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N250

How misuse of Cybercrime Act cost Nigeria N1.1 tm in 7 yrs

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● Banks, telcos, MDAs' networks breached ● Financial sector loses N53.4bn to cybercriminals in 2024 ● Urgent need arises for reimagining cybercrime enforcement architecture

AT NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING...



From left: Vice President Kashim Shettima; President Bola Tinubu, and Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, during the National Economic Council (NEC), meeting, held at the Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday. STATE HOUSE PHOTO.

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President, Central African Republic (CAR), Faustin-Archange Touadera; Keynote Speaker and Group Chair, United Bank for Africa and Founder, Tony Elumelu Foundation, Mr. Tony Elumelu; and Finance Minister, Central African Republic (CAR), Hervé Ndoba at the opening ceremony of African Caucus Meeting of the African Governors of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he spoke to "Resilient Infrastructure, Human Capital and Green Assets, in Bangui, CAR, yesterday.

ELUMELU AT WORLD BANK/IMF FORUM IN CAR...



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World Cup: Why Super Eagles are struggling in qualifiers — Ideye

Mr & Mrs

AT THIRTY, WHAT'S STOPPING YOUR SISTER FROM GETTING MARRIED?

HER NAME IS MARY. SHE NEEDS SOMEBODY TO ADD LETTER "R" TO MARY TO COMPLETE THE WORD "MARRY!"

LETTER "R"?

YES "RING!"

dadadekola@yahoo.com

08052201913

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News Extra

By Prince Osuagwu,
Hi-Tech Editor

DESPITE the existence of the Nigerian Cybercrimes (Prevention, Prohibition, etc.) and Amendment Act of 2024, Nigeria's cyberspace has faced escalating challenges in recent years, with cyberattacks inflicting substantial financial losses on banks, telecommunications companies, and government institutions.

Yet, even as the threats escalate, the government appears to pay passive attention and the country's enforcement agents are seemingly misdirecting their activities towards suppressing dissent rather than bolstering cyber security.

Although the security agencies have flatly denied that they are misapplying enforcement of the act, branding those holding such opinions as ignorant, civil society activists and notable lawyers are insisting that it's either the agencies are not conversant with the letters of the Act or totally mischievous, with the manner they're going about harassing social critics in the name of the Act.

The Force Public Relations Officer, ACP Olu-muyiwa Adejobi, told *Vanguard*: "It is ignorant to say we are hiding under the Cybercrime Act to suppress dissent."

In fact, the truth is that many people are not conversant with the Cybercrime Act until one or two people were arrested and prosecuted.

"Our activities have now awakened their consciousness and awareness of the law, particularly in cyberbullying or stalking and the likes".

But, prominent lawyer and Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Mr. Kunle Edun, SAN in a response, said: "Sadly, most of these cases are never concluded because government officials or rich men allegedly defamed or cyber-stalked, never come to court to testify. This is abuse of power and the courts must never encourage it."

"The weaponization of the Cybercrimes Act by investigating and prosecuting agencies is only meant to decimate dissenting voices."

"Charges of cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying are often filed to intimidate critics of government, politically exposed persons and businessmen, which is contrary to the letters and spirit of Section 39 of the Constitution, which provides that every Nigerian shall have a right to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference."

"Section 39(2) of the same Constitution guaran-

How misuse of Cybercrime Act cost Nigeria N1.1 trn in 7 yrs

- Banks, telcos, MDAs' networks breached
- Financial sector lost N53.4bn to cybercriminals in 2024
- Urgent need arises for reimagining cybercrime enforcement architecture



tees every citizen the right to own and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions.

"Sedition is no longer a law in Nigeria. By virtue of the afore-cited provisions of the Constitution, public criticism of government and public officials is a constitutional right and can never be criminalized."

"Sadly, the EFCC, DSS and the Police continue to major in the minor, while billions of naira have been lost in the banking and finance industry because of the activities of electronic fraudsters, popularly called *yahoo yahoo boys*. They do far more damage to the economy and image of the country."

Financial sector losses

The financial sector has been particularly vulnerable to cyber threats. Be-

tween 2017 and 2023, Nigerian financial institutions, including commercial banks, fintech firms and network service providers, were reported to have suffered losses exceeding N1.1 trillion due to various cyber threats such as hacking, ransomware, and malware attacks.

In one notable incident in September 2022, cybercriminals exploited vulnerabilities in an old-generation bank, transferring N523.337 million from a customer's account to 18 different accounts within the same bank over a three-day period.

A top official at Cybervergent, a renowned global cybersecurity technology company, told *Vanguard* that in 2024, Nigeria's financial sector faced an unprecedented wave of cyberattacks that exposed critical vulnerabilities, letting cybercriminals steal

over N534 billion.

The hard truth

The source said: "The hard truth is that last year was marked by high-profile breaches that shook the banking sector to its core. One of the most devastating incidents involved a Tier-1 Nigerian bank, where hackers siphoned N10 billion in a single attack. The fallout was

so severe that a Federal High Court ordered the freezing of over 800 accounts suspected of being linked to the fraud. Similarly, another leading financial institution was fined N555.8 million by the Nigeria Data Protection Commission, NDPC, for failing to protect customers' data. Other banks and financial institutions also faced hefty penalties for cybersecurity lapses, resulting in significant financial and reputational damage.

"These breaches underscore a harsh reality that despite rapid digitization, Nigerian banks remain alarmingly vulnerable to cyber threats. For customers, the impact is deeply personal; savings wiped out, investments lost and financial stability shattered. At least in 2024 alone, cybercriminals went away with over N53.4 billion of financial sector's money. With that, the message is clear: cybersecurity is no longer a luxury; it is an absolute necessity."

Broader economic impact

Cyber-attacks are not just a threat to individual insti-

"The hard truth is that last year was marked by high-profile breaches that shook the banking sector to its core. One of the most devastating incidents involved a Tier 1 Nigerian bank, where hackers siphoned N10 billion in a single attack"



• **Bosun Tijani**, Minister of Communications and Digital Economy of Nigeria



• **Nuhu Ribadu**, National Security Adviser of Nigeria

tutions; they are also a threat to Nigeria's economic stability and growth.

The ripple effects of these cyber-attacks on the financial sector, is the erosion of trust in digital banking which has even pushed many Nigerians back to cash transactions, stalling the country's progress towards financial inclusion.

However, the attacks extend far beyond the banking sector. The telecommunications sector has also been targeted, with cyberattacks disrupting services and compromising user data. Government agencies have equally been at-

Continues on page 3

News Extra

Continues from page 2

tacked, with valuable and critical country secret information compromised.

These breaches not only erode trust but also pose significant financial burdens due to the costs associated with mitigating them, and potential regulatory fines they can attract.

For instance, the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, was said to have once allocated N35 million to bolster its cybersecurity defences after a hack.

According to the Consumer Awareness and Financial Enlightenment Initiative, CAFEI, such incidents highlight the broader economic toll of cybercrime, which could cost Nigeria an estimated \$6 trillion by 2030.

Passive government attention

Incidentally, the Federal Government is aware that Nigeria is vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, at a workshop for policymakers and sector regulators on critical national information infrastructure protection and resilience in Abuja, recently, admitted that urgent steps must be taken, else, criminals will overrun the country's cyber space.

He said the country recently faced numerous attacks on its installations.

Hear him: "We are now confronted with heightened threats of attacks on our telecommunications systems, banking platforms, power and energy grids, military networks, transportation systems, national databases, elections, digital systems, and other critical assets.

"We are also confronted with threats of online financial scams and fraud perpetuated by nefarious individuals and groups within and outside the country, which is persistently denting our economy and, indeed, our international image.

"This, and other attacks on military networks, national database and digital system, among others, have a ripple effect on the nation's economy.

Misapplication of the Cybercrimes Act

While cyber threats escalate, enforcement of the Cybercrimes Act has often been alleged to tilt towards silencing government critics:

In December 2024, lawyer and activist, Dele Farotimi, was arrested following allegations of defamation linked to his book critiquing Nigeria's criminal justice system. His detention sparked nationwide protests and debates over freedom of expression.

Also in December 2024, social media activist, Olamide Thomas, was arrested

and charged under the Cybercrimes Act for allegedly "insulting" President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's son, Seyi, on Facebook. Thomas had criticized Seyi's alleged influence on government contracts, prompting swift action from law enforcement.

A popular Tiktoker, Oluamide Ogunsanwo, also known as "Seaking" was recently arrested for making a viral video, speaking against the extension of the IGP's tenure in office. Immediately the video hit the airwaves, he was promptly arrested and detained. It took the intervention of journalist and activist, Omoyele Sowore and his team's prompt rejection of the initial bail condition requiring a Level 12 or 10 civil servants, to force a swift agreement to administrative bail, before he was released from Police custody.

In 2019, Sowore himself was arrested and charged with treason, money laundering, and cybercrime of-



•Dr. Aminu Maida, EVC NCC



•Egbetokun, IGP

How misuse of Cybercrime Act cost Nigeria N1.1 trn in 5 yrs



To enhance Nigeria's cybersecurity posture, Odoemelam advocated refocusing of enforcement strategy, strengthening of infrastructure, promoting transparency and genuine and deliberate engagement of critical stakeholders across related ecosystems

fenses after organizing the #Revolution-Now protest. The charges included granting interviews aimed at causing insult and ill-will towards the President.

In 2023, facebook user, Chiooma Okoli, was arrested for publishing an 'offensive' review of a particular brand of tomatoes on her facebook page.

Okoli, on September 17, published a product review on her

Facebook page, saying "I went to buy tinned tomatoes yesterday that I will use to make stew. I didn't see Gino and Sonia.

"So, I decided to buy this one. When I opened it, I decided to taste it. Omo! Sugar was just too much. Ha, biko, let me know if you have used this tinned tomato before because this is an Ike gwuru situation."

Although the makers of the said tomato paste dismissed her claims as untrue, they went ahead to arrest and detain her for several months, even when it was claimed the woman was pregnant.

Dangers of improperly aligned

enforcement

The list of these diversions of cybersecurity resources towards suppressing dissent is endless but the unfortunate reality is that it has several detrimental effects, including increased vulnerability, economic losses, and systemic distrust, among other negative impacts.

A renowned lawyer and social critic, Mr Nwachukwu Odoemelam said with attention focused on critics, genuine cyber threats may go unaddressed, leaving critical infrastructure and financial systems exposed.

He added that "unmitigated cyberattacks can lead to significant financial losses, affecting economic sta-

bility and investor confidence. That is even as public trust in digital systems and government institutions may decline if citizens perceive that laws are enforced selectively.

Securing Nigeria's Cyberspace

To enhance Nigeria's cybersecurity posture, Odoemelam advocated refocusing of enforcement strategy, strengthening of infrastructure, promoting transparency and genuine and deliberate engagement of critical stakeholders across related ecosystems

For him, Nigeria is not a lost case when it comes to the issue of porous cyberspace.

He said the ability to re-energise efforts towards prioritising the application of the Cybercrimes Act would determine how easy it would be to mitigate genuine cyber threats rather than political dissent.

"We must also ensure that actions taken under the Cybercrimes Act are transparent and subject to judicial oversight to prevent misuse. Most importantly there should be a deliberate effort to foster collaboration among government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society to develop comprehensive cybersecurity strategies," he added.

Abusing the cyberstalking provision of the Act

However, it appears the security agencies are depending more on Section 24 of the Act which deals with cyberstalking.

That section of the Act outlines various acts that constitute this offence.

They include: Sending Offensive Messages: Knowingly or intentionally sending a message that is offensive, obscene, or menacing, with penalties including a fine of up to N7,000,000 or imprisonment for up to 3 years.

- Sending False Messages: Knowingly or intentionally sending a false message to cause annoyance, inconvenience, or anxiety, with similar penalties.

- Bullying, Threatening, or Harassing: Transmitting communications to bully, threaten, or harass another person, placing them in fear of death, violence, or bodily harm, with penalties including imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a minimum fine of N25,000,000.

- Threats to kidnap or harm: Transmitting communications containing threats to kidnap or harm another person, with penalties including imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a minimum fine of N25,000,000.

- Threats to Harm Property or Reputation: Transmitting communications containing threats to harm property or reputation, with penalties including imprisonment for up to 5 years and/or a minimum fine of N15,000,000.

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Nigeria Labour Congress
Labour House, off Okpanam Road,
Asaba, Delta State.
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Date: _____

AVOID DISHONEST POLITICS IN THE ANIOMA STATE CREATION MOVEMENT

Introduction

Politics is an integral part of every society. It naturally breeds conflict, yet within every conflict there is equal or greater benefits. These benefits, however, can only be realized through constructive engagement by seeking solutions rather than fault, and by avoiding blame game

The recent achievements by the Senate Committee on Constitutional Review in Ikot Ekpene and Enugu are commendable. The submissions by various Anioma groups advocating for the creation of Anioma State were well argued, transparent, and inclusive. There was an ample opportunity for dissenting voices to be heard during the Public Hearings.

However, Odu Oma Club is concerned about the divisive narratives emerging in the media, particularly regarding Anioma's geo-political alignment. At this critical juncture, historical debates over ethnic origins should not overshadow the central goal of the realization of Anioma State. This cause should unify, not divide all men and women of goodwill.

The negative stance adopted by some Anioma indigenes indicates a fundamental misunderstanding of political autonomy and self-determination. The on-going debate over South-South vs. South-East affiliation is largely inconsequential. Geo-political zones have no bearing on state governance. The Bill for Anioma State Creation, which seeks to correct the geo-political imbalance in the South-East, has successfully passed the Public Hearing stage. The Third Reading and Plebiscite stages, demand focus on education and mobilization of Anioma citizens to embrace freedom and reject political servitude.

The Origin of Anioma

The three major Igbo-speaking groups in the west of the River Niger namely Enuani, Ika, and Ndokwa have a long history of unity of purpose. Their efforts during the Ekumeku War (1883-1914) significantly challenged British colonial rule. As a result of colonial strategies, the area was fragmented: Enuani, Ika and Ndokwa were delineated to Benin and Delta Province respectively.

In 1947, when Nigeria was divided into three regions—Eastern, Western, and Northern, the western Igbo areas were controversially placed in the Western Region. This exclusion sparked protest from prominent Traditional Rulers, namely the Obis of Aboh, Agbor, and Idumuje Ugboko. Though unsuccessful in reversing the decision, this resistance established historical ties with Eastern Igbos. The argument that River Niger was the natural boundary of Eastern and Western Regions is inexplicable. The same River Niger in the North never constituted the boundary of the Northern and Western Region. River Benue also was not the boundary of the Eastern and the Northern Region. The use of River Niger as the boundary of Eastern and Western Regions by the colonial masters was aimed at weakening the sterling power of Igbo nation.

The knitted relationship among Igbos in both sides of River Niger manifested in the collaborative efforts of the Ibo Union and the NCNC Political Party in the creation of Mid Western Region in 1963. Secondly, during the Nigerian Civil War, Anioma sons and daughters participated actively on the side of Biafra. Thirdly, the

genocide experienced in Asaba, mass killings witnessed at Isheagu, Ibusa residents' displacement, to mention but a few were as a result of being an integral part of Igbo nation.

It should be noted that State creation efforts during the War, reclassified the Mid-Western Region to Bendel State. In 1976, the Aniocha, Ika, Ndokwa, and Oshimili Local Government Areas (LGAs) were established. At that time, the people were identified as Western Ibo, Mid-West Ibo or Ika Ibo without controversy. When the Eastern Igbos attended States status (Abia, Anambra, Ebony, Enugu, and Imo), their identities aligned with their State names. The western Igbos, lacking statehood, retained the broader "Ibo" label. Seeking a unifying identity, Political leaders led by Chief Osadebe used Aniocha, Ndokwa, Ika, Oshimili acronym "ANIO" adding "MA" to coin ANIOMA which means "Good Land" in Igbo language.

Though politically inspired, the term "Anioma" became widely accepted. It was formally adopted during the 1980s State Creation Campaigns. Despite the interruption caused by the 1983 military coup, the quest for identity continued. On December 13, 1989, the Declaration of Anioma Identity was formally presented to the then Bendel State Military Administrator, Col Tunde Ogbeha by Traditional Rulers and Leaders of Thought led by HRM Obi Efeizoma II. This historic Declaration was organized by the Odu Oma Club Nig under the leadership of HRM, Obi Prof L.C. Nwoboshi, the Obuzor of Ibusa and Late Prof A. C. Unomah, the Okilolo of Igbo. The 5 points Declaration reads thus:

"We hereby resolved as follows:

1. That the people of the four Local Government Areas of Aniocha, Ika, Ndokwa and Oshimili shall henceforth be known and referred to as ANIOMA;
2. That our version of the Ibo language shall also be called ANIOMA,
3. That the adoption of the name ANIOMA has nothing to do with the historic agitation for Anioma State as other culture areas of Bendel State do not necessarily have States of their own,
4. That the previous documents pertaining to ANIOMA is also without prejudice to the distinct identities of clans and towns in the area,
5. That the previous documents pertaining to ANIOMA remain valid".

This declaration affirmed the Anioma people's Igbo identity and was universally embraced across the nation. Anioma therefore is our tribe, language, culture, way of life and "State".

South-South vs. South-East: A Misplaced Debate

Throughout the Anioma State agitation, the issue of regional affiliation has never been central. While Delta State is geographically within the South-South, no state in Nigeria controls another. Moreover, Geo-political zones are not constitutional entities as each state remains autonomous.

Anioma State, when created, will become the sixth state in the South-East, correcting a long-standing imbalance. The movement to align with the South-East dates back to 1949. Cultural and political associations played key roles in maintaining ties with Eastern Igbos. Anioma sons and daughters were active in the Ibo

Union and the NCNC. Anioma's inclusion in Ohaneze Ndigbo, the umbrella body of Igbo nation confirms this historical and cultural bond. The organization's structure includes seven states, with Anioma recognized as one of the States. (Article 7 of Ohaneze Ndigbo Constitution). It could be recalled that Late Col Achuzia and Late Amb. Raph Uwechue was elected into the offices of Secretary and President General respectively in Ohaneze Ndigbo.

In 2006, the National Assembly recommended a sixth state for the South-East. Ohaneze Ndigbo formed a Committee led by Late Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu to advance the process. A formal memorandum was submitted by Anioma Traditional Rulers and Leaders of Thought under HRM Obi Prof. J.C. Edozien. This was aimed at appealing to Ohaneze Ndigbo to recommend Anioma as its choice State to the National Assembly to formalize Anioma State Status in the organization. Unfortunately, the effort was derailed by the Third Term controversy under President Obasanjo.

Obnoxious Politics: A Threat to Anioma Unity

The Anioma State Movement predates many of today's actors. Over the years, Traditional Rulers, Political Groups and Cultural Organizations contributed without partisanship. Their unity of purpose transcended Political Party loyalty or personal gain. It should be emphasized that Political Representatives should be agents of positive change. They should exude the ability to identify, prioritize, and timely provision of peoples' needs. These are qualities exemplified by Senator Prince Ned Nwoko in his advocacy for Anioma State.

However, recent political developments following the successful Public Hearings in Ikot Ekpene and Enugu are unbecoming. The Press releases by Ndokwa Neku in respect of aligning with South-East geopolitical zone and the Forum of nine Local Government Areas Chairmen alleging forged documents only serve to undermine progress. These acts echo divisiveness and are unpatriotic. Anioma's interest MUST come first. The state is large enough to accommodate all. Those opposing South-East inclusion should reconsider their stands, given the deep linguistic, cultural, and familial ties with the broader Igbo nation.

Conclusion

Politics is merely a means to achieve governance, and while it breeds conflict, such conflict should be channeled productively. The process for creating Anioma State is well advanced. It deserves unwavering support.

The Anioma State Creation Bill has passed the Public Hearing stage. All stakeholders must collaborate with Senator Ned Nwoko, the current champion of this cause. State creation will usher in new political and economic opportunities: 3 Senators, 9 Federal Representatives, about 20 State Assembly members and Local Government Council Chairmen each, etc.

Anioma shouldn't be at a crossroad. The choice is between achieving statehood and looping in the dark over Delta North Senatorial District Party Structure - "State Capture and Dog eat Dog" mentality. It should be unequivocally stated that God has given us the freedom of choice but not freedom from the consequences of our choice. Let us therefore choose Anioma State and reject politics of bitterness and sabotage.


Patrick Ogbogu Okenyi,
Eze Odu Oha (President General)
08063430416


Uche Emma Aboh
Okwelegwe Oha (Secretary General)
08038370773

News

Strike: FG approves policy to regulate trade unions' activities

●Meets with striking health workers today ●We will resist govt's attempt to divide us— ORGANISED LABOUR ●We must see commitment from FG before suspending strike — NANMM

By Sola Ogundipe, Health Editor & Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — IN a bid to curtail incessant industrial actions by trade unions, the Federal Government has approved the National Industrial Relations Policy, NIRP, 2025, to check strikes.

This came as government said that the contentious circular that precipitated the recent strike by health workers has been withdrawn. Meanwhile, government will meet with the striking nurses today.

Meantime, Organised Labour has vowed to resist any attempt by external forces to cause disunity between the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, and Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, TUC, so as to weaken agitation for workers welfare.

As the nationwide warning strike declared by the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives, Federal Health Institutions Sector, NANNM-FHI, enters Day 3, the union has insisted that the Federal Government must act first and accede to some of its key demands.

Nurses and midwives as well as medical doctors embarked on strike over poor welfare package

Briefing State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting, presided over by President Bola Tinubu, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, explained that the new

policy will regulate activities of trade unions.

He said the National Industrial Relations Policy for the country stems from the need to have a guiding policy document aimed at fostering harmonious industrial relations within the workplace for both employers and employees.

He said: "This policy is essential for regulating the conduct of the various trade unions within the industrial relations space in the country.

"This is due to frequent industrial actions over the years caused by the lack of a comprehensive national policy.

FEC looked at that and came up with approval for

this policy, brought up by the Minister of Labour and Employment.

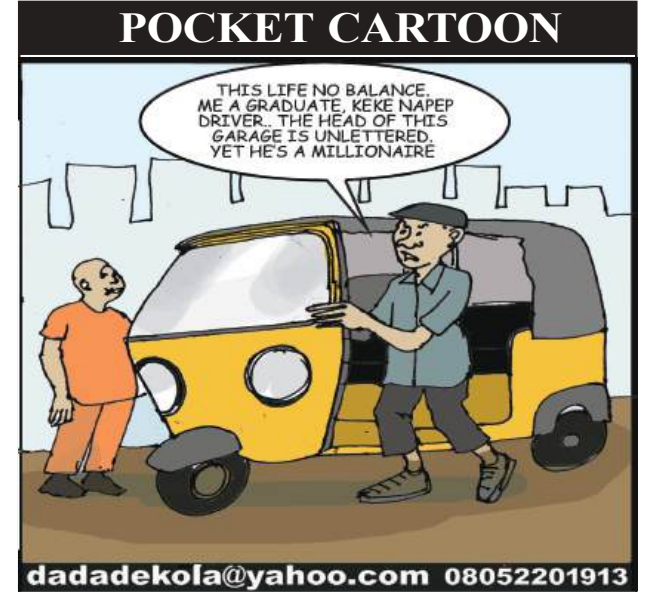
"The policy will ensure a seamless workload, promote social dialog and tripartite cooperation among government employers and workers, and also align Nigeria's industrial relations practices with global standards, including those set by the International Labour Organisation, while underscoring the importance of maintaining industrial relations as a national priority that requires immediate and ongoing attention

"The Nigerian Government has previously enacted well-crafted laws

to govern industrial relations landscape between labour and employers with the government serving as regulator.

"However, the implementation fell short of expectations, as many provisions in the laws are often disregarded by the parties involved, hence the need for a comprehensive National Policy."

Addressing the state of industrial harmony in the health sector, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Alli Pate noted concerns raised by professional groups over a recent circular by the National Salaries, Income



dadadekola@yahoo.com 08052201913

and Wages Commission, which has since been withdrawn. "We're now in the process of negotiating revised allowances transparently," he said, revealing that active discussions are ongoing with key associations, including the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA and nurses' unions.

"Not all issues are financial; we are also resolving establishment matters like the centralization of nurses'

postings. The government is committed to ensuring that health workers are respected and supported."

Further negotiations with union leaders are scheduled for today, in line with President Tinubu's directive to maintain constructive engagement for lasting peace.

We will resist govt's attempt to divide labour

This came as the NLC condemned the persistent interference of government and security agencies in the affairs of trade unions in the country.

Speaking when he received the new leadership of the Radio, Television and Arts Workers Union, RATTAWU in his office, President of TUC, Mr. Festus Osifo, assured that the leadership of the two labour centres will work together to protect the interest of workers.

Osifo, represented by the TUC Secretary-General, Dr. Nuhu Toro, said: "The TUC believes in solidarity. We believe in collective action, and we are confident that together, we can amplify our voices and strengthen our advocacy for justice, equity and improve welfare for all workers in Nigeria."

"We are aware that sometimes management and employers try to divide our ranks, which you captured as divide and

Continues on page 26



From left, Corporate Affairs Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Uzodinma Odenigbo; Team Captain, Super Falcons, Rasheedat Ajibade; Vice-Captain, Super Falcons, Chiamaka Nnadozie; Managing Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Thibaut Boidin and Marketing Director, NB Plc, Sarah Agha during the presentation of N50 million to the Super Falcons by Nigerian Breweries Plc in celebration of their victory at the 2024 WAFCON tournament at the Corporate Head Office, Iganmu, Lagos.



The return of the late PMB to power in 2015 felt like a second chance not just for him, but for the country. Many Nigerians, tired of unchecked corruption and leadership without accountability, saw in him a symbol of discipline and order. His past as a military ruler gave him a stern, no-nonsense image, and that worked to his advantage. There was a kind of cautious optimism. He launched anti-corruption investigations, recovered stolen funds, and championed big infrastructure projects - railines, highways, and bridges - that actually got built. But as time went on, that spark faded. His promises began to feel distant, and though the structures rose, daily life for many didn't change much. The economy stumbled, jobs were scarce, and inflation hit hard.

—Adam Yunus, Transporter

People Talk

BY MOZEEDAT TAIWO

What would you like to remember late President Muhammadu Buhari for?



PMB will be remembered for his personal integrity and dedication to anti corruption war, modest lifestyle and religious discipline. He oversaw the establishment of initiatives like the TSA and guided the Petroleum Industry Act. His govt. retrieved billions in looted funds. However, under him, Nigeria experienced economic turbulence and insecurity. The currency redesign policy led to widespread hardship. His tenure was also marked by serious human rights concerns, including the #EndSARS crackdown and prolonged restrictions on dissent which left a deep and lasting scar on the national psyche. His legacy remains deeply contested: admired for his discipline and moral clarity, but remembered also for missed opportunities and strains on the democratic ethos.

—Alarape Mohammed, Transporter



What defined his presidency more than anything else was the country's battle with insecurity. There were times when you could feel things slipping, villages attacked, students kidnapped, gunmen operating freely. People kept waiting for that strong military leader to act, to show presence and command. But often, the response was slow or quiet. Then came #EndSARS, a moment when young Nigerians poured into the streets, asking for justice. Buhari's silence during those tense days said more than any speech could. In the end, his legacy feels like a story of expectations of a leader many believed would steady the ship, but who struggled to navigate the storms that came his way.

—Ariyo Hameed, Logistics



One of the legacies of the late President Muhammadu Buhari is the Treasury Single Account, TSA. Under the administration of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, the Treasury Single Account was proposed in 2012, but it was fully implemented under the administration of the late President Muhammadu Buhari. This helped in consolidating all monetary inflows of the Federal Government into a single account at the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN.

—Bello AbdulRaheem, Engineer



Muhammadu Buhari, who served as Nigeria's president from 2015 to 2023, left a complex legacy. His administration focused on anti-corruption efforts, security, and economic reforms. He made significant strides in the fight against insurgency, especially in the North-East, and championed agricultural initiatives to boost food security. However, his tenure also faced criticisms regarding economic challenges and human rights concerns. Overall, his legacy is seen as a mix of progress in certain areas and challenges in others.

