to him, intelligence sharing is central to

effective cooperation because terrorist networks operate across borders, communicate through multiple platforms and finance their activities through transnational channels.

He called on participants to develop concrete outcomes, including stronger professional networks, training opportunities and sustained technical cooperation among African counter-terrorism institutions.

In her remarks delivered virtually, Mohammed noted that terrorism has claimed lives, displaced communities, closed schools and health facilities, disrupted markets and undermined development in parts of Africa, including the Lake Chad Basin and areas of eastern and southern Africa.

One-third of Nigerian children trapped in child labour, says IFI

From Ernest Nzor, Abuja

ABOUT one-third of Nigerian children aged between five and 17 years are estimated to be engaged in child labour, which affects their education and exposes millions to workplace injuries, an Inclusive Futures Initiative (IFI) report has claimed.

The report estimates that out of 62.9 million Nigerian children in the age bracket, approximately 24.6 million are involved in child labour, highlighting the persistent challenges in protecting children's rights and ensuring access to education.

IFI Executive Director, Lucy Okonkwo, disclosed this in

Abuja during the presentation of the report and the unveiling of IFI's inaugural knowledge products.

Of the figures, about 22 per cent of girls are reportedly prevented from attending school by their families. Also, over 30 per cent of Nigerian girls marry before the age of 18, and 12.3 per cent marry before turning 15, with Bauchi State having the highest rate.

She explained that the knowledge products are aimed at strengthening the protection of women, children and young people through evidence-based policy-making, institutional collaboration and improved accountability.

Okonkwo added that evidence-based interventions were critical to identifying gaps in existing policies and developing effective responses to the problems confronting women, children and young people.

Meanwhile, IFI board member, Adenike Aloba, said Nigeria has invested considerable resources in advocacy, research and programmes to advance the rights of women, children and young people.

However, Aloba noted that many challenges have persisted because interventions were often implemented in isolation. To that end, she said IFI was promoting a systems-based approach that

would enable organisations to identify gaps, share expertise, and coordinate their activities to achieve measurable results.

Also, the Chief Executive Officer of Luminate, Melanie Hui, said that the growing influence of technology across sectors had made collaboration increasingly important for tackling emerging social challenges.

She stressed that supporting initiatives such as IFI would help communities shape a digital future that reflects their aspirations, rather than allowing technology companies to become the sole determinants of how digital technologies affect people's lives.

Kwara community rejects gov's chosen monarch

From Mansur Aramide, Ilorin

THERE is tension at Ayedun town in Oke-Ero Local Council Area of Kwara State following the people's rejection of the appointment of Jide Towoju as the new traditional ruler.

In a protest letter to Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, the traditional ruling houses of Ayedun described the appointment as contrary to custom, tradition and the law, calling for an urgent reversal of Towoju's appointment to avert a breakdown of law and order.

Signed on behalf of the kingdom by the Head of Ile Ala Ruling House, Emmanuel Arifajogun, and the Head of Ebiohun Ruling House, Simeon Fadeyi, the petition insisted that the right to nominate a candidate to fill the vacant stool falls exclusively on the royal houses, in accordance with the extant law and Ayedun's age-old custom.

According to the petitioners, the state government announced Towoju as the new first-class traditional ruler on October 23, as against Oluayemi Adetiba, from the Ile-Ala Ruling House, whose nomination was duly submitted by the ruling houses and the kingmakers' council after performing all necessary traditional rites and consultations.

Sowore mobilises Abuja residents for Tinubu-Must-Go rally

THE presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC), Omoyele Sowore, has announced plans for a mega campaign against President Bola Tinubu's administration in Abuja.

Addressing his supporters yesterday at the Federal High Court in Abuja after a hearing in the case filed against him by the Department of State Services (DSS) for allegedly calling Tinubu a criminal, Sowore said the Tinubu-Must-Go rally would commence in the nation's capital today.

He urged his supporters to mobilise other residents of the Federal Capital Territory to participate in the rally, predicting that a revolution was about to begin in Nigeria.

According to the activist, revolutions are taking place in France and other developed countries, and it is time for Nigeria to experience its own. Sowore said Nigeria has little time left before Tinubu's regime becomes a thing of the past, adding that the current affliction shall never be inflicted on citizens a second time.

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Trapped demolition worker found dead as LASEMA concludes rescue operation

By Bertram Nwannekanma

A worker trapped beneath the rubble of a storey building that collapsed during manual demolition at Adedoyin Street, Ijegan, Ikotun, Lagos, has been recovered dead, the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) has said.

The recovery brought the rescue operation at the scene to an end following the collapse, which was reported at about 1:44 p.m. yesterday.

Another worker, who sustained an injury to his hand, had been taken to hospital for treatment before the emergency response team arrived.

In an update on the incident, LASEMA's Permanent Secretary, Dr Olufemi Damilola Oke-Osanyintolu,

Emergency agency clears three traffic incidents across Lagos

said the agency's response team, working with personnel from its Cappa and Igando bases, the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service and the Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS), successfully extricated the trapped worker.

He said the victim was recovered dead, adding that the body was placed in a body bag and handed over to the Nigeria Police Force, Ikotun Division, in the presence of the Divisional Police Officer.

The body was subsequently released to the family in line with established procedures.

The scene has been cordoned off to prevent further hazards and allow the relevant authorities to assess the site.

The Lagos State Government expressed condolences to the

deceased's family and wished the injured worker a speedy recovery. It also pledged to investigate the circumstances surrounding the collapse and determine whether building control regulations were observed.

The government urged developers, property owners and contractors to comply with building regulations and engage qualified professionals for demolition and construction work to prevent similar incidents.

Meanwhile, LASEMA said its response teams had concluded operations at three other traffic-related incidents across the state.

At Iyana-Oworo, inward Third Mainland Bridge, the agency's Tiger Team from the

C3 Base responded to an accident involving a Lexus Jeep with registration number BDG 404 KA, which reportedly somersaulted after the driver lost control.

The vehicle was extensively damaged, while an adult male sustained injuries and had been taken to hospital before responders arrived. No death was recorded.

The team secured the scene, managed traffic and arranged for a private tow truck to move the vehicle to a lay-by, restoring normal traffic flow.

In another incident, an empty gas tanker with registration number T30015LA reportedly suffered brake failure while ascending the hilly Paramount Road near Okeabata Junction, along Ayetoro Road, Epe.



Rescuers extricating the trapped victim

Rights groups advocate stronger laws, safer schools to end child marriage

By Isaac Chibuike

WOMEN'S rights organisations have called for stricter enforcement of child-protection laws, safer schools and better access to education to protect girls from child marriage in Nigeria.

The organisations, operating under the Renewed Women's Voice and Leadership Nigeria (RWVL-N) Project, urged governments, parents and community leaders to challenge practices that push girls into early marriage and support them to complete their education.

The call was made during activities marking the International Month of the Girl-Child, themed, "End Child Marriage; Invest in Girls' Rights."

The activities featured schools' engagements, debates, drama presentations and online discussions aimed at raising awareness of the dangers of child marriage and promoting girls' rights.

In Abuja, the Association of Women in Social Work and Humanitarian Activities Network (ASWHAN) engaged

students and teachers at Spiritan International Girls Secondary School, Lugbe, urging parents and guardians to prioritise girls' education and protect them from early marriage.

In Bauchi, the Fahimta Women and Youth Development Initiative (FAWOY-DI) brought together schoolgirls from Alkalari, Bauchi and Ganjuwa local councils at Government Girls College, Bauchi, for a drama presentation and debate on ending child marriage.

FAWOYDI's Executive Director, Amina Suleiman, said early marriage robs girls of their childhood, interrupts their education and exposes them to adult responsibilities before they are ready.

She, therefore, called for stronger child-protection systems, safer schools, mentorship opportunities, vocational training and life-skills development to help girls resist early marriage and build independent futures.

EFCC arraigns businessman over alleged N23 million theft

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday arraigned a businessman, Oladipo Akanle, and his company, Avalanche Trade 1307, before a Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja over the alleged theft of N23 million mistakenly transferred into his Zenith Bank account.

The EFCC prosecutor, James Banjo, told the court that the money belonged to Chinedu Iyizoba and was allegedly

stolen by the defendants after it was erroneously transferred into Akanle's account in January 2023.

Banjo said the alleged offence contravened Section 278(2)(a) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.

Akanle, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Following the plea, the prosecutor asked the court to fix a trial date and remand the defendant in a correctional centre. He also informed the

court that the defence counsel, Lanre Ogunlese, had just served him with a bail application.

Moving the application, Ogunlese urged the court to release his client to him, assuring the judge that he would ensure Akanle attended his trial.

The Senior Advocate told the court that Akanle had refunded N10 million, leaving an outstanding balance of N13 million. He argued that the amount still in dispute was N13

million, rather than the original N23 million, because of the part payment.

Making a personal appeal for leniency, Ogunlese described Akanle as a son to him, explaining that the defendant's late father was his former schoolmate who died in a plane crash while travelling to Malawi.

He added that the defendant's parents were family friends and that he had promised to personally handle the case when he was contacted.

Court faults Lagos govt over failure to produce evidence in Adamakin suit

By Bertram Nwannekanma

JUSTICE Fimisola Azeez of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, yesterday, expressed displeasure with the state government's failure to present facts and evidence to support its position in a suit filed by Adamakin Investment & Works Limited over restrictions placed on the company's land title records.

When the suit marked No. ID/8890GCM/2024 came up yesterday, Justice Azeez maintained that the

defendants had been given sufficient time to present the evidence supporting their position.

The suit was filed by Adamakin Investment & Works Limited and its chairman and promoter, Akinfolabi Akindele, against the Lagos State Attorney General and other government officials and agencies over a restriction reportedly placed on the company's title records at the Lagos State Land Registry.

During the proceedings, a representative of the Attorney

General's office told the court that the government intended to serve an application relating to the matter and was still awaiting evidence in connection with the case.

The explanation, however, did not satisfy the court.

Justice Azeez rejected the request for more time, expressing displeasure that the government had yet to present the facts and supporting evidence needed to establish the basis of its position.

The absence of Akindele's

lawyer also featured in the proceedings, although the claimant was present in court.



Ejigbo residents lament illegal dumpsite as LAWMA clears Oshodi waste backlog

By Eniola Daniel

RESIDENTS of Iyana Ejigbo in Lagos State have expressed concern over the continued use of an unauthorised dumpsite in their neighbourhood, nearly two months after the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) promised to investigate the matter and take appropriate action.

The development comes as LAWMA intensifies efforts to clear accumulated refuse across Oshodi, announcing on October 25 that it had evacuated the waste backlog

in Afariogun Ward and handed the area over to its Private Sector Participation (PSP) operator for sustained collection.

The contrasting situations have raised concerns among residents of Iyana Ejigbo, where a pit stretching from Apata to Pastor Ojediran Street and adjoining streets has allegedly been used for waste disposal for months without official approval.

The Guardian reported the illegal dumping on September 11, 2026, prompting the newspaper to contact LAWMA.

The authority's Director of Public Affairs, Mukaila Sanusi, denied that the agency had

approved the site and promised that appropriate action would be taken.



The illegal dumpsite at Ejigbo

PHOTO: ENIOLA DANIEL

Police probe deaths of man, teenage girl found in car in Rivers

From Godfrey Gabriel, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State Police Command has launched an investigation into the deaths of a man and a teenage girl whose bodies were found inside a Toyota Corolla in Mgboushimini community, Obio/Akpor Local Council of the state.

The command's spokesperson, ASP Blessing Agabe, confirmed the incident in a text message, saying an investigation had commenced

to establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths and determine their cause.

She, however, did not provide further details.

Unconfirmed reports indicate that the man's wife is pregnant and had previously confronted the girl over an alleged relationship with her husband.

The identities of the deceased and the circumstances surrounding their deaths had yet to be officially established as of yesterday.

Hot Lines: 08034990344 and 08160223638

Kula boat tragedy: Four days of anguish as search ends with seven dead

From Ann Godwin, Port Harcourt

FOR four days, families in Kula Kingdom, Rivers State, clung to the hope that their loved ones who disappeared after a boat incident on the community's waterways might still be found alive. But on Saturday, that hope gave way to grief when the search teams recovered the bodies of the last two missing victims, bringing the death toll to seven. The victims were identified as Davies Opiri, Secretary of the Kula Community Development Committee (CDC), and David Sukubo, younger

brother of the Chairman of the Eastern Zone of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), Datolu Sukubo. Their bodies were found among the creeks and mangroves around Robertkiri, four days after the incident occurred on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. Community leaders, divers, local vigilantes and fishermen participated in the search, combing the waterways for the missing men. After the recovery, the bodies were taken to the Abonnema Divisional Police Headquarters, where relatives identified them before they were de-

posited at a morgue in Port Harcourt. The recovery ended the search but did little to ease the

anger in Kula Kingdom, where community leaders and youth organisations are demanding accountability



Scene of the incident

and compensation for the bereaved families. The incident occurred while a speedboat carrying 15 people was reportedly caught up in events surrounding the departure of the Anambra Basin, a crude oil vessel operated by Max Shipping Services Limited, a subsidiary of the Ibeto Group, from the Kula coastal waters after completing operations in the area. Eight people survived, while seven died. The circumstances surrounding the incident remain disputed, with community leaders alleging that the deaths resulted from a delib-

erate act rather than an accident. The Ibeto Group, however, had earlier denied direct responsibility for the dispute that preceded the incident. Leader of the search and rescue team and a prominent Kula indigene, Sukubo Sara-Igbe Sukubo, while speaking after the recovery of the final two bodies, accused the company of being responsible for the deaths. He alleged that the company's founder, Cletus Ibeto, had threatened to crush and kill anyone who attempts to block the waterways to prevent the vessel from leaving the area. "These are people who have

Group decries neglect of children with disabilities, urges early intervention

By Eniola Daniel

ANON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation, Obimi, has decried the neglect of children living with disabilities in Nigeria, saying that poverty, stigma and inadequate support have forced some parents to keep their children indoors, denying them opportunities to learn, develop their abilities and participate in the society. The organisation, which said it had spent 13 years advocating inclusion and supporting persons with disabilities, called for early diagnosis and intervention to help affected children reach their full potential. Its Founder, Helen Ewumi, made the call during a community outreach in Ijaiye, Itire, Lagos, where she distributed clothes, food items, school bags, notebooks and fi-

• 'I asked God if autism was a punishment'

nancial assistance to persons with disabilities and their parents. Ewumi, a UK-based social worker, said caring for children with disabilities should be a national concern, urging individuals, organisations and government at all levels to work together to promote inclusion and eliminate stigma. Obimi, which means "my parent" or "my parents", according to the organisation, brought parents together to reassure them that they were not alone in their struggles and to encourage them to seek appropriate support for their children. "We brought parents of persons living with disabilities to-

gether to show them that they are not alone in their struggles, that the condition was not caused by witches or witchcraft, and that it is not their fault. God gave them these children, and they need to take care of them," she said. Comparing support systems in the United Kingdom and Nigeria, Ewumi said stigma remained a challenge in both countries, but access to early intervention and specialised services made a significant difference. She lamented that many Nigerian children with disabilities had never received speech and language therapy or adequate educational and psychological support, while some had never attended school. "Through schooling, they can unlock their full potential, which otherwise remains hidden. It is stressful being a caregiver, but no one sees that aspect," she said. Drawing from her experience as a parent of autistic children, Ewumi said early intervention had helped her children thrive, attend school and prepare for independent lives. "They can get jobs and get married. I think it is important to establish this in Nigeria and work with government at all levels, as well as organisations, to train teachers," she said.

HURIWA urges IGP to tackle bail extortion, probe song threatening Enugu Christians

By Ayonote Clement

THE Human Rights Writers Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) has urged the Inspector-General of Police, Rilwan Disu, to establish a dedicated complaints line and order unannounced inspections of police stations nationwide to curb alleged bail extortion and other human rights abuses. It also called on the police and the Department of State Services (DSS) to investigate a song allegedly threatening an armed attack on Christians in Enugu State. In separate statements yesterday and signed by its National Coordinator, Emmanuel Nnadozie Onwubiko, the Association said the two issues required urgent action to protect citizens, strengthen accountability and prevent threats to public safety from escalating. On alleged police misconduct, HURIWA said the police leadership must move beyond public assurances that bail is free and demonstrate its commitment to accountability through effective monitoring, accessible complaint channels and sanctions against erring officers. The Association, however, expressed particular concern about the Tiger Base facility in Owerri, Imo State, which it said, required urgent scrutiny. It also cited concerns raised by civil society organ-

isations, including the Amnesty International (AI), over police conduct and alleged human rights violations in the state. HURIWA alleged that some police officers in Imo State demanded payment before accepting complaints or investigating reported crimes, placing additional burdens on victims seeking assistance. It said similar concerns had been raised in Anambra, Lagos, Kaduna and Rivers states. The Association maintained that police stations must remain accessible to all citizens and must not become places where unofficial payments determine access to justice or personal liberty.



Founder of Obimi, Helen Ewumi (left), members of the group and children with disabilities during the event. PHOTO: ENIOLA DANIEL

Police arrest two suspects over alleged theft, sexual assault in Ogun, C'River

From Segun Ayinde (Abeokuta) and Tina Agosi Todo (Calabar)

THE police in Ogun and Cross River states have arrested two suspects in separate cases involving alleged theft of a motorcycle and a generator, and the rape of an 11-year-old girl. In Ogun State, operatives of the state police command arrested a man, Adam Muhammed, in connection with the alleged theft of a motorcycle and a generator in Itori, Ewekoro Local Council. The suspect was arrested at about 7.30 a.m. on Sunday after a motorist alerted the police to a suspicious tricycle conveying the items. The motorist reportedly sighted an unregistered tricycle carrying a grey Haojue Lady motorcycle and a Firman generator, with two passengers on

board, at Onigbedu, Itori. Suspecting that the items might have been stolen, the motorist alerted the police while trailing the tricycle to Complex Junction, Itori, towards Papalanto. The Police Public Relations Officer in Ogun State, Oluseyi Babaseyi, confirmed the arrest in a statement issued in

Abeokuta yesterday. He said operatives of the Ewekoro Divisional Police Headquarters moved swiftly to intercept the tricycle after receiving the report. According to him, the two occupants attempted to flee, but Muhammed was apprehended after a chase, while efforts were ongoing to arrest

his fleeing accomplice. Babaseyi said preliminary investigations had linked the recovered motorcycle and generator to a reported theft in Itori. He added that the suspect remained in custody as detectives continued investigations to establish the circumstances surrounding the incident and apprehend other persons involved. The Commissioner of Police, Bode Ojajuni, commended the operatives for their prompt response and praised the motorist for alerting the police. Ojajuni said timely intelligence and effective police action were essential to preventing crime and protecting property. He, therefore, urged residents to remain vigilant and report suspicious movements and activities promptly.



Suspect

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Experience in public sector administration and operations will be an added advantage

REMUNERATION

Government Grade Level 15

2. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIST/DEVELOPER

Qualification:

- B.Sc or HND in Computer Science or any related field.
- Certificate in Information Technology System Analysis, Data Analysis, Data Networking, Information Security, Risk Assessment and Computer Administration, Web Development and Portal Development & Management
- Good Communication Skills
- Membership of CPN, VIRA and other relevant professional bodies

EXPERIENCE:

Minimum of 3 years post qualification experience

REMUNERATION

Government Grade Level 8

Interested Candidates who meet the above stated requirements should send their applications and resume with copies of their credentials within seven (7) days from the date of this publication to:

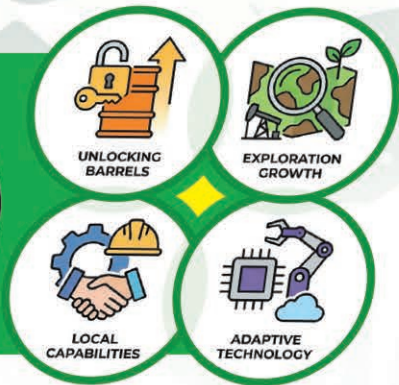
climaxhr2@gmail.com

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44th

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ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
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8-12 NOV. 2026
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Theme
Unlocking More Barrels:
Driving Reserves Growth
through Exploration,
Local Capabilities, &
Adaptive Technology



Theme

Unlocking More Barrels: Driving Reserves Growth through Exploration, Local Capabilities, & Adaptive Technology

Registration

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Members (fin. not up-to-date): N200,000
Non-Members : N180,000
Lecturers (fin. up-to-date): N120,000
Lecturers (fin. not up-to-date): N160,000
Students (fin. up-to-date): N50,000
Students (fin. not up-to-date): N90,000
Non-students: N70,000
International: \$370

OPENING CEREMONY Mon, 9 Nov, 2026 | 9:00am



His Excellency
Babajide Sanwo-Olu,
CON
Executive Governor
Lagos State



His Excellency
Lucky Aiyedatiwa
Executive Governor
Ondo State



Sen. Heineken
Lokpobiri Ph.D
Honourable Minister of State
Petroleum Resources (OIL)
Federal Republic of Nigeria



Ms. Olubukola A.
Verheijen
Special Adviser on Energy
to the President of Nigeria



Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa
Eyesan
Commission Chief Executive,
NUPRC



Engr. Effiong U.
Okon, FNSE, FEI
Chief Executive Officer,
Seplat Energy Plc



Dr. Moji Davids
MD, Xtralarge Farms
& Resorts

ALL CONVENTION LUNCHEON Mon, 9 Nov, 2025 | 1:00pm

MANAGEMENT SESSION Tue, 10 Nov, 2026 | 9:00am



Bismark J. Rewane
CEO, Financial Derivatives
Company Limited



Oritsemeyiwa
Eyesan
CCE, NUPRC



Engr. Effiong U.
Okon, FNSE, FEI
MD/CEO, Seplat Energy Plc



Ademola
Adeyemi-Bero
MD/CEO, OPEC Governor
First E & P Dev. Company Ltd.



Dr. Oluseyi
Oladapo,
CEO, Pan Ocean Oil Corp. Nig.
Ltd, Newcross Company



David Bird
MD/CEO,
Dangote Refinery Ltd.



Adebawale
Olujimi
CEO,
EMADEB Energy Group



Adesola Adebawo
CEO & Lead Partner,
Hyphen Partners Ltd.

TECH-BUSINESS FORUM Tue, 10 Nov, 2026 | 2:00pm



Wadii El Karkouri
EVP Technology, TDS



Dr. Johnbosco
Uche, FNAP
VP, Exploration, Renaissance
Africa Energy Company



Taofeek Ogunyemi
General Manager,
SLB



Deepak Khurana
Vice President, Halliburton,
Nigeria Area



Chioma Ekeh
Chief Executive Officer,
TD Africa



ThankGod Egbe
CEO & Technical Director,
CypherCrescent



Engr. Wole
OGUNSANYA,
FNSE
Deputy Director, Basinal
Administration, NUPRC



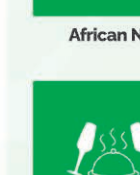
Ahmad Abdullahi
Al-Bako
Technical Director,
SEPLAT Energy Plc



Yvette Ibori
Corporate Strategy &
Comms, DIBJ Energy



Ekpei Ukam
Head, NNPC Gas Master
Plan Implementation
Assurance, NNPC Ltd.



Rob Holden
Vice President, Africa,
Mediterranean & Middle
East, TGS

EXECUTIVE SESSION Wed, 11 Nov, 2026 | 9:00am



Aliko Dangote
President & Group CEO,
Dangote Group



Austin Avuru,
FNAPE
Chairman, AA Holdings



Philip C. Ikeazor
Deputy Governor,
(Economic Policy) CBN



Udobong Ntia
EVP, NNPC Upstream



Olaniyan Elozino
CEO, Mid Western



Matthieu Bouyer
MD,
TOTAL E&P



Jim Swartz
MD, Chevron
Nig. Limited.



Jagir Baxi
MD,
ExxonMobil



Olanrewaju
Kalejaiye
CEO, ND Western



Wole Adeniyi
MD/CEO,
StanbicIBTC



Wolemi Esan, SAN
Deputy MD,
Olaniwun Ajayi LP



Dr. Nosa Omorodion,
FNAPE
Country Director, SLB

For Enquiries: 08028386659 or osuagwu.i@nape.org.ng

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Olajumoke Cecilia Ajayi, FNAPE
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Dr. Anthony Ofoma, FNAPE, FNMGS
President-Elect
Chairman, Conference Planning Committee

Somime Oguntola
Publicity Secretary
Chairperson, Conference Publicity



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Editorial

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Security agencies must move against violent rhetoric ahead of 2027

NIGERIA'S democracy cannot survive on electoral and other laws alone if politicians and their supporters keep treating elections as battles to be won through intimidation, threats, and the open display of weapons. With the 2027 general elections approaching, the growing tendency among political actors to deploy inflammatory rhetoric and create an atmosphere of fear demands urgent intervention by security agencies and party leaders.

The detention of Aminu Abdullahi Warkal, an aspirant for the Kano State House of Assembly on the platform of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), over the alleged unlawful display of a firearm at a political gathering is therefore a welcome development. It sends an important message that political ambition does not confer immunity from the law and that those who seek public office must demonstrate respect for the rules governing a democratic society. That is how we can collectively ensure Nigeria's democracy survives.

Warkal, a loyalist of the Kwankwasiya Movement and a retired Nigerian Air Force serviceman, was reportedly seen in a viral video displaying what appeared to be a pump-action rifle amid supporters chanting political slogans. The footage, which circulated on social media as political activities gathered momentum ahead of the 2027 elections, reportedly caused apprehension among members of the public.

The Kano State Police Command swiftly swung into action, inviting Warkal to its headquarters in Bompai on the directive of the Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Adamu Bakori. The suspected arm-carrying politician has been de-

tained for interrogation. Police spokesperson Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa confirmed that the display of a firearm violates the Firearms Act, as Warkal's actions could intimidate citizens, incite fear and threaten public peace.

The police have the mandate to investigate such conduct. The possession and use of firearms are matters regulated by law, and political gatherings must not become occasions for individuals to brandish weapons to demonstrate influence, intimidate opponents or excite their followers. We advise that the allegation against Warkal be established through due process. His political affiliation must neither aggravate nor diminish his responsibility under the law. More importantly, the action must not remain an isolated intervention against a political aspirant outside the ruling party. It should mark the beginning of a consistent, impartial campaign against political intimidation and threats of violence across party lines.

