

2027: APC moves to exploit opposition's disunity 4

PROSECUTOR TO LONDON COURT: Diezani spent £140,000 on furniture, others a 9

Outrage as Nigerian music superstars face disappointment again at 68th Grammy Awards 7



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N250

ONITSHA MARKET LOCKDOWN:

10,000 shops marked for demolition 11

•We've opened market but nobody's coming to buy from us — Traders •Market leaders hail traders



AT OGUN STATE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING... From left, Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Iziaq Salako; wife of former president, Mrs. Bola Obasanjo; former President Olusegun Obasanjo; Ogun State Governor, Prince Dapo Abiodun; former Governor of Ogun State, Chief Olusegun Osoba; wife of the Governor, Mrs Bamidele Abiodun, and the Deputy Governor, Engr. Noimot Salako-Oyedele, during the Inter-Faith Prayer and Thanksgiving commemorating Ogun State's 50th anniversary held at the Arcade Ground, Governor's Office, Oke-Mosan, Abeokuta, yesterday.

State govts now to share payment of electricity subsidy — FG 5

•We're reviewing situation — NGF, SERC •Funding to come from PCAF — Source •States should pay subsidy as active partners — CPPE •Big fiscal, political shift — PROF ILEDARE •Experts cast doubt over FG's power to make states pay electricity subsidies

MATTHEW TONLAGHA'S 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN WARRI...



From left—Founder, Esther Matthew Tonlagha Foundation, Dr. Esther Tonlagha; Chairman, Maton Engineering Nigeria Limited, Mr. Matthew Tonlagha and Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborewori, during a Day of Praise in celebration of the 50th birthday of Mr. Tonlagha in Warri, Delta State, yesterday.

Makoko protest: Police used expired teargas on protesters — FALANA 8

Malami challenges EFCC, asks court to set aside interim forfeiture order on property 6



COLUMNISTS

BABA AHMED 17

TENIOLA 18

NIGER-DELTA VOICE 12

Leadway Media Dash 3.0

The First-ever Physical Lifestyle Fair Showcasing SMEs Beyond Media Interactions



Children exploring visual displays with colourful placards at Leadway Lifestyle Fair's photo booth



Family participation at the Leadway Lifestyle Fair



Leadway Lifestyle Fair Photo Experience



Raffle draw experience at the first edition of Leadway Lifestyle Fair



Participants at the photo booth during the first edition of Leadway Lifestyle Fair



Vendors engaging with potential customers at their booths during the Leadway Lifestyle Fair.



Vendors' booths at Leadway's first Lifestyle Fair, with visitors exploring and engaging with the products



Vendors displaying a variety of bags for sale during the Leadway Lifestyle Fair, offering visitors a range of bespoke designs to choose from



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IFC, TERRA KULTURE SIGN PARTNERSHIP — From left: Mr. Ethiopis Tafara, Vice President for Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and Mrs. Bolanle Austen-Peters, Founder and CEO of Terra Kulture Group at the partnership signing ceremony between IFC and Terra Kulture on creative industry support...in Lagos

2027: APC moves to exploit opposition's disunity

By John Alechenu & Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA-AS Nigeria inches toward the 2027 general elections, widening cracks within opposition parties are fueling fears that President Bola Tinubu and the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, may secure a second term long before voters head to the polls.

With barely 12 months to the polls, internal paralysis across major opposition platforms has slowed preparations to a crawl, even as the ruling APC consolidates power and quietly positions itself for another electoral cycle.

Across the opposition space, party structures remain unsettled, legal disputes unresolved, and coordination efforts fractured.

Indeed, the APC appears set to exploit the disunity of the opposition and has rolled out its election roadmap.

It last week, became the first party to publicly unveil its timetable and schedule of activities ahead of 2027.

According to the document signed by its National Secretary, Senator Ajibola Basiru, the party's national convention is slated for March 25–28, 2026.

Party insiders said the early planning was aimed at consolidating internal unity and giving prospective candidates ample time to prepare.

In sharp contrast, major opposition platforms are still struggling to stabilise their internal structures, even as timelines for party congresses and primaries draw closer.

Labour Party crisis lingers Although the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, recently recognised the leadership of Senator Esther Nenadi-Usman as acting national chairman of Labour Party, LP, the decision has not fully resolved the party's prolonged leadership crisis.

INEC's recognition, which was based on a court order, effectively sidelined the faction led by Comrade Julius Abure. However, loyalists of the ousted leadership insist the matter was far from settled.

On paper, it brings to an end a long drawn leadership tussle. Nenadi-Usman enjoys the support of Abia State governor, Alex Otti, and other stakeholders and a faction of the party led by Comrade Julius Abure.

A party source

•Unveils schedule of activities for polls •PDP, LP, ADC face daunting tasks •INEC urges patience over election notice

sympathetic to the Abure faction told *Vanguard* that the recognition could be reversed if a superior court issued a contrary ruling.

The source also accused the Nenadi-Usman-led caretaker committee of failing to meet its mandate, particularly the requirement to conduct congresses and organise a national convention within three months.

"It is not yet over. What you saw on the INEC website was clear, Nenadi Usman's recognition was 'based on court order' it simply means when it gets a superior court order it can change," the source said.

The lingering uncertainty has slowed mobilisation efforts and weakened the party's capacity to rebuild momentum after its strong showing in the 2023 presidential election.

PDP trapped in legal and leadership paralysis

The Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, once Nigeria's dominant opposition force, appears even more deeply entangled in crisis.

Multiple leadership disputes at the national level, currently before the Court of Appeal, have effectively paralysed party activities.

Rival factions continue to lay claim to key offices, while congresses and reconciliation efforts remained stalled.

The uncertainty has weakened some state chapters and raised fears within the party that it may struggle to meet statutory deadlines once INEC formally rolls out the 2027 election timetable.

In several states, party activities have slowed or stopped altogether as members await judicial clarity.

The instability has been compounded by defections and internal fragmentation, reducing the party's influence across several states.

From having 13 governors after the 2023 elections, the PDP has dwindled to four, further weakening its national spread.

Factional National Chairman, Dr. Kabiru Turaki, has sought to calm fears over delays in the appellate courts, insisting that all necessary briefs had been filed, expressing confidence that the cases would soon be heard, possibly in a consolidated judgment.

"There are actually more than two matters pending," Turaki said, explaining that the party had appealed multiple judgments

affecting its leadership.

"Am I concerned that the appeals have not yet been heard? No, I am not concerned as a lawyer... All briefs in these matters are now properly before the court," he said, adding that he was confident that the Court of Appeal would prioritise the cases and possibly consolidate them into a single judgment capable of resolving the leadership crisis.

Still, party insiders worry that the prolonged uncertainty could affect the PDP's ability to meet statutory deadlines once INEC releases the official election timetable.

ADC coalition struggles with unity

African Democratic Congress, ADC, now the main platform for an emerging opposition coalition, is also facing internal headwinds.

Planned ward congresses were postponed, with party

leaders shifting focus to setting up a 50-member policy and manifesto committee. While the ADC leadership describes the move as strategic, critics say the delay raises concerns about the party's preparedness for the 2027 race.

Rivalry between supporters of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and those loyal to former Anambra State Governor Peter Obi has continued to play out publicly, complicating efforts to project unity.

Supporters of Obi, operating under the banner of the Obidient Movement, insist that his candidacy is non-negotiable, arguing that youths and women remain the dominant force in Nigeria's voting population. On the other hand, Atiku's supporters maintain that the former vice president remains the most experienced contender, citing his long-standing role

IFC, Terra Kulture sign pact to boost Nigeria's creative economy

THE International Finance Corporation (IFC) has signed partnership with TerraKulture to support the expansion of creative infrastructure and skills development in Nigeria.

Under the mandate, IFC will support the refurbishment of TerraKulture's creative and training facilities in Lagos, reinforcing its role as a

flagship platform for talent development across theatre, film, visual arts, and cultural production. Through its integrated model, TerraKulture equips emerging creatives with industry-relevant skills, professional networks, and viable pathways into employment and entrepreneurship across the creative value chain.

Speaking on the

EuroCham champions new trade frontiers, seeks deeper EU-Nigeria economic ties

By Nkiruka Nnorom

THE European Business Chamber (EuroCham) in Nigeria has called for a shift in approach to the Nigeria-European Union trade relations, emphasising the need for a long-term structural alignment to drive sustainable economic growth and investment.

President EuroCham in Nigeria, Mr. Yann Gilbert made the call at EuroCham annual conference and Expo in Lagos, which brought together diplomatic delegations, including ambassadors and consular representatives from across Europe.

In his address, Gilbert challenged the assembly of business leaders and policymakers to look beyond short-term volatility and focus on the long-term structural alignment of the

Nigeria-EU corridor.

"The bridge we are building today is not just of goods and services, but of shared standards, digital integration, and unwavering transparency," he said.

He emphasised the importance of resilience and innovation, saying the new trade frontier was defined by a shift toward sustainable industrial partnerships and the adoption of global best practices.

Gilbert reaffirmed EuroCham's commitment to act as the primary bridge for European investors, ensuring that the dialogue between the private sector and policy architects remained productive and transparent.

Senator Osita Izunaso, Chairman, Senate Committee on Capital Market, detailed the ongoing legislative efforts to

in party building and electoral politics.

A source familiar with coalition talks said the inability of opposition leaders to manage competing ambitions could derail the entire project.

"While the ruling party is quietly positioning itself for 2027, the opposition is still arguing over structure, leadership and who gets what. That confusion is now playing out in public," the source said.

Defections tilt balance towards APC

The opposition's woes have been worsened by a steady stream of defections to the APC, including sitting governors and prominent political figures. Analysts say the defections are driven largely by uncertainty over credible primaries, access to campaign resources and internal cohesion within opposition parties.

In several states, the exits have fractured party structures, leaving behind weakened chapters and unresolved disputes.

A Makurdi-based political scientist, Emmanuel Edache, said opposition parties appear more driven by personalities than ideology.

"I am yet to be convinced that the opposition is serious about replacing Tinubu in 2027. To win, there must be sacrifice and unity. Those who insist on 'it must be me or nobody' will ultimately undermine the project," he said.

CUPP warns opposition

National Secretary of the Coalition of United Political Parties, CUPP, Chief Peter Ameh, warned that opposition parties risk political self-deception if they believe they can defeat the APC without a united front.

"The first step to defeating this regime is for us in opposition to come together. We must unite, chose the right candidate and ensure people not only come out to vote but also

protect their votes. Without this, 2027 will be a lost cause," Ameh told *Vanguard*.

INEC urges patience

Logistical and financial pressures linked to the approaching electoral cycle have deepened the strain. Although INEC has yet to officially release the 2027 election schedule, timelines circulating within political circles suggest party primaries could hold between July and September 2026. Conducting congresses from ward to national levels within that window requires funding and unity that many opposition parties currently lack.

Concerns have also been raised about pending electoral reforms. Amendments to the Electoral Act, including provisions mandating real-time electronic transmission of results, were passed by the House of Representatives in December 2025 and are awaiting consideration by the Senate. Opposition figures fear that delays or late-stage changes could further complicate already fragile preparations.

However, the INEC has distanced itself from unofficial election timelines circulating in political circles and stated that it would publish the official notice of election strictly in line with Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act, 2022 not later than 360 days before the election.

A statement released by Adegayo Oketola, Media Adviser to the INEC National Chairman, Professor Joash Amupitan, read in part: "The Commission reiterates that it operates strictly within the provisions of the law. In particular, Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act, 2022 provides that the Commission shall publish a Notice of Election not later than 360 days before the date appointed for a general election. Any timetable or schedule issued outside this statutory framework cannot emanate from INEC."

partnership, Ethiopis Tafara, IFC Vice President for Africa, said: "Creative industries are a powerful source of jobs and opportunity, particularly for young people and women. This mandate partnership with TerraKulture reflects IFC's belief that locally rooted creative institutions can play a meaningful role in inclusive growth. By strengthening platforms that professionalise creative

talent and preserve cultural expression, we are supporting Nigeria's long-term economic transformation."

The mandate aligns with IFC's broader strategy to formalize, finance, and scale creative enterprises across emerging markets, recognizing the sector's strong multiplier effects across tourism, technology, and services, as well as its role in preserving cultural identity. It also reflects the growing recognition of Africa's vibrant creative scene and its potential to amplify African stories globally, grounded in local context and shaped through African perspectives.

Bolanle Austen-Peters, Founder, Terra Kulture, said, "We value IFC's confidence in Terra Kulture's work. Their support enables us to expand platforms that nurture talent, tell our stories, and build a globally competitive creative sector. Strategic partnerships like this are essential to transforming the cultural ecosystem from passion-driven to industry-driven."

As Nigeria continues to pursue economic diversification, this mandate partnership signals a shared intent to explore how creative institutions can contribute to job creation, skills development, and sustainable livelihoods, while strengthening the country's cultural capital.

State govts now to share payment of electricity subsidy — FG

● We're reviewing situation — NGF, SERC ● Funding to come from PCAF — Expert ● States should pay subsidy as active partners — CPPE ● Big fiscal, political shift — Prof Iledare ● Experts cast doubt over FG's power to make states pay electricity subsidies

By Emma Ujah, Abuja Bureau Chief, Udeme Akpan, Obas Esiedesa & Ediri Ejoh

ABUJA — State governments are now to bear the cost of electricity subsidy, along with the Federal Government, President Bola Tinubu, has directed.

Vanguard gathered that funding for payment of the subsidy will now come from Power Assistance Consumers Fund, PCAF.

PCAF is a government-backed financial pool designed to subsidise electricity bills for low-income and vulnerable households to

ensure affordability in the face of rising tariffs, thus improving energy access while stabilising the electricity sector by funding targeted support, instead of universal subsidies.

More than 18 states are currently operating their regulatory agencies, with others waiting in the wings to do same.

The states include Lagos, Ondo, Osun, Ekiti, Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Abia, Anam-

bra, Imo, Kogi, Niger, Nasarawa, Plateau, Gombe and Jigawa.

Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation, BoF, Mr. Tanimu Yakubu, who disclosed this at the opening of the 2026 Post-Budget Preparation using Government Integrated Financial Management System, GIFMIS, workshop, in Abuja, yesterday, said state governments that enjoyed the political benefits of electricity subsidy must also share in filling the gap created by subsidy and must not be left

to the Federal Government alone.

He said in an address read on his behalf by the Director of Expenditure Social, Mr. Yusuf Muhammed: "Mr. President has directed that we operationalise a clearer framework to share the cost of electricity across the federation, so the burden is not treated as an open-ended fiscal residual. I mean federal residual. Let me be direct.

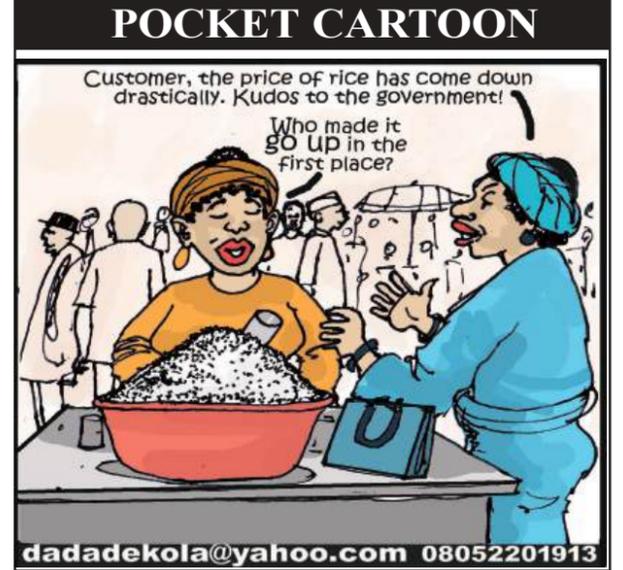
"If you want a stable power sector, we must pay for the choices we make. When tariffs are held low cost, a gap is created. That gap is a subsidy, and a subsidy is a bill.

"In 2026, we will stop pretending that this bill can be left to the Federal Government alone, especially where the policy choice or the political benefit is shared across tiers of government. Mr. President directed us to invoke the electricity sector legal framework to make burden-sharing practical and transparent.

"This means subsidy costs must be explicit, tracked and funded, so they do not return as arrears liquidity crisis or hidden liabilities in the market. It also means that if any tier of government chooses affordability intervention, the responsibility must be clear, agreed and enforceable. This is not punishment. It is an alignment.

"When everyone carries a fair share of the cost, everyone also has an incentive to support cost effective, efficiency-targeted protection for the vulnerable, and empower market that can actually deliver for MDAs.

"The implication is simple, makes subsidies-related cost visible in your planning and submission. Do not push liabilities into the market as arrears or unfunded commitment. Sup-



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port transparent rule-based attribution and financing of affordability decisions."

The D-G also said the President directed the BoF and the MDAs to enhance the dynamism of fiscal rules through a review of the Fiscal Responsibility Framework.

"Fiscal rules are not a slogan, they are the guardrails of government. Without guardrails, spending becomes impulsive, debt becomes casual, and the budget becomes a statement of intent, rather than a tool of delivery.

"But rules must also be smart. They must respond to volatility without collapsing under pressure. That is why the 2026 direction is not to abandon rules, but to modernise them, so they work in today's Nigeria.

"Mr. President's directive is to review the Fiscal Responsibility Framework to make it more dynamic and more enforceable. That means clearer fiscal anchors, better-defined escape clauses for genuine shocks, and a credible path back to compliance when those clauses are used.

"It means stronger reporting, tighter discipline around contingent liabilities, and a firmer link between the medium-term framework and annual appropriations.

"For MDAs, this changes the conversation. You will not only be asked what you want to spend. You will

be asked how it fits the fiscal rules, how it affects sustainability, and what measurable results it will deliver," he said.

According to the D-G, in 2026, capital proposals must be delivery-ready and where appropriate, they must be finance-ready.

He said: "A long list of projects is not a development strategy. It is often a map of disappointment. What citizens feel is delivery—completed roads, reliable power, functional schools, working hospitals.

"So in 2026, we are moving decisively from naming projects to financing and delivering projects. This is where project financing becomes central. It is not a buzzword, it is a discipline. It means projects must be properly scoped, costed, sequenced and packaged to attract the right mix of funding—budget, PPPs, blended finance, guarantees, and counterpart resources where relevant.

"It means readiness: designs, approvals, procurement strategy, and an implementation time-table. It means bankability: a credible revenue or service-payment logic, risk allocation, and clear governance.

"It means prioritisation: fewer projects, better funded, better delivered. If we do this, the budget becomes a pipeline of completion, not a catalogue of unfinished work. That is the

Continues on Page 26



INAUGURATION: The Olu of Warri Kingdom, HRM, Ogiame Atuwasi III (middle), cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Model Technical College, Omadino, Warri South Local Government, yesterday, supported by Delta State Governor, Sheriff Oborewori (right), and his Deputy, Sir Monday Onyeme (left)..

People Talk

BY CYNTHIA ALO

On Soludo, traders, IPOB face-off over move by govt to stop sit-at-home



There cannot be two parallel governments — IPOB and the state government. The state gov orders should be obeyed. If Gov. Soludo has cancelled sit-at-home order, it should stand because that's the government. This has economic implications because if you shut down the state for a day, govt. loses. It's the duty of government to provide for the people so shutting down a state in the name of sit-at-home makes no sense. The citizens take orders from the govt. and not the other way round. If the traders refuse to go back, then he should place a stronger sanction on them and if any member of IPOB comes up to challenge the government, then government should do the needful

—Obasi ozoma John, Businessman



In my view, it's great to encourage people to resume normal activities, but the safety of citizens should be top priority. Without adequate security, the situation could be chaotic, so I think the Anambra Government should first implement robust security measures to reassure business owners and the public of their safety.

—Maryjane Rapheals, Entrepreneur



When people are safe, they will definitely come out. When they know that the environment is safe for operations, marketing, or any other form of commercial activity, they will definitely come out. Everyone wants to make a profit or make money, so for a person to sit back, they've seen what's at stake (danger). They weigh the options and decide to stay back for safety reasons.

—Ebuka Solomon, Entrepreneur



Some Igbo governors/leaders and the Nigerian government are looking for a way to tag IPOB as killers. By the time they drag people out of their houses on Mondays and it leads to violent attacks, they will start blame game of IPOB/ESN killing. With that, the international community will say killings are also going on in South Eastern Nigeria by Mazi Nnamdi Kanu and his people. The govt. must first assure the people of safety before ordering them to open shops on Mondays.

—Chris Uche, Fitness Expert/Consultant



Well, it's unfortunate that his Excellency, Governor Chukwuma Soludo took the wrong decision by announcing it openly because the sit-at-home was already dying down but now, the sit-at-home is back again. Let him be considerate and act as a father of the state.

—Rev. (Prof.) Victor Okorie, Clergy



A leader listens to the people and carry them along. It's not about being in office, living a flamboyant life, earning all the allowances. For me, the traders are not wrong, they are not asking for much, they are simply saying they want to maintain the lockdown because they want to achieve something. They have been doing their businesses without asking for funds from govt. The people are not happy with govt. and what Soludo is doing may end up causing a revolution. People are simply asking for their right. A lot is going on; a lot of killings in the country so why not focus on security instead of focusing on traders?

—PreacherMan, Entertainer

Man, 23, allegedly slits father's throat with machete in C-River

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR—Pandemonium broke out on Sunday in Ugep, Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, after a 23-year-old man allegedly slit his father's throat with a machete.

Vanguard gathered that the tragic incident occurred around O 3 Palace, Usaja, in Ikpakapit Ward of the community.

The suspect, identified as Bassey Ubi, was said to have attacked his father shortly after the deceased returned from church. The machete attack reportedly resulted in a deep cut to the neck, leading to the father's immediate death.

Residents were said to have attempted to lynch the suspect before police officers arrived and rescued him from the mob.

Confirming the incident, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Cross River State Police Command, Sunday Eitokpah, said the suspect was believed to have acted under the influence of

illicit substances.

"The unfortunate incident occurred in the early hours of today. The suspect is Bassey Ubi, 23 years old, and he is an alleged drug addict. From the information available to us, it is likely the influence of drugs that made him act in that manner," Eitokpah said.

He explained further that the victim had just returned from church when he was attacked by his son inside the house.

"It was a deep machete cut on the neck inflicted by the son on his father," the police spokesman added.

Eitokpah disclosed that the suspect sustained injuries from the mob before police intervention.

"If not for the timely intervention of the police, the suspect would have been killed. He was first taken for medical attention and thereafter, detained in our facility for further investigation," he said.

He also revealed that the body of the deceased had been taken to the morgue in Ugep by family members before the police arrived at the scene.

Tragedy averted as soldiers evacuate suspected bomb from church premises in Abia

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

UMUAHIA—No fewer than 100 persons would have lost their lives following the discovery of an object suspected to be a bomb at the United Evangelical Church, Ehre/Umuala, Ogbor Hill, Aba, Abia State.

Eyewitnesses told Vanguard that the church members were digging the fence area around the parsonage for a new one when they dug out a large metal object.

One of them was said to have taken the strange object to the nearby water borehole when the priest in charge suddenly suspected the object to be a bomb and warned them to stay away from the object.

A source further told Vanguard that the priest in charge went to a military unit in the city, which led soldiers to storm the parsonage to evacuate the deadly object.

An eyewitness said: "The road, which divides the church building and the parsonage is being expanded by the state government. The church decided to remove the old fence



The suspected bomb.

and build a new one to make way for the expansion of the road. It was while the church members were digging the ground for the new fence that they dug out the metal object which nobody knew was a bomb. The pastor later invited soldiers who evacuated the object."

Sympathisers, who were gathered at the scene, expressed gratitude to God for the unexploded object, adding that no fewer than 100 persons and church building would have been destroyed as the area was always filled with traders and passersby.

Contacted, Secretary of the Aba Area Conference of the United Evangelical Church, UEC, Rev. Thompson Ikpeoha, who confirmed the incident, said he was yet to be fully briefed by the priest in charge of the Ehre/Umuala Church.

Efforts to contacts the Army Public Relations Officer, 14 Brigade, Ohafia, was unsuccessful, at press time.

However, a senior military officer in Aba confirmed the incident and disclosed that the Army headquarters had taken over the investigation.

Navy raids drug den in Lagos, recovers illicit substances

By Precious Enaike

Lagos—Personnel of the Nigerian Navy Ship, NNS BEECROFT, have dismantled a drug den at Gidan Drama, Agbo Malu area of Apapa, Lagos, recovering illicit substances.

The operation, according to the command, followed credible intelligence on the activities of suspected drug peddlers operating from the location.

During the coordinated raid, naval personnel recovered cannabis sativa, codeine and other banned drugs.

Speaking during the handover of the recovered items to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA,

yesterday at NNS BEECROFT, Apapa, the Commander, Rear Admiral Paul Nimmyel, represented by the Executive Officer, Captain Idongesit Udoessien, said no arrest was made as the suspects fled on sighting the naval team.

Udoessien said the operation was a result of the determined effort to curb drug-related crimes, noting that illicit drug abuse posed serious threats to public health and national security.

The recovered illicit substances were, subsequently, handed over to the Assistant Commander of Narcotics, Festac Area Command of the NDLEA, Azu Charles, for further investigation and necessary action.

10 kidnap victims rescued after gun battle between security team, bandits in Niger

By Wole Mosadomi

MINNA—A joint security team had a breakthrough after gun battle with suspected kidnapers and bandits in Niger State, during which 10 kidnapped victims were rescued.

The Niger State police command spokesman, Wasiu Abiodun, while confirming the development, described the

incident as a major breakthrough for the security personnel in the state.

The incident, according to him, occurred in Mai-Laka village in Mariga Local Government Area of the state on Sunday.

According to him, after fireworks from the two sides, the suspects fled the scene and

abandoned some of the abducted victims.

He said: "On Sunday, about 8a.m., joint security team intercepted and engaged some suspected kidnapers/bandits in gun battle at Mai-Laka village along Bangi-Kotonkoro road.

"During the gun battle, the abductors abandoned some kidnapped victims and fled from

the scene, which led to the rescue of about 10 victims, who were from Yauri, Dusai, Dogon-Fadama, and Yabawa villages

"Some of the bandits' motorcycles were also recovered by the team."

He said, clearance operation was being intensified, and monitoring continues in order to totally clear the area of bandits towards keeping residents of the various communities in the area safe.

Malami challenges EFCC, asks court to set aside interim forfeiture order on property

FORMER Justice Minister Abubakar Malami, SAN, has prayed a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja to vacate the interim order made against three of the 57 property listed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for forfeiture to the Federal Government.

Malami, former Attorney-General of the Federation, AGF, Muhammadu Buhari administration, is challenging the EFCC on the property listed as No. 9, No. 18 and No. 48 in the ex-parte motion it brought to the court on January 6.

The three property, sought to be discharged, include Plot 157, Lamido Crescent, Nasarawa, GRA, Kano, purchased in July 31, 2019 with no specific amount stated in the schedule as No. 9.

They also include a Bedroom Duplex and Boys Quarters at No. 12, Yalinga Street, Off Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, purchased in October 2018 at N150 million, and ADC Kadi Malami Foundation Building, bought at N56 million listed as No. 18 and No. 48.

Justice Nwite, who sat as vacation judge, had, on January 6, ordered the temporary forfeiture of 57 property suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities linked to Malami.

Justice Nwite had granted the order following an ex-parte motion moved by the EFCC's lawyer, Ekele Iheanacho, SAN, to the effect.

The judge then directed the commission to publish the order in a national daily for interested person(s) to show cause, within 14 days, why

all the property should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

However, in a motion on notice filed on Malami's behalf by a team of lawyers led by Joseph Daudu, SAN, the ex-AGF alleged that the anti-corruption agency got the interim order by suppression of material facts and misrepresentation.

Malami, who urged the court to dismiss the suit to prevent "conflicting outcomes duplicative litigation," argued that the proceeding was an assault on his fundamental right to owned property, his presumption of innocence and his right to live in peace with his family.

In the application, Malami sought two orders:

"An order of this court vacating, setting aside and/or discharging the interim order(s) of this court made

on January 6, 2026, against the respondent/applicant's (Malami's) properties listed as Nos. 9, 18, and 48 in the schedule of properties attached to the interim order of forfeiture of January 6, 2026, the said properties having been duly declared in the respondent/applicant's asset declaration forms throughout his tenure as a public officer and No. 48 is held in trust for the Estate of Late Khadi Malami Nassarawa.

"An order of this court restraining the applicant/respondent (EFCC), acting by itself or through its servants, agents and proxies from interfering with the respondent/applicant's (Malami's) properties in issue or disturbing the respondent/applicant's ownership, possession and control thereof in the course of purportedly giving effect to the order of this honourable court made on the 6th of January, 2026."

Fire guts Kano essential commodities market

By Bashir Bello

KANO—AN early morning fire, yesterday, razed some parts of Kano essential commodities market, popularly known as Singa market.

It was gathered that the cause of the inferno was still sketchy at press time.

However, spokesperson of the Kano State Fire Service, Saminu Yusif, confirmed the inferno,

saying the service received a distress call about 3:16a.m., and deployed firefighting men to the scene to contain the fire.

He said as at about 10a.m., part of the market was still burning with firemen battling to bring the situation under control and prevent further spread.

He assured that more details on the incident would be made available to journalists later.

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENTLE BROTHERS SOCIAL CLUB, EMEVOR

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ABOVE NAMED CLUB HAS APPLIED TO THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) ABUJA FOR REGISTRATION UNDER PART "C" OF THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTER ACT 2020.

THE TRUSTEES ARE

- 1 OBA AKPOBOKOGHENE THANKGOD
- 2 ONORIOBARO HARRISON
- 3 JOHN ODHE LUKUMEN
- 4 E. JOKPARO THANSAND

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO BRING ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE CLUB.
- 2 TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING FRIENDSHIPS AND BUILD NEW ONES THROUGH REGULAR SOCIAL GATHERINGS, AND OPEN COMMUNICATION AMONG MEMBERS.
- 3 TO ORGANIZE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RECREATIONAL EVENTS, LECTURES, SEMINARS, SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT AMONG MEMBERS.
- 4 TO PROMOTE PEACE, HARMONY AND GOOD CITIZENSHIP AMONG MEMBERS AND IN THE SOCIETY AT LARGE.
- 5 TO PROMOTE THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELFARE OF MEMBERS AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS IN TIMES OF NEED.

ANY OBJECTIONS TO THIS REGISTRATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE REGISTRAR GENERAL, CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION, PLOT 420 TIGRIS CRESCENT OFF AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA ABUJA, WITHIN 28 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

SIGNED: SECRETARY

NAME/CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

My correct name is ONAH CORNELEUS and my correct date of birth is 1st January, 1989. That I wrongly used 1st March, 1985 as my date of birth to open an account with First Bank instead of 1st January, 1989. That in my BVN, my name was wrongly written as ONAH CORNELEUS CHUKWUWEIKE instead of ONAH CORNELEUS as it is written in my National ID Card. That ONAH CORNELEUS CHUKWUWEIKE and ONAH CORNELEUS are the same and one person. I make this affidavit for official record purposes, for the information of First Bank, FCMB, the general public and to whom it may concern to please TAKE NOTE.

ADVERT SPACE FOR SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE

ODO-MILI BETHESDA FINGER OF GOD MISSION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under PART C of Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) no. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. PASTOR NGOZI IKEBUAKWU - Chairman
2. PROPHET EVANS OYOMA - Vice Chairmen
3. NWAEEZE CHUKWUDI MICHAEL - Secretary

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

For the promotion of the Christian Faith Globally.

Any objection therefore should be addressed to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
NGOZI IKEBUAKWU
Chairman.

Outrage as Nigerian music superstars face disappointment again at 68th Grammy Awards

By Benjamin Njoku

● *Davido breaks silence after Grammy Award loss*

NIGERIAN fans have continued to express shock and disappointment, after the country's five music superstars, nominated in different categories in the just concluded 68th Grammy Awards couldn't return home with a single award, leaving many to question the process of selection of winners.

The award show, held Sunday night at Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, had a total of 95 plaques given out to the winners. Unfortunately, Nigerian musicians, again, faced a disappointing defeat as they lost in all their nominated categories.

Burna Boy, who bagged two nominations: 'Love' for Best African Music Performance and 'No Sign of Weakness' for Best Global Music Album, didn't clinch any prize, just as Afrobeats superstar, Davido, whose 'With You', featuring Omah Lay, was nominated in Best African Music Performance, lost the title to South African singer, Tyla, for her hit song 'Push 2 Start', marking her second win in the category.

Also, Ayra Starr, nominated for her song 'Gimme Dat', featuring Wizkid, in Best African Music Performance, couldn't shine on



● *Davido (left), and Burna Boy...disappointed.*

the night.

Their loss has sparked widespread disappointment and frustration among fans and music enthusiasts, with many expressing outrage on social media, alleging particularly that the 'Timeless' crooner was robbed.

Davido breaks silence after Grammy Award loss

Meanwhile, Davido has finally reacted to his Grammy loss at the 68th edition of the awards held in Los Angeles, with a message of faith and resilience, affirming that God is on his side, despite his recent loss.

In a post shared on his Instagram page, Davido shared lovely photos alongside his wife at the award ceremony and ended the post with a praying emoji and musical symbols.

The singer wrote: "Oluwa Dey my side."



● *Tyla... Grammy winner.*

Davido lost the Best African Music Performance category at the 2026 Grammy Awards Ceremony, which was held on Sunday night at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California.

The defeat marks the second year Davido has been edged out by Tyla at the Grammys, despite his high-profile campaign and relentless efforts to secure the award.

While some fans expressed serious disappointment over what they perceive as a snub, others opined that Grammy recognition does not define Davido's success, status and legacy in the music industry. They hailed his consistency and impact, not only in Africa, but on the global landscape.

Reacting, Israel DMW said that awards don't define Davido. "Grammy Award or not, *Oga still remains the Best*, Dea 100 per cent 'Back to Back' hit continues. *Una go hear sweet music taya*," Israel wrote on Instagram.

Also, Cubana Chiefpriest offered words of encouragement to Davido in a post, tweeting: *Oyibo dey do everything possible to break a strong man so he can do their demonic shit with them but he will never do it.*

A fan, @itzbasito said "nothing Davido didn't do to win a Grammy. He joined the Recording Academy, attended all the parties, got there early, arranged chairs, invited all his friends and family, even called Paso to perform, and still lost to Tyla." Another fan, etek-hotion, wrote "You made me interested in the Grammys. You are my winner."

The awards ceremony was hosted by comedian Trevor Noah, who returned for a sixth and final time.

Tyla is known for her unique blend of pop and amapiano. Her breakthrough single, 'Water', topped charts worldwide and sparked the water challenge on TikTok with over 9.6 million views. The singer attended the awards ceremony in a Dsquared2 dress, complete with a stunning feather train. Tyla's fans flooded social media with messages of congratulations.

"Despite not returning home with any award, the 68th Grammys not only spotlight Nigeria's current musical stars, but also cemented the nation's growing imprint on the global music stage.

SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation

Who wins a Girl's heart easily? 🤔

- A. Cute guy 🥰
- B. Funny Guy 😂
- C. Rich Guy 🤑
- D. Romantic Guy 💕

Why ask? It's the moneybag!

Some problems don't have solutions



Sorry bro...get a stool!

THIS IS WHERE I COME FROM...



NOW YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I DON'T COMPETE WITH PEOPLE

From the black pot comes the white pap!
Do you remember those days when photo albums were given to visitors as entertainment? And one member of the family would sit next to visitors, to give details of each photo 🤔 ... Like a documentary?

NIGERIA MARITIME UNIVERSITY

OKERENKOKO, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR

NOTICE OF MATRICULATION CEREMONY FOR 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION

This is to inform all students admitted into the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, for the 2025/2026 Academic Session; Parents/Guardians, the University Community, and the General Public, that the Matriculation Ceremony for the session has been scheduled to hold on Saturday, 14th February 2026, at the Ceremonial Pavilion, Kurutie Campus, by 10.00 a.m.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 10:00am: Arrival of Dignitaries
- 10:30am: Parade
- 11:30pm: Break
- 12:00pm: Procession
- 12:20pm: National Anthem; NMU Anthem
- 12:30pm: Opening Prayer
- 12:35pm: Vice-Chancellor's Address
- 12:50pm: Matriculation Ceremony
- 1:30 pm: Matriculation Ceremony closes; NMU Anthem; National Anthem
- 1:35 pm: Closing Procession in Reverse Order
- 1:50 pm: Matriculated Students Submit Signed Matriculation Oaths
- 2.00 pm Deputy Vice-Chancellor/Students' Parents' Interactive Session

NOTE: All guests are expected to be seated before 10:30am. Matriculants are to collect academic gowns from their Faculty Officers/Senate Services Division before Matriculation Day.

DR. PAUL BEBENIMIBO
Registrar & Secretary to Council



Nigeria paying price for underfunding education sector — Osinbajo

By Elizabeth Osayande & Ifunanya Ndigwe

LAGOS — FORMER Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo, yesterday, lamented the current state of education in Nigeria, saying that the country is "paying a heavy price" due to the neglect of its schools, which he described as "broken" and "underfunded."