—Ogunjide Samson, Engineer



Late PMB's legacy is marked by high expectations and mixed outcomes. He came into office with a strong anti-corruption mandate and the image of a disciplined soldier, symbolizing hope for many frustrated with systemic graft and insecurity. He made notable strides in infrastructure devt. and pushed forward a social investment program. However, his tenure was characterized by challenges that left many disillusioned like sluggish economic diversification, human rights abuses, Press freedom, and a perceived lack of inclusivity. His economic policies drew both support and criticism for their long-term impacts. Ultimately, his presidency will be remembered for its promise of integrity and reform, tempered by the complex realities of governing Africa's most populous nation.

—Olaoluwa Bashiro, Civil servant



NICASA condemns alleged killing of 2 Nigerians in South Africa

THE Nigerian Citizens Association South Africa, NICASA, has condemned the alleged killing of two Nigerians, Mr Austin Amarahukwu from Imo State and Mr Owolabi Ayotunde from Lagos State, in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the President of NICASA, Frank Onyekwelu, expressed the organisation's deepest shock, sadness, and outrage at what he described as the brutal and senseless killing of the two Nigerian nationals.

Onyekwelu said the cause of the alleged killings had yet to be unravelled as of the time of filing this report. We condemn this barbaric act in the strongest terms and call on both the South African and Nigerian governments to stop at nothing in thoroughly investigating this crime and ensuring those responsible are arrested.

Mpox outbreak hits Benue 5 LGAs, records 31 suspected cases, confirms 7

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—BENUE State has recorded 31 suspected cases of Mpox across five Local Government Areas (LGAs) — Makurdi, Ushongo, Gwer East, Katsina-Ala, and Guma.

The Executive Secretary of the Benue State Primary Health Care Board, Mrs. Grace Wende, disclosed this on Thursday during the Benue State Stakeholders Engagement/Townhall Meeting on the Mpox Vaccination Rollout. She explained that seven of the suspected cases had been confirmed.

Represented by the State Immunization Officer (SIO), Mr. Emmanuel Adega, she said 10 unconfirmed cases were recorded in Makurdi, eight in Katsina-Ala, seven in Gwer East, four in Guma, and two in Ushongo LGAs.

According to her, "Of the figures, we have confirmed one case in Gwer East, two cases in Katsina-Ala, three cases in Makurdi, and one case in Guma LGAs. These cases were recorded in June, and samples were collected and taken to the laboratory. The results were released in July.

"As we speak, we have line-listed all the people who came in contact with the confirmed cases. Their names have been taken for vaccination after monitoring them for 43 days, and they did not come down with the disease."

The Executive Secretary explained that the upcoming Mpox vaccination exercise would not be a statewide programme but restricted

to communities at risk of an outbreak.

She urged all stakeholders to support the vaccination exercise and ensure prompt reporting of any suspected case of the disease for urgent attention by health authorities.

In his presentation, the Social and Behaviour Change Health Consultant with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Victor Olaniyi, noted that "Mpox is an

infectious viral disease that can occur in humans and other animals."

He stated that symptoms of the disease include rashes that form blisters and then crust over, fever, and swollen lymph nodes.

He warned that the disease could easily spread but assured that the vaccines were safe. Because of the limited number allocated to the state, he said, the exercise would target specific communities.

Olaniyi also explained that the vaccine, which was approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) for emergency use, would be administered to people aged 18 years and above.

"The vaccine is safe, effective, and free. Two doses are required for full protection. We must also continue to practice hygiene and avoid contact with people showing symptoms of Mpox," he said.

#EndBadGovernance protests: No justice for victims of police brutality one year after — AI

states.

Isa Sanusi, Director Amnesty International Nigeria, said: "A year on, despite the gravity of these human rights violations, not a single member of the security forces has been prosecuted, as accountability remains elusive for the 24 peaceful protesters killed in Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, Borno, Niger and Kaduna states. Those behind these atrocities must be held to account."

He noted that in all cases, the victims were shot by the police, firing live ammunition at close range, often at the head or torso, suggesting that officers were shooting to kill.

"Two survivors suffered injuries after being shot by police in the arm and legs, others were suffocated by the indiscriminate use of tear gas.

While in detention some of the protesters were tortured and punished with starvation that led to the collapse of minors facing trial before Federal High Court Abuja on November 1, 2024.

"The Nigerian authorities are yet to take appropriate and effective measures to respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, including by ending the killing, intimidation and harassment of protesters, arbitrary arrests and detention, and mass surveillance especially in the context of protests," he added.

He further noted that the Nigerian authorities pressed on with all charges brought against #EndBadGovernance protesters despite overwhelming evidence that they did not break any law.

5 dead, 5 injured in auto crashes along Lekki-Epe expressway

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

NO fewer than five persons died, and five others severely injured in two ghastly road crashes along the Lekki-Epe Expressway, Lagos, in the early hours of Thursday.

The General Manager of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, who confirmed the tragic crashes, blamed them on excessive speeding and gross disregard for traffic regulations.

The first incident occurred in the early hours of the day at Abijo Bus Stop, precisely under the pedestrian bridge, inward Epe corridor, where a Mitsubishi pick-up van, with registration number AKD 733 JM, travelling at high speed, lost control and crashed into stationary Cranenburg Construction Company equipment lawfully parked by the roadside.

"In the process, the colossal impact resulted in the death of four occupants on the spot (three males and one female), whose bodies were recovered lifeless at the scene of the accident," Bakare-Oki stated.

LASTMA operatives, who promptly responded, successfully rescued three additional female occupants from the wreckage. The survivors were stabilised and handed over to officers of the Eleko Division of the Nigeria Police Force for transfer to nearby medical facilities for urgent care and further evaluation.

In a separate incident that also occurred overnight, a Toyota Escort Jeep, also travelling at excessive speed, crashed violently into a parked Dangote truck in the Frajend Group axis inward Bogije, along the same Lekki-Epe Expressway.

Kidnap protests misguided — Mosogar chiefs

By Paul Olayemi

MOSOGAR—THE traditional leadership of Mosogar Kingdom has dismissed recent protests by some indigenes over rising cases of kidnapping as unauthorized and misguided, while unveiling a series of security measures to tackle the challenge.

Addressing a press conference at the palace of the Ovie of Mosogar, His Royal Majesty Sunday Odugu Okpurhe Uduaka I, the Secretary of the Ovie-In-Council, Chief Anuwa Silver, said the demonstrators were not recognised representatives of the community.

"We frown at the manner in which the protesters conducted themselves," Chief Anuwa said. "They are not the constitutionally constituted youth executives known to the kingdom. While we sympathize with victims of kidnapping, we must also stress that security enforcement is not directly within the powers of the traditional institution."

Imo, Bauchi, Lagos most hostile states for journalists — Report

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA—IMO, Bauchi and Lagos states have been ranked as the most dangerous and hostile environments for journalists in Nigeria, according to the Openness Index Report released by the Centre for Journalism, Innovation and Development, CJID..

The report, presented yesterday in Abuja, assessed press freedom across Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, uncovering widespread repression, intimidation, and obstruction of journalistic work by state actors.

Presentations at the event were delivered by media scholar Prof. Victor Ayedun-Aluma of the University of Jos, CJID's Chief Executive Officer, Dapo Olorunyomi, and the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Nigeria, Bengt Van Loosdrecht, also gave remarks.

Entitled "State of Press Freedom in Nigeria: 2024 Subnational Report," the document measured indicators such as journalists' access to information, incidents of harassment and intimidation, transparency of government institutions, and legal frameworks supporting or restricting media practice. The report found that the national average for press freedom stands at 50.1 percent, with

southern states generally performing better than their northern counterparts. Imo State ranked lowest, coming in 37th with a score of 40.70 percent, followed by Bauchi in 35th place with 42.69 percent, and Lagos in 22nd place with 48.93 percent.

Lagos State reportedly performed poorly due to frequent clashes between journalists and law enforcement, limited access to public information, and harassment during protests and political events. Other poorly ranked states included Ebonyi (41.90 percent), Nasarawa (43.65 percent), Anambra (44.68 percent), Sokoto (45.22 percent), and Kaduna (45.72 percent).

At the top of the index, Cross River State emerged as the best-performing state with a score of 70.40 percent, attributed to improved openness and a safer environment for journalists. It was followed by Ondo (63.72 percent), Delta (63.03 percent), Katsina (57.51 percent), Ekiti (57.09 percent), and Gombe (56.05 percent).

Professor Ayedun-Aluma stressed that the most serious challenges to press freedom are now found at the state level. "While the Federal Government often receives the spotlight for press repression, the report reveals that the real battles for media freedom are being fought at the subnational level.

PUBLIC NOTICE!!!

ALL THAT PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND SITUATE AT OGBEONICHA FAMILY FARMLAND, ACROSS ANWAI RIVER, ISSELE-AZAGBA, ANIOCHA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, DELTA STATE, JOINTLY BELONGING TO MEMBERS OF OGBEONICHA FAMILY, ISSELE-AZAGBA COMMUNITY.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC (ESPECIALLY TO EFAB PROPERTY LIMITED AND DELTA DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTY AUTHORITY) THAT THE MEMBERS OF OGBEONICHA FAMILY WHO ARE THE OWNERS OF THE PARCEL OF LAND LYING AND SITUATE AT OGBEONICHA FAMILY FARMLAND, ACROSS ANWAI RIVER, ISSELE-AZAGBA, ANIOCHA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, DELTA STATE, HAVE SORTED OUT THEIR INTERNAL FAMILY DIFFERENCES AND MISGIVINGS WITH RESPECT TO THE SALE OF PART OF THEIR FAMILY FARMLAND AND ARE UNITED UNDER THE HEADSHIP OF **DIOKPA JOSEPH NNAMESIA**, THE SUBSTANTIVE DIOKPA OF OGBEONICHA FAMILY, ISSELE-AZAGBA, ANIOCHA NORTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, DELTA STATE.

FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT WITH THE ABOVE SETTLEMENT, THE FAMILY HAVE POSITIONED ITSELF FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT AND ANY BODY, GROUP OF PERSONS AND/OR BODY CORPORATE INTERESTED IN BRINGING DEVELOPMENT TO OGBE-ONICHA FAMILY, ISSELE-AZAGBA, IS WELCOME TO DO SO.

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE OUR PREVIOUS PUBLICATION OF THURSDAY 17TH JULY, 2025 MAY HAVE CAUSED AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.

MR. TOLEFE NWAJEI
CHAIRMAN OGBE-ONICHA LAND COMMITTEE

MR. EMMA BIOSE
SECRETARY OGBE-ONICHA LAND COMMITTEE

Abdulrahman Bello, [right] the killer of 24-year-old Hafsoh Yetunde Lawal, [left]



Court sentences Abdulrahman Bello, Kwara student's killer, to death by hanging.

By Demola Akinyemi

ILORIN—AFTER four months of trial, Justice Hannah Olushola Ajayi of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin yesterday, sentenced Abdulrahman Bello, the suspected killer of 24-year-old Hafsoh Yetunde Lawal, a final-year student of the Kwara

State College of Education, Ilorin, to death by hanging. The court, however, discharged and acquitted four other suspects: Ahmed Abdulwasiu (41), of Zone C, No. 47 Adualere Area, Ilorin; Suleiman Muyideen (28), Neolife Business, No. 7 Adualere Area, Amilere Milengbe, Ilorin; Jamiu Uthman (29), a phone repairer from Adualere Area, Ilorin; and Abdulrahman Jamiu (31), a farmer from Elemere Village via Malete

Town in Moro Local Government Area of Kwara State. Justice Ajayi, describing the offence committed by the prime suspect as "the highest degree of human wickedness and a cruel act," held that Bello had a preconceived intention of killing the victim for money rituals. She dismissed Bello's claim of love and intention to marry the victim, describing it as "concocted lies to

deceive the court." The judge further stated that Bello's attitude after committing the crime, before his arrest by law enforcement officers, indicated that "it may not have been his first time engaging in such an act." The court held that video and written evidence collected by DSS and police operatives complied with the law and that no evidence substantiated the convict's claim of police brutality. "The convict did not show himself as a witness of truth because all he said to deny the allegations against him were an afterthought. Moreover, a book containing secrets of money-making charms was found in his apartment," she said. Justice Ajayi, admonishing young adults on the dangers of social media, noted: "The victim may have been alive if she had informed her family or friends about her visit to a Facebook male friend before she was killed."

The judge also found Bello guilty of being in possession of human parts and blood and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment, with an option of N100,000 fine or six months' imprisonment. He was discharged on the rape charge but convicted for killing and dismembering the victim and sentenced to death by hanging.

Bello's confession
During the trial, Bello confessed to killing Hafsoh Lawal for money rituals, claiming he acted alone and presenting himself as an Islamic cleric. "If only I had known another way to source the needed ingredient, I wouldn't have killed her," he said. The incident began on February 13, 2025, when Hafsoh attended a naming ceremony and later visited Bello's residence near Offa Garage/Olunlade, Ilorin. He initially told the court that after having sex with Hafsoh, he choked her to death and dismembered her body. Later, he changed his story, claiming she died of asthma.



Social Media Conversation



A wise man once told me "You should never go back to your Ex. I asked him why?"

His Reply:

"If you see the same tree twice in a forest, its because you are lost"

...To be forewarned,....!

Chukwudi Emeka

Around 3am in the night, my pregnant wife woke me up and said, babe carry me.

I got up and carried her.

Father lord, if I survive this pregnancy I am not doing again. 🙏

That has been said several times!

A cup of rice contains 8564 pieces don't buy if it's not complete, I will count GARRI tomorrow... 🙏

You're not hungry!

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Orders of Court granted on the 1st day of July 2025 in suit number FHC/L/MISC/41/2024 by Hon. Justice A. O. DWOYEY of the Federal High Court Lagos Division, notice is hereby given to the general public that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has obtained an ORDER FOR RENEWAL OF PRESERVATION AND ATTACHMENT of an unregistered landed property situate and lying at Block 11, House Number 2, Mobolaji Johnson Estate, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos State.

TAKE NOTICE that at the expiration of fourteen (14) Days from the date of publication of these orders if there are no objections, the Agency will proceed to obtain final forfeiture of this property.

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA IN THE LAGOS JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT LAGOS

SUIT NO: FHC/L/MISC/41/2024

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY THE NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NDLEA) FOR AN ORDER OF PRESERVATION AND ATTACHMENT IN FAVOUR OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA OF AN UNREGISTERED LANDED PROPERTY LYING AT BLOCK 11, HOUSE NO. 2, MOBOLAJI JOHNSON ESTATE, LEKKI PHASE 1, LAGOS

ORDER

UPON THIS MOTION EX PARTE dated and filed on the 29th day June, 2025 coming before the Court and praying as follows:

- AN ORDER FOR RENEWAL OF PRESERVATION AND ATTACHMENT ORDER issued on the 20th March, 2024, in favour of the Federal Government of Nigeria of an unregistered landed property situate and lying at Block 11, House No. 2, Mobolaji Johnson Estate, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos used as a storage facility of Cannabis Sativa and instrumentality for committing drug offence.
- AN ORDER DEEMING the unregistered property situate and lying at Block 11, House No. 2, Mobolaji Johnson Estate, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos used as a storage facility of Cannabis Sativa and instrumentality for committing drug offence as having been so properly seized, sealed and held in custody of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

HON. JUSTICE A. O. DWOYEY PRESIDING JUDGE

UPON READING through the Affidavit in Support of the Motion Ex parte with the Exhibits attached therein, deposed to by Simon Nankor Garba, Assistant Commander of Narcotics, Male, Adult, Christian, Nigerian Citizen of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Lagos State Command, Lagos State and filed at this Court Registry.

AND AFTER HEARING the submissions of M. I. Erundu, Esq., Learned Counsel for the Applicant, who moved in terms of the Motion paper.

AND THE COURT after careful consideration of the application and submissions of Counsel.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- That an Order for Renewal of Preservation and Attachment Order is hereby granted to the Applicant issued on the 20th March, 2024, in favour of the Federal Government of Nigeria of an unregistered landed property situate and lying at Block 11, House No. 2, Mobolaji Johnson Estate, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos used as a storage facility of Cannabis Sativa and instrumentality for committing drug offence.
- That an Order Deeming is hereby granted the unregistered property situate and lying at Block 11, House No. 2, Mobolaji Johnson Estate, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos used as a storage facility of Cannabis Sativa and instrumentality for committing drug offence as having been so properly seized, sealed and held in custody of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.
- That an Order is hereby granted directing the Applicant to re-publish this Motion in a widely circulating National Daily Newspaper for a period of Fourteen (14) days to serve as sufficient notice to the owner and members of the general public.
- That this case is adjourned to 12/11/2025, for report of compliance.

ISSUED AT LAGOS, UNDER THE seal of this Honourable Court and by the Hands of the presiding Judge this 1st day of July, 2025.

HON. JUSTICE A. O. DWOYEY PRESIDING JUDGE

HON. JUSTICE A. O. DWOYEY PRESIDING JUDGE

M. I. ERUNDU LEARNED COUNSEL FOR THE APPLICANT

ALGOPER C. N. NINSI REGISTAR

Signed: Management NATIONAL DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY



INAUGURATION — From left: Master Victor Essiet, a student of Esteem Schools, Abak; Alhaji Bishara Abatcha of Dangote Group; Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo; Managing Director/CEO, Engineering Automation Technology Limited (EATECH), Dr. Emmanuel Okon; Miss Abasiono Otu, a student of the school, and Director of Schools, Mrs. Esitmbom Ekpo during the inauguration of state-of-the-art Chemistry, Physics & Biology laboratories undertaken in the school by EATECH as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Abak, Akwa Ibom State..

Obi confirms talks with PDP, others

By John Alechenu

• Says it's about rescuing Nigeria

AMIDST mixed signals from members of his inner circle, the 2023 Presidential candidate of the Labour Party, LP, Mr Peter Obi, has confirmed on-going discussions with the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

Obi who spoke through the national coordinator of the Obidient Movement, Dr. Tanko Yunusa, in Abuja, yesterday, said that he was open to discussions with persons and political parties

which can bring about the new Nigeria we all hope and pray for. While confirming overtures being made by the PDP, Yunusa said: "It is no longer a secret. The PDP has made and is still making overtures."

"They are beckoning on Mr. Peter Obi—several of their leaders have spoken publicly about this. "However, like our principal has said time and again, he remains open to discussions that

will lead to the rescue of Nigeria from our present precarious socio-economic predicaments.

"It has never been about a Peter Obi as a person. It has always been about Nigeria and the Nigerian people."

On what the PDP was offering or has offered and whether a decision has been made, he replied, "Like I said, discussions are ongoing and when the time comes, he will make whatever decision has been taken collectively in the interest of our nation Nigeria."

He explained that the task ahead cannot be reduced to the ambition of an individual.

According to him, the opposition has since realised that the task before all who are genuinely interested in bequeathing a Nigeria future generations would be proud of, is one that can only be achieved with unity of purpose.

Speaking in a similar vein, one of the founding leaders of the movement, Dr. Katch Onanuju expressed optimism that the efforts by leaders of the PDP to rebuild the party will bear fruits.

He told Vanguard in a telephone interview, "The talks between Obi and the PDP at this time is a healthy development."

"I say so because most of the problems the opposition is trying to solve today began in the PDP. The solution can also be found when the PDP and other opposition parties come together to tackle the elephant in the room."

Onanuju who is also the Director General of the Heritage Centre, further said: "You will

recall that Obi, Atiku and others were all members of the PDP up until the 2022 ahead of the 2023 elections.

"It was the refusal of the party to zone the Presidential ticket to the South after eight years of President Buhari, a northerner that angered most party leaders especially southerners which led to the mass exodus.

"The group of five (G-5) governors led by Chief Nyesom Wike, now FCT Minister remained in the party but worked against its Presidential

candidate-Atiku in protest.

"Another opportunity to correct this mistake is again presenting itself as we approach 2027, it is an opportunity to right the wrongs to give every part of Nigeria a sense of belonging."

A foundation member of the PDP, Prof. Jerry Gana, who spoke on an Arise TV programme, yesterday, expressed confidence that a Peter Obi as PDP candidate was capable of winning the forthcoming presidential election.

Recall that Peter Obi resigned from the PDP in May 2022, and became standard bearer of the Labour Party during the 2023 elections.

ADC coalition: Tinubu'll get more than 15m votes—Felix, Lalong, Tallen, Bature, others

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA: SOME leaders of the All Progressives Congress, APC, have dismissed the coalition of opposition elements under the African Democratic Congress, ADC, saying the ruling party has no cause for alarm.

Particularly, Dr. Nicolas Felix, a 2023 presidential aspirant on the platform of the APC, who embarked on free fuel distribution in Suleja, Niger State, yesterday, said President Bola Tinubu would score nothing less than 15 million votes in the 2027 presidential election.

Others who spoke in the same vein include former Governor Simon Lalong of Plateau state, former Minister of Women Affairs, Pauline Tallen and the Plateau State Chairman of the party, Rufus Bature.

Felix was in Suleja alongside the Deputy National Woman Leader of the APC, Hajia Zainab Ibrahim, where he distributed thousands of litres of fuel to commercial motorcyclists, tricycle riders and private car owners.

He said: "As far as we are concerned in the APC, come 2027, President Tinubu is going to have nothing less than 15 million votes. We know that it is going to happen. So, there is no threat with the ADC or whatever coalition. Let them come. When the time comes for campaigns, we

are going to roll out the scorecard of Mr President.

"Didn't you watch on TV this morning, students on campuses singing, celebrating with joy, who just received the NELFund grant, over N100 billion, with no interest by the way. I lived in America for 21 years, I had never heard that happen. Over N100 billion given to 600,000 students. So, these 600,000 students will vote. Their families will vote because they know what it takes to go to school. So, we are excited and we know come 2027, it is going to be a walkover for us," he said.

Deputy National Woman Leader of APC, Hajia Ibrahim also said the APC was not threatened by the activities of the ADC.

Changed tactics
Meanwhile, speaking with journalists in Abuja, Lalong dismissed concerns that the ADC could turn out to be a very formidable opposition due to the exist of some former APC chieftains from its ranks.

He said the tactics that the APC used in defeating an incumbent in 2015, was not the same tactics it used in securing the re-election of late former President Muhammadu Buhari, adding that it would also change tactics in 2027.

On her part, Tallen said more people were coming into the party than those who are leaving.

TCN reaffirms corporate governance standards

THE Tourist Company of Nigeria Plc, TCN, has provided further insights into the emerging phase of the protracted dispute in the company, attributing it to the equally prolonged tenure of the interim directors.

The long serving directors who have now been removed were originally appointed as interim directors at Ikeja Hotel Plc, IHP, the parent company of TCN, for a three-month term in 2015.

In a statement, yesterday, TCN said despite the limited mandate, the removed directors had not only overstayed at IHP but also migrated their influence to TCN and Capital Hotels Plc, CHP, the two main subsidiaries of IHP.

The statement also detailed an

alleged attempts by the former directors to dispose of strategic TCN assets, particularly the land housing the Federal Palace Hotel in Lagos.

According to the new board, the duo tried to sell the land to the NIPCO/11 Plc Group, the same entity that had earlier acquired Sheraton Abuja under one of the removed director chairmanship of CHP.

Tension escalated at an emergency board meeting held last week when directors rejected links generated by OOT Nominees, the company secretary of TCN, and opted for official TCN communication channels.

Consequently, a board motion to remove him as Chairman was

passed by five out of seven directors, and Mrs. Erejuwa Gbadebo was elected acting Chair.

Despite a stay order on its regulatory interventions, the Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC, moved to cancel statutory meetings of both TCN and IHP.

However, in defiance of this, and relying on court protection, TCN proceeded with its AGM last week and at that meeting, the three longest-serving directors were retired in line with the law. Only Otoke Ibru was re-elected by the shareholders.

The board said: "The process was democratic, transparent, and fully compliant with the provisions of CAMA."

FEC approves N900bn for rehabilitation of Lagos airport terminal

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — THE Federal Executive Council, FEC, yesterday, approved a comprehensive N900 billion overhaul of Nigeria's aviation sector infrastructure, with the full rehabilitation, upgrade, and modernization of International Terminal 1 at Murtala Muhammed International Airport, MMIA, in Lagos as the flagship project.

FEC also approved two strategic electrification projects targeted at expanding access to clean, renewable energy across Nigeria's educational and rural agricultural sectors, in line with the Tinubu administration's renewed hope agenda.

Briefing State House correspondents, the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Festus Keysmo, explained that the terminal's reconstruction would involve stripping it down to its

• N145bn for power in 8 varsities, teaching hospital

structural shell and completely rebuilding all mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.

This 22-month project, contracted to China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation, CCECC, is funded entirely by the Renewed Hope Infrastructure Development Fund.

In addition to Terminal 1's overhaul, the minister said FEC also greenlighted the expansion of Terminal 2 in Lagos, including new aprons, access roads, bridges, and auxiliary infrastructure.

The combined cost of all Lagos-related aviation projects amounts to N712.26 billion, making it one of the most significant investments in Nigeria's aviation infrastructure at a single location.

To enhance security at MMIA,

the council allocated approximately N49.9 billion for a 14.6-kilometre perimeter fence equipped with intrusion detection systems, CCTV surveillance, solar-powered floodlights, patrol roads, and a real-time command and control center, enabling immediate detection and precise location identification of any intrusion.

Besides Lagos, the council approved upgrades and rehabilitation at other key international airports:

Malam Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano: Runway and taxiway rehabilitation, and upgrade to CAT 2 airfield lighting, budgeted at N46.39 billion, to be completed in 24 weeks.

Port Harcourt International Airport: Similar runway and lighting upgrades with a budget of N42.14 billion.

N145bn for electrification of 8 varsities, teaching hospital

Speaking after the FEC meeting, Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun, said the approved projects were part of a deliberate shift toward sustainable energy delivery, aimed at reducing dependence on the national grid while promoting development, innovation, and inclusivity.

Adedun said the first major approval was for the Engineering, Procurement, and Construction, EPC, of solar hybrid power systems under the Energizing Education Programme, EEP, to be executed by the Rural Electrification Agency, REA.

He explained that the initiative targets eight federal universities and one teaching hospital, and is funded through the Special Intervention Window of the Renewed Hope Infrastructure Development Fund.

According to Adedun, the total cost of this component is N145 billion, which is inclusive of 7.5 percent Value Added Tax, VAT. Implementation is scheduled for completion within seven to nine months.

LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

Allow the breeze that brought a maize plant down to strengthen it

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.—Mahatma Gandhi
Serving others is sacred. It strips ego and reveals soul. In lifting someone else, I find a higher version of me. Joy lives in giving.— Ella Randle



From left: Team Lead, Product Management, Mr. Chukwuebuka Ijeoma; Product Manager, Consumer Asset, Onyinyechi Onwughara; Group Head, Retail Asset, Mr. Olajire Awofisibe; Divisional Head, Personal Banking, Mr. Adetunji Lamidi, all of FCMB; Executive Director, ARM Investment Managers, Mr. Mounir Bouba; FCMB's Head, Retail Asset, Mrs. Chiedu Ibeku; Head, Investment - MREIF, Mr. Olubiyi Adekunbi and Portfolio Manager, MREIF, Mr. Uyi Ojeabulu, at the signing of a N10 billion mortgage financing partnership agreement between FCMB and MREIF in Lagos.

Tinubu extends Customs CG's tenure

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — President Bola Tinubu has extended the tenure of the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Mr Bashir Adeniyi.

The tenure of the CG of Customs is due to expire on August 31, 2025, but the President has extended his tenure by one year.

The Presidency in a statement by the presidential spokesman, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, explained that the extension, approved by Tinubu, would enable Mr. Adeniyi to consolidate ongoing reforms and complete critical initiatives of the administration.

The statement listed the reforms to include the modernisation of the Nigeria Customs Service; the implementation of the National Single Window Project; and the execution of Nigeria's obligations under the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, protocol.

The statement added that "President Tinubu recognises Mr Adeniyi's steadfast leadership and commitment to service."

"The President is confident that this extension will further strengthen the Nigeria Customs Service in achieving its strategic mandate of trade facilitation, revenue generation, and border security."

Nigeria joins NASA mission, sends 6 to space

By Juliet Umeh

IN a scientific milestone, the National Space Research and Development Agency NASRDA, has announced Nigeria's participation in NASA's Crew-11 Mission, set to launch today from the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida, the United States.

Onboard the mission are six indigenous Nigerian crop seeds, including okra, cowpea, guinea corn (sorghum), amaranth, maize, and melon, chosen for their nutritional and agricultural significance.