Nigeria has witnessed too many elections in which political competition degenerated into hostility, violence and the suppression of citizens' freedom to make independent choices. Such a climate does not emerge overnight. It is often nurtured by reckless statements from political leaders, threats against perceived opponents and the failure of party leadership to discipline members who openly promote violence.

The ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), in particular, has a responsibility to rein in its members whose utterances suggest that retaining political power is more important than respecting the electorate. Where political leaders resort to threats, they undermine public confidence in the electoral process and encourage support-

ers to believe that intimidation is an acceptable instrument of political mobilisation.

The reported conduct of the APC chairman in Edo State, Jarret Tenebe, also deserves the attention of the relevant authorities in this regard. Similarly, concerns had previously been raised over threats attributed to an APC area council chairman in the Federal Capital Territory. Before then, Senator Francis Fadahunsi had reportedly ordered his supporters to kill his political rivals in Osun State branch of the Accord Party during the last governorship election campaign in the state. These allegations should be investigated objectively, with appropriate sanctions imposed wherever violations are established.

The point is not that members of the ruling party should be singled out for punishment. Rather, the police must demonstrate that the law applies equally to everyone, regardless of party affiliation, political connections or proximity to those in power. If the police can invite and detain an opposition aspirant over alleged public display of a firearm, they must also be courageous to move against any member of the ruling party whose action or utterance constitutes a threat to public peace or promotes violence. Selective enforcement of the law undermines the credibility of the security agencies and reinforces the dangerous perception that some politicians are above the law. Such a perception is particularly damaging in an election season, when citizens need assurance that they can participate in political activities without fear of violence or intimidation.

Political leaders must also understand that threats are not a substitute for performance. Those who believe they have delivered on their electoral promises should have the confidence to submit themselves to the judgment of voters. In a democracy, the electorate has the ultimate right to either retain or remove elected officials

through the ballot box. No politician has a legitimate claim to an extended period in office outside that process.

Consequently, all the political parties should publicly condemn inflammatory rhetoric, discourage mobilisation of thugs and ensure that their aspirants and supporters conduct themselves within the law. Party leadership must not wait for violence to occur before distancing itself from statements or actions capable of provoking it.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) also has an important role to play in promoting peaceful campaigns. The commission must work with security agencies to enforce the applicable electoral laws. The police, meanwhile, must monitor political gatherings, investigate threats promptly and take preventive actions where credible evidence suggests that public safety is at risk.

Nigeria cannot afford another election cycle in which fear determines who campaigns, who votes and whose mandate is respected. Electoral violence does not merely injure individuals; it weakens democratic institutions, discourages participation and diminishes the legitimacy of elected governments.

The 2027 general election must, therefore, be peaceful, free, fair and credible. Political parties must compete on the strength of their programmes, records and capacity to address the needs of Nigerians, not through intimidation or display of force. The police deserve commendation for acting on the Warkal's incident. But commendation alone is insufficient. The authorities must sustain the effort and apply the law without fear or favour.

The message must be unmistakable: no political ambition is worth a human life, and no political office is worth sacrificing Nigeria's democracy. Anyone who seeks the people's mandate must first demonstrate respect for the people, their rights and the laws of the land.

LETTER

Why is Nigeria's justice system so slow?

SIR: If there is something the National Judicial Council (NJC) has to do as a matter of urgency, it is to proffer solutions to the highly sluggish justice system in Nigeria.

It's often said that laws are made for man and not the other way round. If there are some factors working against rapid dispensation of justice, it is high time they are addressed once and for all and Nigerians given a new lease of life.

Everyone agrees that justice delayed is justice denied, why then must Nigeria's judiciary continually act as if quick dispensation of justice is impossible, unachievable or unattainable? Why is seeking justice in Nigeria more of a wide goose chase, and a larger percentage of cases are settled out of court? How do we make our justice system work in a manner that can restore people's confidence in the judicial system? These are questions the NJC should answer because Nigerians are tired of a justice system that is not only unjust but also time wasting.

Right from lodging complaints with the law enforcement agency, there is a

major problem as nothing would be done unless the complainant offers money. It is now an open secret that whoever is lodging any complaints at any police station must pay or be ignored. Yet, offering money to lodge a complaint is not even a guarantee that the officers would render any real help except the complainant is truly ready to play ball.

The only area of interest to the officers at the station is how much the accused is able to cough out to facilitate his quick discharge from custody. Most cases only get to the courts when the accused is unable to comply with the demand at the station especially where the accused is of no fixed address and has no one to come forward for settlement?

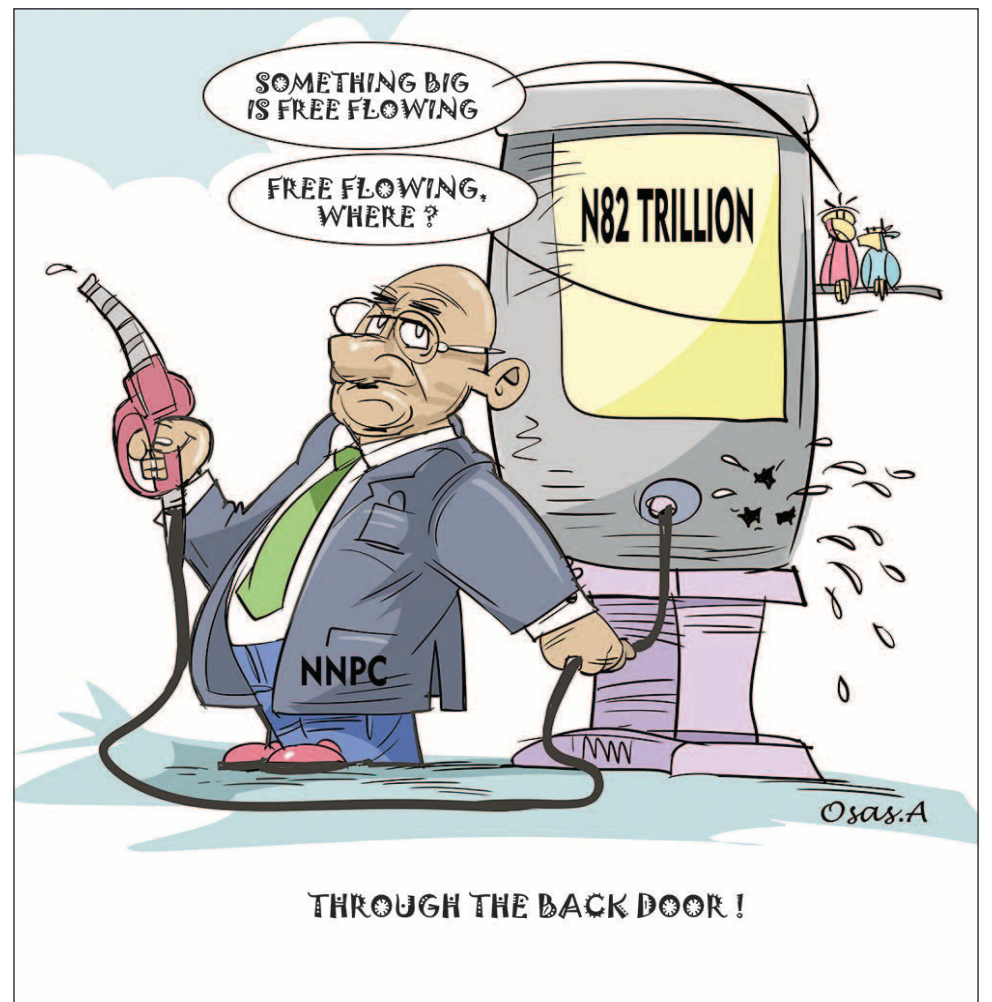
And then getting to the courts is to face another gridlock. Indeed, charging an offender to court through one's lawyer presupposes that all the party involved are ready for a long drawn judicial process that's extremely cumbersome to contemplate. When a case is filed and a date is fixed, it can only be heard if the two parties involved are present at every court proceeding, failure on the part of any of the

parties to show up translates to postponement, and that can go on for years.

This is one area the NJC should step in and come up with strict laws to restore decorum and sanity. Whichever party is absent during the hearing of cases should be doing so at their own risk.

Besides, no case, no matter its complexity, should take more than a month to settle. This can be achieved through recruitments of a large number of judges as are required to handle the multitudes of cases. Judges may also run shifts even at nights to ensure that all cases are dispensed within record time. When court procedures take like forever, lawyers will continue to be the losers because most people would avoid the courts and lawyers like a plague. All these recommendations are possible where there's the determination and will. The ball definitely is in the court of the National Judicial Council in conjunction with the Nigerian Bar Association.

Jide Oyewusi is the coordinator of Ethics Watch International and Friends of The Denied Inc Nigeria



Opinion

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Why discerning digital associations determines your well-being, wealth

By Ojo Emmanuel Ademola

The new battleground of influence

In today's digital age, social media has become the most powerful public square humanity has ever known. It shapes opinions, directs emotions, influences aspirations, and quietly determines the trajectory of personal and collective destinies. The quality of one's digital associations has, therefore, emerged as one of the most decisive forces influencing well being, mental clarity, and long term wealth creation. The modern individual is no longer shaped solely by physical communities; he or she is shaped—often profoundly—by the invisible ecosystem of voices followed online.

These voices can nourish destiny or quietly sabotage it. This is why the call to unfollow scammers, dark minded individuals, and weak links is not casual advice. It is a strategic imperative for anyone serious about holistic prosperity. The digital world is not neutral; it is a battleground of narratives, energies, and intentions. To thrive, one must curate digital associations with the same seriousness used in selecting mentors, business partners, or spiritual guides.

The digital ecosystem and the psychology of influence

Social media platforms operate on algorithms designed to amplify whatever users engage with. Every follow, like, or comment becomes a seed that grows into a forest of similar content. When individuals repeatedly interact with personalities who promote false wealth, toxic ideologies, or manipulative schemes, the algorithm interprets this as preference and saturates their feed with more of the same. Over time, this creates a psychological echo chamber where harmful narratives feel normal simply because they are constant.

The consequences are profound. Information fatigue emerges when one is continually confronted with sensationalism and falsehoods. This fatigue erodes mental clarity, making it harder to distinguish truth from noise. Aspirations become distorted as scammers curate illusions of effortless success, presenting wealth as something achieved through shortcuts rather than discipline and competence. These illusions weaken the appetite for genuine growth.

Emotional contamination follows. Dark minded individuals inject cynicism, fear, hostility, and hopelessness into the user's emotional landscape. Their tone infiltrates decision making, colouring choices with anxiety and pessimism. Identity erosion is another danger.

Weak minded voices normalise mediocrity, mock ambition, and trivialise excellence, creating an atmosphere where striving for more feels unnecessary or even foolish. Over time, this corrodes self belief and diminishes the courage required for meaningful progress.

Each of these consequences compounds, shaping the user's worldview, choices, and ultimately their outcomes. This cumulative effect explains why digital hygiene has become central in behavioural science. Just as one guards physical health by avoiding toxins, one must guard mental and financial health by avoiding digital pollutants.

Digital scammers: The sophisticated manipulators of the modern age

Scammers have evolved from crude email fraudsters into sophisticated digital actors who exploit psychological vulnerabilities with precision. They craft curated lifestyles, fabricate testimonials, and present seductive promises of wealth—not merely to steal money but to hijack attention, manipulate emotions, and distort reality. Their operations are no longer amateur attempts at deception; they are carefully engineered performances designed to influence behaviour and reshape expectations.

Digital scamming has become theatre. Rented luxury, staged photographs, and borrowed symbols of success create an illusion of credibility. Emotional triggers—urgency, exclusivity, fear of missing out—are deployed to bypass rational thinking. Pseudo expertise is manufactured through plagiarised content and fabricated credentials. Community manipulation through bots and fake followers creates false social proof.

The danger is not only financial. The deeper threat is psychological. Scammers distort the image of genuine achievement, replacing discipline and patience with illusions of effortless wealth. This confusion weakens judgement and undermines confidence.

Unfollowing such individuals is, therefore, an act of self preservation. It protects mental clarity, emotional stability, and long term goals.

Dark minded individuals: The invisible

drain on destiny

Beyond scammers, social media is populated by individuals whose worldview is corrosive. They thrive on negativity, conflict, and pessimism. Their digital presence is often laced with bitterness, envy, or subtle hostility. They may not be criminals, yet they function as carriers of emotional toxins.

Engaging with such individuals, even passively, conditions the mind to expect less from life, to fear more, and to doubt everything. Their influence feels harmless, yet it gradually shapes the emotional atmosphere in which decisions are made. A pessimistic post here, a cynical comment there, a sarcastic dismissal of someone's progress—these fragments accumulate and begin to shape perception.

The human mind is porous. It absorbs the emotional tone of the voices it encounters. Curating one's digital environment is, therefore, as important as curating one's physical environment. Just as one avoids toxic fumes, one must avoid digital pollutants.

The weakest links: How mediocrity spreads through digital proximity

Not everyone who harms your future is malicious. Some are simply weak minded—unable to think critically, unwilling to grow, or uninterested in excellence. In the digital world, they function like stagnant water: harmless at first glance, yet capable of breeding mosquitoes.

Weak minded individuals normalise procrastination, discourage ambition, mock discipline, celebrate shortcuts, and resist personal development. Their presence creates a gravitational pull toward mediocrity. Excellence requires momentum; mediocrity requires only proximity.

A strong future cannot be built on weak foundations, and no one rises while surrounded by those who refuse to rise themselves. Curating digital associations is therefore an act of stewardship—of mind, goals, and long term well being.

Holistic Wealth: The Economics of Digital Influence

Holistic wealth creation is multidimensional. It encompasses mental stability, emotional resilience, spiritual clarity, and social capital. Each dimension is shaped by the voices one allows into their digital space.

Mental wealth emerges from exposure to clarity and constructive ideas. Emotional wealth

requires stability, which toxic digital influences erode. Social wealth is shaped by digital associations, which either attract or repel opportunities. Financial wealth grows when one engages with credible thinkers and ethical wealth creators; it collapses when exposed to scammers and pretenders. Holistic wealth is, therefore, a function of digital curation.

The assertive solution: Curating a high value digital environment

The path to protecting and enhancing holistic wealth is clear and uncompromising.

Begin with a thorough audit of your digital ecosystem. Review your follows, subscriptions, and engagements. Identify voices that drain, confuse, or mislead. This is the foundation of a meaningful digital detox. Unfollow harmful voices without apology. Your digital space is your mental sanctuary. Protect it ruthlessly.

Replace toxic voices with nourishing ones. Follow thinkers, innovators, and ethical leaders who elevate your thinking.

Engage intentionally. Algorithms respond to your interactions. Engage with content aligned with your values and aspirations. Build a digital identity anchored in excellence. Let your digital footprint reflect clarity, purpose, and integrity.

Guarding the gates of the mind

At its core, this conversation is about stewardship of the mind. The mind is the engine of destiny. What enters it determines what emerges from it. Social media is a gateway that must be guarded with vigilance. Bad company is not only physical; it is algorithmic. Guarding digital associations is an act of spiritual, emotional, and intellectual discipline.

Conclusion: Your future depends on who you allow to influence you

In a world overflowing with voices, your greatest power is the ability to choose which voices shape your reality. Unfollowing scammers, dark minded individuals, and weak links is not digital housekeeping; it is destiny preservation.

Your well being, clarity, and wealth depend on the quality of your digital associations. Curate them with intentionality. Protect them with vigilance. Build a future anchored in excellence, wisdom, and truth.

Ademola, a Professor of cybersecurity and information technology management, wrote via: profojoademola@gmail.com

Politics without ideologies and number of political parties in Nigeria

By Jide Oyewusi

A BIG puzzle noticeable with Nigeria's brand of democracy is that of political parties without recognisable ideologies. All over the world, wherever democracy is in place, what differentiate parties from one another are their ideologies which form their basic framework for acceptability by the citizens.

But in Nigeria, absence of ideologies of political parties is mostly responsible for massive cross carpeting which is a regular trademark of Nigeria's politicians. As soon as any party emerges winner following any election, especially after a new government is sworn in, the next move by politicians is to start crossing to the party in power because of survival. In Nigeria, politics is a full-time profession and once out of power, politicians are not always different from fish out of water.

In saner climes, democracy and party system are not the kind of caricature seen in Nigeria. For instance, in the United States of America, the two dominant parties since as far back as the 1850s have been the Democratic party founded in 1828 by Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren and the Republican party founded in 1854 by Northern anti-slavery activists and moderniser, rising to prominence in 1860 with the election of Abraham Lincoln.

The Democratic party has established its ideology around the center left and supports social justice, social liberalism, a mixed economy, welfare state and very lately, free trade and neo-liberalism. The Republican party on the other hand has its major ideology revolving around economic liberalism, fiscal conservatism, and social conservatism though the election of Donald Trump represents a shift towards a more populist and isolationist orientation.

In the United kingdom, though the British system allows for

multiple-party and was, according to the V-Dem Democracy Indices 2023, the 22nd most electrically democratic in the world, from the 1920s to date, the two dominant parties have been the Conservative party and the Labour party. While the Conservative party tilts towards the center-right and advocates free market policies, traditionalism and British conservatism, Labour party is a center-left political party that promotes social democracy and democratic socialism.

In other democracies across the world, especially in countries such as, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Ireland, political parties have always been about notable ideologies that tend to address specific problems.

In Nigeria, however, the only parties that were known with what could be said to represent some form of ideologies were the Action Group (AG) and later the Unity Party of Nigeria (UPN) which were formed by Chief Obafemi Awolowo. With its free education, free health, housing for all, etc, Nigerians were able to feel the impact of good governance.

The parties also provided very strong opposition to the party in power and there was nothing like cross carpeting. But ever since then, there has not been anything near good governance as the country continues to drift from bad to worse though the current regime seems to be working relentlessly to change the narratives. There has never been anything like opposition in parliaments which are more of rubber stamp.

The body saddled with the responsibility of handling the country's electoral process itself apart from usually comporting itself as an extension of the party in power has also never demonstrated proper understanding of ideals of party registration.

As at now, there are at least 18 registered political parties

and there are still about 122 applications, meaning that the number of registered political parties in Nigeria may rise to fifty or more before the next election. What further evidence of brazen mockery does anyone need?

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ought to reduce the number of registered parties to the minimum by insisting on distinguishable, workable ideologies which reflect known personal principles, lifestyles and philosophies of their founders.

Those trying to form political parties must have displayed enduring legacies cherished by a large number of people in order to convince everyone that they mean business and would not deviate or decamp from the ideals they wish to project simply because of losing an election.

Most importantly, a country's number of political parties should never exceed the number of practicable ideologies within a state which is why in most advanced countries, the bigger parties are not always more than two.

Former Head of State, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida did what could have been the best for Nigeria and then dismantled it by himself. The two parties he formed, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the National Republican Convention (NRC) were government funded and well received.

There was no question of anyone using money to dominate other members. But since everything went with the wind, Nigeria has not been able to get its acts together.

Nigeria cannot continue to paint democracy in absurd colours while the entire world watches in utter amazement. And good enough, it is always never too late to make U-turn and allow reason and sanity to prevail.

Oyewusi is the coordinator of Ethics Watch International and Friends of The Denied Inc.

Opinion

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2027: Northern Nigeria should vote for results, not empty promises

By Abba Dukawa

DEMOCRACY delivers little when citizens are unsafe, hungry and unable to find work. As Northern Nigeria approaches the 2027 general elections, voters face a choice that goes beyond party loyalty, regional identity or campaign rhetoric: whether to continue rewarding promises or demand measurable performance.

The central question is whether political leaders can demonstrate that they have improved people's lives and present credible, practical plans for addressing the region's persistent challenges. Security, the cost of living, employment, education and economic opportunity must become the principal tests of leadership, supported by clear targets, realistic timelines and public accountability.

From insurgency and displacement in the North-East to banditry in the North-West and poverty and unemployment across the North-Central, millions of people face challenges that cannot be resolved through campaign speeches. Families struggle with rising food and transportation costs, farmers face threats to their livelihoods, young people confront limited opportunities, and communities continue to question the government's ability to protect them.

Across parts of Northern Nigeria, bandits, kidnappers and insurgents continue to threaten communities, killing and abducting civilians, disrupting economic activities and forcing families to abandon their homes. These conditions raise serious questions about the effectiveness of security measures and the accountability of those entrusted with public office.

The 2027 elections should therefore be treated as a performance review. Voters must ask which leaders have improved security, eased economic hardship, expanded opportunities and strengthened public services—and which candidates can explain, in practical and financially credible terms, how they intend to do better.

Fuel subsidy: A debate about survival.

Since the removal of Nigeria's petrol subsidy in May 2023, households and businesses have faced higher transportation and operating costs. Although the government has defended the reform as necessary to ease fiscal pressure and redirect public resources towards development, many Nigerians continue to ask when its promised benefits will become evident in their daily lives.

In Northern Nigeria, where long distances separate farms, markets, schools and healthcare facilities, higher fuel prices have consequences far beyond the filling station. Transportation be-

comes more expensive, food distribution costs rise, farmers face higher production expenses, and small businesses struggle to remain profitable.

Low-income households, particularly those dependent on informal employment, small-scale trading and subsistence agriculture, are especially vulnerable. The combined costs of food, transportation, healthcare and education leave many families with little money for other essential needs. Fuel subsidy removal is therefore, likely to remain a major electoral issue in 2027. Opposition politicians may promise cheaper petrol, the restoration of subsidies or alternative forms of economic relief, while the ruling party may defend the policy as a difficult but necessary reform.

Voters must look beyond these competing arguments and examine the practical consequences of each proposal. The economic debate should focus not only on whether subsidy removal has improved government finances but also on whether the resulting savings and additional public resources have translated into meaningful relief for households and businesses.

The government should explain how the fiscal benefits of its reforms are being converted into better infrastructure, agricultural support, affordable transportation, quality education, accessible healthcare and effective social protection. It should also provide transparent information about public spending and the measurable benefits delivered to vulnerable households.

Opposition parties, meanwhile, must demonstrate that their alternatives are economically credible and financially sustainable. Promising to restore subsidies or reduce petrol prices without explaining how the policies would be funded, implemented and sustained offers voters little basis for making an informed decision.

Ultimately, economic reform should be judged by whether it improves living standards, expands productive opportunities and strengthens household financial security—not merely by increases in government revenue or improvements in economic indicators.

Insecurity

The North's most urgent challenge, if rising fuel prices threaten household welfare, is that insecurity threatens lives and livelihoods. Across parts of Northern Nigeria, banditry, kidnapping, insurgency and communal violence have displaced families, disrupted agriculture and trade, and weakened public confidence in the govern-

ment's ability to protect its citizens.

Farmers abandon their land or risk their lives to cultivate it. Traders face dangerous roads, businesses struggle to operate, and parents worry about the safety of their children. Families lose breadwinners, children miss school, and displaced people struggle to rebuild their lives.

Insecurity also worsens economic hardship. Agricultural production suffers when farmers cannot safely access their fields, food becomes more expensive when transportation routes are unsafe, and investment declines when businesses face persistent threats of violence. The resulting poverty and lack of opportunity can further expose vulnerable communities to criminal exploitation and recruitment.

The security debate ahead of 2027 must move beyond declarations of commitment and announcements of military operations. Voters need evidence that interventions are producing lasting improvements in community safety.

Political leaders should be assessed on whether attacks and kidnappings are declining, abducted victims are being rescued, displaced families can return home voluntarily and safely, and farmers can cultivate their land without fear. The public also deserves credible information about investigations and prosecutions involving serious crimes.

Candidates should explain how they intend to improve intelligence gathering, strengthen coordination among security agencies, protect vulnerable communities and transportation routes, and provide security personnel with the equipment, training and logistical support necessary to perform their duties.

Community engagement must also form part of the strategy. Traditional rulers, local authorities, community organisations and residents can help identify emerging threats, provided their involvement operates within the law and includes safeguards against abuses and reprisals. Security performance should not be measured solely by arrests, weapons recovered or operations announced. The ultimate test is whether people are safer and can resume their normal activities without fear.

Candidates must, therefore, present clear security priorities, realistic implementation timelines and measurable indicators of progress. They should also explain how they intend to address underlying vulnerabilities, including poverty, youth unemployment, educational exclusion and weak local institutions.

For Northern voters, the question is not simply which candidate promises to defeat insecurity,

but which has a credible, lawful and accountable plan to protect lives, restore livelihoods and prevent violence from recurring.

The economy: Beyond government statistics; economic performance will be another decisive factor in the 2027 elections. Government officials may point to economic growth, increased investment or reforms designed to strengthen public finances. While these developments matter, national economic growth does not automatically translate into improved living conditions for every household.

For many Northern Nigerians, economic performance is measured by whether families can afford food, graduates can find jobs, traders can restock their shops and farmers can earn reasonable profits after paying for fertiliser, transportation and labour.

Northern Nigeria continues to face widespread poverty, inadequate infrastructure, educational disadvantages and limited employment opportunities. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment in agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, education, transportation and small businesses.

Agriculture remains particularly important to the region's economy. However, farmers cannot maximise productivity when insecurity prevents access to their land, agricultural inputs are unaffordable, irrigation infrastructure is inadequate and transportation costs consume a substantial share of their earnings.

Candidates should explain how they intend to improve agricultural productivity, expand access to affordable financing, strengthen rural infrastructure and create conditions in which small and medium-sized businesses can grow and employ more people. They must also demonstrate how vocational training will translate into actual jobs and how public spending will benefit communities beyond state capitals.

Government projects should be evaluated by their functionality, accessibility and impact rather than the funds allocated to them or the ceremonies held to inaugurate them. Roads, schools, healthcare facilities, irrigation systems and rural electrification programmes must deliver tangible benefits to the communities they are intended to serve. The 2027 elections should provide an opportunity for serious debate about practical economic solutions rather than competing interpretations of government statistics.

Read the remaining part of this article on

www.guardian.ng
Dukawa writes from Abuja. He can be reached via: abbahydukawa@gmail.com

Nigeria must count what Russia has delivered before signing new pact

By Dotun Olayemi

WHEN Russia hosts the Third Russia-Africa Summit in Moscow on October 28 and 29, as usual, the speeches will be grand. There will be talk of partnership, sovereignty and mutual respect. Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Moscow anticipates the signing of a 'substantial package' of inter-governmental agreements and commercial contracts at the summit. But the common man on Nigerian streets, the trader, the student or job seeker, is more interested in how such bilateral relations translate to better living for them.