He also emphasised the vital role foundational education plays in shaping future leaders.

Osinbajo, who spoke on the theme 'Building generational strength for educational institutions in Nigeria,' was the guest lecturer at the 94th Founders Day celebration of Igbobi College, Lagos.

Reflecting on his experiences, he said: "The discipline of waking up at 5:30am and the 'lights out' rules in secondary schools are what built great leaders.

"The habits that sustain adults are formed in school, not improvised later in life."

According to him, the roots of effective leadership extend beyond government offices; they begin much earlier, adding, "By the time a child turns 18, their ethical instincts are already likely formed."

While emphasising the need to put education on the right track, the former VP said that corporate bodies, old students and other well-meaning individuals have roles to play to complement the government's efforts.

He said: "Many great institutions are backed by large endowments that sustain their operations for decades. Endowments are more about the ability to propagate a worldview, certain standards and values that we hold dear. More instructive is

that most of the funds were donated by old boys of those schools, including friends and families of the old boys.

"Every serious nation or society confronts the same question: what will outlive us? Igbobi College made a transformative difference in our lives. It was built by an endowment from missionaries, Anglican and Methodist churches, money raised from their members. Although the school charges fees, these fees are for services offered. We were beneficiaries of an endowment by two missionaries who subsidised not just high-quality education but also created a moral, ethical and civic environment that had shaped our own outlook, our sense of right and wrong and our integrity."

Osinbajo recalled his formative years at the prestigious Igbobi College from 1969 to 1975, where he received numerous awards.

"Every investment in a school is an investment in the future of the country. Our early leaders didn't emerge by accident; they were shaped by schools that were deliberately protected from volatility", he said.

Also speaking at the event, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, who was represented by the Commissioner for Basic Education, Mr Jamiu Tolani Alli-Balogun, expressed government's support for initiatives like ICOBA's fund.

He said: "When a school like Igbobi produces disciplined individuals, it helps the government save money on social problems and strengthens the leadership pipeline for the nation."

Policy consistency, strong institutions, future of Nigerian states — Oyedele

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE — CHAIRMAN of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, Dr. Taiwo Oyedele, yesterday, declared that the future of states in the country depends on consistency in policies and strong institutions.

Oyedele said this while delivering a public lecture entitled 'Ondo State yesterday, today and tomorrow', to mark the 50th anniversary of the state.

He equally asked governors "to govern not just for today but for generations yet unborn, ensuring stable electricity, reducing poverty, and creating lasting wealth and prosperity."

Narrowing it down to Ondo State, Oyedele said: "The government must provide the platform, the private sector must drive the growth, our traditional institutions must enforce social cohesion, and every citizen must work hand-in-hand, committed to diligence and unity, to build the prosperous and exemplary Ondo State of our dreams.

"The story of Ondo State at 50 is a powerful narrative of immense promise fulfilled and extraordinary potential waiting to be fully realised.

"We stand today at a powerful intersection: a moment to genuinely honour the sacrifices of yesterday, celebrate the achievements of today, and most importantly, to boldly embrace the possibilities of tomorrow.

According to Abraham Lincoln, the best way to predict the future is to create it.

"It is a celebration of who we are and a declaration of our next-level aspirations. We have the talent. We have the resources.

"We can create bigger opportunities and multiply our impact faster and better. What we need now is shared commitment, from government, from communities, from the private sector, and from every citizen.

"If we stay united across communities and generations notwithstanding political or religious differences, there is no limit to what Ondo State can achieve.

"If we work together, plan wisely, and stay true to our values, the next 50 years will deliver more prosperity, greater opportunity, and enviable dignity for our people."

2027 gov polls: We won't support non-Muslim candidate — Lagos Muslims

By Ishola Balogun

LAGOS — THE Muslim Community of Lagos State, MCLS, has expressed deep concern over what it described as the marginalisation of Muslims in political appointments and governance within the state, vowing not to support any political party that



FOUNDERS' DAY—Former Vice President, Yemi Osinbajo (middle), flanked by some members of Igbobi College Old Boys' Association, ICOBA, and some students of the school, during a public lecture in commemoration of the school's 94th Founders' Day celebration, held at the Rev Angus Memorial Hall, in Igbobi College, Yaba, Lagos, yesterday.

Makoko protest: Police used expired tear-gas on protesters — Falana

By Olanukanmi Akoni & Henry Ojelu

- Victims'll be compensated, says Lagos govt
- Assembly summons Makoko community

LAGOS — HUMAN rights lawyer, Mr Femi Falana, SAN, yesterday, raised concerns over the alleged use of expired teargas canisters by Police operatives during last week's protest against illegal demolitions and forced evictions in the Makoko waterfront area of Lagos.

This came as the Lagos State government, yesterday, explained that the demolition of structures in Makoko was aimed at protecting lives and preventing potential disasters in the area.

Similarly, the House of Assembly has invited stakeholders and leaders of communities of Makoko and adjoining waterfront settlements to a crucial meeting on Tuesday.

Recall that a protest, organised by activists, Mr Hassan Taiwo, popularly known as Soweto, and Mr Dele Frank, was aimed at drawing the attention of the Lagos State government to alleged unlawful demolitions and forced evictions at waterfront communities.

The demonstration was initially peaceful but reportedly turned violent after police operatives fired teargas at close range.

Several protesters sustained injuries, an action that has since drawn condemnation from human rights groups and civil society organisations.

Meanwhile, Falana, who spoke at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital, LASUTH, during a visit to protesters injured in the incident, described the police action as unconstitutional, dangerous and a violation of citizens' right to peaceful assembly.

At LASUTH, the rights activist was briefed on the condition of Mrs Kafayat Muftaudeen, one of the injured protesters, by a Burns and Plastic Nurse, Mr Adejebi Hassan.

Hassan said Mrs Muftaudeen, who sustained a severe leg injury, was being discharged but would continue treatment through regular wound dressing and weekly hospital visits before undergoing surgery.

"She is fit to go home and will be coming to the hospital weekly for dressing," Hassan said, adding that she would later undergo skin grafting once the wound had healed.

Reacting to the injuries he observed, Falana described them as unusual and alarming, adding that in over 40 years of participating in protests across the country, he had never seen teargas canisters cause such severe injuries.

"In my over 40 years of participating in protests across the country, I have never seen tear gas canisters cause such severe injuries. The injury I have seen is not normal," Falana said.

The senior lawyer stressed that the 1999 Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, adding that Nigerians do not require police permits to protest.

According to Falana, the Police Establishment Act only requires protest organisers to notify the police, who are then duty-bound to provide security.

He said the organisers complied with the law, noting that police officers escorted the protesters peacefully from Ikeja Under Bridge to Alausa Secretariat.

Victims'll be compensated, says Lagos govt

Meanwhile, Lagos State government, yesterday, explained that the demolition of structures being carried out in parts of Makoko is aimed at protecting lives and prevent potential disasters in the area.

Speaking at a joint ministerial press briefing yesterday, in Alausa, Ikeja, the Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso; the Governor's Special Adviser on E-GIS and Urban Development, Dr. Babatunde Olajide; and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Gboyega Akosile, said the state has a responsibility to safeguard residents, provided such actions do not infringe on the rights of others.

Mr Omotoso disclosed that many of the wooden buildings erected on the waterfront were situated directly beneath high-tension power cables, posing serious risks to occupants.

He noted that the decision to clear the affected structures was taken in the best interest of public safety and to preserve the dignity of residents living in hazardous conditions.

Also speaking, Mr Olajide stated that the Oworosonki demolition had spanned over 10 years of planning before the eventual demolition was carried out.

On the Makoko exercise, Olajide described the removal of buildings within high-tension corridors as part of a statewide safety programme.

He said: "Mr Governor committed \$2m and we are expecting \$8m counterpart

funding from the United Nations. But I'm sure we all know what is happening today that funds are no longer available from most of those donor agencies.

"So we are left with the water city project and we have committed \$2m to it. It is the only one that is environmentally friendly.

"The exact location of the Makoko water city project is where the fishing community is. So, it has not been tampered with. Anywhere taken out is only the areas within the high-tension corridor.

"I can assure that through the benevolence of Mr Governor, Makoko displaced residents will be compensated. We are already in the process of enumeration. First thing is to save lives above other considerations.

"They (occupants) have been properly engaged on the redevelopment project of Makoko. There is an international task force, with the UN, working on the implementation of the project. Even a private firm has approached the state government to build schools in Makoko."

Lagos Assembly summons Makoko community

Meanwhile, Lagos State House of Assembly has invited stakeholders and leaders of communities affected by the recent demolition in Makoko and adjoining waterfront settlements to a crucial meeting today.

The Clerk of the House, Olalekan Onafeko, said the meeting was in response to a petition submitted by the communities over the demolition and eviction of residents.

Mr Onafeko, in a letter addressed to the community leaders, reads: "I write to acknowledge the receipt of your petition dated January 14, 2026, on the above subject and invite you to a meeting with the Committee on Rules and Business on February 3, 2026, at the 2nd Floor, Chamber's Conference Room, Assembly Complex, Alausa, Ikeja, by 10 a.m."

represents our values and interests," the communique stated.

Speakers at the event underscored the need for Muslims to unite and participate actively in politics, just as it urged the state government to ensure religious balance in the appointment of Tutors General and Permanent Secretaries across the six educational districts.

presents a non-Muslim for governor in the 2027 elections.

The Muslim group said this at its maiden General Assembly held last Saturday at the Lagos State Secretariat Mosque Hall, Alausa in Ikeja.

It lamented the exclusion of Muslims in key sectors, just as it called for the recruitment of Arabic and Islamic Studies

teachers in public schools.

In a communique issued at the end of the summit, the Assembly declared that Muslims would not support any political party that fields a non-Muslim candidate in the 2027 governorship election.

"We cannot continue to be sidelined in our own state. The Muslim community will only support a candidate who

LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

When people disrespect you, confront them immediately

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

"Each day! Sour in gratitude and spread your wings with beautiful virtues!"—Take Heart Quotes"
Smile more, laugh more, love more! People who do these often attract positivity. But more than what it can do to your mood and aura, smiling is regarded as one of the simplest ways to lighten up your day. — Ella Randle



BOOK PRESENTATION— From left: Bauchi State Governor, Senator Bala Mohammed; APC National Vice Chairman, Comrade Salihu Mustapha; Adamawa State Governor, Ahmadu Fintiri and former Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki; at the public presentation of a book titled "Fintiri- The Man They Could Not Stop" in Yola, yesterday.

FAAN blames changeover circuit fault for MMIA Terminal 1 power outage

By Dickson Omobola

FEDERAL Airports Authority of Nigeria, FAAN, has blamed the power outage recorded at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA, Terminal 1, Lagos, on a fault in the facility's changeover circuit.

The outage, which occurred over the weekend, disrupted activities at the terminal, affecting passengers and airport operations before power was restored through alternative supply sources.

FAAN, in a statement shared on X, formerly Twitter, yesterday, said its technical teams immediately took steps to bridge the gap by transferring electricity supply to the secondary grid, while interim backup measures were activated to restore services.

The statement read: "We acknowledge the power outage at MMIA Terminal 1 yesterday. The interruption was caused by an issue with the changeover circuit. Our teams took immediate action to bridge the gap and transfer supply to the secondary grid, and interim backup measures were activated to restore services as quickly as possible."

"We apologise to all passengers and stakeholders affected by the disruption and any discomfort it caused. While we continue to implement measures to mitigate such events, Terminal 1 has long standing infrastructure limitations. As we prepare to shut down Terminal 1 in one month as part of the MMIA Rehabilitation and Expansion Project, it is not feasible to install permanent new or additional backup equipment at this time."

"We appreciate your patience as we transition from stop gap solutions to lasting improvements. We remain committed to delivering a safer, more reliable passenger experience."

I'm interested in all activities of Oyo PDP — WIKE

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA—The political face-off between the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike and the Oyo State governor, Seyi Makinde, assumed a fresh twist last night as the former Rivers State governor declared interest in all activities of the state chapter of Peoples Democratic Party PDP.

Speaking at the 105th National Executive Committee, NEC, meeting in Abuja, Wike vowed to protect the national party from internal "vampires."

Both Wike and Makinde

were members of the Group of 5 governors in the lead up to the last general election. They, however, fell apart shortly after the election.

Wike, a pivotal and often polarizing figure within the PDP, was blunt about his focus. While reinforcing his commitment to the party's nationwide success, he pointedly mentioned his surveillance of the Oyo State chapter.

"Let me declare my interest clearly: I am interested in the survival and success of this party. I am also interested in all the happenings in Oyo State PDP. That is all I am

interested in," Wike said.

The minister insisted that his concern remains the "survival, stability and success" of the party, dismissing any attempts at intimidation by rival factions following recent favorable court rulings.

Addressing the fallout of the party's internal leadership tussle, Wike declared that the opposition to the current Caretaker Committee has lost its legal footing.

He took a swipe at those he described as 'vampires' who seek to control the party across the 36 states and the FCT.

"Who will intimidate us to

the end? Some of us, by the grace of God, do not see what anyone can threaten us with. The legal battle has collapsed. They have no option but to recognise the Caretaker Committee," he stated.

He further noted that the path is now clear for the Abdulrahman Mohammed-led committee to move the party toward its elective convention.

"They have no choice. We are waiting for the Caretaker Committee to give direction on the next steps especially to ensure that congresses already due are conducted, after which

we move to the National Convention," he said.

Wike took the opportunity to lecture party faithful on the realities of political power, warning against a "charity" mindset and the over-reliance on sitting governors for political relevance.

"Go to the wards. Go to the polling units. Go to the grassroots. Forget the idea that this is a charity organisation. Many people move from place to place without any political identity."

"Some people believe that if you do not have a sitting governor, then you are nothing. Who told them that? I was not a governor when I became governor. We were told we were not governors, but we became governors", he said.

While the Board of Trustees (BoT) and the NWC have called for a "cessation of hostilities," Wike warned that peace should not be mistaken for a lack of vigilance.

He suggested that adversaries would continue to try to dismantle the PDP from within.

"Yes, the BoT has appealed for peace. Yes, the NWC has appealed for peace that is their responsibility. But those of us following the process must be extremely careful. We must be vigilant," he said.

Prosecutor to London court: Diezani spent £140,000 on furniture, others a day as minister

PROCEEDINGS resumed yesterday in London in the corruption and bribery trial of former Petroleum Minister, Diezani Alison-Madueke, with the prosecutor telling the court that she spent as much as £140,000 in a single day on high-end furniture, bespoke lighting and decorative art, allegedly paid for through intermediaries while in office.

Jurors heard detailed evidence of an extravagant spending trail at a luxury antiques store in the capital.

The public gallery of the court was filled with supporters from the Ijaw community who had flown in specifically to give the former minister moral

support. Alison-Madueke had in the court's previous sitting, denied multiple charges relating to alleged misconduct while overseeing Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

But prosecutors claim she received cash and luxury benefits in exchange for influence over energy contracts.

The case has major implications for accountability in the global energy industry.

Lawyers for Diezani Alison-Madueke, the first woman president of OPEC, had denied in a London court Thursday that the former Nigerian minister took bribes in their first

formal response at her corruption trial.

The 65-year-old, who sat in the dock at Southwark Crown Court taking notes on the third day of the trial, is accused of multiple bribery counts stemming from a year-long investigation.

The alleged offences occurred between 2011 and 2015, when she was Nigeria's oil minister but maintained a UK address.

The UK National Crime Agency (NCA), which targets international and serious and organised crime, had accused her of receiving the bribes in Britain.

Prosecutors earlier claimed Alison-Madueke enjoyed a "life of luxury" funded by those who were

FG targets 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions

By Folarin Kehinde

ABUJA—The Federal Government has unveiled a bold initiative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent.

The plan, announced by the Environmental Health Council of Nigeria, EHCON, is a direct response to the alarming rise in diseases such as respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular conditions, and other health risks exacerbated by air pollution.

Registrar and Chief Executive Officer of EHCON, Dr. Yakubu Baba,

disclosed this at a one-day national stakeholders' engagement on national emergency response to environment-related diseases arising from greenhouse gas emissions, GHG, in Abuja yesterday.

He emphasised that the increasing burden of environment-related diseases, fuelled by oil-powered generators, vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and petroleum refining, had reached alarming levels.

"Our findings are alarming. We have observed rising burden of environmentally related diseases linked to greenhouse gas emissions."

"Today's engagement is not just a meeting, it is a

national call to action. The time to act is now, and we must reduce our emissions by 50 percent to safeguard the health, productivity and livelihood of Nigerians." Dr. Baba stated.

He noted that the council was fully aligned with Nigeria's Climate Change Act, the National Environmental Regulation, and the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, which would be coordinated across Nigeria's 774 local governments and the six area councils of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

Baba said the initiative was aimed at tackling the growing environmental health crisis that was increasingly linked to diseases.

ADC panicky over our rising membership— APC

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA—The All Progressives Congress, APC, has hit back at African Democratic Congress, ADC, dismissing claims that civil servants were being coerced into joining the ruling party through its ongoing electronic registration.

In a strongly worded statement on Monday in Abuja, the APC characterised ADC's allegations as a "disinformation campaign" borne out of fear regarding the ruling party's growing numbers.

Recall that ADC spokesman, Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, had on Sunday alleged that civil servants across the states were being coerced into joining the ruling APC.

But National Publicity Secretary of APC, Felix Morka, in response stated

yesterday that the opposition party's claims were entirely without merit.

He argued that the ADC was simply "terrified" by the high turnout of Nigerians participating in the digital enrollment.

"That claim is entirely false and baseless, and seeks to cast a shadow over the cutting-edge and pathbreaking digitisation of our party's membership register," Morka said.

He further accused ADC of a pattern of deceit, citing a previous incident involving the "fabrication and circulation of a fake 'APC membership slip'" which allegedly linked a notorious terrorist to the party.

According to Morka, the e-Registration has been so successful that the leadership was forced to adjust the timeline to accommodate more citizens.

He attributed this surge to the public's approval of the

current administration's policies, maintaining that the registration process remained "voluntary and enthusiastic," fuelled by what he described as the "visible gains and impact of the Renewed Hope Agenda."

Dismissing the ADC's tactics as "fumbling," APC reassured its position as a leader in political technology within the continent.

"Clearly, the ADC is intimidated by the phenomenal success of our party's e-registration, for obvious reasons."

"However, that cannot justify concocting and spewing lies in an attempt to smear the exercise," the statement read.

Morka reaffirmed the party's commitment to its "onward march as Africa's standard-bearer of digital and democratic innovation."



2026 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE—From left : HRM. Onipaja of Ipaja Kingdom, Oba Israel Kolawole Egunmope, SSG Lagos State, Barr. Bimbola Salu-Hundeyin, the Supreme Head, Cherubim and Seraphim Unification Church of Nigeria, His Most Eminence, Prophet Dr. Emmanuel Adewale Alogbo, the founder, Love of Christ Generation Church, Reverend Mother Esther Ajayi and the Host 2026 Annual General Conference, C & S Unification, His Grace, Primate Gbenga Aluko at the opening ceremony of the conference held at Whitestone Event Place, Oregon, Lagos.

Yelwata killings: 9 docked on 57-count terrorism charge, remanded in prison

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri *As trial begins February 26

ABUJA—THE Federal Government, yesterday arraigned nine defendants alleged to have participated in a terrorist attack that led to the burning of houses, grievous bodily harm and the death of over 150 persons in Yelwata community, Benue State.

The defendants — Ardo Lawal Mohammed Dono, Ardo Muhammadu Saidu, Alhaji Haruna Abdullahi, Yakubu Adamu, Musa Mohammed, Abubakar Adamu, Shaibu Ibrahim, Saleh Mohammed and Bako Jibrin — were docked before the Federal High Court in Abuja on a 57-count terrorism charge.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, was personally present in court to conduct the prosecution.

The Federal Government told the court that the defendants participated in meetings held between May and June 2025 in Nasarawa State, during which plans to attack the Yelwata community in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State were perfected.

It noted that the attack was subsequently carried out on June 13, 2025.

One of the defendants, Dono, was alleged to have rendered material support by soliciting cash contributions from his kinsmen to facilitate the attack.

Apart from allegedly providing weapons, Dono — cited in counts one to 16 of the amended charge marked FHC/ABJ/CR/471/2025 — was accused of recruiting persons from Kwara State, Taraba State, Giza and other surrounding villages in Nasarawa State to participate in the terrorist act.

The prosecution further alleged that Dono, who occupied the Ardo's Palace in Lagia, Nasarawa State, knowingly allowed the premises to be used for meetings where the attack was planned.

He was said to have conspired with one Haruna

Abdullahi and others currently at large, and to have procured the services of armed Fulani men from Giza, Kwara and Taraba states, as well as surrounding villages in Nasarawa State, to carry out the attack.

The Federal Government said he coordinated the acquisition of weapons, logistics, manpower and information used to execute the attack on Yelwata.

It further told the court that Dono instigated and instructed Ardos and Fulani youths in Nasarawa, Kwara and Taraba states, Giza and other surrounding villages to carry out the attack on Yelwata community in Benue State.

Similarly, another defendant, Saidu, was accused of generating funds for the attack and providing weapons, including AK-47 rifles, for himself and five of his sons who allegedly participated in the killings.

The third defendant, Abdullahi, was alleged to have

offered to provide weapons and donated the sum of N300,000 to support the terrorist attack.

He was also accused of helping to coordinate the acquisition of weapons, logistics, manpower and information used to execute the attack, and of being found in possession of an AK-47 rifle without a valid licence.

All the other defendants were accused of being aware of the plans for the attack and actively participating in the preparations.

The prosecution said the defendants committed offences contrary to Sections 12(a), 13(1)(b), 15(b), 18, 19, 20(a), 21(1), 26(1), 28(3) and 29 of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and punishable under the same Act.

Meanwhile, all the defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges, even as the Attorney-General applied for an accelerated trial and their remand in prison custody.

Court quashes Benue Gov's Executive Order on public gatherings

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—A Benue State High Court sitting in Makurdi has struck down an Executive Order issued by Governor Hyacinth Alia in February 2024, declaring it unconstitutional and a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens.

The Executive Order had stipulated, among other provisions, that individuals or groups intending to hold rallies, wakes and other public gatherings beyond 10 p.m. must first seek and obtain a permit from the Department of Public Order at the Benue State Ministry of Justice and Public Order.

The judgment was delivered by Justice Theresa Igboche in Suit No. MHC/234/

2024, instituted by Bemgba Iortyom, immediate past State Publicity Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Benue State, and Ambassador Adebayo Ogorry, Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice, Equity and Transparency (CESJET), against the Benue State Government and other defendants.

The plaintiffs had approached the court in June 2024 to challenge the legality of the Executive Order, arguing that it imposed unlawful restrictions on rallies, wakes and other public gatherings across the state.

They contended that the order violated Sections 40, 41 and 45(1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), as well as provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which guarantee freedom of asso-

While Mr Ibrahim Angulu, SAN, Christiana Sylvester and Aminu Abubakar Bagudu represented the 1st, 8th and 9th defendants respectively, Mr A.I. Kaura appeared for the 2nd defendant, while Mr Adamu Abdullahi announced appearance for the remaining defendants.

Trial Justice Joyce Abdulmalik refused the oral application for the defendants to be released on bail pending the determination of the case.

She ordered them to file formal bail applications and noted the prosecution's intention to call eight witnesses to testify in the matter.

The defendants were remanded at the Kuje Correctional Centre, while the case was adjourned to February 26 and 27 for trial.

Earlier in the proceedings, the court, following an application by the Attorney-General, struck out the name of Yakubu Mamman, who was initially listed as the sixth defendant.

ciation, movement and peaceful assembly.

The plaintiffs further alleged that before the suit was filed, the Executive Order had been used to arbitrarily shut down business premises, arrest citizens on alleged trumped-up charges and disrupt public gatherings, including religious worship services.

According to them, those affected were mostly individuals and groups perceived to be critical of or opposed to the state government, raising concerns about abuse of executive power.

In her ruling, Justice Igboche dismissed the preliminary objections filed by the Benue State Government and the Attorney-General of the state, describing them as baseless and rooted in mere procedural technicalities.

Kwankwaso's loyalist dumps NNPP, joins APC in Kano

By Bashir Bello

KANO—A loyalist of the leader of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, and Kano State Commissioner for Women Affairs, Children and Persons with Special Needs, Amina Abdullahi Sani, has defected to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Amina's defection comes days after Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf reportedly joined the APC in the state.

Confirming the development, the Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Ibrahim Waiya, said Amina had aligned with the APC and joined what he described as a league of progressive commissioners under the stewardship of Governor Yusuf.

According to Waiya, "Amina, who is one of the pillars of the Kwankwaso grassroots movement, is known for her strong principles and ideological convictions. She

has now aligned with the 'Kano First' ideology to ensure speedy development of the state and promote peaceful coexistence."

He said the development reflected a growing acceptance of what he termed Kano's political transformation, driven by Governor Yusuf's resolve to reposition the state for progress and development.

"This movement is real and practical. The people of Kano have chosen to take their political destiny into their own hands as a vehicle for positive change," Waiya stated. He added that commissioners overseeing strategic ministries had pledged loyalty to the governor, stressing that governance in the state remained stable and effective.

"Government is running effectively. Policies are being formulated and implemented, projects are ongoing, the bureaucracy is active, and the cabinet remains functional, with more than 85 per cent on board," he said.

African workers denounce barbaric terror after mercenaries repelled at Niger Airport

Victor Ahiuma-Young

THE African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation, ITUC-Africa, representing millions of workers across the continent, has strongly condemned what it described as a "cowardly and barbaric" act of terror aimed at crippling vital national infrastructure and undermining Niger's ongoing march toward sovereignty and national renewal.

Niamey was jolted by a deadly terrorist attack late on the night of January 28–29, 2026, when armed mercenaries targeted the Diori Hamani International Airport in an apparent bid to destabilize Niger and spread fear among its people.

The assault caused signif-

icant material damage and led to casualties within Niger's Defense and Security Forces (FDS), authorities confirmed.

In a statement issued from its headquarters in Lomé, Togo, by Akhator Joel Odigie, ITUC-Africa's General Secretary, the body praised the swift and professional response of Nigerien security forces, who successfully neutralized the attackers and prevented further devastation at the country's main international gateway.

"This attack was designed to sow chaos, desolation, and fear," the organisation said, adding that it was encouraged by the resilience of the Nigerien people, who have refused to allow the violence to weaken their patriotic spirit or derail their struggle for stability and shared development.

Police reaffirms commitment to global peace, security—IGP

By Nkiruka Nnorom & Efe Onodjaj

THE Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to global peace and security, noting that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has a long history of participation in international peacekeeping operations dating back to 1961.

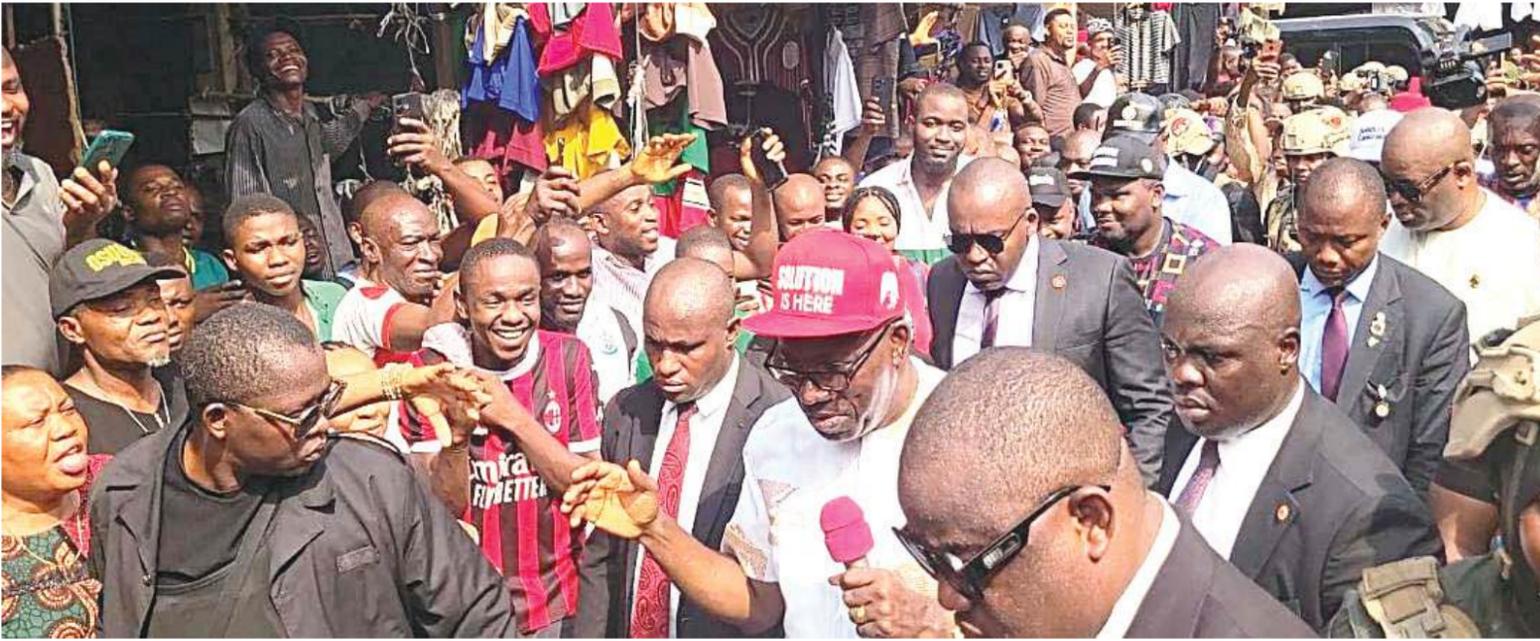
Egbetokun spoke at the opening of a two-day symposium titled "The Nigeria Police and the Peace Process in Africa", organised by the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) in collaboration with the NPF.

He stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation in addressing global security challenges, adding that over 12,000 Nigerian police officers have served in peace operations across Af-

rica, Europe, Asia and the Caribbean over the past six decades. According to him, Nigeria's peacekeeping engagements have projected the country's values, strengthened international cooperation and contributed significantly to global peace and stability.

"For Nigeria, peacekeeping has never been a peripheral undertaking. It is a co-expression of our commitment to multilateralism, international solidarity and responsible global citizenship," Egbetokun said.

He outlined five pillars for the future of Nigeria's peacekeeping contributions, assuring that the NPF would remain professional, principled and reliable amid evolving global security challenges. "As the world confronts new uncertainties, Nigeria will not retreat from responsibility. We will lead with professionalism."



• Governor Soludo (with mic) with traders at Onitsha Main Market, yesterday.

By Chimaobi
Nwaiwu &
Nwabueze Okonkwo

Market lockdown: 10,000 shops marked for demolition

- We've opened market, but nobody's coming to buy from us — Traders; Say 55% of shops are open
- Market leaders hail traders
- It's total lockdown across southeast — IPOB
- Monday sit-at-home, a problem — Education director

NEWI—BY 10am, yesterday, the gates of the Onitsha Main Market were wide open, and padlocks lay idle, but business itself was slow to arrive. About 55 per cent of the shops lifted their shutters, traders dusted their counters and arranged goods with familiar precision, yet the usual river of buyers was reduced to a trickle.

From spare-parts dealers to fabric sellers, the story was the same: the market was open, but the customers were not there.

In the uneasy quiet between bargaining voices, traders spoke less about profit and more about survival, wondering how a market can breathe when fear, uncertainty and empty pockets have chased customers away.

After a week's closure of Onitsha Main Market by Anambra State government, marketing activities started picking up yesterday, following the arrival of the Chairman of the market, Mr Chijioke Okpalugo, accompanied by some members of his executive and security agents.

The confidence of some traders who arrived in the vicinity of the market at about 10:00 am, following the directive by Governor Charles Soludo for them to open the market, was shaken. They were afraid and reluctant to enter their shops, even with the presence of security personnel, but became encouraged when the Chairman arrived with members of his executive.

However, others who learnt that there would be a signing of registers of the trades that came to the market started entering the market to register their presence.

Some traders who spoke with newsmen expressed happiness to resume trading, but noted that they are afraid of what will happen next Monday if the same number of security men seen in the market yesterday are not there on subsequent Mondays.

According to the traders who spoke with newsmen, about 55% of traders resumed marketing activities immediately they sighted the Chairman of the market and members of his executive. Many traders started calling their friends and neighbours to come when they suspected that there would be the signing of attendance registers.

10,000 shops marked for demolition

Vanguard also gathered that about 10,000 shops have been marked for demolition by the state government, and the situation unsettled the traders.

Traders who spoke with newsmen but pleaded anonymity said that the problem is not opening shops, but how to encourage customers who patronise them to come to the market as people are still reluctant to come out on Mondays.

According to him, "Customers need to be encouraged to come out, there is no means of conveying traders and customers to the market. We only managed to come to market today because there were no means of transport to the market."

"Commercial bus and tricycle operators withdrew from the roads. The few that summoned courage to come out when they got information that security personnel had arrived in their numbers in the market are collecting double the amount we normally pay to come to the market."

A visit to the market at about 11:30am yesterday showed that as at 8.45 am, over 70 per cent of shops were open at the Fashion Line, Children's Wear Line, Accessories Line, Lagos Line, Ado Line, Mandela Line, of the market, with trading activities going on smoothly, unlike what it used to be in the past Mondays.

However, activities at the adjoining markets, such as Ochanja and Relief Market, recorded very low turnouts as the areas were deserted and scanty.

Many traders said they were in their shops as of 8.45 am, setting up wares from Egerton to Ose Foodstuff Market and The Young Park, a major entrance to the Main Market.

Areas like Emeka Offor Plaza, Sokoto Road, Lagos Line, and Marine were active, although with few customers came around to patronise the shops.

At the market, traders were seen displaying their wares and waiting for customers while expressing excitement that the development may signal the end of Monday sit-at-home at the market.

A trader, Silas Igwe, said, "We are happy that commercial activities are beginning on Mondays after over four years. Monday is the most serious day for business, and we hope this is sustained."

However, while the Onitsha Main Market traders were gradually coming into the market to resume trading, the situation was different in other parts of the commercial city, as major roads in Onitsha like the Onitsha-Owerri Road, Upper Iweka, Mkpikpa road, Oguta road, Awka road, 33 Housing estate road, Nkpor road, and Obosi remained deserted, while major motor parks also remained shut without activities.

Market leaders hail traders

Following the response of the traders, Leaders of the Anambra State Markets Amalgamated Traders Association, ASMATA, gave a pat on the back of the traders for putting the issue of Monday sit-at-home behind them and reopening their shops for normal trading activities on Monday.

The state Market Leaders, Humphrey Anuna, President-General of ASMATA and Jude Nwankwo, Patron of ASMATA and President of Building Materials International Market, Ogidi, told newsmen that they were happy that the government has suspended the closure of the main market, just as the traders complied with the directive to henceforth open their shops for trading activities on Mondays.

Anuna and Nwankwo said that although not all the shops were open on Monday, they were optimistic that by next Monday and the subsequent Mondays, complete trading activities would bounce back in earnest.

They, however, expressed concern that some of the shops at the main market were marked for demolition by the state government and wondered what the owners of such shops marked for demolition would fall back on if their shops were eventually demolished as is being proposed.

On the alleged resignation of

Chairman of Onitsha Main Market, Chijioke Okpalugo, Anuna and Nwankwo stated that Okpalugo did not resign his appointment as Caretaker Chairman of the market, as speculated in some quarters due to an alleged threat by the non-state actors.

The Chairman, Onitsha Main Market, Chijioke Okpalugo, in an interview with journalists, dismissed insinuation making the rounds that some non-state actors have threatened him to lock the market.

"I did not receive any threat from any quarter to lock the market today. As you can see, activities are ongoing, and traders are opening their shops joyfully without any fear of threat."

We're happy with total compliance — IPOB

However, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) maintained that the sit-at-home was fully complied with and called it solidarity with Onitsha traders.

The pro-Biafra group, in a statement by its Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful titled "Total compliance recorded across Biafra land", said the compliance is a historic show of unity and love by traders to its leader, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu.

IPOB's statement read, "IPOB confirms total and overwhelming compliance with the sit-at-home directive issued across Biafraland."

"This historic show of unity has once again demonstrated that the deep love, loyalty, and resolve of the Biafran people toward Mazi Nnamdi Kanu cannot be broken by threats, intimidation, or state-sponsored coercion."

"From Omambala to Onitsha and across the South-East, the people have spoken with one voice. The land of Eri, Nri, Igbo-Ukwu, and Uzo-Igbo has reaffirmed its historic role as the conscience and backbone of the Igbo nation. Our people are born free and will not submit to threat and fear."

"This peaceful but firm

compliance is a clear message: the Biafran people will not be forced to abandon their leader or betray their collective will. The love for Mazi Nnamdi Kanu is not a weakness to be envied or attacked; it is a strength that binds our people and fuels our lawful demand for justice and freedom.