According to NASRDA, "The mission, which features the World Seeds Payload, is a pioneering international agricultural experiment led by Jaguar Space, with contributions from 11 countries, including Nigeria."

"The seeds will be studied aboard the International Space Station, ISS, under microgravity conditions to explore their behaviour, resilience, and potential in future space-based farming, critical research aimed at addressing climate resilience, global food security, and agricultural innovation beyond Earth."

"Representing Nigeria at the launch is Olayinka Fagbemi, NASRDA's Assistant Director of International Cooperation and Linkages and project lead on the initiative."

"She oversaw every stage of Nigeria's participation, from seed selection to logistics and formal international engagement."

"This is our first biological payload aboard a crewed NASA mission to the ISS."

"It not only validates years of local research on plant life in simulated space environments but also underscores NASRDA's growing role in global scientific collaboration. This mission exemplifies inclusive, culturally grounded space research, and highlights the leadership role that emerging space nations such as Nigeria can play in shaping humanity's future beyond Earth."

Niger drags FG to Supreme Court over 13% derivation

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA— Niger State Government has dragged the Federal Government to the Supreme Court, challenging its omission as a beneficiary in the 13 percent derivation.

The state, in the suit through its team of lawyers led by Mr Mohammed Ndarani, SAN, listed the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice as the only defendant.

The plaintiff, among other things, urged the apex court to determine whether Niger State

does not qualify to be classified among the states that produce natural resources and therefore, entitled to 13 percent derivation within the meaning of 162(2) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended.

It wants the court to interpret and apply section 232 (1) & (2) of the Constitution to compel its inclusion by FG, in line with the Enactment of Allocation of Revenue (Federation Account, etc.) Act, 2004.

The state alleged a failure to include remittances from proceeds of fiscal revenue generated and accrued through Hydroelectric Power dams within its territory, which it argued

formed part of resources it contributes to the overall electricity generation to the national grid since 1968.

According to the plaintiff, it hosts four major hydroelectricity dams: Kainji Dam, Jebba Dam, Shiroro Dam and Zungeru Dam, which serve as a power house for electricity supply to various states in the country.

It argued that through these power stations, FG extended electricity supply to the Republics of Benin, Togo and Niger.

On why AGF is the only defendant, it stated "That the Attorney General at all times is charged with legally advising and representing the Auditor-General of the Federation and

the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission, RMAFC, that oversees revenue accruing to, and disbursement of such funds from the Federation Account."

It accused the defendant of failing to properly advise the President, especially on how to ensure equitable distribution of resources in conformity with current realities, particularly in relation to the enormous fiscal revenue generated by Niger state.

The plaintiff stressed that it is a purely agrarian state as its inhabitants are subsistence farmers whose produce are enjoyed across the state and beyond.

It contended that as a result of the large expanse of the land occupied by the dams, a large population of its citizens and residents are denied the opportunity of engaging in agricultural activities.

Niger State maintained that it has continued to host the dams that were established since 1968, decriing that despite its contributions in terms of revenue, it has been a victim of incessant and continuous flooding.

"This has resulted in wanton loss of human lives and livestock as well as destruction of properties, leading unavoidably to displacement of many residents from their homes."

The plaintiff claimed that Physicochemical/Microbiological Impact Assessment Report it conducted showed a high level of degradation in the affected areas.

"This represents an impending

danger that looms large in the horizon for the state over the coming years if urgent stringent environment protection measures are not taken.

"To the chagrin, detriment, continuous exploitation and utter impoverishment of the people of Niger State, the defendant continuously and continually whisked off profits from the state."

"The Federal Government should not be only concerned about benefiting from the dams located in the territory of the state without a care for its people," the plaintiff added.

More so, the plaintiff said it was unfortunate that the office of the National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, had no information on the volume of electricity by megawatts, generated by the dams since 1968 and 2019, except for those of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

It said the NBS computation of the volume of electricity by megawatts generated into the national grid from 2020 - 2023, was: "The sum total megawatt generated in 2020 is equal to 2,232,706.27, 2021 equal to 2,632,348.00, 2022 equal to 2,830,002.96 and in 2023 equal to 2,658,612.96."

"These dams have generated fiscal revenue which has been controlled by the Federal Government and have been indisputably redistributed equally amongst the constituent states without considering the host (Niger State) since 1968 till date," it added.

Meantime, no date has been fixed for the matter to be heard.

Our laws must protect creative works of artists — FASHOLA

By Innocent Anaba

FORMER Minister of Works, Power and Housing, Mr Babatunde Fashola, SAN, has called for a comprehensive review of laws governing intellectual property rights to improve and protect the creative works of artists.

The former Lagos State governor made the call at the solo art exhibition of Grace Olamide Etigwe-Uwa in Lagos, which served as a gathering point for art lovers, critics, and artists.

He said: "This is a time when the human civilization is rewarding talent like no other time in the history of the human race. And thus the best is yet to come."

"What we need to do as a people is to help find those talents, help nurture them and provide the environment in which they can prosper. As you will see, this is the foyer of a hotel that has been converted for the purpose of these exhibitions. So, we need, perhaps by way of development, more exhibition centres now to allow talent to develop."

"We need to consult with those who are specialized in these works, like the curators, to advise us. Our architects, for example, and those in the building industry need to pay attention now. Our sporting arena, performance arena need to have all of these multi-purpose capacities integrated in them, so that they serve more than one purpose."

"And of course, we need a revision of laws to protect what these people create. It's God-given talent and we need to give it its full value by putting the force of law behind it," he added.

The artist, Grace Olanma Etigwe-Uwa, on what inspired her, said: "The title of the exhibition is *Lost in a World of Light* and it focuses on the theme creativity. Sometimes, you are lost in the vision and you can't

see. With this exhibition, I want people to feel what I felt while taking the pictures, I want people to feel the kind of journey I went through. I want people to feel it. I want people to research it, I want people to reflect on it when they view my works."

"To all those who have helped me find my voice as a photographer, to my mentors, my family, the curatorial team, friends, thank you all for your endless encouragement and for your honest feedback."

On his part, her father, Mr Etigwe Uwa, SAN, said: "Her work is very encouraging. She tells people that through her work, that even if things are not very well, even if there isn't light, physical light, you can still be

happy, you can still feel fulfilled.

"And that you can have a lot of light in the form of prosperity, in the form of all the good things of this world, and you will still be unhappy. That's why you can be lost in the world of light, in spite of the fact that you have everything around you. But then you can have people who have nothing at all, like some of the pictures we've seen in Makoko."

"You see the wonderful and endearing smiles of those people. And you realise that there is some inner light that radiates from within. And so, that's the theme of what she's doing."

"And apart from appreciating the work of art, her work is also something that encourages people. And that makes me very happy. It makes me very proud," he added.

Tinubu to NSIB: Release investigation reports without delay

By Nnasom David

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, has urged the Nigeria Safety Investigation Bureau, NSIB, to prioritise the prompt investigation of transportation incidents and ensure timely release of findings to enhance safety and prevent future occurrences.

The charge came during a multimodal transportation stakeholders' workshop organised by the NSIB on Tuesday in Abuja.

Recall that the International Air Transport Association, IATA, recently decried Africa's air safety rating lags behind global average.

IATA also urged African governments to prioritise aviation as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, connectivity, and social development by enhancing safety, reducing the cost burden, and resolving the issue of blocked airline funds.

Tinubu, who was represented by the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr Festus Keyamo, said delays in investigating accidents only deepen uncertainty for victims' families and allow avoidable risks

to persist.

He noted that the NSIB is mandated to begin investigations within seven days of serious incidents, with a focus on preserving evidence, promptly interviewing witnesses, and identifying causal factors without unnecessary delays.

The President emphasised the importance of drawing from

international best practices such as those of the United States National Transportation Safety Board, NTSB, which promotes timely investigations and rapid release of preliminary findings to enable implementation of interim safety measures.

"History teaches us that ignored lessons lead to repeated tragedies," he warned.

New border facilities 'll enhance national security —IMMIGRATION CG, NANDAP

By Omezia Ajayi

THE Comptroller General of Immigration, Kemi Nanna Nandap has said that the newly deployed border management system of the Nigeria Immigration service is enhancing target-based profiling, through the interactive advanced passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR) technology, in an unprecedented level of efficiency.

"This facility," according to her, "help the service to know and properly profile individuals travelling to Nigeria, before they leave wherever they are coming

from, for the purpose of national security."

"Nandap said this at the just concluded 2-Day interactive session on government-citizen engagement, themed "Assessing Electoral Promises: Fostering Government-Citizen Engagement for National Unity," held in Kaduna.

"The border management system that we have deployed in this administration has a lot of target based profiling, she said."

"We have the interactive advanced passenger information (API) and passenger name record (PNR). What that does in terms of national security is that airlines

send the data of their passengers coming to Nigeria."

"And it gives us the opportunity to profile everyone of them before they come in, for the purpose of national security" she added.

She also said the interest of communities at the nation's borders will be prioritised in the ongoing immigration service recruitment process.

"This," according to the CG, "is expected to strengthen the relationship between the service and the border communities and enhance collaboration, intelligence gathering and security at the borders."

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Nanahfatimah Amele Bamigbetan Oncology Foundation, NABOF, Dr. Omolara Fatiregun; former Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Mr Kehinde Bamigbetan and Provost, Nigerian Institute of Journalism, NIJ, Mr. Gbenga Adefaye, during the launch of the foundation at Lagos State College of Medicine, Ikeja, Lagos.



Indigenous Status Bill: Pan Yoruba group tackles Asiodu

By Olayinka Ajayi

PAN Yoruba socio-cultural group, Think Yoruba First, TYF, has said the proposed Indigenous Status Bill does not promote unity but seeks to forcibly engineer a national identity at the cost of indigenous sovereignty.

In a statement by the TYF's Secretary-General, Dr. Bukola Ogundoyin, while reacting to Paul Asiodu's submission a Policy analyst, who recently said the bill is a necessary step to build a nation that transcends ethnic and regional lines, insisted, "it is unacceptable and must be rejected."

According to TYF, "His recent submission in attempting to sanitize the controversial Indigene Status Bill before the House of Representatives, makes it crucial to interrogate its claims with sober analysis, constitutional clarity, and international precedent."

The group noted that the assertion that opposition to the bill is a product of faux outrage or lack of understanding is dismissive and dangerously misleading.

"To suggest that we are 'probably sponsored' is reflective of his bad case of paranoia, where he cannot see that outstanding citizens of Nigeria imbued with the spirit and discipline of Awoism never ceased to exist in Yorubaland, Nigeria."

"Paul blend Nigerian citizenship with indigeneity, is a conceptual and legal misstep. Under Section 25(1) of the 1999 Constitution, every person born in Nigeria to Nigerian parents is a citizen."

"However, citizenship refers to nationality in relation to the Nigerian state, whereas indigeneity relates to identity, culture, ancestral ties, and legitimate claims to land and self-determination within subnational entities."

The group cited examples of federations around the world that maintain both citizenship and native rights without conflict, such as Canada, New Zealand, and the United States. "Nigeria cannot pretend to be advancing 'best global practices' by forcibly erasing the foundational status of its indigenous populations through legislation."

ADC: Lagos PDP expels defected members

By Dapo Akinrefon

THE Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in Lagos State, yesterday, expelled its members

who recently defected to the African Democratic Congress, ADC.

Spokesman of the Elders Caucus and Chairmen of the

party in the 20 Local Government Areas, Mr Segun Edwards, who disclosed this, said a stakeholders meeting made up of elders of the

party and Chairmen of the party in the councils of the state called a meeting to discuss the outcome of the party's National Executive Council, NEC meeting held in

Abuja last week.

Edwards added that all members of the party who openly aligned with the coalition party, were expelled from the party forthwith.

This decision, among other resolutions which include the directives to the local government Chairmen to commence preparations for the planned various congresses of the party, from Local Governments to the National Convention, scheduled to take place between September and November this year, were taken at the enlarged stakeholders meeting.

He said: "Rising from the meeting, the PDP elders and the local government Chairmen frowned at the decision of some members who openly aligned themselves with the ADC, stating that they have desecrated the principles of the party by their open declaration for ADC, while still being members of the PDP."

"The enlarged stakeholders assembly therefore moved the motion for the expulsion of all the members, who openly aligned themselves with the coalition, and all the elders voted for their expulsion."

Gov poll: Appeal Court affirms Aiyedatiwa's election

By Dayo Johnson

AKURE—THE Court of Appeal sitting in Akure, yesterday, affirmed the election of Lucky Aiyedatiwa and Dr. Olayide Adelami, as the Governor and Deputy Governor of Ondo State in the November 16, 2024 governorship election.

This was sequel to the dismissal

of the appeals of some political parties against the judgment of the Ondo State Governorship Election Petitions Tribunal of June 4, 2025, which affirmed the election of the All Progressives Congress, APC, candidates.

Recall that the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, African Democratic Congress, ADC, Allied People's Movement, APM, and Social Development Party,

SDP, had filed appeals against the judgment of the tribunal, asking for the invalidation of the November 16, 2024 governorship election.

In their rulings, Justice Nimpar Yargata, Justice K.I. Amadi and Justice I.M. Sani, unanimously struck out the appeals for not substantiating the claims of non compliance with the Electoral Act.

They, held that the appellants failed to prove their allegations against the election as they did not show how their claims affected the election in the various polling units, wards and local government areas where the election took place. The judges awarded cost of N1.5m against the appellants.

Speaking after the judgment, Aiyedatiwa described the verdict as a welcome development, commending the Appeal Court justices for the painstakingly going through the cases and delivering detailed unanimous judgments.

He said: "I give glory to Almighty God who orchestrated this journey from the beginning and used the good people of Ondo State. Over 366,000 residents gave us their mandate on November 16 last year to continue governing this state as the seventh democratically elected governor. That mandate was validated by the tribunal and has now been reaffirmed by the Appeal Court."

Osun monarch, Speaker bicker over alleged death threat

By Shina Abubakar

OSOGBO—The Speaker of the Osun State House of Assembly, Adewale Egbedun and the Alasi of Asi, Oba Oyewale Olasunkanmi, yesterday, engaged in war of words over death threats against each other.

A leaked audio of the speaker to one of the Alasi's wives, the voice which was said to be that of the speaker was threatening the monarch for cursing him (Speaker) after he was attacked by hoodlums and also threatened to make sure he was mercifully dealt with if he (Kabiesi) entered Asi.

Meanwhile, the traditional ruler in a petition to the Assistant Inspector General of Police, zone XI, stated that he was trying to help an indigene of the community who was arrested at

the behest of the speaker and remanded in prison following request by members of his community to intervene in the case.

"Upon reaching out to the speaker to please drop the said case against the suspect and others placed on wanted list for allegedly doing nothing, he (monarch) became subject of threat to the speaker."

"The speaker, when reached to help, started threatening to incriminate me in the crime by ensuring that the suspect was tortured to mention his name. After that, the speaker called my wife via his phone number at about 2:31pm on July 27, 2025, threatening that if I returned to my palace in Asi, I would be bathed with blood and killed."

"Ever since the threats were issued, I have not been able to go back to my domain and to avert looming crisis, I urged the Police Commissioner to intervene and investigate the matter with a

view to ensuring that my life is not endangered by the Speaker," the monarch alleged.

However, the speaker in a statement, said he has unreserved dignity for the traditional institution in the council area, saying despite the regards he has shown to the Alasi, the monarch is hellbent in ending his life.

Egbedun added that after reporting an incident of attack on his convoy by some hoodlums in Okuku on the way to Asi, "I received a threatening phone call from the Alasi, instructing me not to allow security operatives arrest the arrested suspect and directing me to stop them from arresting the others involved. Such threats, directed at me and on some occasions to my security aides, are utterly intolerable and reflect a troubling collusion. The Alasi's repeated threats of further violence against me are a clear attempt to undermine and intimidate me into silence."

Neo-Black Movement decries cultism, violence

By Tunde Oso

THE Neo-Black Movement of Africa (NBM), has declared the organisation's unwavering commitment to peace building, national unity, and lawful brotherhood - distancing the group from any association with cultism or violence.

Speaking in Lagos, National Head, Barr. Hope Aliu, stressed that NBM of Africa remains focused on working with the media, law enforcement, educational institutions, and community leaders to build a safer and more enlightened society.

Aliu commended media organizations for their fairness, objectivity and efforts to promote peace and discourage violence, saying "Such work reflects the spirit of true brotherhood and aligns with NBM's core values."

"NBM of Africa reaffirmed its commitment to non-violence, nation building, and positive societal transformation."

•Commends media objectivity

"What unites confraternities around the world is a shared commitment to personal development, brotherhood, and social contribution -not violence," he said.

According to him, "NBM of Africa is pushing back against

misconceptions surrounding the term 'confraternity,'" which Aliu said is often wrongly equated with cultism in the Nigerian context.

He clarified that confraternities are legitimate, value-driven associations, recognized globally for positive impact.

Top 30 nominees emerge for 2025 JCI 10 Outstanding Young Persons of Nigeria

By Efe Onodjao

JUNIOR Chamber International (JCI) Nigeria, has announced the Top 30 Nominees for the 2025 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Nigeria (TOYP) Program, an annual initiative hosted by JCI Nigeria to celebrate young people (between the ages of 18 and 40) who have demonstrated remarkable leadership and significant contributions in their respective fields and communities.

The 30 nominees were shortlisted by KPMG Nigeria, the official audit partner for the 2025

JCI TOYP Program, from the Top 50 Nominees earlier evaluated by an independent panel of Judges between March and April 2025. These Top 50 Nominees had been selected by the jury from a total of 638 entries received nationwide during the nomination period, which ran between January and February 2025.

According to Yetunde Oveyipo, Chairperson of the 2025 JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Nigeria (TOYP) Committee, the public voting phase plays a critical role in determining the final Top 10 Honorees as 40% will be

allocated to the general public votes and 60% will be allocated to the Judges' total rating. Voting will commence at 6.30 PM WAT on Monday, July 28, 2025 and close at 11.59 PM WAT on August 6, 2025. The Chairperson further explained that the Ten Outstanding Young Persons for the 41st edition of this program will be formally unveiled during a recognition ceremony on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at EKO Hotel & Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, in commemoration of the United Nations International Youth Day.

Speaking on the significance of this program at the unveiling ceremony, Oluwatoyin Atanda, the 2025 President of JCI Nigeria

and policymakers.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Omolara Fatiregun, a renowned clinical Oncologist, who unveiled the foundation, recently, described it as a vital platform to bridge the gap between medical science and policy formulation in the fight against cancer.

According to Fatiregun, "There is a need to bring policymakers and scientists together. This vision is a call to action."

"We urge donors and institutions to invest in this initiative to transform the oncology landscape in Nigeria." She added that the foundation

will partner with top academic institutions both locally and internationally to provide scholarships and fund research for medical students, particularly in the field of oncology.

Fatiregun stressed that with adequate investment, cancer treatment in Nigeria could soon rely more on medication and advanced therapies rather than surgery, which remains the dominant method currently.

Managing Director of Africa Emerging Trustees, the managers of the foundation, Mrs. Felicia Sonubi praised the initiative and urged more donors to support cancer research and knowledge.

Speaking during the event, Bamigbetan disclosed that the foundation has secured an initial N10 million to kick-start its operations, appealing to well-meaning individuals, corporate organisations, and government bodies to support the project.

"One way to fight this disease is by investing in research and building a knowledge base, and that's what this foundation is set to do," he said.

The event's emotional highlight was the screening of a montage celebrating the life and legacy of the late Nanahfatimah Amele Bamigbetan.

Among dignitaries were the Provost, Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Mr. Gbenga Adefaye, General Manager, Lagos Traffic Radio, Mr. Tayo Akanle, former Ambassador to Cuba, Sen Segun Bamigbetan-Baju, Mr. Leye Fadipe, among others.

Abscondment of contractor: Assemblies of God cleric, Amah, writes Otti

By Steve Oko

SANGO District Superintendent of the Assemblies of God and a member of the Executive Committee (EC) of the church, Rev. Dr John Amah, has written an open letter to Governor Alex Otti of Abia State, commending him for ordering the contractor handling the Ohafia-Arochuku federal road back to the site.

The cleric who praised the Governor for the initiative to embark on the rehabilitation of the dilapidated federal road, particularly lauded him for swiftly responding to his appeal in a public function that the contractor who had reportedly absconded be made to return to the site.

Rev. Amah also lauded Gov. Otti for his outstanding leadership style and uncommon humility, describing him as "a listening Governor."

The Abia-born, Lagos-based cleric observed that Abia had recorded significant achievements under the watch of Gov. Otti, a feat he said was unprecedented.

He wrote: "I particularly acknowledge your bold and visionary decision to flag off the construction of the Ohafia-Arochuku Road, a major road that had remained in deplorable condition for decades.

"Although this road falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, you choose not to hide behind bureaucracy but instead took responsibility for the well-being of your people.

"That singular act demonstrated your uncommon sense of duty, responsibility, and leadership."

Soludo's wife embarks on medical outreach to mark 55th birthday

By Vincent Ujumadu

THE wife of the governor of Anambra State, Dr. Nonye Soludo, has embarked on a medical outreach as part of programmes to mark her 55th birthday.

At the outreach programme, which took her to Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University Teaching Hospital, Awka, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Teaching Hospital, Nnewi, and the newly built General Hospital, Okpoko, 100 patients benefited from free surgical intervention while 300 received free eye care.

There were also free medical treatments and screenings for hypertension, diabetes, malaria, and respiratory tract infections.

Celebrating his wife on the occasion, Governor Chukwuema Soludo, described her as his queen. Recall that while celebrating her husband during his 65th birthday last week, Mrs Soludo also described him as her king.

In a note by the governor, which he posted on his social media handle, Soludo said he couldn't have imagined going through life without Nonye.

He wrote: "I do not see this aging thing with you. For all I care, your beauty is ageless and your energy is fadeless."



FACILITY TOUR: Chairman, Senate Committee on Marine Transport, Senator Wasiu Sanni Eshinlokun (4th right); Vice Chairman, Senator Sunday Karimi Steve (3rd right); Senator Sharafadeen Alli, representing Oyo South (6th right); acting Rector, Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, Dr Kevin Okonna (5th right) and other management staff of the academy, during the Senate Committee's tour of facilities at the academy.

Allegation of coup plot by Obi to remove Tinubu lunacy —Obienyem

By Chimaobi Nwaiwu

NEWI—Media aide to Mr Peter Obi, the 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party, LP, Mr Valentine Obienyem, has described the allegation against his principal, plotting a coup to dethrone President Bola Tinubu, as a dangerous joke taken too far.

He also described the allegation as reckless, seditious and absurd, adding that in a functional society, such an accuser would be arrested immediately to give a fuller account of what he knows, wondering who

the accuser is and why he has not been arrested.

In a statement titled "Coup Plot Allegation: A Dangerous Joke Taken Too Far" made available to Vanguard, Mr Obienyem disclosed that one Arabambi alleged that Mr Peter Obi, alongside the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, President, Joe Ajaero, Senator Victor Umeh, and members of the Nenadi Usman faction, are plotting to overthrow President Bola Tinubu's government.

Obienyem's statement read, "In his petition to security agencies, Arabambi alleged that Mr Peter Obi, the 2023 presidential candidate of the

Labour Party, alongside Nigeria Labour Congress President, Joe Ajaero; Senator Victor Umeh; and members of the Nenadi Usman faction, are plotting to overthrow President Bola Tinubu's government.

"This allegation is not just absurd, it is dangerous. Why has the man not been arrested?"

"Coup plotting is not child's play. It is a serious national security offence. To casually accuse citizens, especially prominent and responsible figures of attempting to topple a democratically elected government is not only reckless but seditious in itself.

"In a functional society, such an accuser would be arrested immediately to give a fuller account of what he knows. Who is this man, and why hasn't he been arrested? If his allegation carries any weight, then the security agencies must take it seriously by interrogating him thoroughly, identifying his sources, and presenting evidence.

"However, if, as it appears, this is mere political mischief, he must face the full consequences of peddling such a dangerous falsehood. Why are we like this in this country, so frivolous with matters of grave national importance?"

Tinubu swears in S-East NASS Service Commissioner

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has administered an oath of office to Nnanna Uzor Kalu as the Commissioner, representing South East in the National Assembly

Service Commission. President Tinubu did so before presiding over the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting, at the Council Chambers, Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday.

After the brief swearing-in ceremony, a minute's silence was observed in honour of the departed

cabinet member, Navy Captain Caleb Olubolade, who served as Minister of Special Duties, Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory, and Minister of Police Affairs under President Goodluck Jonathan.

He was also a Military Administrator for Bayelsa State under the late General Sani Abacha.

He died on May 11, 2025

Present at the FEC meeting were the Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, the National Security Adviser, NSA, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, the Chief of Staff to the President, Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila and the Head of Civil Service of the Federation, Dr Didi Walsou-Jack.

WIC: Ndigbo to launch Federal Credit Bank in USA

By Dennis Agbo

THE World Igbo Congress, WIC, has disclosed its concluded arrangement to launch the 'Igbo Federal Credit Union Bank' in this year's convention scheduled to hold at the Marriott in Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of the WIC, Dr. Festus Okere, who made the disclosure, urged the Board, invited Igbo dignitaries, and Igbo community members to finalise their itineraries and secure hotel reservations as soon as possible, due to high demand for attendance.

Okere stated that the need for the Igbo Federal Credit Bank is to re-establish the Igbo apprenticeship scheme, which revived the Igbo economy shortly after the Nigeria-Biafra war that ended in 1970.

Okere said that the 2025 World Igbo Congress convention is expected to draw one of the largest crowds ever, considering the current circumstances in the homeland and abroad.

"This year marks the launch of the Igbo Federal Credit Union Bank, which aims to transform Igbo businesses in the diaspora and contribute to the development of our

homeland. "This initiative presents an opportunity to replicate the Igbo apprenticeship scheme that played a crucial role in revitalising the eastern region's economy after the civil war. The Federal Credit Union Bank project in the United States is poised to usher in a new era of prosperity," Okere said.

Defend your land against killer herdsmen, INU-W tells Igbo communities

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

UMUAHIA—A group, Igbo National Union -Worldwide, has tasked Igbo communities to defend themselves against the murderous activities of terrorists masquerading as herdsmen across Nigeria.

INU-W, in a statement by its National President, Dr. Ngozi Ogbomtor, and Admin Secretary, Mr Austin-Mary Ndukwu, lamented that Igbo land is gradually being encircled by the terrorists who have taken over the bushes and farmlands, killing people and raping women.

Describing the murderous actions as ethnic cleansing, the group stated that the Igbo must rise as brave men, put a stop to the menace, or be

wiped out of existence.

The group accused the federal government and its security agencies of doing nothing and abandoning the citizens to their fate.

INU-W further tasked the communities to take steps to devise measures to checkmate the intruders in the area of cow rearing and grazing across Igbo communities.

It, however, commended some communities that have taken measures and chased away the terrorists from Igbo land.

The group said, "We write to you compatriots concerning the ongoing murderous activities of terrorists masquerading as herdsmen across Nigeria especially their recent action in

the People's Club of Nigeria in the Boston branch for the event, while the Umuada Igbo will also attend in significant numbers.

The World Igbo Congress Convention 2025, organised by the apex Igbo organisation in the diaspora, is scheduled for August 29-31 at the Marriott in Boston, Massachusetts.

Benue State, where 200 citizens, including women and children, were butchered and burnt alive.

Benue State, where 200 citizens, including women and children, were butchered and burnt alive.

"Benue, a state next to Enugu, Anambra, Ebonyi, and Abia, has witnessed countless attacks by terrorists, masquerading as herdsmen - a clear act of ethnic cleansing as the hidden agenda.

"It is on this premise that we ask the following questions: are we going to fold our hands and pretend that nothing is happening as they continue to kill us, rape our women, children, and destroy our farmlands and other properties? Are we going to fold our hands and do nothing until we are completely wiped out of existence by these murderous terrorists? Or are we going to stand up as brave men that we are and put a stop to this menace?"

Otti decries 19-year delay of Isiala Ngwa Dry Port

Tasks FG to fix rail links

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

UMUAHIA —Abia State Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, has decried the prolonged delay in the realisation of the Isiala Ngwa Dry Port and tasked the federal government to intervene to address critical transport infrastructural gaps, especially the absence of a Railway link.

Otti, who stated this at his country home in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South council area, while receiving a delegation from the Nigerian Shippers' Council, led by the Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Akutah Pius Ukeyima, lamented that the port, which was conceptualised in 2006, was yet to be realised.