Think of it like a market woman who has been promised goods on credit many times. Before she accepts another promise, she checks whether the last one was ever delivered. That is exactly how Nigeria should treat this summit.

The clearest example is nuclear power. In 2017, Nigeria and Russia signed agreements for Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear corporation, to cooperate on the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant and a nuclear research Centre in Nigeria.

The agreements followed earlier discussions between the Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission and Rosatom over four plants, estimated at about \$20 billion and 4,800 megawatts by 2035. The 2017 agreements covered feasibility studies, implementation schedules and financing arrangements, with Geregu in Kogi State and Itu in Akwa Ibom State identified as preferred sites.

Nearly a decade later, no Russian-built nuclear plant has been completed, and the broader nuclear programme has no published construction schedule.

Not one. We are still counting generators and buying fuel while the lights go out.

This does not automatically mean Russia acted in bad faith. Nuclear plants are very hard to build. They need huge money, government approvals, a good site, a strong national grid and political agreement that lasts for decades. But it shows the gap between signing a paper and switching on power.

The trade numbers complicate the summit's promise of industrial partnership. According to UN Comtrade data, Nigeria imported

about \$676 million worth of goods from Russia in 2024, a sharp fall from roughly \$1.51 billion in 2023.

What Nigeria buys from Russia is telling. The relationship is dominated by primary and semi-processed commodities; mineral fuels and oil products, cereals, especially wheat, fertilizers, and fish. These are goods that matter for energy supply, food prices and farming, but they are not the factories, power plants, machinery or technology transfers that summit rhetoric often promises.

The most striking measure is capital goods. Available Comtrade-derived data indicate that Nigeria's imports from Russia under the machinery, nuclear-reactor and boilers category were only about \$12,690 in 2024, roughly the value of a modest piece of industrial equipment, not the foundation of a nuclear-power programme. The figure should be treated cautiously because Comtrade product categories can be revised, but the broader pattern is clear; Russia's commercial presence in Nigeria remains overwhelmingly commodity-based rather than industrial.

For Russia, meanwhile, Nigeria is a marginal market. Russian Ambassador to Nigeria Andrey Podelyshev said Russia's global exports rose to \$434 billion in 2024. Set beside that figure, Nigeria's \$676 million in imports from Russia represents about 0.16 per cent of Russia's worldwide exports, a useful measure of how small Nigeria is within Moscow's global commercial map.

The imbalance is equally stark. In 2023, Nigeria imported \$1.51 billion from Russia but exported only about \$10.02 million to Russia, mainly cocoa products, according to UN Comtrade figures cited by Voice of Nigeria. That is not a partnership of two industrial economies trading finished goods and technology; it is largely a one-way flow of Russian commodities into Nigerian households, farms and fuel markets.

Here is the interesting part. Russia and the African Union say they will review their 2023 to 2026 action plans, look for "gaps" in what was done, and adopt a new plan for 2027 to 2029. If Russia itself admits there are gaps, Nigerians are right to ask where they are.

There is also a reason to be careful. Russia is fighting an expen-

sive war, and sanctions make payments, shipping, insurance and buying technology more difficult. A country in that position may find it hard to fund big, slow projects abroad. So Nigeria must separate a real, financed project from a nice-looking paper that makes headlines and then goes quiet.

The proposal at the heart of this feature is a "Russia-Nigeria Promise Tracker". It is simple. Every promise is written down with its date, who signed it, the amount, the agency in charge, where the money comes from, the deadline and its status. The status would be one of five words: funded, in progress, stalled, cancelled or unverifiable. It would cover five areas; defense and security, energy, infrastructure, education and technology, and trade and finance. The tests should be things anyone can see. How many megawatts were connected? How many kilometres of road or rail were built? How many bags of fertiliser arrived? How many Nigerian students got scholarships? How many local jobs were created?

Before signing anything new, Nigeria's delegation should tell the public the full scope, cost, timeline and financing of each project, whether Russia delivered on earlier promises to Nigeria, how many local jobs will be created and what technology will be shared, what happens if the deal collapses, including exit and liability terms and a public dashboard, updated every three months.

The media has a job too. Every new announcement from Russia should be placed beside an old, unfulfilled one. A new energy deal should sit beside the nuclear agreement of 2017. New security agreements should be read beside past defence pledges. New scholarships should be compared with earlier education promises.

Nigeria is not wrong to talk to Russia. A big country can and should widen its friendships, especially when it needs investment, technology and room to manoeuvre. The real question is whether Russia is offering a partnership that can deliver, or a pile of announcements that keep its influence alive at low cost.

So after every handshake at the summit, one question should follow, and every Nigerian should be able to ask it plainly. What changes for Nigerians, and when?

Olayemi is a public affairs analyst, he wrote from Lagos, and can be reached on dolayemiofficial@gmail.com

CRUDE OIL PRICE UPDATE

Brent crude: \$110.2 | WTI crude: \$103.5

FOREX MARKET UPDATE

I&E window: N1,330.47

Tinubu reiterates plan to revive refineries as local capacity expands

By Waliat Musa

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has pledged to rehabilitate Nigeria's dormant national refineries, insisting that the facilities will not be allowed to become stranded investments as domestic refining expands, even as the country requires up to \$40 billion in fresh oil and gas investment by 2030.

The President, represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Patience Oyekunle, at the 20th OTL Africa Downstream Energy Week in Lagos yesterday, outlined the government's commitment to restoring the national assets and creating a commercially sustainable petroleum industry.

Nigeria needs \$40b oil, gas investment by 2030 as Africa imports 70% of fuel
NMDPRA unveils Revised Gas Network Code, targets 4.4bcf daily pipeline capacity

His pledge comes as the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) Chief Executive, Rabiul Umar, disclosed that domestic refineries now account for three out of every four litres of petrol supplied to Nigerians, while imports have more than halved in a year.

The development marked a significant shift in a market long dependent on imported petroleum products, but Umar warned that the concentration of domestic supply in one major refinery and declining petrol stock cover remain concerns for energy security.

Tinubu said the government was adopting a more rigorous approach to restoring its refineries, supported by technical assessments, stronger partnerships and improved operational discipline.

"At the same time, the government remains committed to ensuring that existing national refining assets are not allowed to become stranded investments. We are pursuing a more rigorous, commercially sustainable approach to the rehabilitation and repositioning of our refineries, supported by technical assessment, stronger partnerships, and improved opera-

tional discipline. Our objective is clear. Nigeria must first refine more of its crudes, create more value domestically, and become a reliable supplier of energy to Africa," he said.

The President said reforms under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) were intended to create a transparent, commercially viable and investment-friendly industry capable of retaining more value from Nigeria's hydrocarbon resources.

Tinubu identified private refining as a major turning point, citing the Dangote Petroleum Refinery's installed capacity of 650,000 barrels per

day as an important development in Nigeria's ambition to become a net exporter of refined petroleum products.

"The emergence of large-scale private refining capacity represents an important turning point. The Dangote refinery has reached its 650,000 per day main-plate capacity, strengthening Nigeria's prospect of

becoming a net exporter of refined petroleum products and creating opportunities for regional supply," he said.

The President said Nigeria's ambition extended beyond crude production to building an energy economy that supports industrialisation, manufacturing, employment and technology development.

ACAMB warns bank customers against phishing, urges data protection

THE Association of Corporate Communication and Marketing Professionals in Banks (ACAMB) has urged bank customers to remain vigilant against phishing scams and other forms of cyber fraud, warning that criminals are increasingly using fake bank alerts, cloned websites and impersonation accounts to steal sensitive financial information.

The warning follows a fraudulent text message impersonating various banks. FactCheckAfrica debunked the message, finding that the link it contained led to a cloned Internet banking website designed to steal customers' login credentials, BVNs, card details and transaction PINs.

The incident highlighted the risks associated with digital banking fraud in Nigeria. In June, Wema Bank suspended its engagements on X (formerly known as Twitter) amid reports of more than 70 fake accounts impersonating the bank and its ALAT platform. In August, Zenith Bank Plc disclosed that it was inves-

tigating unauthorised access to customer data linked to a global cyberattack.

ACAMB President, Jide Sipe, warned that fraudsters were increasingly adopting sophisticated methods to impersonate trusted banking brands and steal customers' personal information, making their schemes difficult to distinguish from legitimate communications.

"When a scam message carries your name, your phone number or your bank's logo, it looks real. That is exactly why customers must slow down. No bank in Nigeria will ask you to confirm your PIN, password, OTP or BVN through a link," Sipe said.

Sipe acknowledged the efforts of banks to strengthen fraud detection and customer protection, alongside regulatory measures introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria's mandatory cybersecurity self-assessment guide. He stressed, however, that these efforts must be complemented by customer awareness and vigilance, particularly when handling requests for sensitive banking information.



MANUFACTURERS ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUMMIT 2021 PRESS CONFERENCE



Director General, Manufacturing Association of Nigeria (MAN), Segun Ajayi-Kadir, (left); Chair, Manufacturers Power Development Company Ltd (MPDCL), John Aluya; AMAN President, Dr. Ifeanyi Okoye; Acting Managing Director of Manpower Development Company, a subsidiary of MAN, Owoh Mba-Samuel at the association's press conference held at MAN House in Lagos...yesterday.

Energy costs gulp 40% of manufacturers' OpEx, threaten productivity

By Victoria Nwachukwu

OPERATORS under the aegis of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) have bemoaned rising energy costs, which they said now account for over 40 per cent of manufacturing costs in Nigeria.

In comparison, they said other African competitors have their energy costs at between five and 10 per cent, warning that the disparity undermines the competitiveness of local industries.

Chair of the Manufacturers Power Development Company Ltd (MPDCL), John Aluya, stated

this at a press conference in Lagos yesterday, ahead of MAN's Manufacturers Energy Security and Energy Efficiency Summit scheduled for November 3 and 4.

He said the electricity distribution companies (Discos) must reassess their business models, adding that manufacturers should be able to access gas at the same price offered to the Discos.

"You cannot sell to Discos at a lower price and sell to producers at a higher price. This is unsustainable and we cannot survive," he said.

MAN's Director-General, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, said many manufacturers on Band A, which promised 20 hours of electricity supply daily, are not receiving the expected service.

He said the failure of the Discos to provide reliable electricity has forced manufacturers to rely on alternative power sources, adding that the government must hold the companies accountable and ensure they invest in the national grid.

He said the principle behind the Band A categorisation is that consumers should pay for services received, but decried the

fact that manufacturers are not getting adequate and reliable electricity supply.

He said manufacturers' expenditure on alternative power has ballooned to about N134 trillion, adding that unreliable electricity supply and high energy costs continue to undermine their competitiveness.

MAN President, Dr. Ifeanyi Okoye, said while they are not totally against the band categorisation, they simply want distribution companies to provide the electricity supply promised under each category.

FG targets end to policy somersaults, plans mandatory impact tests

From Joseph Chibueze, Abuja

THE Federal Government is proposing mandatory impact assessments for major economic policy changes in a move to curb policy reversals, restore investor confidence and ensure government decisions translate into productive investment, decent jobs and higher household incomes.

Under the proposed Nigeria Economic Policy Framework unveiled by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, policymakers would be required to demonstrate the problem a proposed intervention seeks to solve, the evidence supporting it, who stands to benefit, who bears the cost and the condi-

NESG demands shift from reforms to jobs, lower production costs

tions for ending the policy. Oyedele announced the proposal at the 32nd Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja yesterday. He warned that inconsistent policies and inadequate consultation have undermined investment, weakened business confidence and constrained economic growth.

According to him, "Our challenge has never been a shortage of ambition or good ideas. It has been the absence of an enduring economic philosophy, consistent policymaking, and disciplined implementation."

Describing policy uncertainty as an invisible tax on businesses, the

minister said the proposed framework was designed to establish enduring economic principles that would survive successive administrations, rather than become another development plan or the economic manifesto of a particular government.

The proposal comes as the private sector intensifies pressure on the government to move beyond macroeconomic stabilisation and demonstrate tangible improvements in productivity, employment, purchasing power and living standards following successive economic reforms.

On trade protection, Oyedele cautioned against using tariffs to

shield inefficient businesses indefinitely from competition, saying trade policy should help local industries become competitive rather than entrench inefficiency.

"A tariff must serve as a runway for local industry to take off, never a permanent shelter from competition," he said.

The draft framework will be opened for public consultation from November 27, 2026, with Nigerians invited to respond to 17 questions through the Federal Ministry of Finance's website.

Following consultation and validation, the document is expected to proceed to the Federal Executive Council for approval and the National Economic Council for endorsement.

Expert urges tech upgrade, security awareness to tackle transport insecurity

By Olusegun Koiki

THE Executive Director, Operations and Technical Services of Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, Warri, Enisuh, has called for increased deployment of technology, improved infrastructure and security awareness to tackle insecurity across Nigeria's transport sector.

He also said that the integration of advanced surveillance systems, facial recognition technology, drones and automated port operations would help curb kidnapping, cargo theft, illegal activities and other security threats affecting road, maritime and aviation transportation.

Speaking in an interview at the 2nd edition of Transport Summit with the theme: 'Navigating Global Disruption And The Road Ahead: Mobility, Energy and Trade Facilitation for Resilient Future,' held in Lagos over the weekend, Enisuh said Nigeria must also incorporate security education into school curricula to prepare citizens to recognise and respond to emerging

threats.

According to him, the country's prevailing security challenges require a fundamental shift in public awareness and the design of transport infrastructure.

He said: "Awareness is key. The amount of insecurity that has somehow afflicted this country is not reflected in the day-to-day education of our children in school. We should start teaching insecurity in school now."

"Many security breaches occur because perpetrators exploit the lack of awareness among potential victims and weaknesses in existing security arrangements."

He further urged Nigerians to abandon the assumption that insecurity would not affect them, warning that people who consider themselves immune to kidnapping and other threats could eventually become victims.

He explained further that Nigeria's transport and logistics infrastructure was not adequately designed to address contemporary security challenges.



UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, NIGERIA

2026 GRADUATION AND 78TH FOUNDATION DAY CEREMONIES 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 AND 17 NOVEMBER, 2026

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS FOR THE 2026 CONVOCATION AND FOUNDATION DAY CEREMONIES

Date	Day 1 Event	Time	Venue
Tuesday, 03 November 2026	SME Fair 2026 - Day 1 Scaling Emerging SMEs for Global Impact: From Innovation to Sustainable Growth Keynote Speaker Mr Kingsley Aigbokhaevbo Deputy Managing Director Providus/Unity Bank	9 a.m.	International Conference Centre
Wednesday, 04 November 2026	SME Fair 2026 - Day 2 Scaling Emerging SMEs for Global Impact: From Innovation to Sustainable Growth Keynote Speaker Professor Ruth O. ADIO-MOSES Department of Peace, Security and Humanitarian Studies, Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Ibadan	9 a.m.	International Conference Centre
Thursday, 05 November 2026	Career Fair 2026 From Lecture Halls to Boardrooms: Preparing UI Graduates for The Workplace Keynote Speaker Dr Jeff Bordes CEO Astria Learning	9 a.m.	International Conference Centre
Friday, 06 November 2026	Jumat Service	1 p.m.	UI Mosque
Sunday, 08 November 2026	Night of Music	4 p.m.	Trenchard
Monday, 09 November 2026	UI-RF Advancing Adolescents and Youth Health in Africa through Science, Innovations and Co-created Policy Options Keynote Speaker Prof Babatunde Lawal Salako Former Director-General Nigerian Institute of Medical Research	9 a.m.	Trenchard
Tuesday, 10 November 2026	Health Rally	9 a.m.	International Conference Centre
	University of Ibadan Convocation Exhibition	11 a.m.	Institute of African Studies
	Rehearsal (University Management, Provosts, Deans, Faculty Officers, and Ceremonial Committee members)	3 p.m.	International Conference Centre
Wednesday, 11 November 2026	Day 1 2026 Convocation Ceremonies Admission to First Degrees in the Faculties of Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Public Health, Dentistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences Commencement Speaker Pharm. Olayemi Oladiran Chief Operating Officer (English-Speaking West Africa) Groupe Ethica	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre
	Convocation Lecture I Title Funding, Freedom and the Future of the Nigerian University Presenter Dr Olayiwola F. Fatona FNMGS, FNAPE Chairman Board of Directors Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited	4 p.m.	Trenchard Hall
Thursday, 12 November 2026	Day 2 2026 Convocation Ceremonies Admission to First Degrees in the Faculties of Agriculture, The Social Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Technology, Law, Economics and Management Sciences, Renewable Natural Resources Commencement Speaker Mr Kayode Aloyinlapa Founder and Managing Director Askariot Homes Ltd	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre
Friday, 13 November 2026	Day 3 2026 Convocation Ceremonies Admission to First Degrees in the Faculties of Education, Environmental Design and Management Commencement Speaker Mr Folajimi Olambo Fakoya Founder and Chief Executive Officer EdutechPortals Solutions	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre
Saturday, 14 November 2026	Day 4 2026 Convocation Ceremonies Award of Postgraduate Diplomas, Admission to Higher Degrees (Master's) in the Faculties of Arts, Education, Veterinary Medicine, Technology, Economics and Management Sciences, Renewable Natural Resources, Environmental Design and Management, Multidisciplinary Studies and the Institute of Education Admission to Higher Degrees M.Phil	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre
	Command Performance Title Twingle Twangle: A Twynning Tayle by Femi Osofisan Director Olusegun Michael Olabode (INVITED GUESTS ONLY)	6 p.m.	Wole Soyinka Theatre
Sunday, 15 November 2026	FOUNDATION DAY SERVICE	10 a.m.	The Chapel of the Resurrection
Monday, 16 November 2026	Day 5 2026 Convocation Ceremonies Award of Postgraduate Diplomas, Admission to Higher Degree (Master's) of PAULESI Admission to Higher Degrees (Master's) in the Faculties of Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Agriculture, The Social Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Law, Public Health, Institute of African Studies, Institute of Child Health and School of Business Admission to Higher Degree (M.Phil.)	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre
	Convocation Lecture II Title The Enduring Promise of Nigeria-Sierra Leone Relations: From Shared Origins to Shared Prosperity Presenter Dr. Mohamed Juldeh Jalloh The Honourable Vice President of Sierra Leone	4 p.m.	Trenchard Hall
Tuesday, 17 November 2026	Day 6 2026 Convocation and Foundation Day Ceremonies Conferment of Honorary Degrees (Doctor of Science – Honoris causa): (i) Mr Kingsley U. Aigbokhaevbo, Deputy Managing Director of Providus Bank (ii) Dr Olusola Adejoke David-Borha, Chairman Stanbic IBTC Holdings Admission to Higher Degrees (Doctorate) of PAULESI Admission to Higher Degrees (Doctorate) of the University of Ibadan Admission to Higher Degree (Doctor of Medicine)	10 a.m.	International Conference Centre

NOTICE TO GRADUANDS

We congratulate graduands on the successful completion of their programmes in the University. Graduation is a very important milestone of your life. Therefore, please read this notice very carefully!

- Graduands are expected to collect academic outfits before the Ceremony, after presenting the receipt of payment for the following (as the case may be):
 - Hiring of Undergraduate Academic Outfit – N5,000 (Five Thousand Naira Only).
 - Hiring of Master's Academic Outfit – N5,000 (Five Thousand Naira Only).
 - Purchase of MPhil and Ph.D Academic Outfits – MPhil and Ph.D Graduands are to contact the Postgraduate College for details.
 - Final Year School fees receipts containing the appropriate Graduation Levy for Diploma/Certificate, First Degree and Higher Degree.
 - N1,000.00 (One Thousand Naira only) for the University of Ibadan Alumni Association (UIAA) Membership levy. The levy of N1,000.00 (One Thousand Naira only) must be paid to the Alumni Office.

All graduands are expected to pay the levies as stipulated whether or not they attend the Convocation Ceremonies as these receipts will be required at the point of collection of certificates.

- Graduands should follow the steps listed below to pay for **Hiring of Undergraduate and Master's Academic Outfits (N5,000)**:
 - Log on to www.remita.net
 - Click on 'pay TSA and States'.
 - Click on 'FGN': Federal Government of Nigeria.
 - Locate University of Ibadan -1000107.
 - Select Service Type: University of Ibadan Fees.
 - Choose Hiring of Academic Gown Fee.
 - Enter the amount, narratives for the payment i.e. being payment for Hiring of Academic Gown Fee for 2026 Graduation.
 - Generate Remita Retrieval Reference invoice.
 - Pay online with your ATM Card or Print out the Remita Retrieval Invoice to make cash payment in any commercial bank of your choice.
 - Print out online Receipt of payment.
 - 24 hours after payment, log on to uigeneralreceipt.com to print out receipt. Input your RRR Number and click "Proceed". Then print out receipt.
- Academic Outfits, Notice to Graduands, Order of Proceedings and 2 Invitation Cards will be issued to each graduand on the presentation of appropriate receipts, at the graduands' respective Faculty Offices, Postgraduate College and the Distance Learning Centre, as the case may be. Please note that Academic Outfits will not be distributed at the Convocation venue.
- Academic outfits should be returned not later than 48 hours after the Ceremonies. Failure to do so will attract a surcharge of N1000.00 (One Thousand Naira) only per day.
- Any damage done/caused to the convocation outfit/gown attracts a surcharge of N20,000 for the gown, N10,000 for the hood and N10,000 for the cap as the case may be.**
- Graduands should note that failure to return the academic outfits, as and when due, is a misconduct and shall be so treated.**
- Robing of graduands will commence at 7.00 a. m. on each day at the venue of the ceremony.** Therefore, graduands are advised to be at the International Conference Centre at 7.00 a.m. on each day to ensure that they are properly robed. Please note that graduands who are not properly robed will not be allowed into the main hall. Rather, they will be expected to sit in the Gallery. Faculty Officers would be seated with graduands of their respective Faculties to ensure orderliness during the ceremony.
The tassels (cord) of the caps should be worn to the right for First Degree Graduands and they will be required to move the tassels from the right to the left, at a point in time during the Ceremony, when the Vice-Chancellor declares: "I admit you all". This signifies their admission into the body of Graduates of the University of Ibadan. Higher Degree recipients should wear their tassels to the left since they are already First Degree Holders.
- Female graduands are requested to hold their caps in place with hair pins.
- Graduands shall move in a Procession at 8.15 a.m. into the Hall on each day.
- Graduands in each Faculty are expected to be seated in the section provided for them in the Hall by 9:30am.
Graduands who are nursing mothers are to be seated in the gallery for their own convenience.
- Graduands are expected to stand when the Academic Procession enters/leaves the Hall and when the National Anthem/University Anthem are being sung or played. Graduands are requested to please be orderly and wait till the end of the Ceremonies.
- Graduands should note that convocation ceremonies are a solemn one. Therefore movement in and out of the hall during the ceremonies will not be allowed.**
- PLEASE NOTE:**
 - Certificates are available for collection from the date of the Convocation Ceremony upon payment of the prescribed statutory fee of N7,500.00.
 - Certificates should be collected within one (1) year from the date of the Convocation Ceremony.

Thereafter, the following non-collection penalties shall apply:

Collection Period	Applicable Fee
Within one (1) year	N7,500.00 (Statutory fee)
After one (1) year but not exceeding five (5)	N25,000.00
After five (5) year but not exceeding (10) years	N50,000.00

IMPORTANT: The above non-collection penalties are separate from and exclusive of the statutory fee of N7,500.00 for issuance and collection of the Certificate.

Wishing you God's blessings in your future endeavours as ambassadors of this great Institution. Thank you and God bless.

G. O. Saliu,
JP, fspsp, FNIM, FCIML, MANUPA, MAUA
Registrar

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FUTURE LEADERS DO NOT JUST HAPPEN...THEY ARE FORMED

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NOVEMBER 2025 CAMBRIDGE
IGSCE EXAMINATION RESULT

A* GRADES: 67%
A* - A GRADES: 96%
A* - B GRADES: 99%
A* - C GRADES: 100%

MAY/JUNE 2026 WAEC
EXAMINATION RESULT

A¹ - B³ GRADES: 94%
A¹ - C⁶ GRADES: 100%

- State of the art classrooms, laboratories, boarding and sporting facilities.
- Exceptional educators who challenge minds, nurture and bring out the best in every learner.
- Proud winners of prestigious international and national awards.
- Beautiful, serene and secure world-class campus where learning thrives.



ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FOR YEAR 7 (JSS1) DAY AND BOARDING STUDENTS FOR
THE 2027/2028 ACADEMIC SESSION IS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

LAGOS

Dates: Saturday, 30th January and 6th February, 2027
Location: James Hope College, Twin Lakes Estate, Lekki, Lagos
Time: 10AM

ABUJA & PORT HARCOURT

Date: Saturday, 6th February, 2027
Locations: 71 Usuma Street, Opp. Transcorp Hilton, Maitama, Abuja.
 15 Nnamdi Azikiwe Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State
Time: 10AM

APPLICATION CLOSES: FRIDAY, 22ND JANUARY 2027

Application forms can be downloaded from www.jameshopecollege.edu.ng under the "admission" tab or can be collected from James Hope College, Twin Lakes Estate, Lekki, Lagos.