"IPOB remains committed to order, discipline, and respect for institutions, but we will resist every attempt to intimidate, humiliate, or enslave our people."

"The continued illegal detention of Mazi Nnamdi Kanu only reinforces the legitimacy of this resistance. Biafraland has spoken. The world is watching."

"And the resolve of our people remains unshaken. IPOB is for justice, for dignity and for freedom."

Monday sit-at-home, a huge problem — Education Director

The Monday sit-at-home declared by non-state actors in the South East geo-political zone has been described as "crippling and a huge setback to educational development in Igboland".

The Director, Owerri Archdiocesan Education Commission, Rev. Dr. Wilfred Nwachukwu, who disclosed this while briefing the press in Owerri, however, said that the Archdiocese has concluded plans to establish skills acquisition

Onitsha: NAPTIP raids hotel ...Arrests 4, rescues 17 trafficking victims

By Favour Ulebor

THE National Agency for Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, has raided a popular hotel in Onitsha, Anambra State, arrested four suspected human traffickers and rescued 17 alleged victims of trafficking.

In a release signed by the Head, Press and Public Relations Unit, Mr Vincent Adekoye, yesterday, the agency said the operation was part of its renewed onslaught against human trafficking across the country.

NAPTIP said the raid was carried out at a highly rated hotel located around the 33 area of Onitsha, with the support of the military.

The agency also disclosed that during the coordinated operations, two additional suspects allegedly involved in the selling and buying of babies

centres in most of its schools.

Fr. Nwachukwu said: "Monday sit-at-home is actually a big problem, but the Catholic Church has not taken a definite stand on it, because it is very intriguing and most schools are domiciled in volatile areas."

"So, if you compel the school children to be in school on Monday, you may put them at risk, and if you give a directive that they should not come on Monday, you may also face the risk of struggling to complete the syllabus and curriculum."

"However, I am surprised that despite these challenges, our children are still doing well in every aspect of education. They are also doing well in their cognitive area, which is about knowledge and passing exams."

Soludo has reclaimed Monday — Govt

Anambra State Governor, Professor Chukwuma Charles Soludo, yesterday, said he has reclaimed Monday from the IPOB. The governor took to the streets of the main market, Onitsha, to personally lead a return to commercial normalcy.

A statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Christain Aburime, said the Governor's visit to the historic Onitsha Main Market served as a symbolic and practical declaration that the state is open for business, signalling an end to the civil disobedience that has crippled the South-East economy since 2021.

"Governor Soludo took a walk through the economic heartbeat, regarded as high-traffic trading zones, including: Ose Market, Bright Street, Lagos Line, Emeka Offor Plaza, among others."

"Accompanied by key officials, the Governor didn't just observe; he engaged. He was seen conversing with traders and purchasing local goods, ranging from fabrics to food items, to demonstrate that the fear factor used to enforce the shutdown has faded and died."

"Ndi Anambra are taking back their day, their economy, and their future," Governor Soludo told a gathering of traders. Today marks an end to the sit-at-home.

"While the Governor's presence provided a morale boost, the state government is also fully alert to its responsibilities to keep the main market safe. The Governor's "shop-floor diplomacy" is a critical turning point for the South-East's regional economy, which has suffered billions in losses over the last half-decade."

within states in the Southeast region were apprehended.

According to the agency, four of the rescued victims were found to be infected with HIV and are currently receiving counselling from a team of caregivers from NAPTIP, alongside volunteers from the Anambra State Aids Control Agency, ANSACA.

The agency explained that the operation followed credible intelligence from a non-state actor based in Anambra State which indicated the presence of underage girls at the facility.

It added that concerns had earlier been raised by residents of the area over the activities of the hotel operators and the frequent influx of men to the premises.

Investigations revealed that the victims were recruited from Benue, Imo, Ebonyi and Akwa Ibom States and trafficked to Onitsha for alleged prostitution.

Delta community thirsts for change, laments failed water scheme

DELTA... THE BIG HEART OF THE NATION

By Ochuko Akuopha

IT'S been over 40 years since the water supply scheme was constructed in Boji-Boji Owa, Ika North-East Local Government Area, Delta State, but residents are still waiting for a drop to drink.

NDV learned that the scheme, built by the military administration in 1978, has been non-functional for years, leaving residents frustrated.

Some residents told this reporter that the water scheme initially served the needs of the people for some time before it packed up.

One of the residents, Pastor Gabriel Konyegwaehie said the scheme had not been functioning for years. He said most of the residents had over the years resorted to the sinking of personal boreholes for water supply which he lamented was not safe for drinking.

"We are forced to sink personal boreholes, but the water is not

safe for drinking. Water from the water board is usually of very good quality and safe for drinking", said Pastor Konyegwaehie.

"We have seen pipes laid on the ground along the road hoping that water will flow, but nothing seems to work. If the government can carry out repairs on the water scheme, it will be of great help to the community." His words echo the sentiments of many, who are tired of relying on untreated water.

The consequences are dire. Water-borne illnesses are on the rise, and residents are crying out for help. "Treated water is a must," insisted Mr. Isioma, another resident. "We need the government to step in and fix this problem once and for all."

He lamented that most people presently could access water either through their personal boreholes or their neighbours' homes.

"They should ensure that water flows from the water scheme so that the concern of illnesses resulting from unclean water can be resolved," he pleaded.

A field worker with the State Urban Water Corporation



•Boji-Boji Owa water supply scheme, Ika North-East Local Government Area, Delta State.

attributed the problem at the Boji-Boji Owa water scheme to a damaged major pipeline, saying that the issue was being looked into by the government.

He listed other water schemes in the council area to include the Marymount water supply headwork; Owa Alero water headwork and Owa Ekei water headwork all of which, he said, were functioning. He however, said the issue of power sometimes affects daily supply.

"The first effort is to ensure that the facilities are functioning well, but the key thing to make them work is power. The cost of

diesel is beyond our reach, so we are now relying on the Benin Electricity Distribution Company, BDEC, but the supply is not regular.

"Government has invested a lot of money in laying pipelines to ensure that water flows from the head scheme to reach the people, but our challenge in pipeline laying is that after some time, when water is coming from the scheme, people damage the pipes either willfully or during drainage and road construction. Some people will even pull out the pipes for personal use," he said.

Also, the state Commissioner for Water Resources

Development, Dr. Isaac Wilkie, affirmed that efforts are underway to rehabilitate the scheme, including exploring solar energy options. He said: "We have many schemes in Boji-Boji, Owa Alero, Owa Ekei, Marymount, and others. We have been able to touch all of them." He added: "We are trying to surmount all of those challenges, especially going for solar energy. A lot of those schemes were rehabilitated and I assure you that in all of those places we have touched, they are functional."

But residents are skeptical. "We have heard that before," said Ms Chika. "We want water, not promises."

CROSS RIVER... THE PEOPLE'S PARADISE

By Emma Unah

A disturbing trend has taken hold in Calabar, Cross River State, where young girls between 15 and 30 are increasingly getting hooked on *shisha*, a flavoured tobacco mixed with molasses and inhaled using a water pipe.

These young women are easily recognizable with their king-size nose rings, multiple earrings, and ankle chains and often dressed in revealing outfits. Despite the dangers, these girls, often students, are puffing away in nightclubs, hotels, and even on street corners, risking nicotine addiction, cancer, and other serious health issues.

Implications

NDV findings show that they usually have many puffing sessions every night, making them look drowsy, sleepy, tired and vulnerable to exploitation. Some become dispossessed of their reasoning ability, engaging in risky behaviours to feed their addiction.

"I can't do without *shisha*," said Akpana, a student in one of the tertiary institutions in the northern part of the state. "It boosts my confidence, and I can talk to anyone who needs a fight. He or she will get enough from me."

She claimed *shisha* is cheaper and more convenient than cigarettes. "It is cheaper than cigarettes because a single shot of stuff can give the smoker what one packet of cigarettes cannot. You just stay in one corner of your room and puff it. It does not smell like cigarettes so, nobody, not even your roommate, will know you are

Shisha epidemic sweeps Cross River

•Young girls hooked on dangerous trend



•Shisha-puffing ladies, a worrisome trend in Calabar, Cross River State.

smoking unless she sees the smoke - which fades away very fast," she added.

Habit

Another *shisha* user, who simply identified herself as Anne, was seen running round the streets scantily dressed shouting: "We have done it! We have done it! We have done it!" to no one in particular.

When asked after she calmed

down what made her so hilarious, she retorted: "Normally, one must take something to keep her up. Life is boring and without joy. I get to do what keeps me happy. *Shisha* gives joy."

Experts have warned that *shisha* is just as harmful as cigarettes, if not more so, with a single session equivalent to smoking over 100 cigarettes. The trend has also been linked to promiscuity, prostitution,

and other anti-social behaviours.

A lecturer in the Department of Social Works, University of Calabar, Dr Maureen Ettenma told NDV that recalcitrant attitude is what is driving girls into hard drugs and other anti-social behaviours in spite of the warning from the school authorities. "These drugs are readily available everywhere. You won't believe that some of these girls would prefer

taking ice or *shisha* to food. Even as the Vice-Chancellor keeps warning that anyone caught taking hard drugs would be expelled, such messages often fall on deaf ears."

She said parents have to take their responsibilities in parenting more seriously. "In the near future, if the tide continues, it would become normal to see a girl puffing *shisha* openly like one smoking a cigarette, so the role of parents is very crucial in this regard to stem or eradicate this deadly habit in the young ones."

Societal pressure

A male student who runs one of the Christian worship centres in the University of Cross River, Emefiong Jones, blames societal pressure and the desire to belong to the top class. He urged the authorities to crack down on drug outlets and educate young people.

"Some of these girls cultivate these attitudes right under the nose of their parents. When they get out, they become worse. To meet the cost for these drugs, they indulge in things like prostitution, lesbianism and other despicable things to raise money to buy the drugs. Government must come down hard on these drug outlets and those operating them if the situation must be stopped or curtailed," he said.

"As the *shisha* epidemic spreads, it's time for residents to take action - parents, educators, and authorities must unite to protect these young lives," said Edet, a concerned public health worker.

Meanwhile, a source at the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in Calabar has warned that those caught using or trading *shisha* will face the law.

We're appealing to the government, well meaning individuals and private organisations to see the need to assist us, give us toilets, mattresses, better houses, toiletries, towels, toothpaste and toothbrush, soaps and foodstuffs and scholarships among others

Edo IDP undergraduates face uncertain future as tuition fees pile up

•120 final-year students threatened



•Children at the IDP camp.

One success story from the IDP camp is Amos Ishiaku, who graduated with First Class Honours in Chemical Engineering from Edo State University, Uzairue, and has received a fully-funded PhD scholarship from the University of Illinois, Chicago, USA. The Coordinator of the Home for the Needy, Pastor Solomon Folorunsho, expressed gratitude to NDV for its support, highlighting the successes recorded as well as the importance of creating an enabling environment for the less privileged.

He said: "This is to let the world and our friends know that the support NDV and others are giving to the orphans, widows, displaced people, and the vulnerable in our centre, is yielding great results."

"Besides those who graduated last year and those about to graduate, more than 200 are currently studying at different universities, with no fewer than 150 others processing their admissions."

"So, we want to appeal to the government, well meaning individuals and private organisations to see the need to assist us, give us toilets, mattresses, better houses, toiletries, towels, toothpaste and toothbrush, soaps and foodstuffs and scholarships among others."

Relief

A former Edo State governorship aspirant under the Labour Party (LP), Kenneth Imansuangbon had last year called on the Federal Government to review its conditions for giving national awards to certain individuals noting that people genuinely involved in humanitarian services to the needy deserve recognition and awards.

He lamented that some persons with tainted and questionable characters were often recognised thereby diminishing the efforts of those whose selfless humanitarian work have impacted positively on the lives of the downtrodden. "If we have a country where things are done well, Pastor Folorunsho Solomon is due for a national honour and I am calling on President Tinubu that people who are given national honours should be those that deserve it like it is done in the United States and elsewhere."

"He (Solomon) has inspired development for the country so that people will know that when you help the poor you are developing the country," he said, and called on the Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, and the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs to come to the aid of the camp.

EDO... THE HEARTBEAT OF THE NATION

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—NO fewer than 120 final-year undergraduate students from the Internally Displaced Persons, IDP camp in Ovia North-East Local Government Area, Edo State are on the verge of having their education truncated due to unpaid tuition fees.

The students, who are beneficiaries of the Home for the Needy, are currently studying in various Nigerian universities.

NDV learned that the facility, which houses thousands of displaced people and family members from the North-Eastern part of Nigeria ravaged by Boko Haram terrorists, has produced high profile graduates in different disciplines from several tertiary institutions in the state and beyond.

According to Mrs. Evelyn Omogie, Assistant Coordinator of the facility, the IDP camp is facing significant funding challenges, affecting its ability to support the students. "We are going through a lot of difficulties in the Home for the Needy. Presently, we have over 250 undergraduate students in various Nigerian universities. Funding them is very difficult," she said.

The IDP camp has produced notable graduates in various

fields, including medicine, law, engineering, and banking. Twenty of the students are potential first-class graduates, based on their academic performance.

The facility is appealing for help from the public to support the students' education, including tuition fees, feeding, and other necessities. "We need help from the public to be able to pay these children's tuition fees, feeding, and

all other things that are required for them to survive in school," Omogie pleaded.

"Almost 87 of our students are sitting for WAEC; we are finding it difficult to raise money for their enrollment. The economic situation in the country is affecting us greatly," Omogie said, adding that many students have been forced to drop out of school due to unpaid fees.

"These children are Nigerians, they need care, they need government attention, and these are builders of tomorrow, so they need serious attention. We also have 76 students that are enrolling for UME, we want the public to come to our aid. We also use this opportunity to thank those that have helped us in one way or the other. We still appeal to them to come to our aid," she added.

Bayelsa residents trek 5 days in honour of late dep gov

BAYELSA... THE JERUSALEM OF IJAW NATION

By Emem Idio

As a mark of tribute and last respect to the late Bayelsa Deputy Governor, Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, some residents under the platform of Trekkers Club of Nigeria last week completed a grueling five-day, 60km trek from the ancient coastal town of Nembe in Nembe Local Government Area to Yenagoa, the state capital.

Led by John Benson, aka "Chief Trekker of Nigeria," the team braved rivers and roads to honour the departed leader, citing his unifying role in Bayelsa State and contributions to the Prosperity Government.

Area to honour our late deputy governor, Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo because this death is a natural disaster.

"The Trekkers Club of Nigeria decided that this is the only way they can honour him and to use the opportunity to console the governor of the state and to also console his immediate family and Ofoni community."

"This mission is free of charge without any financial inducement attached, it's a humanitarian venture and it has taken us five days."

His legacies

"I see him as a unifying figure in Bayelsa State. The achievements of the Prosperity Government all these years can be attributed to the late deputy governor, I say so because of his pragmatic and result-oriented nature because if the late Ewhrudjakpo was not productive, maybe the governor wouldn't have recorded all these achievements."

"When the governor is not around, he will hold brief for the governor perfectly and he believes in inclusive administration. In fact, he is a philanthropist. That is what informs us to say "oh, a good man has left us, what do we do for him as part of our contribution to honour him and his legacies?"

THE TEAM

- Emma Amaize – EDITOR
- Sam Oyadongha – Yenagoa, Bayelsa
- Jimitota Onoyume- Warri, Delta
- Egufe Yafugborhi – Uyo, Akwa - Ibom
- Akpokona Omaufaire – Ughelli, Delta
- Ozioruva Aliu – Benin - City, Edo
- Emma Una – Calabar, Cross- River
- Ike Uchechukwu – Calabar, Cross - River
- Chioma Onuegbu – Uyo, Akwa - Ibom
- Dan Abia- Port Harcourt- Rivers
- Davies Iheamnachor – Port – Harcourt- Rivers
- Emem Idio – Yenagoa – Bayelsa
- Sunday Chancel Bomadi – Bomadi, Delta
- Ochuko Akuopha- Asaba, Delta
- Paul Olayemi- Sapele, Delta

Reason for tortuous journey

Speaking to NDV on arrival in Yenagoa, the leader of the team, John Benson said they started their journey from the riverine hinterlands of Nembe, paddled across rivers and continued their trekking on roads.

"We are trekking all the way from Nembe Local Government



•Members of the Trekkers Club of Nigeria, after the grueling 5-day (60km) trek.



Senator extends support to 232 undergraduates, post graduate students

By Emma Una

CALABAR— REAFFIRMING his commitment to the educational growth of young people in his district, Senator Asuquo Ekpenyong, representing the Southern District of Cross River State, has released educational support for 232 students in tertiary institutions.

Ekpenyong released N110,000 to each of the benefiting students, who are undergraduates and post-graduate students cutting across the seven local government areas that form the senatorial district.

The education support scheme was delivered through the 4th edition of the Asuquo Ekpenyong Foundation, AEF, on February 1, 2026, in Calabar and it is aimed at easing financial challenges of the students such as fees, accommodation and other sundry needs.

Addressing the students, Ekpenyong stressed the importance of education to personal growth and societal stability, adding: "Education is the greatest gift one can give to anybody."

He urged the beneficiaries to remain focused, attend lectures regularly, stay and complete their studies successfully, assuring them that the intervention was driven by conviction rather than politics.

He said: "We are not doing this for campaign nor for election. I believe in education. It's very disheartening that a student would be ready to leave but is limited by finances or resources."

Coalition notifies Tinubu of planned protest over new tax law

THE Coalition of Niger Delta Civil Society Organisations, CNDCSOs, has given President Bola Tinubu statutory notice of a planned peaceful protest against the new tax law.

The protest, according to the coalition, will hold on February 9, 2026, in Abuja and across Niger Delta states.

In a letter to the President, Amb. Okporu Augustine and Jesse Birinumughan, the group said the law would worsen poverty, increase living costs and undermine small businesses in the oil-producing region.

The coalition further emphasised that the Niger Deltans were still struggling with the perennial issues of environmental degradation, unemployment and poor infrastructure, arguing that the tax regime was introduced without adequate consultation.

It said the protest was backed by constitutional provisions and judicial precedent, assuring that it will be peaceful and non-violent.

Among its demands include the review of the law, stakeholder engagement and transparency in revenue utilisation.

Copies of the notice were sent to the National Security Adviser, NSA, Inspector General of Police, IGP, Minister of Defence, Minister of Interior and the Department of State Security, DSS.



BIRTHDAY: From left; Festus Nafami; Dr. Paul Bebenimibo, Registrar Nigeria Maritime University, NMU; High Chief McDonald Igbadiwe and Dr. Clarkson Agatha during Matthew Tonlagha's 50th birthday praise and worship at Mosheshe City of God, Airport Road Effurun, Delta State, yesterday. Photo: Akpokona Omafuaire.

Underwater gas pipeline leakage threatens Rivers, Bayelsa communities

By Samuel Oyadongha

● As residents appeal for help

YENAGOA—Residents of Oshie/Akinima communities in Ahoada West Local Government Area of Rivers State, a border area with Bayelsa State, have expressed concern over a lingering underwater pipeline gas leakage polluting the Orashi River and threatening the lives of thousands of people.

According to a field report by the Environmental Defenders Network, EDEN, the leakage from a facility owned by energy giant, Oando Plc, has been ongoing for over a year.

The river, which is the primary source of water for the communities, has been contaminated, leaving residents with no option but to rely on polluted water for drinking, bathing and other domestic purposes.

Though the company could not be immediately reached for comment, community leaders noted that the leakage has led to complaints of gastroenteritis, skin rashes, and other health issues among the people.

Paramount ruler of Oshie community, His Royal Highness Patrick Miller, expressed his frustration and concern over the situation, saying, "The hazard we are facing is much. The Orashi River is our only source of drinking water.

"Our women soak cassava in that water for our existence. That is where we kill fish for our own existence, as fishermen. This thing is affecting our livelihood. Our health is affected, we have talked and nobody cares to listen to us."

Engenni Youth Assembly President, Onem Okenya, also decried the situation, saying: "Oando has feigned ignorance of what is happening here. They have other facilities in Okordia and Zarama (Bayelsa State) and they access those facilities through this road.

"So, we believe they are fully aware of what is happening. But to our surprise, they have not shown any commitment to ensuring this is stopped."

The people of Oshie and Akinima communities are appealing for help, saying they cannot continue to live with the environmental disaster. They urged the company to take

responsibility for its actions and ensure the health and well-being of the communities affected by the gas leakage.

Also, EDEN, through its

Deputy Executive Director, Alagoa Morris urged the company to immediately mobilise to stop the gas leak and provide potable water for the

affected communities.

The organisation also called on the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, and relevant authorities to take urgent action to address the situation.

Jubilation as Oborevwoiri inaugurates Model Technical College, Omadino

GOVERNOR Sheriff Oborevwoiri of Delta State has described technical and vocational education as one of the most effective tools for tackling youth unemployment in the country, noting that graduates would emerge as skilled professionals, entrepreneurs and employers of labour rather than job seekers.

Oborevwoiri made the remark, yesterday, during the inauguration of the newly completed Model Technical College, Omadino, Warri South Local Government Area of the state, describing the institution as a flagship investment in technical and vocational education by his administration.

He said some achievements were better appreciated when seen rather than spoken about.

"Even I am often amazed at how much we have been able to achieve within two years without borrowing and without burdening the people. This project we are commissioning today is a clear example of prudent management. Contractors were paid promptly and that is why delivery was timely," the governor said.

Oborevwoiri disclosed that the college commenced academic activities before its formal commissioning, a development he said demonstrated the readiness and full functionality of the facility.

According to him, the institution represents another major milestone in the advancement of technical and vocational education in Delta State.

He said the college reflected clarity of vision, strategic planning and disciplined execution, pointing to its internal road network, administrative blocks, classrooms, workshops and laboratories as clear evidence of the administration's commitment to quality

education.

The governor commended his predecessor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa, for initiating the project, adding that his administration ensured its completion to the required standard.

He said: "Today, I am pleased to see a beautiful and solid edifice standing proudly. We give God all the glory. Any student, lecturer or staff member would be proud to be associated with this institution."

Olu of Warri lauds Oborevwoiri

Also speaking, His Majesty,

Implementing Anti-Open Grazing law'll curb herdsmen menace in Delta—Okpubigho

By Etop Ekanem

FOLLOWING the increase in the rate of kidnapping and herdsmen attacks in Delta communities, a call has been made for the implementation of the Anti-Open Grazing law in the state, noting that it is a panacea to the problem of frequent herdsmen attacks.

Making this call in Lagos, the immediate past president of the Uthobo Social Club Lagos, Wilson Okpubigho, said the only way relative peace could be sustained in the various communities in Delta State was for the government to implement the anti grazing law in the state.

He said recently, Fulani herdsmen attacked people in Kokori and Uwheru communities leading to deaths and injuries, an indication that Fulani herdsmen were hiding in the bushes in the state, and were only waiting to attack the

unsuspecting community dwellers at any opportunity.

He said although the state government has banned open grazing, he suggested that, if it is implemented in all the communities in the state, farmers and rural dwellers will have a sigh of relief.

He called on Governor Sheriff Oborevwoiri to expedite action on strategic plans to flush out herdsmen and other criminals out of the state.

Okpubigho, however, acknowledged the resolve and determination of the state governor to provide safer environment for Deltans.

Meanwhile, Okpubigho has given Governor Oborevwoiri a clean bill of health for the 2027 elections, saying this was the first time Delta State is having a governor spreading infrastructural development across the three senatorial zones simultaneously, which makes him unique among the previous governors.

Okpebholo backs probe into alleged corruption in Edo LG, urges status quo

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY — Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State, yesterday backed the state House of Assembly's investigation into the alleged corrupt practices that led to the impeachment of the acting Chairman of the Akoko-Edo local Government Area of the state, Bliss Oshionogwe, promising to handover anyone found culpable in the allegations to security agencies for prosecution.

Last week's impeachment of Oshionogwe sparked fresh calls for the probe into the finances of the council and others in the state.

The chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, in the area, Monday Oseh, alleged that part of the N100 million Christmas package from Governor Okpebholo was allegedly diverted using a company linked to the Chairman of the Edo State Local Government Service Commission, Kabiru Adjoto, an allegation Adjoto has denied.

It was gathered that the governor called a meeting of the stakeholders of the party in Irua, where he appealed that the status quo before the impeachment be maintained while the House of Assembly be allowed to do its investigation.

Confirming the development, the Edo North Senatorial Leader of the APC, Anslam Agbabi told Vanguard: "The governor said the status quo should remain until the House of Assembly finish their investigation into the allegation of misappropriation and that anyone found wanting would be punished."

But Oseh alleged that Oshionogwe took N20 million, Adjoto N60 million while N40 million was used to purchase rice.

According to him, "The governor of Edo State voted N100 million for us for Christmas for us to buy rice and share it with everybody. They bought N40 million rice. We asked about N60 million. Chairman took N20 million and Adjoto took N40 million. This is what brought the quarrel."



Cross section of children living with cancer. Center is the Executive Director, Children Living With Cancer Foundation, (CLWCF), Dr. Nneka Nwobbi during their monthly support group meeting in Lagos.

Inside Nigeria's battle to save children living with cancer

• *I have turned to international beggar — Callistus; You don't negotiate with cancer — Ajayi; I wished I would die there — Chukwu; Cancer does not define your future — Dr. Nwobbi*

Each year, around 400,000 children worldwide are diagnosed with cancer. In Nigeria, roughly 7 percent of the country's 127,000 annual cancer cases are in children, many of whom face delayed diagnosis and limited access to treatment.

As Nigeria joins the rest of the world to mark this year's World Cancer Day on February 4, families at the Alima Attah Cancer Centre, Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), Idiaraba, Lagos, are quietly fighting to change the odds of survival for the better — one meeting, one child, one circle at a time. **Good Health Weekly** reports:

By Chioma Obinna

Every month, inside the Alima Attah Cancer Centre at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), a circle forms. Parents sit shoulder to shoulder with their children, some barely five years old, others brushing adulthood at 18. Some heads are shaved from chemotherapy. Some faces show the toll of treatment. All carry stories heavy enough to bend the room.

This is not a clinic appointment. It is a support group — a rare space where families living with childhood cancer gather to talk, cry, laugh and survive together.

Here, economies have collapsed. Careers have paused. Childhoods have been interrupted. Yet, amid the hardship, hope still finds a seat.

These parents took turns to narrate their stories while others cheer.

I have turned to international beggar

— Mrs. Sara Callistus

Her daughter's journey began in Port Harcourt, with confusion, multiple referrals and months of inconclusive tests. When medical professionals finally uttered the word "cancer," Mrs. Sara Callistus' world changed.

"When they said cancer, my husband almost passed out," she recalled. I was the one encouraging him, telling him to be strong for himself and for our child."

She had never imagined

children could have cancer.

"I used to hear about breast cancer. I never knew children had cancer. This was my first time hearing it."

Arriving LUTH offered clarity and another shock. She realised her child was not alone.

"I thought my child was the only one with cancer, but when I came here, I saw many children," she said quietly.

The emotional burden was quickly matched by the financial one. Chemotherapy sessions

alone can cost hundreds of thousands of naira — an amount far beyond what her family can sustain.

"Last week alone, we spent over N500,000 just for chemotherapy. Once we finish one week, I start begging again for the next."

Her voice dropped.

"We have exhausted everything we have. I am begging friends and everyone I know. I have turned into an international beggar. I know everything will end in peace. But it has not been easy."

However, every parent at the meeting has their peculiar stories.

You don't negotiate with cancer — Mrs. Fola Ajayi

For Mrs. Fola Ajayi, cancer crept in silently. Her son showed no obvious signs of illness, no fever, no pain, a healthy appetite, the only sign was a swelling on his

neck.

Doctors initially described it as an enlarged lymph node. Tests were inconclusive. Weeks passed. The swelling spread from the neck to the armpits, then to the groin and eventually to his face.

"It was not painful. That was the confusing part. Before I knew it, I couldn't recognise my own child again," she said.

At the Alima Attah Cancer Centre, clarity finally came. One of the doctors, "Professor Temiye looked at the reports and said, 'Madam, do you know what is wrong with your son? It is cancer.'"

The warning was immediate and terrifying. "He told us, 'If you take this boy home, by next week you will not recognise him again.'"

Treatment began at once.

Slowly, remarkably, the swelling began to shrink.

"The neck that looked like it would never go in — everything started reducing. I am so grateful. But relief was tempered by reality.

"Cancer does not affect only the child. It affects the whole family. Everything shuts down. You don't negotiate with cancer," she said. Another mother, a widow, took over the narration.

I wished to die there — Chika Chukwu

Chika lost her husband three years ago, and when her son fell ill, she thought it was malaria.

"He came back from school coughing. I took him to a hospital. The doctor said it was malaria and low blood."

Chika treated what she thought was malaria. Little did she know what fate held in store for her family. Then

Unified healthcare network can end Nigeria's high neonatal mortality — Dosekun

By Sola Ogundipe

Nigeria's high neonatal mortality rate is a crisis of coordination rather than a mere shortage of funds, a veteran Senior Paediatrician Dr. Efunbo Dosekun, has warned.

In a compelling call for immediate reform, Dosekun, who is the CEO of Outreach Medical Services, argues that Nigeria's current fragmented healthcare jigsaw must be replaced with a unified, organised perinatal network if the nation is to ensure the survival of its newborns.

Outreach Medical Services runs four acute care Women's and Children's Medical Centres in Festac Town, Okota and Osapa, Lekki in Lagos State and Ogara in Delta State.

Dosekun, says the central challenge of neonatal mortality in Nigeria is not merely a lack of funding, but a profound fragmentation of the healthcare jigsaw puzzle.

"To address this, Nigeria must transition from isolated medical interventions toward a unified perinatal network.

"This model links 30 -40 primary care providers—including church-led maternity centers, traditional midwives, and nurse-led clinics—to centralised middle-level hubs.

"By mapping these resources geographically, we ensure that a baby born in a community setting is never more than an effective transport link away from

specialised care.

"This integration eliminates the chaotic 'out-born' phenomenon where babies arrive at tertiary centers in the final stages of systemic failure, far beyond the point where even the most expensive technology can intervene.

Her words: "Effective reform requires an honest assessment of our human capacity and the 'Japa' syndrome.

"We must acknowledge that our healthcare workers are not just leaving for higher pay; they are fleeing the moral injury of being forced to make life-or-death decisions without basic tools like oxygen or reliable electricity. To counter this brain drain, we must adopt a strategy of task-shifting, creating a tier of

"super-nurses" equipped with advanced midwifery and acute neonatal skills." Calling for a radical shift in how the private sector and the media engage with the healthcare sector, Dosekun urges corporate Nigeria, the banking sector, and manufacturing industries to view neonatal survival as a business case for national economic stability rather than a charity project.

"These professionals can provide a frontline defense against avoidable deaths, supported by a system that treats every single delivery as a potential emergency." Preparedness must be the standard, ensuring that resuscitation equipment is at the bedside before a baby is born, rather than being sought only after a crisis has begun.

she noticed a small growth. When tests failed to explain it, doctors referred them to LUTH.

"When the doctor said lymphoma, I asked, 'What is that?' Then he said, 'It is cancer. I could not move my legs. I wished I would die there,' she said.

After weeks of delays and waiting for test results, treatment finally began.

"So far, the treatment has been wonderful, and we are hopeful," she said softly.

Her hope echoes through the room and reflects the reason the support group exists.

Circle that holds hope

Holding this fragile but determined community together is the Children Living With Cancer Foundation, (CLWCF) founded nearly 23 years ago by Dr Nneka Nwobbi.

"We are not a wealthy foundation. But we are committed to creating awareness, togetherness, and hope," Nwobbi explained to the members of the support group.

The monthly meetings are not only about sharing pain; they are about celebrating life - birthdays, anniversaries, remission milestones.

"We celebrate victories, no matter how small," she said.

She often reminds families of survivors like Chidera, who was diagnosed at 12 and is now 26. Today, Chidera fondly call Dera, is a Nail Technician.

"There are no limits to ambition. Cancer does not define your future," Nwobbi told the children.

She stressed the need for good nutrition, exercise, family support and the power of community. She emphasised the need for people to eat natural foods.

"Once a child has cancer, the whole family has cancer. That is why this circle matters," she said.

She said the emotional, social and economic toll on the Nigerian child and the family can only be imagined.

"The emotional trauma, the financial burden and stress, the breaking of homes, the pain of treatment, the poverty, the sleepless nights, the worry about the home front while in the hospital with the sick child, the fear of death, the list goes on, there is need for wealthy Nigerians and government to help in the treatments of children.

She lamented that a diagnosis often results in loss of income as caregivers stop working, increased debt, emotional distress, anxiety, and depression.

She encouraged parents and other care givers to monitor their mental health and health in general as cancer treatment remains a journey as unfortunately, "children are rarely integrated into cancer care, despite its importance."

As the two - hour meeting draws to a close, parents exchange phone numbers, words of encouragement and quiet prayers. However, the circle breaks but the bond remains.

Good Health Weekly can authoritatively report that until the next meeting, these parents returned to their daily battles with one shared belief that no family should fight childhood cancer alone.



NATIONAL MATHEMATICAL CENTRE, ABUJA

(IN AFFILIATION WITH FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA)

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APPLICATION FEES: N10,000 ONLY PAYABLE ONLINE.

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National Mathematical Centre (NMC)
Sheda, PMB 118, Gwagwalada
Abuja, Nigeria.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications must be received on or before **Friday, 6th March, 2026.**

Apply @ www.nmc-cesp.online



A FEW WORDS

Hakeem
Baba-Ahmed

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House of Representatives does revisit certain provisions dealing with multiple membership of political parties, the practice of seeking more 'friendly' judges by candidates (forum shopping) to handle selection disputes and addressing penalties for default, how will

process through delays, withholding funding or rejecting changes and leaving too little time for the legislature to contemplate override. This time, the stakes are very high indeed. The reforms make the real-time transmission of election results to INEC's IReV portal mandatory. This is the magic wand Nigerians call direct and mandatory transmission from polling units to Abuja. The current law does not make such provisions.

Another provision mandates all political parties to maintain digital registers of its members and issue membership cards to them, a provision that will be costly and challenging for millions who have no access to vital documents or technology. It requires all political parties to submit to INEC such registers at least 30 days before the party's primaries, congresses and conventions. Only members captured appropriately in these registers can be nominated or vote in inter-party contests.

No party shall use another type of register, and parties without these registers cannot field candidates for elections. There are other clauses in the amendments such as upward reviews of campaign spending limits and restrictions on individual and corporate donations towards campaign expenses. Though virtually impossible to enforce in our context, they are, nonetheless, useful to have in an Electoral Act.

Ordinarily, the thinking should be that a governing party with 30 governors and more than three-quarters of federal and state legislators in its ranks should not worry over rules of an electoral game. Add a stupendous war chest and an opposition tiptoeing around massive minefields, it will be fair to forgive the thinking that APC will saunter back into power, whatever the rules are. APC does not do ordinary things. An electoral framework which

bestows the slightest tilt towards a fair playing field will alarm the party that thinks only having everything is victory. If it has its way, timelines will be managed in a manner that gives it an edge and puts the opposition at great disadvantage. INEC, as it is, is unlikely to shout too loudly when resources for ensuring a fail-safe IReV are not available as and when due. INEC and the administration know many parties will labour to produce digital membership registers, and meet deadlines in submitting them. Politicians eyeing last-minute defections will be policed against the new amendments on switching parties at the last minute. APC will be vigilant and resolute in policing internal affairs of the opposition, and will throw both INEC and the judiciary at it without any hesitation.

First, though, the amended electoral act must be passed without any further delays. The Nigerian legislature's fatality rate has always been high, and this one in particular has a very poor reputation among many Nigerians, no thanks to its barefaced dalliance with President Tinubu. This is one occasion when legislators should be reminded that in a free and fair contest, many of them are unlikely to go back to their seats for many serious and sundry offences, principal among which is their historic capitulation under this President. National Assembly will do a lot of good for itself if it concludes the review of the Electoral Act and lets President Tinubu decide whether he wants to take on Nigerians before the elections. There are a lot of good initiatives in the amendments to the Electoral Act. They should be passed in a manner which suggests that this administration recognises that the stakes are very high indeed. The survival of our democratic assets may depend entirely on the integrity of the 2027 elections.

Pass the Electoral Bill now

"In moments of crises, the wise build bridges, while the foolish build dams"- African proverb.

The nation should be concerned about the delays in passing amendments to the Electoral Bill, which will provide the legal and operational framework for the 2027 elections. The bill contains several key amendments to the 2022 Electoral Act. The House of Representatives concluded work on the amendments and passed them to the Senate late last year. The Senate reviewed the amendments and decided to establish another committee to examine them more thoroughly. Now, some members of the House say it should look more critically at its work on some aspects of the bill and are likely to propose more amendments in the final bill. We will have to wait for the House to resume to know whether this review will be undertaken and whether it will form part of the comprehensive amendments to be debated and forwarded to the President. The Representatives are on a two-week recess as we speak. The Senate will then review the proposed amendments (with or without review of earlier

amendments), decide on them, and forward them to President Bola Tinubu for his consideration. Whether or not he approves all or some of the amendments, and when he approves them, is entirely left to him and his politics. There are constitutional provisions for overriding the president in the event of delays or hostility on his part. Still, this particular legislature, as currently composed, will not even consider this option.