Describing the 19-year delay as a major economic loss and an indictment of the project's implementation process, Otti said the Isiala Ngwa IDP was well-positioned from the initial conceptualisation, but has remained on the drawing table for 19 years.

The Governor insisted that something is wrong with the delay and identified transportation, particularly the lack of railway infrastructure, as a major bottle neck hindering the viability of inland ports across the country.

He said, "The major problem is transportation. Until we solve the problem of rail, the inland port system will remain unviable. The cheapest way to move goods is through rail. You can freight them and pay more, but that's not sustainable for business."

While acknowledging ongoing Federal Government investments in rail, including the Port Harcourt-Maiduguri corridor, the Governor noted that some concerns had been raised about the decision to use narrow-gauge tracks in the region.

He, however, stated that for cargo movement, the gauge is less of a concern compared to timely and efficient execution.

Otti also pledged to engage with the federal government, including the Minister of Transport, to resolve the challenges and expressed readiness to travel to Abuja for high-level discussions on the matter.



Delta 2027: I'll not contest, if — Pela

By Ochuko
Akuopha

ASABA — AGUBERNATORIAL candidate of the Labour Party, LP, in Delta State in the 2023 general elections, Mr Ken Pela, has said he might not contest the 2027 governorship election if the State was taken to where it should be.

Pela who stated this yesterday at a press conference held at Asaba on the establishment of the Vision Better Delta Movement, VBDM, said the key was for Delta State to be better.

He said the Movement was built on three fundamental pillars of governance first introduced in the 2023 campaign, listing them to include righteousness, harmony and prosperity.

He disclosed that the VBDM was the outcome of months of reflection, grassroots consultation and deliberate restructuring, adding that it was born of shared conviction, united purposes and generational commitment to the future of the State. Pela who is the Initiator of the VBDM said the movement "is a values-based, citizens-led platform dedicated to restoring integrity in governance, rebuilding institutions that work and unlocking inclusive prosperity across Delta State.

"VBDM is not a political party; it is a civic platform, a strategic bridge."



EXHIBITION — From left: Father of the artist, Mr. Etigwe-Uwa, SAN; Nana Sonoiki; former Chairman of Nigerian National Merit Award, Prof Anya O. Anya; artist, Grace Olanma Etigwe-Uwa; Special Guest of Honour/ former governor of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola, SAN; and Chief Felix Fagbohunge, SAN, during the opening ceremony of 'Lost In A World of Light' a solo art exhibition by Grace Olanma Etigwe-Uwa at Victoria Island, Lagos.

Okpebholo begins palliative works on federal roads in Edo-North

•Vows to end kidnapping in Edo

EDO State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has flagged off the repair of failed portions of federal roads in Edo North Senatorial District.

The 9.61km stretch of failed roads runs through Auchu, Igarra, Aiyetoro, Ibillo to Ikiran-Oke

Governor Okpebholo, who flagged off the repairs yesterday, said the President Bola Tinubu-led administration is committed to the development of Edo State and continues to ensure that the people enjoy the dividends of democracy.

He assured residents that his administration is determined to end kidnapping in the state.

"Today, we are flagging off these road projects to ensure we have good highways in Edo North, Edo Central, and Edo South Senatorial Districts.

"I was with President Bola Tinubu in Abuja last week, and he asked me to ensure that potholes on roads across the state—whether federal or state—are rehabilitated," he said.

The Governor added that the President is concerned about the welfare of the people of Edo State, ensuring they have access to good roads, a sound educational system, quality healthcare, security, and other basic necessities of life to enjoy

good governance.

"We will continue to bring development to Edo people because we care about them, and we want to improve their lives for the better," he said.

Reiterating his commitment to tackling insecurity, the Governor said, "I assure you that the business of kidnapping will never thrive here. We must take decisive action. These criminal elements must leave our forests. I assure you that within the next few days, they will be flushed out.

"I will relocate to Edo North if that

is what it takes to rid the area of criminal elements. I will not leave this task to the security agencies alone. Together, we will smoke them out."

On the erosion problem affecting Auchu and its environs, Governor Okpebholo said his administration would do its best to address the issue, but would follow due process.

He noted: "On the erosion issue ravaging the area, we need to follow due procurement process to achieve results. Just be patient with my administration.

"I will go and see the gully erosion site for myself and I will later send engineers to assess it and put a final stop to the erosion devastation."

Rivers LG primary: APC faction, CLO demand suspension

By Omeiza Ajayi &
Daniel Abia

ABUJA / PORT HARCOURT— THE controversy surrounding the forthcoming local government elections in Rivers State deepened yesterday as a faction of the All Progressives Congress, APC, and the Civil Liberties Organization, CLO, separately called for the suspension of the entire process, citing legal infractions and constitutional breaches.

At the centre of the APC row is Chief Emeka Beke, who leads a faction of the party in Rivers State and insists he is the authentic state chairman.

Beke yesterday stormed the national secretariat of the APC in Abuja with a petition to the newly elected National Chairman, Prof. Nentawe Yilwatda, urging him to halt the scheduled local government

primary election and recognise his leadership.

Beke, accompanied by the factional State Secretary, Sam Etelegwung, urged the national leadership to stop the process being organised by the rival faction led by Chief Tony Okocha, claiming it lacks legal legitimacy.

"We respectfully urge the National Chairman to suspend the scheduled local government primaries of the APC, Rivers State, being organized by the Chief Tony Okocha-led Executive Committee. We request that the Chief Emeka Beke-led Executive Committee be directed to oversee the entire process, as it is the one duly recognized by law," Beke said.

Beke backed his claims with a judgment from the High Court of Rivers State, delivered by Justice S. H. Aprioku, which nullified the purported dissolution of his leadership and affirmed that his tenure as state chairman remains

valid until October 2025.

"The judgment remains binding as it has not been set aside by any competent appellate court," he noted, adding that the APC national leadership had also extended the tenure of elected state executives to December 2025, further validating his position. In addition, Beke cited another judgment by Justice Obomanu in Suit No. PHC/3859/CS/2024—Okwu Joebrown Ndike & Ors. v. All Progressives Congress & Anor.—which invalidated the

election of the Okocha-led faction.

Beke also referenced a pending suit—PHC/3592/CS/2023—filed by Etelegwung, challenging the legality of the 2023 dissolution of the Beke-led executive by the former national chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje.

In a separate development, the Rivers State branch of the Civil Liberties Organization, CLO, has demanded the immediate suspension of the state's local government election scheduled for

August 30, 2025, by the Rivers State Independent Electoral Commission (RSIEC). The CLO, through its state spokesperson, Emmanuel Obe, described the reconstituted RSIEC board led by Dr. Michael Ekpai Odey as illegitimate and accused it of violating both constitutional provisions and the Electoral Act.

According to Obe, the election timetable released by RSIEC violates Section 94 of the Electoral Act, which requires a minimum of 90 days' notice before the conduct of any election.

Tinubu, Obi, Okpebholo laud Igbinedion's contribution to nat'l devt

By Favour Ulebor

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, Presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 election, Mr Peter Obi, and Governor of Edo State, Sen Monday Okpebholo have

praised Chief Gabriel Igbinedion, the Esama of Benin Kingdom, for his immense contributions to Nigeria's growth in business, education, and nation building.

Speaking at the public launch of the book 'The Chronicle of a Legend,' yesterday in Abuja, Tinubu represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, said the book is more than a biography. It is a compendium of resilience, innovation, patriotism, and service.

He said, "We are here today to celebrate a fine and extraordinary Nigerian, a Titan in business, a cultural icon, a patriarch, and above all, a living legend, Chief Sir Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion, the Esama of Benin Kingdom."

On Esama's legacy, Tinubu said, "In business, he's a trailblazer with the founding of one of Nigeria's earliest indigenous airline services, Okada Air... In the realm of education, his establishment of Igbinedion University Okada, the first private university to be chartered in Nigeria, is a testament to his commitment to intellectual

empowerment.

"Chief Igbinedion's legacy is rich and varied. He represents the very best of our national character, resilience, enterprise, generosity, and unshakable belief in the power of service."

On his part, Peter Obi, called for greater national recognition of the Esama's achievements.

"We live in a country that doesn't celebrate those who are supposed to be celebrated. If we do, the celebration would have been more," Obi said.

He pledged a long-term commitment to the Esama's legacy.

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, represented by his deputy, Dennis Idahosa, said, "The Esama of Benin Kingdom is a father not just to his family, but to all Edo children... He constructed the road leading to my federal constituency. And because of him, development came to Ovia even before I was born."

The publication honours Igbinedion's landmark contributions to education, transport, banking, and entrepreneurship; sectors in which he pioneered private ventures that continue to shape lives across Nigeria.

Alumni pledge ties with UNIBEN, unveils new leadership

By Jimitota Onoyume

THE University of Benin Alumni Association, North America, UBAANA, has assured of continued collaboration with the university's management to promote development in the institution.

President of the newly inaugurated executive, Engr. Osasere Osifo, gave the assurance after the inauguration held during the 19th Annual Reunion event of the association, hosted by the New York/New Jersey Chapter.

He added that the new leadership will focus on the reunification of the UBAANA family, monthly webinar series, organizational growth, enhanced digital presence, mentorship, support programs, improved welfare of members, and strategic alumni engagement.

Others sworn in alongside Osifo to run UBAAANA's executive committee for the 2025–2027 term include Anita Oghagbon as Vice President, Dr. Governor Ameh as Secretary General, Engr. Ikechukwu Asiedu as Assistant Secretary General, and Mr. Isreal Ekpo as Treasurer.

Five new members were also elected into UBAAANA's Board of Directors. They are Dr. Cyril Onyemachi, Dr. Daniel Ogbovoh, Yvonne Bello Osagie, Dr. Henrietta Orumwense, and Dr. Chika Ojukwu.

Prince Richard Ahonaruogh, SAN, who delivered the keynote address, emphasized the need for unity among members as he reflected on the positive impact and strength of alumni bodies across the globe.

The Boston, Massachusetts Chapter was officially announced as the host of the 2026 UBAANA Annual Reunion.

Firm boosts science education with Lab donation

By Lawani
Mikairu

INDIGENOUS oil and gas firm, Engineering Automation Technology Limited (EATECH), has donated fully equipped, state-of-the-art science laboratories to Esteem Schools, Abak, Akwa Ibom State, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

The newly inaugurated facilities include ultra-modern chemistry, physics, and biology laboratories, built and furnished to international standards. At the commissioning ceremony, Managing Director/CEO of EATECH, Dr. Emmanuel Okon, said the donation reflects the company's commitment to

advancing knowledge and education in its host communities.

"The challenge to society is ignorance, and the solution is knowledge," Okon declared, encouraging students to make good use of the facilities while urging the school to ensure their sustainability for future generations."

Dr. Okon also announced EATECH's plan to establish a Computer-Based Test (CBT) Centre within the school, aimed at supporting national examinations and promoting students' digital literacy. The proposed centre, he noted, would come equipped for training in ICT applications, including coding, robotics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and programming.

The company also pledged to offer capacity-building training for both

staff and students to ensure effective usage of the ICT tools.

Reacting to the gesture, Director of Schools, Mrs. Esitmbom Ekpo, lauded EATECH for fulfilling a promise made during the school's 2024 graduation ceremony.

She described the project as a dream come true that would revolutionize the learning experience at Esteem Schools. "This is a promise made and fulfilled. The transformation of our laboratories to global standards will go a long way in enhancing science education and innovation among our students," she said.

Mrs. Ekpo assured that the facilities would be maintained and used judiciously, adding that EATECH's gesture had set a worthy example of corporate citizenship.



Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VANGUARD NEWSPAPER

From tears to joy: Gov Uba Sani provides victims of terrorism with new homes



•Some of the houses

IN Kaduna State, where communities have long been living under the shadow of violence and displacement caused by terrorists and bandits, a quiet but powerful transformation is taking place.

Thanks to the viable partnership between the Kaduna State Government and Qatar Charity, hundreds of the families who were thrown off balance by terrorists and bandits, are now finding their feet again. Their battered and lost hope are being rekindled, while their displacement from their places of comfort is being restored through the converted effort of Kaduna State Government and the Qatar Charity. The collaboration between Kaduna and Qatar Charity is birthing not just shelter but it is actively providing the once forgotten and brutalised people with dignity, peace of mind, hope and a future.

On Tuesday, Governor Uba Sani commissioned the first phase of the Qatar Sanabil Project, a bold intervention aimed at rehabilitating victims of bandit attacks. The initiative includes newly built homes, a school, a healthcare centre, a shopping complex, and economic empowerment tools for affected families.

For many beneficiaries, it was a moment of healing, a promise fulfilled, and most importantly, the return of hope.

"The Governor may not bring back the lives we lost, but he has brought back hope," said one of the recipients of the new houses, which were unveiled and given out to the beneficiaries at a colourful ceremony they have never witnessed in that community.

"We can now sleep without fear of losing what we struggled to gather. We will continue to pray for him," the overjoyed resident and beneficiary echoes with joy as she received the key to her new house.

At the heart of the project is the belief that restoring

physical structures is just a part of the healing process. Governor Uba Sani made this clear in his remarks.

"This is not just about unveiling buildings. It is a solemn act of healing, a covenant fulfilled," he declared. "We are telling every

widow, orphan, and displaced soul: you are not forgotten. You are honoured. You are home."

Each house, he explained, represents more than bricks and mortar; it is a symbol of solidarity and a concrete step towards restoring broken communities.

Kaduna: When Muslims, Christians worshipped together in push for peaceful co-existence

...This is a model for Nigeria, and should be pursued nationwide-Deputy Speaker

By Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo

Kaduna had suffered from religious violence and mutual suspicion in the past. However, the state has steadily transformed into a symbol of hope, reconciliation and interfaith harmony. Once marked by ethno-religious divisions that pitted communities against each other, Kaduna is now a different story, one of healing, friendship and genuine coexistence.

Gone are the days when Christians and Muslims in Kaduna lived in fear and distrust. The painful memories of past sectarian crises have given way to a new dawn where tolerance, peace and mutual respect now guide daily interactions. The wounds have not only healed, they have become the foundation for a stronger, united society.

Across Kaduna North, home to predominantly Muslim communities like Hayin Banki, Kawo and Mando, and Kaduna South, where Christian enclaves such as Kakuri, Sabo, and Barnawa, also thrive, one can see concrete evidence of religious tolerance and accommodation. In this places, churches and mosques operate peacefully side by side. Muslim and Christian children mingle and play together without prejudice. More importantly, leaders from both faiths continue to preach the message of unity more than ever.

This was exemplified recently at the Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA, Lemu Road, in

Kaduna South, when in an unprecedented show of interfaith solidarity, Muslim religious and traditional leaders joined Christians in a Sunday worship service themed around unity and mutual respect.

Reverend Joshua Nda Anyam, the Senior Pastor of ECWA Gospel Church, reminded congregants of the importance of peaceful engagement across religious divides. "There will always be differences," he said, adding that the differences should not become walls of hatred. "We must keep the doors of dialogue and trust open," Rev Anyam cautioned.

Citing Matthew 7:12—the Golden Rule—Rev. Anyam urged that compassion and empathy should be the core of all human interactions, regardless of faith. He also condemned the desecration of holy scriptures, warning that such acts risk undoing the hard-earned peace now enjoyed in Kaduna.

Mr. Ayokunle Adebayo, the SSA on Resident Communities, who represented the Kaduna State governor, Senator Uba Sani, at the service hailed the event as a symbol of what Kaduna and indeed Nigeria, can become. "This is not just a church service but a statement. It is a mirror of the Kaduna spirit, resilient, diverse, and peaceful."

The Deputy Speaker of the Kaduna State House of Assembly, Mr. Henry Magaji Danjuma,

The project goes beyond housing. Under Phase 1, the beneficiaries also received tools to help them rebuild their economic lives—tricycles, grinding machines, salon kits, and welding equipment. A skills acquisition centre has also been established to equip women and youths with vocational skills.

"We're not just giving out homes, we're building futures," Governor Sani said. "True empowerment means helping people stand on their own feet with pride and purpose."

Also commissioned was a brand-new school that will provide free, quality education to the children of affected families. A healthcare facility will now offer essential medical services to a population previously cut off from formal care due to insecurity.

In a state where educational and health infrastructure has been disrupted by conflict, these facilities are more than just buildings, they are lifelines.

Governor Sani acknowledged the role of Qatar Charity, commending their generosity and long-standing commitment to global humanitarian causes. He expressed gratitude to the Qatari Ambassador to Nigeria, Ali Bin Ghanem Al-Hajri, and Qatar Charity's Country Director, Sheikh Hamdi Abdu, for their dedication to the project. "This partnership reflects the best of humanity, compassion, solidarity, and shared responsibility," the governor noted.

The event also drew praises from the Federal Government. Representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, National Security Adviser, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, described the project as a key part of Nigeria's broader plan to rebuild lives destroyed by insecurity.

"Nigeria is in safe hands, and we will restore law and order. That is an assurance we are giving," Ribadu said on

behalf of the president. President Tinubu lauded the Kaduna State Government for combining kinetic and non-kinetic strategies in dealing with insecurity. He highlighted the Kaduna Peace Model as a commendable, community-driven approach that balances security enforcement with reconciliation and development. "We are wiping the tears of victims. We are reconciling communities. We are giving everyone a space to belong and a sense of inclusion," the President noted.

Also present was the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa, who applauded Governor Sani's efforts in restoring normalcy to the state. He reaffirmed the military's commitment to sustaining peace and security, stating that projects like this align with national efforts to stabilize conflict zones. "This is what we fight for, not just the absence of violence, but the presence of development and opportunity," he said.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajuddeen Abbas, added his voice, hailing the initiative as people-oriented and exemplary. He said the Kaduna project should serve as a model for other states grappling with post-conflict rehabilitation.

Governor Sani announced that Phase 2 of the Qatar Sanabil Project would soon commence, promising more homes, schools, boreholes, and empowerment centres across affected communities. "To the resilient families receiving homes today, you are not defined by your loss but by your strength," he said. "You are not victims; you are survivors. You are our heroes."

In a country where victims of terrorism in many regions continue to live in limbo, Kaduna is charting a different course, one of recovery, inclusion, and dignity.



•Middle, Deputy Speaker, Kaduna State House of Assembly, Henry Danjuma, raising the hand of one of the Muslim traditional leaders, while the Governor's representative, Ayokunle Adebayo, is on the right.

called the initiative a step toward social healing. "This service should be replicated across our communities. Peace must be intentional and sustained."

Apart from that, Kaduna is also seeing acts of generosity between various religious adherents. At Bishara Baptist Church in Sabo Tasha, Pastor Nathan Chawaison recently led a special charity drive where N50,000 was donated to each of 12 Muslim beneficiaries from the local community.

The initiative, inspired by the Biblical ethic of giving, was a heartfelt gesture to promote love

beyond religious identity. "Jesus Christ gave Himself for all of us," Pastor Chawaison explained. "As His followers, we are called to show love to everyone, regardless of creed."

The Muslim recipients, nominated by respected community leader Jonathan, were overwhelmed. Bisa Abdulsalam, speaking on their behalf, said: "This is my first time of receiving this kind of support from a church. It has changed my perception. We need more of this in Nigeria."

Continues online:
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Sweet & Sour

Donu Kogbara

IGBOPHOBIA REVISITED



•Peter Obi

•Senator Shehu Sani

In a newspaper interview last Sunday, Shehu Sani, a former senator from Kaduna State, said that if Peter Obi is given the ADC's presidential ticket, most Northerners will (for "regional and cultural reasons") set aside their differences and re-elect Tinubu in 2027.

What Sani REALLY means is that most Northerners would rather tolerate another four years of Tinubu, whom they dislike, than vote for an Igbo man. I hear this opinion all the time and it reminds me of a column titled IGBOPHOBIA that I wrote on this page on February 3, 2022, several months before Obi decided to contest in the 2023 election.

Obi actually did quite well in some Northern locations in 2023. But profound prejudice against Igbos persists; and three years down the line, my article is still very relevant, so I'm reproducing it below:

What have Igbos done to other Nigerians?!

I am asking this question because whenever I get involved in phone or face-to-face discussions with non-Igbos about the possibility of an Igbo Presidency in 2023, negative remarks are the norm.

Sometimes, an individual comprehensively insults Igbos, highlights their alleged character flaws and "crimes" and swears that they will never get near the top job. Sometimes, within group settings, several Igbophobes simultaneously launch harsh verbal attacks.

Sometimes those who regard the South-East as politically unworthy restrict themselves to comments that are relatively mild but still extremely patronising and essentially damning, such as: "Igbos are OK but simply not ready for national leadership at the moment."

Many people feel free to speak ill of Igbos in my presence because I have a Niger Deltan name, so they don't know that my mother is from Imo State. And I've learned a lot about Igbophobia while conversing with bigots who aren't aware of my mixed ethnicity.

I describe them as bigots because none of their reasons for wanting Igbos to be excluded from the presidency make sense to me.

I've learned a lot about Igbophobia while conversing with bigots who aren't aware of my mixed ethnicity; I describe them as bigots because none of their reasons for wanting Igbos to be excluded from the presidency make sense to me

Let me list the complaints I have heard and offer rejoinders:

COMPLAINT: Igbos tried to leave and destroy Nigeria via the Biafran civil war and continue to

loudly support separatism via Nnamdi Kanu's IPOB, so have no right to EVER seek to run a Nigeria that is in one piece today only because Igbos lost the civil war and only because Buhari's government has clipped Kanu's wings.

REJOINDER: Without wishing to stir up animosities by going into lengthy, complex, painful historical details, let me briefly point out that Igbos did not embrace Biafra for stupid or unfair reasons, that they were the greatest victims of the war and that most Igbos do NOT support Kanu's secessionist agenda or fiery rhetoric.

COMPLAINT: Igbos are too clannish. They shamelessly promote each other whenever they can and have no time for other tribes.

REJOINDER: Nonsense! All Nigerians are clannish. This country is full of public- and private-sector organisations that are completely dominated by Yorubas or Fulanis. Meanwhile, we minorities can be just as bad when we get a chance to be blindly prejudiced.

My cousin once begged me, many years ago, not to nominate a very capable professional for a job because he didn't come from our village. Meanwhile, the candidate from our village was a village idiot!!!

COMPLAINT: Igbos are chronic mercenaries who don't care about anything except money and would sell their grannies if they could.

REJOINDER: Sure, some Igbos are aggressively avaricious. But I know quite a few Igbos who are gentle, intellectual altruistic souls...and lots of non-Igbos who are irredemably materialistic.

Also, let's face it: Nigeria NEEDS the entrepreneurial Igbo spirit and the numerous goods and services that Igbo merchants provide.

COMPLAINT: Igbos colonise every location they settle in.

REJOINDER: Have Igbo settlers ever tried to topple any emir or oba or amayanabo? Are Igbos not just true Nigerians who are ready to make themselves comfortable wherever they find business to do?

In any case, more fool any son/daughter of the soil who lazily sits back and allows a newcomer to take over his/her terrain!

COMPLAINT: Igbos are crude and brash.

REJOINDER: SOME Igbos are definitely insufferably crude and

brash. And so are SOME Yorubas and SOME Northerners.

COMPLAINT: Igbos are not united or well-organised enough within a political context, so why should anyone take them seriously?

REJOINDER: Disunity is rife in other parts of the country, so why fixate about it only when Igbos display it?

COMPLAINT: Igbos are innately

Republican and don't humbly bow to those who are above them in life's pecking order and cannot be easily ruled.

REJOINDER: True! But are egalitarian tendencies a crime?

Being Igbo is not widely regarded as an advantage... which probably explains why Rivers people with Igbo names insist that they aren't Igbo...even though the dialects in which they vehemently denounce their roots are very similar to Igbo. So who is fooling whom?!

Igbos have been so demonised in this country that debates about who stands a chance of taking over from President Buhari next year mostly revolve around Yoruba and Northern aspirants. Sometimes when I listen to such debates, I marvel at the fact that Igbos are barely mentioned. An alien who lands on earth and eavesdrops on these calculations and

speculations might be forgiven for concluding that Vice President Osinbajo, APC chieftain Tinubu (and former Vice President Atiku) are the only runners and that Igbos don't matter at all. And yet, if you believe in rotation and zoning, it is their turn!!!

Igbos themselves are part of the problem. Many seem resigned to being ignored. I've even heard some Igbos saying that they can live without political power and are happy to concentrate on commerce. I have a couple of senior friends in Ohanaeze, the pan cultural organisation for Igbos; and I pray that they will vigorously fight for a place at the high table for their beleaguered brethren because even if one does not believe in zoning or rotation, the status quo is not fair at all. The bottom line is that a quality Igbo candidate should be as potentially electable as a quality candidate from elsewhere.

DONU'S WORLD

I have a YouTube channel. It's called DONU'S WORLD. https://youtube.com/donukogbara?si=bBmIPdFZ_wUyKYq NIGERIA UNFILTERED – spicy commentaries on Naija issues - appears every Wednesday, while DONU'S WEEK appears on Fridays and is international as well as local and covers a mish-mash of soft and tough issues around my personal life, my work and my worldview.

Two days ago, on Nigeria Unfiltered, I talked about Peter Obi's emotional bond with Nigerians who yearn for change and said that though Tinubu is the "king" of Nigeria, Obi is the King Of Hearts.

Please check out Donu's World videos twice a week. I would love to hear your opinions and any constructive criticisms you may have to offer. And I will be very grateful if you "like", subscribe and share!

RESPONSES TO donzol2002@yahoo.co.uk or to 0805 404 6887. (TEXT ONLY). PLEASE NOTE THAT UNLESS YOU REQUEST ANONYMITY, YOUR EMAIL OR TEXT MAY BE PUBLISHED WITH YOUR NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS ATTACHED

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CONVERSATION

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No mind your nationality, you've got the identity of an African

History was made. It was the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls of African Descent. Benin Republic chose this Day of Saturday July 26, 2025 to implement its new nationality initiative for diaspora and Black individuals. The law, passed on September 2, 2024, grants Beninese citizenship to descendants of African ancestors sold and transported during the transatlantic slave trade. All that is required of the Black person anywhere in the world to become a Benin citizen is to be at least 18 years old, not hold citizenship of another African country, and have proven African descent through DNA test, or other forms of authenticated proof. Benin Republic picked Grammy Award-winning R&B singer and entrepreneur, Ciara Wilson, as the first recipient in the world to become its citizen under the law that promises to positively affect relations between the mother African continent and descendants of the approximately 12.5 million Africans forcibly transported across the Atlantic Ocean over a 400-year period. About two million of those transported died during the journey. Despite the centuries that separate that period and today, the wish of millions in the diaspora is to return

home to Africa. That huge mass of human beings have the knowledge, skills and funds that can transform Africa into a First World. But, mainly, the poor vision of African leaders and their lack of will continue to frustrate this. However, the African Union, AU, has tried to redress this by formally recognising the Diaspora as its sixth region in 2003. It has also tried to work out a formal framework to ensure its participation and to address how its decisions can be implemented in the diaspora. However, the process has been stalled for over two decades. Ciara, who became the first American to ever grace the *Rolling Stone Africa* magazine cover, and the first person to feature on its maiden French-language edition, said of the investiture: "I feel incredibly proud to be a Benin citizen. This is more than symbolic, this is deeply personal, and I cannot wait to go home and show my family this beautiful certificate. The significance of this moment is so powerful. My daughters will see their mother honoured in this way, and so will my sons and husband." Many may not understand how urgent Africa needs to link up with the diaspora. For instance, of the 66 territories still under colonialism, many, like Guadalupe and

Martinique to become an independent country.

Interestingly, a country like Nigeria, 'The Giant of Africa', is still sleeping; it is yet to awake to the realities of the continent and the need to fast-track not just African, but also diaspora integration; all its constitution allows is dual citizenship which is not even targeted at persons in the diaspora of African origins

Martinique, are Black. Ironically, one of the greatest Pan Africanists in world history, Franz Fanon, author of the *"The Wretched of the Earth"*, who in the 1950s-1960s fought for the liberation of Algeria, was given to us by Martinique. How wonderful and beautiful would it be, if the Africa of the 21st Century were to repay that historical debt by assisting

At the "The Forgotten Peoples: International Conference to Decolonize the World" held in Abuja, August 12-13, 2024 one of the main demands of the Caribbean and United States delegations was the right of all Black people to citizenship of African countries. This is in continuation of the "Back to Africa" movement by Blacks in the diaspora which began in the 1700s. It carries in its bowels, the desire of millions of Black people to return home. This was the primary aim of Marcus Garvey who famously said: "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

In what can be said to be experimental, 15,000 freed African-Americans made their way to Liberia and resettled there in 1847.