OPEN DAYS

DATE: SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER, 2026 & SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2027

TIME: 9AM TO 12:30PM

DOWNLOAD
APPLICATION FORMS

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 Web: www.jameshopecollege.edu.ng

Nigerian corporates raise N1.51tr from commercial paper in nine months

By Helen Oji

THE quarter three Nigerian Commercial Paper (CP) market report has revealed that 60 issuers raised N1.51 trillion across 131 commercial paper (CP) series in the first nine months of 2026. The report released yesterday

by the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX), revealed that of the 131, seven series valued at N216.1 billion have been listed on NGX, highlighting the potential to bring a greater share of CP activity onto the Exchange. Commercial paper (CP) is a short-term financial instrument

that companies use to borrow money from investors to finance their business operations. It allows a company to raise money for a short period without necessarily taking a conventional bank loan. Market-wide, N506.4 billion was raised in the third quarter

across 46 new series from 28 issuers. Agriculture accounted for the largest share of quarterly issuance at N226.2 billion (45 per cent of the total), followed by oil & gas at N106.0 billion and financial services at N65.0 billion. Year to date, Agriculture led issuance with N512.7 billion

raised between January and September. According to the NGX, the seven series listed on NGX in 2026 include three originally offered in late 2025, with issuances by Dangote Cement Plc, NGN Gram Limited, McCure Industries Plc, Coleman Technical Industries Limited and Advans La Fayette Microfinance Bank Limited, led by Dangote Cement Plc (N119.9 billion) and Coleman Technical Industries Limited (N66.0 billion). Commenting on the report, Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Exchange Limited, Jude Chiemeka, said: "Nigeria's commercial paper market presents a significant opportunity to expand short-term financing for businesses and deepen the role of the capital market in corporate funding. "At NGX, we are focused on building our position as a venue

for commercial paper listings by enhancing market visibility, promoting transparency and working closely with issuers, financial advisers and institutional investors. "As issuance activity grows, our priority is to attract more commercial paper listings to the Exchange, broaden investor access and strengthen the contribution of the listed market to Nigeria's capital formation." Market conditions also evolved during the quarter as the 364-day Treasury bill stop rate fell to 15.89 per cent from 17.34 per cent in Q2, while the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reduced the Monetary Policy Rate by 350 basis points to 23 per cent on 22 September 2026. Headline inflation declined to 14.63 per cent in September, although the average CP discount rate rose to 19.35 per cent in Q3 from 19.02 per cent in Q2.

'Developing nations' investment in key sectors falls by over 25%

By Benjamin Alade

INVESTMENT in critical sectors across developing countries fell by more than 25 per cent in the first half of 2026, despite an increase in the overall value of international investment, according to the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The decline affected sectors essential to economic development, including infrastructure, energy, health and food systems, highlighting the widening gap between global investment flows and the financing needs of developing economies. UNCTAD disclosed this in its lat-

est Global Investment Trends Monitor, released yesterday at the ninth edition of the World Investment Forum in Doha, Qatar. The three-day forum, running from October 25 to 27, brought together governments, investors and business leaders to explore ways of directing capital towards economies and industries that need it most. According to the report, the increase in the overall value of international investment in the first half of the year was supported by major transactions in strategic sectors. However, new investment projects and cross-border transac-

tions continued to decline globally. The development suggested that the headline increase in investment value has not translated into broader financing opportunities for developing countries, particularly those seeking capital to strengthen infrastructure, energy supply, healthcare, and food security. UNCTAD also noted that global foreign direct investment (FDI) remained heavily concentrated in a limited number of economies, with more than 80 per cent of

worldwide FDI flowing to just 20 economies in 2025. The concentration of capital, alongside geopolitical tensions, energy price pressures and supply chain disruptions, continues to weigh on the investment outlook and complicate efforts by developing countries to attract funding. The World Investment Forum is expected to provide a platform for policymakers and investors to address these challenges and explore partnerships that could help direct investment towards underserved markets.

NSIA, Africa50 launch \$300m fund to expand Nigeria's energy access

By Abigail Ikaghughu

THE Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA), Africa50 and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) have launched a \$300 million fund to expand electricity access in underserved communities and businesses across Nigeria. The Nigeria Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Fund will finance renewable energy solutions, including mini-grids and standalone solar systems, to help close the country's energy access gap and create opportunities for economic growth. Co-managed by NSIA and Africa50, with SEforALL providing energy-access leadership, the fund is designed to mobilise investment for distributed renewable energy projects and support Nigeria's broader development goals. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Renewables Investment Platform for Limitless Energy (RIPLE), launched by NSIA,

Yusuf Umar, said addressing the country's energy access challenges required financing structures that could deliver practical solutions to communities and businesses. Umar said: "Closing Nigeria's energy access gap requires more than recognising the scale of the challenge; it requires financing structures that can bring viable solutions to the communities and businesses that need them most." He described the fund as an important step towards mobilising capital for distributed energy solutions at scale, adding that collaboration, disciplined investment and effective implementation would be necessary to expand electricity access and support businesses. Chief Executive Officer of Sterling One Foundation, Olapeju Ibekwe, said the fund reflected the need to turn development discussions into practical investments that improve people's lives.

UBA launches climate action week to drive green finance across Africa

UNITED Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has launched a Group-wide Climate Action Week to deepen climate awareness, promote responsible environmental practices and advance sustainable finance across its African and international operations. The five-day campaign, running from October 26 to 30, 2026, is themed: "Banking on Africa's Climate Future" and reflects the Bank's commitment to integrating environmental responsibility into its operations, customer engagement and financing solutions. The initiative commenced with the deployment of waste segregation bins across UBA offices and measures to reduce the use of single-use plastics at the Bank's head offices. These activities underscore UBA's commitment to translating sustainability principles into practical actions within its work-

place and across its wider ecosystem. Throughout the week, UBA will disseminate educational content across its media and digital platforms to highlight the causes and consequences of climate change, including its impact on food prices, energy consumption and urban flooding. The campaign will also promote responsible plastic disposal, recycling and the critical role of financial institutions in financing clean energy, sustainable agriculture and other environmentally responsible businesses. As part of the campaign's community engagement component, UBA staff volunteers will participate in a Group-wide clean-up exercise on November 7, in major cities across its markets. In Nigeria, the exercise will take place in Lagos, Kano and Port Harcourt, mobilising employees to contribute directly to cleaner and healthier communities.



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Profitable banks are not enough, Nigeria needs banks that make the economy perform

NIGERIA also needs banks whose strength helps other parts of the economy become stronger. It Has Been a Significant Period for Nigerian Banking The sector has undergone substantial recapitalisation. Digital-payment infrastructure continues to expand. Financial institutions remain an important contributor to economic activity. Nigeria's finance and insurance sector recorded real year-on-year growth of 9.29 per cent in the second quarter of 2026 and contributed 3.37 per cent to real GDP. Financial institutions accounted for 87.22 per cent of the sector's real activity. At the same time, financial institutions' real output was approximately ₦1.57 trillion in Q2 2026, down from about ₦1.75 trillion in the preceding quarter. This is an important reminder that neither sector strength or national impact can be understood through a single number. That is why banking now requires a broader performance conversation. What Should Nigeria Get From Stronger Banks? This month, the Performance Leadership Brief™ has asked one central question: Nigerian Banks Have Recapitalized. Can the Banks Now Recapitalize Nigeria? That question is deliberately provocative. It does not suggest that banks alone can fix the Nigerian economy; they cannot. To fix the Nigerian economy, fiscal policy, monetary policy, infrastructure, security, regulation, education, governance, enterprise quality and global conditions matter; but banking matters too.

Financial institutions sit at the intersection of savings, capital, investment, trade, payments and enterprise. Their performance has consequences beyond their own organisations. The Conversion Chain Perhaps the post-recapitalisation era should be judged through a simple chain: CAPITAL □ CAPABILITY □ CREDIT □ ENTERPRISE □ PRODUCTIVITY □ NATIONAL PERFORMANCE Capital gives the institution strength. Capability determines what leadership can do with that strength. Credit moves resources toward economic opportunity. Enterprise converts those resources into activity. Productivity creates more output from available resources. And national performance emerges when this conversion happens at sufficient scale. The weakness of many performance systems is that we celebrate the first stage and assume the rest. We celebrate expenditure instead of outcomes, training instead of capability, policy instead of implementation, technology instead of user experience, capital instead of economic conversion. But inputs and outcomes are not the same thing. The Banking Performance Test Must Expand Imagine evaluating a major Nigerian bank. Naturally, we would examine profitability, return on equity, capital adequacy, asset quality, liquidity, cost efficiency and perhaps shareholder returns. All of them are legitimate indicators of institu-

tional performance. But for an economy such as Nigeria's, we should increasingly ask another layer of questions. How effectively is the institution financing productive businesses? What is the quality of its SME franchise? How much capability does it possess in sectors Nigeria needs to grow? How effectively does it support exports? How reliable are its payment channels? How effectively does it resolve complaints? How well does it protect customers? What kinds of businesses has its financing helped move from small to substantial? How much economic activity sits downstream of its capital? These questions do not replace traditional banking metrics. They extend them. The Difference Between a Successful Bank and a Significant Bank A successful bank creates value for itself and its stakeholders. A significant bank does that and becomes part of the infrastructure through which others create value. It helps businesses move. It allows households to transact confidently. It helps investors deploy capital. It enables trade. It finances productive assets. It supports innovation. It helps credible businesses cross the gap between opportunity and scale. The strongest institutions in an economy should create positive performance effects beyond their organisational boundaries. That is what makes them institutions rather than merely successful companies. But Banks Cannot Do This Alone

Nigeria cannot demand dramatically deeper productive lending while ignoring the environment within which lending decisions are made. The IMF's 2026 assessment noted that banks' holdings of government securities, high reserve requirements and structural constraints were limiting private-sector credit intermediation. The CBN's September decision left the Cash Reserve Requirement for deposit money banks at 45 per cent and reset the Monetary Policy Rate at 23 per cent. Therefore, the leadership challenge extends beyond bank boards. Policymakers must continue creating conditions in which productive private-sector lending becomes more viable. Businesses must improve governance, records and bankability. Credit infrastructure must deepen. The legal system must support contract enforcement. Financial institutions must innovate in risk assessment. Capital markets must provide alternatives where bank lending is not the right instrument. This is why Performance Leadership is ultimately about systems. Sustainable outcomes rarely come from one actor operating in isolation. Visit www.tppafrica.com for the full article Dr. Abiola Salami is a World-Class Performance Strategist and the developer of Performance Leadership™. His work focuses on enabling leaders and organisations close the gap between investment, capability, execution and measurable outcomes.

Labour & Appointments

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ITF-NECA job scheme records 90% graduate employment after 17 years

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

ABOUT 90 per cent of graduates of the Technical Skills Development Project (TSDP), a partnership between the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) and the Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association (NECA), have secured employment or started their own businesses.

This highlights the potential of industry-driven vocational training to address unemployment and strengthen Nigeria's industrial capacity.

The partnership, established

in March 2009, has aided the training of thousands of young Nigerians across the country's six geopolitical zones in more than 35 technical and vocational trades, with 84 public and private sector organisations participating in the programme.

The Director-General of NECA, Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde, disclosed the figures at the eighth edition of the ITF-NECA Technical Skills Development Project Stakeholders' Dialogue Forum and 2025 Outstanding Trainees' Awards Ceremony held in Abuja recently.

He said the initiative was established to address the mismatch between the technical competencies industries require and the skills available in the Nigerian labour market, a problem identified in a joint workforce survey ITF and NECA conducted in 2008.

According to him, the survey identified critical shortages in mechanical maintenance, welding, electrical and electronic maintenance, automation, instrumentation, and other industrial trades, prompting both organisations to develop a practical training model to prepare young Nigerians for the work-

place.

Oyerinde said the partnership had continued to provide a pipeline of skilled workers for industry at a time when Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) had yet to receive the policy attention and investment it deserved.

The programme, he added, demonstrated the importance of sustained collaboration between government institutions and employers in equipping young people with competencies that translate into employment, entrepreneurship and improved industrial productivity.

Beyond employment out-

comes, the initiative seeks to address the shortage of workers with the practical expertise to operate, maintain and repair equipment, improve production processes and support local manufacturing. For an economy seeking to expand domestic production, reduce dependence on imported goods, and create jobs for its growing youth population, skilled technicians and artisans remain essential to business competitiveness and the sustainability of industrial investments.

The ITF-NECA partnership has therefore placed industry participation at the centre of skills development, allowing

employers to contribute to the training process and help ensure that acquired competencies reflect actual workplace requirements.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Chairman of the ITF Governing Council, Hamma-Adama Ali Kumo, represented by Mrs Mercy Oyewole, said Nigeria's industrial ambitions depend on its ability to turn its population's talents into productive capacity.

He said factories, construction projects, energy systems, transport networks, agricultural enterprises and digital infrastructure all require workers with specialised technical skills.

CIPM warns skills deficit could undermine Made-in-Nigeria drive

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

THE Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) has warned that skills shortages and inadequate workforce development could undermine Nigeria's industrialisation drive.

Urging the Federal Government and private sector to prioritise human capital development, the institute said Nigeria's ability to compete globally and expand local production depends on the quality, productivity, and technical capabilities of its workforce, not its abundant natural resources.

The CIPM President and Chairman of the Governing Council, Ahmed Ladan Gobir, stated this at the institute's second-half 2026 Advocacy Roundtable,

themed: 'Unlocking Nigeria's Potential: The Critical Role of Human Capital in Driving Made in Nigeria Growth.'

Gobir said Nigeria's economic challenge was not a lack of natural resources or talent but its failure to develop and effectively harness the capabilities of its people.

Comparing Nigeria with Singapore, he noted that countries with fewer natural advantages had achieved stronger economic outcomes by investing deliberately in skills, institutions, human capital and enterprise.

"Before we insist on what is Made-in-Nigeria, are we investing sufficiently in those who must make it?" he asked.



Chief Executive Officer, Createo Urban Limited, Odion Aleobua (left); Team Lead, Brand and Communications, Leadway PFA, Tomisin Adeleye; Publisher, BusinessDay Limited, Frank Aigbogun; and Brand Manager, Leadway Group, Niyi Abiola, at the BusinessDay Banks and Other Financial Institutions (BAFI) Awards, where Leadway Assurance clinched the Insurance Company of the Year award in Lagos.

FG to enforce safety standards in commercial diving operations

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

THE Federal Government has inaugurated the diving governing board to strengthen enforcement of safety regulations and protect Nigerian workers engaged in hazardous commercial diving operations across the country.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment recently inaugurated the board in Abuja to close regulatory gaps by enforcing stricter compliance with the Factories (Diving at Work) Regulations, 2018.

The move comes amid expanding maritime activities, oil and gas exploration, port development, and underwater engineering projects, which have increased the need to effectively regulate commercial diving and protect workers exposed to potentially fatal occupational hazards.

Minister of Labour and Employment, Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi, who spoke at the inauguration, described the board's establishment as a significant step toward addressing longstanding safety concerns and ensuring existing regulations translate into effective protection for divers.

He said commercial diving remained one of the most hazardous industrial occupations, with regulatory weaknesses, inadequate standardisation, and unsafe practices putting workers' lives at risk.

Dingyadi said the expansion of Nigeria's maritime and offshore industries had made the safety and welfare of commercial divers a national priority, stressing that regulations alone were insufficient without an institution capable of enforcing them.

He charged the board to ensure that diving projects did not commence without the necessary medical fitness certification, approved operational plans and competent personnel.

The minister also urged members to work with recognised training institutions, including the Nigerian Navy Diving School and accredited civilian centres, to establish transparent certification pathways for commercial divers.

He said the initiative would reduce reliance on unverified foreign credentials and ensure personnel operating in the sector have the required technical competence.

Nigeria wants Korean investment to create jobs, boosts manufacturing

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

THE Federal Government has called for increased South Korean investment in Nigeria's manufacturing, automobile assembly, shipbuilding, and agricultural sectors to expand employment opportunities, accelerate technology transfer, and diversify the country's economy beyond crude oil and gas.

The government said stronger economic cooperation with South Korea would help develop local industries, improve agricultural productivity and equip young Nigerians with skills needed to participate in productive economic activities.

The call came during the 2026 celebration of South Korea's National Day in Abuja, where Nigeria and South Korea reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral trade, investment and technical cooperation.

Representing the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Ojukwu, the Chief of Protocol, Ambassador Babagana Wakil, said Nigeria welcomed greater Korean participation in productive sectors that generate employment and strengthen domestic industrial capacity.

Wakil said Nigeria was partic-

ularly interested in expanding trade beyond crude oil and liquefied natural gas to include non-oil exports, especially agricultural produce, while attracting investments that would create jobs and facilitate the transfer of technology and expertise.

He also identified automobile assembly, shipbuilding and other manufacturing activities as areas where increased Korean investment could support Nigeria's economic development.

"We welcome increased Korean investment in manufacturing, automobile assembly, shipbuilding, and other productive sectors that can promote technology transfer and employment generation," he said.

The government also expressed interest in leveraging South Korea's experience in agricultural mechanisation, improved rice production and agro-processing to strengthen food security and raise productivity. Nigeria is seeking opportunities to participate in Korea's Care Rice Belt Initiative as part of efforts to improve agricultural output and develop employment opportunities along the food value chain.

Wakil said cooperation in education, digital technology, technical training and re-

search would also be important in developing the human capital required to support industrial expansion.

He noted that Nigeria had benefited from Korean capacity-building programmes, including those facilitated by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). He welcomed further initiatives to equip young people with relevant technical and professional skills.

The government's position reflected a broader effort to translate Nigeria's economic relationship with South Korea into investment, industrial development and employment, rather than allowing bilateral trade to remain concentrated in the energy sector.

On institutional cooperation, Wakil said Nigeria attached considerable importance to the Nigeria-Korea Joint Commission as a framework for advancing bilateral relations. He said the sixth session was held in 2021 and that Nigeria looked forward to hosting the seventh session in Abuja.

He called on the Korean government to send high-level officials to Nigeria for further engagement, expressing hope that the meeting would open additional avenues for investment and cooperation across productive sectors.

South Korean companies, including Daewoo, LG, Samsung and Hyundai, are among the firms the Korean ambassador identified as participating in commercial and technical cooperation with Nigeria. Their activities span manufacturing, energy, digital technology, and infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Korea's ambassador to Nigeria, Jeong Yo-an, said his country's partnership with Nigeria is built on the principle of working as equal partners, sharing expertise and creating opportunities for mutual benefit.

He highlighted ongoing development initiatives involving Korean institutions and international partners, including entrepreneurship support, education and agricultural employment programmes.

Under a smart-school project implemented with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the ambassador said the project reached about 8,000 children, and more than 300 teachers and school leaders received training.

Ambassador Jeong cited collaboration between KOICA and the Food and Agriculture Organisation to create green jobs for young Nigerians in agriculture, alongside support for entrepreneurs and start-ups.

Labour & Appointments

Odah slams labour's silence on subsidy, soaring living costs

From Collins Olayinka, Abuja

AFORMER General Secretary of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), John Odah, has criticised organised labour over perceived diminishing influence amid worsening economic hardship.

He urged the movement to reclaim its voice on fuel subsidy removal, rising living costs, and deteriorating workers' welfare.

Odah, who is now the Executive Secretary of the Organisation of Trade Unions of West Africa (OTUWA), said the

labour movement should be at the forefront of articulating workers' grievances following the removal of the petrol subsidy and the devaluation of the naira, which he said had significantly worsened living conditions across the country.

While speaking at the opening session of the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU) in Abuja, he questioned why politicians were increasingly making the case for the return

of fuel subsidy while organised labour appeared less vocal on an issue it had opposed for decades.

He warned that labour unions' inability to sustain a strong public response to economic hardship was raising questions about their relevance and weakening their standing among workers and the wider population.

"What has happened to our voice as organised labour?" Odah asked, expressing concern that Nigerians were paying less attention to the labour movement's statements and actions.

He argued that fuel subsidy removal and naira devaluation

reinforced longstanding trade union concerns about how the policies affect workers' purchasing power and living standards.

President Bola Tinubu announced the removal of the petrol subsidy on May 29, 2023, triggering a sharp increase in fuel prices and transportation costs, with knock-on effects on food prices, household expenditure and the cost of doing business.

Odah said organised labour, given its institutional experience and historical opposition to subsidy removal, should lead the national conversation on the policy's consequences and press for measures to pro-

tect workers and low-income households.

He recalled that during the administrations of former President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and later President Goodluck Jonathan, he served as a member and secretary of the NLC committee on deregulation, chaired by NASU General Secretary Comrade Adeyemi, then a deputy president of the Congress.

According to him, the committee produced a comprehensive report on fuel subsidy and deregulation of the petroleum sector, underscoring the labour movement's longstanding involvement in the debate.

The former labour official said the movement's present predicament required serious reflection on its strategies, decisions and relationship with the public.

Odah also challenged comparisons between Nigeria's petrol price increases and those in the United States, saying such comparisons failed to account for differences in economic conditions and workers' living standards.

He maintained that the central issue was not simply the price of petrol but the cumulative pressure of rising costs on workers whose incomes had struggled to keep pace with inflation.

Olufuye joins UN advisory group on global digital policy

By Adeyemi Adepetun

THE United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) has appointed Principal Consultant at Kontemporary Consulting and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Africa ICT Alliance (AfICTA), Dr Jimson Olufuye, as a member of its Multi-stakeholder Consultation Group (UNGIS-MCG), bringing together representatives from governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community, academia and international organisations.

Building on the outcomes of the WSIS+20 Review and its emphasis on strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation, the UNGIS-MCG will serve as an advisory and consultative platform to facilitate regular

information sharing on UNGIS priorities and gather perspectives and feedback from diverse stakeholder communities.

The UNGIS-MCG builds on the outcomes of the WSIS+20 Review, including UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/173, as well as stakeholder inputs through the 29th yearly session of the CSTD, the annual WSIS Forum and UNGIS-related events, with a view to fostering inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue.



Olufuye

Group urges NANNM to prioritise nurses' welfare over assets

By Gloria Nwafor

THE Campaign for Democratic and Workers' Rights (CDWR) has urged the national leadership of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) to prioritise workers' welfare and tackle casualisation in the nursing profession rather than sell the union's property in Lagos to finance a project in Abuja.

The group said the alleged plan to sell Nurses House at 43, Churchgate Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, raised concerns about the union's priorities at a time when nurses face workplace challenges, including casual employment, contract staffing, unlawful dismissal, intimidation and harassment.

CDWR National Chairperson Rufus Olusesan and National Publicity Secretary, Chinedu Bosah, called on the union's national leadership to halt the proposed sale of the property, which they described as a strategic investment and welfare asset for nurses.

The group said the Lagos State Government, under the administration of the late Governor Lateef Jakande, gifted the property to the union to serve as an investment and welfare centre for nurses in Lagos and across the coun-

try.

It alleged that the NANNM national leadership, working with some members of the Lagos State Council, had concluded plans to sell the property to raise funds for the proposed Durumi project in Abuja.

CDWR argued that the union should focus on defending nurses' employment rights and improving working conditions, especially as casualisation and contract staffing continue to challenge the profession.

According to the group, many nurses in private healthcare facilities face exploitation and remain outside union representation, accusing the NANNM leadership of failing to show sufficient interest in organising them.

It also questioned the need to sell the Lagos property, citing other assets allegedly owned by the union in Abuja, including residential buildings, a guest house and several hectares of land in Gwagwalada.

The group maintained that trade unions should focus primarily on organising workers and protecting their interests, rather than expanding their property holdings.

Phillips Outsourcing seeks govt oversight to protect industry

By Gloria Nwafor

NIGERIA'S outsourcing industry needs stronger government legislation and operational standards to curb unprofessional practices, protect workers' welfare, and level the playing field for compliant operators, Phillips Outsourcing Managing Director, Olayemi Fadahunsi, said.

Fadahunsi said the growing importance of outsourcing to businesses and the economy makes it necessary for the government to set clear standards that distinguish professional

operators from firms that cut corners, warning that inadequate regulation could undermine efforts to build a sustainable industry.

He also urged the government to ensure regulatory oversight extended across the industry, not just to established operators, to promote fair competition and consistent standards.

Speaking at the fifth edition of the Phillips Football Tournament, tagged "Goal Frenzy 2026", held at Riverbank School, Oniru, Lagos, Fadahunsi said outsourcing companies

had a responsibility to protect employees' interests while helping client organisations improve efficiency and focus on their core businesses.

According to him, the sector contributes to the economy through activities including tax payments and pension remittances, making stronger institutional support necessary to sustain its growth.

"The business in Nigeria has now started to recognise the importance of outsourcing. Outsourcing contributes a lot to the Nigerian GDP," he said.

He noted that although government agencies, including the National Pension Commission and the Industrial Training Fund, were working to support the industry, more was needed to ensure operators were held to consistent standards.

Fadahunsi said the government should strengthen its engagement with outsourcing companies to ensure all operators comply with the same requirements, rather than focusing regulatory attention on a few established firms.

Lagos plans 20% innovation grants for women, youth

By Victoria Nwachukwu

LAGOS State is working on an innovation bill that will reserve one-fifth of innovation grants for women and youth-led ventures.

The state government also aims to double technology and innovation contributions to the state's economy by 2030.

Commissioner for Innovation, Science and Technology, Olatunbosun Alake, disclosed this at the Lagos Innovates LaunchPad 2.0 Idea Hub Pitch Day and Ecosystem Showcase, where he outlined the state's support for startups and its plans to strengthen the innovation ecosystem.

According to him, the proposed bill aimed to shift the state from providing innovation support to establishing permanent structures for it. He also said the government was expanding fibre infrastructure and welcoming founders and researchers returning home.

He said Lagos-based startups attracted more than \$6 billion be-

tween 2019 and 2024, accounting for 70 per cent of Nigeria's technology investment during the period.

Alake also said the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) disbursed more than N15 billion to over 20,000 small businesses, creating more than 320,000 jobs. He put the repayment rate at above 94 per cent.

Through Lagos Innovates, he said, more than 1,200 startups received support, while over 3,300 technology talents were developed. He added that the Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation Council had awarded almost N1 billion to 155 researchers and startups.

Alake said the government's responsibility was to build the institutions, infrastructure, and policies that let ideas thrive, while not becoming an obstacle to businesses.

He urged founders to focus on solving real problems, understanding their customers, and building revenue-generating businesses, rather than chasing the attention that comes with

pitching their ideas.

"Love the problem, not your idea," he told the entrepreneurs, urging them to listen to customers, study competitors, test their products and keep improving them.

He also encouraged investors to support startups with mentorship, market access, technical ex-

pertise and opportunities to reach real customers.

Also speaking, Chair of the Lagos State House of Assembly Committee on Wealth Creation and Employment, Foluke Stella, said turning ideas into sustainable businesses required mentorship, relevant skills, access to funding and a supportive environment.

IN THE MATTER OF NUPLAS INDUSTRIES LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION (VOLUNTARY WINDING UP) AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT 2020 NOTICE OF FINAL MEETING.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of Section 631(2) OF the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the final General meeting of Nuplas Industries Limited (In members Voluntary winding up) will hold at 6 Kolawole Shonibare Street, Ajao Estate, Isolo, Lagos on 30 October 2026 for the purpose of laying before the meeting accounts of the winding up of the above named company and of giving any explanation thereof towards the final dissolution of the company

Dated 28 October 2026.
Onwusa Ishicheli Liquidator.