Substance and timing are critical factors here. If the

National Assembly will do a lot of good for itself if it concludes the review of the Electoral Act and lets President Tinubu decide whether he wants to take on Nigerians before the elections; there are a lot of good initiatives in the amendments to the Electoral Act

this affect the work of the special committee of the Senate and eventual submission of the bill to the President? How much substance can be sacrificed for speed? Politicians and keen observers must be looking at vital provisions that could be threatened or breached. Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 2022 requires election notices to be published at least 360 days before the general election date. This is still the law, and all deadlines can only exist within its framework. The longer it takes for the key elements of the bill to be settled, the more they will be threatened by the foundational provision for election notice. On the other hand, the provisions of the framework could be affected, putting vital reforms and amendments in jeopardy and potentially affecting the quality of the elections. As things stand, timing is becoming a serious challenge.

Confusing as it may sound, it is not new to Nigerians. Lawmakers spend huge and countless meetings every few years, assembling experts, stakeholders, pressure groups, political parties, and the media to discuss changes that should make our elections more credible. Then they treat key reforms so casually; you would think they do not want to change systems and processes that they are familiar and comfortable with. The President exerts a huge influence on the reform process, many times sabotaging the

The future of financial security: Why integration is Nigeria's next frontier

By TOBI OGUNLANA

Nigeria's economy is often described through the lens of speed and scale. A young population, accelerating urbanisation and rapid digital adoption have combined to create one of the most dynamic markets on the continent. Yet, beneath this momentum lies a quieter tension. As households and businesses move faster, the structures designed to protect them against risk have not always evolved at the same pace.

Volatile global markets, increasing healthcare costs and deep concerns around retirement adequacy have yet again raised the question of financial security for millions of Nigerians. These pressures are not signs of systemic failure. They are indicators of an economy transitioning from informality toward greater sophistication.

In such moments of transition, the strength of a financial system is tested not by growth alone, but by its ability to absorb shocks and protect long-term well-being. For decades, the financial experience of the average Nigerian has been shaped by fragmentation. Pensions sit in one

silos, insurance in another, healthcare in a separate conversation altogether, while asset management often feels distant and inaccessible. Each service exists in isolation, governed by different processes, expectations and levels of trust.

This isolated approach is increasingly misaligned with the realities Nigerians face. Financial shocks rarely arrive neatly compartmentalised. A health emergency can erase years of retirement savings. A business disruption can undermine both insurance cover and long-term investment plans. Yet the system still asks individuals to navigate these risks independently, stitching together protection where they can. The result is not only inefficiency, but a deeper issue of trust. Low insurance and pension penetration rates are not simply commercial challenges, they reflect a system that many people experience as complex, opaque and disconnected from lived realities.

Across global markets, a different model has gradually emerged. Integrated financial ecosystems bring together pensions, insurance, health cover and investment services within a single,

coordinated framework. The premise is simple: individuals are not collections of isolated risks. Their financial lives are interconnected, and protection works best when it reflects that truth.

In markets such as Singapore and parts of Western Europe, integrated financial groups have demonstrated how this approach improves outcomes. By aligning long-term savings, risk protection and healthcare planning, these systems reduce friction, improve customer understanding and

Across global markets, a different model has gradually emerged; integrated financial ecosystems bring together pensions, insurance, health cover and investment services within a single, coordinated framework

strengthen overall financial resilience. Importantly, they also create deeper pools of long-term capital that can be deployed productively across the economy. Nigeria is beginning to see early signals of this shift. Recent consolidation activity within the financial services sector reflects a growing recognition that scale and integration are no longer optional. One notable example is the acquisition of PAL Pensions by Leadway Holdings, a transaction that brings together insurance, pensions and asset management capabilities under a broader financial services ecosystem that is capable of meeting the needs and lifestyle of its target market. This follows a similar pattern with organisations like GTCO and Access Corporation expanding their ecosystem to incorporate pension services among other non-banking financial interests beyond their primary banking functions. While still subject to regulatory oversight and integration processes, the deal illustrates how Nigerian institutions are responding to structural gaps in the market by building more cohesive platforms designed

around lifetime financial needs, rather than single products.

This matters because integration is not just about convenience. It is about resilience. When financial services operate in silos, risk compounds quietly. When they are aligned, risk can be anticipated, mitigated and absorbed more effectively. A pension strategy informed by health risk is stronger. Insurance that protects long-term savings preserves dignity in retirement. Asset management built on stable protection encourages disciplined wealth creation.

There is also a national dimension to this evolution. An integrated financial system creates longer-term, more patient capital. Pension and insurance assets, when managed within a coherent framework, can fund infrastructure, support industrial growth and finance innovation. This is how financial services move from transactional activity to nation-building.

Nigeria's regulators have a critical role to play in enabling this transition. Recent reforms across pensions, insurance and data governance suggest a growing appreciation of the need for stronger oversight alongside greater flexibility.

*Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com*

•Ogunlana, a public affairs analyst, wrote from Lagos

Insecurity has become Nigeria's most persistent national emergency. From the North-West to the North-East, the Middle Belt to the South-East, fear has crept into everyday life with terrorists of different descriptions going on rampage almost everyday. Markets close early, schools are attacked, farms are abandoned and families travel only when absolutely necessary. A nation cannot develop when its citizens are constantly looking over their shoulders.

For years, the response to insecurity has been dominated by military deployments and reactive policing. While force is sometimes necessary, it has clearly not been sufficient. Nigeria's security crisis is not only a failure of arms, it is also a failure of governance, justice and inclusion. Guns can suppress violence temporarily, but they cannot cure the conditions that breed it.

Poverty and unemployment remain powerful drivers of insecurity. Millions of young Nigerians, educated or not, see no clear path to dignity or livelihood. In such an environment, criminal gangs,

Combating insecurity: Beyond bullets and promises

extremist groups and violent agitators find easy recruits. Combating insecurity, therefore, requires massive investment in job creation, skills development and rural economies. When farms are safe, schools function and small businesses thrive, violence loses its appeal. Equally important is intelligence-led policing. Nigeria's security agencies often react after attacks have occurred, rather than preventing them. Community policing, when properly structured and insulated from political abuse, can bridge the trust gap between citizens and the

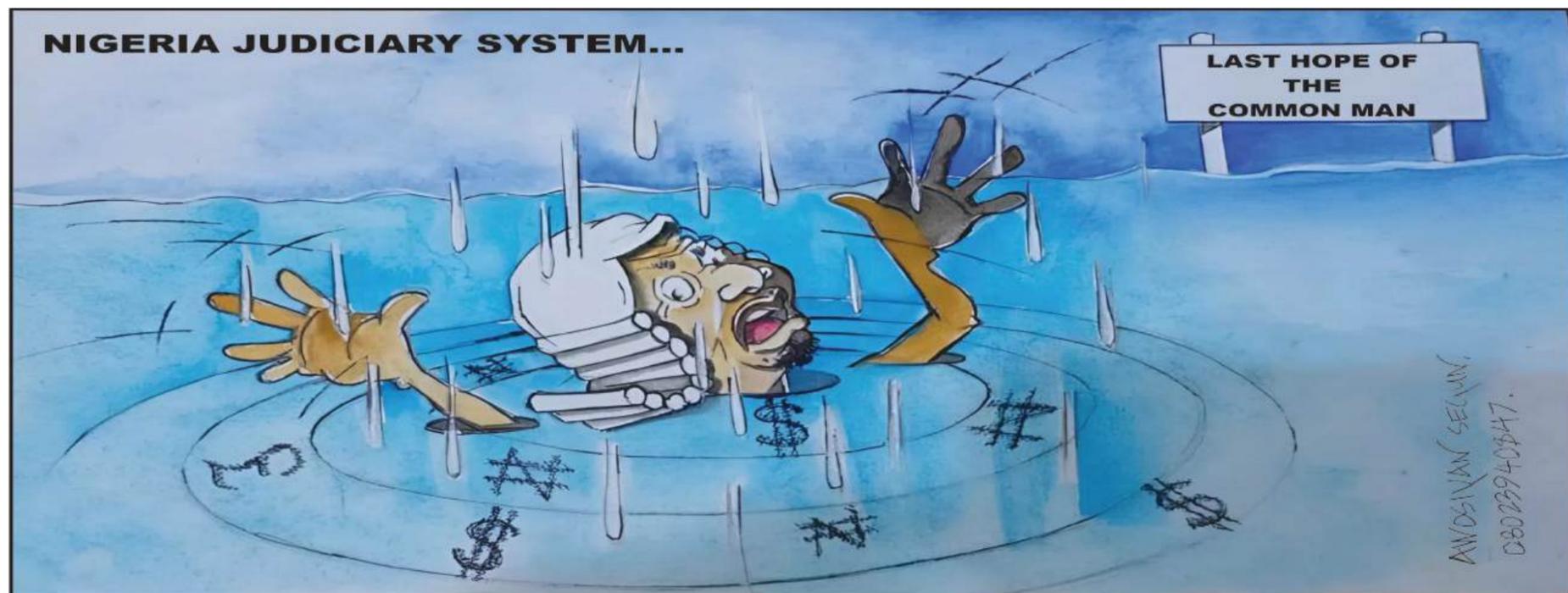
state. Locals understand their terrain and can detect strange movements long before violence erupts. Security works best when citizens see the police and military as protectors, not predators.

Another critical issue is the weakness of Nigeria's justice system. Arrests without prosecution, prolonged detentions, and selective justice undermine public confidence. Criminals feel emboldened when consequences are uncertain, while innocent citizens grow resentful. Swift, transparent trials and firm punishment for offenders, regardless of status, would send a strong deterrent message.

Leadership also matters. Insecurity

thrives where political rhetoric inflames ethnic or religious tensions. Nigerian leaders must speak the language of unity and act with fairness. Security appointments, resource allocation and crisis responses must reflect national balance and professionalism, not patronage. Finally, Nigeria must confront the regional dimensions of insecurity. Porous borders allow the flow of arms and fighters. Stronger border management and cooperation with neighbouring countries are essential in a region where conflicts easily spill across boundaries.

Combating insecurity in Nigeria demands more than emergency declarations and periodic offensives. It requires a holistic strategy that combines security force reform, economic opportunity, justice and responsible leadership. Until Nigerians can sleep without fear and travel without dread, the promise of national progress will remain painfully incomplete.



... Just like in the animal farm

OPINION

Send Opinions & Letters to:
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From last week continues the narrative on the many atrocities committed under the brutal and oppressive rule of General Sani Abacha after he seized power in a palace coup in November 1993.

Joseph Kporok, a 30-year-old Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, MOSOP activist, was arrested after a dispute with his mother-in-law over land. Once in custody at the Rivers State Internal Security Task Force headquarters, Kporok was interrogated about his MOSOP affiliation and beaten. He was then transferred to State Police Headquarters in Port Harcourt where he died. Also, 26-year-old Kenneth Nwokoye was beaten to death by uniformed officers who arrested him after raiding and searching his house. Alhaja Suliat Adedeji, an outspoken politician and successful businesswoman, was beaten and shot by armed men who invaded her home in Ibadan. Despite brutal demands for "ransom", nothing was taken from the Adedeji home. Dr. Alex Ibru, Publisher of *THE GUARDIAN*, one of the country's leading independent daily newspapers, was shot and permanently injured by gunmen.

The 1979 Constitution (suspended) and the 1989 Constitution (never implemented) prohibit torture and mistreatment of prisoners and provide criminal sanctions for such excesses. The Evidence Act of 1960 prohibits the introduction of evidence obtained through torture. Nevertheless, detainees frequently die while in custody, and there were credible reports that police seeking to extract confessions regularly tortured and beat suspects and that interrogators beat and nearly tortured to death convicted "coup plotters". The authorities reportedly tortured convicted "coup plotter" and *TSM* magazine editor in chief, Mrs Chris Anyanwu while in detention, and they beat Bunmi Aborishade, editor of the defunct *June 12* weekly, when he was arrested.

ON THE SPOT

With Eric Teniola

The Illusion of a single party (4)

During this period, Bishop Emmanuel Bolanle Gbonigi (95) of the Akure Anglican Diocese, raised his voice constantly against the abuse of power by General Sani Abacha. Bagaudu Kaltho of *TELL MAGAZINE*, was abducted by unknown people. He was never seen till this day.

Early in the Abacha regime, Lagos State governor, Colonel Olagunsoye Oyinlola, formed the Lagos State Environmental Task Force as part of its "war on indiscipline and corruption". Under Colonel Oyinlola's direct supervision, the task force used brutal force on individuals in its attempt to rid Lagos of illegal street traders and copious accumulated garbage. For the most part, the government neither acknowledged nor denied that these abuses occurred and left their perpetrators unpunished. However, the new Lagos State governor, Colonel Buba Marwa, acknowledged that there had been abuses and said he would try to curb them.

The government released several prominent detainees before the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group was set to meet in

London to consider issues, including additional sanctions. The authorities held Dr. Tunji Abayomi, chairman of the Founder's Council of Human Rights Africa and General Olusegun Obasanjo's lawyer, originally detained in July 1995, until June; Fred Eno, an aide to M.K.O. Abiola; and Abdul Oroh, executive director of the CLO. Chief Ayo

Several leading labour and pro-democracy activists who were arrested in 1993 remained in detention, including M.K.O. Abiola and Frank Kokori, General Secretary of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers

Opadokun, General Secretary of NADECO, who had been detained since October 1994, was released June 25, 1996, only to be rearrested the following

day and held in detention without charge until November 2. Expectations that the releases might presage real human rights improvements were not fulfilled, as the government continued its policies of arbitrary arrest and detention, including the December arrest and detention of pro-democracy activist Dr. Fred Fasehun and former presidential candidate and NADECO supporter, Chief Olabiyi Durojaiye.

Several leading labour and pro-democracy activists who were arrested in 1993 remained in detention, including M.K.O. Abiola and Frank Kokori, General Secretary of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers, NUPENG. Security forces arrested Milton Dabibi, who was General Secretary of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association, PENGASSAN, before the government dissolved the executive structure of the union and installed a sole administrator. By 1997 and 1998, M.K.O. Abiola remained in prison despite a November 1994 ruling by the Kaduna Federal Court of Appeal granting him bail on the condition that he would "not disturb the peace". In May 1995, eight Supreme Court justices, including Chief Justice Mohammed Bello, withdrew from hearing the case because of a libel suit they had pending against Abiola's Concord Press, effectively suspending hearings on Abiola's appeal until new justices were named to the court.

Abiola's trial on treason charges remained suspended indefinitely on orders from the regime.

To be concluded

• *Teniola, a former director at the Presidency, wrote from Lagos.*

Business



New tax law: NTPIC emphasises need for clear communication, public trust

By Cynthia Alo

The National Tax Policy Implementation

Committee (NTPIC) has continued its stakeholder engagement programme, convening a high-level consultative session with leading tax advisory firms, professional bodies and institutional representatives to support the effective implementation of Nigeria's newly enacted tax laws.

The institutions were represented by their national presidents, while the advisory firms were represented by their leading tax partners.

Addressing the session, the Chairman of the NTPIC, Mr Joseph Tegbe, noted that the success of the reforms would depend largely on effective change management rather than policy design alone.

He emphasised the importance of clear communication and public trust. He reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to engaging sub-national governments through the Joint Revenue Board and other institutions to harmonise interpretation, build capacity and ensure alignment across federal and state tax administrations.

Participants broadly welcomed the reforms, describing them as timely and structural, and aimed at strengthening Nigeria's fiscal framework rather than driving short-term revenue gains. Discussions were situated within the Federal Government's broader reform objective of improving long-term fiscal sustainability.

While acknowledging the robustness of the legislative framework, participants stressed the need for consistent interpretation across institutions and clear operational guidelines to prevent fragmented enforcement.

largest in absolute terms with advanced economy partners (\$29.7 billion), reflecting primarily oil trade with destinations like the United States and EU.

"Other countries in the top 10 by cumulative trade value gap with advanced economies include Nigeria (\$29.7 billion), Côte d'Ivoire (\$24.6 billion), Ghana (\$20.5 billion), Angola (\$19.0 billion), Kenya (\$14.2 billion), Madagascar (\$11.1 billion), Cameroon (\$9.8 billion), Gabon (\$9.5 billion), and Senegal (\$9.3 billion). This list is broadly similar to the all-partners list," the GFI report stated.

On the implication of illicit outflows on development, GFI stated: "Every dollar siphoned out of African economies is a dollar not taxed or invested at home, directly reducing the resources available for public expenditure. For instance, tax revenue losses due to IFFs in Africa are estimated at around \$17 billion per year."

this subset). "South Africa's top ranking in trade with developed countries underscores its extensive commerce with Europe, North America, and other advanced markets and suggests that substantial under-invoicing of exports or over-invoicing of imports is occurring in those channels (for example, in the export of precious metals or the import of high-value manufactured goods).

"Nigeria is the second-

in trade value gaps over the period 2013-2022."

The report also x-rayed top ten African countries' cumulative trade value gap with advanced economies during the ten-year period with South also topping the bracket.

"South Africa emerges as the largest source of trade mis-invoicing with advanced economies, with an estimated \$238.4 billion trade value gap in 2013-2022 (well ahead of Nigeria's \$29.7 billion in



L-R: Managing Director and Head of Asia, South Asia, British International Investment (BII), Sridhar Nagarajan; Non-Executive Director, Krishnakumar Natarajan; Investment Analyst, Mosorire Aiyeyemi; Investment Director, Temitope Afolayan; West Africa Regional Director and Head of Office, Africa Coverage, Benson Adenuga; CEO, Leslie Maasdorp; Managing Director/CEO, InfraCredit, Chinua Azubike; Non Executive Director and Chair of Development Impact Committee, BII, Chris Woodruff; Company Secretary, Bethany Burrow; Executive Director/COO, InfraCredit, Daniel Mueller and Non Executive Director/Chair of Risk Committee, BII, Kathryn Matthews, during the BII Board of Directors' recent visit to InfraCredit's office in Lagos.

Nigeria loses \$77.7bn to illicit financial flows in 10 years —Report

By Yinka Kolawole

A new report by Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a United States-based think tank, has revealed that Nigeria lost a total of \$77.7 billion to trade-related illicit financial flows (IFFs) over a period of 10 years, between 2013 and 2022.

IFFs refer to cross-border movements of money or value that are illegally earned, transferred, or utilized encompassing proceeds of crime, corruption, and practices like tax evasion.

In the report titled, "Trade-related Illicit Financial Flows in Africa, 2013-2022", GFI noted that IFFs which occurred via trade mis-invoicing represent a formidable barrier to Africa's inclusive growth and economic sovereignty, adding that the new report captured trade-related value gaps for all Sub-Saharan African nations between 2013 and 2022.

According to GFI, South Africa topped the list with an estimated \$478.08 billion in cumulative trade value gaps with all trading partners, reflecting massive undeclared or mispriced transactions.

The report stated: "As a share of all sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa accounted for 42 per cent of the region's cumulative trade-related IFFs,

highlighting the high concentration of leakage among the region's largest commodity exporter.

"A second tier of countries have also hemorrhaged significant sums. Nigeria (approximately \$77.7 billion), Ghana (approximately \$54.1 billion), Côte d'Ivoire (approximately \$47.7 billion), and Kenya (approximately \$47.5 billion) each accumulated tens of billions of dollars

in trade value gaps over the period 2013-2022."

Nigeria's fintechs raise \$520m, lead Africa amidst interest rate pressure —CBN

- Urges domestic funding to sustain fintech growth
- Says over 60% of fintechs eye regional expansion

By Babajide Komolafe, Economy Editor

Nigeria's fintech ecosystem remained Africa's leading innovation hub in 2024, raising over \$520 million in equity funding despite rising global interest rates and tightening financial conditions, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has disclosed.

According to the CBN Fintech Report, Nigerian startups accounted for a sizeable portion of the \$2.2 billion raised by African tech firms last year, ranking among the continent's top ecosystems by both capital raised and deal activity.

The apex bank noted that the performance

ecosystem to global macroeconomic gyrations.

"However, Nigeria's fintech funding has largely depend ed on foreign capital, making the ecosystem vulnerable to global market fluctuations. The sharp rise in interest rates in advanced economies during 2022 contributed to a slowdown in venture capital funding, which helps explain the decline in Nigeria's fintech investment inflows by 2024.

"These dynamics highlight the importance of developing domestic funding avenues, such as leveraging Nigeria's capital markets, to reduce currency risk and sustain fintech growth," the CBN said.

Regional expansion

INGRYD goes fully digital, becomes exam centre

Technology Talent Outsourcing and Training Company, Ingrid Academy, has gone fully digital and also became an examination centre.

The Managing Director, HRM Khadijat Abdulkadir, made this known during the panel session at the Tech Revolution Africa Conference over the weekend in Lagos.

Khadijat noted that users will be able to take on crash courses, self-paced courses or hybrid courses with the new development whilst its three month course in Cybersecurity, IT Risks, IT Audit, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence still

The CBN also said that a survey of stakeholders in the fintech industry, revealed that 62.5 per cent of Nigerian fintech firms plan to expand regionally, reflecting strong confidence in cross-border opportunities across Africa.

To support this ambition, stakeholders expressed strong backing for regulatory passporting frameworks, which would enable fintechs to expand seamlessly into peer African markets while remaining compliant with local regulations.

The CBN said broader engagement across the ecosystem, beyond fintech firms, would be required to deliver a more holistic and coordinated approach to policy and industry development.

maintained.

She stated: "INGRYD is launching its fully digital services. In the past, we have been teaching our classes all physically in all our different locations. But, this year, we have decided to provide our users more access to our courses, more on-demand and also scale to support other countries where we are seeing a lot of traction.

"We have Nigerians and we also service Non-Nigerians. For that reason, we have moved all our courses to our platform, Edify, which is our learning management solution that supports our people to just take crash

Jide Sipe, Abiodun Coker, others emerge as ACAMB executives

...New EXCO pledges unified advocacy, professional growth

By Cynthia Alo

The Association of Corporate Communication and Marketing Professionals in Banks (ACAMB) has ushered in a new executive council, with a strong representation from leading financial institutions to steer its affairs for the 2026-2028 term.

The election, held during the association's Annual General Meeting in Lagos on Thursday, saw seasoned professionals from across the banking landscape elected to key positions.

The newly constituted executive includes Babajide Sipe of the Bank of Industry

as President; Chinwe Bode-Akinwande of FirstBank as First Vice President; Morolake Philip-Ladipo of Wema Bank as Second Vice President; Abiodun Coker of the United Bank for Africa (UBA) as the Publicity Secretary; Olugbenga Owootomo from Polaris Bank as General Secretary; Halima Ishak from Jaiz Bank as Financial Secretary; Ademola Adesola from Paralex Bank as Assistant General Secretary; Unoaku Temitope Anyadike from Guaranty Trust Bank as Treasurer and MacQueen Afolabi from Zenith Bank as Social Secretary

In his inaugural address, Sipe expressed profound gratitude for the confidence reposed in him, outlining a purposeful agenda for his tenure.

He stated: "I promise to lead with courage, intention, and purpose. My leadership will be anchored on four pillars: mentorship and career development; strengthening outcomes relevant within the banking industry; active member engagement; and strong representation and advocacy.

"I will be an unrelenting advocate for our members and for the strategic value of our profession. My key focus is growth-growth for members, growth for the association, and ensuring that the values of ACAMB are protected."

AGRIC COMMODITIES		
Coffee	331.90	-0.35
Cocoa	4,208.00	+43.00
Sugar	14.29	+0.0

ENERGY & OIL		
Brent Crude	66.04	-3.28
Light Crude	78.62	-2.30

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	1389.3622	1389.8622
POUNDS	1898.1466	1898.8297
EURO	1643.3376	1643.9290
SWISS	1835.0898	1835.7230
YEN	8.9509	8.9541
CFA	2.5871	2.5971
WUAU	1989.3283	1990.0147
RIYAL	370.4669	370.6003
RAND	86.5506	86.5817
Danish	219.9855	220.0646

CBN Exchange rate as at 02/02/2026

reinforces Nigeria's long-standing dominance in Africa's fintech space, recalling that in 2019 Nigerian startups raised about \$747 million, representing roughly 37 per cent of total African startup funding in that year.

The CBN, however, warned that fintech funding in Nigeria remains heavily dependent on foreign capital, exposing the



NEW YEAR PARTY—From left: Mr. Remi Akintola, new Chairman, Irebawa CDA; Executive Vice Chairman, Ojokoro LCDA, Tunde Oyekunle, and Chief Yomi Ishola-Lemomu, Chairman, Joint Committee on Waste Management, Ojokoro LCDA, during the New Year Party of Irebawa CDA, Abule Egba, Lagos.

Payment downtime spikes during 'Detty December', CBN reveals

By Babajide Komolafe

The Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, has disclosed that payment system downtime and service interruptions increased significantly during the December festive season, popularly known in Lagos as "Detty December," exposing coordination gaps across Nigeria's digital payments ecosystem.

According to the CBN Fintech Report, insights drawn from surveys of fintech executives, stakeholder workshops and regulatory roundtables, show that while Nigeria's core payments infrastructure is broadly resilient, peak-season transaction volumes continue to strain systems, particularly across POS channels, interbank transfers and diaspora remittances.

The report noted that stakeholders were evenly split in their assessment of the resilience of the payments system, with half rating it as "very resilient" and the other half describing it as "generally resilient."

However, inter-institutional

coordination was identified as the most critical area requiring improvement during high-volume periods.

The report stated, "The December holiday season, commonly known as 'Detty December', was referenced as a case study of the system's performance under pressure. Stakeholders noted that digital payment volumes increase sharply during this period, particularly across POS channels, interbank transfers, and remittances from the diaspora."

"Several fintechs reported significant surges in downtime and service interruptions, especially on weekends and public holidays. These pressures reflect a convergence of seasonal behaviour and digital reliance: a spike in discretionary spending, travel-related remittances, and year-end salary disbursements compound demand across payments infrastructure. The confluence of these factors not only tests technical resilience but also the agility of institutional coordination between regulators, banks, and PSPs."

FBNQuest Merchant Bank completes change of name to Quest Merchant Bank

FBNQuest Merchant Bank Limited has completed a change of name and will now operate as Quest Merchant Bank Limited, following the receipt of all required corporate and regulatory approvals.

The name change does not affect the Bank's legal or going-concern status, management, or the nature of its business. Quest Merchant Bank Limited remains a duly licensed merchant bank, regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and continues to deliver its full suite of merchant banking, advisory, and capital markets services to clients.

Commenting on the development, the Ag. Managing Director/CEO, Afolabi Olorode, stated:

"This name change

represents a pivotal milestone in the rich history of the Bank and a deliberate strategic repositioning that reflects our resilience, strong track record, and long-term growth ambitions. While our name has evolved, our commitment to our clients, stakeholders, and regulators remains unwavering."

As part of the transition, the Bank is updating its branding, communications, and digital platforms to reflect the new name. During this period, some legacy references may remain visible across select touchpoints as updates are progressively completed.

"All existing contracts, client relationships, and obligations of the Bank remain valid, binding, and fully enforceable following the name change", the management said.

FAAC shares N1.9trn to FG, States, LGs

By Emma Ujah, Abuja
Bureau Chief

The Federal Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC) has shared a total of N1.969 trillion among the Federal Government, states and local government councils from federation revenue that accrued in December 2025.

This was disclosed in a communiqué issued by FAAC at the end of its monthly meeting on Monday.

According to the communiqué, the total distributable revenue comprised N1.084 trillion in statutory revenue, N846.507 billion from Value Added Tax (VAT), and N38.110 billion from the Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL).

FAAC noted that a total gross revenue of N2.585 trillion was available in December 2025. From this amount, N104.697 billion

was deducted as cost of collection, while N511.585 billion was set aside for transfers, refunds and savings.

The communiqué further stated that gross statutory revenue for December 2025 stood at N1.631 trillion, representing a decline of N105.202 billion compared to the N1.736 trillion recorded in November 2025.

In contrast, gross VAT revenue rose significantly to N913.957 billion in December 2025, up by N350.915 billion from the N563.042 billion recorded in November 2025.

From the N1.969 trillion total distributable revenue, the Federal Government received N653.500 billion, while state governments received N706.469 billion. The local government councils received N513.272 billion, and N96.083 billion, representing 13 per cent of mineral revenue, was shared among the benefiting states as derivation revenue.

Nigerian content policy not targeted at foreign oil companies —FG

By Obas Esiedesa,
Abuja

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, has clarified that the Nigeria's local content policy was not designed to restrict scope of operation of foreign oil companies in the country's oil and gas sector.

Lokpobiri spoke at the pre-conference opening of the 2026 Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES) in Abuja, themed "Energy for Peace and Prosperity: Securing Our Shared Future."

He said Nigeria's petroleum industry is large enough to accommodate both indigenous and international firms, noting that the focus of government policy is to strengthen local capacity and ensure indigenous companies can compete effectively with foreign Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) firms.

According to the minister, the Nigerian Content Act has provided financing support to indigenous companies to boost their competitiveness, but its implementation has not always delivered the intended outcomes.

"When I assumed office as Minister, one of the first major issues I encountered concerned the implementation of local content. As someone with an EPC background, I was repeatedly confronted with questions about why project costs in Nigeria were higher than in other countries, even when those projects were executed locally" he said.

He described the situation as unacceptable, adding: "A country should not have higher project costs than foreign jurisdictions. Upon careful review, we discovered that the challenge stemmed largely from the misapplication of the local content policy."

Lokpobiri explained that while indigenous firms currently lack the capacity to independently execute complex offshore EPC projects, collaboration not exclusion remains the solution.

"Nigeria is large enough for both EPC companies and indigenous firms to

collaborate. Offshore EPC projects still largely fall within the expertise of international companies, and this has sometimes created monopolistic conditions that limit competition in pricing," he said.

To address this, he disclosed that the Governing Council on Local

Content has convened stakeholders across the industry to develop practical solutions through engagements held alongside major industry events in Abuja.

"These engagements focused on making project costs globally competitive by encouraging cooperation among EPC companies,

petroleum operators and strong indigenous firms," Lokpobiri said, adding that offshore operations offer vast opportunities for both local and foreign players.

He also admitted that past implementation of local content policies often favoured intermediaries rather than genuine capacity development.

Nigeria's 2026 outlook brightens, but oil, FX and policy shocks still pose risks —PwC

By Peter Egwuatu

Nigeria's economic outlook for 2026 shows encouraging signs of stability and renewed business confidence, but experts at PricewaterhouseCooper, PwC, warned that the gains remain fragile and highly exposed to oil market volatility, foreign exchange pressures and policy-induced shocks.

This was the consensus at the PwC and Businessday Executive Roundtable, on Nigeria's 2026 Budget and Economic Outlook, held in Lagos, where optimism was tempered by caution over unresolved structural and geopolitical risks.

In his opening remarks at the roundtable themed "Nigeria's Economic Outlook 2026: The Executive Playbook for Growth, Resilience, and Efficiency", Sam Ado, Regional Senior Partner, PwC West Africa, said global and Nigerian CEOs are now operating with what he described as "two lenses." One lens, a microscope, focuses on immediate threats such as geopolitics, cyber risks and global instability, while the second, a telescope, looks at long-term opportunities driven by technology, artificial intelligence and innovation.

Applying this framework to Nigeria, Ado highlighted notable macroeconomic improvements.

Inflation, he said, has eased to 14.45 per cent, down from levels that previously classified Nigeria as a high-inflation environment.

He noted that the local currency, Naira, has strengthened to around N1,436/\$, while foreign

exchange reserves have climbed above \$45 billion, offering some buffer against external shocks.

He stated further: "These outcomes reflect disciplined monetary policy and a degree of stability many once thought impossible."

However, he cautioned that stability should not be mistaken for success.

He stated: "Stability is not victory. It is only a platform on which sustainable growth must be built."

"PwC's 29th Global CEO Survey (Nigeria perspective) reflects this renewed confidence, with 90 per cent of Nigerian CEOs expecting economic improvement in 2026, up from 64 per cent last year. About 56 per cent are very confident about revenue growth, significantly higher than the global average."

Ado stressed that risks persist, particularly on the fiscal front, adding: "Despite modest revenue gains, debt servicing is projected to consume about 45 per cent of federal revenue, while the fiscal deficit remains high at approximately N24 trillion."

He identified four priorities for Nigerian businesses in 2026: strategic reinvention; technology, data and AI; cybersecurity and trust; and sustainability and peace.

On the broader development context, Frank Aigbogun, Publisher of BusinessDay, highlighted the role of business leadership in supporting long-term development. He noted that Nigeria can fund only a fraction of the infrastructure required for growth, and emphasised that strengthening tax compliance and constructive civic

engagement is essential.

While providing a macro risk assessment, Olusegun Zaccheaus, Partner, Chief Economist and Strategy Head, West African Market at PwC, warned that security challenges remain a major downside risk and are unlikely to be resolved in 2026, especially as the year precedes national elections. He noted that Nigeria continues to face transnational threats that extend beyond domestic control."

On monetary policy, Zaccheaus expressed cautious optimism, saying relative stability is expected to continue into 2026.

"However, interest rates are unlikely to fall sharply despite easing inflation, as authorities remain concerned about liquidity pressures typically associated with election cycles."

"While investment sentiment is improving, he cautioned that consumer recovery will lag overall economic growth, as the benefits of stability take time to translate into jobs and household income. Sectoral performance will also remain uneven, with services and oil and gas expected to outperform manufacturing and import-dependent sectors" he said.

Zaccheaus further warned that Nigeria's outlook remains vulnerable to oil production shocks, FX disruptions and geopolitical trade tensions, particularly in an increasingly fragmented global economy. Any major disruption to oil output or prices, he said, could undermine budget assumptions and FX availability.

Pension

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Why pensioners struggle after retirement —Kemte-Giadom

Stories by Victor Ahiuma-Young

FOR many public servants, retirement is far from the peaceful reward they imagine. While leaving office ends daily reports, meetings, and formal responsibilities, it also triggers a complex psychological transition that can be surprisingly difficult to navigate.

According to Certified Professional Workshop Facilitator, CPWF, and Executive Director of The EduCapital Learning Centre Ltd, Nanneh Kemte-Giadom, the challenges go beyond financial planning. Speaking at the 2026 Pre-Retirement Enlightenment Seminar for police officers in the South West region, she noted that, "Retirement is not just an administrative exit; it is a profound emotional and identity shift."

She explained, "The loss of structure, routine, and authority that comes with leaving public service often leaves retirees feeling invisible or undervalued. Many retirees are defined by their rank, title, or office during their careers. Once these markers disappear, some struggle to recognize their own relevance. Yet, experts stress that value does not vanish with a title.

"Wisdom, experience, and insight remain even after formal service ends. Financial stability is essential, but it alone does not guarantee a fulfilling retirement. Social connections, purpose, and health play equally important roles in ensuring a smooth transition. Retirees who find new ways to contribute—through part-time advisory roles, community engagement, mentoring, or structured volunteering—report higher satisfaction and emotional wellbeing."

Kemte-Giadom highlighted global examples, saying, "In Japan and South Korea, retirees are encouraged to remain engaged in light duties and community work, which helps maintain routine and social connection. In Europe, phased retirements and civic engagement are common, smoothing the emotional shift. In the United States, retirees often embrace consult-

FG injects N90bn into Police Pensions

THE Federal Government has injected over N90 billion into police pensions, marking a major boost to retirement welfare and easing years of hardship associated with delayed payment of accrued pension rights for retired police officers.

Head Business Development and Marketing, NPF Pensions, Chukwuma Ohaka, informed that the intervention follows significant progress in the settlement of accrued pension rights, which are benefits earned by police personnel for services rendered before the introduction of the Contributory Pension Scheme, CPS, in 2004.

He said as of December 2025, the Federal Government released N90.85 billion for the payment of accrued pension rights to police retirees. Out of this amount, N86.25 billion has already been disbursed to 27,537 re-

ing, coaching, or entrepreneurial ventures, turning work into a choice-driven, purpose-led activity rather than an obligation. However, pitfalls remain.

"Many retirees face pressure from former colleagues, community expectations, or overconfidence in decision-making, which can lead to financial missteps. Psychological traps—such as dwelling on past achievements, bitterness toward the system, or waiting for validation—can further complicate the transition."

She advised approaching retirement as a phase of reas-

Hope for retiring officers as NPF pensions pushes 80% pay benchmark

Retiring police officers may soon enjoy improved welfare as the Nigeria Police Force, NPF, Pensions Limited moves to peg police pensions at a minimum of 80 per cent of retirees' last monthly salaries, offering renewed hope for a more dignified life after service.

This is as NPF Pensions Limited unfolded strategic roadmaps aimed at ensuring a smooth and fulfilling retirement life for police personnel, as part of activities at the 2026 Pre-Retirement Seminar held in Lagos. The Acting Managing Director of NPF Pensions Limited, Mr. Abdulkareem Gezawa, disclosed this at the 2026 Pre-Retirement Enlightenment Seminar for police officers in South West.