Ghana, perhaps given its deep Pan Africanist traditions built by Kwame Nkrumah, leads in this common sense possibility of integrating the diaspora with Africa. Nkrumah had in stating that an African need not be born in the continent, famously declared: "I am not African because I was born in Africa but because Africa was born in me."

Ghana has its policy of granting long stays and even citizenship to people of African descent, especially from the United States and the Caribbean.

In 2015, I attended a Pan African conference in Accra, Ghana where a number of African-Americans, while commending Ghana's role in welcoming them, complained that the journey to their citizenship was very slow.

It was therefore heartening that in late 2024, then Ghanaian President Akufo-Addo granted citizenship to 524 diaspora African, most of them, African-Americans.

One of the most famous families which relocated to Ghana was the Bob Marley family. Led by the matriarch, Rita Marley, the family moved to Ghana in the 1990s, and Mama Rita in 2013, became a Ghanaian citizen. She also adopted the Ghanaian name, Nana Afua Adoeba. When over a decade ago, I lived in Ghana, I passed by the gates of her home in Aburi on my way to the beautiful Aburi Gardens.

Another famous American who gained African citizenship is the rapper and actor, Christopher Brian Bridges, famously known as Ludacris whose wife Eudoxie Mbouguengue is Gabonese. He picked up the citizenship of that country.

Other African countries that are encouraging Africans in the diaspora to take up African citizenship include Sierra Leone which under its encouraging descendants policy, offers citizenship to all those who can prove their lineage. Its aim is to reunite the diaspora with their ancestral African home.

South Africa, which, in comparison with many African countries has since Apartheid was defeated in 1994, had a visionary leadership, offers free citizenship to African Americans. Zimbabwe has also made its citizenship process for African Americans simple by reducing or eliminating obstacles such as long residency requirements and bureaucratic procedures.

Kenya allows persons of proven Kenyan ancestry or long term legal residents to become citizens.

Interestingly, a country like Nigeria, 'The Giant of Africa', is still sleeping. It is yet to awake to the realities of the continent and the need to fast-track not just African, but also diaspora integration. All its constitution allows is dual citizenship which is not even targeted at persons in the diaspora of African origins.

In the geo-politics of the world with the American establishment throwing out coloured migrants and imposing high tariffs on various countries, genocide in Gaza, punitive sanctions against countries and the nuclear race, it is important for Africa to leverage on its various advantages. A major part are the Black populations in North America and Latin America, Europe and the Pacific.

In his famous 1977 "African" song, Peter Tosh, left us with the imperishable lyrics: "So don't care where you come from as long as you're a Black man, you're an African. No mind your nationality, you have got the identity of an African".

The logic of Anioma as Igbo state

By EMMANUEL ONWUBIKO

At the heart of Senator Ned Nwoko's tireless campaign for the creation of Anioma State is not just a political proposal, but a historic and moral reckoning. In a country still grappling with how best to reflect federal character, regional equity and ethnic justice, the Anioma agitation represents more than cartographic surgery—it is a loud cry for integration, identity and inclusion. That Senator Nwoko has placed himself at the vanguard of this agitation is no accident; it is the inevitable continuation of a legacy rooted in heritage, sacrifice and statesmanship. It is a historical quest that began by the respected statesman Chief Osadebe of the Blessed memory over six decades back.

One time head of the National Planning Commission of Nigeria, Professor Sylvester Monye, who is from Anioma, backs the agitation for Anioma state as Igbo state as follows: "The recent revival of the demand for the creation of Anioma State, essentially driven by Senator Ned Nwoko, is in keeping with the aspiration of our people. The demand for the creation of Anioma state has been long-standing and must rank as one of the oldest agitations in the political history of Nigeria. Political detractors would want you to believe that Senator Nwoko's interest in the Anioma State movement is just for his politics. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The agitation has always been driven by the Anioma people who are of Igbo descent and reside in the northern part of Delta State. The Anioma people, though located in Delta State, share a distinct Igbo cultural identity that is

remarkably different from the Urhobo and Itsekiri ethnic groups in the state. This distinctive demand has enjoyed the support of all well-meaning persons in that enclave. The very term, Anioma, coined by the illustrious Chief Dennis Osadebay, as far back as 1951, has remained the unchanging acronym by which this area has been identified, Professor Monye affirmed.

To understand the gravity of what Senator Nwoko is doing, one must first appreciate that the Anioma people—nine local government areas of Delta State—are Igbo by ethnicity, language, and culture, yet politically detached from their kith and kin in the South-East. This dislocation, birthed by geopolitical arrangement and entrenched by political maneuvering, has left Anioma as an island of Igbo identity marooned in the South-South region. It is this historical and political injustice that Senator Nwoko's Anioma State bill seeks to correct—by joining Anioma with the South-East to complete the zone's state count to six, and thus give Ndigbo a fairer stake in the federation.

For those who question the motive or sincerity of the senator, the facts speak for themselves. Nwoko is not a political novice; he is a seasoned legislator, a lawyer of international repute, and a former member of the House of Representatives. He is also not a desperate man on the hunt for a governorship seat—he has repeatedly stated he will not contest to govern the proposed Anioma State. What then motivates his agitation? The answer lies in his lineage and his legacy. His grandfather, HRH Obi Nwoko I, was not only a royal father in Idumuje-Ugboko but also a committed founding member of the Igbo Union, the very

platform that eventually metamorphosed into Ohanaeze Ndigbo. Senator Nwoko's campaign is, therefore, not personal; it is intergenerational. It is a modern fulfilment of a vision first carried by his forebears.

The Nigerian Constitution is clear: state creation is a legal, not sentimental, process; and if Anioma satisfies all the conditions—which it does—then it is entitled to a seat of its own; what greater symbol of federal inclusion and national healing can there be than the creation of a new state that corrects a longstanding historical injustice?

Critics like former Delta State governor Senator Ifeanyi Okowa have failed to grasp—or deliberately ignore—the symbolic and strategic implications of Anioma State joining the South-East. Okowa's opposition, thinly veiled under the guise of geopolitical loyalty to the South-South, is neither principled nor patriotic. It is a self-serving attempt to retain control over a people he no longer governs, and

whose political aspirations he now seeks to stifle. If Okowa is truly in support of Anioma State, as he claims, why oppose its logical alignment with the South-East—a region to which Anioma belongs by every historical, linguistic, and ethnic marker?

The truth is that Okowa's objection is not rooted in federal logic or concern for national cohesion. It is about power. If Anioma becomes the sixth state in the South-East, the Delta political empire Okowa built will shrink overnight. His influence, once unassailable in Delta North, would be rendered peripheral. In essence, it is not the map he wants to preserve; it is his dominion. And in seeking to preserve that power, he now aligns—whether knowingly or not—with those forces that have historically denied Ndigbo equal representation at the national table. Already a whopping number of 91 Senators have endorsed Anioma state.

But Senator Nwoko has chosen to walk a different path. Against orchestrated blackmail, institutional sabotage, and even outright threats, he continues to push forward the bill for Anioma State. And he does so with the full armour of a statesman. As a sitting senator, Nwoko has shown legislative output that is among the highest in the 10th Senate—sponsoring 31 bills and over 20 motions within just two years. These bills are not symbolic tokens; they address national priorities such as economic sovereignty, digital accountability, social security, defence decentralisation, and electoral reform. Among his most significant proposals are the Diaspora Voting Bill, which seeks to enfranchise millions of Nigerians abroad; the Nigerian Social Security Agency Bill, which offers a structured response to poverty and unemployment; the Central Bank Act Amendment, which prohibits local

transactions in foreign currency to preserve the naira; and the Nigerian Defence Academy Bill, which proposes a new NDA campus in Kwale to promote regional inclusion in military training. These are not the acts of a man seeking a provincial kingdom. These are the pursuits of a man driven by a national conscience.

Even at the constituency level, Senator Nwoko has delivered 51 tangible projects across Delta North in less than two years. These include solar-powered boreholes, health outreach programmes, youth skills training, agricultural empowerment initiatives, and critical infrastructure like roads and electrification. He is not agitating for Anioma State with empty rhetoric; he is investing in the lives of Anioma citizens daily.

Those who fear that the creation of Anioma State will fracture Delta or destabilise the South-South are either politically naive or wilfully disingenuous. The Nigerian Constitution is clear: state creation is a legal, not sentimental, process. And if Anioma satisfies all the conditions—which it does—then it is entitled to a seat of its own. What greater symbol of federal inclusion and national healing can there be than the creation of a new state that corrects a longstanding historical injustice?

This is why Ndigbo across Nigeria must rally behind Senator Nwoko. The creation of Anioma State is not just for Anioma; it is for the collective dignity of the Igbo people. It ensures that Ndigbo are no longer underrepresented at the federal level.

Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com

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CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA POLITICAL PARTIES (CNPP) DELTA STATE CHAPTER

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CNPP'S MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE OBOREWORI'S ADMINISTRATION

May 29, 2023, was Sheriff Oborewori's date with history. It was a day he was sworn in as the fifth civilian Governor of Delta state. The date was remarkable because, coming from the background of the legislature, not many people gave him the chance of excelling. His previous two predecessors rose through the ranks to become Secretary to the State government (SSG) and were well versed in the executive branch of government. However, as a former Speaker of the Delta State House of Assembly, Oborewori had the distinction of being the longest serving Speaker of the Assembly as well as being the first to transmute from one administration to another. These feats were attested to his credentials as an astute administrator, exemplary leader, and team player.

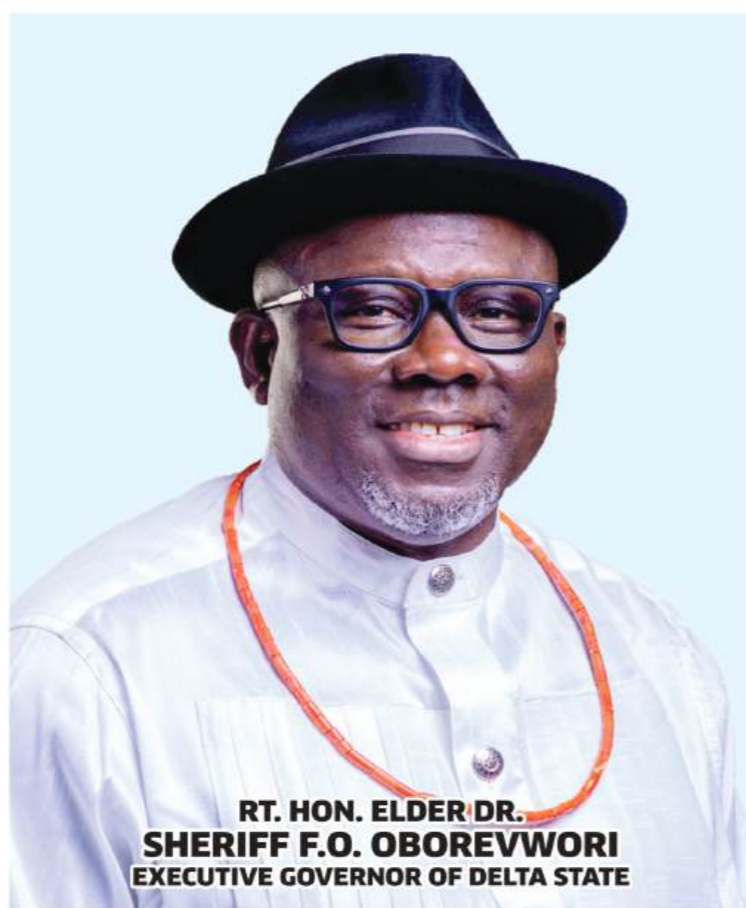
From inception, Governor Oborewori had several hurdles to cross. He had to overcome as many as 38 pre- and post-election court cases instituted by those bent on stopping him. Two years plus down the line, Governor Oborewori has confounded critics, surprised his supporters, and even impressed the opposition in some areas with his remarkable performance.

ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

Governor Oborewori's achievements in office in the two years and two months that he has been in offices are so visible even the blind can see them. As at May this year, a total of four hundred and thirty-one (431) road projects, with a total length of two thousand, five hundred and ninety-five (2,595.56) kilometres are being constructed by this administration. Also, under construction are drains with a combined length of eight hundred and twenty-two (822.47) kilometres. It is worthy of note that 153 out of the 431 road projects were awarded by this administration; they have a cumulative length of one thousand, three hundred and seventy-eight (1,378.59) kilometres, with additional drains of two hundred and ninety-two (292.05) kilometres.

The first sign that Governor Oborewori was going to excel was when he engaged construction giant, Julius Berger, to embark on the construction of three flyovers and three Slip Ways worth N78billion in Warri and Effurun metropolises. This bold initiative was seen as the hallmark and signature tune of his administration which was anchored on his MORE agenda, an acronym for Meaningful Development, Opportunities for all, Realistic Reforms and Enhanced Peace and Security.

Apart from the three flyover bridges at Warri and Effurun being undertaken by Julius Berger, the Oborewori administration, other major road infrastructure being undertaken by the administration include the Trans Warri-Ode-Itsekiri Bridges and Access Roads Phase 1; Orere Bridge with Access and Spur in Orere Town, Ughelli South LGA, and Ayakoromo Bridge across River Forcados at Ayakoromo, Burutu LGA. The Asaba -Ase Bridge project is also being completed signalling a deliberate effort to improve connectivity to the riverine communities in the state. The administration has so far completed the twin Ubu bridges on Ughelli Asaba Expressway, Isheagwu- Ewulu Bridge (Aniocha South LGA), Kwale-Beneku Bridge that links Ndokwa West and Ndokwa East LGAs, and one out of the nineteen bridges on the Trans-Warri Ode Itsekiri Roads and Bridges. Just last week, the administration approved the construction of two new flyover bridges at Otovwodo Junction Ughelli and the Uromi Junction Agbor to further enhance commuter traffic in the benefiting



RT. HON. ELDER DR. SHERIFF F.O. OBOREWORI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF DELTA STATE

communities.

Other projects that at different stages of completion include the Construction of Flood Control Measures on Summit Road, Asaba, Construction of Flood Control Measures from Orikeze Avenue Junction through Obi Enumah and Uromi Roads to Orogodo River, Ika South LGA., Construction of Emevor-Ivrogbo-Orogun Road (Phase 2), Isoko North LGA, Stormwater Management and Control Measures in Osubi, Okpe LGA, Flood Control Measures for Effurun/Warri and Environs (Phase 3), Warri, Reconstruction of Orerokpe-Okuloho-Oviri Road, Okpe LGA, Construction of Okerenkoko-Pepeama- Kokodiagbene Road, Warri South West LGA, Construction of Benikrukru Township Roads (Phase 2), Warri South-West LGA, Rehabilitation of Odimodi-Okuntu-Ogulagha Road, Burutu LGA, and the Rehabilitation of Ohoro-Bomadi-Gbaregolor Road, Bomadi LGA. Equally significant is the robust works on the 16 km internal roads in Sapele, the Isheagu-Ewulu road, the Ndemili/ Utagba-Anor Road, and the rehabilitation of the old Umutu-Abrika-Eku Road in the Amukpe-Agbor axis.

Meanwhile, the 167-Kilometre Asaba-Ughelli Dual Carriageway spanning three previous administrations has received significant boost under the Oborewori administration and following its completion, has shortened travel time between Asaba and Warri. The administration within a short span also completed the Ibusa-Okpanam bypass which has improved trade and commuter interconnectivity in that corridor. Government has also completed and commissioned the phase 1 of the Emevor- Orogun road while phase 2 is ongoing. Also completed are some internal roads in Ughelli, notably the several ring roads and Edo Road.

EDUCATION

The Oborewori administration has prioritized education as part of his administration's MORE agenda. Within his first 100 days in office, Governor Oborewori completed and commissioned multiple projects at Dennis Osadebey University including a 500 - seater auditorium, two 250-seater auditoriums, a faculty building for the faculty of Agriculture, an administrative building, and the Vice- Chancellor's lodge. The Oborewori administration replicated these projects in the Southern Delta University, Ozoro where several projects were commissioned such as the administrative building, the Vice-Chancellor's lodge, a staff school building and a university guest house as well as internal roads in the university. The Oborewori administration has created the college of Health Sciences at Southern Delta University as well as a College of Medicine. The administration has also approved the establishment of a campus of the southern Delta University at Orerokpe, which now runs programmes in Social and Management Sciences.

The Delta State government under Oborewori's watch has been very diligent in assisting student of Delta State origin in tertiary institutions through bursary awards in line with the administration's promise of providing opportunities for all as contained in the MORE agenda. For instance, in March 2024, the administration disbursed N674 million for the 2022/2023 bursary to 30,311 Delta state students across institutions nationwide. In November 2024, the Governor also approved N713 million for the 2024 bursary in which 32,038 students of Delta state extraction across various public and private tertiary institutions benefited. Besides, the administration has assisted Delta students

CNPP'S MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE OBOREWORI ADMINISTRATION

in law schools with financial aid, while also paying the sum of N3.55 billion as counterpart funding for the 2024 Universal Basic Education (UBE).

The fruits of Governor Oborewori's huge investments in education can be gleaned from the success recorded by Delta students who emerged champions at the prestigious World School debate championship held in Doha, Qatar where they defeated some of the best young debaters from around the globe.

HEALTH

The Oborewori administration is currently revamping about 150 primary health centres in the state while 54 General Hospitals are being given a facelift. These projects are at varying stages of completion. The administration has also approved the establishment of the College of Health Technology at Ovrode in Isoko North Local Government area to address the shortage of middle level health workers, especially in our Primary Health Centres (PHCs). A faculty of Basic Medical Sciences which includes Nursing Science has been approved for the Southern Delta University, Ozoro, while the administration has also secured approval from the National Universities Commission for the establishment of a College of Medicine at the university.

It is gratifying to note that the Delta state government has approved the purchase of critical equipment for Delta State University Teaching Hospital. These include a CT scan, echocardiography machine, and MRI scanner, which have been installed. The Oborewori administration also recently procured multi-billion-naira medical equipment including eight hemodialysis machines which have been distributed to hospitals in the three senatorial districts in the state, as well as twenty-five (25) 4D Ultra-Sound Scan Machines for each of the twenty-five LGAs. Maternal and under-5 indices in the state are expected to receive a boost with the acquisition of the 4D Ultra-Sound Scan Machines. Also, the state's Contributory Health Commission which is implementing the Contributory Health Insurance scheme has recorded over two million enrollees, the highest in the country.

SECURITY

The Oborewori administration, having overcome the crisis of the Okuama tragedy, continues to impress with its avowed commitment to enhanced peace and security in the state through massive investments in building an efficient and effective security architecture. The State Joint Security Task Force, known as Operation Delta Sweep, has been responding appropriately to threats to our collective security and safety. Issues of security are usually confidential in nature but as a testament to the administration's achievements in maintaining peace and security, Delta State was adjudged the Safest State for Oil and Gas Investments in Nigeria in 2024 at an award ceremony sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Abuja. The recognition is incontrovertible proof that Delta is safe and secure for business.

SPORTS

The Oborewori administration has made substantial investments in Sports. The result has been that the Delta State won the 7th National Youth Games (NYG) in 2023 at the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba. In 2024, the state clinched the first position again at the 8th NYG with 111 medals: 46 gold, 31 silver, and 34 bronze. Also, in 2024 Team Delta successfully defended its National Sports Festival (NSF) Crown, achieving a historic eighth title with a record haul of 576 medals: 280 gold, 167 silver, and 129 bronze. In the 22nd NSF held at Ogun state in mid-2025, Team Delta once again reigned supreme with a total of 337 medals: 126 gold, 100 silver, and 111 bronze. Also, under Governor Oborewori the Principal's Cup and Headmaster' Cup Football tournaments for Secondary and Primary schools in the state have been sustained and well-funded, boosting grassroots sports.

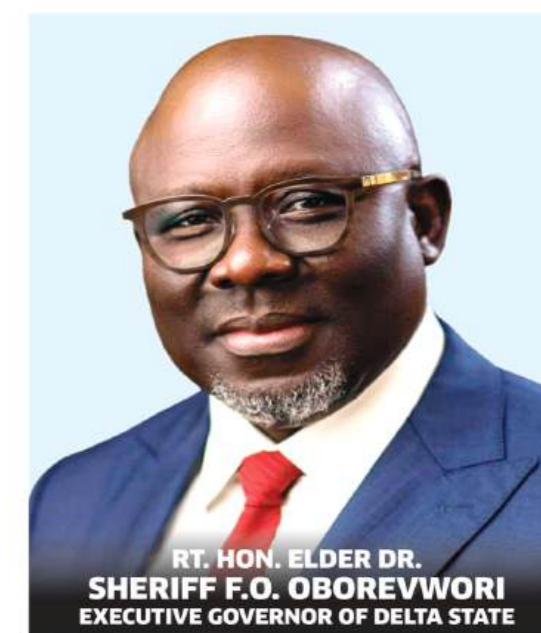
SOCIAL SERVICES

The Oborewori administration places high premium on social services to improve the living conditions of the citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable in the society. Towards this end, the administration has launched several initiatives aimed at empowering youths and women with skills and resources for personal development and business success. As at May 2025, a total of two hundred and sixty-six thousand, seven hundred and thirty-seven people (266,737) have been empowered through the following social investment programmes of the administration. Some of the programmes include the Delta Action (for) Resilience and Economic Stimulus (D- CARES) programme, Women Empowerment and Skill acquisition Programme (WESAP), MORE Grant Scheme, More Biz-Up, Working Fingers Initiative, and Widows Welfare Scheme.

The Oborewori administration has done so much to enhance the welfare of civil servants in the state. Delta State was one of the first states to approve and implement a new minimum wage of N77,500, surpassing the national benchmark of N70,000.00. The administration has also implemented several measures to improve productivity, encourage career progression, and reward merit in the civil service. Within 100 days of assumption of office, Governor Oborewori approved the settlement of promotion arrears owed to both serving and retired public servants in keeping faith with his electioneering promise. Over N5.5 billion was paid to 23,887 public servants, along with the

reinstatement and remuneration of promotion arrears for 362 retired officers.

Lest we forget, it was also the Governor that helped to secure legislative approval for a N40b bank facility to enable the local government councils liquidate their backlog of pension liabilities for 6,406 retirees. Among other achievements of the administration in the civil service are the approval and implementation of Public Officers Housing Loan Scheme, Public Officers Vehicle Loan Scheme, and the provision of official vehicles for Permanent Secretaries. Furthermore, a total of three thousand four hundred and ninety-seven (3,497) new teaching and non-teaching support staff were recruited by this administration to address manpower gaps across the state's 25 Local Government Councils.



RT. HON. ELDER DR. SHERIFF F.O. OBOREWORI
EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF DELTA STATE

GOVERNMENT OF INCLUSIVENESS

The Oborewori administration runs an all-inclusive government. As a gender-friendly administration, it has ensured that women are placed as Vice Chairmen in the local government councils. The administration is also youth-friendly and has thus engaged youths under 40 to serve in the Delta State Executive Council. The administration has accommodated some leaders of opposition political parties and leaders of non- indigene communities in the governance of the state. Having made a solemn pledge to be a Governor for all Deltans, Oborewori has ensured a very fair distribution of projects across the state. In the 2025 state budget, Governor Oborewori made a provision of N2 billion-naira for road projects in each of the 25 local government areas of the state. This governance model of inclusivity has ensured harmony amongst the different ethnic nationalities in the state.

CONCLUSION

With the above achievements recorded by the Oborewori administration and which have been accomplished without borrowing a dime, it is inconceivable that some people would still be finding ways to undermine the government through baseless criticisms, deliberate misrepresentations, and outright falsehoods. But Deltans know better than to believe a selfish group of armchair critics, mischief makers, and desperate power mongers. We challenge those merchants of falsehood who recently sponsored the lie that the Oborewori administration is unfair to the Isoko nation in development to visit the over 53 projects in Isoko land to be abreast with the development strides of the administration in that part of the state.

As the count down to the 2027 general elections draws near THE CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA POLITICAL PARTIES (CNPP) enjoins Deltans to continue to support the Oborewori administration for sustainable growth and development. The MORE agenda is on course, and the Governor is poised to do more for the good people of and residents in Delta State. Indeed, we all stand to gain from an administration that has achieved so much in such a short period of time.

FOR: CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA POLITICAL PARTIES, DELTA STATE CHAPTER

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Org. Secretary

Mr. Onome Oghenejabor Paul
Fin. Secretary

Comr. Emeka Nkwoala
Treasurer

It is no secret that Lagos and Nigeria in general are grappling with a plastic pollution crisis. Drainage channels choked with plastic bags and Styrofoam packs are a common sight, blocking waterways, contaminating soil and water, and threatening wildlife.

These materials take decades, sometimes centuries, to decompose, and their damaging legacy only grows with time. In response, Lagos State has taken a bold and necessary step by banning single-use plastics—including Styrofoam containers, plastic bags, and straws—from July 1, 2025. This move is long overdue.

With over a million tonnes of plastic waste generated yearly in the state, the environmental toll has become unbearable. The ban is more than just a policy—it's a clear message. Single-use plastics are a menace to our fragile ecosystems, and their continued use is incompatible with sustainable development.

Beyond the environmental benefits, the ban is already raising public awareness,

Tackling plastic pollution in Lagos

encouraging Lagosians to rethink their consumption habits and embrace reusable and biodegradable alternatives. While the Nigerian House of Representatives passed a similar bill in 2019, it has had little impact due to lack of enforcement and public discourse.

Lagos's proactive stance is a welcome breakthrough, but it also exposes a critical tension between environmental goals and economic realities. Manufacturers and traders in the plastic industry have voiced concerns about the ban's potential to disrupt livelihoods. About 89 per cent of those in the plastic

value chain—many of them small-scale traders and women entrepreneurs—depend on single-use plastics for income.

The sudden enforcement, without adequate support or viable alternatives, risks inflicting economic hardship on these vulnerable groups. Moreover, Lagos currently lacks sufficient recycling infrastructure and affordable substitutes for plastic products, making compliance a real challenge for many businesses.

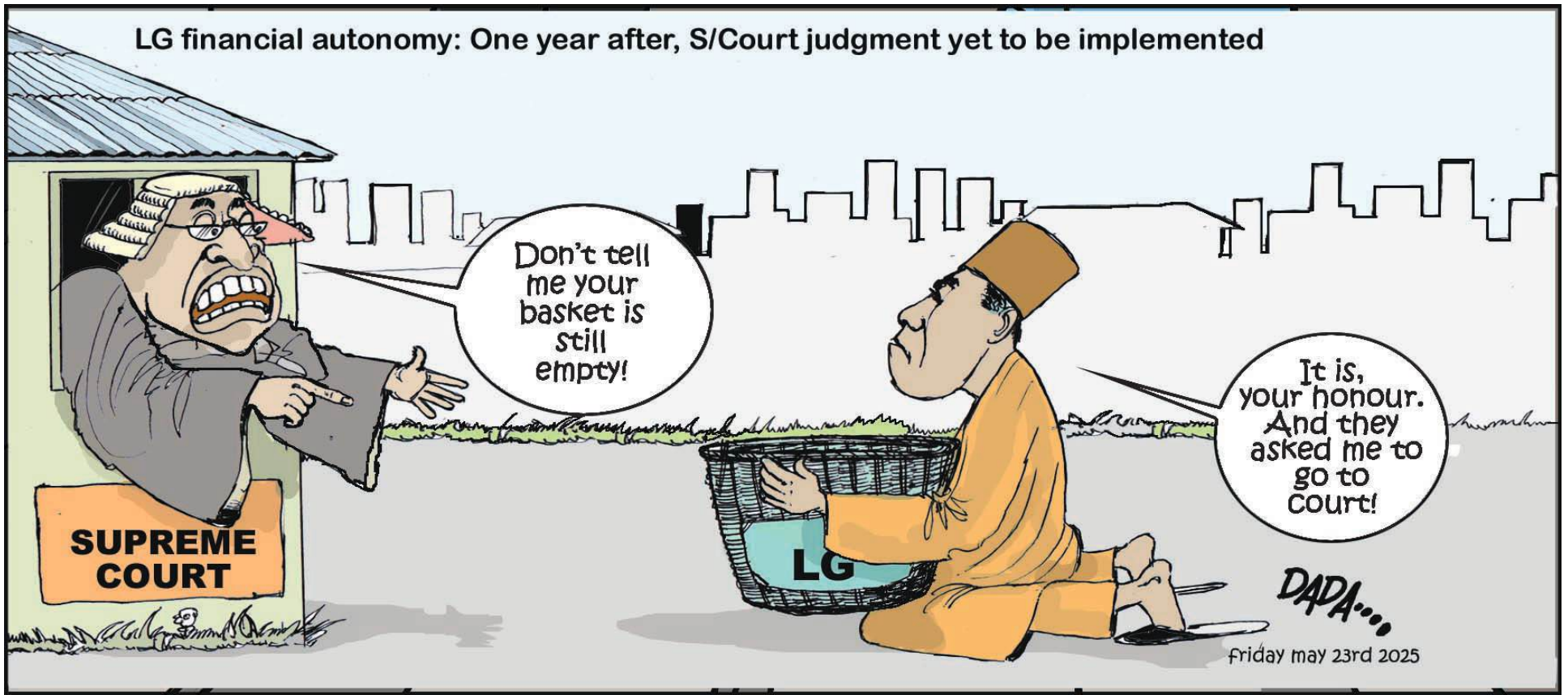
This is where government's approach must be balanced and inclusive. The ban cannot succeed if it alienates those

whose livelihoods depend on the very products it targets. Instead, Lagos must lead not only by decree but by action—investing in recycling facilities, supporting the development of sustainable alternatives, and providing retraining and economic support to affected workers. Public sensitisation campaigns must also be intensified.