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Reps deputy speaker confirms bill meets constitutional threshold

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

proval by the State Houses of Assembly would require the document to be returned to the states for fresh consideration.

He said the bill should ordinarily be transmitted to the President for assent, having been harmonised by the National Assembly and subsequently approved by the state legislatures.

According to him, any further alteration, however minor, would amount to another amendment requiring the consent of the state assemblies.

"If it is true that further alterations have been made to the bill after the states approved it, even if such alterations involve only the insertion of a comma, in my opin-

ion, the bill should be returned to the states for approval.

"This is because what is being presented to the President for assent must be the same document that the National Assembly passed and the states approved. If any alteration is made, it means the bill has been amended again, and it should be returned to the states to determine whether they agree with the changes.

"It is possible that some states may not agree with the alterations," he said.

On the legal concerns surrounding the implementation of state police and measures to prevent abuse by governors, Layonu said he would need to study the bill before offering recommendations.

"I have not read the provi-

sions of the bill thoroughly enough to offer any views, opinions or recommendations. I will need to study its provisions before I can comment on those issues," he said.

A Lagos-based lawyer, Dr Yemi Omodele, said concerns about the extent of governors' control over state police and the potential for abuse should have been adequately addressed during the committee stage and by the State Houses of Assembly.

He expressed optimism that the constitutional process would soon be concluded, noting that the required threshold for the proposed amendment had been met.

"The issue of state police in Nigeria will soon be settled, as the constitutional require-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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- Proven experience in a secondary school offering both British (Cambridge/IGCSE) and Nigerian curricula.
- Strong knowledge of curriculum development, assessment, quality assurance, educational standards, and regulatory compliance.
- Ability to lead and manage staff and school improvement initiatives.
- Excellent leadership, communication, interpersonal, and organisational skills.
- High integrity and the ability to work effectively in a multicultural environment.

2. SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- Mandatory professional qualification: ICAN, ACCA, ANAN, or equivalent.
- Minimum of 5 years' post-qualification experience, preferably in a school.
- Proficiency in accounting software and knowledge of financial regulations.
- High integrity, accuracy, and strong analytical and communication skills.
- Ensure accurate financial records, effective internal controls, and statutory obligations.

APPLICATION: Send your CV and application letter to: **abjtopschool@gmail.com** on or before 5 November 2026.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

We are a leading provider of industrial kitchen, bakery, dishwashing, refrigeration and laundry equipment in Nigeria. We are also an expert in the maintenance of aforementioned equipment.

Due to expansion, we seek to employ suitably qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

1. KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

Job Location: Lagos/Abuja/Bonny Island (Ability to relocate to any of these locations will be desirable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: B.ENG/ HND/OND Electrical/Electronic Engineering

Work Experience: At least 8 years in maintenance of industrial catering and laundry equipment

Age: Not above 50 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Install and Commission industrial kitchen and laundry equipment
- Perform preventive and corrective maintenance
- Diagnose mechanical and electrical faults
- Repair or replace faulty component systems
- Ensure all equipment operates safely and efficiently
- Maintain service records and maintenance logs
- Ensure compliance with food safety and quality standards

2. REFRIGERATION/COLDROOM MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

Job Location: Lagos/Abuja/Bonny Island (Ability to relocate to any of these locations will be desirable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: HND/OND in Refrigeration & Air conditioning or related field

Work Experience: At least 5 years in maintenance of coldrooms and other cooling systems

Age: Not above 50 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Install, operate and maintain coldrooms, air conditioning systems, freezers and other refrigeration equipment
- Monitor temperature and ensure optimal performance of all equipment
- Troubleshoot and repair faults in refrigeration and control systems
- Carry out planned preventive maintain on refrigeration equipment
- Ensure compliance with food safety and quality standards

3. MARKETERS

Job Location: Lagos (Applicants residing at Lekki axis preferable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: BSC/HND/OND in Marketing or any other related field

Work Experience: At least 3 years experience marketing industrial catering, refrigeration and laundry equipment

Age: Not above 45 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Identify target client segment and develop

- appropriate marketing strategy
- Create and manage marketing collateral
- Business lead generation and sales collaboration
- Oversee company's social media platforms

4. OFFICE SECRETARY

Job Location: Lagos (Applicants residing at Lekki axis preferable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: BSC/HND/OND in Secretarial studies or related field.

Work Experience: At least 5 years experience handling secretarial works

Age: Not above 40 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Correspondence management
- Record Keeping
- Front desks operation
- Meeting scheduling

5. CLEANER

Job Location: Lekki Lagos (Applicants residing at Chevron axis preferable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: Minimum of Secondary School Leaving Certificate

Work Experience: At least 3 years in cleaning or janitorial position

Age: Not above 40 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Sweeping, mopping and vacuuming
- Dusting and surface cleaning
- Waste disposal and bin management
- Restocking cleaning supplies and toiletries
- Reporting safety and maintenance issues
- Other job specific responsibilities

6. GENERATOR TECHNICIANS

Job Location: Lagos, Abuja, Minna, Bauchi, Enugu and Warri (Ability to relocate to any of these locations will be desirable)

Qualifications & Knowledge: HND/OND in Electrical Engineering or related field

Work Experience: At least 5 years in maintenance of generators

Age: Not above 50 years

Remuneration: Negotiable

Job Responsibilities:

- Install and commission industrial generators of different capacities
- Perform preventative maintenance
- Perform breakdown maintenance
- Log service reports, parts usage and compliance with local safety or electrical codes

Interested and qualified applicants should send

CV and application letter to **technical.recruitment@yahoo.com**

Only qualified applicants will be shortlisted and invited for further interview

Application Deadline:

Two weeks from the date of advert publication.



...Inspiring a Sustainable Future

VACANCY

Who we are

Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG) is a globally competitive energy company improving lives sustainably. Incorporated in 1989, NLNG plays a critical role in harnessing Nigeria's natural gas resources for domestic and international markets, while driving long-term economic and social value.

At NLNG, we offer an innovative work environment, strong ethical standards, and career experiences that enable our people to thrive and make meaningful impact.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer. Employment decisions are based on business need, job requirements, individual qualifications and performance in a competitive assessment process.

Candidates who require a **reasonable adjustment** during the recruitment process due to a disability should notify us. A reasonable adjustment is a change made to remove or reduce a disability-related disadvantage during recruitment. Requests from shortlisted candidates will be considered at each stage, based on individual needs and the requirements of the recruitment process.

Reasonable adjustments support equitable participation in the recruitment process but do not remove or alter the essential safety, operational or competence requirements of the role.

The Opportunity

We seek suitably qualified candidates for employment into the following positions:

1. Shift Operator (PO/ 2026/ 001)

Location: Bonny Island, Rivers State

Job Objectives:

To carry out daily field operational activities in the assigned plant area in a safe and efficient manner to ensure steady and sustained production in line with daily production targets. Perform the role of a safety critical position holder and a safety critical human barrier as defined in the bowties to ensure the effectiveness of the control barriers.

The Person:

To be eligible to apply for the OPERATOR position, candidate should possess:

- A Higher National Diploma (HND) in Chemical, Instrumentation and Control, Petroleum/Gas, Mechatronics, Mechanical or Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Civil, Structural, Environmental, Marine, Metallurgical, Materials or Software Engineering obtained with a minimum of Upper Credit level.
- Minimum of 4 years working experience in LNG operations.
- Skill in LNG process and auxiliary operating areas (Gas Transmission, NG treatment, NG Pre-cooling and Liquefaction, Liquid Handling unit, LNG utilities, Storage and Loading).

Core Competencies

- Plant Operations and Process Monitoring.
- HSE Risk Management and Safety Compliance.
- Emergency Response Preparedness.
- Problem Solving and Operational Decision-Making.
- Communication and Team Collaboration.
- Digital Awareness and Continuous Improvement.
- Operational Excellence and Reliability.

Attachment of the underlisted documents (copies) is MANDATORY

- HND Certificate.
- NYSC Discharge or Exemption Certificate
- Birth Certificate or Declaration of Age
- Evidence of Change of Name (where applicable)
- Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

2. Operations Supervisor (PO/ 2026/002)

Location: Bonny Island, Rivers State

Job Objectives:

Lead and supervise all operational activities in the assigned operational area of the Plant to ensure safe, efficient, and reliable plant performance. The role is responsible for monitoring and controlling operations, optimizing plant conditions, managing start-ups and shutdowns, responding



...Inspiring a Sustainable Future

VACANCY

to emergencies, and maintaining production continuity. As a designated safety-critical position holder and human barrier, the incumbent plays a key role in preventing and mitigating operational risks in line with established safety controls and bowtie requirements. This position supervises and ensures compliance with operating plans, procedures, work instructions, and safety standards.

The Person:

To be eligible to apply for the OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR position, candidates should possess:

- A Higher National Diploma (HND) in Chemical, Instrumentation, Petroleum/Gas, Mechatronics, Mechanical or Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Civil, Structural, Environmental, Marine, Metallurgical, Materials or Software Engineering obtained at a minimum of Upper Credit level.
- Minimum of 10 years' working experience in LNG operations with at least 3 years' experience in plant operations.
- Evidence of acquisition of the required 12 Assessment & Progression (A&P) Skill Blocks.

Core Competencies

- Plant Operations Management and Optimization
- HSE and Process Safety Leadership
- Emergency Response and Incident Management
- People Management, Coaching, and Mentoring
- Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Commercial Awareness and Digital Literacy
- Operational Excellence and Reliability

Attachment of the underlisted documents (copies) is MANDATORY

- HND Certificate
- NYSC Discharge or Exemption Certificate
- Evidence of acquisition of 12 A&P Skill Blocks
- Birth Certificate or Declaration of Age
- Evidence of Change of Name (where applicable)
- Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

3. Shift Principal Operator (PO/2026/003)

Location: Bonny Island, Rivers State

Job Objectives:

Carry out field operational activities within the assigned plant area safely and efficiently to ensure reliable, stable, and sustained production in line with operational and production targets. The role is responsible for monitoring plant conditions, executing operational tasks, and supporting safe plant performance while serving as a designated safety-critical position holder and human barrier in accordance with defined bowtie controls. The incumbent contributes to the effectiveness of critical risk barriers, responds to operational challenges as required, and is capable of deputizing for the Area Supervisor when designated.

The Person:

To be eligible to apply for the SHIFT PRINCIPAL OPERATOR position, candidates should possess:

- A Higher National Diploma (HND) in Chemical, Instrumentation and Control, Petroleum/Gas, Mechatronics, Mechanical or Electrical/Electronic Engineering, Civil, Structural, Environmental, Marine, Metallurgical, Materials or Software Engineering obtained at a minimum of Upper Credit level.
- Minimum of 8 years working experience in LNG operations.
- Evidence of acquisition of 9 Assessment and Progression (A & P) Skill Blocks.

Core Competencies

- Plant Operations and Process Monitoring
- HSE Risk Management
- Operational Discipline and Compliance
- Communication and Teamwork
- Problem Solving and Personal Effectiveness
- Innovation, Digital Awareness, and Continuous Improvement
- Operational Excellence and Production Reliability

Attachment of the underlisted documents (copies) is MANDATORY



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VACANCY

- HND Certificate.
- NYSC Discharge or Exemption Certificate
- Evidence of acquisition of 9 A&P Skill Blocks
- Birth certificate or Declaration of Age
- Evidence of Change of Name (where applicable)
- Current Curriculum Vitae (CV)

Applications must include copies of the relevant certificates/documents listed.

Applications without the mandatory attachments will NOT be considered.

UNDERSTAND THE ROLE BEFORE YOU APPLY

These are hands-on, safety-critical plant roles. Successful candidates must be willing and able to:

- Work the prescribed shift rotation.
- Work at heights and above water, particularly at the loading jetties, where required.
- Participate in emergency response and serve on the First Intervention Team (FIT) as required.
- Wear prescribed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) correctly and consistently.
- Maintain a clean-shaven face while on shift rotation for effective use of Breathing Apparatus (BA), and ensure head hair allows the safe and proper use of helmets and other PPE.
- Meet applicable fitness-to-work requirements.
- Comply with all applicable HSE, operational and emergency-response requirements.

APPLICATION DECLARATION

- By applying, candidates confirm that they have read and understood the advertised duties, working conditions and essential role requirements, and that the information provided is complete and accurate.
- Material misrepresentation, omission, falsification or concealment may result in disqualification, withdrawal of an offer or termination of employment, subject to applicable Company policy and law.
- Selection and continued employment are subject to satisfactory verification of

information provided and applicable pre-employment and fitness-to-work requirements.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications must include all mandatory documents specified for the position. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

Apply through the NLNG Career Site:

- Log on to the NLNG Career Site
- Click on **"Accept All Cookies"**
- Click on **"View All Jobs"**
- Click on the advertised position of interest to view the details and apply.
- Log in using your Email and Password. If you are a new user, click on **"Create Profile"** to register. **(You will receive an email confirming your registration. Note: you have not applied for the job yet.)**
- Add your name, password and other required data, view the privacy statement, accept and submit.
- Complete the application form, attach /upload copies of relevant documents to update your information and click on 'Apply'.
- You will receive an email confirming your application is successful.

Only applications completed through the NLNG job portal are valid.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, 17 November 2026.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- NLNG does not demand payment from applicants or appoint agents to assist with applications.
- Only successful candidates at each stage will be contacted.
- Candidates should rely only on information from official NLNG channels.
- By applying, candidates consent to Nigeria LNG Limited processing their personal data to assess suitability for employment, in accordance with applicable data-protection requirements.

VACANCIES FOR YOUNG OPERATIONS PROFESSIONALS IN OIL & GAS MARKETING

A leading Downstream Oil Marketing Company with huge presence in Lubricant, Commercial and Industrial Sales, Aviation and Retail Business across the Country is seeking to recruit personnel in their Lube Plant.

An attractive career prospects and competitive remuneration packages with benefits await successful candidates!

POSITIONS:

1. **Production Supervisor**
Ref: LPS (Minimum 5 years)
2. **Tank Farm Supervisor**
Ref: TFS (Minimum 5 years)
3. **Account Officers**
Ref: LAO (Minimum 5 years)
4. **Materials Store Supervisors**
Ref: LMSS (Minimum 5 years)
5. **Blending Supervisor**
Ref: LBS (Minimum 5 years)

1. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR REF: LPS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good degree in Mechanical / Chemical Engineering with minimum of Second Class Lower Division. Higher Diploma with Distinction or Upper Credit would also be considered.

EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years experience with 2 years in related field.
- Good knowledge of MS office applications.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Coordinating production activities on the plant floor.
- Liaising with the Laboratory Chemists for sampling of products to be filled.

- Constant monitoring of Production activities.
- Reporting productions.

2. TANK FARM SUPERVISOR REF: TFS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good university degree in any Engineering discipline with minimum of Second Class Lower Division. Higher Diploma with Distinction or Upper Credit would also be considered.

EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years experience with 2 years in related field.
- Good knowledge of MS office applications.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise all bulk product movements; Tanker receipt to storage; storage to blending kettles; blending to finished product tanks and to filling.
- Prepare daily line-up and valve settlings for all transfers and ensure zero cross-contamination.
- Ensure accurate dipping, sampling and documentation for all receipts and dispatches.

3. ACCOUNTS OFFICERS REF: LAO

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good university degree in Accounting with minimum of Second Class Lower Division.

EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years experience with 2 years in related field.
- Good knowledge of MS office applications.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Regular reconciliation of raw material consumption vs BOM and investigate variances between standard and actual usage.
- Daily posting of blending and filling production into the accounting system.
- Reconcile physical stock from Tank Farm, Materials Store and Packaging Store with system stock.

4. MATERIALS STORE SUPERVISORS REF: LMSS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good university degree in any discipline with minimum of Second Class Lower Division.

EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years experience with 2 years in related field.
- Good knowledge of MS office applications.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure daily inventory and bookkeeping on material issues and receipts.
- Submit weekly comprehensive report on packaging materials stock status for planning.
- Ensure accurate vendor LPO depletion and process delivery waybills for payment.
- Constant liaising with the Production Supervisor

- on stock availability and other related concerns.
- Provision of Daily report on packaging material receipt; issues and comparison with system.

5. BLENDING SUPERVISOR REF: LBS

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Good university degree in Mechanical / Chemical Engineering with minimum of Second Class Lower Division. Higher Diploma with Distinction or Upper Credit would also be considered.

EXPERIENCE:

- At least 5 years experience with 2 years in related field.
- Good knowledge of MS office applications.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise daily lube blending activities for all product grades
- Prepare and execute blending orders based on approved formulations / recipes.
- Operate and monitor blending kettles; tanks / heaters, mixers and automatic batch controllers.

LOCATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS:

- Lagos - Nigeria

MODE OF APPLICATION

Qualified candidates should e-mail their resume with a scanned passport sized photograph, stating the above reference as the subject of the e-mail, within 7 days of this publication to: oilandgasprofessionals26@gmail.com

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Join Bigtree Family!

As a Distributor Nationwide

BigTree seasoning powder is a global premium brand crafted to deliver rich taste, irresistible aroma, world class flavor enhancement for every meal.

We are inviting serious distributors and strategic partners to join us in taking Bigtree seasoning powder across Nigeria.



0703 134 0771, 0707 482 9912

✉ bigtreegroupnigeria@gmail.com
 📱 @bigtreeseasoningpowder

Benefits

- ✓ Attractive distributor pricing
- ✓ Rebates and Incentives
- ✓ Strong marketing and trade support
- ✓ Territory opportunities



IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT LAGOS

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS.

SUIT NO: FHC/L/C/555/26
BETWEEN
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC)
PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

AND
1. WESTERN METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED
2. STANDARD INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
3. NFE INDUSTRIES LIMITED
4. UNITED ROLLING MILLS LIMITED
5. KNIGHT METAL MANUFACTURING COMPANY LIMITED
6. WEMPCO STEEL MILLS COMPANY LIMITED
7. MODERN STEEL MILL INDUSTRIES LIMITED
8. NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE COMPANY PLC.
9. UNIVERSAL NIGERIA INDUSTRIES COMPANY LIMITED
10. OMO WOOD INDUSTRY LIMITED
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13. LAGOS ORIENTAL HOTEL LIMITED
14. PRIME NIGERIA TILES COMPANY LIMITED
15. WISEWAY AGRO PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED
16. MIDLAND STORES DEVELOPMENT COMPANY LIMITED
17. PRIME NIGERIA WOOD PRODUCTS CO. LTD)
DEFENDANTS

AND IN RE:

IN THE MATTER FOR AN APPLICATION FOR THE COMMITMENT OF THE
FOLLOWING PERSONS CITED FOR CONTEMPT:

1. LEWIS SHUI NOOR TUNG
2. PHILLIP SHUI CHE TUNG
3. M. A. OLA YUSUF (ALH)
4. TUNG LAWRENCE BLAKE
5. ALI AARE HADJI TOKUNBO
6. PAUL SHUI PO TUNG
7. TUNG ROBERT
8. CL IP
9. TAIWO ALI
ALLEGED CONTEMNORS/
RESPONDENTS

FORM 42

NOTICE TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ORDER OF COMMITMENT SHOULD NOT
BE MADE BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTION 72 OF THE SHERIFFS
CIVIL PROCESS ACT LFN 2004

TO:
MESSRS. LEWIS SHUI NOOR TUNG, PHILLIP SHUI CHE TUNG, M. A. OLA YUSUF (ALH), TUNG LAWRENCE BLAKE, ALI AARE HADJI TOKUNBO, PAUL SHUI PO TUNG, TUNG ROBERT, CL IP and TAIWO ALI all of 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.

TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant will on the day of 2026, at 11 hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter, apply to this Court for the following Orders to wit:

1. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court committing the above named Contemnors to prison for their wilful, deliberate and orchestrated disobedience of the Order of this Honourable Court made on the 2nd of April, 2026.

2. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court that the said Contemnors as lawfully and legitimately cited for contempt herein shall remain in prison and/or protective custody of any of the detaining security agencies or at any designated prison/reformatory place in Nigeria's territorial landscape until they purge themselves of the contempt of this Honourable Court.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that the grounds for this application are as follows that:

1. On the 2nd of April, 2026, this Honourable Court granted an Order appointing Mr. Romeo Eze Michael Esq as Receiver/Manager over the Assets of the 1st Defendant not specifically charged under the Multicurrency Multiple Credit Facility Agreement dated 30th September 2019, amongst other Orders.

2. Following the grant of the said Order, the Bailiffs of this Honourable Court duly enforced the said Order and delivered possession of the Assets to the Receiver/Manager. The Assets included the landed property situate at Magboro/Ibafo Area of Ogun State, together with the Plants and Machinery located thereon.

3. However, the Contemnors have connived and chased out the Receiver from the premises, snatched the assets from the Receiver and took over the assets and the entire premises, in flagrant disobedience of the order of Court made 2nd April 2026 and even the Interlocutory order made on the 21st of July 2026.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby required to attend the Court on the above-mentioned day/date to show cause why an Order for commitment should not be made against you in the circumstance herein.

DATED THIS 29th DAY OF Sept 2026

REGISTRAR

FOR SERVICE ON:

1. LEWIS SHUI NOOR TUNG OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.
2. PHILLIP SHUI CHE TUNG OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.
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6. PAUL SHUI PO TUNG OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.
7. TUNG ROBERT OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.
8. CL IP OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS.
9. TAIWO ALI OF 18, WEMPCO ROAD, OGBA I KEJA, LAGOS

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS.

SUIT NO: FHC/L/C/555/26
BETWEEN
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC)
PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

AND
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ALLEGED CONTEMNORS/
RESPONDENTS

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FORM 42

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DATED THIS 29th DAY OF Sept 2026

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IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUIT NO: FHC/L/C/555/26
BETWEEN
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC)
PLAINTIFF/APPLICANT

AND
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DEFENDANTS

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7. TUNG ROBERT
8. CL IP
9. TAIWO ALI
ALLEGED CONTEMNORS/
RESPONDENTS

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT

I, John Paul Isung, Male, Adult, Christian, Nigerian Citizen of 80B, Isale-Eko Avenue, Dolphin Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos State, do hereby make oath and state as follows that:

1. I am a Litigation Officer in the Law firm of counsel to the Applicant in this matter by virtue of which I am familiar with the facts deposed to herein.

2. The facts herein deposed to are those within my personal knowledge unless otherwise stated.

3. I have the authority and consent of my employers and the Applicant to depose to this affidavit.

4. I am informed by Obeng Akinda-Peters of Counsel to the Applicant, during a meeting at our office on the 28th of August, 2026 at about 3pm, and I verily believe him to be true and correct as follows:

4.1 On the 2nd of April, 2026, this Honourable Court granted an Order appointing Mr. Romeo Eze Michael Esq as Receiver/Manager over the Assets of the 1st Defendant not specifically charged under the Multicurrency Multiple Credit Facility Agreement dated 30th September 2019, amongst other Orders.

4.2 Following the grant of the said Order, the Bailiffs of this Honourable Court duly enforced the said Order and delivered possession of the Assets, particularly, those at and within the premises of the 1st Defendant located at Magboro/Ibafo Area, to the Receiver/Manager, in line with the orders of Court.

4.3 However, he knows that after the Bailiffs handed over the Assets to the Receiver/Manager, the alleged contemnors connived amongst themselves to organize thugs to constitute nuisance at the premises of the 1st Defendant, which was already under Receivership and chased out the Receiver in complete disregard to the Orders of Court.

4.4 He knows for a fact that on the 22nd day of June, 2026, Counsel to the Defendants wrote a letter to the Plaintiff requesting for a meeting towards an amicable resolution of this matter. The letter dated 22nd June, 2026 is hereby attached and marked as EXHIBIT A.

4.5 The letter of 22nd June, 2026, was forwarded to Counsel representing the Plaintiff. Hence, the Plaintiff's Counsel's letter of 23rd June, 2026, informing the Defendants' Counsel of the unruly behavior of the Defendants within the premises under the control of the Receiver/Manager and the Plaintiff's decision to have the meeting as requested by the Defendants at a suggested date and time. The letter of 23rd June, 2026, is hereby attached and marked as EXHIBIT B.

4.6 In response to the Plaintiff's letter, the Defendants proposed that the meeting be held on the 26th of June, 2026, at the Head Office of the Plaintiff, which was acceptable to the Plaintiff. The letter under reference clearly avoided the issue of the unruly behavior of the Defendants. The letter of 24th June, 2026, is hereby attached and marked as EXHIBIT C.

4.7 He knows for a fact that at the meeting of 26th June, 2026, Parties agreed for a joint inspection of some Assets belonging to the Defendants, including the Defendants' premises at Ibafo/Magboro Area of Ogun State.

4.8 Instead of the joint inspection, the Defendants and their thugs forcefully chased out the Receiver's representatives and threatened that should they ever see the Receiver or his representatives within the premises, they would inflict serious injury on him or his representatives.

4.9 Parties had agreed that the joint inspection is to be carried out on Thursday, 2nd July, 2026.

4.10 However, on the said 2nd of July 2026, the Defendants and their counsel failed to turn up at the meet up point; the Defendants knowing that they had other contemptuous plans. All efforts to reach the Defendants' representatives and their counsel did not yield any results.

4.11 The Defendants have now prevented the Receiver from gaining access to the 1st Defendant's premises and threatened to attack him and his officers, should he insist on gaining access into the premises.

4.12 The Defendants broke the padlocks and chains which the Receiver used to secure the property including the plants and machineries, gained access into the premises and chased out the security personnel stationed at the property by the Receiver/Manager for the purpose of securing and preserving the assets under Receivership.

4.13 The Defendants and particularly, the alleged contemnors broke all the locks and are now continuing their business within the premises, while they continue to divert all the funds from the business for their personal gains without any plans on how they intend to liquidate the indebtedness owed to the Plaintiff. The pictures and flash drive containing the videos of the current situation of the premises without the presence of the Receiver or his security men/representatives is attached as a bundle and marked as EXHIBIT D.

4.14 The Defendants and their counsel have for reasons best known to them, gone incommunicado.

4.15 At the time the Defendants began the contemptuous act, the Plaintiff caused Form 48 to be issued and duly served on the Contemnors in line with the order of Court, thereby drawing their attention to the consequences of their continued disobedience of the subsisting and valid Order of this Honourable Court.