The seminar is part of a nationwide programme scheduled to be held across the six geopolitical zones, with the next session slated for Kano in February 2026 for the North-West zone.

Gezawa explained that although the proposal is yet to receive final approval, it is being actively pursued by police authorities to address long-standing challenges associated with police pensions.

He reaffirmed the organisation's commitment to the prompt and seamless payment of retirement benefits to officers exiting active service.

Highlighting NPF Pensions' performance since inception,

tired police officers, substantially reducing outstanding pension liabilities and improving timely access to retirement benefits.

The improved funding has also enabled the implementation of targeted interventions aimed at enhancing monthly pension payments for police retirees. These measures have helped to improve pension adequacy, reduce post-retirement financial pressure, and calm pension-related agitation, while reinforcing the government's commitment to ensuring that police officers retire with dignity and financial security.

Ohaka noted that the renewed focus on police pensions reflects a broader reform effort to address historical delays in pension payments, which previously resulted in late release of lump sums and delayed commencement of monthly pensions for retirees.

signment rather than withdrawal, explaining, "Creating a personal structure, focusing on meaningful contributions, and protecting health and wellbeing are key strategies for success. You served institutions; now you steward people. You followed systems; now you design meaning. Retirement is your opportunity to answer to yourself.

"Ultimately, retirement success is intentional. Those who prepare psychologically, redefine their purpose, and embrace new avenues for engagement are more likely to thrive in this next chapter of life."

Gezawa revealed that the organisation has paid retirement benefits to 30,370 retirees, amounting to ₦97.5 billion. He added that ₦39.57 billion has been disbursed as death benefits to 8,847 next-of-kin, while 25,572 retirees currently receive monthly pensions totaling over ₦1.56 billion.

The Acting Managing Director stressed that delays in benefit payments are often caused by incomplete or late submission of documentation, noting that some pension funds remain unclaimed for this reason.

He urged prospective retirees to take full advantage of the seminar and adhere strictly to documentation requirements to ensure timely access to their entitlements.

The Acting MD added that "The programme is aimed at ensuring the prompt payment of retirement benefits to police personnel and is designed to be held across the nation, covering all six geopolitical zones.

"The current session is specifically for officers retiring in the South-West, with plans already in place to extend the initiative nationwide."

Seamless retirement life Speaking at the event, the Commissioner of Police, Pensions, Force Headquarters, Abuja, DCP Yusuf Doki, said the seminar was designed to prepare officers approaching retirement for the emotional, psychological, health, and financial realities of life after active service.

Doki, who welcomed participants to the seminar organized by NPF Pensions Limited for officers in the South-West region, described retirement planning as one of the most critical challenges faced by employees during their working lives. According to him, inadequate preparation for retirement often leads to anxiety and financial hardship, particularly as retirement usually occurs at an advanced age when health concerns become more pronounced.

"Retirement is not just the end of active service; it is the beginning of another phase of life that requires deliberate planning," he said.

He explained that in line with the provisions guiding service in the Nigeria Police Force, officers are expected to retire upon attaining 60 years of age or after completing 35 years of service, whichever comes first, after which they become eligible for pension and gratuity.

Energy



By Udem Akpan, Energy Editor

NIGERIA imported 61.26 per cent of its diesel requirements in 2025. Despite existing domestic capacity, the country imported an average of 10.3 million litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), also known as diesel, daily from the international market during the year.

This occurred even as the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) disclosed that exports of refined petroleum products to West African nations, including Nigeria, have dropped in recent months.

The importation accounted for 61.26 per cent of the nation's average daily supply of 16.8 million litres during the period, while local refineries—including the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, Walter-smith, Edo Refinery, Aradel, and the Port Harcourt Refinery (before its closure)—supplied 6.5 million litres, representing about 38 per cent of total supply.

According to data obtained from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), the highest diesel importation of 16.7 million litres per day was recorded in March 2025, while the lowest volume of 5.7 million litres per day was recorded in September 2025.

The data further indicated that local refineries supplied a peak of 8.2 million litres daily in June 2025, while the lowest supply of 3.8 million litres daily was recorded in May 2025.

Additional data disclosed that a total of 21.3 million litres of diesel—from both local refineries and imports—was supplied to the domestic

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market in October 2025, while the least volume of 12.2 million litres was supplied in September 2025.

The trend showed an increased dependence on imported diesel, as the NMDPRA revealed that Nigeria imported approximately 1.153 billion litres of diesel between October 2024 and January 2025, with an average daily import of about 8.6 million litres in January 2025.

Checks by Vanguard indicated that the massive importation of diesel, as well as the need to conserve the nation's foreign exchange, informed the recent decision of the Federal Government to impose a 15 per cent import duty on diesel and Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), also known as petrol.

However, on a month-on-month (MoM) basis, the nation's average total diesel supply declined to 17.8 million litres in December 2025 from 20 million litres in November 2025.

Of the 17.8 million litres supplied in December 2025, local refineries accounted for seven million litres, while imported diesel stood at 10.8 million litres.

There were, however, indications that the continued operations of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery would culminate in a reduction in Nigeria's dependence on imported petroleum products, including diesel.

In a recent interview with the media in Lagos, David Bird, Chief Executive Officer of the

Petroleum and Petrochemicals Division of Dangote Group, said:

"If you look at what's happening in the global geopolitical space, you can imagine Nigeria without any refining capacity. It could not have been good for the nation. The Dangote Petroleum Refinery is a good thing for the country.

"For us, the future is very good because the country's ability to refine crude is crucial. I'm looking at crude prices not going between \$50 and \$52 per barrel. You can imagine what that would mean to Nigeria. You can imagine what that would imply if we don't have the refining capacity. I can tell you our refining capacity will get better."

Meanwhile, OPEC stated in its January 2026 Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) that exports of refined products from Europe to West Africa have declined, stressing that:

"The global oil demand growth forecast for 2026 remains at 1.4 million barrels per day (mb/d), year-on-year (y-o-y), unchanged from last month's assessment. The OECD is forecast to grow by 0.15 mb/d, while the non-OECD is forecast to grow by around 1.2 mb/d.

"In 2027, global oil demand is forecast to grow by about 1.3 mb/d, y-o-y. The OECD is forecast to grow by 0.1 mb/d, while the non-OECD is forecast to grow by around 1.2 mb/d, y-o-y."

Budget 2026: Nigeria meets \$64 per barrel benchmark as OPEC forecasts strong demand

By Udem Akpan

FOR the first time in 2026, Nigeria's Bonny Light was sold yesterday at \$65.40 per barrel, exceeding the country's budget benchmark of \$64.85 per barrel by 55 cents. Nigeria's 2026 budget is based on an oil price of \$64.85 per barrel, production of 1.84 million barrels per day (bpd), and an exchange rate of ₦1,400/\$.

Crude oil prices had remained relatively low at about \$60 per barrel towards the end of 2025, amid heightened global instability, threatening the funding of Nigeria's budget. However, with easing market conditions—previously pressured by oversupply—the International Energy Agency (IEA) has projected an expansion in global oil demand in 2026.

Similarly, in its January 2026 Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR), the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) projected robust global oil demand growth. It stated: "The global oil demand growth forecast for 2026 remains at 1.4 million barrels per day (mb/d) year-on-year, unchanged from last month's assessment. OECD demand is forecast to grow by 0.15 mb/d, while non-OECD demand is expected to rise by around 1.2 mb/d.

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Providing insights into global oil supply, OPEC stated: "Non-DoC liquids production—output from countries not participating in the Declaration of Cooperation—is projected to increase by about 0.6 mb/d in 2026, unchanged from the previous assessment. Brazil, Canada, the United States and Argentina are expected to drive this growth.

"In 2027, non-DoC liquids production is also forecast to grow by 0.6 mb/d, mainly driven by Brazil, Canada, Qatar and Argentina. Natural gas liquids (NGLs) and non-conventional liquids from DoC-participating countries are expected to grow by 0.1 mb/d in 2026 to average 8.8 mb/d, followed by a similar increase to about 8.9 mb/d in 2027."

Reacting in an interview with Vanguard yesterday, an energy expert, Dr. Wisdom Patrick Enang, noted that global oil prices in 2025 were pressured by subdued demand growth, particularly from major consuming economies, as tight monetary policies, elevated interest rates and weaker industrial activity weighed on consumption.

"The oil market in 2025 was characterised by cautious demand, not scarcity. Global economic uncertainty and slower growth kept prices below optimistic budget assumptions for oil-dependent

economies like Nigeria," he said.

Dr. Enang added that while OPEC+ production management helped prevent a sharp price collapse, it was insufficient to sustain prices at levels assumed in Nigeria's budget framework.

He noted that the combined effect of lower-than-budgeted production and weaker oil prices resulted in significant revenue underperformance, widened fiscal deficits and increased the government's reliance on borrowing to fund expenditure.

"Oil revenue shortfalls directly constrained budget execution, intensified debt-servicing pressures and weakened foreign exchange inflows, complicating efforts to further strengthen the naira," he said.

However, checks by Energy Vanguard indicated that Nigeria may continue to experience shortfalls in crude oil output in 2026.

According to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), on a month-on-month basis, the country's output declined slightly from 1.599 million bpd in November 2025 to 1.544 million bpd in December 2025.

This meant Nigeria failed to meet its 1.5 million bpd OPEC quota, as 122,385 bpd of the reported output was condensate, which is excluded from OPEC quota calculations.



Why pensioners struggle after retirement —Kemte-Giadom

FOR many public servants, retirement is far from the peaceful reward they imagine. While leaving office ends daily reports, meetings, and formal responsibilities, it also triggers a complex psychological transition that can be surprisingly difficult to navigate.

According to Certified Professional Workshop Facilitator, CPWF, and Executive Director of The EduCapital Learning Centre Ltd, Nanneh Kemte-Giadom, the challenges go beyond financial planning. Speaking at the 2026 Pre-Retirement Enlightenment Seminar for police officers in the South West region, she noted that, "Retirement is not just an administrative exit; it is a profound emotional and identity shift."

She explained, "The loss of structure, routine, and authority that comes with leaving public service often leaves retirees feeling invisible or undervalued. Many retirees are defined by their rank, title, or office during their careers. Once these markers disappear, some struggle to recognize their own relevance. Yet, experts stress that value does not vanish with a title."

"Wisdom, experience, and insight remain even after formal service ends. Financial stability is essential, but it alone does not guarantee a fulfilling retirement. Social connections, purpose, and health play equally important roles in ensuring a smooth transition. Retirees who find new ways to contribute—through part-time advisory roles, community engagement, mentoring, or structured volunteering—report higher satisfaction and emotional wellbeing."

Kemte-Giadom highlighted global examples, saying, "In Japan and South Korea, retirees are encouraged to remain engaged in light duties and community work, which helps maintain routine and social connection. In Europe, phased retirements and civic engagement are common, smoothing the emotional shift. In the United States, retirees often embrace consulting, coaching, or entrepreneurial ventures, turning work

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ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS

National Secretariat (Buhari House) 40 Blantyre Street, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria

ADJUSTED APC 2026 SCHEDULE OF NATIONWIDE CONGRESSES, NATIONAL CONVENTION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 11:A sub-section (i-xiii), and Article 17(i) of our Party's Constitution, under-listed is the proposed timetable and schedule of activities for the conduct of Congresses across Wards, Local Government Areas (LGAs) and States of the Federation to elect Party Officials.

Details are as follows:

WARD/LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (L.G.A) CONGRESSES

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DATE
1.	Commencement and completion of Membership E-Registration	Saturday 31 st January 2026 – Sunday 8 th February, 2026
2.	Notice of Congresses to the State and FCT Chapters	Monday 2 nd February, 2026
3.	Purchase and Submission of Forms for Ward and LGA Congresses	Wednesday 4 th – Monday 9 th February, 2026
4.	Inauguration of Ward/LGA Congresses Screening /Screening Appeals Committee	Tuesday 10 th February, 2026
5.	Screening of Aspirants for the Ward and LGA Party positions	Wednesday 11 th – Thursday 12 th February, 2026
6.	Appeals Arising from Screening Exercise	Friday 13 th February, 2026
7.	Inauguration of Ward/LGA Congresses /Congress Appeal Committees	Saturday 14 th February, 2026
8.	Ward Congresses	Wednesday 18 th February, 2026
9.	Appeals Arising from Ward Congresses	Thursday 19 th February, 2026
10.	L.G.A Congresses (including election of 3 members from whom shall be female to the National Convention)	Saturday 21 st February, 2026
11.	Appeals Arising from LGA Congresses	Monday 23 rd February, 2026

STATE / ZONAL CONGRESSES/ NATIONAL CONVENTION

S/N	ACTIVITIES	DATE
1.	Purchase of Forms for State Exco	Sunday 22 nd – Wednesday 25 th February, 2026
2.	Inauguration of Screening /Screening Appeal Committees for State Exco	Thursday 26 th February, 2026
3.	Screening of Aspirants for State Exco	Friday 27 th – Saturday 28 th February, 2026
4.	Appeals Arising from Screening for State Exco	Sunday 1 st – Monday 2 nd March, 2026
5.	State Congresses	Tuesday 3 rd March, 2026
6.	Appeals Arising from State Congresses	Wednesday 4 th March, 2026
7.	Purchase and Submission of Forms for Zonal Congress and National Convention	Thursday 12 th – Monday 16 th March, 2026
8.	Inauguration of: i)Zonal Congress Screening /Screening Appeals Committees ii)Zonal Congress and Zonal Congress Appeal Committees iii)National Convention Screening /Screening Appeals Committees iv)National Convention Central Committee	Monday 23 rd March, 2026
9.	Screening of Aspirants for Zonal Congress and National Convention	Tuesday 24 th March, 2026
10.	Appeals Arising from Screening thereto	Tuesday 24 th March, 2026
11.	Zonal Congresses in the six-geopolitical zones; Zonal Offices South West: Ibadan South East: Enugu South South: Rivers/Cross River North West: Kaduna North East: Gombe/Bauchi North Central: Nasarawa	Wednesday 25 th March, 2026
12.	Appeals arising from Zonal Congresses	Thursday 26 th March, 2026
13.	National Convention	Friday 27 th – Saturday 28 th March, 2026



PURCHASE OF FORM

WARDS:

Expression of Interest for all Ward Party Positions	₦5,000.00
i. Ward Chairman (<i>Nomination Form</i>)	₦20,000.00
ii. Ward Secretary and Treasurer	₦15,000.00
iii. Ward Vice Chairmen and Other Offices	₦15,000.00

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS:

Expression of Interest for all L.G.A Party Positions	₦10,000.00
i. Local Government Chairman (<i>Nomination Form</i>)	₦100,000.00
ii. Local Government Vice Chairman	₦50,000.00
iii. L.G.A Secretary	₦50,000.00
iv. L.G.A Treasurer	₦50,000.00
v. Other Offices	₦50,000.00

STATES:

Expression of Interest for all State Party Positions	₦50,000.00
i. State Chairman	₦1,000,000.00
ii. State Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer	₦500,000.00
ii. Other Offices	₦500,000.00

ZONAL:

Expression of Interest for all Zonal Offices	₦100,000.00
i. Zonal Officers	₦200,000.00

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Expression of Interest for all National Party Positions	₦100,000.00
i. National Chairman	₦10,000,000.00
ii. Dep. National Chairmen (N&S), National Secretary	₦7,500,000.00
iii. Other Offices	₦5,000,000.00
v. NEC Members	₦250,000.00

Female Aspirants, Youth and Physically Challenged Aspirants are to pay for the Expression of Interest and 50% of the prescribed Nomination fees for each position.

For National Working Committee (NWC), existing zoning of Offices in States across geo-political zones subsists

State Senatorial ExcOs congresses shall hold concurrently with State Congress

NOTE: Ekiti State, Osun State, Rivers State and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are excluded from the Wards, Local Governments and State Congresses. They will however participate in the election of three delegates to the National Convention.

NOTE: Filing of the Forms shall be online. Access to both the Expression of Interest and Nomination Forms shall be granted upon verification of payment and validation by the National Secretariat.

All Payments should be made in full directly into the designated bank accounts of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as follows;

S/N	NAME OF BANK	ACCOUNT NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER
1.	Zenith Bank	All Progressives Congress	1223069612
2.	United Bank of Africa	All Progressives Congress	1025098328

SIGNED:
His Excellency, Sulaiman Muhammad Argungu, OFR
National Organizing Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOD'S SABBATH MISSION

THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION OF GOD'S SABBATH MISSION

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF GOD'S SABBATH MISSION HELD ON 23RD APRIL 2024.

(Note: that the highlighted parts of this constitution are the amended rules of the God's Sabbath Mission)

AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF GOD'S SABBATH MISSION HELD AT THE TEMPLE HEADQUARTERS IHE ACHI OJI RIVER LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF ENUGU STATE, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS

THAT MEMBERS OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES SHOULD BE RECONSTITUTED

- (a) The new trustees are as follows:
 1. REV. DR. HYDE ONUAGULUCHI - FOUNDER/CHIEF RABBI AND SPIRITUAL GUIDE - MEMBER
 2. REV. BARR. AMMISHADDAI ONUAGULUCHI - MEMBER
 3. ELDER OKWUDIRI OKORIE - MEMBER
 4. ELDER LIGHT IKEH - MEMBER

(b) That the founding constitution of God's Sabbath Mission be amended to reflect current realities as attached herewith.

Any objection to the above resolutions shall be forwarded to reach the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated 23rd day of April 2024.

Signed: 
 Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi
 Chairman

Signed: 
 Elder Benedict Chukwuka
 Administrative Secretary

1. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- (a) To foster brotherly and cordial relationship among member Christian of the God's Sabbath Mission, Nigeria and all mankind irrespective of tribe, sex, state, profession, human boundary or otherwise.
 - (b) To preach, publish and practice the Gospel and teachings of Jesus Christ which are founded on the ten commandments of the King James Version of the Holy Bible; and includes the covenant of the 7th Day Sabbath day rest observance and the Holy Convocations.
 - (c) To establish centres for regular congregations on the 7th Day Sabbaths and other Holy Days as specified in the Holy Bible; which centres shall also serve as centres for healing and training of volunteer Evangelists, Pastors and Charity Workers.
 - (d) To establish vocational institutions, orphanages, medical clinics, charity and maternity Homes with the necessary approval from relevant Authorities.
 - (e) To vigorously pursue charity and humanitarian works, especially toward assisting indigent charity workers, pastors and their children and also observing members of the public to have access to both basic and tertiary education.
 - (f) To raise funds by means of voluntary donations, contributions and agreed levies.
 - (g) To source for land upon which to open Branches without which it may be impossible to run religious or charity organization; ownership of land shall remain a major essence of this organization and people who bought or donated land/ branches to the church shall be regarded as continuous part owners of the property so donated and ownership shall revert to such donors if the organization dissolves.
2. **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**
- (a) The guiding beacon of God's Sabbath Mission is the Teachings and Practice by Jesus Christ which are founded on the Ten Commandments in the Holy Bible and include the covenant of the 7th Day Sabbath observance and congregations and encompasses other Holy Days of congregation and worship provided for in the Holy Bible: as envisioned, expounded and taught by the FOUNDER Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi.
 - (b) The said Guiding Beacon also envisioned that sexual immorality, murder, stealing, idolatry, among others shall be anathema and abhorrent in the affairs and conduct of God's Sabbath Mission and shall lead to severe sanctions which may include excommunication and/or expulsion.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The membership is open to all men and women of all ages who are interested in learning the teaching of Jesus Christ and founded on the Ten Commandments and the covenant of the 7th Day Sabbath rest observance and Holy convocations.

PROVIDED THAT:

- (a) Any person who wishes to become a member shall apply to each branch or congregation leaders which shall inform the applicant the code of conducts expected from members: without which it shall be impossible for a person to continue their membership.
- (b) If the said leaders approve the membership, the successful applicant shall buy a membership card and ensure regular payment of prescribed subscription and adhere to the code of conduct stated in the Ten Commandments and the Holy Bible.
- (c) If the said leaders reject any applicant for membership, such rejection shall be open to review by the presiding minister or pastor or evangelist in charge of any branch or congregation and their decision shall be final.
- (d) The presiding minister or pastor or evangelist stated above shall continue to monitor the conduct of members and any member found to be falling short of expected conduct shall be asked to leave the congregation and look for another church: and that decision shall be binding.
- (e) Non payment of subscription dues shall be sufficient to ask any member to leave.
- (f) Engaging in inciting or actions likely to lead to breach of peace or violent conduct shall be sufficient to ask a member to leave the branch or congregation.
- (g) And any person expelled or excommunicated or excluded from any branch or congregation shall remain expelled, excommunicated or excluded throughout the organization.

4. GOVERNMENT

- (a) The organization shall be governed by two principal bodies viz:
 - i. Board of Trustees; and
 - ii. The General Conference.

PROVIDED THAT

- i. There shall be the executive arm which shall be under a volunteer Administrative Superintendent and which shall be responsible for executing the policies set out by the Board of Trustee and the General Conference.
- ii. The said volunteer Administrative Superintendent shall work with a minimum team comprising: volunteer Administrative Secretary, a volunteer Administrative Financial Secretary and volunteer Ex officio member.
- iii. There shall be also an ex officio observer to ensure that all expenditure by the Executive Arm are done with lawful approvals: this Ex officio observer shall be the FOUNDER or his nominee.

5. COMPOSITION AS AGREED UPON BEFORE INCORPORATION/REGISTRATION.

- (a) The Board of Trustees shall be styled The Registered Trustees of God Sabbath Mission and shall comprise of the following:
 - i. The Reverend Pastor-Founder and Chairman;
 - ii. A member of the immediate family of the Reverend Pastor and Chairman; and
 - iii. Two other members of the organization nominated by the General Conference of the Church.

- (b) The General Conference: shall comprise all the Trustees and two members elected each time from each of the branches and the Founder shall be the chairman and preside.

6. DUTIES

6.1. THE REGISTERED TRUSTEES

- (a) Shall co-ordinate the day to day affairs of the organization through the Executive Arm which shall have its General Overseer and Chief Executive Officer as the Volunteer Administrative Superintendent.
- (b) Shall take charge of the landed property of the organization and ensure prudent management of its funds by the Executive Arm.
- (c) Shall instruct through the General Secretary when the administrative secretary shall arrange for the meeting of the General Conference.
- (d) Shall ensure that strict discipline is maintained by the Executive Arm through volunteer ministers or pastors in charge of congregations and branched.
- (e) Shall prepare the code of conduct for members as provided in the Ten Commandments and other laws contained in the Kings James Version of the Christian Bible.
- (f) Shall co-ordinate the affairs of the General Conference and monitor the activities of the Executive Arm.
- (g) Shall set an approval limit to the amount of money which the Executive Arm may spend without the consideration and approval by the Board of Trustees.
- (h) The board of trustees shall consider all proposals of expenditure presented by the Executive Arm which are above the Executive Arms spending limit: and either approve or amend as the Board of Trustees shall deem appropriate.

6.2. GENERAL CONFERENCE

- (a) The General Conference shall ratify the proceeding of the Registered Trustees and monitor the activities of the Executive Arm of the organization.
- (b) Hold election for appointment of Trustees or give consent to the appointment of Trustees and the volunteer workers of the Executive Arm.
- (c) Consider any allowances for volunteer officers and workers of the organization.

7. APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

- (a) The Trustees of God's Sabbath Mission shall meanwhile be appointed at the General Conference of the nomination by the FOUNDER and Priest/Chief Rabbi as guided by the Holy Spirit and shall be called and referred to as "Registered trustees of the God's Sabbath Mission".
- (b) If the General Conference rejects any nominated Trustee, the FOUNDER in consultation with the Board of Trustees or the Executive Arm shall send replacement nomination for the consideration of the General Conference.
- (c) In considering the people to be nominated as Trustees a balance shall be maintained so that the founders' family has two and the church has two members.
- (d) Also in considering the two members nominated by the church, regard shall be had to the families that had donated land and church buildings to the church as no church may exist without land and church buildings.

PROVIDED THAT:

- (a) Other members who have also contributed to the growth of the organization may also be considered in due course.
 - (b) No Trainee Pastor, Pastor, Evangelist, Superintendent or Administrative Superintendent shall be qualified to be nominated or appointed as a Trustee of the organization, UNLESS they are children or offspring's of the FOUNDER or the Chief Rabbi; or they are nominated by the Chief Rabbi for a specified period only which shall not exceed FIVE YEARS.
 - (c) No former or current or future Trainee Pastor or Pastor or Evangelist or Superintendent or Administrative Superintendent: or former or current or future member of the Executive Arm shall be qualified to be appointed as the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi of the organization UNLESS the person is also an offspring of the FOUNDERING Chief Priest Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi.
8. **DURATION OF OFFICE**
- (a) The Trustees may hold office for life, unless
 - i. Removed by the General Conference for incompetence or lack of interest or in the interest of the organization.
 - ii. He resigns as a pastor or member of the organization;
 - iii. He disavows the observance of the 7th Day Sabbath or the Ten Commandments contained in the Holy Bible;
 - iv. He ceases to be regular in his attendance for Holy convocations;
 - v. Becomes insane;
 - vi. Is officially declared Bankrupt;
 - vii. Is convicted of a criminal offence by a court of competent jurisdiction as provided for in the Nigerian constitution;
 - viii. Ceases to reside in Nigeria; and
 - ix. Is recommended for removal from office by the Board of Trustees and majority vote of members present at the General Conference.

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT:

- (a) Two members shall come from the FOUNDER'S family and two members shall come from the church.
- (b) The FOUNDER shall have one vote but shall be entitled to cast vote in the event of a tie.
- (c) In general, for the purpose of signing any document for the organization, all trustees shall sign the said document, if they are all available.
- (d) AND it shall also be lawful if only two trustees sign on behalf of all the trustees, so long as one of the said two shall come from the Founder's Family and one from the church.
- (e) FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBT, Trustees hold office for life but in the interest of FAIRNESS, the Trustees nominated by the General Church and representing them shall be presented before the General Conference to decide whether the life time tenure ought to continue or some changes are needed and the General Conference shall have the power to effect the changes which may be needed.

9. FILLING OF VACANCIES

Upon a vacancy occurring in the Board of Trustees, a meeting of the General Conference shall be held to fill the vacancy whenever the membership of the Registered Trustees is less than two in number.

10. AUDITORS

At least two persons shall be appointed yearly at the General Conference to audit the accounts, make recommendation and report to the General Conference.

11. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

11.1. THE FOUNDER

- (a) Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi the FOUNDER of the organization shall be the Chairman of Board of Trustee for life and his nominee or offspring shall succeed him when he is no longer available.
- (b) He or his successor shall continue to be the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi and Spiritual guide of the organization.
- (c) He or his nominee shall continue to monitor the Executive Arm to ensure prudent employment of Resources.
- (d) He or his successor shall minister, preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ as founded on the Ten Commandments, law and statutes, including the observance of the 7th Day covenant of congregation on every Holy Day.
- (e) He or his successors shall preside at all meetings of the General Conference.

11.2. CHIEF PRIEST OR CHIEF RABBI

- (a) The founder as the foundation Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall continue as Chief Rabbi for life and succession in line with the dictates of the Holy Bible and God's Sabbath Mission constitution shall be his offspring or nominee.
- (b) He shall not be the General Overseer/Chief Executive Officer. He shall concentrate his efforts towards the development of spiritual and worship affairs of the organization which is CHARITY WORKS.
- (c) For avoidance of doubt the General Overseer and the Chief Executive Officer of the organization shall be the Administrative Superintendent.
- (d) Administrative Superintendent, Superintendent, Pastors, Evangelists, divine workers and charity workers shall not be qualified to become Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi UNLESS they are the offspring of the FOUNDERING Chief Rabbi or Chief Priest Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi as was in the Bible with Aaron and his offspring and all the other LEVITES.

11.3. FUNCTIONS OF THE CHIEF PRIEST OF CHIEF RABBI

- (a) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall proclaim the FEASTS, Times and Seasons of the God's Sabbath Mission.
- (b) He shall be the Chairman of Board of Trustees and preside over the General Conferences.
- (c) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall be in charge of all weddings and Baptism in God's Sabbath Mission and shall have power to delegate such functions as he deems appropriate.
- (d) The Chief Priest/Chief Rabbi shall be in charge of all charity works of the organization and direct on how the Executive Arm shall distribute help and charity to members in need, pastors children and the general public.
- (e) He shall be in charge of admitting trainee pastors, their training and ordination and promotion as necessary.
- (f) He and his successors shall have power to withdraw the ordination of any volunteer Pastor, Evangelist or Superintendent in God's Sabbath Mission.
- (g) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall be in charge of dedicating children to God and may delegate such function to any other ordained minister as he deems fit.
- (h) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall be the principal signatory to both the organization's bank accounts and all documents relating to:
 - i. Banking, donations, tithes, voluntary offering and agreed levies;
 - ii. Land or interest in land belonging or donated to God's Sabbath Mission for religious purpose or charity works; and
 - iii. Any agreement on establishment or recognition of branches.
- (i) He shall be in charge of all spiritual healing activities and shall have power to delegate such function as he deems fit.
- (j) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi at the preliminary stages of the growth of the church shall receive no salary, until such a time the Board of Trustees believes the organization is in a position to provide him with salary.

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT:

- i. The organization shall provide him with serviceable vehicle for his visit to branches and also;
- ii. Provide him with volunteer personal assistants;
- iii. Provide him with security assistants and drivers;
- iv. Maintain his residence where he lives or provide and maintain living accommodation for him;
- v. Provide him with electricity and water;
- vi. Pay for his hospital and health bills; and
- vii. Provide food and refreshments at his residence.

11.4. APPOINTMENT/SUCCESSION

- (a) The foundation Chief Priest/Chief Rabbi is male and shall continue in office for life.
- (b) The succession of the Chief Priest/Chief Rabbi shall be from Father to Son or he shall have power to appoint a successor in his life time or his First Son shall with the inspiration of God, appoint a successor from the Founders offspring.

11.5. TENURE

The Chief Priest/ Chief Rabbi shall hold office for life and may appoint someone to deputize for him in his absence.

11.6. GENERAL SECRETARY

- (a) Shall ensure that the Executive Arm function well with occasional checks.
- (b) Takes down minutes during meeting of the Board of Trustees, or delegate someone to take down the minutes.
- (c) On the instruction of the Board of Trustees, ensures that the Administrative Secretary convenes the meeting of General Conference.

11.7. THE TREASURER

- (a) Ensures the administrative secretary keeps all imprest accounts properly.
- (b) Ensures the Admin. Financial Secretary maintains simple books of account showing inflows and expenditure.
- (c) Ensures that Admin. Financial Secretary prepares yearly simple balance sheet of the affairs of the organization.
- (d) Shall open for inspection the books of account for the Trustees.

12. MEETINGS

- (a) Meeting shall be fixed at the discretion of the chairman of Board of Trustees as follows:
 - (a) Board meetings: twice every year but not less than once in a year.
 - (b) General conference: once every year.
 - (c) Emergency meetings or extraordinary conference shall be held whenever the need arises.
 - (d) Holy convocations shall be mandatory for all members every Saturdays and other days stated clearly in the holy bible.

13. LAND OWNERSHIP

- (a) It is mandatory that every church shall show proof of land ownership before applying for registration.
- (b) The organization has a pre-registration and incorporation understanding that people who would donate land or building to the organization shall be entitled to reclaim their land and building in the event of dissolution of the organization or if the aims and objectives of the organization which include the observance of the 7th Day Sabbath covenant and all other Holy Days specified in the Holy Bible are changed or no longer being observed.

14. COMMON SEAL

- (a) The Trustees shall have a common seal bearing the inscription of the organization.
- (b) The common seal shall be kept by the Administrative Secretary or any other officer approved by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) All documents requiring execution by the Trustees, shall be signed by them all and sealed by the common seal.

PROVIDED THAT:

- (a) In the absence of all the Trustees, it shall be lawful if any such document is signed by two Trustees on behalf of the Board of Trustees, so long as one of the signatories is a member of the FOUNDER'S immediate family who is a member of the Board Of Trustees
- (b) The Trustees shall have power to hold in trust all lands belonging or donated to God's Sabbath Mission subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose.

15. BAPTISM

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi to baptize all new believers to the Teachings and Practice of Jesus Christ.

- (b) The Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall have power to delegate this duty to any ordained Minister, Pastor or Evangelist.
- (c) The organization shall observe any agreed terms and conditions regarding the rites of Baptism.
- (d) Intending applicants shall be required to pay such fee to cover the cost of producing the certificate of Baptism.

16. MARRIAGES: HOLY WEDLOCK

The organization shall apply to the relevant Authorities for license to conduct marriages and wedlocks which shall be covered with marriage certificates and signed by the officiating Minister and at least one witness on either side.

17. QUORUM

The Quorum for the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the General Conference shall be: 1/2 (Half) or 50% of the members for the Board of Trustees; and 1/3 (one third) of Branches for the General Conference.

b) PROVIDED THAT:

One Trustee present is from the founders family.

18. VOTING

If there is any matter or decision requiring settlement, it shall go into polls and shall be decided by majority raise of hands or voice votes.

19. THE EXECUTIVE ARM

- (a) The Executive Arm shall comprise of: (i) the Administrative Superintendent who shall also be the General Overseer and Chief Executive Officer of the organization; (ii) the Administrative Secretary shall be in charge of the Secretariat; (iii) and the Administrative Financial Secretary who shall be in charge of all Treasury Matters of the organization; and (iv) there shall also be one Ex officio member.
- (b) The Executive Arm shall be responsible for executing any project which has been approved by the Board of Trustees and the General Conference.
- (c) The Executive Arm shall ensure that workers receive any approved stipends or allowances which shall be approved for them, without delay.
- (d) The Executive Arm shall ensure the welfare of volunteer workers of the organization.
- (e) They shall also ensure that Pastors, Evangelists, Charity Workers, amongst others and members of the public who were granted education assistance receive their assistance without undue delay.

20. DUTIES

- 20.1. **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPERINTENDENT:** shall be a Volunteer Pastor or Evangelist who shall be appointed by the General Conference at the nomination by the Board of Trustees.
 - i. The Administrative Superintendent shall be the General Overseer and Chief Executive Officer of the organization and shall report to both the Board of Trustees and the General Conference.
 - ii. Administrative Superintendent who shall hold office for 5 years may be removed earlier by a simple majority decision of both the Board of Trustees and the General Conference.
 - iii. Administrative Superintendent who shall be an ordained Pastor or Evangelist ceases to be Administrative superintendent any time his ordination is withdrawn by the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi who ordained him; or by the successors of the said Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi.
 - iv. An Administrative Superintendent shall hold office as Administrative superintendent only once in his life time in the organization.
 - v. The Administrative Superintendent shall co-ordinate and supervise the Administrative frame-work to facilities the works of all Superintendent, Pastors, Evangelists and all divine/charity workers in all the zones, branches and congregations of God's Sabbath Mission.

PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT:

- (a) In the discharge of this function of the Administrative Superintendent shall consult and take the advice or the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi.
- (b) Any decision taken by the Administrative Superintendent regarding the works of any Superintendent or Pastor or Evangelist or divine or charity worker in total disregard to the spiritual counsel given by the Chief Priest or Chief Rabbi shall be null and void and of no effect.

20.2. ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

- (a) Shall be in charge of the organization's secretariat.
- (b) Shall liaise with the Trustees' General Secretary to know when to convene a meeting of General Conference
- (c) Shall ensure that all documents including the ones concerning landed properties are kept safe.
- (d) Shall work in harmony with the Administrative Superintendent to ensure that all records are properly kept.
- (e) Shall ensure that minute books are opened for the management meetings of the Executive Arm, the meetings of Board of Trustees and General Conference.

20.3. ADMINISTRATIVE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

- (a) Shall ensure liaising with the Board of Trustees' Treasurer to keep good accounts books.
- (b) Shall ensure that a simple balance sheet is prepared for the General Conference every year, or as required by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) Shall ensure that all money inflows are accounted for and all payments are duly approved.

21. BRANCHES

- (a) The God's Sabbath Mission shall cause branches to be open, run and maintained all over the Federation and such branches shall take spiritual guidance and directives from Chief Rabbi or his Representative.
- (b) To convince members to donate land and building for opening branches, there was a pre-registration understanding that people who would donate land and building to the organization shall be entitled to reclaim such landed properties if the aims and objectives of the organization cease to be followed religiously, or in the event of winding up or dissolution.
- (c) Without landed property and branches, God's Sabbath Mission might have found it extremely difficult to carry out its religious and charity work objectives. The organization shall remain indebted to people who have helped its efforts to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and perform its humanitarian and charity work objectives.

22. BANKING

- (a) Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi founder, Chief Rabbi and Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall be the only principal signatory to all banking transactions and in his absence his nominee or successor.
- (b) He shall have power to appoint or delegate his power to such other persons from amongst the members or ministers or pastors to be signatories to banking and financial matters.
- (c) No member of the organization shall have powers to enter into any monetary arrangements without his consent or authorization or without the consent of his successor or lawful nominee.
- (d) In the event of default of clause "c" above such negotiation shall not be binding on the organization or its members.