Educating citizens on the value of waste-to-wealth and waste-to-energy systems can shift mindsets and foster a culture of responsible consumption and disposal. Lagos's single-use plastics ban is a commendable and courageous step towards environmental sustainability. But for it to be truly effective, it must be accompanied by practical measures that support businesses, protect jobs, and promote long-term solutions.

The path to sustainability is rarely smooth, but the costs of inaction are far greater. Lagos has the opportunity to set a powerful example—not just for Nigeria, but for the world.

It is time for Lagos to lead the way in turning the tide against plastic pollution.



THERE is never a dull moment in our dear country, Nigeria. There is always something of interest to talk about—some of them serious issues, like the 2025 national budget which one senator alleged its implementation has not even started, to ridiculous gaffes by some of our eminent citizens in high places.

Earlier in April, another humanitarian crisis erupted in Benue State, and Mr Peter Obi, presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 elections announced an intention to visit the state and commiserate with victims and survivors. However, in a response, the state governor, Hyacinth Alia, a Catholic reverend father, announced to the whole world that he could not guarantee the safety of any individual or group visiting Benue without his knowledge or clearance.

According to a statement issued by his spokesman, Tersoo Kula, Mr Alia also warned against visits that could result in political gatherings without prior approval, urging security agencies and the public to take note and maintain peace and order. Mr Obi, of course, reacted. In a message on his X handle (formerly Twitter), Mr Obi said that while a similar visit was planned for Plateau State, where he was warmly received, he was surprised that he could not secure a visit to Benue.

"As is my practice, I reached out to the Plateau State government to inform them of my visit, which



PICTURES & PATTERNS

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Disturbing optics from people in high places

included spending the day with the victims at the IDP camp in Bokkos, a visit I wholeheartedly embraced to extend my support, care, and compassion to fellow Nigerians in need. And in his utmost hospitality, the Plateau State Governor graciously permitted.

"In a similar vein, I tried repeatedly to contact the Benue State Governor directly without success. I then successfully contacted his ADC who told me that the governor was in a very important meeting and would call me before midnight on the same day."

To cut a long story short, as we say, Mr Obi was denied his right to visit a part of the country of his birth. If that could be excused as just one instance out of character, it was the turn of Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State to proclaim that Mr Obi needed security clearance if he needed to visit Edo State again. Mr Obi had visited Benin on July 7 and

donated N15 million to St Philomena Hospital School of Nursing Sciences for completion of projects in the school.

But the governor condemned Obi's visit to the state, insisting that

At a time national unity is threatened by bad governance, this is disturbing; the conduct of these three governors, all of them APC members speak volumes about the quality of cognition that manages our affairs at the sub-national level. Poor. Shior!

his visit coincided with the resurgence of violence in the state. Okpebholo's words, reacting to the Obi visit, as captured by newsmen:

"That man who says he has no 'shishi' came and dropped N15 million. Where did he get it from? After he left, three people were killed. For this reason, Obi must not come to Edo without security clearance," Okpebholo said. **"His visit coincided with a resurgence of violence in the state and this will not be tolerated,"** the governor stated.

Well. First it was Alia of Benue, now it's Okpebholo of Edo. Which one is next? What is surprising in all of this is that the APC political high command, from the president to Ganduje to Yiltwada did not see anything wrong in the utterances of their governors. Even if for the purpose of "eye service", as we say here, somebody high up in the APC hierarchy ought to have taken the pains to rebuke both governors. Telling a Nigerian he needs security clearance to visit another part of his country was taking politicking to the lowest levels of pettiness. Father Alia and Monday Okpebholo need to be reminded that Mr Obi had been governor long before either of them started nursing ambitions for the office. Besides, it is preposterous, from where I stand, to declare that a former governor of a state of the federation needed prior security clearance before he can move to any part of the country he desires. There is no other word for it, it is just BAD, and leaves more than a sour taste in the mouth! It simply

is not the way to play politics.

And then, we are all still celebrating the victory of the Super Falcons over Morocco to win the trophy for the tenth time. Great feat by the girls. Since they came back, they have been feted by the president, who rained dollars, not naira on them, and also by the Nigerian Governors Forum, which decided to rain naira on them. I wonder if there was a scarcity of dollars at that forum. Then Imo State Governor Hope Uzodimma decided to host seven of the Super Falcons players from the state. The governor selected players of Imo origin in the team and hosted them at the Imo State Governor's Lodge in Owerri.

The players hosted by Uzodimma were Chiamaka Nnadozie, Jennifer Echegini, Osinachi Ohale, Oluchi Oluehi, Chinwendu Ihezuo, and Anna Imo. The seventh Imo Super Falcons player, Michelle Alozie was absent, as she had returned to her base in the United States.

That's another disturbing optic. Why host just seven of them? Were those hosted the ones the governor had ascertained to be the players that generated the goals that ensured victory for the Falcons? Why not host all of them? At a time national unity is threatened by bad governance, this is disturbing. The conduct of these three governors, all of them APC members speak volumes about the quality of cognition that manages our affairs at the sub-national level. Poor. Shior! TGIF.

Business



VISIT — From left: Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Dr. Akutah Pius Ukeyima, during a courtesy visit to the Governor of Abia State, Dr. Alex Oti, at the Government House in Umuahia, showing the governor presenting a souvenir to Ukeyima.

AfDB commits \$1.2m grant to boost Nigeria's energy transition

The African Development Bank (AfDB) said it has committed a \$1.2 million grant to support a feasibility study on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in Nigeria.

Director General of AfDB's Nigeria Country Department, Abdul Kamara, disclosed this while speaking at the inaugural/inception workshop for Nigeria BESS feasibility study in Abuja. The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), AfDB and Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa jointly organised the programme.

Kamara noted that the grant is part of the Africa energy transition catalyst programme, which aims to

promote sustainable energy solutions in Africa.

Represented by Chigoziri Egeruoh of AfDB Nigeria country office, Kamara explained that Africa holds almost 60 per cent of the world's best solar resources, yet accounts for only 2 per cent of global energy storage capacity. He said the gap presents a challenge but, more importantly, an opportunity.

"Battery storage is central to unlocking the full potential of our renewable energy resources and delivering stable, reliable power across the continent. We are already seeing inspiring progress. In South Africa, a 1,400 megawatt-hour battery storage project is supporting grid stability and solar integration.

"In Kenya, the Olkaria geothermal-battery hybrid is delivering reliable energy to millions. Now, Nigeria is poised to take a bold step in that same direction. This is why the bank has committed a \$1.2 million grant under the Africa energy transition catalyst programme to support this feasibility study," Kamara said.

He added, "As Nigeria's grid evolves, storage offers real solutions: frequency stabilisation, reserve capacity, and peak load management, among others. But as we all know, technology alone will not carry the day. Regulatory frameworks and investment environments must evolve in step to scale these innovations sustainably.

"AfDB is a committed partner in this journey. Through our \$1 billion economic governance and energy transition support programme, we are helping Nigeria advance critical power sector reforms. \$500 million has already been disbursed, with the second phase on track.

Banks' deposits with CBN soar 783% to N79.8trn

...As cost of fund slows down borrowings by 11.6%

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

Banks' deposit with the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, rose sharply by 783.7 percent, year-on-year, YoY, to N79.8 trillion in the first seven months of the year (7m'25) from N9.03 trillion in the corresponding period of 2024 (7m'24), indicating excess liquidity in the banking system.

CBN has two short term lending windows for banks, namely, the Standing Lending Facility (SLF) and Repurchase (Repo) lending. It lends money to banks through the SLF at interest rate of 500 basis points (bpts) above the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR), and also lends money to banks through Repo arrangement, which involves the purchase of banks' securities with the agreement to sell back at a specific date and usually for a higher price.

On the other hand, the apex bank accepts deposits from banks through its Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and pays an interest rate of MPR minus 100

bpts. Trend analysis also showed that banks' deposits in SDF surged by 158.4 percent, quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to N49.68 trillion in the second quarter of 2025 (Q2'25) from N19.22 trillion in Q1'25.

In July, banks deposited N10.9 trillion, down by 29.2 percent from N15.4 trillion in June 2025.

In addition to the excess liquidity in the banking system the strong patronage of the SDF by banks reflects the effect of

CBN's shift to a single-tier remuneration structure for the SDF last year.

The policy stipulated that all SDF deposits are remunerated at the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) minus 100 bpts and with the current MPR at 27.5 percent, this resulted in an SDF rate of 26.5 per cent. On the other hand, banks' borrowing through the SLF declined by 11.6 per cent, YoY, to N66.47 trillion in 7m'25 from N75.19 trillion in 7m'24.

However, trend analysis

showed that banks' borrowing through the SLF rose by 61 per cent, QoQ, to N50.46 trillion in Q2'25 from N9.38 trillion in Q1'25.

On a monthly basis, banks' borrowings stood at N6.63 trillion in July, representing a 245.3 percent decline from N1.92 trillion in June 2025.

The decline in banks' borrowing from the CBN reflects liquidity constraints in the interbank money market.

The apex bank

conducted a liquidity mop up through regular sale of Open Market Operations, OMO, treasury bills (TBs) during the period.

Vanguard's findings from the apex bank showed that CBN sold N11.53 trillion worth of OMO TBs in 7m'25, up 75.2 percent from N6.58 trillion in 7m'24. Likewise, cost of funds in the interbank money market recorded a significant increase, with the average interest rate on Collateralized (Open Buy Back, OBB) lending at 31.6 per cent at the end of July 2025, up from 25.75 percent at the end of July 2024.

PETROAN faults NNPC on non-privatisation of Port Harcourt refinery

By Yinka Kolawole, with agency report

The Petroleum Products Retail Outlet Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) has faulted the decision of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) not to privatise the Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC).

In a statement, PETROAN's spokesperson, Joseph Obele, expressed the association's disappointment with the decision by NNPC to retain the refinery under its control, and called on President Bola Tinubu to approve the privatisation of the refinery, saying it would

drive efficiency, investment, and economic growth. "This isn't good news. Plans to sell Warri and Kaduna refineries while keeping Port Harcourt under NNPC management are concerning, given the company's history of corruption and favoritism," he

said. He criticised NNPC's handling of the country's refineries, saying it had led to fuel scarcity, higher prices, and economic hardship, and added that its poor track record showed the need for reform. According to Obele, privatising the Port Harcourt Refinery would bring benefits such as increased productivity, investment, expertise, job creation, and better product supply.

Stakeholders canvass for sustainable development of mineral sector

By Udeme Akpan

Spaces for Change (S4C), Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), and other stakeholders have called for a sustainable development of Nigeria's mineral sector with increased participation of host communities.

The stakeholders made the call at the ongoing National Extractive

Recall that the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of NNPC, Bayo Ojulari, two days ago, announced the organisation's decision not to sell off the refinery during a

company-wide town hall meeting at the firm's headquarters in Abuja, reaffirming commitment to completing the high-grade rehabilitation and retention of the plant.

Interswitch advances propertytech discourse at Lagos real estate Fest

Interswitch has said it is committed to cross-sector innovation as an associate partner at the sixth edition of the Lagos State Real Estate Fest.

Through strategic participation and thought leadership, the leading African technology company focused on creating solutions that enable individuals and

communities prosper across Africa played a significant role in shaping conversations around the future of Propertytech and the role of financial infrastructure in transforming Nigeria's real estate ecosystem.

Themed "The Business of Real Estate: Staying Innovative in a Changing Landscape," the event brought together a range of stakeholders, including property developers, investors, government representatives, urban planners, project financiers, architects, and technology providers for high-level discussions on the future of Nigeria's real estate industry.

As a key part of the event's agenda, Adeyinka Adekoya, Vice President, Energy Ecosystems, Interswitch Group, featured as a panelist on the session titled "Out with the Old: PropTech Redefining Nigeria's Real Estate and Construction Market."

AGRIC COMMODITIES

Coffee	279.90	-9.70
Cocoa	8,293.00	+192.00
Sugar	16.21	-0.17

ENERGY & OIL

Brent Crude	69.25	+0.95
Light Crude	67.59	+0.59

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
US DOLLAR	1527.3301	1528.3301
POUNDS	2082.8201	2083.5019
EURO	1792.4746	1793.0614
SWISS	1915.6279	1916.2550
YEN	10.4791	10.4825
CFA	2.7246	2.7346
WAUA	2000.8181	2001.4695
RIYAL	407.2337	407.3670
RAND	86.0279	86.0560
SDR	2102.3699	2103.0581

CBN Exchange rate as at 31/07/2025



Nigeria ranks 6th globally in app downloads after 320% surge

By Juliet Umeh

Director, Google West Africa, Olu mid e Balogun, has revealed that Nigeria now ranks 6th globally for app downloads, following a 320 percent increase recorded over the past two years, noting that this feat highlights Nigeria's growing digital economy.

Breaking down the growth, Balogun provided practical strategies for businesses aiming to thrive in this mobile-first environment.

He said: "Nigerians spend over four hours daily on their phones, and 80 percent of that time is spent in apps. This is no longer an emerging trend, it's a

defining shift in how businesses connect with their audiences.

"Smartphone access is expected to reach 880 million across Africa by 2030, while monthly mobile data usage is projected to triple. These trends offer huge opportunities for marketers, but only if they adapt accordingly.

"Marketers should no longer separate web and app users in their strategy. Instead, businesses must see the customer journey as a unified experience.

"Consumers don't think in channels, they move fluidly between web and app. Your marketing needs to reflect this, offering a seamless experience across all touch points."

Balogun also noted that app users tend to be more engaged and loyal, and they often spend more than those interacting only through the web.

"App users are your most valuable customers. Prioritizing them helps build long-term value and brand loyalty," he added.

Beyond engagement, apps serve as a powerful source of first-party data, Balogun explained, adding that "apps offer a direct, consent-based channel to collect rich user data, crucial for personalized marketing in today's privacy-conscious world".

To make the most of this data and better understand consumer behavior, he emphasized the importance of holistic measurement across platforms.

NB grows revenue by 53% to N733.2bn in Q2'25

By Peter Egwuatu

Nigerian Breweries Plc, NB, has announced a revenue of N733.19 billion in the second quarter of the 2025, Q2'25, financial year, representing a 53% increase compared to N478.84 billion recorded in the same period of 2024 (Q2'24).

According to the audited result, net profit for the second quarter of 2025 stood at N88.06 billion, marking a 204% turnaround from a loss of N84.32 billion posted

during the corresponding period of 2024.

The audited results released by the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) also show that the Cost of Sales rose to N423.57 billion in the period under review in 2025 from N319.19 billion in 2024.

Similarly, Selling, Distribution, and Administration Expenses grew by 29% to N159.58 billion in 2025 from N124.04 billion in 2024.

Speaking on the results, Managing Director, Thibaut Boidin, revealed that the impressive

performance recorded by the company is a reflection of its strong fundamentals and agility in navigating a challenging business landscape, which had been characterised by high inflation and constrained disposable income.

He noted that the performance in the first half of the year was largely driven by sustained innovation, strong commercial execution, optimization of right pricing strategies amidst rising input costs, improvement in cost management, and enhanced operational efficiencies.

There can't be industrial revolution without power —Elumelu

·Calls for collaboration on infrastructure

The Group Chairman, Heirs Holdings, United Bank of Africa, UBA, Transcorp Plc and Founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, Mr Tony Elumelu, has urged Africa to prioritise energy noting that industrial revolution in Africa cannot take place without power.

Elumelu disclosed this, yesterday, at the African Caucus Meeting in Bangui, Central African Republic.

Speaking on the theme, "Resilient infrastructure, human capital and Green Assets", he said: "Power is everything. No industrial revolution can happen without electricity. We must prioritise energy. Without power, there can be no progress."

To power Africa's future Elumelu noted that energy access remains the biggest enabler or barrier to the continent's progress.

"If we are to industrialize, create jobs, and participate meaningfully in the global AI revolution, we must invest aggressively in energy - from renewables to cleaner gas-based solutions.

"Imagine what Nigeria economy could become with 100,000 megawatts of

reliable, affordable energy.

"That is the scale of transformation we need. And the story is not different across Africa," he stated.

Elumelu mentioned that the continent faces deep and persistent infrastructure gaps from roads to ports, power to

internet connectivity.

"To bridge this divide, we must do three things: Strengthen our fiscal capacity, drive efficiency and unlock innovative financing, especially by inviting and enabling private sector to co-lead infrastructure development.

Asharami Energy surpasses 5m LTI-Free Man-Hours milestone

Asharami Energy, a subsidiary of Sahara Group, has reached a landmark safety milestone - completing five million man-hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI).

This achievement places Asharami Energy in the top quartile of oil and gas operators who have achieved this remarkable benchmark for operational excellence in Africa's upstream oil and gas sector.

The milestone achieved on Asharami Energy's OML 148 asset in Edo State, Nigeria, over a period of 3051 days of zero LTI, reinforces Sahara

Group's commitment to operational excellence and its "Zero is Possible" vision - an unrelenting pursuit of zero harm to people, environment, and assets, and achievement of "Goal Zero" daily, weekly, monthly, annually and continuously said Leste Aihevba, Chief Technical Officer, Asharami Energy. According to Aihevba, "This moment belongs to the people who showed up every day, stayed alert, followed procedures, and put safety first. The teams that worked tirelessly to ensure the company's high-risk operations were executed without injury, incident, or disruption."



Some staff of Kayvee Microfinance Bank at work in the new office.

Kayvee Microfinance Bank moves to new location

By Osa Mbonu-Amadi

Kayvee Microfinance Bank Limited has announced the relocation of its office to BW03/01, Oshodi Arena Shopping Complex, Oshodi, Lagos State. The move to this larger, modern facility, says the management, is designed to support the bank's growth and enhance service delivery to its customers and stakeholders. The vibrant new location at Oshodi Arena Shopping Complex exemplifies Kayvee's dedication to accessibility, community development, and customer-focused banking.

Board Chairman, Adebayo Joseph Ibileke, in a statement, praised the bank's outstanding progress, attributing it to a steadfast commitment to putting customers first. He credits disciplined execution and customer-first principles for the bank's strong performance.

Managing Director of the bank, Olatoun Ogunnaike, described

the relocation as a significant milestone for Kayvee Microfinance Bank, reflecting its continuous expansion. The new premises is equipped with significant infrastructure, a more comfortable environment for customers, and greater accessibility, marking a pivotal chapter in the bank's ongoing transformation.

Ogunnaike highlighted recent innovations including mobile banking, debit card issuance, and expanded POS deployment. These initiatives aim to deliver seamless and secure financial services, reinforcing the new branch as a forward step in Kayvee's mission to deepen market penetration and advance its digital capabilities.

At BW03/01, Oshodi Arena Shopping Complex, Kayvee invites customers to experience a new kind of banking where service meets trust and technology unlocks new possibilities.

This relocation

represents a renewed commitment to greater accessibility, stronger community ties, and a future shaped by the evolving needs of every Nigerian Kayvee serves. It stands as a beacon of trust and innovation, symbolizing what can be achieved when purpose aligns with performance.

Kayvee is not just opening new doors; it is creating new opportunities, strengthening relationships, and reinforcing its commitment to serve better and bolder than ever before.

Ayoku Liadi, a Non-Executive Director of Kayvee whose decades of pan-African banking experience have shaped the bank's strategic direction, recounts that Kayvee has embarked on a transformative journey centered on strong governance, innovation, and customer-centricity.

Since April 2022, Kayvee MFB has experienced remarkable growth with total assets of about N100 million and deposits under N35 million, to about N10 billion in total asset and total deposits of over N7 billion presently.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF IMO STATE OF NIGERIA IN THE HIGH COURT OF MBAISE JUDICIAL DIVISION HOLDEN AT AHIAZU MBAISE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF IMO STATE OF NIGERIA
IN THE HIGH COURT OF MBAISE JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT AHIAZU MBAISE
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, HON. JUSTICE MIKE ONYEKACHI - J.
THIS FRIDAY, THE 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2025.

BETWEEN

SUIT NO: HAM/156/2025

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|
| 1. REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF NBM OF AFRICA | } | PLAINTIFFS/
APPLICANTS |
| 2. CHIEF OLOGUN ESE KAKOR | | |
| 3. IKECHI OPARA (NBM ZONAL COORDINATOR, MBAISE) | | |

AND

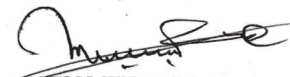
- | | | |
|---|---|------------|
| 1. BEMIGHO EYEOYIBO | } | DEFENDANTS |
| 2. AKEEM ZIBIRI | | |
| 3. BARR. ISIMEME JESSE IRIOGBE | | |
| 4. HOPE ALIYU | | |
| 5. DR. ANTHONY ORUNKOYA ("AKA" TONY MASAKA) | | |
| 6. STATE SECURITY SERVICES, | | |
| 7. NIGERIA POLICE FORCE. | | |

ORDER OF THE COURT

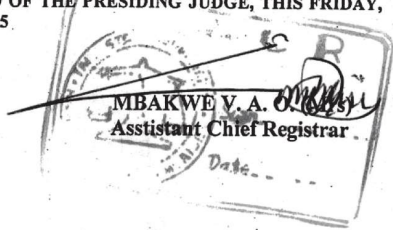
UPON this Motion Ex-Parte filed on the 24th day of July, 2025, brought pursuant to Section 6(6)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), Order 39 Rules 1(1) and (2) and 3(1) and (2) of the High Court of Imo State (Civil Procedure) Rules, 2017 Supported by an Affidavit of 15 Paragraphs and a Written Address AND AFTER HEARING EZEKWESIRI . U. NWAUWA ESQ. Counsel for the Plaintiffs/Applicants :

THE HONOURABLE COURT ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THAT the application is granted as prayed, the 1ST – 5TH Defendants whether by themselves, their agents, loyalists, or any person acting under their instruction or authority are restrained from proceeding to conduct, organize, convene, or participate in any manner whatsoever in the planned parallel National Convention of the Neo Black Movement (NBM) of Africa in Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State or in any other part of Nigeria, on July 26, 2025 or on any other date(s) at all, pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice for interlocutory injunction.
2. An Order directing the 6th and 7th Defendants to enforce the orders of this Honourable Court.
3. LEAVE is granted to the Plaintiffs/Applicants to serve the originating processes in this suit, the orders of interim injunction made by this Honourable Court, and all other processes in this suit, on the Defendants by substituted means, to wit; by publication in a national newspaper.
4. The return date of this Suit is fixed for the 30th day of July, 2025 for HEARING OF THE MOTION ON NOTICE.


HON JUSTICE
MIKE ONYEKACHI
JUDGE

ISSUED AT HIGH COURT AHIAZU MBAISE UNDER THE SEAL OF THE COURT AND IN THE HAND OF THE PRESIDING JUDGE, THIS FRIDAY, THE 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2025.


MBAKWE V. A.
Assistant Chief Registrar
Date: _____

FORM 48

NOTICE OF CONSEQUENCES OF DISOBEDIENCE OF COURT ORDER

TO:

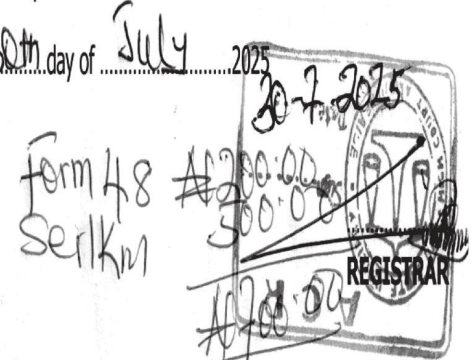
- (1) Osagie David Igbineweka (2) Barr. Hope Aliu (3) Tochukwu Okeke AKA Owo (4) Akeem Zibiri (5) Chukwuma Madike AKA Bobo (6) Bemigho Eyeoyibo Augustine AKA Bemuda (7) Dr. Anthony A Orunkoya (8) Mayor Onyebueke (9) Elder Ikechukwu Ikechi A. Ozurumba (10) Idiagbonmwen Ahunwan AKA Orlando, (11) Apostle EseEruedoja, (12) Scadela Ekhaton (13) Isimeme Iriogbe

OF:

No 30, Sapele Road Benin City
Edo State and No 15, Ring Road,
Benin City, Edo State.

TAKE NOTICE that unless you obey the directives of this Court contained in this Order made on the 25th July 2025, you will be guilty of contempt of court and will be liable to be committed to prison

Dated this 30th day of July 2025


Form 48
Serikm
REGISTRAR
30-7-2025

Address for Service:

C/O Equity Hotel & Resorts Ijebu-Ode, Ogun State or
Novatel Hotel Chevy view Estate Lekki, Lagos State

& State Security Service Headquarters Abuja.
Nigeria Police Force H/Qtrs. Louis Edet House FCT Abuja.

OR

To be Published in Vanguard and or Nation Newspaper



PUBLIC NOTICE

Interim Forfeiture

HON JUSTICE OBIORA ATUEGWU EGWUATU
PRESIDING JUDGE

conclusions are as contained in the body of the Ruling.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That an Order of interim attachment/ forfeiture is made of the monies in the bank accounts set out in the schedule below to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

SCHEDULE OF THE ASSET(S) AGAINST WHICH AN ORDER IS MADE:

S/N	BANK NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	CLOSING BALANCE
1.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	1020152003	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦5,572,733.32
2.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2245428775	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦98,816.44
3.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2093884116	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦60,087.12

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA

4.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	3002046397	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	\$154.28
5.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2218625763	JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA	₦1,693,718.16
6.	WEMA BANK	0125451529	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	₦4,224,747.11
7.	PROVIDUS BANK	1304537670	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	₦28,569,412.00
8.	PROVIDUS BANK	1304537694	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	\$200,409.82
9.	STERLING BANK	0076401533	JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA	₦4581,257.27

HON JUSTICE OBIORA ATUEGWU EGWUATU
PRESIDING JUDGE

2. That an Order of this Honourable Court is made directing the publication of a notice within 14 days of the receipt of this order in any of these Newspapers - Thisday,

Page 6 of 7

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA

HON JUSTICE OBIORA ATUEGWU EGWUATU
PRESIDING JUDGE

Punch, Vanguard, Tribune or Independent Newspapers inviting any person(s) or body who may have interest in the subject to show cause, within 14 days of such publication, why an Order of Final Forfeiture to the Federal Government of Nigeria of the said property should not be made.

This matter is adjourned to the 21st day of July, 2025 for report of compliance.

ISSUED AT ABUJA under the seal of the Court and the hand of the presiding Judge this 26th day of June, 2025.