4.16 Despite the service of the Form 48 on the Contemnors, they refused to allow the Court appointed Receiver/Manager perform his duties.

4.17 Notwithstanding the service of the Form 48 on the Contemnors, they have continued to flagrantly and wilfully disobey the Orders of this Honourable Court.

4.18 This continuous disregard for the rule of law is a blatant and deliberate disregard for the hallowed authority of the court and contemptuous.

4.19 The Court appointed a Receiver and granted leave to the appointed Receiver to take possession and control of those assets, but the alleged contemnors have by their actions shown that they have no regard for the order of Court.

4.20 The contemptuous act of the Defendants has nothing to do with the purported appeal filed by them.

4.21 This continuous disregard for the rule of law is a blatant and deliberate disregard for the hallowed authority of the court and contemptuous.

4.22 Justice can only be served when the Defendants are made to face the consequences of their action by this Honourable Court making an order for commitment to prison of the Contemnors and that they remain in prison custody until the cited parties purge themselves of the contempt.

5. I depose to this Affidavit in good faith, conscientiously believing the contents to be true and correct, in support of Form 49 and in accordance with the Oaths Act currently in force.

DEPONENT

SWORN TO AT THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT REGISTRY

LAGOS, THIS 29th DAY OF Sept 2026

BEFORE ME

COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT

IKOTI, LAGOS

MONS COOPER PARTNERS

www.scp-law.com

June 22, 2026

The Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer

22 JUN 2026

United Bank for Africa Plc

USA House

57 Marina

Lagos, Nigeria.

Attention: The Head, Legal Services / The Group Head, Corporate Banking

WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: USA V. WESTERN METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY LIMITED & ORS - REQUEST FOR URGENT MEETING TO REVIEW THE INJUNCTION, SURROUNDING ISSUES AND IMPACT ON OTHER BANKS, CREDITORS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

We are Solicitors to Western Metal Products Company Limited ("WEMPCO" or "our Client") and write on its instructions in connection with the above matter and the recent injunctive and ancillary orders obtained by United Bank for Africa Plc ("UBA").

Our Client has instructed that we request an urgent meeting with UBA's senior management, legal team and recovery team to review the injunction, the surrounding commercial and legal issues and the wider implications of the orders on WEMPCO, its group companies, other banks, creditors, employees, suppliers, regulators and other interested parties.

We are seriously concerned that the present injunction - if not promptly reviewed and responsibly managed - may have consequences far beyond the immediate dispute between the parties. In particular, the orders are capable of disrupting existing banking arrangements, syndicated or restructured facilities, security arrangements, creditor priorities, supplier obligations, employment obligations, tax and statutory payments, and the continued operation of a going concern.

The banking relationship between the parties has, over the years, been subject to various restructurings, negotiations, security arrangements, repayment discussions and multi-party arrangements involving other banks and financial institutions. It is therefore important that any

enforcement step is approached in a manner that does not inadvertently prejudice other lenders, undermine existing security arrangements, destabilize creditor priorities, or occasion avoidable damage to WEMPCO's business before the substantive issues are fairly considered.

Accordingly, we propose that an urgent meeting be convened within the next 48 hours at either 12pm or 3pm to consider, among other things:

a. the scope and practical effect of the injunction and ancillary orders;
b. the impact of the orders on WEMPCO's business operations and going-concern value;
c. the position of other banks, facility agents, security trustees, creditors and interested parties;
d. a joint reconciliation of the accounts and the alleged outstanding exposure;
e. the possibility of an interim standstill;
f. a structured framework for repayment, security preservation, account reconciliation and further negotiations; and
g. any other commercially reasonable arrangement that will protect UBA's legitimate recovery interest without destroying value or prejudicing third-party interests.

This request is made without prejudice to WEMPCO's position in the pending proceedings and to its right to apply to discharge, set aside or vary the injunction and all ancillary orders. Nothing in this letter constitutes an admission of the sums claimed by UBA, the validity of the process adopted, or the propriety of the orders obtained.

WEMPCO nonetheless believes that a constructive engagement at this stage may prevent unnecessary escalation, preserve enterprise value, protect the interests of all stakeholders and assist the parties in identifying a commercially reasonable path forward.

Pending the proposed meeting, we respectfully request that UBA refrain from taking any further enforcement step that may disrupt WEMPCO's operations, affect third-party banking arrangements, impair creditor positions or create irreversible consequences before the parties have had a meaningful opportunity to engage.

Kindly confirm your availability at your earliest convenience. WEMPCO is available at short notice and is prepared to attend with its financial advisers and legal representatives.

MONS COOPER PARTNERS

Lawyers urged to embrace AI, industry innovation for value creation

By Ngozi Egenuka

PARTNER, Jackson, Etti and Edu law firm, Chinyere Okorocho, has urged lawyers to embrace changes in technology, business and emerging industries to help clients create value.

Okorocho gave the advice at the seventh edition of Legal Business Conference 2026, themed 'Law, Commerce and Creativity: Unlocking New Frontiers in Health, Sports and Fashion Law', held in Lagos.

She explained that the methods of practice that served the profession decades ago are no longer sufficient or sustainable today, recalling that legal practice was once largely divided into litigation, commercial law, academia and public service, with research involving hours spent studying physical law reports, textbooks and statutes.

She said technology has, however, transformed the profession, making legal



Medical Director, Waterfalls Hospital, Dr Emma Onyenuche (left); Partner, Jackson, Etti and Edu, Chinyere Okorocho; Founding Partner, The Law Suite, Ifeoma Ben; Vice President, World Association for Medical Law (WAML), Laolu Osanyin and Global Growth Lead at Field Intelligence, Peter Bunor at the Legal Business Conference 2026.

research, document review and legal drafting faster and more accessible, with Artificial Intelligence (AI) transforming legal research, contract analysis and other aspects of legal work.

Despite the changes, Okorocho said legal education and practice must go beyond interpretation of laws, document analysis, drafting of legal instruments and resolv-

ing disputes.

According to her, lawyers must understand the business environment, technology and industries in which their clients operate, including how intellectual property, finance, regulation and creativity interact to create economic value.

She urged lawyers to be strategic business partners, involved earlier in business decisions with clients, helping

to identify risks, navigate regulatory requirements, protect innovations, structure transactions and pursue growth opportunities rather than professionals who are contacted only when disputes arise.

She also highlighted the growing intersection of healthcare, technology, investment and regulation, particularly with the expansion of digital health services and AI.

She raised questions about liability when AI-assisted diagnostic systems produce incorrect results, the protection and handling of sensitive patient information, regulatory approvals for digital health solutions and ownership of intellectual property developed through collaborations between healthcare providers, researchers and technology companies, warning that innovation must not come at the expense of patients' safety, privacy and professional accountability.

Okorocho also identified sports law as an area offering significant opportunities for legal practitioners, noting that professional sports currently include broadcasting rights, sponsorship, endorsements, intellectual property, taxation and investment.

"Athletes increasingly function as brands, entrepreneurs and media personalities, whose commercial value can extend

beyond sporting careers. Lawyers have important roles to play in protecting athletes' interests, negotiating contracts and helping sporting organisations, clubs and academies build sustainable businesses."

Pedro tasks lawyers on capacity devt as ministry celebrates new permanent secretaries

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

LAGOS State Attorney General Land Commissioner for Justice, Mr Lawal Pedro (SAN), has urged legal practitioners to remain committed to professional growth and career advancement, noting that 'Call to Bar' only marks the beginning of a professional journey.

Pedro advised at a reception organised by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice in honour of newly appointed Permanent Secretaries, Mr Haroun Adebayo Mubashiru and Mrs Thomas-Orogan Folashade Aina.

He encouraged lawyers to approach their careers with determination, emphasising that professional advancement requires sustained effort and commitment beyond call to Bar.

The Attorney-General also highlighted the importance of teamwork and mutual respect, describing positive professional relationships and goodwill as enduring legacies in public service.

Earlier, the Solicitor General and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Mr Hameed O. Oyenuga, commended Pedro for supporting the career advancement of colleagues.

The Permanent Secretary, Citizens' Mediation Bureau, Mrs Aderinsola Olanrewaju, congratulated the newly appointed Permanent Secretaries and pledged continued collaboration towards the ministry's progress.

In their separate responses, Aina and Mubashiru reaffirmed commitment to the growth of the sector and improved service delivery in their new capacities.

NBA-SBL, NGX, CloD call for stronger corporate governance

By Silver Nwokoro

NIGERIAN Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), Nigerian Exchange (NGX) and Chartered Institute of Directors, Nigeria (CloD), have called for corporate governance frameworks that are adaptable, transparent and responsive to emerging risks and opportunities in the digital economy.

They made the call at the Corporate Governance Triangle Annual Colloquium held in Lagos, with the theme, 'Governing for the Future: Board Leadership, Regulatory Innovation and Sustainable Value Creation in a Digital Economy', focused on the implications of digital technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and rapid technological innovation for businesses and corporate governance.

Chairman, NBA-SBL, Mr Baba Alokolaro, represented by his Vice, Ayoyinka Olajide-Awosedo, said the developments were reshaping businesses, transforming boardroom responsibilities and redefining the global econo-

my, thereby requiring governance systems to respond effectively to changing realities.

He said the Corporate Governance Triangle was conceived as an initiative of the Ayuli Jemide-led Council and advanced through the Corporate Governance and Compliance Committee of the NBA-SBL, then chaired by Ms Ayotola Jagun.

In her keynote address, Country Manager, DLA Piper Africa, Nigeria, Mrs Bola Tinubu, challenged directors

to examine whether their organisations have the expertise to interrogate AI applications rather than merely approve them, and whether sustainability reports met audit standards instead of serving as marketing documents.

Tinubu further encouraged directors to assess corporate decisions against a 10-year outlook rather than focus solely on 12-month performance while examining whether executive incentives reflected the values boards claimed to

uphold.

She called on regulators and the exchange to simplify filing requirements, maintain proportionate rules and reward assured disclosures while lawyers and company secretaries were urged to prioritise sound judgment alongside compliance.

The Chief Executive Officer, NGX Regulation Limited, Mr Olufemi Shobanjo, expressed need for collaboration to strengthen governance, institutional accountability and sustainable business growth.



President and Chairman of the Governing Council, CloD Nigeria, Adetunji Oyebarji (left); CEO, Open Access Data Centres (OADC), Dr Ayotunde Coker; Chairperson, African Risk Capacity Limited, Ms Cecilia Akintomide; Chief Legal Officer, SIFAX Group, Mrs Jesuyemi Odeyemi; Vice Chair, NBA-SBL, Mrs Ayoyinka Olajide-Awosedo; CEO, Ubulu Africa, Dr Odiong Akpan; CEO, NGX Regulation Limited, Mr Olufemi Shobanjo; and Head, Trading and Product, NGX, Mr Abimbola Babalola at the Corporate Governance Triangle Annual Corporate Governance Colloquium 2026, held in Lagos, recently.

Hearing on Ekwulobia suit over alleged police killing of four youths for Dec 1

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

LAGOS State High Court, Yaba, has fixed December 1 for hearing of an application seeking to compel the federal government and the police to enforce a judgment in favour of the families of four Ekwulobia youths allegedly killed by police officers in 2014.

Justice Funke Sule-Amzat fixed the date when the matter came up for mention.

The applicants - Akaraka Chinweike Ezeonara and the Ekwulobia Imeobi Obinwanne Youth Association, acting on behalf of the bereaved families, are seeking an order of mandamus against the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), Inspec-

tor General of Police (IGP) and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), over the alleged failure to comply with the court's judgment. In a motion on notice filed in suit No LD/354/MFHR/2014, the applicants asked the court to compel the respondents, described as judgment debtors, to implement the orders made in the fundamental rights enforcement proceedings.

The case, which began in 2014 following the death of four youths, was initially struck out on March 9, 2015, by Justice Oyindamola Ogala, who held that the applicants lacked the legal standing to institute a fundamental rights action on behalf of the deceased.

Dissatisfied with the decision,

the applicants approached the Appeal Court, Lagos Division, which set aside the High Court's decision on December 15, 2020, and directed transfer to another judge for rehearing.

Consequently, Justice Sule-Amzat heard the substantive suit and on March 15, 2023, delivered judgment in favour of the applicants.

The judgment included orders for the payment of monetary compensation to the victims' families and disciplinary action against the police officers found culpable of the offence.

The applicants, however, alleged they returned to court following non-enforcement of the judgment three years after

and despite expiration of the statutory 14-day period after notices were served on them. In the affidavits filed in support of the latest application, Ezeonara stated that formal demands and reminders were sent to the AGF and police authorities between April and July 2026, requesting the implementation of the judgment.

In the motion dated August 17, the applicants asked the court to issue an order of mandamus compelling the AGF to exercise the constitutional powers under Section 174(1)(b) of the Constitution in relation to the necessary consent or fiat for enforcement of the judgment.

Ogun consent judgment did not determine Okewaye, Olori Ebi dispute, Alagbe clarifies

By Yetunde Ayobami Ojo

ADESCENDANT of the Okewaye Ruling House in Ado-Odo, Ogun State, Kabir O. Alagbe, has disputed claims that the state high court declared Prince Sulaimon B. Adedimeji the authentic Olori Ebi of the ruling house and granted all the reliefs he sought in a chieftaincy-related suit.

Alagbe, a retired director in the federal civil service, said the publications on social media misrepresented the outcome of proceedings in Suit No HCI/19/2024 before the Ogun State High Court, Idi Oke, Igbesa.

He explained that the judgment delivered by Justice Durojaiye was based on Terms of Settlement between Adedimeji and Prince Mufutau Francis Adekun-

le and did not amount to a determination of the competing claims to the position of Olori Ebi of the Okewaye Ruling House. "The court did not determine the competing claims on who is Olori Ebi of Okewaye on merits. It merely adopted the agreement reached between the settling parties", he said.

Alagbe argued that it is misleading to present the outcome as a judicial determination granting all the claimant's substantive reliefs against every defendant in the suit, adding that an agreement between individual parties could not be represented as the consent of the entire Okewaye Ruling House or as recognition by government authorities that did not participate in the settlement.

Media & Marketing

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Oloja calls for digital media education

By Sunday Aikulola

AMID transition of local media to online spaces, former Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of *The Guardian* Newspapers, Martins Oloja, has called for urgent digital media education.

He stated this in a recent festschrift, titled, 'Communication and media in Nigeria: Celebrating Bimbo Oloyede's contribution to five decades of theory, practice and transformation.'

Writing on the topic, 'Methodical madness, print media newsroom drama and audience response,' Oloja dissected the complex relationship between the newsroom drama and audience response.

Saying newsroom drama can have significant impact on audience response, he, however, highlighted critical factors that can influence actions such as, sensationalism, bias, emotional storytelling, social media engagement, audience feedback, ratings and viewership.

For many organisations, he observed the path to digital innovation has been, and perhaps, remains, long and painful. To him, "this is because although audiences have embraced the tools that allow them to choose the

easiest means of accessing content, unfortunately, the organisations that produce the content have less access to those same tools. The truth is that after the initial euphoria over the ability to publish online, the realisation that audiences now expect their products regularly and for free, hits home."

Consequently, he noted advertisers have taken their business online but face an increased use of ad-blockers. He added, "social media platforms also use alternative 'one-stop-shop' venues of opportunity, with advantages for all stakeholders. "They offer both advertisers and audiences personalised news feeds."

It is as if audiences have stepped out from behind the curtain when consuming news content on social media. Passively, by surrendering user data with every scroll and click, and more actively by

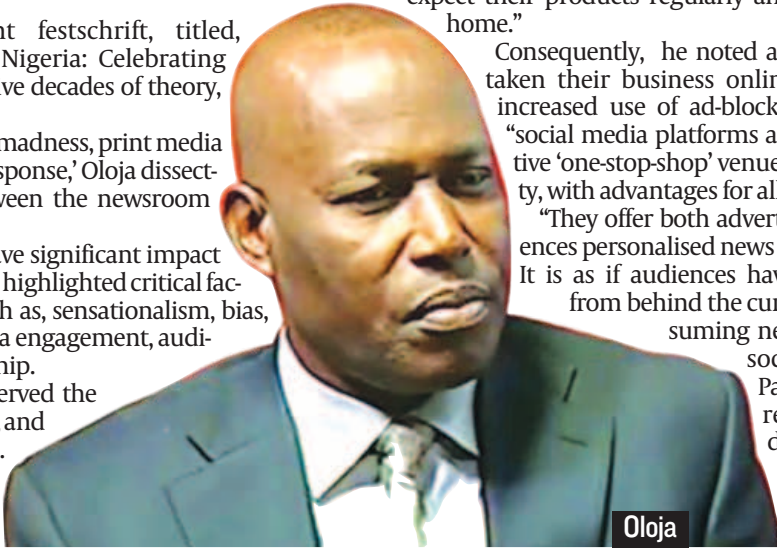
explicitly liking, sharing or commenting, they have become measurable entities that mean potential revenue for advertisers, for social media platforms and for news organisations.

Painfully, Oloja noted while the latter are still trying to figure things out, "news content consumer are simultaneously more elusive, yet more quantifiable, and their behaviour and preferences are more transparent to the professional producers of such content."

Today, he suggested researchers need to focus not only on the relationship between users and journalism, but also why and how journalism matters to its users. The other spectrum of the 'audience turn' in journalism studies.

Noting digitisation of journalism enabled news to evolve from a genre of information into a social experience, Oloja further called for questions to address why and how audiences and users of journalism changed from a marginal topic into a crucial concern.

He added, "there should be further exploration into why and how evaluating the way that people use news should be integrated into journalism studies. While journalists strive to maintain editorial independence and authority over news selection and gatekeeping, he stated the affordances of digital media consumption empower audiences to compete with professional journalists.



Oloja

ARCON DG canvasses professionalism, ethical conduct, regulatory compliance

By Sunday Aikulola

THE Director General Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), Olalekan Fadolap, has stressed need to celebrate practitioners that have observed professionalism, ethical conduct and regulatory compliance in the industry.

Speaking at the maiden edition of the ARCON Special Recognition Awards (ASRA) held in Lagos recently, he observed recognition of excellence is not merely about celebrating past achievements; but also encouraging greater commitment to the values and standards that will shape the future of the industry.

Themed, 'An evening of many honours,' Fadolapo added, "I encourage everyone to reflect on the importance of professionalism, innovation, ethical practice and continuous improvement across the advertising sector."

In his speech, the Minister of Information and National Orientation Mohammed Idris said ARCON is more than a regulatory body, but custodian of public trust, ethical integrity and standardisation.

Represented by Permanent Secretary of the ministry Binyerem Ukaire, he added ARCON is transforming the industry by curbing misleading narratives, protecting consumer rights and providing a level playing field for creative enterprise.'

To him, "the successes we celebrate tonight are proof of what is possible when policy and regulation match hand in hand."

Obozuwa wants communicators to translate influence into trust

By Sunday Aikulola

MANAGING Director of the Nigeria Global Reputation Management Project, Patricia Obozuwa, has urged communicators to turn the nation's global influence into lasting trust. Speaking at the 11th Nigeria Digital PR Summit held in Lagos recently, she observed the country's music and film professionals enjoy global reach.

Themed, 'The rise of digital influence: Culture, creators and the new PR playbook,' Obozuwa however, queried, "how can a country be so globally influential, yet still struggle to translate that influence into trust?" She added, "countries don't compete on resources alone anymore. They compete on trust."

To her, 'facts build credibility. Stories build memory. We need both. Nigeria's rep-

utation will be strengthened by giving the world more reasons to believe in us."

The international keynote speaker, Michael Pepper, spoke on how AI systems are shaping the future of digital influence.

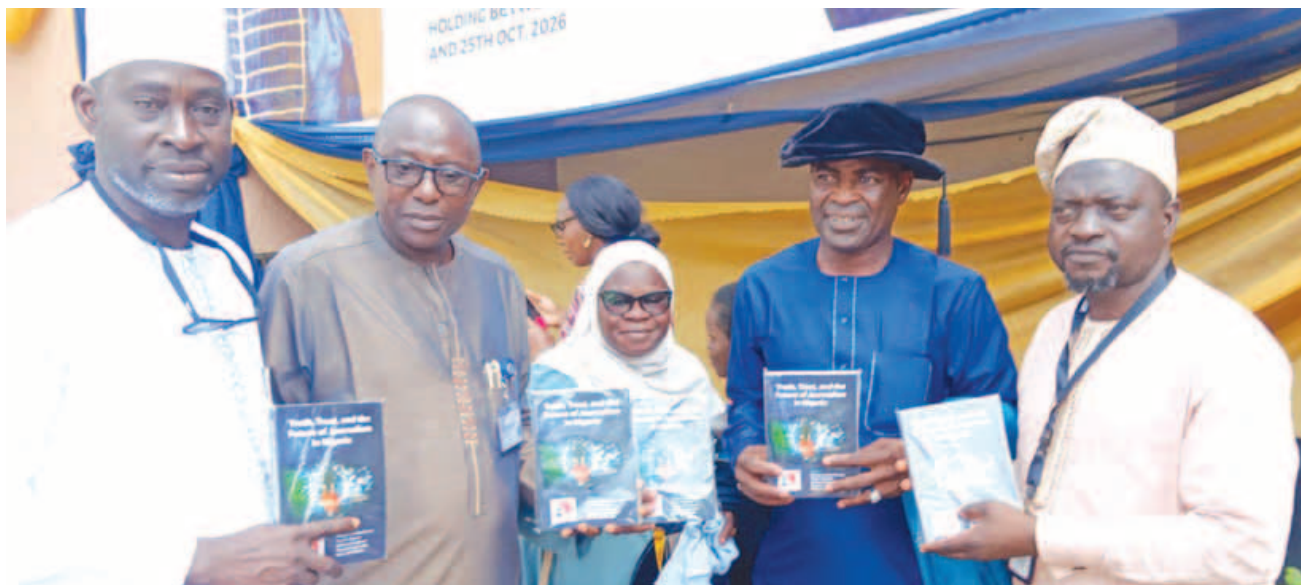
In his speech, founder and convener, Nigeria Digital PR Summit, Segun McMedal, observed every session was a masterclass.

In 2016, he recalled the con-

versation began as a small experiment in Lagos. Today, McMedal said, the summit has become a national platform where the people shaping the country's economy learn, connect and raise the standard of practice.

To him, "our honourees prove that digital influence, used responsibly, earns trust that lasts."

The event was rounded off with the Third Nigeria Digital PR Awards Gala.



Lecturer at the department of Mass Communication, UNILORIN, Dr. Oba Abdulkadir La'aro; Head of Department, Prof. Rasaq Adisa; Lecturers, Dr. Aisha Imam Omoloso, Prof. Lambe Kayode Mustapha and NGE Vice President (West), Dr. Kabir Alabi Garba during the presentation of the book authored by the Nigerian Guild of Editors, titled, 'Truth, Trust, and the Future of Journalism in Nigeria'.

UNILORIN's Department of Mass Communication commends NGE for book donation

By Opeyemi Babalola

THE Department of Mass Communication, University of Ilorin, has commended the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE) for donating five copies of its book, titled, 'Truth, Trust, and the Future of Journalism in Nigeria', describing the gesture as timely and beneficial to the department.

The Head of the Department, Prof. Rasaq Adisa, made the commendation during the presentation of the books by the NGE Vice President (West), Dr. Kabir Alabi Garba.

He explained that the donation came at the right time because the department was preparing for its accreditation scheduled for middle of November.

"Part of what we need for our accreditation is the number of books we have, how relevant the books

are, and how recent the books we have are. So for the Guild of Editors to have given us five copies of the book, published in 2026, it is a great asset for our department, for the library, and for the university in general," he said.

The HOD also underscored the importance of books as reliable sources of knowledge in an increasingly artificial intelligence-driven world, cautioning students against relying solely on AI-generated information.

According to him, books provide access to authentic, factual and well-documented information, including the practical experiences of professionals that may not be adequately captured in theoretical studies.

"Today, we always advise our students not to

depend solely on AI to get their information because not all information on AI is reasonable, realistic, authentic and factual. The best place to get it is the experience documented in books," he said.

He added that the donated publication would be particularly valuable to students because its chapters were contributed by professionals with first-hand experience in journalism.

"The book is great because it contains different chapters contributed by those who have lived it, those who have experienced the profession. It contains the experiences of these people, which we cannot find in theories. So, it will be advantageous to the student," Adisa stated.

He consequently encouraged students to cultivate the habit of seeking knowledge through books.

Onuoha interrogates safety of journalists on Day to End Impunity for Crime against Journalist

By Sunday Aikulola

IN commemoration of this year's International Day to End Impunity for Crime against Journalists, the former Managing Director of Champion Newspapers, Ugo Onuoha, is expected to discuss safety of journalists as foundation for press freedom

Themed, 'Safety of journalists: The foundation for press freedom and democracy,' the event is organised by Media Centre for Promotion of Safety Awareness. (MIC-POSA).

According to MICPOSA coordinator, Chinyere Amaechi, "this year's commemoration focuses on the upcoming electioneering exercise in the country in 2027. It will equip journalists who will be covering the process campaign, voting, collation and result announcement with the necessary personal protective tips to arm them adequately for the unforeseen.

Sometimes, security agents may become over zealous just as some politicians.



SUMMIT UNIVERSITY, OFFA, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

Dr. Tunji Olagunju Street (Irra Road), P.M.B. 4412, Offa Kwara State, Nigeria

Telephone: 0806 264 6786, 0805 235 3839.

Website: www.summituniversity.edu.ng

E-mail: registrar@summituniversity.edu.ng / recruitment@summituniversity.edu.ng

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

1. ABOUT SUMMIT UNIVERSITY, OFFA

Summit University, Offa is a private University established by the Ansar-Ud-Deen Society of Nigeria and licensed by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2015. The University's motto is "Knowledge, Faith and Wisdom".

The University currently operates six Colleges, namely:

- College of Natural & Applied Sciences;
- College of Management and Social Sciences;
- College of Innovation and Computing Technology;
- Kola Balogun College of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Engineering;
- Lateefat Gbajabamila College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences; and
- College of Postgraduate Studies.