23. TRAINEE PASTORS, EVANGELISTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS

- (a) The organization engages this very important group of God's Sabbath Mission workers from volunteers.
- (b) The Chief Rabbi shall be in charge of deciding who shall be admitted for Training. He shall be in charge of their Training and Ordination.
- (c) He decides who continues as ordained minister or whose ordination shall be withdrawn.

BAYELSA STATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AGENCY

LAND USE ACT (CAP L5) LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE NO.1, 2026

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATE OF STATUTORY RIGHT OF OCCUPANCY HAVE BEEN MADE

S/N	NAME OF APPLICANT	DESCRIPTION OF LAND	HOW AND DATE ACQUIRED	VENDORS	INTENDED USE	DEVELOPED/ UNDEVELOPED
1	GOLDEN BUNCH AND GREENFIELDS FARMS LIMITED OF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD STREET, AGUDAMA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT ENDERE BUSH, AYAMA-IBENI COMMUNITY IN SAGBAMA LGA, MEASURING 46510.578M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO TTP/BYS.109/2025 DATED 04/09/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 01/09/2025	CHIEF ENOCH KENEBAI, HON. FRED KENEBAI, CHIEF KENEBAI SOLOMON AND 4 ORS OF TUYAI FAMILY, ENDERE COMPOUND, ANYAMA-IBENI IN SAGBAMA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED
2	TRENUR NIGERIA LIMITED OF NO. 4 GOODLUCK JONATHAN STREET OFF NIKTON ROAD, KPANSIA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT USHIEN BUSH, AZIKORO-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 18738.264M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO AIG/BYS.165/2025 DATED 26/11/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 27/10/2009	CHIEF NEGHESE BEN OF AZIKORO-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE, MR AUSTIN TELIMOYE KIREEAMA OF BASSAMBIRI IN NEMBE LGA, BAYELSA STATE, AND CHIEF MARTIN OBO-DO OF OSUMENYI TOWN IN NNEWI LGA, ANAMBRA STATE.	INDUSTRIAL	DEVELOPED
3	REDEEMED SOULS CRUSADERS MINISTRY OF GOODLUCK ROAD OFF IMIRINGI ROAD, YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT AZI-LEKE BUSH, BIOGBOLO-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 1369.454M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO FAD/BYS.048/2025 DATED 26/02/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 02/04/2025	MR TEKENATEI OKOBA OF KOKOLOGBENE COMMUNITY IN SOUTHERN-IJAW LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RELIGIOUS	DEVELOPED
4	MR OLOTU DONATUS TARIPEREDOU OF OSIAMA IN SAGBAMA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT ASAM BUSH, KPANSIA II-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 505.009M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO FAA/BYS.261/2025 DATED 21/08/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 23/09/2025	CHIEF HON. DR. JOHNSON ALALIBO SINIKIEM OF AKENFA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	DEVELOPED
5	HON. DR OYINKE GODBLESS NANATUMIEYE-SEIGHA OF ANGALABIRI IN SAGBAMA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE ALONG ISAAC BORO EXPRESSWAY, ASAM BUSH, YENIZUEGENE-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 861.744M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO MT/BYS.043/2020 DATED 19/02/2020	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 05/12/2024	DR ENOKIE KELVIN BRIBENA OF AGBERE IN SAGBAMA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED
6	MR PREZI VICTOR OF EGBEMO-ANGALABIRI IN EKEREMOR LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT EKUNUOGBELI BUSH, AKENFA-II-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 104798.137M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. AAJ/BYS.244/2025 DATED 19/08/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 06/03/2025	MR EYERIKUMO AGAMA OF LOBIA TOWN IN SOUTHERN-IJAW LGA, BAYELSA STATE	RESIDENTIAL	UNDEVELOPED
7	MRS YOLA THANKGOD KEMEZIDE OF OGBO-TOBO IN EKEREMOR LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT ASAM BUSH, KPANSIA II-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 464.888M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. AAJ/BYS.001/2020 DATED 08/01/2020	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 17/06/2020	MR FERDINARD H. OTOBO OF ASUTA'S COMPOUND, KPANSIA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL	UNDEVELOPED
8	MISS STELLA TORUEMI OF IGBEDI IN KOLOKUMA/OPOKUMA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT AZI-BIOGBOLO BUSH, BIOGBOLO-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 446.261M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. ATE/BYS/307/2025 DATED 11/08/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 16/05/2024	BEREDUGO INIYE OF KINGDOM GRACE STREET, OKPOAMA COMMUNITY IN BRASS LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL	UNDEVELOPED
9	MR OBEGHA JULIUS OWORIBO OF DUKURAKU POLO, OKPOAMA IN BRASS LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT EDEPIE-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 1.355 HECTARES ON SURVEY PLAN NO. AB/BYS.111/2007 DATED 15/03/2007	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 20/07/2008	CHIEF OLIZOR ODUM, MR SHADRACK ODUM AND MR DIEBO ODUM REPS THE ODUM FAMILY, AMAWARI COMPOUND, EDEPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL	UNDEVELOPED
10	MRS HAPPY GLADYS CHETACHI OF OTUOGIDI IN OGBIA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT AKUMUGI BUSH, OTUOGIDI IN OGBIA LGA, MEASURING 2370.573M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. AB/BYS.321/2024 DATED 06/05/2024	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 04/10/2024	IBOBIRI CANUS, MR IBOBIRI LAGUO, CHIEF ALEKE AMBROSE AND HON. IBOBIRI SAMUEL REPS THE AKUITIOM FAMILY OF OTUOGIDI IN OGBIA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL/ COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED
11	MR JOSEPH OWEISANDA SANIYIGHA OF AMASSOMA IN SOUTHERN-IJAW LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE ALONG NDU ROAD, AMASSOMA IN SOUTHERN-IJAW LGA, MEASURING 3636.214M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. IA/BYS/302/2025 DATED 27/11/2025	BY DEED OF GIFT DATED 13/06/2025	HRH GODSWILL AKEDESUO, HRH CHRISTOPHER ATAGBORO, HRH WP TONWERIYAI AND CHIEF APIPIA PEREKORIDEI ALL OF AMASSOMA IN SOUTHERN-IJAW LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL	UNDEVELOPED
12	MR KEMESEBI HAGGAI AKORI OF AYAMBELE-OKORDIA IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT OWUKA BUSH, NEW JERUSALEM ZARAMA IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 10703.213M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. TCJU/ BY.170/2025 DATED 10/11/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 20/07/2022	CHIEF INUMA OYIBO PATRICK OF NYENI-EPIE FAMILY, NEW JERUSALEM, ZARAMA IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED
13	ENGR. OTONBARA ROBERT OKOLAI AND MRS DINANGA GLADYS OKOLAI OF OKPOAMA IN BRASS LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT KPANSIA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 740.655M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. FSA/BYS.036/2025 DATED 20/11/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 11/11/2001	MR UWAN EGBO EKEIN OF KPANSIA-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED
14	MR OGAYI SUNDAY NWAIGWE OF UMU-EZEOKA IN EZZA NORTH LGA, EBONYI STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE AT AGBOLI BUSH, BACK OF HONEY HILLS HOTEL, OFF AMASSOMA ROAD, OKUTUKUTU-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 300.813M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. FAA/BYS.006/2026 DATED 06/01/2026	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 20/07/2020	MR WILSON ODUNUKWE OF UMUAGU, NGO NNOBI IN IDEMILI SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE.	RESIDENTIAL	DEVELOPED
15	MR OKAFOR CHUKWUEBUKA EJIKE OF AMICHII IN NNEWI-SOUTH LGA, ANAMBRA STATE.	PROPERTY SITUATE ALONG ISAAC BORO EXPRESS WAY, ETEGWE-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, MEASURING 461.608M ² ON SURVEY PLAN NO. FAA/BYS.283/2025 DATED 08/09/2025	BY PURCHASE DEED OF CONVEYANCE DATED 20/07/2018	MR TONY OVURU OF SUIT 20 D & D PLAZA, BESIDE TIMIKON FILLING STATION, ALONG ISAAC BORO EXPRESS ROAD ETEGWE-EPIE IN YENAGOA LGA, BAYELSA STATE.	COMMERCIAL	UNDEVELOPED

FURTHER PARTICULARS ABOUT THE PLOTS OF LAND DESCRIBED ABOVE CAN BE EXAMINED AT THE LANDS DEPARTMENT OF THE BAYELSA STATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AGENCY (BGIS) YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE. ANY PERSON THAT HAS OBJECTION TO THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN RESPECT OF ANY OF THE PROPERTIES LISTED ABOVE IN FAVOUR OF THE APPLICANTS STATED, SHOULD WITHIN 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION, FILE IN SUCH OBJECTION TO THE LANDS DEPARTMENT OF THE BAYELSA STATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AGENCY (BGIS) ON PAYMENT OF A NON REFUNDABLE FEE OF N5,000.00. SIGNED AND SWORN TO BY THE OBJECTING PARTIES IS/ HER (THEIR) ACCREDITED AGENT(S) AT THE HIGH COURT.

SIGNED: THE MANAGING DIRECTOR BAYELSA STATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM AGENCY (BGIS)

THE AMENDED CONSTITUTION OF GOD'S SABBATH MISSION

24. DEACONS/DEACONESSES, ELDERS, MOTHERS AND YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

- This very important group fall within the general membership of God's Sabbath Mission at the congregation and branch levels.
- They form the leadership at the branch level and shall ensure discipline at the branch level.

25. SPECIAL CLAUSE

The organization as a religious, humanitarian and charity organization without any fixed source of income except through voluntary donations, contributions and agreed levies shall recruit only volunteers (including members of the executive arm), Pastors, Evangelists, Superintendents, charity and humanitarian workers and personal aides as set out in the constitution and no portion of its funds shall be paid by way of dividend, fixed salary, profit or otherwise howsoever to the members or workers of the organization.

PROVIDED THAT

- Nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of any allowance to members, or volunteer worker as shall be approved by the board of trustees and executive arm.
- Nothing herein shall prevent any provision of funds to maintain the office and residence of the chief rabbi and the administrative superintendent as shall be approved by the board of trustees or as provided for in this constitution, or the custom and practice of the organization.
- Nothing herein authorizes the employment of any volunteer worker to fixed salary or remuneration except payment of prior approved out of pocket expenses or reasonable and prior approved rent for premises demises or let to the organization or any allowance for purposes provided for in this Constitution.

26. WINDING UP

In the event of winding up or dissolution of the God's Sabbath Mission there remains after the satisfaction of its liabilities and withdrawal of landed properties donated by members, any assets of the organization, the same shall be transferred to a similar organization having the same objectives.

27. INTERPRETATIONS

- In this constitution:
- CONSTITUTION means the Constitution of God's Sabbath Mission.
 - FOUNDER means Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi.
 - FOUNDING CHIEF PRIEST OR CHIEF RABBI, means Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi.
 - TRAINEE PASTORS, PASTORS, EVANGELISTS AND SUPERINTENDENTS, mean- volunteer divine workers of the organization concerned with prayers and worship.
 - CHARITY WORKERS: mean- volunteer workers of the organization concerned with charity works.

28. AMENDMENTS

There shall be no addition, alteration or amendment made to this constitution for the time being in force, unless the same shall have been previously submitted to and approved by the Corporate Affairs Commission.

Signed: 
Rev. Dr. Hyde Onuaguluchi
Chairman

Signed: 
Elder Benedict Chukwu
Administrative Secretary



MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED

**IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020
MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP
PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 620 & 627**

RC: 1586471 **SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS**
OF
MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED

AT THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED HELD ON 29th DAY OF JANUARY 2026, AT KRESTA LAUREL COMPLEX, (4TH FLOOR) 376 IKORODU ROAD, MARYLAND, IKEJA, LAGOS - NIGERIA, THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS WERE PROPOSED AND DULY PASSED:

- "A Special Resolution that the affairs of the company be and are hereby wound up voluntarily pursuant to the provisions of section 620 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020" as amended"
- "A Special Resolution that Barr. Tochukwu Peter Tochukwu be and is hereby appointed as the Liquidator to wind up the affairs of the company and his remuneration to be fixed accordingly"
- "A Special Resolution that in accordance with the provisions of the Company's Articles of Association and the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020, the Liquidator be and is hereby authorized to divide amongst the members in specie or kind, the whole or any part of the assets of the company that may remain after settlement of all confirmed creditors".

Dated this 30th day of January 2026


Yogesh Kumar Sareen
(Director)


Ahas Abdul Wajid
(Director)



MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED

**IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 2020
MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY WINDING UP**

RC: 158671 **PURSUANT TO SECTION 627**
MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR

I, Barr. Tochukwu Peter Tochukwu of Suite A 12, Left Wing, 1st Floor, Gateway Plaza, Plot 208, Zakariya Maimalari Way, Besides CBN, (UBA Building) CBD, Abuja, and an accredited Liquidator with the CAC, hereby give notice that I have been appointed as the Liquidator for the Voluntary Winding Up of MHC GLOBAL HEALTHCARE (NIGERIA) LIMITED, by virtue of a Special Resolution of the company passed at the Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the company held on 29th of January 2026.

Dated this 30th day of January 2026


Tochukwu P. Tochukwu
(Liquidator)



State govts now to share payment of electricity subsidy — FG

Continues from Page 5

project-financing mindset Mr. President wants embedded across MDAs in 2026."

NGF, state electricity regulatory commissions review decision

Reacting to the development yesterday, the Director of Media and Communications, Nigerian Governors' Forum, NGF, Yunusa Abdullahi, said: "We are reviewing the context and content of the information. We will not be making further comments on it."

Similarly, the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions, SERCs, in Lagos, Imo, Enugu, Ekiti, Oyo, Ondo, Edo, Niger, and Anambra yesterday held an emergency virtual meeting to review the situation and decide on appropriate steps to take.

A member, who pleaded to be anonymous, said: "We cannot make our official position known immediately. We are hearing it for the first time and currently meeting to review it. We need to understand the issue before responding or reacting to it."

"The government has taken appropriate steps in recent times to stimulate the development of the sector by deregulating activities, making the states to play active roles. But we need to interrogate the current decision and understand the implications on not only the states but also the entire power sector."

States should pay subsidy as active partners — CPPE

On his part, Dr. Muda Yusuf, Chief executive officer, Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprises, CPPE, said states should be ready to play active roles, including bearing subsidy burden as active stakeholders in the sector.

He said: "This model is not different from the model we had with the first subsidy. You know the first subsidy, all the states and local governments that had anything to do with FAAC allocation are paying for it because the NNPC which was supposed to be remitting to the federation account was not remitting, so all the states were paying for it."

"When the first subsidy stopped, NNPC was able to remit a lot more and the states were getting more revenue so I believe the same scenario is about to play out, with regard to electricity subsidy."

"The numbers are getting bigger and bigger by the day. The last time we were told that

the GENCOs and the gas suppliers were owed about five trillion naira. The Federal Government had to issue a bond to that effect, that's what we are seeing here and that was as at June or September last year.

Between then and now the figures will have gone up. So a subsidy regime that's obviously difficult for the Federal Government alone to continue to carry is one that is not sustainable but it's not politically feasible to tamper with that subsidy regime as we speak.

"This is because the citizens are yet to recover from earlier reforms and the implications on their real income and on their welfare."

"We are in a pre-election year, so this is another cross the government will have to carry and they are closely connected from those who are supplying gas to those who are generating, down to those who are transmitting, as well as those distributing."

"This is a strongly linked and connected chain. And once there's a break in the chain, electricity system goes down."

"However, it's a sector that needs more rigorous reform, more fundamental reforms. But I am not sure those reforms can move as quickly as we desire, particularly at a time like this."

"This is a major policy concern. But for me, I think that decision is almost inevitable, given the rate at which electricity subsidy has been growing, because all the players have been talking about cost-reflective tariff and all of that, but I don't think that is feasible at this time. That is a challenge."

This is a big fiscal, political shift — Prof Iledare

Similarly, FUPRE Energy Business School and Executive Director, Emmanuel Egbogah Foundation, Prof. Wumi Iledare, said: "This is a big fiscal and political shift. It's basically saying electricity subsidy is no longer just a federal burden, states must now share the cost."

"That fits the new electricity reforms where states have more power-sector authority, but it raises tough questions."

"How will the sharing formula work? Poorer states can't carry the same load as richer ones. Can states even afford this without creating new debts? And what incentives does this create?"

"If states must co-pay, they will likely push faster toward realistic tariffs, targeted sub-



Medical Outreach: From left— Celestine Anyanwu, Brand Manager, Wines and Bitters, Intercontinental Distillers Ltd, IDL; Peter Okwesa, Area Sales Manager, Akure, IDL; Conveners- Princess Yewande Amos-Oluwale (née Adesanoye); Dr. Olumide Amos-Oluwale; and Murtala Abdullah, Assistant Brand Manager, Bitters and Liqueur, IDL, during the commemoration of the 20-year legacy of the late Osemawe of Ondo Town, HRM Oba FIA Adesanoye (Osungbedelola II), marked by a free medical outreach at Ondo Town, sponsored by Veleta Sparkling Fruit Wine and Teezers.

sidies, and local power investments.

"So this could either deepen the crisis or finally force more discipline and accountability in electricity financing. The outcome depends on whether the framework is transparent and rules-based, not political bargaining."

Experts doubt FG's power to make states pay electricity subsidies

Also speaking on the issue, a legal practitioner and Lead Consultant at Sage Consulting on Power Sector Advocacy and Advisory, Mr. Bode Fadipe, expressed reservations about how the policy will be enforced, noting that electricity subsidy remained a federal decision.

Fadipe queried whether the Federal Government has the constitutional authority to dictate how states should deploy their financial resources.

He said: "That is a serious issue when you are asking states to take on part of the subsidy or contribute to electricity subsidy payments. What will be the basis? Will it be based on what states consume or what their indigenes consume?"

"It is a little hazy to start conjecturing how states will handle this when it is not their facility that conveys the energy we are talking about. It is unclear how state governments can now assume such responsibility."

"Perhaps when we see the policy and the implementation guidelines, it will become clearer what direction the Federal Government intends to take."

"But does the Federal Government have the right to tell states how to spend their money? These are fundamental issues that need to be addressed."

Reflecting on the controversy surrounding attempts by Enugu Electricity Regulatory Commission, EERC, to set electricity tariffs last year, Fadipe noted that the Federal Government still controls the wholesale electricity market.

He said: "The wholesale market remains a federal government market. When electricity gets to the distribution level and the question arises, how much did State A or State B consume, or how much did the Federal Capital Territory consume, and the decision is taken that states should pay 10 or 20 per cent,

it would have to be voluntary."

"It cannot be by federal directive. What the Federal Government is concerned about at the wholesale level is that its money is recovered. Who pays what should be immaterial to it."

"The Enugu issue is very clear. Enugu could not ask for a subsidy on a product it does not control. If it wants to do so, then it must be prepared to pay the differential arising from that decision."

An electricity market expert, Lanre Elatuyi, said the Federal Government can only achieve such a policy through direct deductions from states' allocations via the Federation Account Allocation Committee, FAAC.

However, Elatuyi warned that this approach could lead to conflict, as states will need accurate data on the volume of electricity consumed within their jurisdictions.

"FAAC deductions are one

way of implementing this, and I believe it is fair for states to also contribute to electricity subsidy payments. The level of debt in the power sector has shown that the Federal Government alone can no longer shoulder the subsidy burden. "States can decide the percentage of subsidy they are willing to pay, especially since the Electricity Act empowers them to establish and regulate their own electricity markets," he added.

Planned protest: Court stops NLC, TUC, others

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA— The National Industrial Court sitting in Abuja yesterday issued an order of interim injunction barring the Nigerian Labour Congress, NLC, and the Trade Union Congress, TUC, from embarking on any form of industrial action or protest in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

The court, in the ruling delivered by Justice Emmanuel Sibilim, also restrained three others, Mr. Benson Upah, General NA Toro, and Stephen Knabay, who were listed as respondents in the matter.

The order followed an ex parte application jointly filed by the Minister of the FCT, Nyesom Wike, and the FCT Administration.

The motion, marked NICN/ABJ/30/26, was moved on behalf of the applicants by their team of lawyers, led by Mr. James Onoja, SAN.

Specifically, the court restrained the 1st to 5th respondents, their privies or agents from embarking on strike pending the hearing and determination of the motion

on notice. It further directed the 5th to 9th defendants who are security agencies, to ensure there was no break down of law and order in the FCT.

The Claimants told the court that the Chairman of the FCT Council had sent a message of mobilisation to members and affiliated unions for a mass protest scheduled for February 3.

They insisted that the action amounted to a violation of a subsisting order of the court.

The FCT minister noted that the extant order of the court was made on January 27, following which he said the NLC and TUC issued a statement to all affiliated unions to intensify and sustain the strike, citing an appeal they lodged to challenge the restraining injunction.

He insisted that the aim of such directive was to cause a breakdown of law and order in the nation's capital.

Meanwhile, the court has adjourned the substantive case till February 10 for hearing.

In an affidavit filed in support of the motion, FCT Minister and the FCTA averred:

inDrive celebrates drivers across Nigeria in appreciation event

By Tunde Oso

MOBILITY and urban services platform, inDrive, has hosted drivers on its platform at an appreciation event held Purple Mall, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos.

The event, designed to celebrate and recognise the dedication, professionalism, and everyday impact of drivers on its platform across Nigeria, brought together 50 platinum drivers in an interactive, relaxed, and enjoyable atmosphere that reflected inDrive's people-first culture.

Beyond the exciting games, informal conversations, keynote remarks, and driver testimonials, which created a space for con-

nection, laughter, and shared experiences, the company announced the launch of a learning platform, inDrive academy, to enhance the driver experience by providing the support required for their growth and professionalism. Top-performing drivers were recognised for their consistency, service quality, and commitment, reinforcing inDrive's approach of treating drivers as valued partners.

Speaking on the significance of the gathering, the Country Representative, inDrive Nigeria, Oladimeji Timothy, said the appreciation event forms part of the company's ongoing commitment to building a strong, respectful, and trusted driver com-

munity across Nigeria, anchored on fairness, partnership, and shared success.

Oladimeji noted that part of the reason for organising the event is to elevate drivers' experiences by introducing the inDrive Drivers Academy, which would bring value to them. He added that the academy has been designed to develop drivers' professionalism, as this will help them match their practical skills with their theoretical knowledge.

Oladimeji outlined the modules drivers would need to complete to be professionally certified, including vehicle condition, identity and verification, fair transparency, safe driving, respect boundaries, and conflict management and resolution.

Naira rises to N1,465/\$ in parallel market

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The Naira today appreciated to N1,465 per dollar in the parallel market from N1,470 per dollar last weekend.

Similarly, the naira strengthened in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market, NFEM, appreciating to N1,384.5 per dollar.

Data from the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, showed that the indicative exchange rate for the naira fell to N1,384.5 per dollar from N1,391 per dollar last weekend, reflecting N6.5 appreciation for the naira.

Consequently, the margin between the parallel and official markets widened to N80.5 per dollar from N79 per dollar on Thursday.

Education remains bedrock of devt — Afolabi

... says govt, private sector must drive youth skills

By Henry Obetta

AS THE Federal Government intensifies its focus on youth education, skills development and national reforms, Nigerian-born Canadian scholar and education advocate, Prof. Taiwo Afolabi, has reiterated that sustained investment in human capital remains the foundation for Nigeria's long-term development and global competitiveness.

Afolabi, an Associate Professor of Theatre and Canada Research Chair in Socially Engaged Theatre, said Nigeria's policy direction reinforces a principle he has long advocated through scholarship and philanthropy:

that no nation can rise beyond the quality of its people.

"Everywhere you see meaningful development across the world, there is massive investment in human development, research and capacity building," he said.

A globally recognised scholar whose work bridges art, research and social justice, Afolabi noted that sound policy must be complemented by grassroots action. In 2025, he was named a 3M National Teaching Fellow, Canada's highest recognition for teaching excellence.

Beyond academia, his impact is evident through the Emissary (MS3) Foundation, a nonprofit recently re-registered in Nigeria after years of informal but

consistent interventions in education and capacity building. For about five years, the foundation has supported underprivileged Nigerians by funding WAEC, NECO and UTME examinations, paying tuition and supporting students through university, using vetted partners to ensure accountability.

Since inception, the foundation has supported over 30 individuals, investing more than N5 million nationwide. "Giving money alone is not enough. You have to teach people how to fish. That's why education is at the centre of everything we do," he said.

Afolabi added that proceeds from his *Excellence with a Soul* book series are channelled into education initiatives, noting plans to scale investments to about N10 million in the next two to three years.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, said education and youth empowerment remain pillars of nation-building, adding: "With the right education and skilling, Nigeria will be an unstoppable global force."

Lagos-Calabar highway: Investors allege non-payment of compensation, petition Senate

LAGOS—NIGERIANS in the Diaspora, coordinated by Mrs. Stella Okengwu, have petitioned the National Assembly over alleged non-payment of compensation for investments demolished during the construction of the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway at Okun Ajah, Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The petition, submitted on behalf of affected investors under Winhomes Estate Global Services Limited, raised concerns over the impact of the federal highway project on about 18 hectares of land, including structures, said to have been affected during construction.

Titled "Petition Against the Federal Ministry of Works in Respect of Its Refusal to Pay Compensation to Winhomes Estate Global Services Limited...", the petition was addressed to the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio. It was written by Maverick Forte Legal on behalf of Winhomes Estate Global Services Limited.

The solicitors stated that Winhomes Estate is a duly registered corporate entity engaged in mass housing and estate development, noting that it attracted foreign direct investment to its landed assets at Okun Ajah. They said the company holds registered interests over several parcels of land, supported by certificates of occupancy, land registry records and a deed of assignment dated April 22, 2022, consented to by the Lagos State Attorney-General.

The petitioners alleged that the highway was diverted from its originally approved alignment into their property and urged the National Assembly to demand the original project design and alignment approved by the Federal Executive Council.

They further claimed that a response from the Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development dated April 16, 2024, confirmed the property was free from any right of way. Despite this, they said construction affected the land, with no compensation paid.

They called on the Senate to set up an ad-hoc committee to investigate and direct the Federal Ministry of Works to pay compensation based on prevailing market value.

INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.

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Plot 5A, Abuja Street, Banana Island,
Ikoyi, Lagos - Nigeria.
www.international-breweries.com

RC 9632

Unaudited Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2025

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

	Current Year	Prior Year
	12 Months Period	12 Months Period
	For the year ended	For the year ended
	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec
	2025	2024
	N'000	N'000
Revenue	620,149,488	488,955,682
Cost of Sales	(415,707,790)	(357,605,216)
Administrative, Marketing and distribution expenses	(128,183,968)	(108,469,747)
Impairment (charge)/reversal on financial assets	475,733	(453,978)
Other expense	(2,990,116)	(113,504,662)
Finance Income	18,085,214	14,011,589
Finance Expense	(6,719,673)	(34,754,180)
Profit/(Loss) before tax	85,108,888	(111,820,512)
Taxation:		
Income tax expense	(21,773,506)	(1,794,388)
Profit/(Loss) for the period	63,335,382	(113,614,900)
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the period	-	(69,110,017)
Loss After Tax Owners of the Company	63,335,382	(182,724,917)
Remeasurements of post employment benefits obligations	-	(4,734)
Income tax relating to these items	-	9,447
Total comprehensive profit/(loss) for the period	63,335,382	(182,720,204)
Basis Loss per Share (Kobo)	38	(116)
Fully Diluted Loss per Share (Kobo)	38	(116)

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



Temitope Oluwatosin
Company Secretary / General Counsel
FRC/2023/PRO/NBA/002/163181



LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
OSUN STATE OF NIGERIA
(PROBATE DIVISION)

WHEREAS the person's whose names are set out in the second Column of the said schedule date and the place mentioned therein.

AND WHEREAS the person's whose names and address set out in the second Column of the said schedule along (wherever found necessary or expedient) with the particulars of their relationship to the deceased have applied to the High Court of Justice, Osun State of Nigeria for the grant unto them of letters of administration in respect of the and or personal property of the said deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said Letters of Administration will be granted to the said Applicants unless a notice of prohibit such grant is filed in the Registry of the High Court of Justice, Osogbo, Osun State of Nigeria within twenty-one (21) days from today.

SCHEDULE

DECEASED

1. LUQMAN ADESINA ADEBIYI late of No. 22, Ifelagba Community, Agbale Area, Ede, Osun State, who died on the 7th day of April, 2025 at Ile-Ife..

2. ABIDEMI BOLA AYOMIDE late of The Redeemed Christian School of Mission Ededimeji, Ede, Osun State, who died on the 4th day of November, 2025 at Ede.

3. OLUMUYIWA ADETUNJI OJO late of No. 17, Okearula Community, Ofatedo, Osun State, who died on the 22nd November, 2025 at Ofatedo.

4. OLUBUNMI TAIWO OJO late of No. 17, Okearula Community, Ofatedo, Osun State, who died on the 22nd November, 2025 at Ofatedo..

APPLICANT FOR GRANT

1. Adebisi Sadiat Yetunide of No 22, felagha Community. Agbale Area, Ede, Widow of the said Deceased.

2. Ayomide Emmanuel Olusegun of The Redeemed Christian School of Mission Ededimeji: Ede. Widow of the said Deceased.

3. Oluwapelumi Adesoji Ojo & Oluwabukunmi Adebola c/o Their Solicitor, E. Bolarinwa & Co. beside Olaoluwa Aina Filling Station, Ogo Oluwa Area, Osogbo. Children of the said Deceased..

4. Oluwapelumi Adesoji Ojo & Oluwabukunmi Adebola c/o Their Solicitor, E. Bolarinwa & Co. beside Olaoluwa Aina Filling Station, Ogo Oluwa Area, Osogbo. Children of the said Deceased.

Dated 3rd day of FEBRUARY, 2026.


OMISADE F.I.
PROBATE REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

ACQUISITION OF NEWCREDIT LOANS AND MOBILE APPLICATION

Following the approval of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Fezotech Nigeria Limited hereby informs the public that it has completed the acquisition of the NewCredit loan portfolio and mobile application from Newedge Finance Limited.

Sequel to the purchase, both parties have begun the system transfer of the purchased loans and mobile application, which will continue until February 28, 2026. Effective March 1, 2026, Fezotech Nigeria Limited will fully manage and process all new and existing NewCredit loans.

Fezotech Nigeria Limited shall provide consumer credit loan services through its approved digital lending platforms: PonyCash App, WayaCredit App, TradeCredit App, VoiceMoney, and NewCredit App.

All customer rights, obligations, and data protection arrangements remain fully preserved under applicable laws.

FEZOTECH NIGERIA LIMITED
DATED THIS 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