MICHAEL AKPIRI
REGISTRAR

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA

Page 7 of 7



PUBLIC NOTICE

Interim Forfeiture

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/1056/2025

BETWEEN:

IN THE MATTER OF UNITED BANK OF AFRICA ACCOUNT NUMBERS 1020152003, 2245428775, 2093884116 & 3002046397 OPERATED BY FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED, WEMA BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER 0125451529 OPERATED BY FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED, PROVIDUS BANK ACCOUNT NUMBERS 1304537670 & 1304537694 OPERATED BY FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED, UNITED BANK OF AFRICA ACCOUNT NUMBER 2218625763 OPERATED BY JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA, STERLING BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER 0076401533 OPERATED BY JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA

ENROLLED ORDER

UPON THIS Motion Exparte dated 20th but filed on the 27th day of May, 2025 coming before this Honourable Court on the 26th day of June, 2025 and praying for the following:

FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
ABUJA
OFFICIAL
SIGN: [Signature]
DATE: 17/7/25

1. AN ORDER of interim attachment/ forfeiture of the monies in the bank accounts set out in the schedule attached

Page 1 of 7

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA
[Signature]

herein to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

SCHEDULE OF THE ASSET(S) AGAINST WHICH AN ORDER IS SOUGHT

S/N	BANK NAME	ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT NAME	CLOSING BALANCE
1.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	1020152003	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦5,572,733.32
2.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2245428775	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦98,816.44
3.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2093884116	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	₦60,087.12
4.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	3002046397	FIRST MAXIVALUE NIGERIA LIMITED	\$154.28
5.	UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA	2218625763	JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA	₦1,693,718.16
6.	WEMA BANK	0125451529	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	₦4,224,747.11

Page 2 of 7

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA
[Signature]

7.	PROVIDUS BANK	1304537670	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	₦28,569,412.00
8.	PROVIDUS BANK	1304537694	FIRST UPLAND VENTURES LIMITED	\$200,409.82
9.	STERLING BANK	0076401533	JAIYEOLA OLUSEGUN OSINUGA	₦4581,257.27

2. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court directing the publication of a notice of the foregoing Order in (1) above in any national daily newspaper inviting and person(s) or body who may have interest in the subject to show cause, within 14 days of such publication, why an Order of final forfeiture to the Federal Government of Nigeria of the said property should not be made.

Page 3 of 7

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA
[Signature]

3. AND for such further or other orders as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the given circumstances.

UPON READING the twelve (12) paragraphed Affidavit in support of the Motion Exparte deposed to by Obonin Raphael, Adult, Male, Nigerian Citizen and an Operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (herein after referred to as Commission) of No 5, Fomella Street, Off Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Wuse II, FCT-Abuja and filed at the Registry of this Court.

AFTER HEARING J. N. Dogonyaro Esq. Counsel for the Applicant arguing the application and urging the Court to grant the reliefs sought.

AND THE COURT having delivered its Ruling in open Court, its reasonings and

Page 4 of 7

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FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA
[Signature]



CHIEF A.B. THOMAS & CO.
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS
(OLOKE LAW HOUSE)

3, Isa Street,
Upper Mission Road,
Near New Era College
Benin City.
Tel: 052-256748
CSM: 08033784197
0805527248, 07083747885
E-mail: abayomi.thomas@yahoo.com

Our Ref: ABT/100/2025

Your Ref:

Date: 31st July, 2025.

HRM Omo N'Oba N'Edo
Uku Akpolokpolo,
Oba Eware II,
The oba of Benin,
Oba's Palace,
Benin – City.

Your Royal Majesty,



**LAND MEASURING 200FT BY 1000FT AT AGBONMOBA
VILLAGE BENIN — SAPELE ROAD, BENIN, ACQUIRED BY OUR
CLIENT — LEONVIR BLESSED CLAN LIMITED FROM YOUR
MAJESTY**

**A PLEA FOR YOUR INTERVENTION FOR POSSESSION OF
SAME BY OUR CLIENT**

Your Royal Majesty, we write this OPEN LETTER on behalf of our Client, LEONVIR BLESSED CLAN LIMITED, of No. 5, Victory Lane, Off New Lagos Road, New Benin, Benin — City, Edo State, whose instructions we retain as "OUR CLIENT". This OPEN LETTER has become Necessary as our Client has been blocked from reaching you since year 2022.

Our Client acquired a vast parcel of land from your MAJESTY vide a Deed of ASSIGNMENT in APRIL 2022. The land measures 200ft by 1000ft (which is 20 PLOTS of 100ft by 100ft) situate at AGBONMOBA VILLAGE, BENIN CITY along the BENIN — SAPELE EXPRESS ROAD. PHOTOCOPIES OF TITLE DOCUMENTS ARE HEREBY ATTACHED for your Majesty's ease of Reference. Our Client acquired this vast parcel of land for VALUABLE CONSIDERATION from your MAJESTY.

Since our Client acquired this PARCEL OF LAND, it has found it IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE POSSESSION OF SAME as various persons are on the LAND claiming that they acquired this LAND from HIS ROYAL MAJESTY, OBA AKENZUA II (Your Majesty's Grand Father).

Your Majesty, our Client's resort to this medium to communicate with you is as a result of the FRUSTRATION IT HAS HAD SINCE 2022 TO REACH YOUR MAJESTY for your INTERVENTION. Our client initially Reported the trespass and likelihood of Breach of Peace to the Police at Ologbo Police Station which has the Jurisdiction over the Area where the land is situate.

Your Majesty, the Police demanded for Documents of Title from ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, only our Client produced their own Documents of Title signed by your Majesty and the SECRETARY TO YOUR COUNCIL. The Police from Ologbo Police Station accompanied the PARTIES to your MAJESTY'S PALACE with a view to solving the problem on several occasions, but they were BLOCKED from seeing your MAJESTY.

Your MAJESTY, our Law Firm also wrote a PETITION to you via COURIER SERVICE sometime in the year 2023, yet we did not get any Reply. We verily believe that some INTERESTED PERSONS are BLOCKING OUR CLIENT from reaching your MAJESTY. Our Client took a Banking LOAN to establish a BIG INDUSTRY at a very High Interest Rate. The Industry would have employed about 500 Nigerians by NOW if it had been allowed to have a peaceful possession of the said land instead of being chased away with dangerous weapons.

Your Majesty, we plead with you to kindly intervene by summoning the Community, and the PARTIES to your PALACE for a PEACEFUL RESOLUTION of this matter.

Meanwhile, our Client is still paying Bank Interest on the Huge sum of money it borrowed to acquire the said land which is 200ft by 1000ft out of your Majesty's 1000ft by 1000ft at AGBONMOBA VILLAGE, BENIN — SAPELE EXPRESS WAY.

Your Majesty is hereby referred to Wednesday July 30th 2025 Vanguard Newspaper at pages 24 and 25 for All Documents relevant to our Title to this property.

We sincerely APOLOGISE for taking much of your Majesty's crowded time. OBA GHA TOKPERE!!!

We remain your Loyal Subjects.

Yours faithfully,

CHIEF (BARRISTER) A.B. THOMAS
080-337-84-197



IKEJA HOTEL PLC
...Service par Excellence
RC 10845

**STATEMENT TO THE NIGERIAN EXCHANGE LIMITED AND SHAREHOLDERS ON
THE UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR SECOND QUARTER ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2025**

**Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June, 2025**

Assets	The Group		The Company	
	30-Jun-25	31-Dec-24	30-Jun-25	31-Dec-24
	N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
Non-Current Assets				
Property, Plant and Equipment	22,689,723	22,502,503	22,689,723	22,502,505
Capital work in progress	508,345	478,122	508,345	478,122
Intangible Asset	13,555	14,676	13,555	14,676
Investment in Subsidiaries	-	-	4,444,518	4,444,518
Investment accounted for using the Equity Method	-	-	798,722	798,722
Total Non-Current Assets	23,211,624	22,995,301	28,454,863	28,238,543
Current Assets				
Inventories	206,982	252,681	206,982	252,681
Trade Receivables	2,226,380	1,825,231	2,224,191	1,825,231
Other Receivables and Prepayment	1,208,840	1,665,540	1,208,840	1,663,236
Loan to related party	34,065,221	34,182,220	34,065,221	34,182,220
Amount due from related parties	111	11,002	352,049	360,742
Cash and Cash Equivalents	27,421,843	22,738,629	21,021,786	16,844,660
Total Current Assets	65,129,377	60,675,303	59,079,069	55,128,770
Total Assets	88,341,001	83,670,604	87,533,932	83,367,313
Equity and Liabilities				
Share Capital	1,081,184	1,081,184	1,081,184	1,081,184
Share Premium	1,432,886	1,432,886	1,432,886	1,432,886
Retained Earnings	17,194,436	14,252,475	16,750,645	13,998,575
Capital Reserve	1,832	1,832	-	-
Revaluation Reserve	13,823,793	13,823,793	13,823,793	13,823,793
Equity attributable to equity holders of Parent	33,534,131	30,592,170	33,088,508	30,336,438
Non-Controlling Interest	65,109	(37,140)	-	-
	33,599,239	30,555,030	33,088,508	30,336,438
Non-Current Liabilities				
Due to Related Parties	13,142,696	12,404,541	13,914,975	13,176,821
Retirement Benefits Obligation	214,133	328,831	213,498	328,831
Deferred Tax	3,038,598	3,038,598	3,038,598	3,038,598
Total Non-Current Liabilities	16,395,426	15,771,970	17,167,071	16,544,250
Current Liabilities				
Trade and Other Payables	2,878,599	3,231,099	2,365,585	2,775,294
Deferred Income	32,933,102	32,903,157	32,790,847	32,760,902
Current Tax Payable	2,534,633	1,209,348	2,121,922	950,429
Total Current Liabilities	38,346,334	37,343,603	37,278,354	36,486,624
Total Liabilities	54,741,761	53,115,574	54,445,425	53,030,875
Total Equity and Liabilities	88,341,001	83,670,604	87,533,932	83,367,313

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income For

	The Second Quarter Ended 30 June 2025			
	The Group		The Company	
	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-24	30-Jun-25	30-Jun-24
	N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
Revenue	12,131,817	8,207,077	12,131,817	8,207,077
Cost of Sales	(6,169,432)	(4,974,548)	(6,169,432)	(4,974,548)
Gross Profit	5,962,385	3,232,529	5,962,385	3,232,529
Other Income	95,073	57,014	93,553	54,074
Sales and Distribution Expenses	(430,238)	(317,030)	(430,238)	(317,030)
Administrative and General Expenses	(1,061,091)	(763,553)	(995,254)	(722,347)
Operating Profit/(Loss)	4,566,128	2,208,959	4,630,446	2,247,225
Finance Income	842,374	510,859	312,099	320,497
Finance Costs	(738,155)	(660,898)	(738,155)	(660,898)
Profit/(Loss) Before Tax	4,670,347	2,058,921	4,204,390	1,906,825
Income Tax Expense	(1,561,266)	(716,626)	(1,387,449)	(629,252)
Profit/(Loss) After Tax	3,109,081	1,342,294	2,816,941	1,277,573
Profit/(Loss) Attributable to:				
Equity Holders of the Parent	3,006,832	1,319,641	2,816,941	1,277,573
Non-Controlling Interest	102,249	22,653	-	-
Profit/(Loss) for the Period	3,109,081	1,342,294	2,816,941	1,277,573
Other Comprehensive Income for the Period				
Total Comprehensive Income for the Period	3,109,081	1,342,294	2,816,941	1,277,573
Basic Earnings Per Share (kobo)	144	62	130	59

A copy of the unaudited Financial Statements can be found at www.ikejahotelplc.com dated this 22 July, 2025.

OLUBUNMI ASOTIE
FRC/2022/PRO/NBA/002/910787

PUNUKA NOMINEES LIMITED
Company Secretary

Condensed consolidated interim statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the half year ended 30 June 2025

	Notes	Half year ended 30 June 2025 N million	Half year ended 30 June 2024 N million	3 Months ended 30 June 2025 N million	3 Months ended 30 June 2024 N million
Revenue from contracts with customers	7	2,166,717	575,052	939,205	306,434
Cost of sales	8	(1,415,473)	(327,565)	(723,394)	(122,760)
Gross profit		751,244	247,487	215,811	183,674
Other income - net	9	79,070	120,610	146,363	23,444
General and administrative expenses	10	(209,442)	(77,204)	(111,027)	(41,273)
Impairment (loss) on financial assets - net	11	(4,718)	(1,582)	(3,908)	(2,554)
Fair value loss	12	(14,966)	(4,134)	(7,313)	(491)
Operating profit		601,188	285,177	239,926	162,800
Finance income	13	8,275	7,407	4,307	404
Finance costs	13	(150,549)	(54,117)	(101,025)	(24,070)
Finance cost - net	13	(142,274)	(46,710)	(96,718)	(23,666)
Share of (loss)/profit from joint venture accounted for using the equity method		(4,803)	5,581	(3,743)	1,401
Profit before taxation		454,111	244,048	139,465	140,535
Income tax expense	14	(411,592)	(75,989)	(132,330)	(69,601)
Profit for the period		42,519	68,060	7,135	70,934
Attributable to:					
Equity holders of the parent		36,597	55,585	5,918	54,015
Non-controlling interests		5,922	12,475	1,217	16,919
Earnings per share for the period		42,519	68,060	7,135	70,934
Basic earnings per share ₦	25	62.19	94.46	10.06	91.79
Diluted earnings per share ₦	25	62.19	94.46	10.06	91.79
Profit for the period		42,519	68,060	7,135	70,934
Other comprehensive Income:					
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss (net of tax):					
Foreign currency translation difference		(10,637)	1,022,027	(13,017)	24,724
Total comprehensive income for the period (net of tax)		31,882	1,090,087	(5,882)	95,658
Attributable to:					
Equity holders of the parent		31,811	1,077,612	(1,248)	78,739
Non-controlling interests		71	12,475	(4,634)	16,919
Total comprehensive income for the period (net of tax)		31,882	1,090,087	(5,882)	95,658

	Notes	30 June 2025 Unaudited N million	31 Dec 2024 Audited N million
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Oil & gas properties		4,742,257	5,074,590
Other Property, plant and Equipment		319,857	346,574
Right-of-use assets		185,603	198,918
Intangible assets		362,033	383,257
Other Assets		138,876	139,431
Investment accounted for using equity method		398,949	374,641
Long-term prepayments		35,031	48,018
Deferred tax assets		341,034	353,954
Defined benefit plan	141	5,041	—
Total non-current assets	231	6,528,681	6,119,383
Current assets			
Inventory		754,961	725,565
Trade and other receivables	17	1,147,479	1,156,893
Prepayments		35,203	52,596
Contract assets	18	14,963	23,918
Derivative financial assets	192	10,785	—
Restricted cash	202	203,454	202,983
Cash and cash equivalents	20	641,282	721,385
Total current assets	20	2,808,127	2,833,410
Asset held for sale		18,763	18,838
Total assets		9,355,571	9,821,291
Equity and liabilities			
Equity attributable to shareholders			
Issued Share Capital	21	297	297
Share Premium	21	113,235	87,375
Share Based Payment Reserve	21	5,614	15,558
Treasury shares	21	(3,564)	(3,570)
Capital Contribution		5,932	5,932
Retained Earnings		250,739	319,013
Foreign currency translation reserve		2,388,464	2,393,251
Non-controlling interest		11,198	11,127
Total shareholder's equity		2,771,915	2,828,983
Non-current liabilities			
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	22	1,504,089	1,409,480
Lease liabilities		86,188	88,530
Provision for decommissioning obligation		1,218,540	1,194,818
Deferred tax liability	141	1,455,726	1,615,677
Defined benefit plan	231	—	76,900
Total non-current liabilities		4,264,543	4,385,405
Current liabilities			
Interest bearing loans and borrowings	22	171,467	690,270
Lease liabilities		30,470	24,415
Derivative financial liability	191	11,775	6,073
Trade and other payables	24	1,682,906	1,684,706
Other provisions		5,075	5,088
Current tax liabilities		417,420	196,321
Total current liabilities		2,319,113	2,606,873
Total liabilities		6,583,656	6,992,278
Total shareholders' equity and liabilities		9,355,571	9,821,291

The above interim condensed consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The above condensed consolidated interim statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The financial statements of Seplat Energy Plc and its subsidiaries (The Group) for the six months ended 30 June 2025 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 30 July 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



U. U. Uduma
Chief Executive Officer
30 July 2025



R. T. Brown
Chief Executive Officer
30 July 2025



E. Adekunle
Chief Financial Officer
30 July 2025

Seplat Energy Plc

Seplat Towers, 16a Temple Road (Olu Holloway)
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seplatenergy.com



Strike: FG approves policy to regulate trade unions' activities

Continues from page 5

rule.

We are not also ignorant of those tactics, but I would like to assure you that together, we can surmount all of those challenges and ensure that we get value for our working people."

Earlier at the NLC headquarters, President of the NLC, Mr. Joe Ajaero, while receiving newly-elected executives of RATTAWU in Abuja, described the situation as "unheard of" in other parts of the world where government interfere in the internal affairs of trade unions.

Ajaero, who hinted that the International Labour Organisation, ILO, is closely monitoring the Nigerian government's interference in union activities, insisting that trade unions are independent organisations guided by their own internal rules in line with principles of the ILO which frees trade unions from government interference in their establishment, administration and activities.

Making reference to the interference of security agencies in the internal dispute within RATTAWU few months ago, Ajaero also frowned at government's interference with the funds of Nigerian workers with the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, NSITF, and the National Pension Commission, PenCom.

Ajaero further condemned actions of

some unionists who have formed the habit of inviting security agencies with an intent to disrupt proceedings for selfish reasons.

We must see commitment from FG before suspending strike – NANMM

National Chairman of the NANMM-FHI, Morakinyo-Olajide Rilwan, who reaffirmed the union's position, said mere promises are not enough to halt the strike, warning that the industrial action will persist except parts of its key demands are met by the Federal Government.

Speaking in Abuja, yesterday, Rilwan said meetings with government representatives seeking an end to the strike, had been mostly inconclusive and that the union expected a signed agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, and emphasized that the union will not call off the strike for its demands to be considered.

"That is what the government will definitely ask for, that we should suspend the strike, so, they can look at our demands. We are not comfortable with that. We have to make sure that parts of the demand are attended to before we can suspend the strike at all.

"It's not actually in the nurses' attitude to embark on a strike, and we have been patient enough because we are compassionate. Nurses are empathetic with their patients, we love our



From left, Guest Speaker, Mrs. Juliet Adekoya; Head of Grace Children School, Dr. Olanike Akindayo; Chief Executive Officer, Grace Schools, Mrs. Iyiola Edun; n Chairman of the occasion, Samson Olowoyo; Vice Chairman, Parents Teachers Association (PTA), Grace Schools, Mrs. Atinuke Obafemi-Aminu; Welfare Officer, PTA, Oreoluwa Oduyoye; Deputy Head of Grace Children School, Mr. John Ibe; and the school Chaplain, Pastor Jackson Nsoh, at the Grace Children School Prize-Giving ceremony/valedictory service, in Gbagada, Lagos.

patients and don't want anything to happen to them.

"But we waited for a long time for all these demands to be met. So, this strike happens to be the last option we have to get the government's attention.

"We must see commitment, based on the sincerity and sensitivity on the part of the government, I believe some parts of these demands must be met before we can suspend the strike.

We have to see serious commitment from the government before taking that step," he noted.

Rilwan said the union gave government enough time to respond to their demands before embarking on the seven-day warning strike, but nothing was done, even as he regretted that meetings

with government representatives seeking an end to the strike have been mostly inconclusive.

Although NANMM met with the Minister of Labour, Muhammadu Dingyadi, yesterday, talks ended in a deadlock due to the absence of key stakeholders, including the Minister of Health and the Head of Civil Service.

FG says demands can be resolved through

2027: Why Tinubu can't gamble with recycled politicians in Enugu

●Victory requires loyalty, mobilisation, clear-eyed strategy

By Chukwunonye Okereke

AS Nigeria gradually approaches the defining year of 2027, political permutations are already gathering momentum across the country. At the heart of these early alignments lies a crucial question: who will drive President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda in regions where the APC seeks deeper footholds?

In the South-East — and particularly in Enugu State — the answer does not require guesswork. One name continues to stand tall, not just for his loyalty but also for his strategic relevance and unbroken grassroots connection: Chief Uche Nnaji, the current Minister of Innovation, Science, and Technology.

While many politicians in the region stood aloof or in outright opposition to President Tinubu's emergence in 2023, Chief Nnaji took a principled stand, flying the APC gubernatorial flag in a hostile political climate. His commitment to the party, the president, and the idea of national integration makes him not just a participant in the Renewed Hope project but a pillar of its future success in Enugu. It is no secret that the APC remains politically isolated in much of the South-East. In such an environment, loyalty is not mere symbolism — it is sacrificial leadership. Chief Nnaji stood firm when many sought the convenient refuge of political expediency. His 2023 campaign, while falling short electorally, succeeded in planting a resilient structure for the APC across the 17 local government areas of Enugu State.

This loyalty should not be overlooked or taken for granted as 2027 approaches. The presidency and the APC national structure must resist the

negotiations

The Federal Government said it will be meeting with the leadership of the nurses and doctors today in a bid to trash out all the issues that led to the strike.

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Alli Pate, disclosed this while briefing State House correspondents at the end of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting presided over by President Tinubu at the Council

Chambers, Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The minister said that all the issues that led to the nurses strike have been looked into and actions had been taken by government to arrest the situation.

The minister also announced the approval of Oncology Centre in University College Hospital, Ibadan, adding that the Tinubu administration is driving a revolution in the health sector.

Tinubu to govts: Take gains of reforms to grassroots

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, yesterday, called on state governors to collaborate more closely with the Federal Government to ensure Nigeria's ongoing economic reforms translate into real, measurable improvements for citizens at the grassroots.

The President made the call when he attended the National Economic

Council, NEC, presided over by Vice President Kashim Shettima, at the Council chambers, Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Briefing State House correspondents at the end of the NEC meeting, Imo State governor and Progressive Governors' Forum Chairman, Hope Uzodimma, said President Tinubu reiterated the NEC's development focus by stressing that improved government revenues, made possible by vital reforms, must be felt in

communities nationwide.

He said: "We acknowledged Mr. President's efforts in driving increased revenue generation and the positive results already being recorded. But the real challenge now is how this additional income will improve the lives of people at the grassroots."

I Uzodimma said, the President launched the Renewed Hope Ward-Based Development Programme, designed to decentralise development and deliver the benefits of reform directly to Nigeria's 8,809 wards.

The initiative is aimed to empower local communities, encourage entrepreneurship, and create jobs by targeting at least 1,000 economically active individuals per ward.

Resources will be channelled to promote productivity, reduce poverty, enhance security, and unlock community-level growth, according to Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Atiku Baguda.

The programme will be overseen by the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning and funded through the Federation Account and other potential revenue streams.



Naira down to N1,565/\$ in parallel market

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The Naira yesterday depreciated to N1,565 per dollar in the parallel market from N1,540 per dollar on Wednesday.

But the naira depreciated to N1,534 per dollar in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM).

Data published by the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, showed that the exchange rate for the naira fell to N1,534 per dollar from N1,537 per dollar on Wednesday, indicating N3 depreciation for the naira. Consequently, the margin between the parallel market and NFEM rate widened to N31 per dollar from N13 per dollar the previous day.



•Uche Nnaji

temptation to court familiar but flawed political names in Enugu — names that have proven either electorally irrelevant or disconnected from the masses.

Former Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi, for instance, could not deliver his own senatorial district in 2023. He is still in PDP and it is by the grace of Chief Nyesom Wike that his political ebbs and flows are still flickering. Is he the one that will galvanize for the president? How?

Despite his holding the machinery of state power, he was overwhelmingly rejected by his own people. Governor Peter Mbah, is in PDP and claiming to be interested in the re-election bid of President Tinubu which is a hoax. He is simply looking for a prepared political launching pad in APC and not out of love for the party. He has severally said that he is not a politician and cannot play politics. This shows that his sudden interest in APC is just for political survival.

Despite his incumbency, he faces growing discontent because of his pro-rich policies in Enugu. His governance has been described by many as elitist and tone-deaf, characterized by a top-down approach that has widened the gap between government

and governed. The immediate past Chairman of the Enugu Capital Territory Development Authority, ECTDA, has become a symbol of urban aggression. His demolition campaign — targeting homes, shops, and long-standing businesses — has created deep social resentment. Instead of empathy and urban renewal, what many Enugu residents feel is displacement and betrayal.

Chief Nnaji offers a vastly different approach. He is neither burdened by past governance failures nor detached from his people. His technocratic exposure — as a national minister — is balanced with street credibility and cultural resonance in Enugu communities. His emphasis on innovation, education, youth empowerment, and digital skills matches the Tinubu administration's long-term vision. Chief Uche Nnaji is the face of a new APC — clean, competent, and inclusive.

The Politics of 2027 must be grounded in truth and APC cannot afford to gamble with recycled politicians who have either lost elections or lost touch. The stakes are too high. Chief Uche Nnaji represents both continuity and credibility. He is one of the few Igbo leaders who did not just support the president, but risked political capital to align openly with him.

If Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda is to resonate in Enugu in 2027, it must wear the face of Uche Nnaji. He is not just a political figure — he is a pivot, a stabilizer, and a bridge between the South-East and the nation's center of power.

•Chukwunonye Okereke, a political affairs analyst, development advocate, and commentator on South-East regional dynamics writes from Enugu.

TOP PARTNER HOTELS



Four Points by Sheraton Lagos
Address: Plot 9/10 Block 2 Oniru Chieftaincy Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos. 021189, Lagos
☎ 0905 382 2225



White Ochid
Address: 1637 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos.
☎ 0901 200 2206

Lagos Marriott Hotel
Address: 122 Joel Ogunnaike St, Ikeja GRA, Lagos 100271, Lagos
☎ 0813 984 4850




Ibis Hotel
Address: 23 Toyin St, Ikeja, Lagos 100282, Lagos
☎ 0201 277 7888

Hotel Inn
Address: 1 Prince Yomi Daramola St, Oniru, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos
☎ 0707 451 8500




MountRoyal Centre Hotel & Suites
Address: Plot B19, Between GTBank and Anchorage Estate Apple Junction, Lagos
☎ 0906 917 9335

Rock View Hotel
Address: 17b Park Ln, Apapa, Lagos 102272, Lagos
☎ 0809 200 0488




Villa Park Hotel
Villa Park Hotels and Suites Ltd is located at Plot 76, Link Road, Amuwo-Odofin, Festac, Lagos, Nigeria.
☎ 0808 344 7722

'How Nigerians are quietly taking control of their finances'

IT'S often the last-minute *Aso Lebi* that costs the most — and yet, it's the one you can't turn down. For many Nigerians, life rarely gives notice. Between unexpected events and essential expenses, the pressure to show up — socially or responsibly — is constant. But a quiet shift is happening.

More young Nigerians are relying on digital tools like the Branch app to help them manage the chaos. Whether it's paying for fuel, covering urgent bills, or navigating family needs, Branch's *FUNded* campaign is reshaping the way people approach financial support — with speed, dignity, and zero stress.

Tolu, a 29-year-old content creator in Ibadan, recently had to attend a cousin's wedding with barely a week's notice. "I

didn't have time to plan or save. But I opened my Branch app, applied for a quick loan, sorted my outfit and makeup, and booked my ride," she said. "Everything just flowed."

It's the kind of access that makes the difference — offering instant microloans, seamless money transfers, bill payments with cashback, and everyday spending through a debit card. No long queues. No awkward explanations. Just quick solutions that help people move on with life.

"FUNded with Branch is about celebrating life's real moments - both planned and unexpected - with dignity. We want people to feel supported, not judged; to enjoy their lives while staying financially responsible," says Dayo Odulate-Ademola, Managing Director, Branch

Nigeria.

In a time when many are juggling unpredictable incomes

and rising costs, financial tools that offer control — without judgment — are not just useful, they're empowering.

Foundation illuminates Issele-Mkpitime with solar street lamps

NWAOZOMOR Grace's Foundation, a renowned humanitarian organisation, has brought hope and transformation to the people of Issele-Mkpitime in Aniocha North Local Government Area, Delta State, by lighting up the communities with 475 stands of solar street lamps.

Worth over N150 million, the lamps have transformed the entire Community into a vibrant and radiant landscape at night.

Addressing newsmen, the Executive Director of the foundation, Mr. Awajibenem Esukuile, stressed that the project, executed in two phases, is part of the foundation's efforts to transform the community and its people.