The academic programmes of the University have been accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

The Governing Council hereby invites applications from suitably qualified, distinguished and visionary scholars for the position of: **VICE-CHANCELLOR**

2. THE POSITION

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive and Academic Head of the University and is responsible for providing strategic academic, administrative, financial, and institutional leadership for the achievement of the University's vision, mission, and strategic objectives.

The Vice-Chancellor shall be responsible to the Governing Council for the overall administration, development and efficient management of the University and shall ensure that the provisions of the University's enabling instruments, Statutes, Ordinances, Regulations and approved policies are observed.

The Vice-Chancellor shall serve as Chairman of Senate and Congregation and as a member of the Governing Council and other statutory bodies as provided by the University's governing instruments.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

The candidate must:

- Be a full Professor with not less than seven (7) years of professorial experience and a distinguished record of academic and administrative achievement.
- Have held senior academic and administrative positions of sufficient responsibility and scope to prepare the candidate for the position of Vice Chancellor.
- Demonstrate a sustained record of academic excellence, scholarly productivity and academic leadership sufficient to command the respect of national and international academic communities.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of, and commitment to, the vision, mission, values and strategic aspirations of Summit University, Offa.
- Demonstrate the quality, relevance and impact of scholarly contributions through evidence such as citation impact, research influence, scholarly collaborations, policy or societal impact, where applicable.
- Demonstrate a strong record of presenting research at national and international academic conferences, including evidence of substantial participation in international scholarly engagements.
- Demonstrate exceptional interpersonal, communication and team-building skills and the ability to build trust and bridges among staff, students, members of the University community and other stakeholders.
- Possess unquestionable personal integrity, sound judgement, emotional intelligence and a strong commitment to ethical leadership, transparency and accountability.
- Have excellent written and spoken communication skills.
- Be information and technology proficient and demonstrate commitment to the continuous development and integration of ICT into the University's academic, research and administrative activities.
- Demonstrate the ability to protect, uphold and promote the University's Laws, Statutes, Regulations, policies and institutional values.
- Be physically and mentally capable of effectively performing the duties and responsibilities of the office.
- Not be above **sixty-five (65) years of age at the time of assumption of duty.**

6. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The appointment shall be for a period of **four (4) years**, with a remuneration package comparable to what obtains in Federal, State and Private universities in Nigeria and as approved from time to time by the Governing Council of the University.

The appointment shall also attract such privileges, benefits and other perquisites of office as may be approved by the Governing Council.

7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested and qualified candidates should submit an application addressed to:

The Registrar, Summit University, Offa
Dr. Tunji Olagunju Street (Irra Road)
P.M.B. 4412 Offa, Kwara State, Nigeria

The application should be accompanied by:

- A detailed and up-to-date Curriculum Vitae;
- A statement of the candidate's vision for Summit University for the next four (4) years
- Names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of three (3) referees, at least one of whom should be in a position to provide an authoritative assessment of the candidate's academic and/or professional leadership.

Applicants should clearly indicate "**APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR**" at the top right-hand corner of the application envelope.

8. CONFIDENTIAL REFEREES' REPORTS

Applicants should request their referees to forward confidential reports directly to the Pro-Chancellor, Summit University, Offa.

The referee's report should be submitted in a properly sealed envelope marked:

"CONFIDENTIAL – REFERENCE REPORT (VICE-CHANCELLOR)" to the University's physical or mail address.

9. METHOD OF SUBMISSION

Hard Copies

Candidates should submit **twenty (20) hard copies** of their application documents, comprising the application letter, vision statement, Curriculum Vitae and relevant credentials.

Applicants should boldly indicate the position applied for at the top right-hand corner of the envelope.

Electronic Submission

An electronic copy of the application letter, vision statement, Curriculum Vitae and relevant credentials should be submitted as a single PDF file to:

registrar@summituniversity.edu.ng and recruitment@summituniversity.edu.ng

10. APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

All applications must be received not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this advert.

11. CURRICULUM VITAE FORMAT

The Curriculum Vitae should be presented in a clear and systematic format and should follow the format provided below.

- Full Name, with surname in CAPITAL LETTERS;
- Position applied for;
- Telephone number(s);
- E-mail address;
- State of Origin;
- Date of Birth;
- Place of Birth;
- Nationality;
- Religion;
- Current Postal/Contact Address;
- Marital Status;
- Number and ages of children;
- Institutions attended, with dates;
- Academic qualifications obtained, with dates;
- Membership of relevant professional bodies and certifications, with dates;
- Full employment history, including details of former and present positions, institutions, major responsibilities, salaries and dates;
- Academic and administrative leadership experience;
- Publications, with appropriate bibliographic details;
- Research grants attracted and funded research projects led;
- Grants, donations, funds and other external resources mobilised;
- National and international research collaborations and academic engagements;
- Evidence of computer literacy and proficiency in ICT, including relevant packages and capabilities;
- Major achievements, awards, recognitions and notable contributions in previous employment or professional practice;
- Major institutional reforms, innovations or developmental initiatives led;
- Community service, leadership roles and relevant professional engagements;
- Names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of three (3) referees, one of whom should be in a position to supply an authoritative academic and/or professional reference; and
- Signature and date.

E-Signed

Mustapha Abayomi Kadiri, B.A. (Ibadan), M.A. (Lagos), MHSN, MANUPA, FIPMLD
Acting Registrar & Secretary to Council

Lawyers question safeguards, legality of changes to bill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

ments for the proposed amendment have been met. Any further amendments or adjustments to the bill will only serve to perfect its provisions.

"Once the process is concluded and the bill is returned to the National Assembly for final passage and subsequently forwarded to the President for assent, it will become an Act," he said.

However, human rights advocate Kabir Akingbolu warned that state police might fail to achieve their intended objectives unless the powers of governors were checked.

He said the concurrence of two-thirds of the State Houses of Assembly to establish state police was not the end of the process, as several constitutional requirements and operational issues remained to be addressed.

Akingbolu said the Constitution must be amended to move security and policing from the Exclusive Legislative List to either the Concurrent Legislative List or the Residual List, thereby providing a constitutional basis for state police.

He said questions about the proposed system's organisational structure, command hierarchy, funding, personnel welfare and oversight mechanisms required clear answers.

"Once that is done, several questions must be addressed. What will be the organisational structure of the state police? Will they be subject to a federal agency, including the Nigeria Police Force, or will they operate independently?

Who will head the police command in each state? What will be the salary structure, and how will personnel be treated? Will they be subject to the rules, guidelines and control of the Police Service Commission?" he asked.

He also questioned whether state police commands would operate independently or remain subordinate to the federal police, arguing that the distinction would determine the extent of their autonomy.

"If state police remain subordinate to the federal police, then, strictly speaking, what we have cannot be described as state police," he said.

Akingbolu warned that allowing state police to operate autonomously under state governments without adequate safeguards could expose them to political abuse.

He compared the risk to concerns surrounding State Independent Electoral Commissions, arguing that governors could turn state police into instruments of political vendetta against opponents.

"Governors in Nigeria are already very powerful. It is difficult to find many countries in the world where governors wield as much power as they do in Nigeria. Our Constitution empowers them to the extent that they can often do and undo things with little or no effective restraint.

"Therefore, unless the powers of governors are curtailed, state police may not work as intended. If state police are established as truly independent outfits with no control from the centre, I can tell you

that governors may abuse them and turn them into instruments of political vendetta against their opponents. Before we know it, we could find ourselves operating like a parish state," he said.

He added that some degree of federal oversight would be necessary to prevent disorder and ensure accountability across the policing system.

"I want to emphasise that it is not yet Uhuru. We may not have reached the promised land regarding state police, although we have taken a step in the right direction. I do not think state police alone will solve our security problems, but they could help reduce insecurity," he said.

Akingbolu also noted that improved government allocations and revenue would be important in ensuring that state police personnel received adequate remuneration.

He said the control mechanisms and organisational structure of the proposed system required careful consideration, adding that striking a balance between state autonomy and federal oversight would be crucial.

"There will be a very thin line between the complete autonomy of state police and their interdependence with the national or federal police. Each arrangement has its advantages and disadvantages.

"Full state control may offer certain benefits, but it also carries a high risk of abuse by state governments. Federal control, on the other hand, could result in overlapping functions," he said.

Akingbolu urged those responsible for designing the system to work towards a practical arrangement that would address these concerns.

He also recommended studying the American model and those of other countries to identify lessons that could help Nigeria establish an effective state policing system.

Constitutional lawyer, Professor Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu, said the National Assembly must address critical issues in the proposed State Police Bill to ensure its effective implementation.

The former legal adviser to the late Head of State, General Sani Abacha, said the bill could proceed to passage and presidential assent following the concurrence of the required number of State Houses of Assembly, but stressed that several operational challenges remained unresolved.

Yadudu, a former dean of the Faculty of Law and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, said the practicality and workability of the proposed state policing system would depend on how these issues were addressed.

"There are many tricky and challenging matters of detail that would need to be addressed in another Act of the National Assembly to make [the system] implementable," he said.

He identified the regulation

of command, control and operations between federal and state police services as one of the major challenges, alongside the management of relationships between police institutions in different states.

He also questioned the respective roles of federal and state police in enforcing federal and state laws.

"Currently, the police prosecute cases in courts regarding the violation of both federal enactments and state laws. What becomes of such powers and ongoing investigations and proceedings?" he asked.

Similarly, Professor of Political Science at Bayero University, Kano, Kamilu Sani Fagge, warned that meeting the constitutional threshold for the proposed amendment did not mean the process had been concluded.

He said several contentious issues surrounding state police remained unresolved, adding that some governors might resist aspects of the proposed arrangement because of their political interests and relationships with individuals within their states.

Fagge also raised concerns over allegations that the bill had been altered after its approval by the state assemblies, warning that such claims could generate further controversy and undermine confidence in the process.

He urged the Federal Gov-

ernment to ensure that the version approved by the state assemblies was circulated among them to address concerns over possible alterations and reduce tensions.

The political scientist also questioned the urgency surrounding the reform ahead of the next election cycle, warning that accelerating the process could heighten suspicions about the government's motives.

"I think fast-tracking the entire process before the election will raise concerns, the same concerns being raised over the years, and that will compound the fears of many state governors and many people," he said.

He added that, particularly in northern Nigeria, the pace of the process and allegations of manipulation had raised concerns about whether dissenting views were receiving adequate consideration.

Fagge called for an inclusive debate in which supporters and opponents of state police would have equal opportunities to present their positions.

He argued that the reform should be presented as a national initiative rather than one driven by a particular region, noting that perceptions of regional interests could deepen divisions and weaken public confidence.

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

Pate: Nigeria may declare Ebola outbreak over by December 7

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

dex patient and her husband. In a statement yesterday, the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) said the patient was receiving treatment at Geneva University Hospital (HUG), while her husband, identified as a close contact, had been placed in isolation at Zurich University Hospital (USZ). The Swiss authorities said the case poses no health risk to the country, adding that both hospitals were equipped to manage patients with infectious diseases such as Ebola while protecting healthcare workers and other patients.

Switzerland's Federal Councillor, Elisabeth Baume-Schneider, expressed appreciation to Nigeria's minister of health during a telephone conversation. She thanked the doctors and other healthcare professionals in Nigeria for caring for the two Swiss nationals before their evacuation. She also commended the Nigerian government and the WHO for their cooperation in facilitating the evacuation.

The NCDC has explained why the Federal Government approved the medical evacuation of Nigeria's confirmed Ebola patient to Switzerland, citing diplomatic requests, human rights considerations and compliance with international health regulations. The Director-General of NCDC, Dr Jide Idris, said the decision followed consultations with the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Pate, and consideration of the safeguards required to prevent further transmission of the virus during the patient's transportation.

Speaking on Channels Television's *Politics Today* on Monday, Idris said the patient, a Swiss national, was still testing positive for Ebola when she was evacuated, adding that the Swiss authorities had been informed and made appropriate arrangements for her transfer. He dis-

missed suggestions that the patient had been secretly removed from Nigeria, explaining that the evacuation followed a diplomatic request from the Swiss Embassy.

"I won't use the word 'snuck out'. That's a no-brainer. It is the first time something like that has happened," he said.

According to him, the government considered the implications of the evacuation for international health regulations, public health and the patient's human rights before granting approval.

"In making that request, after discussion with the Honourable Minister, a lot of factors were considered. One, how does it touch international health regulation issues? Can we beat it back? Can we prevent such a thing? Second, the issue of human rights and, of course, one aspect of it being a public health issue," Idris said.

He explained that the authorities ensured that appropriate infection prevention and control measures were maintained from the hospital where the patient was receiving treatment to the aircraft that transported her to Switzerland. "There is an infection prevention and control guideline, starting from the hospital where the patient was taken, and that was maintained. This was how the patient was protected.

"The patient was removed down to the aircraft that came from Switzerland because we were sure that there was going to be proper receipt of the patient at the other end," he said.

Idris disclosed that the patient had tested positive twice before the evacuation, while her husband, who was also evacuated to Switzerland, tested negative.

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HOW TO APPLY

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World Report

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Israel expands expulsions in occupied West Bank to reinforce control

MORE than 3,000 Palestinians have been forced from their homes in the occupied West Bank city of Hebron as the Israeli army escalates military operation, a development human rights experts described as a calculated effort to permanently displace the Palestinian population.

Israel has imposed a lockdown across the city and detained at least, 71 people over the past four days, according to Palestinian Prisoner's Society.

Hebron Governor, Khaled Dudin, said yesterday that a total of 488 families comprising 3,171 people have been displaced across the wider governorate.

Hebron Mayor, Yousef al-Jabari, also told Al Jazeera that 3,043 of those forced from their homes were from within Hebron

city limits alone.

Separately, the Israeli military has continued a demolition campaign that has resulted in the destruction of residential buildings, factories and roads while also blocking roads, raiding homes and assaulting Palestinian citizens.

The crackdown has been in place since Friday, when two soldiers were killed in a shooting near the city.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, has justified it by pledging an operation unseen since the 1967 war.

The eviction was coming amid increased tensions across the occupied West Bank as Israeli settlers and soldiers engage in violent pogroms.

Attacks on olive harvesters have been rampant following rise in aggression before Israel's general election last Tuesday, in which Netanyahu is seeking re-election.

According to municipal authorities in Hebron, many of the forcibly displaced Palestinians are women, children and elderly individuals while Israeli soldiers systematically converted dozens of their homes into military barracks and field interrogation centres.

The measures taken in the city of Hebron are not of a single type but rather have surpassed any idea of temporary evacuation or deportation.

"Evacuating homes falls into three categories - evacuation for demolition, evacuation for revenge and collective punishment and evacuation for military uses, where they have turned some homes into military barracks", said a Professor of Contemporary History, al-Quds Open University, Dura, Hebron, Noman Amr.

Amr also highlighted the psychological warfare at play, stressing that "aggressive, collective punitive, terrorist, racist behaviour, aims to create a state of panic, fear and instability for the Palestinian society."

The goal, Amr added, is to impose a new reality that can be summarised in one sentence as "more land, fewer Arabs."

EU citizenship cannot be bought, migration consultants warn

By Ngozi Egenuka

MIGRATION consultants have cautioned against claims that European Union citizenship could be purchased, stressing that citizenship is generally obtained through legal processes, including naturalisation.

Head of Migration Department at Mirsatori, Maksin Nikitin, said yesterday that the desire to access better opportunities remained one of the major reasons Nigerians seek to migrate, particularly through business and entrepreneurship programmes.

Nikitin explained that business migration route requires applicants to have innovative business ideas and more than one co-founder.

He said they could assist applicants in finding partners with similar interests to establish businesses together, listing agriculture, construction, logistics, pharmaceuticals, information technology and green energy among the sectors in which prospective migrants could develop start-ups.

According to him, the company has assisted not less than 100 Nigerians achieve results through its migration services, with another 100 currently undergoing the process.

According to Nikitin, the cost of the process varies by destination and family size, explaining that the Spain route costs €11,000 for the principal applicant, with an additional €1,000 for each family member while the France option costs €25,000 for the entire family application.

He added that France's visa process could be more cumbersome because each applicant is expected to submit an individual application.

He identified trust and the availability of funds as recurring challenges among Nigerian clients, noting that some prospective applicants delay proceeding until full amount is raised.

The Chief Executive Officer, O&J Capital, Johnson Anorh, also identified trust as a major challenge confronting Nigerian migration seeker, prompting the company to establish a physical presence in the country.

Brazil's Lula vows no return to dictatorship after fourth term victory

LUIZ Inácio Lula da Silva, the Brazilian president, has vowed that dictatorship and fascism will never return to Brazil after winning a historic fourth term in power by defeating his far-right opponent, Flávio Bolsonaro.

"This is God's work - and it's thanks to all of you," Lula told tens of thousands of supporters who had gathered in central São Paulo in the early hours of Monday to celebrate his dramatic election comeback.

A few hours earlier, Lula pulled off the most stunning political fightback in modern Brazilian history, bouncing back from a first-round defeat in early October to trounce Bolsonaro by more than 4m votes in the runoff. "Today is a historic day," Lula declared, before telling a sea of elated supporters: "Democracy always, dictatorship never again. Democracy

always, fascism never again." Never, since the return of democracy after the 1964-85 military regime, had the first-round loser managed to win the second vote.

But Lula did precisely that on Sunday, prompting joyous scenes on the streets of São Paulo and cities all across Brazil. He won with 64.2m votes to Bolsonaro's 59.8m, a 51.79% to 48.21% victory. It was at least 10m more votes than Lula secured in the first round.

Lula's health minister, Alexandre Padilha, told the Guardian shortly after the result was confirmed: "This is a huge victory for the Brazilian people who in the second round had the chance to think about what President Lula means for the environment, for the defence of our national health service and our education system and the Brazilian constitution."

Serbia celebrates as Vučić loses election to student-led movement

SERBIA'S long-standing leader, Aleksandar Vucic, has admitted defeat to a student-led protest movement in snap parliamentary elections.

Celebrations erupted as crowds descended on the centre of Belgrade, Novi Sad and other cities.

The student movement was formed less than two years ago in response to a railway station disaster blamed on corruption and negligence but fought the election with

candidates from a cross-section of Serbian society.

"It is clear we have lost these elections", right-wing populist leader, Vucic said. With 97 per cent of polling stations counted, Serbia's election commission said the students have won 2.24 million votes and the former ruling party 1.67 million.

The students had secured 52.6 per cent of the vote while Vucic's Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) was on 39.2 per cent, according to

its preliminary figures late Monday morning.

Vucic had spent two terms as President and could not seek a third term but was leading his Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) with the aim of returning to the post of a Prime Minister, which he left in 2017.

He called the snap elections after two years of protests triggered by the collapse of a canopy in front of Novi Sad station, which killed 16 people.

The Student List's lead candidate, Ilija Srdanovi, told BBC Serbian Serbia will be a free state.

He said the anti-corruption movement, which had attracted anti-government voters across Serbia, hope to free the country from tyranny.

There were celebrations on various streets of the city, with people dancing and chanting, "victory, Serbia is free. It is a miracle", one student told the BBC.



An aerial photo shows the size of the celebrations by Students' List supporters at Slavija square in Belgrade.

Nurse responding to Ebola alert killed in DR Congo attack

ANURSE has been killed and another health worker seriously injured in an attack as they were responding to Ebola alert in North-Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The two were targeted by local youths, who accused them of contaminating water sources and spreading the Ebola virus, according to the UN-backed Radio Okapi.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has condemned the attack.

To prevent the virus spreading, neighbouring Uganda has banned all non-essential travel to and from DR Congo and directed that its citizens returning from the country would be quarantined for 21 days.

More than 4,800 people have died and nearly 10,000 infected in DR Congo since the fresh outbreak in May.

Reacting to the attack, WHO

Director General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said health workers must be able to carry out their duties in safety and dignity, adding that healthcare personnel should always be protected.

The UN agency also extended its condolences to the family and colleagues of the nurse who was killed and wished the injured worker a swift recovery.

The BBC has contacted the Ebola response team for comment on the circumstances surrounding the attack.

Earlier this month, two countries - Kenya and Nigeria, reported their first cases of Ebola linked to the current outbreak.

The patient in Nigeria - Ugandan-born wife of a Swiss diplomat, was on Monday flown from Abuja to Switzerland for further treatment.

She had travelled to the Ugandan capital for a holiday, according to the head of Africa Centres for Disease Control and

Prevention, Jean Kaseya. She was evacuated alongside her husband, who has shown no symptoms.

Nigeria's health ministry said she was stable, conscious and able to communicate while authorities are trying to establish where she contracted the virus.

The new restrictions announced in Uganda came after questions were raised over her case and that of a Kenyan businessman. Both tested positive for Ebola after travelling through Uganda, even though no cases have been reported there since August.

The Kenyan had arrived from DR Congo, where he had business interests.

Only essential travellers, including aid workers, truck drivers and security personnel are allowed to cross the border from DR Congo to Uganda, subject to strict health screening, the health ministry announced.

Politics & Policy

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Many people in power seem unaware of constitutional duties, says Kogo

Dr Mainasara Umar Kogo is Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT). In this interview with AMEH OCHOJILA, the lawyer and historian discusses the challenges of fighting corruption, the tribunal's prosecutorial limitations, his proposal to transform it into a National Anti-Corruption Court, and efforts to recover allegedly disposed-of properties. He also speaks on the state of the institution when he assumed office, funding constraints and his vision for reforming the tribunal.

With your long career in public service and advocacy, can you trace your background and journey to the CCT?

My life's trajectory is quite long. I hail from a royal family in Katsina, but I grew up as a Marxist and participated in various platforms of struggle, dating back to the PRP (Peoples Redemption Party) days.

I have belonged to several national and international bodies, but I am particularly known as an international media analyst on good governance and human rights protection. I am also a teacher, historian, sociologist, lawyer and public servant.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appointed me chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal on June 13, 2024, following recommendations by some statesmen that I should return to sanitise the institution. I had served here as chief registrar about 25 to 27 years earlier.

The recommendation followed concerns about developments considered detrimental to the integrity, goodwill and image of the institution. Given Nigeria's corruption challenges, do you believe there is still hope in the fight against corruption?

Yes, there is hope. Before my appointment, I was president of the African Transparency Front. Since my appointment to this position, I have not experienced any interference in the discharge of my responsibilities.

The major issues are the institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks, which need to be

strengthened. We must also instil patriotism, discipline and statesmanship in people entrusted with adjudication and public responsibilities.

Anyone occupying a position of authority should understand that the office is a responsibility, not a luxury. No one is inherently more important than the ordinary person on the street. Public office is an opportunity to serve.

People must also understand the gravity of taking public funds. In my view, even taking one naira from the public treasury is a serious moral offence because public resources belong to the people.

Throughout my 34 years in public service, I have maintained that principle. I do not have a car of my own, and people assist me with transportation to and from work. I have tried to live by the belief that public office must not become an instrument of personal enrichment. I do not believe all hope is lost. There will always be people capable of introducing reforms and putting society on the path of truth, justice and moral rectitude.

Can you assure Nigerians that the tribunal will move swiftly against politically exposed persons, regardless of their status?

People must understand the constitutional and legal framework within which the tribunal operates. Under the current arrangement, the Code of Conduct Bureau is responsible for investigating and prosecuting matters before us.

The Attorney-General also has constitutional prosecutorial powers and has assigned prosecutors to the Bureau. Therefore, we are limited to the cases brought before us through the existing arrangement.

We cannot independently decide who should be prosecuted. We deal with the cases brought before us, and all cases are equal before the tribunal. It is the substance of each case that differs.

The proposed legislation is intended to address this limitation by allowing anti-graft agencies to bring relevant cases before us, irrespective of the status of the persons involved.

There are several issues that may require legal scrutiny beyond asset declaration, including certificate forgery, falsification of records, academic plagiarism, dual citizenship and foreign bank accounts. The appropriate legal framework must determine which offences fall within the court's jurisdiction.

If the proposed law is passed, we will have a broader framework for receiving cases from multiple sources and handling them expeditiously.

What exactly do you want to achieve through your proposed major change to the tribunal's mandate?

I am trying to reposition the tribunal in line with the

Constitution's intent. The CCT is specifically mentioned in the Constitution and has an important responsibility in enforcing the Code of Conduct for public officers.

I have introduced a bill to change the name of the Code of Conduct Tribunal to the National Anti-Corruption Court. Under the proposal, anti-graft agencies and civil society groups would be able to prosecute relevant cases before the court.

We also propose establishing about seven judicial divisions and recruiting 37 additional judges to handle corruption-related cases expeditiously. The idea is to create a modern institution capable of dealing with cases promptly and strengthening the fight against corruption in Nigeria and beyond.

I have appealed to the Attorney-General of the Federation and the President to consider adopting the bill as an executive bill to facilitate its passage by the National Assembly.

We have also introduced 10 new departments to address emerging challenges. One of them will focus on international enforcement. Where judgments involve people with dual citizenship or assets and investments abroad, we may require cooperation with international bodies, including Interpol, and diplomatic missions to enforce them within the law.

Some people believe corruption worsened with the return to civilian rule in 1999. What is your assessment?

My concern is not simply the statistics people cite, but how much the lives of ordinary Nigerians have improved. How many people can afford two square meals a day? The phrase "food on the table" is frequently used, but many people do not even have a table in their homes.

The depreciation of our currency has weakened its purchasing power, while the economic system increasingly encourages people to pursue individual interests at the expense of collective welfare.

There has been a serious erosion of nationalism, national cohesion and patriotism. Everyone appears concerned about what they can gain, while the national interest suffers.

Our Constitution emphasises national unity, social justice and the responsibilities of citizens and public institutions. Yet, many people in positions of authority do not appear sufficiently conscious of their constitutional responsibilities.

We have more politicians than statesmen. Politicians may be concerned with acquiring power and wealth, but statesmen think about the country, the welfare of its people and the future of generations to come.

In the First and Second Republics, we had people widely regarded as statesmen because they placed national development above personal interests. Today, we need leaders who regard public office as a sacred responsibility rather than an opportunity for self-enrichment.

The National Orientation Agency should also play a stronger role in promoting national unity, patriotism, responsible citizenship and public service. We need a change in the principles and strategies guiding our leadership.

What institutional failures did you encounter when you assumed office, and what have you done to address them?

Honestly, I found an institution that had

deteriorated considerably. We built this building when I worked with Justice Bashir Sambo and Justice Constance Momoh. Returning after many years, I was worried about where to begin.