CHANGE OF NAME

ANABEL I, formally known and addressed as Miss NdiFREKEABASI Anabel Inuaeyen, now want to be known and addressed as Mrs. NdiFREKEABASI Anabel Inuaeyen-Biniitie. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	STEPHANIE I formerly known and addressed as Ogbhembe Stephanie Okhuriaye now wish to be known and addressed Onyekachi Stephanie Okhuriaye. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	OBOH Formerly OBOH ODION now OBOH ODION ANTHONY. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	ONYINYECHI I, formerly known and addressed as Uzoigwe Faith Onyinyechi, now wish to be known and addressed as Okolo Faith Onyinyechi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	GRACE In my Bank details, my name was wrongly captured as IWERINWA GRACE OBIKA instead of IWERINWA GRACE, my true and correct name is IWERINWA GRACE. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.
NANCY I, formally known and addressed as NWORIE NANCY CHINALU, now want to be known and addressed as CHINAZA NANCY CHINALU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	CHUKWUKA I formerly known, called and addressed as, CHUKWUKA ONYEKA JOY, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, CHUKWUKA ONYEWA OGANA. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to take note.	JULIET Formerly known as MISS. JULIET OSELUMHENSE OKOSUN Now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. JULIET OSELUMHENSE AWOLOWO. All former documents remain valid general public take note	EMMANUEL I, formerly known and addressed as Onwubualili Emmanuel Ndubuisi, now wish to be known and addressed as Ndubueze Emmanuel Ndubuisi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	JOSEPH I, formerly known, called and addressed as JOSEPH MAGDALINE, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as JOSEPH POUSON MAGDALINE, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
ESTHER In my BVN my name was wrongly captured as Egbunwe Esther instead of Egbunwe Esther Nkiru as correctly stated in my NIN. That henceforth should be called and addressed as EGBUNWE ESTHER NKIRU. All former documents remain valid and the general public to please take note.	OKOH I, formerly known, called and addressed as FIDELIS MICHAEL CHUKWUYEM, I now wish to be known called and address as OKOH CHUKS, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	DORIS I, formerly known as UGWU DORIS AMARACHI, now wish to be known as ASOGWA DORIS AMARACHI. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	FAITH I, formerly known and addressed as Abutu Faith Ada, now wish to be known and addressed as Onochie Faith Ada. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	FAITH I, formerly known, called and addressed as ANDREW OGECHI FAITH, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as OKEIMA FAITH, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
ANGELA I, formerly known as MISS. ANGELA GABRIEL UDOEKONG now wish to be known and called MRS. ANGELA OLUCHUKWU CHUKWUEMEKA-EJOFOR. All former documents remain valid. General public and those to whom it may concern should please take note	EUNICE I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS ONYEJIE EUNICE, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. EKAEZUE EUNICE, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	VICTOR That in some of my documents i bear the name ATAMERE VICTOR, VICTOR ATAMREVE, ATAMERERE VICTOR, VICTOR ATAMRERE. I now wish to be known and addressed as. ATAMRERE VICTOR. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note	CHINEDU The names Azuenebi Chinedu and OtiKe Chinedu refer to one and the same person, but I now wish to be known and addressed as OtiKe Chinedu. All former documents remain valid. Polaris Bank and general public take note.	DESTINY In my BVN and Bank details, my name was wrongly captured as IZEBHIJIE DESTINY instead of AKHERE MOSES DESTINY, my true and correct name is AKHERE MOSES DESTINY, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
BLESSING I, formerly known, called and addressed as. OWAX BLESSING FEJRO now wish to be known, called and address as OWARIEBUNOR BLESSING FEJRO all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public please take note	ESTHER I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS DUNKWU ESTHER, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. ISAAC ESTHER, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	HENRY I, formerly known as Henry Eboh, have added "Idemudia" to my name and shall henceforth be known as *Iboh Henry Idemudia.	OSCAR The names Oscar Tobore Omene and Omene Efe Oscar refer to one and the same person, but I now wish to be known and addressed as Omene Efe Oscar. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	IJEOMA I formerly known, called and addressed as, IJEOMA PAUL ONWUCHIE, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, IJEOMA PAUL. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
AVOVOME I formerly known as MISS ADELEYE AVOVOME MARY, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS LAWAL AVOVOME MARY. All former documents remain valid public please take note	EBERE I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS DAVID EBERE, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. KINGSLEY EBERE, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.	Henry Eboh and Eboh Henry Idemudia are one and the same person, and all former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.	FAVOUR I, formerly known as JONATHAN FAVOUR TEGA, now wish to be known and addressed as EKOMAFE FAVOUR TEGA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	AGHANTIN I formerly known, called and addressed as, AGHANTIN FORTUNE EWERE, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, GODWIN FORTUNE. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
IFEOMA I formally known as OKPALA IFEOMA CHIDIEBERE now wish to be known as UGADU IFEOMA CHIDIEBERE. Former documents remain valid. General public take note	OKORAFOR I, formerly known as OKORO LATIFAH NNENWEOGO, now wish to be known as OKORAFOR OBINNA JOY. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	FAITH That I formerly known, called and addressed as MISS EGE FAITH GLORY, now wish to be addressed as Mrs FAITH ENWEFA, former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note.	IMIMIRIMI My correct name is IMIMIRIMI GODSTIME, but it is wrongly written as VWAIRE GODSTIME ISAAC in my BVN details. IMIMIRIMI GODSTIME remains my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	AMARA I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS DIKE AMARA LIZZY, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS FIDELIX AMARA LIZZY, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
SIKA IN MY NIN MY NAME WAS CAPTURED AS SIKA ESTHER UCHECHI. I WANT TO REMOVE UCHECHI FROM MY NIN, I NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS SIKA ESTHER. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	ODIKEH I, formerly known and addressed as ODIKEH LYNDA but now wish to be known, called and addressed as ODIKEH, LYNDA IROROEZI All former documents remain valid, General Public notice.	JAMES I FORMERLY KNOWN AS JAMES ALICE IBIMEKU. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS JAMES ALICE GIFT. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	UNITY I, formerly known and addressed as ATAYA UNITY ONOSETA, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY UNITY ONOSETA. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	DEBORAH I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS ODIH CHUKWUEBUKE DEBORAH and OKOLIE CHUKWUEBUKE DEBORAH, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS OKOLIE CHUKWUEBUKE DEBORAH, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
AUGUSTINA I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS AUGUSTINA NWAKAEGO UCHUNOR NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS AUGUSTINA NWAKAEGO AGADA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	EMMANUEL I, formerly known and addressed as EMMANUEL JOY but now wish to be known, called and addressed as EMMANUEL, JOY OGHENEWEGBA All former documents remain valid, General Public notice.	IDOLOR That IDOLOR STEPHANIE & IDOLOR STEPHANIE OGHENEFGROR are same as one person but now wish to be addressed as IDOLOR STEPHANIE OGHENEFGROR all formal documents remain valid general public whom it may concern take note	MERCY I was formerly known as ABRACA MERCY now wish to be known and called ONOJI MERCY OGHENEGARE. All former documents remain valid. General public and to whom it may concern should please take note.	ETIOSA I, formerly known, called and addressed as OKWUEZE CHUKS, I now wish to be known called and address as ETIOSA SILVESTER CHUKWUYEM, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
ADEBISI My name was wrongly written on my NYSC as YEKINI RERELOLU ADEBISI TIWALADE, instead of RERELOLU ADEBISI TIWALADE. I now wish to be known and addressed as RERELOLU ADEBISI TIWALADE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.	ONORIODE That in my account details/BVN platform I used DOGHOR ONORIODE AMAZING instead of ODGHOR ONORIODE. That I wish to remove AMAZING from my name in order to correspond with my National Identity Card (NIN). DOGHOR ONORIODE. General public take note.	TAKPOR I, formerly known as ARUEYINGHO TAKPOR, now wish to be known and called ARUEYINGHO LAWRENTA TAKPOR as captured in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. General public and to whom it may concern should please take note.	OLUWATOSIN I, formerly known as ADEDAYO OLUWATOSIN OLUWATIMILEHIN, now wish to be known and addressed as OLATUNJI OLUWATOSIN OLUWATIMILEHIN. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	ALBERT I formerly known, called and addressed as, ALBERT MERCY ONUAGBON, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, ALBERT MERCY. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
GODSTIME Formerly known Andrew addressed MISS NWOSE GODSTIME, Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ABERARE GODSTIME ADAEZE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	EUNICE That in my Account/Bvn details, my name was wrongly captured as CHAMPION EUNICE, instead of GORROH EUNICE as it was captured in my NIN. That my correct name is GORROH EUNICE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	TONY On my National Identity Card details my name was arranged as TONY AMADIN LORI instead of LORI TONY AMADIN. That I now wish to re-arrange my name to now read LORI TONY AMADIN. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	MFON I formerly known and addressed as EDIDIIONG MFON NDE now wish to be known and addressed as EDIDIIONG MFON OKON. All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should please take note.	ALO I, formerly known and addressed as Alo Mercy Omotayo, now wish to be known and addressed as Alo Mercy. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
VICTORIA Formerly known as VICTORIA NKEONYEASUA OKWUOKENYE. Now wish to be known and addressed as VICTORIA NKEONYEASUA JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	RISI I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS PRINCESS ISOKEN RISI OGIERIAKHAS CAPTURED ON MY FIRST BANK ACCOUNT AND ON MY UNION BANK AS ISOKEN LILIAN OGIERIAKHI-OGBOENOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS JESSICA KANDOLO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	RITA I formerly known and addressed as Rita Omojevwe Egbage now wish to be known and addressed as Rita Omojevwe Omoiyibo. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	AKPODWRI Formerly known as FRANK O. APKODWRI now wish to be known as FRNKLYN AKPODWRI all former documents remain valid, general public take note.	ZANGINA I, wish to confirm that my correct names are ZANGINA ADAMU which was wrongly written on my account and my BVN as ZANGI ADAMU instead of my correct names ZANGINA ADAMU general public and relevant authorities concern please take note.
PHILOMINA I formerly known as EZEH PHILOMINA CHIZOBA now wish to be known and addressed as MADUABIA PHILOMINA CHIZOBA all former documents remain valid general public take note	FAITH I, Formerly known as MISS. IYERE FAITH OSEBHAHIEMEN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. UDOMHIANYE IYERE FAITH OSEBHAHIEMEN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	OKEREKE In my BVN my name was wrongly spelt and captured as Okereke Chidima instead of Okereke Chidima as stated in my NIN. That my correct name is OKEREKE CHIDIMA henceforth. All former documents remain valid and the general public to please take note.	DANIEL Formerly known as JOSEPH DANIEL OGHENEKEVWE now wish to be known as OMOTE DANIEL OGHENEKEVWE all former documents remain valid, general public take note.	RACHAEL I, formerly known and addressed as ESEGBUE RACHAEL ONYEKACHI. Now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL RACHAEL ONYEKACHI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.
AFRO I FORMERLY KNOWN AS SUNDAY AFRO. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS DEKAOWEI AFRO. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	MARY I formerly known and addressed as, Omonfuma Mary Itohan, now wish to be known and addressed as, Eseigbe Mary Itohan, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	DIBIA I, formerly known as DIBIA OGOCHUKWU FRANCIS now wish to be known and addressed as DIBIA OGOR. All former documents remain valid. General public and concerned authority take note.	PRECIOUS I, formerly known as MISS. OFILI PRECIOUS JOY. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MAXWELL PRECIOUS JOY. All former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.	JUSTINA I, formerly known and addressed as AZIAKPONO JUSTINA ONOME. Now wish to be known and addressed as ENUMAH JUSTINA ONOME. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.
AJA I, was formerly known called and addressed as, AJA IBEABUCHI ANDREW. i now wish to be known called and addressed as, AJA CLEVER IBEABUCHI. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note	PETER I formerly known and addressed as, Ogun Peter, now wish to be known and addressed as, Akuba Sunday Peter, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	ADESINA I, formerly known as ADESINA-ONIGBINDE FOLASHADE LYDIA now wish to be known and addressed as ADESINA FOLASHADE LYDIA. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	VIVIAN I, formerly known as OSILONYA VIVIAN. Now wish to be known and addressed as IFEANYICHUKWU CHIAMAKA VIVIAN. All former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.	CHUKWUMA I, formerly known and addressed as UZOCHUKWU CHUKWUMA. Now wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWUMA UZORCHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.
ORETTE I, was formerly known and addressed as. Orette Oghenetega on my account, while on my Bvn as. Orette Oghenetega Harrison. I now wish to be known as, Orette Harrison Oghenetega as it is on my NIN. All former documents remain valid, general public and to whom it may concern please take note	SUCCESS Formerly UCHENDU SUCCESS ONYEKA now OKOLIE SUCCESS UNOMA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	BLESSING I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Oseafiana Blessing, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Aigbokhifo Blessing Ngozi. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	BLESSING I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS SOLOMON BLESSING NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MATTHEW BLESSING. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERN AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	FELICIA I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. IJEH FELICIA NKECHI. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OKONYE FELICIA NKECHI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.
ISUKURU I, was formerly known called and addressed as. Miss. Isukuru Excellent. That I now wish to be known called and addressed as Mrs. Orette Isukuru Excellent. All former documents remain valid, general public and all concern authorities should take note	PHILOMINA Formerly IRABOR PHILOMINA now IRABOR OMOJOWO PHILOMINA. With PHILOMINA wrongly spelt as PHILOMINA and addition of OMOJOWO as middle name. General public take note.	GIFT I, formerly known and addressed as Asaba Abraham Gift, now wish to be known and addressed as Abraham Gift. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	JOY That in my BVN DETAILS and BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS, my name was wrongly spelt as, NWOKOLO JOY instead of, WNOKOLO JOY. That my true and correct name is, WNOKOLO JOY. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.	NKECHI I, formerly known and addressed as OBAH NKECHI. Now wish to be known and addressed as OBAH NKECHI VIVIAN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.
				NAOMI I, formerly known and addressed as MISS OSAISAI NAOMI ESEIMIEGHE, now wish to be known as MRS OKEKARO NAOMI ESEIMIEGHE. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

Ondo at 50: Adekanmbi hails Aiyedatiwa's commitment to devt

A KURE — T H E Managing Director of the Benin-Owena River Basin Development Authority, Femi Adekanmbi, has commended Governor Dr. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa for what he described as exceptional leadership as Ondo State marks its 50th anniversary.

In a statement to commemorate the Golden Jubilee, Adekanmbi described the governor's commitment to improving the lives of Ondo residents as unparalleled, underscoring Aiyedatiwa's resolve to steer the Sunshine State towards greater heights of progress and prosperity.

He highlighted tangible achievements recorded under the administration, citing notable improvements in infrastructure, education and healthcare, which, he said, have enhanced residents' quality of life and boosted investor confidence in the state.

Dr. Adekanmbi described Governor Aiyedatiwa's vision and purposeful leadership as clear demonstrations of capacity, positioning Ondo State as a beacon of development and sustained growth.

The APC stalwart urged the people of the state to rally behind the administration, assuring that continued support would enable the governor to deliver even more impactful results in the years ahead.

He expressed optimism that, with the current track record, Ondo State is on course to become one of Nigeria's leading states, effectively harnessing its potential for a more prosperous and united future.

I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Oviemuno Ethel Joy now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Otuoniyo Ethel Joy. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as AGBOOLA FUNMI YINKA, now wish to be known and addressed as AKINDELE FUNMI FAVOUR. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

My correct name is UMUKORO LUCKY, but it is written as EJIME UMUKORO LUCKY and EGIME UMUKORO LUCKY in my Bank account and BVN details respectively. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I formerly known and called as VICTORY EKHESE now wish to be known and addressed as VICTORY EKHESE APOLLO. All former documents remain valid general public take note

I, formerly known and addressed as OLADOSU TIMILEYIN, now wish to be known and addressed as INYERE OLADOSU TIMILEYIN. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as IFEANYI BLESSING CHINWENDU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. EZIASHI BLESSING CHINWENDU. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.



Lookman arrives in Spain for Atletico Madrid medical

... Says, 'I'm very happy to be here'

Super Eagles winger Ademola Lookman has expressed excitement after arriving in Madrid to begin a new phase of his career with Atletico Madrid, bringing an end to a long-running transfer saga.

The 28-year-old touched down in the Spanish capital on Sunday following months of speculation and protracted negotiations with Atalanta.

Atletico Madrid confirmed the signing after the Italian club agreed to a €40 million deal, made up of a €35 million base fee and €5 million in performance-related add-ons. Atalanta had previously resisted sever-

al bids for Lookman since last summer, despite the player's desire to seek a fresh chal

The Nigerian international is expected to undergo medical examinations on Monday before putting pen to paper on a long-term contract. His departure marks the conclusion of a memorable spell in Bergamo, most notably crowned by his historic hat-trick in the 2024 Europa League final.

Speaking shortly after his ar-

rival, Lookman shared his enthusiasm with supporters, saying, "I'm very, very happy to be here. I'm really looking forward to the challenge."

The two clubs have already reached an agreement over a deal for the 28-year-old.

Lookman has subsequently been given permission to fly to Madrid to complete the transfer.

"The agreement is pending a medical examination and the signing of his contract."

Lookman is expected to cost Atletico around 40 million euros.

He scored three goals in 19 matches across all competitions this season for Atalanta.



Lookman

Infantino apologises for jokes about British fans

Fifa president Gianni Infantino has apologised for controversial comments he made about British football supporters which were criticised by fan groups.

At the World Economic Forum in Switzerland last month, Infantino said it was "really special" no British nationals were arrested during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Amid concerns over the cost to attend matches at this summer's 2026 World Cup, the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) responded by saying the Swiss-Italian should "concentrate on making cheap tickets" as

opposed to "making cheap jokes about our fans".

In an interview with Sky News, Infantino said his comments were "meant to be more of a light-hearted remark" to highlight how the Qatar tournament "was a celebration" and "a peaceful event".

As he said sorry to fans from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the first instance, the 55-year-old said it was "not my intention" to cause offence to them.

Infantino added he was a "huge fan of English football" and had been wrong to say English people "just go and riot around the world" at football matches as fans, referring to them as "criminals" instead.

The head of world football's governing body also defended the decision to award US President Donald Trump the inaugural Fifa Peace Prize before the draw last December for the 2026 World Cup.



Fulham reject Everton's approach for Wilson

Fulham have rejected an offer from Everton for midfielder Harry Wilson.

It is understood the Toffees made an approach for the 28-year-old last week, but it was turned down by the Cottagers.

The Wales international is out of contract this summer and could leave for free, but Fulham are adamant on not selling him this month.

Head coach Marco Silva has also said there is "zero chance" of Wilson being sold in the January transfer window.

Instead the club has made securing his future a priority, having signed him on an initial loan deal from Liverpool in July 2021.

Since then, Wilson has made 173 appearances for Fulham, scoring 34 goals and registering

43 assists.

However, as BBC Sport revealed in January, talks over a contract extension are currently on hold because of transfer interest.

Man City not good enough for EPL title, Owen declares

England and Liverpool legend, Michael Owen has taken a cursory look at Pep Guardiola's relentless machine, Manchester City, after they stumbled to a 2-2 draw against Tottenham and declared they are not good enough for the Premier League title this season after noticing the cracks in the team.

"This Manchester City side is not good enough to win the league this season," Owen declared, his words cutting through the post-match chatter like a cold wind. For a club that has redefined excellence in English football, such a verdict feels almost sacrilegious. But Owen's assessment wasn't born of sensationalism; it was rooted in what unfolded on the pitch.

City controlled possession, as they so often do, but control without conviction is a dangerous illusion. Tottenham struck

twice and exposed a vulnerability that has crept into Guardiola's side this season: a lack of ruthlessness. Erling Haaland, usually the embodiment of inevitability, looked strangely muted.

Owen's critique wasn't just about one game—it was about a pattern. City have dropped points in matches they once would have strangled into submission. The aura of invincibility has dimmed, and rivals sense it.

For Guardiola, the challenge is as much psychological as tactical. His side have scaled every peak, rewritten every record. But sustaining hunger after years of triumph is the hardest task of all. Owen's words may sting, but perhaps they serve as a timely reminder: dynasties don't crumble overnight, they erode slowly, almost imperceptibly, until one day the title is gone.



Wilson

Stakeholders accuse Kida-led NBBF Board of tenure extension

...Ask FIBA to authorize NSC and NOC to conduct fresh elections

Nigeria's basketball administration has been thrown into deep turmoil as Congress members of the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) have formally accused the Musa Kida-led Board of breaching the Federation's Constitution and illegally clinging to power beyond its lawful tenure.

In a strongly worded petition to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), representatives of State Basketball Associations and other statutory members of the NBBF Congress declared

that the Board elected on January 31, 2022, has no legal or moral authority to continue in office after its tenure expired on January 31, 2026.

The petitioners, who describe Congress as the supreme organ of the Federation, insist that the 2019

NBBF Constitution drafted with inputs from FIBA, the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) and the then Ministry of Youth and Sports remains the only valid statute guiding basketball administration in Nigeria.

According to the document, the 2022 NBBF elections were peacefully conducted and observed by FIBA and universally endorsed while Board members were sworn in immediately at the venue, triggering the commencement of their four-year tenure in line with Articles 21.8 and 23.10 of the Constitution.

However, the crisis, stakeholders say, began with what they describe as deliberate constitutional violations by the NBBF President Ahmadu Musa Kida.



Kida



Dinko

Arteta seeks reinforcement for injured Merino

Mikel Arteta said Arsenal are "actively looking" for a replacement for the injured Mikel Merino in the closing hours of the transfer window.

Merino, who has been a valuable contributor in midfield and attack for the Gunners, could miss the rest of the season with a fractured right foot that requires surgery.

Arteta stressed how significant the Spain international's absence as Arsenal compete to win four trophies.

The Arsenal boss hopes his club can come up with a new signing to fill the void before Monday's 1900GMT deadline.

"We are actively looking at options and we will continue to do that," Arteta told reporters on Monday.

"When you lose a big player like this with four months to go, and all the competitions to play for, you need to look and we need to do everything we possibly can to see if a player is available."

The loss of Merino has been tempered by the return to fitness of Germany forward Kai Havertz.

There was further good news for Arsenal as Arteta revealed an injury that kept England winger Bukayo Saka out of Saturday's 4-0 win over Leeds is only minor.

"Today, he (Saka) was better. Let's see how he responds. It doesn't look like something too serious," Arteta added ahead of Tuesday's League Cup semifinal second leg against Chelsea.

"Whether he is available for tomorrow or the weekend, we will have to wait and see."

Arsenal remain on course for an unprecedented quadruple.

Arteta's side hold a six-point lead at the top of the Premier League, have progressed to the last 16 of the Champions League and face third-tier Wigan in the FA Cup fourth round.

But the Spaniard is focused on reaching the League Cup final as his side's first opportunity to end a six-year trophy drought.

Rivers Utd fans call for Finidi's sack after Champions League disaster



Finidi

The honeymoon period for Finidi George at Rivers United has come to a volatile end after taking one point from a possible 12.

Following a shocking 1-0 home defeat to Zambia's Power Dynamos on Sunday, the Pride of Rivers fans have flooded social media to demand the immediate dismissal of Super Eagles legend, Finidi George.

The defeat at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium was a bitter pill to swallow, leaving Rivers United at the bottom of Group A with a dismal one point from a possible 12.

The frustration wasn't just about the points; for some, it was personal and financial. One dis-

gruntled supporter, whose betting ticket was ruined by the home loss, did not hold back on X (formerly Twitter).

"Please sack that your coach @ FinidiGeorge FG. He cost Nigeria the World Cup and still cost me over half a million Naira today."

The sentiment was echoed by others who questioned how a coach of Finidi's stature could oversee such a steep decline in continental form.

"Finidi still has his job after 1 point from possible 12?" another fan asked, while another simply expressed disbelief at the result: "Wow! That's a shocker. How do you lose to a team from Zambia at home??? What a shame!"

The match itself was a case study in inefficiency. Rivers United dominated 71% of the possession and fired 20 shots, yet they couldn't find a way past the Zambian defence.

The sucker punch came in the 50th minute when Kondwani Chiboni scored with Power Dynamos' only real chance of the game.

Carabao Cup: Arsenal host Chelsea seeking final ticket

Armed with home advantage and a one-goal aggregate lead from the first leg, Arsenal are looking to reach their first Carabao Cup final since 2017/18 when Chelsea visit the Emirates Stadium.

A 3-2 victory in the first leg as visitors means Arsenal are in the driver's seat here, and boss Mikel Arteta will be keen not to let this opportunity slip as he's failed to guide the Gunners to any cup final since they won the FA Cup in 2020.

The Premier League leaders have been beaten just once in their last 15 games in all competitions (W12, D2), with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Leeds on Saturday meaning they come into this clash full of confidence.

Arsenal have failed to win their last two domestic home games though (D1, L1), and were beaten here at this stage of

this competition last term when they were eliminated by Newcastle.

Chelsea's successful start to life under Liam Rosenior continued on Saturday as they saw off West Ham, but it was far from straightforward as the Blues had to come from two goals down and were booed off at half-time.

Defeat in the first leg of this tie is the only blemish on Rosenior's record since arriving at Stamford Bridge (W6), so he may feel his side still have a chance to upset the odds in a competition they last won back in 2014/15.

Chelsea have been beaten in three finals since, but having scored 3+ goals in three successive away wins under Rosenior, and winning three away ties to reach this stage, they should travel in a confident mood.

Celebration of *Life*

**HIS ROYAL MAJESTY,
HRM, DR. GEORGE OSHIAPI EGABOR, JP, OON, PH.D,
OMOAZE 1
THE OKUMAGBE OF UWANNO KINGDOM
(1942-2025)**

The **Okumagbe in Council and National Burial Committee** invites distinguish sons and daughters of Uwanno Kingdom to join us in the final rites as we bid farewell to our respected and illustrious traditional ruler,

**HRM, DR. GEORGE OSHIAPI EGABOR, JP, OON, PH.D,
OMOAZE 1
THE OKUMAGBE OF UWANNO KINGDOM
(1942-2025)**

Programme of Events

**Signing of Condolence Register /
Memorial Mass**

Date: Wednesday, 4th Feb, 2026
Uwanno Days: Èwumi Nokhua
Venue: Royal Palace
Time : 9.00am & 11.00am

Reception/ Celebration of Life

Date: Thursday, 5th Feb, 2026
Uwanno Days: Èwor Nokhua
Venue: Omoaze Pry School Agenebode
Time : 12.00PM

Jumat Service /Cultural Dance

Date: Friday, 6th Feb, 2026
Uwanno Days: Èwhue Nokhua
Venue: Central Mosque / Palace
Time: 12.00PM

Igbagiuma/Night Masquerade

Date: Saturday, 7th Feb, 2026
Uwanno Days: Èviia
Venue: Royal Palace/ Communities
Time : 12.00PM

Thanksgiving Mass / Reception

Date: Sunday, 8th Feb, 2026
Uwanno Days: Èwumi Nikeke
Venue: Sacred Heart Catholic Church,
Agenebode, Edo State
Time: 9.00am & 11.00am

RSVP Burial Planning Committee

SHC MSC Aviomoh
Chairman, Planning Committee

SHC Felix Oyakhamoh
Secretary, Planning Committee

George Omokhekha Egabor - On behalf of the Family



Sleep Well, Our King

HIS ROYAL MAJESTY,
HRM, DR. GEORGE OSHIAPI EGABOR, JP, OON, PH.D,
OMOAZE 1
THE OKUMAGBE OF UWANNO KINGDOM
(1942-2025)

With deep reverence to Almighty God and profound respect for tradition, Iviokpia Descendants Union Worldwide announces the peaceful transition of our revered monarch, father, and custodian of culture, His Royal Majesty, Dr. George Oshiapi Egabor, JP, OON, PhD, Omoaze I, the Okumagbe of Uwanno Kingdom.

His reign was marked by wisdom, dignity, service, and unwavering commitment to the unity, progress, and cultural heritage of Uwanno Kingdom and Iviokpia people worldwide. He lived a life of honour, leaving behind enduring legacies of leadership, peace, and inspiration.

Though he has answered the Royal Home Call, his name, values, and contributions shall remain indelible in our hearts and history.

May the Almighty grant his noble soul eternal rest, and may the kingdom he so faithfully served continue to prosper.

Signed:

EZOMO KESS OMIOGBEMI
(Ezomo of Uwanno Kingdom)

Senior High Chief Philip Okhabu
(President General, Iviokpia Descendants Union Worldwide)

Royal High Chief Innocent Iyere
Royal Prince Dr. Fidelis Ayeabe
Senior High Chief (Dr.) Alex Omiogbemi
(Adolor of Uwanno Kingdom)

Vanguard Sports



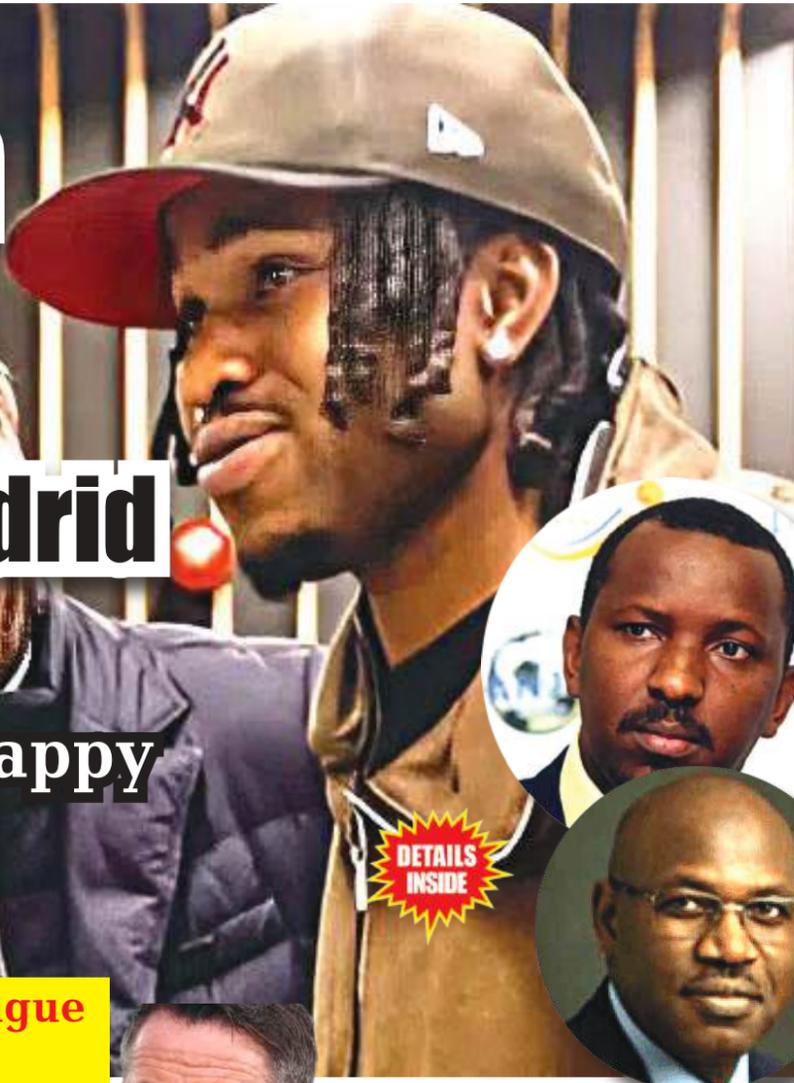
Infantino apologises for jokes about British fans

TODAY'S MATCHES

SERIE A		
Bologna	v AC Milan	8.45pm
EFL CUP		
Arsenal	v Chelsea	9pm
COUPE DE FRANCE		
Reims	v Le Mans	8.30pm
Marseille	v Rennes	9.10pm
GERMAN (DFB) CUP		
Leverkusen	v St. Pauli	8.45pm
RESULTS		
EPL		
Sunderland	3 Burnley	0
SERIE A		
Udinese	1 AS Roma	0
NPFL		
Barau	1 Ikorodu C.	0
Kwara Utd	2 Warri W.	1
Remo Stars	1 P/Utd	2
LALIGA		
Mallorca	4 Sevilla	1

Transfer: Lookman arrives in Spain for Atletico Madrid medical

Says, 'I'm very happy to be here'



DETAILS INSIDE

Stakeholders accuse Kida-led NBBF Board of tenure extension

...Ask FIBA to authorize NSC and NOC to conduct fresh elections



Champions League failure:

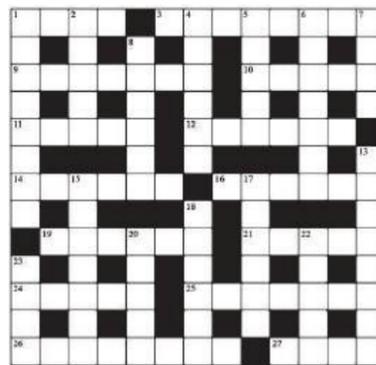
Rivers Utd fans call for Finidi's sack



Man City not good enough for EPL title, Owen declares

QUICK CROSSWORD

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE

	3			6				
4				2				
	7		4	5	9			1
		8			3			
1	6						9	3
			1			7		
	8		9	6	1			7
			7					1
			5					4

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

8	1	2	4	3	7	9	6	5
7	3	9	8	5	6	4	1	2
5	6	4	9	1	2	8	3	7
3	9	5	2	6	4	7	8	1
6	4	7	1	8	9	5	2	3
1	2	8	3	7	5	6	9	4
9	5	1	7	2	8	3	4	6
2	8	6	5	4	3	1	7	9
4	7	3	6	9	1	2	5	8

ACROSS

- Compassion(4)
- Slaughterhouse(8)
- Die down(7)
- Fracture(5)
- Small edible crustacean-(5)
- Root vegetable(6)
- Observe(6)
- Clergyman(6)
- Preliminary drawing(6)
- Large book size(5)
- Embellish(5)
- Abridge (anag.)(7)
- Incidentally(2,3,3)
- Nautical unit of speed(4)

DOWN

- Put off, defer(8)
- Shin bone(5)
- Whitening chemical(6)
- Rome's river(5)
- Burdensome(7)
- Gardening tool(4)
- Alfresco meal(6)
- Blameless(8)
- Extract(4,3)
- Fully informed(2,4)
- Morbid fear(6)
- Metric weight(5)
- Gain knowledge(5)
- Raiment(4)

How to Play Sudoku

Place a number (1-9) in each blank cell. (No line can have two of the same number).

Each row (nine lines from left to right), column, (also nine lines from top to bottom) and 3 X 3 block within a bold block (nine blocks) contains number from 1 through 9. This means that no number can appear twice in any block, column or row.

No mathematics is involved – no adding, subtraction, division or multiplication, just plain logic and your imagination.





Juventus in late sensational move for Nigeria star Pg 7



Liverpool agree £60m deal for Jacquet Pg 4



Marseille agree N10bn deal with Waregem for Nnadi Pg 3



Germany, England, Portugal want friendly against Eagles Pg 2



Rivers Utd fans call for Finidi's sack Pg 2



Sterling doubt Pg 4



Adedamola joins Sheffield Wednesday Pg 2



Runham signs new Chelsea contract Pg 4



PSG reject Chelsea's bid for Echegini Pg 2

Sporting Vanguard

VOL. 1: NO. 68

N100

TUESDAY 3, FEBRUARY 2026

SEE BETTING CODE ON PG 7

ADVERT HOTLINE 08027767834

TODAY'S MATCHES

SERIE A
Bologna v AC Milan 8.45pm

EFL CUP
Arsenal v Chelsea 9pm

COUPE DE FRANCE
Reims v Le Mans 8.30pm
Marseille v Rennes 9.10pm

GERMAN (DFB) CUP
Leverkusen v St. Pauli 8.45pm

COPA DEL REY
Albacete v Barcelona 8.45pm

CHAMPIONSHIP
Blackburn v Sheffield W. 8.45pm
Hull City v Watford 8.45pm
Portsmouth v Ipswich 8.45pm
Sheffield Utd v Oxford Utd 8.45pm

SAUDI PROFESSIONAL LEAGUE
Damac v Al Kholood 4:40pm
Al Ettifaq v Al Taawoun 6:30pm
Al Khaleej v Al Qadsiah 6:30pm

SCOTLAND PREMIERSHIP
St. Mirren v Hearts 9pm

EGYPT PREMIER LEAGUE
National Bank v Al Ahly 7pm

SOUTH AFRICA PREMIER LEAGUE
AmaZulu FC v O/Pirates 6:30pm

RESULTS

EPL
Sunderland 3 Burnley 0

SERIE A
Udinese 1 AS Roma 0

LALIGA
Mallorca 4 Sevilla 1

NPFL
Barau 1 Ikorodu City 0
Kwara Utd 2 Warri Wolves 1
Remo Stars 1 Plateau Utd 2

I'm very happy to sign for Atletico Pg 3

— Lookman
Leipzig to pocket N5.8bn from Lookman's transfer

Nigeria's most expensive teenager:

Ilenikhena set to overtake Iheanacho

PG 3



Okoye eyes 5th Serie A clean sheet as Udinese host Roma Pg 6



Besiktas give condition for Nnadi transfer Pg 3



Why £488,000-a-day Ronaldo is on STRIKE Pg 8



Dele-Bashiru remains with Lazio Pg 3



Juve move for Icardi crashes Pg 5



PSG reject Chelsea's bid for Echegini

Paris Saint-Germain have rejected a late approach from Chelsea for Nigeria international midfielder Jennifer Echegini. PSG are determined to keep one of their most influential players during the January transfer window despite Chelsea's keen interest.

The Women's Super League champions made contact with PSG with just days remaining before the English transfer deadline. The English giants are understood to be exploring midfield reinforcements for the second half of the season.

However, the French champions were unwilling to open negotiations, with sources in Paris indicating that Echegini is considered a non-negotiable part of the club's sporting plans.

Reporting the development, Le Parisien journalist Benjamin Suarez said: "Paris Saint-Germain have rejected an offer from Chelsea for Jennifer Echegini, with the French club keen to retain the Nigeria international during the current winter transfer window. The transfer deadline in England closes on 3 February."

PSG's stance reflects their desire to maintain squad continuity as they push for domestic success and aim to strengthen their position in Europe. Club officials believe disrupting the midfield unit midway through the campaign would be counter-productive, particularly with Echegini playing an increasingly prominent role.

Man City not good enough for EPL title, Owen declares

England and Liverpool legend, Michael Owen has taken a cursory look at Pep Guardiola's relentless machine, Manchester City, after they stumbled to a 2-2 draw against Tottenham and declared they are not good enough for the Premier League title this season after noticing the cracks in the team.

"This Manchester City side is not good enough to win the league this season," Owen declared, his words cutting through the post-match chatter like a cold wind. For a club that has redefined excellence in English football, such a verdict feels almost sacrilegious. But Owen's assessment wasn't born of sensationalism; it was rooted in what unfolded on the pitch.

City controlled possession, as they so often do, but control without conviction is a dangerous illusion. Tottenham struck twice and exposed a vulnerability that has crept into Guardiola's side this season: a lack of ruthlessness. Erling Haaland, usually the embodiment of inevitability, looked strangely muted.



Germany, England, Portugal lead list of teams for friendly against Super Eagles

Top teams around the world have made contact with the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) on the possibility of playing a friendly game against the Super Eagles of Nigeria in the build up to the World Cup.

Nigeria failed to qualify for the World Cup, but their strong showing at the AFCON has put them in pole position for high grade friendly games by teams going to the tournament, which will be staged in USA, Canada and Mexico.

Reports emerged that Portugal have reached agreements for a friendly game before the World Cup, but sources in the NFF say such reports are way of the mark because nothing has been agreed. It was gathered that teams with African opposition in their group see the Super Eagles as a credible test ahead of the tournament, and have all made contacts with the NFF.

The teams include Germany, England and France who will be up against African teams in the group stage of the tournament.

Rivers Utd fans call for Finidi's sack after Champions League disaster

The honeymoon period for Finidi George at Rivers United has come to a volatile end after taking one point from a possible 12.

Following a shocking 1-0 home defeat to Zambia's Power Dynamos on Sunday, the Pride of Rivers fans have flooded social media to demand the immediate dismissal of Super Eagles legend, Finidi George.

The defeat at the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium was a bitter pill to swallow, leaving Rivers United at the bottom of Group A with a dismal one point from a possible 12.

The frustration wasn't just about the points; for some, it was personal and financial. One disgruntled supporter, whose betting ticket was ruined by the home loss, did not hold back on X (formerly Twitter).

"Please sack that your coach @Finidi-George FG. He cost Nigeria the World Cup and still cost me over half a million Naira today."

The sentiment was echoed by others who questioned how a coach of Finidi's stature could oversee such a steep

decline in continental form.

"Finidi still has his job after 1 point from possible 12?" another fan asked, while another simply expressed disbelief at the result: "Wow! That's a shocker. How do you lose to a team from Zambia at home??? What a shame!"

The match itself was a case study in inefficiency. Rivers United dominated 71% of the possession and fired 20 shots, yet they couldn't find a way past the Zambian defence.

The sucker punch came in the 50th minute when Kondwani Chiboni scored with Power Dynamos' only real chance of the game.

Carabao Cup: Arsenal host Chelsea seeking final ticket

Armed with home advantage and a one-goal aggregate lead from the first leg, Arsenal are looking to reach their first Carabao Cup final since 2017/18 when Chelsea visit the Emirates Stadium.

A 3-2 victory in the first leg as visitors means Arsenal are in the driver's seat here, and boss Mikel Arteta will be keen not to let this opportunity slip as he's failed to guide the Gunners to any cup final since they won the FA Cup in 2020.

The Premier League leaders have been beaten just once in their last 15 games in all competitions (W12, D2), with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Leeds on Saturday meaning they come into this clash full of confidence.

Arsenal have failed to win their last two domestic home games though (D1, L1), and were beaten here at this stage of this competition last term when they were eliminated by Newcastle.



Adedamola joins Sheffield Wednesday

Reigning FA Cup Champions Crystal Palace have loaned out Nigeria-eligible Irish defender Tayo Adaramola to Sheffield Wednesday until the end of the season, Soccernet.ng reports.

The 22-year-old full-back has been with the Eagles since he was 12, before signing his first professional contract six years ago.

Since 2020, Adaramola has spent time on loan with several lower-level clubs, including Coventry City, RWD Molenbeek, Stockport County, Bradford City, and Leyton Orient.

Sheffield Wednesday loan Tayo Adaramola from Crystal Palace

In an official statement on their club's website, Sheffield Wednesday announced their latest acquisition, who will spend time at Hillsborough till May.

"He made his senior debut in February 2022, featuring in FA Cup victories over Hartlepool United and Stoke City.

"He has since gained valuable senior experience during loan spells with Stockport County and Bradford City, playing a key role as the latter secured promotion to League One last season.

Most recently, Adaramola made 18 appearances for Leyton Orient during the first half of the 2025/26 campaign.

"Everyone at Crystal Palace wishes Tayo the very best during his loan spell with the Owls," Crystal Palace wrote on their

website, bidding the 22-year-old goodbye until the end of the season.



Aussie Open champ Rybakina set for Dubai championship

Aussie Open champion Elena Rybakina is hoping to take her super form into the Dubai Duty Free Championship billed for February 15.