There was no electricity or water supply, the lifts were not working, the building had not been renovated for more than 25 years, and basic working materials were lacking. Security was also poor, and burglaries were rampant. Even armoured cables had been stolen.

I engaged corporate security and cleaning companies, resolved outstanding electricity issues and restored power supply. I also provided two boreholes and began renovating the building.

Staff development was another priority. We have completed 36 streams of capacity-building training to prepare personnel for contemporary professional demands. I have also facilitated professional development for lawyers and accountants.

We addressed outstanding promotions and irregular staff placements. There are no pending promotions that we have not implemented, and we have paid the retirement entitlements of about 70 to 80 per cent of affected retirees. Some had waited for as long as two decades, while some died before receiving their entitlements.

I introduced about 13 new allowances and other welfare measures, including support for staff transportation, vehicle maintenance and welfare packages during Christmas, Ramadan, Sallah and Easter. We have also introduced a 13th-month salary bonus to motivate staff.

How has it been managing the tribunal's operations despite inadequate funding?

On average, we receive between N26 million and N28 million as overhead, and the money does not always come monthly. Sometimes, it takes two or three months before it is released.

I want it placed on record that since I assumed office, I have not received one kobo as capital allocation. By the time we pay for security, cleaning, electricity, water, vehicle maintenance, stationery and other essential services, almost the entire allocation is exhausted.

Because of these constraints, I reached out to international donor agencies and other institutions. We have received computers, laptops, photocopiers, printers and other equipment.

I have also worked to restore relationships with relevant institutions, including the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, the Director of Public

Prosecutions and the Code of Conduct Bureau. The Bureau is assisting us with the production of our practice direction because we do not have sufficient funds for it.

I introduced a practice direction intended to limit the period for handling cases to about six weeks, to expedite proceedings and ensure that justice is delivered within the shortest possible time. I have also introduced an annual legal year to assess our performance.

What is the current state of efforts to recover properties allegedly disposed of by previous leaderships?

The recovery of properties and other assets has been a major concern. I am still discovering items and properties that were allegedly taken away or disposed of.

The official residence designated for the chairman was, according to the information available to me, sold to private interests. That is why I do not have official accommodation. I have been staying in a house someone lent me at Life Camp.

I also do not have an official vehicle. Some of the tribunal's vehicles are dilapidated, while others were stolen. Because of the lack of resources and transportation, I asked the security personnel assigned to me, including officers from the DSS, police and civil defence, to return to their respective offices.



Kogo

Industry

‘Many companies left Nigeria due to lack of financial shield, but NB remains resilient’

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nigerian Breweries, Thibaut Boidin, recently sat down with TOBI AWODIPE to discuss the company's future in a rapidly changing market, the creation of a revolutionary 10-year master plan for the brewery industry, and why Nigeria remains an attractive market despite operational challenges.

AFTER 80 years in Nigeria, how does this milestone shape the company's future? It means a great deal to us because it reflects eight decades of navigating Nigeria's history, economic cycles and market evolution. For a company to remain relevant, continue growing and maintain its leadership position through all those changes is something we are very proud of. It is a testament to the resilience of our business, our people and our commitment to Nigeria. This milestone is also about the future. While we celebrate 80 years of legacy, we are equally focused on the next 80 years. In recent years, some companies choose to scale back or exit investments, but we remained committed because we strongly believe in Nigeria's long-term potential.

How would you describe Nigerian Breweries' journey and evolution to date? It's a very impressive history because we created this industry. The brewing industry didn't exist before us. In 1946, we were the first to build this brewery here in Lagos and in Nigeria as a whole. Since then, we have been shaping and leading the industry across different cycles. Nigerian Breweries has not only contributed to the Nigerian economy because of our size, but also contributed to communities and society. We lead this industry not just by doing business, but also by supporting all local communities. We have a footprint that does not exist with many of our competitors and many other industries in Nigeria. We support communities across the country, and we have been doing so intentionally. Nigeria is a very joyful country, full of energy, optimism and resilience. Through our brands, we have had the privilege of being part of some of life's most memorable moments, bringing people together to celebrate friendship, family, achievement and community.

That is why our 80th anniversary theme is 'Together Every Moment'. It reflects the role our brands have played in bringing people together and creating shared experiences over generations.

What does that theme have to do with your brand's ethos and what it means for you going into the future?

A lot of companies use their anniversary to celebrate the company, but we decided to take a different approach by celebrating Nigerians, hence the 'Together Every Moment' theme. In the last 80 years, we have been there for Nigerians and a significant part of their lives, and we wanted this milestone to recognise that shared journey. This anniversary is not simply about looking back at our history. It is about celebrating Nigerians, acknowledging our role in their lives and reaffirming our commitment to the future.

There have been many challenges over the years, as well as varying policy changes. What has been the major lesson learned so far, and how have you been able to weather these challenges?

The first lesson is that strong leadership turns challenges into opportunities. Throughout our history, Nigerian Breweries has faced different economic and regulatory challenges. Our leaders and employees have consistently adapted, innovated and found ways to emerge stronger. A good example is the development of the local sorghum value chain.

When imported barley became difficult to access decades ago, the company adapted by investing in alternatives and supporting the development of local sorghum. Today, many of our products are brewed using locally sourced sorghum. What could have been a

major challenge became an opportunity for innovation and local value creation.

A second lesson is the importance of financial resilience. In volatile environments, companies must maintain strong balance sheets and financial flexibility. Many companies left a few years ago due to the crisis and instability because Nigeria can be complex to operate in because policies can change very quickly and have a significant impact. However, we decided to stay because we believe in Nigeria's future and potential.

My biggest lesson so far is that companies need to build a financial shield to navigate a crisis. If the economic environment is good, you grow; if it's bad, you survive. Many companies left because they lacked a financial shield. Over the last two years, we have worked hard to strengthen our financial position and improve our ability to generate cash and self-fund growth. This puts us in a much stronger position to invest in the future, regardless of economic conditions.

My second big lesson is that you need a very strong financial position on your balance sheet to navigate a crisis. Every time we went through a crisis, we came out stronger. Our teams and the organisation are highly adaptable; we are very quick to seize opportunities and make decisions, having learned from the past.

A third lesson relates to the broader economic environment. We believe the ongoing reforms are moving Nigeria in the right direction over the long term. The key question is how quickly consumers and businesses will begin to feel the benefits. Today, pressure on disposable income remains one of the biggest challenges facing households and businesses. However, we remain optimistic that the reforms will create stronger foundations for long-term growth.

Given Nigeria's current economic situation, do you still see this market as attractive? Absolutely! If you look at countries with strong long-term growth potential, population growth is often one of the biggest drivers. Nigeria stands out in this regard. With a population of more than 240 million people and a demographic profile that remains one of the youngest in the world, Nigeria continues to offer significant opportunities for growth and development.

We also believe the brewing industry has considerable untapped potential. Consumption levels remain below those of many comparable African markets, which suggests substantial headroom for future growth as economic conditions improve.

There are very few countries in the world that combine this scale of population growth with such a deep cultural connection to our brands. After 80 years in the market, Nigerian Breweries is woven into the fabric of Nigerian society, and that gives us tremendous confidence in the future.

What do you want this company to be remembered for over the next 80 years? I would like us to continue being recognised for what we have achieved over the last 80 years: shaping, growing and leading the industry while creating value for consumers, communities and the broader economy.

I would like us to be known as a company that helped unlock the full potential of the brewing industry and continued to drive innovation, investment and growth. Our value chain spans agriculture, manufacturing, logistics, retail, and hospitality. We sup-

port a vast ecosystem of businesses and livelihoods, and I would like to see that contribution grow even further.

Equally important is our people. Nigerian Breweries has built a strong reputation for attracting, developing and retaining outstanding talent. I hope we continue building that culture and remain one of the most desirable employers in Nigeria.

How are you contributing to the marketing that you operate in?

Our contribution starts with the value chain that supports our business. Many people only see the final product, but behind every bottle is a large ecosystem involving farmers, packaging suppliers, engineers, transporters, distributors, retailers and many other businesses. Through our leadership and continued investments, we have helped expand and strengthen this ecosystem over the years. So our first contribution is supporting a large industry ecosystem, with millions of people and families depending on this industry.

We are also committed to supporting local agriculture and increasing local sourcing. One example is the Maltina Barley Project, which aims to establish local barley production and reduce dependence on imports. As Chair of the Beer Sectoral Group, I am also working with government and industry stakeholders on a 10-year master plan for the brewing industry.

We believe the industry can play an even bigger role in Nigeria's economic future. The master plan is designed to unlock investment, strengthen agriculture, create jobs, support local manufacturing and contribute more meaningfully to economic growth. Our goal is to create a framework that enables sustainable growth over the next decade for the benefit of the entire ecosystem.

What is the current state of your company's backward integration process, which started a few years ago?

We are a Nigerian company, and many of our suppliers are local. Though not all raw materials are sourced locally, many are. Indeed, given the market's volatility, we need to reduce our net FX exposure, and one of the best ways to do so is by increasing the localisation of raw materials and production inputs.

We have initiated several initiatives over the years, including the barley project I mentioned earlier. Some are taking longer to materialise than others. For instance, the barley project I mentioned earlier. The goal is to have 100 per cent of our barley produced in Nigeria, and we have been working toward that for about seven years now. We are supporting more than 1,100 farmers in growing barley locally, but agriculture takes time, and progress depends on factors such as climate, infrastructure and technical capabilities. This is not something that can be achieved overnight. However, we are committed to working step by step to do this.

We have seen similar successes in other markets, including Ethiopia, and we believe Nigeria has the potential to achieve the same outcome. However, it requires collaboration. Government support, infrastructure development and industry partnerships will all be important if we are to accelerate progress, and this is where the master plan comes in. If we can revamp the agriculture industry, imagine the possibilities. Localisation and backward integration are long-term commitments, but we are moving in the right direction.

How many years are you looking at to make this a reality?

We believe meaningful progress can be achieved within the next five years, although the pace will depend on several factors, especially those related to agriculture and infrastructure.

Our focus is on moving as quickly as possible while ensuring that the model is sustainable and delivers lasting impact.

This is a very competitive market, and conditions are tough; how are you looking to remain ahead?

Having good competitors is great and healthy for the industry and consumers. Strong com-



Boidin

petition drives innovation, improves quality and ultimately benefits consumers. In the past, it was just Guinness and Nigerian Breweries until International Breweries came on board, which added a bit of competition, which makes me happy.

Our first priority is to build on our existing strengths. Nigerian Breweries has been the industry leader for 80 years because we understand our consumers, invest behind our brands and continuously evolve with the market.

Secondly, because we have learned from the past, our finances are much stronger and can adapt to any economic crisis more quickly. Also, we're going to invest in the growth of our people and in the key brands that consumers love. Some fantastic things that have never been done before in Nigeria are in the works. We will continue to innovate and invest in our people to have the best capabilities in the markets; and this will continue to be a key differentiator for us.

You have mentioned some of the challenges faced by major manufacturers; what changes would you like to see that would help players in this sector?

I really want our master plan to work. A well-designed 10-year industry plan, developed collaboratively between government and industry, has the potential to unlock significant investment, strengthen agriculture, create jobs and accelerate industrial development.

Nigerian Breweries alone has invested substantially in Nigeria over the years and continues to invest in the future. The broader brewing industry can contribute even more if the right framework is in place.

This goes beyond any one company. It is about building an industry that can create opportunities across the entire value chain, from farmers and manufacturers to logistics providers, retailers and consumers. That is why I am passionate about bringing this master plan to life. I believe it can play a meaningful role in supporting Nigeria's long-term economic development.

How has Nigerian Breweries' acquisition of Distell contributed to revenue and profit generation so far?

The acquisition aligns with our long-term strategy to build a more diversified beverage portfolio and create additional growth opportunities.

At this stage, it remains a long-term investment, and the contribution is still relatively modest. However, we have made significant progress in integrating the business.

One important milestone was the full integration of the supply chain into our Ibadan brewery, which now allows us to produce the products locally.

Our focus today is on building the right foundations, strengthening execution and ensuring we are ready to scale sustainably in the years ahead. The long-term opportunity remains very attractive, and we are confident about the role the portfolio can play in our future growth.

Normalisation Committee: FIFA, CAF, NSC begin screening of candidates

By Gown Akpodonor

WORLD football governing body, FIFA, the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the National Sports Commission (NSC) have commenced the screening of candidates to oversee the Normalisation Committee of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF).

After months of speculations, FIFA, last week, approved the normalisation committee to run Nigerian football. FIFA also set a deadline for the committee's tenure, stating that its mandate would end once it had completed its assigned tasks, but no later than May 31, 2027.

The normalisation committee will manage the nation's football pending fresh elections to its executive committee, following months of leadership uncertainty and calls for comprehensive reforms. There were reports at the weekend that FIFA had chosen one of the leading candidates to lead the committee. But a top NFF official told *The Guardian* yesterday that the names of the members of the committee would be announced publicly by FIFA after due consultations with relevant bodies.

The Guardian learnt, yesterday, that both FIFA and CAF, in alliance with the NSC, have secretly started screening candidates for the committee. A source told *The Guardian* that among those being screened are two candidates for the position of the chairman.

"There are three women among those being screened, but I don't know the position they are going for," the source said, adding: "All we know for now is that none of the members of the normalisation committee will be eligible for the positions to be filled during the NFF elections next year."



2027 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier YellowGreens upset Uganda to sail to continental final

By Christian Okpara

NIGERIA, at the weekend, ended its long wait for its first ever T20i victory over Uganda with a one run win over the East Africans at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Sub-Regional Qualifier C in Abuja.

Anchored on the superlative form of Isaac Danladi and Selim Salau, the YellowGreens, in a contest that went down to the final delivery at the Moshood Abiola National Stadium cricket venue, successfully defended a target of 149 to defeat one of Africa's established cricketing sides and conclude their qualifying campaign on a memorable note.

Beyond the victory, the result represented a significant breakthrough in the historical rivalry between the two nations. Uganda had traditionally dominated their men's T20i encounters, winning the overwhelming majority of their previous meetings. Nigeria's narrow triumph therefore marked not only a crucial tournament result but also a landmark achievement for the YellowGreens.

With both teams already assured of qualification for the 2027 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier, the encounter offered an opportunity to establish supremacy between two of the competition's

strongest sides. Nigeria seized that opportunity in unforgettable fashion.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Nigeria made an aggressive start, with openers Danladi and Salau immediately putting Uganda's bowling attack under pressure.

The pair combined for an opening partnership of 68 runs from just 7.2 overs, giving the YellowGreens early momentum and laying the foundation for a competitive total.



Real Madrid plot move for Bukayo Saka

REAL Madrid are preparing to explore the possibility of signing Bukayo Saka from Arsenal as they assess their attacking options ahead of the next transfer windows, reports *thehardtackle.com*.

According to *Football News*, the Spanish giants have identified the England international as one of the Premier League forwards capable of making an immediate impact at the Santiago Bernabeu.

Saka's consistency, versatility and experience at the highest level have made him an attractive option as Real Madrid consider how to strengthen their forward line.

No formal negotiations have begun with Arsenal. However, Real Madrid are expected to establish contact with Saka's representatives as they gather more information about his situation.

Saka has become one of Arsenal's most important players and remains central to Mikel Arteta's plans. His ability to operate from the right flank, create chances and contribute goals makes him particularly valuable to a side that has built much of its attacking structure around his qualities.

Real Madrid's interest comes amid uncertainty surrounding their own attacking depth. With injuries affecting key options and questions over the future of some squad players, the club are examining elite alternatives rather than waiting for problems to become more serious.

Arsenal, however, have little reason to encourage a sale and Saka remains under contract and is considered a cornerstone of the club's long-term project.

Nathaniel Idowu U-16 Football League Race for Super 4 enters home stretch as teams eye final day glory

By Daniel Akinola

THE Nathaniel Idowu Under-16 Football League has entered the business end with teams jostling for semifinals spots in the eight-week old championship.

The Week 8 games gave an inkling into what awaits football fans as the stage is set for a blockbuster final round of fixtures on October 31.

Unbeaten Young 11 FA have already secured their place in the Super 4, but three spots remain up for grabs with five teams still firmly in contention heading into Week 9.

At the New Maracana Sports Complex, Tolu, Ajegunle United SC kept their qualification hopes alive with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over St. Petersburg FA. Goals from Adogha Peter in the 13th minute and Onyebuchi Okoli in the 50th minute proved decisive as Ajegunle claimed a vital three points.

Atico FA also breathed new life into their campaign with a thrilling 4-3 win over Moore Wins Foundation FA. Haruna Usman, Korede Olabiyi, Ayomide Oyeboji and Opeyemi Ajiboye all found the net in an entertaining seven-goal encounter.

Bright Stars SA produced one of the biggest surprises of the weekend, defeating SC Heritage 2-1 away from home. Feranmi Akinwale scored twice in the 20th and 48th minutes to overturn Norbert Theodore's opener and propel Bright Stars back into Super 4 contention.

At the Nathaniel Idowu Football Pitch, Oregie, Divinely Blessed FA recorded a comfortable 3-0 victory over bottom-placed Seraphic FA, while league leaders Young 11 FA once again demonstrated their resilience by coming from behind twice to earn a 2-2 draw against second-placed Fortune FA.

EuroMatch NPFL Official Attack

Delta sets N200,000 reward for information on culprit

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE Delta State Sports Commission has set a N200,000 reward for anybody who identifies the football spectator that allegedly attacked a match official during the EuroMatch Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Matchday 10 encounter between Warri Wolves and Kano Pillars in Ozo, Delta State.

The Guardian learnt that the incident occurred on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at the Southern Delta University Stadium, Ozo, shortly after the conclusion of the league fixture.

The suspect, who was yet to be identified as of the time of filing this report, allegedly struck one of the match officials in the face, leaving him with a bleeding nose.

The attack reportedly occurred after the match officials had been escorted out of the stadium by security personnel and were at their designated bus, which was to convey them to their hotel.

Following this ugly development, The Chairman of the Delta State Sports Commission, Onoriode Oborevwori, offered a N200,000 reward to anyone who provides credible information leading to the arrest of suspect.

He described the incident as heartbreaking and expressed disbelief that anyone could attack a football official under such circumstances.

Shooting: 81 Division wins NASAC 2026

By Bertram Nwannekanma

THE 81 Division of the Nigerian Army has emerged overall champion at the 2026 Nigerian Army Small Arms Championship (NASAC), winning six of the seven trophies contested by 10 formations in the shooting competition.

The division clinched the title with 2,084.3 points, following what the General Officer Commanding (GOC), 81 Division, Major General Adebayo Babalola, described as the outcome of rigorous preparation, sustained training and determination.

Army Headquarters Garrison finished second with 1,787.6 points, while 3 Division placed third with 1,522.3 points.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, represented by the Head of Service, Olarewaju Saka, commended the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), Lieutenant General Waidi Shaibu, and the Nigerian Army's leadership for choosing the state to host the national military competition.

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Guest Writer

Chidi Anselm Odinkalu



FIFA, CAF, NSC
begin screening
of candidates
for NFF
Normalisation
Committee

/39



Does Nigeria truly have over 103 million voters?

AHEAD of Nigeria's general elections in January and February 2027, Africa Confidential warns that "turnout in the elections is likely to be even lower than the average 26.7 per cent four years ago. Nigerian voters are among the least enthusiastic in the world. ... Out of more than 93.4 million registered voters, 24.9 million total votes were cast. This represented an 8.03-point decline from the 2019 elections and was the lowest voter turnout since Nigeria's return to civilian rule in 1999."

Complaints about "voter apathy" are the staple of Nigeria's electoral commentariat. The numbers and patterns seem to bear this out. In 1999, turnout was 52.3 per cent. Officially, it grew to 69 per cent in 2003; and has fallen since then to 57.5 per cent in 2007; 53.7 per cent in 2011; 43.7 per cent in 2015; and 34.8 per cent in 2019, before cratering to 26.7 per cent in 2023.

These claims require us to accord credibility to the underlying numbers from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). That begins with belief in the baseline of INEC's electoral register against which turnout is judged. If that register is flawed, then all calculations hinged on it also suffer.

Yet, the foundational affliction underlying of Nigeria's elections is not in INEC's numbers. Rather, it is an absence of credible demographic management system against which to verify INEC's claims.

The National Population Commission (NPC) claims 53 per cent of births in the country are registered and only 10 per cent of deaths are. The implications of this for the credibility of the electoral register should worry everyone. To be sure, electoral rolls are ambulatory. People are not static: we move; relocate, and die too. This is why a demographic management system is essential. In Nigeria, this does not exist.

A register of voters does not automatically change because a person whose name is on it has died. But a person should also not be on the register one decade after their death. In Nigeria, there is no way of stopping this. These define the many curiosities about Nigeria's voting numbers. First, they bear no rational relationship to wider demographic trends. Nigeria's pattern of supposedly precipitous collapse in voter turnout, for instance, is inversely proportional to both baseline population and civic gripe.

In 1999, Nigeria's population was estimated to be 115,766,000. Nigeria's current population is estimated at 244 million. That means the country has more than doubled its population since 1999 by 128,234,000 or 110.77 per cent.

Over the same period, the voting roll has grown by 81.4 per cent, even as life expectancy in the intervening quarter century has increased by about nine years. If life expectancy is growing with the population and crude death rates falling, then the rate of growth in the voting population should ordinarily outstrip the underlying population growth rate.

In 20 years from 1999 to 2023, Nigeria's population rose by about 87 per cent but the register



of voters grew by 36,530,063 or 63.05 per cent. The mis-match between the two trendlines is significant.

In 1999, Nigeria had 57.94 million registered voters. This rose by 2.88 million or 4.97 per cent to 60.82 million in 2003 and then by a mere three-quarters of a million or 1.23 per cent to 61.57 million in 2007. By 2011, the number of registered voters climbed by over 12 million (20.5 per cent) to 73.53 million, representing an average yearly growth rate of nearly 5.12 per cent, where previously it had grown by 1.24 per cent in 1999-2003 and 0.3 per cent between 2003-2007.

By 2015, the population of registered voters fell to 68.83 million, a deficit of 4.7 million voters or 6.39 per cent, representing an annualised rate of reversal of 1.6 per cent. Yet, over the same period, Nigeria, a country with a median age of just under 18 years, had grown in population from an estimated 162.9 million to 181.2 million, an increase of 15.174 million or 11.23 per cent, representing an annual growth rate of 2.8 per cent.

The patterns from these numbers do not lend themselves to easy explanations. It is possible to speculate about what may explain this significant delta in growth between the general population and register of voters. Rational factors such as migration; agency dysfunctions in INEC; civic inertia or disaffection; or high transaction costs may be relevant. But there remain worrying patterns that are not easily accounted for even by all these.

As the Justice Uwais presidential committee on electoral reform pointed out in its 2008 report, much of what passed for electoral numbers in Nigeria before 2011 was voodoo. Just to illustrate this point, the INEC does not have a breakdown of official results for the 2007 presidential elections yet there are turnout figures for that elec-

tion.

This leads to a second issue: Nigeria's register of voters has always had invalid voters. The current register of voters in Nigeria dates back to November 2010 when the Attahiru Jega-led INEC set about establishing a credible register of voters for the country. The Commission had limited time to authenticate the raw data before the 2011 general election.

When the Automatic Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) finished its work on the 2011 register nearly four years later, INEC invalidated 4.7 million entries, which reduced the number of registered voters from 73.53 in 2011 to 68.83 in 2015 but not before these invalid 4.7 million were eligible to vote in 2011.

Third, the biggest problem may be dead voters. That's an oxymoron because the dead should not vote. In 2022, INEC explained that it

could not expunge the dead from the register because "the country does not have reliable data of births and deaths and the commission cannot engage in arbitrary removal of the names of individuals it suspects are deceased."

This has not changed. It means we have no way of knowing how many ghosts there are among the 103.4 million on INEC's current register. By failing to display the register as required by law, the Commission does not even care to disabuse suspicions that its register may be bloated. Its response to non-compliance is institutional insouciance.

Nigeria's register of voters is the classic Hotel California: it is "programmed to receive" and, for anyone with their name on it, "you can check out any time you like but you can never leave." The implications of this for electoral integrity are staggering.

An illustrative exercise may help. Nigerian law allows adults alone to vote. The World Bank estimates the country's crude mortality rate at 11.64 per 1000. Applied to a baseline from 2011, that is about 34,748,845 dead in 15 years.

But not all these will be adults. Mortality rate for under-5s is 117 per 1000 live births. That's 700,000 to 855,000 under-five child deaths yearly. To 2025, that could be about 12 million dead under-fives since 2011.

The country also reported an estimated median of 111,425 deaths among 5-14-year-olds from 1990 to 2016. Applied again to a 2011 baseline, that's another 1,671,375. In total, there could be up to 13.67 million infants, children, and adolescent deaths since 2011.

Adjusting the crude death rates for mortality among infants, children, and adolescents, there could be about 18-20 million people liable to be lanced from the electoral register since 2011. Applying the same methodology to a baseline of the 2023 register, that could be up to five million dead people alone on the register since the last election.

In its latest announcement, however, INEC said it captured a total of 10,772,421 new voters. It has not accounted for deaths or natural attrition. Separately, at the end of 2025, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, (IDMC) reported that Nigeria had at least 3.7 million in internal displacement. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees adds up to 478,000 Nigerian refugees outside the country. Admittedly not all of these are adults of voting age.

Almost assuredly, INEC's 103.4 million voters is corpulent. When you look at the numbers on INEC's register and account for the fact that the baseline data goes back to 2011, there is a reasonable likelihood that up to about 25 per cent on it could be dead or dud. That should put all the talk about voter apathy in perspective.

But this story has a uniquely Nigerian sting: our diaspora on earth may not have a vote, but we may have a diaspora in Heaven with a veto. **Odinkalu, a lawyer and teacher, can be reached at chidi.odinkalu@tufts.edu**

Views expressed by contributors are strictly personal and not of The Guardian

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If life expectancy is growing with the population and crude death rates falling, then the rate of growth in the voting population should ordinarily outstrip the underlying population growth rate. In 20 years from 1999 to 2023, Nigeria's population rose by about 87% but the register of voters grew by 36,530,063 or 63.05%. The mis-match between the two trendlines is significant.
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