The 26-year-old Dubai resident dethroned defending champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 on Saturday to capture the Australian Open title, and she now brings that sizzling form back to familiar territory in Dubai.

The newly crowned World No 3 will return to the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships on February 15, continuing what has become an increasingly special relationship with the tournament. Fresh from securing her second Grand Slam crown, adding to her 2022 Wimbledon triumph, Rybakina will headline a stellar field that features all eight Australian Open quarter-finalists at the Dubai Tennis Stadium.

The drama that unfolded "Down Under" over the past two weeks will be back on court within a fortnight, as the emirate's 26th WTA event shapes up as a true showcase of women's tennis at the very highest level.

Nigeria's most expensive teenager: Ilenikhena set to overtake Iheanacho

Monaco and Saudi Pro League side, Al Ittihad are closing in on a deal that could see Nigerian forward George Ilenikhena become the most expensive teenage footballer in the country's history.

According to transfer market insider Fabrice Hawkins, the two clubs have reached an agreement in principle, with Al Ittihad prepared to pay a fee in the region of €33m for the highly-rated 19-year-old. Discussions between the clubs are said to be complete, leaving the Saudi giants to finalise personal terms with the player.

Ilenikhena, who only joined Monaco in 2024, has quickly emerged as one of the most exciting young attackers in French football.

His pace, strength and eye for goal have made him an attractive long-term option for Al Ittihad, who are already planning for life beyond Karim Benzema.

The former Real Madrid striker is expected to leave the club following contractual disagreements, while N'Golo Kanté is also close to a move to Fenerbahçe.



Club Brugge 'beg' Onyedika to stay until summer

Super Eagles midfielder Raphael Onyedika will stay put at Club Brugge until the summer after discussions with the Belgian team.

According to Transfer Expert Sacha Tavolieri, there was a good conversation between player and club during which it was decided a departure in this transfer window will not be ideal.

They decided to therefore wait until the summer to determine what is best for all the parties involved.

Club Brugge recently rejected a substantial offer for Raphael Onyedika. VfL Wolfsburg reportedly submitted a proposal of around €20 million euros, but that was firmly rejected.

Earlier, Club Brugge also rejected an offer from Galatasaray.



Besiktas give condition for Ndidi transfer

Turkish giants, Besiktas have given the condition that will allow Wilfred Ndidi quit less than a year into his three-year contract.

Ajax approached Besiktas for Ndidi with an offer that included a €2 million loan and a €12 million purchase option.

A report from Turkish newspaper Sabah stated that Besiktas rejected the offer from Ajax.

However, it was further stated that Besiktas, who signed Ndidi on a three-year contract at the beginning of the season, could consider the offer if the option was changed to a mandatory purchase, that means the player will be signed on a permanent basis after the loan.



I'm very happy to sign for Atletico — Lookman

Super Eagles star, Ademola Lookman has expressed delight signing for Atletico Madrid on the eve of the European football transfer deadline.

The former Atalanta of Italy striker who ditched his agreement with Fen-

erbahce of Turkey and opted for Spain will have his medical assessment today before formally sign the dotted lines for an extended contract.

Speaking for the first time on the deal at the Madrid airport, Lookman describing his excitement after arriving in the Spanish capital.

The Super Eagles winger touched down in Madrid on Sunday evening as the deal moved closer to completion, pending a medical examination and the signing of final contract documents.

"I'm very happy to be here, very, very happy. I'm looking forward to the challenge," he said.

When asked whether he had already spoken to Atlético head coach Diego Simeone, the 28-year-old smiled before replying simply: "No."

Leipzig to pocket N5.8bn from Lookman's transfer to Atletico

Ademola Lookman is moving to Atletico Madrid for a base transfer fee of €35 million (about N5.8bn).

Of that amount, €3.5 million will go directly to RB Leipzig, according to BILD.

This is possible because of a clause, which Sky Sports also reported on.

RB Leipzig insisted on this clause in the summer of 2022 when the club sold Lookman to Atalanta for €9.35 million.

Marseille agree N10bn deal with Waregem for Nnadi

French Ligue 1 side, Olympique Marseille have reached an agreement to sign Nigeria midfielder, Tochukwu Nnadi from Belgian club Zulte Waregem for a fee of €6m (N10 billion).

According to reports from France, including Foot Mercato, Marseille, Zulte Waregem and the player have agreed terms, with the transfer expected to be officially announced on the final day of the winter transfer window.

Nnadi, 22, is expected to arrive in Marseille within hours to complete the move, which will make him the fourth-most expensive sale in Zulte Waregem's history.

Marseille have agreed a N10bn deal with Zulte Waregem for Nigerian midfielder who made his AFCON debut in Morocco 2025.

The deal is comparable to the transfer of Senegal midfielder Pape Demba Diop, who joined

RC Strasbourg last summer for around €7.5m.

The Nigerian international has been one of the standout performers at Zulte Waregem this season, establishing himself as a key figure in midfield after joining the club from Bulgarian side Botev Plovdiv in January 2024. His contract with the Belgian club runs until 2028.

Nnadi has started 16 league matches this campaign, playing a central role as the newly promoted side look to consolidate their place in Belgium's top flight.

Born in Ihiagwa, Imo State, Nnadi's rise has been gradual. He developed in Nigeria before spells in Dubai and Bulgaria, where he made his European breakthrough with Botev Plovdiv.

His move to Belgium provided the platform for further growth.

His progress earned him a surprise call-up to Nigeria's squad for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations in Morocco, where he made his senior international debut in a 3-1 group-stage win over Uganda.

Although his minutes at the tournament were limited, his inclusion was widely seen as a strong endorsement of his development and has accelerated interest from abroad.



Dele-Bashiru remains with Lazio

Despite an uncertain future, Fisayo Dele-Bashiru will stay at Italian Serie A Lazio.

Lazio could not offload him in this transfer window and so he will remain at the Rome-based club at least until the summer.

According to CalcioMercato, a transfer for Dele-Bashiru from Lazio was not completed and he will remain at the club.

Fisayo Dele-Bashiru's future at Lazio is uncertain, noting that the player has so far played only 306 minutes under Maurizio Sarri.



TRANSFER DEADLINE DAY

Mateta Milan move OFF

Crystal Palace star Jean-Philippe Mateta won't be moving to AC Milan on transfer deadline day.

According to Sky Sports, Mateta's move to Milan has fallen through as the Italian champion have opted not to proceed with the transfer. Juventus could still make a move for the striker before the transfer window slams shut at 7pm GMT.

Palace, meanwhile, have agreed a £48million deal to sign Wolves star Orgen Strand Larsen.



Lascelles joining Leicester

Leicester are set to sign Newcastle defender Jamaal Lascelles.

The 32-year-old is out of contract in the summer and is expected to terminate his time at St James' Park.

There were a number of Championship clubs interested in his signing.

Leicester are also expected to add Joe Arbo on loan from Southampton and want a goalkeeper.



TRANSFER DEADLINE DAY

Liverpool agree £60m deal for Jacquet

LIVERPOOL have agreed a £60million deal with Rennes for the signing of French wonderkid defender Jeremy Jacquet.

The 20-year-old centre half was a target for Chelsea this window, and was thought to prefer a move to London over Anfield.

Instead though, Chelsea have chosen to put faith in their existing talented defenders, including Mamadou Sarr, Josh Acheampong, Levi Colwill and Aaron Anselmino.

Those names are all aged 22 or younger, and rated as some of the best young talents in the world – something Chelsea like to stockpile.

Finances were no issue for Chelsea in the move for the player who would have joined in the summer regardless of what team he joined.

His move to Liverpool is a total package of £60m, made up by £55m up front with £5m in add-ons.



TRANSFER DEADLINE DAY

Juve move for Icardi crashes

Juventus' move for Galatasaray striker Mauro Icardi has collapsed.

Juve offered Icardi a six-month contract with the option for another season should they finish in the top four.

Gala were prepared to do business, though insisted on a €15m fee and also for Juve to pay for the remaining six months of Icardi's contract.

Icardi was keen, as were Juve, but the deal fell through in the early hours of yesterday.

The Bianconeri, in the end, were left disappointed with Gala's unwillingness to negotiate terms.



Arteta on Merino

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta hinted the club could sign a replacement for Mikel Merino after his recent foot injury, which requires surgery and is expected to keep him out of action for an extended period of time.

Arteta said: "When you lose a big player like this in the squad with four months to go and all the competitions to play for, you need to look."

"And we need to do everything that we possibly can do to see if we have a player that is available. And if we don't, we keep what we have."



Williams out

Brandon Williams has seen his Hull contract TERMINATED after just half a season.

The former Manchester United defender only joined the Championship side last summer but his deal has been ripped up already.

According to Hull Live, the club agreed to end his stay so he could move away with ease. Williams joined Hull after a trial at the club last year having been a free agent for 12 months since leaving Old Trafford.



Sterling doubt

Raheem Sterling is running out of time to find himself the chance to play Champions League football this season.

Former England ace Sterling, 31, finally tied his frayed bonds with Chelsea last week, leaving Stamford Bridge by mutual consent 21 months after his final appearance for the Blues.

The decision made Sterling a free agent and able to sign for clubs after the winter transfer window closes this evening.

But Uefa regulations mean clubs left in the knock-out stages of the three competitions have to confirm their full list of squad players by midnight on Thursday.

Those regulations allow clubs to make a maximum of three changes from the squads that were announced for the initial league phase of the competitions after the closure of the summer window.



Runham signs new Chelsea contract

Chelsea have announced a new professional contract today for youngster Frankie Runham, with the 17-year-old putting pen to paper on a three-year deal. Though possibly similar in length, this is a different contract from the initial pro contract that he signed when he turned 17 in January.

The young winger was a regular at U18 level, scoring 8 goals and adding 6 assists across all competitions, including the U18 Premier League, the UEFA Youth League, and the FA Youth Cup.

Hailing from Eastbourne on the south coast, he joined the Academy at the under-8 level. He holds the club record for our youngest UEFA Youth League goalscorer at just age 15, and has already spent a bit of time training with the first-team last season.

When he signed his contract in January, former Academy director Jim Fraser praised his versatility and quality, so hopefully he will continue to showcase both for a long time in Chelsea Blue.



Ismael leaves Blackburn

Manager Valerien Ismael has left Blackburn as confirmed by the club. The Lancashire side have claimed that the coach has departed by "mutual consent".

A statement read: "Valerien Ismaël has today left his position as Blackburn Rovers' head coach by mutual consent.

"Ismaël joined the club in February 2025, however it has been mutually agreed that he will step away from his role with immediate effect, along with assistant head coach Dean Whitehead.

"Blackburn Rovers would like to thank Valerien and Dean for their efforts during their time at the club and wish them both the very best for the future.

"The club will now begin the process of appointing a new head coach and will make no further comment until an appointment is confirmed."

Blackburn have already been linked with Slaven Bilic.



Chelsea reject Crystal Palace's offer for Achempong

Chelsea has decided not to let defender Josh Achempong leave the club for Premier League rivals Crystal Palace.

As per The Guardian, Chelsea rejected Crystal Palace's bid to sign Achempong on transfer deadline day.

Crystal Palace are desperate to bolster their defenders before the winter transfer window closes tonight. With the latest development, Palace will have to search elsewhere for another defender.

Achempong was an unused substitute as Chelsea defeated West Ham United 3-2 in the Premier League at the weekend.



Arsenal in shock move for Tonalì

Arsenal has asked Newcastle United about signing Sandro Tonalì in a stunning deadline day deal. The Gunners are in the market on Monday, after losing Mikel Merino to a foot injury.

Merino is set to undergo surgery and may not feature again this season. Tonalì signed for the Magpies from AC Milan in the summer of 2023. The 25-year-old has now made 67 top-flight appearances for Newcastle and is a key player under Eddie Howe.

According to Sky Sports Deutschland, Arsenal are exploring if they can land Tonalì, before the window closes this evening.



Disasi ready for Hammers

Axel Disasi is ready to join West Ham after having a medical booked with the East London side.

The defender is set to leave Chelsea but there had been concern over a switch to the Hammers falling through.

He is ready to make the move to Nuno Espirito Santo's side.



Malacia stuck

Tyrell Malacia is unhappy with Manchester United director of football Jason Wilcox after he blocked a proposed transfer to Turkey.

Left back Malacia was about to board a plane for Turkey on Monday morning when Wilcox contacted him to call off any move.

Wilcox's intervention is possibly linked to a hamstring injury sustained by United's teenage left back Harry Amass.

Amass picked up a knock on loan at Norwich a week after fellow left back Patrick Dorgu suffered a hamstring issue of his own that could rule him out until April.

Malacia, 26, is the only senior specialist left back in the United squad apart from Luke Shaw, who has started all 24 of United's Premier League games this term.

The Dutchman has made one substitute appearance for United in the last year and was the only member of the 'bomb squad' who did not leave in the summer.



Red Devil chance

Tyler Fredricson is set to remain at Manchester United for the remainder of the season. The defender's loan move has been scuppered after he suffered an ill-timed injury.

League One promotion contenders Huddersfield Town and Scottish Premiership side Aberdeen were both keen on the 20-year-old, who started two Premier League games at the end of last season.

Scottish champions Celtic also approached United about Fredricson last month.

The academy graduate was keen on a short-term move as he has only managed two minutes of top-flight action this season, despite being named in 10 matchday squads.

His involvement at senior level means he has only made three appearances for United's under-21 side this term.



Kamara drops to Championship

Blackburn Rovers have confirmed the signing of Arsenal youth star Osman Kamara

Kamara, 19, announced his Arsenal exit yesterday, bringing an end to nearly 12 years with the North London outfit.

Blackburn have now announced that the winger will join their U21 side after impressing during a trial at the club last week.

Kamara has penned a two-and-a-half-year deal at Ewood Park through to June 2028, with a one-year option.



Surprise Arsenal return hint for Chamberlin

Mikel Arteta has refused to rule out Arsenal signing up Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain on a short-term deal. The Gunners are in the market for a new midfielder after Mikel Merino broke his foot. Merino is due to undergo surgery and faces a fight to play again this season.

Oxlade-Chamberlain is currently training with Arsenal's Under-21s after leaving Besiktas in August, so he would be an easy deal to do.

And asked about the possibility of signing Oxlade-Chamberlain, Arteta said: "We explore every option."

Arteta has confirmed that Arsenal are pushing to get someone in before the transfer window shuts tonight.

The Arsenal boss said: "We are on it."

"And it's our responsibility, when we are playing for what we are playing, to give ourselves the best opportunity and chance to look at the market, every option, evaluate them, and then make a decision whether we do something, if it's possible."

Allegri delighted with Maignan's new contract

AC Milan coach Max Allegri admits he's delighted with goalkeeper Mike Maignan's new contract.

The France international has signed a new deal with Milan to 2031.

Ahead of tomorrow's clash with Bologna, Allegri said this morning: "I'm very happy because Milan has secured one of the three best goalkeepers in Europe."

"He's very happy, he's always said he wants to stay, and the club did a good job of ensuring Mike stayed at Milan. Now let's focus on tomorrow."

"I didn't convince Maignan at all," Allegri added. "The credit, as it should be because they've worked hard and they decide on contracts, goes to the club. After Maignan stayed in the summer, I was confident he could continue at Milan."



Hackney rejection

Nottingham Forest had an approach for Hayden Hackney has been knocked back.

And Championship promotion-chasers Middlesbrough will snub deadline day advances from Crystal Palace and any other Premier League clubs circling.

Forest contacted Riverside chiefs yesterday following the 23-year-old midfielder's latest man of the match display in the 1-0 win over Norwich.

But Boro, who are level on points with Frank Lampard's Coventry at the top of the Championship, immediately knocked it back.

And their stance will remain the same should anyone else come knocking with the Teessider desperate to stay and help get his boyhood club into the Premier League.



Arsenal hold Wilson's talk

In another development, Arsenal are holding talks with Hearts over an initial loan deal for striker James Wilson.

Wilson, 18, has less than two years left on his contract with the club, with an option to extend by another year.

The Gunners are in talks with Hearts over signing Wilson after having another offer rejected by Blackburn Rovers for Igor Tjyon. The Scottish club are open to loaning out the 18-year-old, who would play for Arsenal's under-21s.

Scotland capped Wilson in their Nations League play-off against Greece just 17 days after the striker turned 18. That appearance made him the youngest player to ever feature for the senior national team, breaking a 138-year-old record.



Ukaki gets preferred jersey no.7

Greek Super League club Atromitos have confirmed the signing of promising Nigerian attacker Ehiye Ukaki on loan from Sheffield United until the remainder of the 2025-2026 season.

A product of Collins Edwin Sports Club, Ukaki has transferred to Atromitos in search of adequate playing opportunities after struggling for game time at the Blades.

This season, he has made only one appearance for Sheffield United, playing 82 minutes in a Carabao Cup clash against Birmingham City, and he is yet to make his debut in the Championship despite earning three call-ups.

The 21-year-old joined Botev Plovdiv from Russian club Vista in January 2024 and he went on to make 58 appearances for the Bulgarian side, registering seven goals and 11 assists.



Okoye

eyes 5th Serie A clean sheet as Udinese host Roma



Fiorentina in which he was sent off in the seventh minute.

The Nigeria international faces a stern test against a Roma side that have found the back of the net in each of their last seven matches across all competitions. Their most recent failure to score in a competitive fixture came on January 3, in a 1-0

loss to Napoli.

Maduka Okoye (No. 40) trying to save Jamie Vardy's effort

Since returning from his ban related to a betting scandal, Okoye has made 14 appearances for Udinese, keeping four clean sheets and conceding 18 goals.

Victor for Roma in the encounter will send them into third place in the Serie A table leapfrogging Juventus and Napoli while Udinese could go into the top half of the league table with a win.

Maduka Okoye will be aiming to register his fifth clean sheet of the season when Udinese host AS Roma at the BlueEnergy Stadium in a Serie A matchday 23 clash.

The goalkeeper last kept a clean sheet in December during Udinese's 1-0 victory over Napoli. Since then, he has gone four consecutive matches without one, excluding the 5-1 defeat to

Stakeholders accuse Kida-led NBBF Board of tenure extension

Nigeria's basketball administration has been thrown into deep turmoil as Congress members of the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) have formally accused the Musa Kida-led Board of breaching the Federation's Constitution and illegally clinging to power beyond its lawful tenure.

In a strongly worded petition to the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), representatives of State Basketball Associations and other statutory members of the NBBF Congress declared that the Board elected on January 31, 2022, has no legal or moral authority to continue in office after its tenure expired on January 31, 2026.

The petitioners, who describe Congress as the supreme organ of the Federation, insist that the 2019 NBBF Constitution drafted with inputs from FIBA, the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) and the then Ministry of Youth and Sports remains the only valid statute guiding basketball administration in Nigeria.

According to the document, the 2022 NBBF elections were peacefully conducted and observed by FIBA and universally endorsed while Board members were sworn in immediately at the venue, triggering the commencement of their four-year tenure in line with Articles 21.8 and 23.10 of the Constitution.

However, the crisis, stakeholders say, began with what they describe as deliberate constitutional violations by the NBBF President Ahmadu Musa Kida.

The petition alleges that no Annual General Meeting or Congress was convened be-

tween 2022 and 2026 which is a clear breach of Article 20.2, which mandates at least one Congress annually, with the fourth being an Elective Congress.

Even more damning, the President is accused of failing to convene Board meetings for over a year, despite constitutional provisions requiring quarterly meetings.

The last Board meeting reportedly took place in late 2024, leaving the Federation effectively paralysed.

Stakeholders argue that this breakdown was not accidental.

"The outgone president turned himself into a sole administrator in order to perpetuate himself in office," the

El-Kanemi Warriors FC to host Yobe Desert FC in friendly clash

El-Kanemi Warriors FC of Maiduguri will host Yobe Desert FC in a friendly encounter scheduled for today at the El-Kanemi Warriors Sports Complex, Maiduguri.

The highly anticipated clash will see the Babagana Umara Zulum Boys lock horns with the Mai Mala Buni Boys in what promises to be an exciting encounter between two northeast brothers.

The last time both sides met was also in a pre-season friendly ahead of the current campaign.



Newstap/SWAN Awards: Gov Diri, Imadu, others win

Organizers of the annual 5-Star Newstap Communication/ Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) award have announced the winners of the second edition of the prestigious award instituted to honour eminent Nigerians who have made immense contributions to football and sports development in Nigeria over the years.

After a rigorous selection process by a committee of respected members, The Executive Governor of Bayelsa State Senator Douye Diri, The CEO/Director-General National Institute for Sports (NIS) His Excellency Rt. Hon. Comrade Philip Shaibu, CEO Nilayo Sports, Mrs Yetunde Olopade (wife of Director-General National Sports Commission Hon. Bukola Olapade), internationally acclaimed boxing

promoter Hon. Omonlei Yakubu Imadu and proprietor of Grassroots football club Ahudiyaya Nnem FC Chief Robert Onyeani were named winners of the award.

According to the Editor of Newstap Communication Ltd Mr Ifeanyi Eduzor, the Awardees were carefully chosen for their immense contributions to football and sports development over the years.

He affirmed that the ceremony will take place at the Blessing Hall of Eko Club Surulere, Lagos on March 6th by 5pm.

The maiden edition of the Award was chaired by the Chairman of National Sports Commission (NSC) Mallam Shehu Dikko.

Eduzor said plans are in top gear to make this year's event most memorable and colorful.



CAF Champions League: Power Dynamos deserved to beat Rivers Utd - Mutapa

Power Dynamos head coach, Oswald Mutapa says his side deserved to beat Rivers United in Sunday's CAF Champions League encounter, DAILY POST reports.

The Zambian side won the matchday four fixture 1-0. Kondwani Chiboni scored the winning goal for the visitors in the 50th minute.

It was Dynamos' first-ever win in the group stage of the CAF Champions League. The win boosted their chances of making it to the knockout round of the competition.

Mutapa praised his players for fighting for the three points. "We knew it wasn't going to be an easy game, but we were prepared to fight for victory," Mutapa said after the game.

Lagos splashes millions on Gateway Games medallists

Athletes who represented Lagos State at the 22nd National Sports Festival - Gateway Games held in Abeokuta, Ogun State, in May 2025, have begun receiving their cash rewards.

This followed the release of N36.3 million approved by the Lagos State Government for medal winners at the event.

Several athletes confirmed that payments had started hitting their accounts days after the Lagos State Sports Commission (LSSC) announced that the rewards had been cleared by the government.

The team Lagos finished sixth overall at the Gateway Games, winning a total of 169 medals—38 gold, 43 silver and 88 bronze.

The incentive breakdown revealed 32 individual gold medal winners received N300,000 each; five gold doubles winners also earned N300,000 apiece and N700,000 team prize shared among team members.

For silver medals, individual and doubles winners received N200,000 each, while silver-winning teams shared N500,000.

Bronze medals individual and doubles winners earned N150,000 each, while bronze-winning teams shared N50,000.

"We started receiving the payments last Friday after we were informed that the funds had been approved," an athlete confirmed.

The development comes weeks after Lagos junior athletes recorded a historic outing at the 2025 National Youth Games in Asaba, where they dethroned hosts Delta State for the first time in the competition's history.

Team Lagos topped the medals table with 110 medals—52 gold, 32 silver and 26 bronze.

Gov. Babajide Sanwo Olu promptly rewarded the junior athletes for their feat, before extending the same gesture to the senior athletes who competed at the National Sports Festival.

Access Bank Lagos City Marathon breaks down \$250,000 prize purse

With 12 days to go to the 11th Access Bank Lagos City Marathon, organisers have released details of the \$250,000 prize money structure for the elite 42km race.

The prize money, which applies to both men and women in the elite category, highlights the marathon's commitment to rewarding excellence, attracting world-class athletes, and maintaining its World Athletics Gold Label standing.

Under the official breakdown, the winner of the 42km elite race will take home \$50,000, while the second-place finisher will earn \$20,000. The third po-

sition is valued at \$15,000, with athletes finishing fourth and fifth receiving \$12,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

Further down the field, the sixth-place finisher will earn \$8,000, seventh place is rewarded with \$6,000, while the eighth-place athlete will receive \$4,000, ensuring deep incentives across the elite rankings.

The substantial prize purse continues to be a major attraction for elite marathoners from Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, and beyond, as Lagos prepares to host another fiercely contested edition of Africa's biggest road race.

WAFCON 2026: S/Africa withdraws claims, confirms Morocco as host

There's a raging confusion in the hosting of the 2026 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON).

Morocco, last week, reportedly withdrew from organizing the tournament just two months before its scheduled start.

The 2026 edition of WAFCON is set to take place from March 17 to April 3, following a compressed schedule.

The timeline reflects adjustments after the delayed 2024 tournament, which faced disruptions due to global sporting events, including the Paris Olympics.



Hamilton, Kardashian trigger romantic rumours

Lewis Hamilton appears to be breaking his own golden rule following reports romantically linking him to Kim Kardashian.

The Ferrari star set the fastest time of the week during the first F1 running of the season in Barcelona last week, clocking a 1:16.554 in the dying minutes of Friday's final session.

Hamilton will be hoping to bounce back after his worst season in his racing career in 2025, losing the head-to-head battle with teammate Charles Leclerc 18-3.

Infantino apologises for jokes about British fans

Fifa president Gianni Infantino has apologised for controversial comments he made about British football supporters which were criticised by fan groups.

At the World Economic Forum in Switzerland last month, Infantino

said it was "really special" no British nationals were arrested during the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Amid concerns over the cost to attend matches at this summer's 2026 World Cup, the Football Supporters' Association (FSA) responded by saying the Swiss-Italian should "concentrate on making cheap tickets" as opposed to "making cheap jokes about our fans".

In an interview with Sky News, Infantino said his comments were "meant to be more of a light-hearted remark" to highlight how the Qatar tournament "was a celebration" and "a peaceful event". As he said sorry to fans from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the first instance, the 55-year-old said it was "not my intention" to cause offence to them.



Guardiola bemoans six-point gap between Man City, Arsenal

Manchester City manager, Pep Guardiola, has said their 2-2 draw against Tottenham on Sunday was "a setback."

This result means City has only won one game this year. Arsenal are now six points clear of Guardiola's after they beat Leeds 4-0 the day before. Guardiola is now hoping for a big turnaround in the title race with 14 games left in the season.

He said to BBC Sport: "The Premier League is like that. We had our momentum again

towards the end. "It is a setback, but we are still in it. We move on and keep going. There are 14 games left and a lot of points. We will see."

Arsenal could make their lead even bigger when they play Sunderland, and City will face Liverpool this weekend.



Saudi: Benzema may leave Al-Ittihad for league leaders Al-Hilal

Striker Karim Benzema has opened negotiations to join Saudi Pro League leaders Al-Hilal amid an ongoing dispute with his current club, Al-Ittihad.

It was understood that discussions are currently ongoing between the parties over a possible move for the remainder of the season.

"Negotiations are underway between the parties: Al-Hilal would like to sign Benzema for the remaining six months of his contract with Al-Ittihad, but the player's agent is demanding a one-and-a-half-year contract," AFP quoted a source as saying.

Media reports indicate that Benzema is unhappy with a contract extension offer from Al-Ittihad, a situation that has reportedly contributed to his absence from the club's last two league matches.

The 2022 Ballon d'Or winner has scored eight goals in 14 league games this season for Al-Ittihad.

According to sources close to the player, Benzema received an offer from Michael Emenalo, sporting director of the Saudi Pro League, which he considered "insulting."



Juventus in late sensational move for Nigeria star

Juventus have made a dramatic late move for Nigeria striker Paul Onuachu, sounding out Trabzonspor over a deal that would bring the Super Lig's joint top scorer to Turin before the transfer window closes.

The Serie A side are searching urgently for attacking reinforcements after a run of injuries and slow adaptation among their forwards. Dušan Vlahovi and Arkadiusz Milik are both sidelined with fitness issues, while summer arrivals Loïs Openda and Jonathan David are still struggling to impose themselves consistently on Italian football.

That situation has forced Juventus into the market, and attention has now turned to Onuachu, whose form in Turkey has been among the most eye-catching in Europe this season. The 29-year-old has scored 13 league goals for Trabzonspor and remains joint top scorer despite missing several weeks while representing Nigeria at the Africa Cup

TODAY'S PREDICTION

ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIP
(20:45) 1641-Hull v Watford 1x
(20:45) 1452-Blackburn v Sheffield Weds 1 & U45
(20:45) 1453-portsmouth v Ipswich x2
(20:45) 1487-sheffield utd v oxford Utd 1.

ENGLAND LEAGUE ONE
(20:00) 2603-portvale v Wimbledon 1x
(20:45) 1744-Barnsley v Northampton 1
(20:45) 1768-Burton Albion v Doncaster O25.

ENGLAND LEAGUE TWO
(20:45) 1578-Notts county v Gillingham 1x
(20:45) 1607-Bristol Rovers v Walsall 1XHT
(20:45) 1680-Horrogate v Swindon Aweh
(20:45) 2355-Barnet v Crewe 1

ENGLAND ISTHMIAN LEAGUE
(20:45) 2698-Cray Valley v Welling Utd 1x
(20:45) 2087-Wimgate& Finchley v potters Bar O25
(20:45) 2683-Canvey v Chichester x2
(20:45) 2702-Dultwitch v white hawks Hweh
(20:45) 2710-Cheshnut v st Albans x2
(20:45) 2712-Chatham v Brentwood 12& U4.5
(20:45) 2714-Dartford v Ramsgate 1.

ENGLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE
(20:45) 1981-forest Green v working O2.5
(20:45) 1555-Altrincham v Morecambe 1
(20:45) 3525-Rochdale v Boreham wood 1.

ENGLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH
(20:45) 2079 Aidstone v Bath city 1
(20:45) 3560-weston super mare v worthing 1x&GG
(20:45) 2078+Ebbsfleet v Hemel Hempstead 12&1-4GOAL

ENGLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH
(20:45) 1958-Fylde v Peterborough sports 1
(20:45) 2065-Radcliffe v oxford city 1
(20:45) 2070-Kingss Lynn v Southport Hweh
(20:45) 2073-Spenymoor v Telford GG.

SAUDI ARABIA
(16:40) 2438-Damac v Al-khlood Aweh 12
(18:30) 2790-AL.khaleej v AL Qadasiyah 2
(18:30) 3686-AL Ettifaq v AL Tawoounn GG.

SLOVENIA
(17:30) 1149-Koper v primorje 1
(20:00) 2431-Bravo v mura 1x.

FRANCE CUP
(20:30) 5053-Reims v Le mans 1
(21:10) 3319-Marseille v Rennes O2.5

ALGERIA
(17:00) 3701-constantine v Es mostagenem 1
(17:00) 3734-oran v Akbou 1x& U3.5.

ROMANIA
(15:00) 1879-petrolul v slobozia 1
(17:00) 1850-universitatea Cluj v ACS 12
(19:30) 1996-Hermannstadt v Rapid 1923 x2



WOMEN'S FOOTBALL: Crazy scoreline recorded in Botswana as team whitewash opponents 42-0

Football fans across Africa were left stunned on Sunday after an extraordinary scoreline was recorded in the Botswana Women's National League, as Gaborone United Ladies FC thrashed Gantsi Swallows FC 42-0.

It was a one-sided contest from start to finish at the Gaborone United Stadium, where goals rained in relentlessly as Gaborone United Ladies dominated every department of the game. The hosts showed no mercy, piling pressure on Gantsi Swallows from the opening whistle and maintaining the intensity throughout the match. The historic victory ranks among the most lopsided

results in African women's football, highlighting the growing competitiveness on one end and the wide performance gap that still exists within some domestic leagues on the continent.



Arsenal earn less from Champions League than Liverpool, Man City despite perfect record

Manchester City and Liverpool have both earned MORE from the Champions League than Arsenal so far this season.

Mikel Arteta's men stormed into the last 16 with eight wins out of eight in the league phase, which concluded last week, and have been touted as favourites to win the whole thing. Premier League champions Liverpool finished third while City were eighth, the lowest position afforded an automatic place in the last 16.

However, both City and the Reds have so far earned £84m from this year's competition - a touch more than Arsenal's £83.1m, according to data published yesterday by the highly respected Swiss Ramble football finance blog. While Arsenal have outshone those two clubs on the pitch, City and Liverpool have earned more to date this season due to their superior European records over the last 10 years when compared to the Londoners.

The 36 clubs in the league phase each receive a £16.1m starting fee before prize money based on performance is added, which accounts for 37.5 per cent of the total money distributed to the clubs by UEFA. Cash is earned for each win, draw, position in the table and qualification for the last 16. That achievement alone is worth £9.5m to each club.

As such, Arsenal unsurprisingly topped the performance part of the earnings list, receiving £35.1m, with Liverpool earning £31m and City earning £28.5m. However, Arsenal did less well in the 'value pillar' section of Champions League earnings.

Ronaldo 'goes on strike'



CRISTIANO RONALDO has gone ON STRIKE and is refusing to play for Al-Nassr after being left "furious" at the club's situation, according to reports.

The sporting icon is the highest-paid footballer in history with his current deal at the Saudi Arabian giants, raking in a reported £488,000 per day.

Ronaldo, who celebrates his 41st birthday on Thursday, has scored 18 goals in 22 games across all competitions this season but is not set to be involved in Al-Nassr's next game against Al-Riyadh.

Local media had originally said he would miss the clash because of a physical issue.

But a fresh report has claimed he will actually miss the clash due to being unhappy with the club's owners, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF).

Portuguese outlet A Bola claim the Manchester United and Real Madrid legend is dissatisfied over apparent favouritism they have shown to rival clubs in the Saudi Pro League over the transfer window.

The report says Ronaldo has complained about manager Jorge Jesus not receiving the reinforcements he requested in the window, with the only player signed being 21-year-old Iraqi midfielder Haydeer Abdulkareem.

Meanwhile, title rivals and current league leaders Al-Hilal have signed ex-Arsenal defender Pablo Mari from Fiorentina, Kader Meité from Rennes in a £26million deal and are in talks for another £26m move for Neom star Saimon Bouabre.

Bellingham to be out for one month

Jude Bellingham who left the field in tears after picking up an untimely injury in Real Madrid's La Liga clash with Rayo Vallecano, Sunday night, will be out for at least one month it has been confirmed.

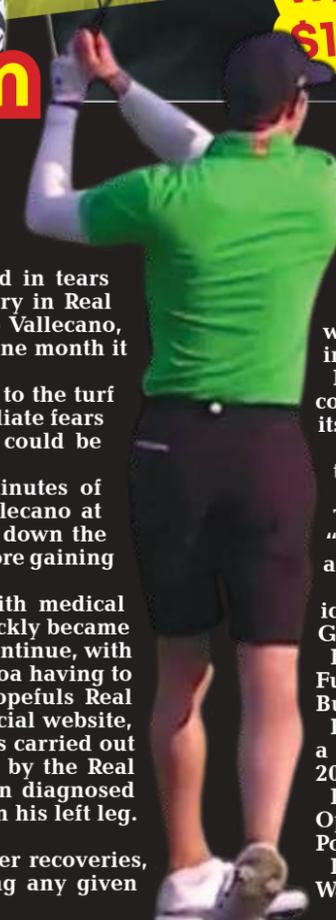
The England international crumpled to the turf clutching at his hamstring, with immediate fears being raised regarding how long he could be sidelined for.

Bellingham lasted fewer than 10 minutes of Real Madrid's meeting with Rayo Vallecano at Santiago Bernabeu. He chased a ball down the left flank, but was forced to pull up before gaining possession.

He was clearly in some distress, with medical staff being waved onto the field. It quickly became apparent that he would be unable to continue, with interim Los Blancos boss Alvaro Arbeloa having to tinker with his plans. La Liga title hopefuls Real have delivered an update on their official website, saying in a statement: "Following tests carried out today on our player Jude Bellingham by the Real Madrid Medical Services, he has been diagnosed with a semitendinosus muscle injury in his left leg. His recovery will be monitored."

Clubs rarely put a timescale on player recoveries, with it difficult to determine how long any given ailment will take to heal.

Bale fluffs chance to win \$10million



GARETH BALE fluffed a chance to win \$10million with one golf shot in spectacular fashion.

The former Real Madrid star is often seen on the golf course these days.

The scratch player took part in the Icon Series event over the weekend alongside a host of other former footballers.

The event gave players the opportunity to win a jackpot \$10m if they hit a hole in one in at Reignwood in Bangkok.

However Bale's attempt was some way off course, hitting a fan in the stands instead of its intended target.

He let out a wry smile as fans and even the cameraman ducked for cover.

Bale's day went from bad to worse as Team World - whose Dwight Yorke hit a "miracle" shot earlier in the week - fell to a narrow defeat to Team England.

The Welshman played alongside fellow icons like David Ginola, Ruud Gullit and Gianfranco Zola, and lost by a single point.

Bale, 36, drew his match-up with former Fulham and Wigan midfielder Jimmy Bullard.

He fought back from four down to rescue a point, but it was not enough to prevent a 20-19 defeat.

Bale also revealed his desire for The Open to be staged in his homeland at Royal Porthcawl.

He said: "I'd love for The Open to come to Wales. 100 per cent."