According to him, "the provision of the solar street lamps aligns with

the foundation's founder, Pastor Daniel Nwaozomor's vision of making society a better place."

He added that it is the foundation's contribution towards curtailing the activities of criminal elements at night, as well as help in mitigating rural urban migration. "If communities have the basic things, youths will obviously settle down and do meaningful work towards helping themselves and their dependants"

He noted that the foundation's activities in Aniocha North Local Government Area, Delta State, and other Niger Delta communities are part of its contributions towards President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda administration.

TACN to politicians: Face governance, it's too early to campaign for 2027

By Olayinka Latona

THE Territorial Chairman, Lagos and Western, Mid-Western/Northern Areas, LAWMINA, Pastor Senior Okpako Uyeh has called on politicians already campaigning for the 2027 elections to halt, declaring it premature amid Nigeria's unaddressed hunger and socioeconomic crisis.

Uyeh issued this statement while briefing journalists about LAWMINA's 49th International Convention, themed "I Know Thy Works," scheduled for Saturday, 2nd August 2025, at the church's International Convention Ground in Olorunda, Ketu, Lagos.

The cleric urged leaders to focus on governance not campaigns asking leaders to prioritize addressing citizens' needs over early electioneering. He criticized the political class for fighting over 2027 instead of uniting to solve Nigeria's "multifarious problems."

In his words: "Our political class rather than uniting to find plausible solutions to the multifarious problems of the country, are busy fighting over 2027. Yet people are dying of hunger. There is much agony, hunger and misery in the land. The insecurity remains unabated. Farmers in Benue and Plateau states, widely recognised as the food baskets of the country and in fact most states of the South west not to talk of the north east are finding it difficult to go to farm."

CLASSIFIED

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

I KELVIN ENYERIBE CHUKWUEMEKA:
That my Date of Birth was wrongly written in My WAEC Certificate as 26th January 1988 instead of 26th January 1983. My correct date of birth is 26th of January 1983. All former documents remain valid. WAEC and General public please take note.

ADVERTISE WITH US HERE

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that the title documents of the following properties belonging to Late Dr. Zacchaeus Sunday FAMISA are missing:

1. B10, Iloromu 3, Line 3, Ile-ife Osun State;
2. A bungalow in Kajola Street, off Isinbode Road, Iworo Quarters, Omuo-Ekiti, Ekiti State

All efforts to locate the title documents of the above-mentioned properties have proved abortive.

Signed:
Mrs. Grace Bose FAMISA



PUBLIC NOTICE
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

PUBLIC DISPLAY EXERCISE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) ADDENDUM FOR THE PROPOSED DANGOTE PETROLEUM REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICALS COMPLEX AT LEKKI FREE TRADE ZONE, IBEJU LEKKI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, LAGOS STATE BY DANGOTE PETHOLEUM REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICALS FREE ZONE ENTERPRISE (DPRPFZE).

In accordance with the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act CAP E12 LFN 2004, which makes it mandatory for proponents of all new major developmental activities to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of their proposed projects, the Federal Ministry of Environment hereby announces twenty-one (21) working days public notice for information and comments on the draft EIA report submitted by Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals Free Zone Enterprise (DPRPFZE).

BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
The proposed project is a ramp up of the 460 Barrel Per Stream Day capacity refinery (BPSD) to 650BPSD and entails the construction of a Petrochemical Refinery & Petrochemical Plant (Refinery Complex) and offshore Single Point Mooring (SPM) system that will serve both domestic and international markets. The project is located in the Lekki Free Zone (LFZ) on the Lekki Peninsula, Ibeju-Lekki LGA, Lagos State.

THE DISPLAY CENTERS ARE:

- Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area Headquarters, Igando-Oloja, Lagos State.
- Lagos State Ministry of the Environment & Water Resources, State Secretariat, Alausa/Ikeja.
- Federal Ministry of Environment, Games Village, Surulere, Lagos State.
- Federal Ministry of Environment, (Environment House) Environmental Assessment Department, Independence Way South, Central Business District, Abuja -F.C.T.
- www.ead.gov.ng

DURATION OF DISPLAY:
Date: 14th July - 11th August, 2025.
Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm Daily.

ALL COMMENTS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI, ABUJA - FCT AND VIA info@ead.gov.ng ON OR BEFORE 18TH AUGUST, 2025.

SIGNED
PERMANENT SECRETARY
FOR: HONOURABLE MINISTER

CHANGE OF NAME

DANIEL I formerly known and addressed as DANIEL MIRACLE MARO, now wish to be known and addressed as OSERI DANIEL MARO, all former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	CHIZURUOKE Formerly known called and addressed as. NANAWUBA CHIZURUOKE. . Now wish to be known called and addressed as. NAWUBA CHIZURUOKE JOSHUA. All former documents remain valid, general public should take note.	JOSEPH Formerly known called and addressed as. JOSEPH FAITH EDIGHERE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. JOSEPH FAITH. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.	ESTHER I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Esther Aniefiok Peter, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs Esther Imefon Benjamin. Documents bearing my former name remain valid. Financial institutions and the general public take note.	MOJEKWU I, formerly known as MOJEKWU SAM LOTANNA and MOJEKWU SAMUEL LOTANNA. Now wish to be known and addressed as MOJEKWU SAMUEL AYODELE. All former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.
OYENOLA I formerly known and addressed as Thomas Oyenola Jonathan, now wish to be known and addressed as Agunbiade Oyenola Jonathan, all former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	OYOMA Formerly known called and addressed as. OYOMA AMASHANA. I now wish to be known called and addressed as. Mrs. OYOMA BADONI. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	OLUCHI I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS EDORU OLUCHI PEACE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS OKOH OLUCHI PEACE ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	JOEL I formerly known and addressed as, Okeoguale Joel Patricia, now wish to be known and addressed as, Omorotiomian Joel Patricia, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	SUNDAY I, formerly known and addressed as SUNDAY OGHOGHO now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY OGHOGHO BENJAMIN former documents remain valid. Public notice.
KEFAS I, formerly known as SARAH KEFAS, now wish to be known and addressed as SERAH ISHAKU JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	OWIN I, was formerly known called and addressed as. OWIN DAVID OGHENEWARE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. OWIN CHRISTIAN. All former documents remain valid, general public and all concern authorities should take note.	OLADEPO I, was formerly known called and addressed as. OLADEPO YETUNDE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. OLADEPO YETUNDE OMOBOLANLE. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	ESEKHILE I formerly known and addressed as, Esekhile Austine, now wish to be known and addressed as, Esekhile Augustine, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	LUCKY I, formerly known and addressed as Lucky Patrick, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Lucky Patrick Osaruese, All former documents remain valid General public please take note.
ODIALE This is to confirm that ODIALE EMMANUEL OSEREMHEN and ODIALE EMMANUEL is the same person, henceforth I wish to be addressed as ODIALE EMMANUEL OSEREMHEN. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note.	LUCINDA Formerly known, and addressed as Miss. OGBAIDE LUCINDA OGHOGHO. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. OGBEBOR LUCINDA OGHOGHO. All former documents remain valid, general public and all concern authorities should take note.	OGHENERUNO I, formerly known and called as OGHENERUNO CHARITY now wish to be known and addressed as PAUL OGHENERUNO CHARITY. All former documents remain valid, any authority it may concern and the general public to take note.	AUGUSTINA I was formerly known and addressed as MISS IKEM AUGUSTINA OGOCHUKWU, I now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ORAKABA AUGUSTINA OGOCHUKWU, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.	CHINONSO I was formerly known, called and addressed as OGWUMIKE CHINONSO MIRACLE, now wish to be known and addressed as ONUAWUCHI CHINONSO MIRACLE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
MICHAEL I formally known and referred to as Fashina Aawani Michael Yemi now wish to be addressed as Awani-Fashina Michael Yemi All documents remain valid. The National Identification Management Commission (NIMS) and the General Public should take adequate notice of the change of name.	AMOS Formerly known called and addressed as AMOS GIFT. Now wish to be known called and addressed as AMOS TOMBRA GIFT. All former documents remain valid general public should please take note.	OYINDAMOLA I formerly known as MISS. ANIMASHAUN OYINDAMOLA BASIRAT. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. RAJI OYINDAMOLA BASIRAT. All former documents remains valid. General Public and Authorities concerned please take note.	OGHENEOVO I formerly known as CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON OGHENEOVO. Now wish to be known and addressed as CHAPELE DAVID OGHENEOVO. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.	IFEOMA This is to confirm that AZAH IFEOMA PRECIOUS and AKPEKE IFEOMA PRECIOUS is one and the same person, i now wish to known called and address as AKPEKE IFEOMA PRECIOUS. All former documents remain valid public take note.
GIFT my name was wrongly arranged on my BVN as PEREZOUGH GIFT EBIKEFEMENE, my Surname was wrongly written on my BVN as PEREZOUGH. That my correct arrangement of name and correct surname is PERE-EZOUGH EBIKEFEMENE GIFT. General public take note.	AUGUSTINE Formerly known called and addressed as. AUGUSTINE MARVELLOUS JUNIOR. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. AUGUSTINE MARVELOUS JUNIOR. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	LUCKY My name was wrongly captured on my BVN as ONORIODE WISKE instead of LUCKY ONORIODE WESIKE. I now wish to be addressed as LUCKY ONORIODE WESIKE. The general public should please take note.	OLUWASHOLA I, formerly known and addressed as Surname: Olufeso First name: Oluwashola Middle name: Helen now wish to be known and addressed as, MRS. Surname: Elijah-Olufeso First name: Oluwashola Middle name: Helen. All former documents remains valid. Public notice.	AGBARAKWE I formerly known, called and addressed as, MISS AGBARAKWE IFEOMA BENEDICTA, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, MRS. GODWIN IFEOMA BENEDICTA. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
ESE I, Formerly known and addressed as Miss Oniomovigho Ese now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Etuh Ese. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	NGOZI I, formerly known and addressed as MISS NWABUEZE NGOZI MARY, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS DENIRAN NGOZI MARY. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	DIKEOCHA I, formerly known as Dikeocha Success Uzoma, now wish to be known as Dikeocha Samuel Christy Uzoma. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	AMOBI I formerly known, called and addressed as CHINDOH JOHN BOSCO AMOBI, now wish to be known, called and addressed as OBIKWELU JOHN BOSCO AMOBI. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concern to please take note.	JOHNSON I formerly known, called and addressed as, JOHNSON WISDOM, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, JOHNSON CHUKS. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
NNEH I formerly known and addressed as MISS. NNEH UM OH MKPAIDEM, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NNEH IBORO JACOBSON. . All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should please take note.	JOHN I, OKAFOR JOHN CHIAZOR, hereby confirm that in my Account/BVN my name was wrongly written as OKAFOR JOHN and also OKAFOR CHIAZOR JOHN, instead of OKAFOR JOHN CHIAZOR which is on my NIN. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	UKULOR I formerly known as UKOLOR CLIFFORD UDUBOR, now wish to be known as UKULOR CIFFORD UDUBOR. All documents remain valid. General public, take note.	BLESSING I formerly known, called and addressed as Ezeaka Blessing Nneamaka. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as Nwoye Blessing Nneamaka. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concern to please take note.	JUBILEE I, formerly known, called and addressed as OBI JUBILEE UCHE, now wish to be known called and addressed as EWERE JUBILEE UCHE, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
BLESSING I formerly known and addressed as MISS BLESSING INNOCENT PATRICK. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. BLESSING ABASIENIE SAMPSON. All documents bearing my former name remain valid general public should please take note.	OSARETIN I, EGHAREVBA EDWIN OSARETIN, hereby confirm that in my Account/BVN my name was wrongly written as EGHAREUBA EDWIN OSARETIN instead of EGHAREVBA EDWIN OSARETIN which is on my NIN. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	MARIAM MY NAME WAS CAPTURED WRONGLY AS MISS AHMMED MARIAM. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MISS HAMED MARIAM. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	OJAMUTUWO I formerly known and addressed as OJAMUTUWO GODWIN ODIO now wish to be known and addressed as OJAMUTUWO ODIO ODIO, all former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public take note.	DANIEL I, formerly known, called and addressed as EHIEDU DANIEL CHINMA, now wish to be known called and addressed as EHIEAU DANIEL CHIMA, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
OLUWASEUN I, formerly known and addressed as MRS OLUWASEUN ADEYERI. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OLUWASEUN ADEKOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	GLORY I, formerly known and addressed as GLORY SUNDAY ESIN now wish to be known and addressed as EDET GLORY EFFIOM All former documents bearing my name remain valid. General public please take note.	NKIRUKA I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS OFUMA NKIRUKA CLARA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS WINHOLDS NKIRUKA CLARA. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	IFEOMA I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ILODIGWE IFEOMA HARRIET, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ORAEBGU IFEOMA HARRIET. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.	ESTHER That in my APT PENSION DOCUMENT, my name was wrongly captured as, OBAZIE ESTHER instead of, OBAZE ESTHER. That my true and correct name is, OBAZE ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. PENSIONS /AUTHORITIES, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
CHRISTY I, formerly known and addressed as NJETENEH Christy. Now wish to be known and addressed as NWAJEI Christy. All former documents remain valid. General public, Bank please take note.	ONUWAJE I, formerly known as ONUWAJE EMMANUEL, wish to add TUNU to my name. I now wish to be known and addressed as ONUWAJE EMMANUEL TUNU. All former documents remain valid. Banks, Relevant Authorities and the general public please take note.	ENDURANCE I FORMERLY KNOWN AS ODIASE ENDURANCE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS HAKANSSON ENDURANCE. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	PHILOMINA I, formerly known and addressed as IGBOANUGO PHILOMINA, now wish to be known and addressed as OKONKWO PHILOMINA EKENE. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.	VICTORY I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS OJUGBOH VICTORY CHINONSO, now wish to be known called and addressed as MRS. LARRY VICTORY CHINONSO, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
DUNKWU My name was wrongly written in account as DUNKWU NKEMCHOR GIBSON and ion my BVN as. DUNKWU GIBSON NKEMCHOR now my correct name is DUNKWU NKEM GIBSON. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.	CHINAZA I was formerly known as Miss Agunwa Chinaza Ann, Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Ujah Chinaza Ann. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.	AMINAT I formerly known and addressed as MISS RAJI AMINAT OLAMIDE. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OWOLEWA AMINAT OLAMIDE. Due to marriage. All former document remain valid general public and Authorities should kindly take note.	BLESSING I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS BLESSING AMARACHI AMADI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS BLESSING AMARACHI OSONDU. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	ARNOLD I, formerly known as EKPU ARNOLD OTOIDE now wish to be known as EKPU ARNOLD WHITE. All former documents remain valid. general public take. note.
ASEKOME I, ASEKOME IVAN SMITH, ASEKOME IVAN OLUWATIMILEYIN refer to one and same person, now wish to be known and addressed as ASEKOME IVIAN OLUWATIMILEYIN. All documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration service and General public please take note.	EKOKODJE Formerly known and addressed as EKOKODJE MATHEW OKPAKO. Now wish to be known and addressed as EKOKODJE MATHEW OKPAKO. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	JONATHAN I, formerly known as DAYACHOBA NATHAN, now wish to be known as DAYACHOBA JONATHAN. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	LYDIA I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS LYDIA CHIDALU ONWUNEME NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS LYDIA CHIDALU ENYNNAYA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	EIGBADON I, formerly known as OSALE MARY EIGBADON now wish to be known as EIGBADON MARY. All former documents remain valid general public take note.
CAROLINE I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS IKPOTOR CAROLINE OFEORITSE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS OKOH-PHILIP CAROLINE OFEORITSE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	JULIET Formerly known and addressed as CHINAGOROM JULIET CHINAEMEREM. Now wish to be known and addressed as NJOKU JULIET CHINAEMEREM. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	EGUVWESE Formerly known called and addressed as EGUWWESE TERIGHO BLESSING now wish to be known called and addressed as EGUWWESE BLESSING OTARIGO, all former documents remain valid. General public take note.	OKPOSIO I, formerly known as OKPOSIO MATTHIAS now wish to be known and addressed as OKPOSIO MATTHIAS MARIERE. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	ADENUGA That during my account opening/BVN registration my name was wrongly captured as ADENUGA BABATUNDE KASEEM instead of ADENUGA BABATUNDE QASSIM as I have it on my NIN. That my correct name is ADENUGA BABATUNDE QASSIM. All former documents remains valid. General public should take note.
BLESSING I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS ENUMAH BLESSING NGOZI. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS OKAFOR BLESSING NGOZI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	JULIET Formerly known and addressed as ATANOMETA JULIET OGHENECARO. Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs ATANOMETA OLUBA JULIET OGHENECARO. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	RITA I, formerly Okekor Rita Ovigwe wrongly captured in BVN, now wish to be call and address as Okekor Rita Ovigwe as in my NIN, both names refer to one and same person, all former documents bearing the former name remain valid, information for the authority concern, general public take note.	PRECIOUS I, formerly known as MISS OSIGWE NKEIRUKA PRECIOUS now wish to be known and addressed as MRS PRECIOUS KIR ONAH YOUNG. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	JOANA I, formerly known, called and addressed as. MISS ELOHOR JOANA AKPOBARO but now wish to be known, called and address as. MRS ELOHOR JOANA AZANUGHWA all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public please take note.
BEAUTY Formerly known called and addressed as. IDIODEMISE BEAUTY ERHUVWU. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. MAFO BEAUTY ERHUVWU. All former documents remain valid general public should take note	TUNUBO Formerly known and addressed as Miss TUNUBO PEACE. Now wish to be known and addressed as TUNUBO PEACE PEREMOBO-ERE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	BENITA I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ROBERT BENITA MAMUYOWIN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ADOJOR BENITA MAMUYOWIN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General Public take note.	DANIELLA I, formerly known as MISS OLUWADAMILOLA DANIELLA OLADELE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OLUWADAMILOLA DANIELLA SAMSON-OGUNWALE. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	PRECIOUS My NIN details during registration was wrongly captured as FRANK PRECIOUS but want it changed to FRANKLY PRECIOUS. Public notice.
IGHOSHEMUSUA Formerly known called and addressed as. IGHOSHEMUSUA KINDNESS OEHUKO. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. IGHOSHEMUSUA GODKINDNESS OCHUKO. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	YEMISI I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Olayemi, Yemisi Rebecca, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Yemisi Rebecca Olayemi-Olanrewaju. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	MARY I, Ibrahim Mary Opeyemi, formally known and addressed as Ibrahim Mary Opeyemi, now wish to be known and addressed as Abayomi Mary Opeyemi. All other documents remain valid. General public take note.	OMEREYEMI I FORMERLY KNOWN AS OMEREYEMI MERCY ROLI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS. AMIOKU MERCY ROLI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.	CHIOMA I, formerly known and addressed as MISS JOHNBULL, CHIOMA JOY now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ODOJUGU, CHIOMA JOY. All former documents remains valid. Public notice
IGHOSHEMUSUA Formerly known called and addressed as. IGHOSHEMUSUA KINDNESS OEHUKO. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. IGHOSHEMUSUA GODKINDNESS OCHUKO. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	YEMISI I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Olayemi, Yemisi Rebecca, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Yemisi Rebecca Olayemi-Olanrewaju. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	MARY I, Ibrahim Mary Opeyemi, formally known and addressed as Ibrahim Mary Opeyemi, now wish to be known and addressed as Abayomi Mary Opeyemi. All other documents remain valid. General public take note.	OMEREYEMI I FORMERLY KNOWN AS OMEREYEMI MERCY ROLI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS. AMIOKU MERCY ROLI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.	CHIOMA I, formerly known and addressed as MISS JOHNBULL, CHIOMA JOY now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. ODOJUGU, CHIOMA JOY. All former documents remains valid. Public notice

News

2nd edition edition Polarstore, cold storage training kicks off in Lagos Oct

THE second edition of Renewable Energy Polarstore Cold Storage training is scheduled for 6-10 October at the Lagos Energy Academy, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos.

The five-day intensive programme is designed for engineers, technicians and energy professionals interested in renewable energy-powered and cold storage systems especially for applications in agriculture, healthcare and logistics.

The training is organised in partnership with Nigerian Renewable Energy companies and Dutch organisations with co-funding from Dutch Government and will be delivered in collaboration with Rubitec Nigeria Limited, a COREN-certified training provider.

Participants will gain hands-on experience through practical sessions and a curriculum developed with Dutch experts including HAN University of Applied Sciences, Independent Energy, the Dawson Group and Larive International.

According to a statement in Lagos by Rubitec Nig. Limited, Managing Director, Bolade Soremekun, the October session is now open via the dedicated training portals, adding: "Interested participants are advised to apply early because of limited slots."

He disclosed that topics of the training include "Solar PV fundamentals, battery systems, cold storage operations, power electronics and full systems integration of the Polarstore solution."

Ekwealor, Speaker, Old Anambra House of Assembly, passes

CHIEF Benjamin Ekwealor, Speaker of Old Anambra House of Assembly is dead.

He died on July 26, 2025, aged 89, in Nzam, Anambra West Local Government, Anambra State.

A statement by his son, Mr. Chuba Ekwalor, said: "Chief Ekwealor was a prominent teacher, legal practitioner, community leader, politician and an administrator. He retired as School Principal in 1977 and answered a clarion call by his people to represent them in politics at the outset of the Second Republic.

"He is survived by six children and several grandchildren. His final burial rites will be announced by the family in due course," the statement added.



Late Benjamin Ekwealor.

JENNIFER
I, formerly known, called and addressed as, EKPORO OGHENEFOJEIRO JENNIFER but now wish to be known, called and address as. UZEZI OGHENEFOJEIRO JENNIFER all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public take note.



Osimhen arrives to heroic welcome at Istanbul airport

• Says "I feel great to be here"

Super Eagles striker, Victor Osimhen who signed a record-breaking €75 million from Napoli, has officially landed in Istanbul to complete his high-profile move to Galatasaray.

He arrived late Wednesday night to a hero's welcome, with thousands of passionate Galatasaray supporters flooding Atatürk Airport to greet him.

His arrival was closely followed by hundreds of thousands online, with live tracking of his private jet on FlightRadar24 becoming a nationwide obsession.

The 26-year-old, who starred for Galatasaray during a loan spell last season with 37 goals and seven assists in 40 appearances, did not hide his emotion upon his return.

"I'm home. This is where I want to be. I'm happy to be here, to be back," Osimhen told reporters and fans. He added, "Look at the crowd, look at the people following the plane. I feel great to be here."



During the emotionally charged arrival, Osimhen stepped out of his vehicle to personally greet two disabled fans, further endearing himself to the supporters nearby. Despite interest from other major European and Middle Eastern

sides, Osimhen made it clear that Galatasaray was always his priority: "This has been the only thing on my mind since the beginning of the year. Now it's time to focus. I'll do my best to achieve the goals of our coach and the club."

Newcastle's Isak trains alone at old club Real Sociedad

Alexander Isak is training alone at former club Real Sociedad amid continued uncertainty around his Newcastle United future.

The Sweden striker was left out of Newcastle's squad for their pre-season tour of Asia, with the club saying he had a "minor" thigh issue.

Isak wants to explore a move away from the Magpies, with Liverpool interested in signing the former Borussia Dortmund striker.

The 25-year-old joined Newcastle in a £60m move from La Liga club Real Sociedad in 2022.

Sources have told BBC Sport he is using the Spanish club's training ground facilities, but is not training with the team.

Newcastle have declined to comment.

Magpies head coach Eddie Howe said earlier this week the club are yet to receive a bid from any club for the striker.



Tsitsipas reappoints father as coach after sacking Ivanisevic

Stefanos Tsitsipas has reappointed his father Apostolos as his coach following a split with former Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic.

The Greek's brief stint with Ivanisevic came to an end last week, less than two months after the pair started working together.

Ivanisevic, who guided Novak Djokovic to nine of his 24 Grand Slam titles, was critical of Tsitsipas and said "I have never seen such an unprepared player in my life" following his first-round exit at Wimbledon.

Tsitsipas reached number three in the world under the guidance of his father, who was his full-time

CHAN Eagles bungle 2-0 lead, draw with Zanzibar again

Nigeria's Super Eagles B were held to a 2-2 draw by Zanzibar in an intense CHAN 2024 preparatory friendly played on Thursday afternoon.

This is coming few days to their CHAN Group D opener on Tuesday with Senegal at the Amaan Stadium in Zanzibar.

The match saw Nigeria take a two-goal lead in the first half, only for the hosts to fight back with a spirited second-half performance.

Nigeria began brightly, building on the improvements from their goalless draw against the same opposition three days earlier.

The coaching staff made five changes to the starting line-up, introducing fresh legs and attacking options.

The new additions made an instant impact, with Anas Yusuf breaking the deadlock following a swift attacking move.

Moments later, Adedayo Olamilekan doubled the advantage, slotting home with composure to cap a dominant first half.

With a 2-0 lead at halftime, Nigeria looked set to cruise to victory. However, multiple substitutions in the second half altered the team's



shape and rhythm. Zanzibar took full advantage, applying consistent pressure and launching quick counterattacks. Their persistence was rewarded with two well-taken goals, stunning the Nigerian defence and drawing the match level.

Fulham open talks with AC Milan to sign Chukwueze

Fulham have started formal discussions to sign Super Eagles winger Samuel Chukwueze, according to Italian journalist Nicolò Schira.

After achieving their best-ever Premier League points tally of 54 last season, Fulham are yet to make a summer signing and are actively searching for the right addition. The club's impressive campaign under Marco Silva has raised expectations, and bolstering the squad is a priority going

into the final weeks of the window. Fulham have been linked with several wide options including Arsenal's Reiss Nelson — who spent last season on loan with them — and Chelsea's Raheem Sterling. However, a move for Nelson is complicated by Arsenal's preference for a permanent transfer rather than another loan, while Sterling's high wages could pose a significant challenge.

The urgency to secure a new winger has intensified as Adama Traoré is being courted by Nottingham Forest and Willian's contract has expired. The Brazilian made 12 appearances in all competitions last season and is not expected to return.

A potential investment in Chukwueze thus presents a smart opportunity for Fulham to bolster their attack, fix their problem on the wings, and also improve the squad morale as other Nigerians in the club; Alex Iwobi and Calvin Bassey will be delighted with his potential addition.

Meanwhile, Chukwueze, 26, has struggled for consistent playing time at AC Milan since making the switch from Villarreal. He made only nine starts in Serie A last season, with two additional starts in

the country.

In his remarks, Toriola said the company was happy partnering the Nigeria Football Federation as their support for all the national teams had not been in vain.

"We are happy to announce that we have reaped bountifully from our support for all the national teams. He thanked the Super Falcons for their success at the just concluded WAFCON saying, "your tenacity, skill and the never-say-die approach represented the true spirit of Nigeria."

Captain of the team, Ajibade thanked the company and Nigerians generally for their support and promised that after winning ten continental titles, it was time to move up. "We want to win the World Cup. That is our next target."



FEDUGAM Games: Organisers warn against use of mercenaries

By Jacob Ajom

The Organising Committee of the 2025 Federal Education Sector Games (FEDUGAM) scheduled for Lafia August from 3 to 9, 2025 has warned participating team against the use of mercenaries.

Chairman of the Committee, Chief Oyeyinka Matt from Federation of Public Service Games Organizing Committee who is a consultant to the organising committee said stiff penalty awaits teams that will be caught using non-staff to compete for them. "We have zero tolerance for mercenaries. This event is for friendship, connectivity and camaraderie among the agencies in the education sector.

Fifteen agencies will be participating in the games but only six registered for the football event. The six agencies competing for the football medals are the Federal Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission, National Commission for Colleges of Education, TET-

FUND, National Library and the National Teachers Institute.

Addressing the sporting media during the football draw ceremony at the Ministry of Education headquarters in Abuja on Friday, Chief Matt said that of the six teams two were seeded; the Ministry of Education and TETFUND.

"They are two strong teams that should not be together in the same group," he said.

According to the draw, Group A consists of TETFUND, NCCE and National Teachers Institute while Group B has Ministry of Education, NUC and National Library.

Other sports to feature in the week-long fiesta include Tennis, Table Tennis, Basketball, Athletics, Chess, Volleyball, Ayo, among others.

According Chief Okeyinka, arrival date is 3rd August while the opening ceremony has been fixed for August 5 at the Lafia City Stadium, while the closing ceremony holds August 9. Teams are expected to depart August 10.

the Coppa Italia and Champions League.

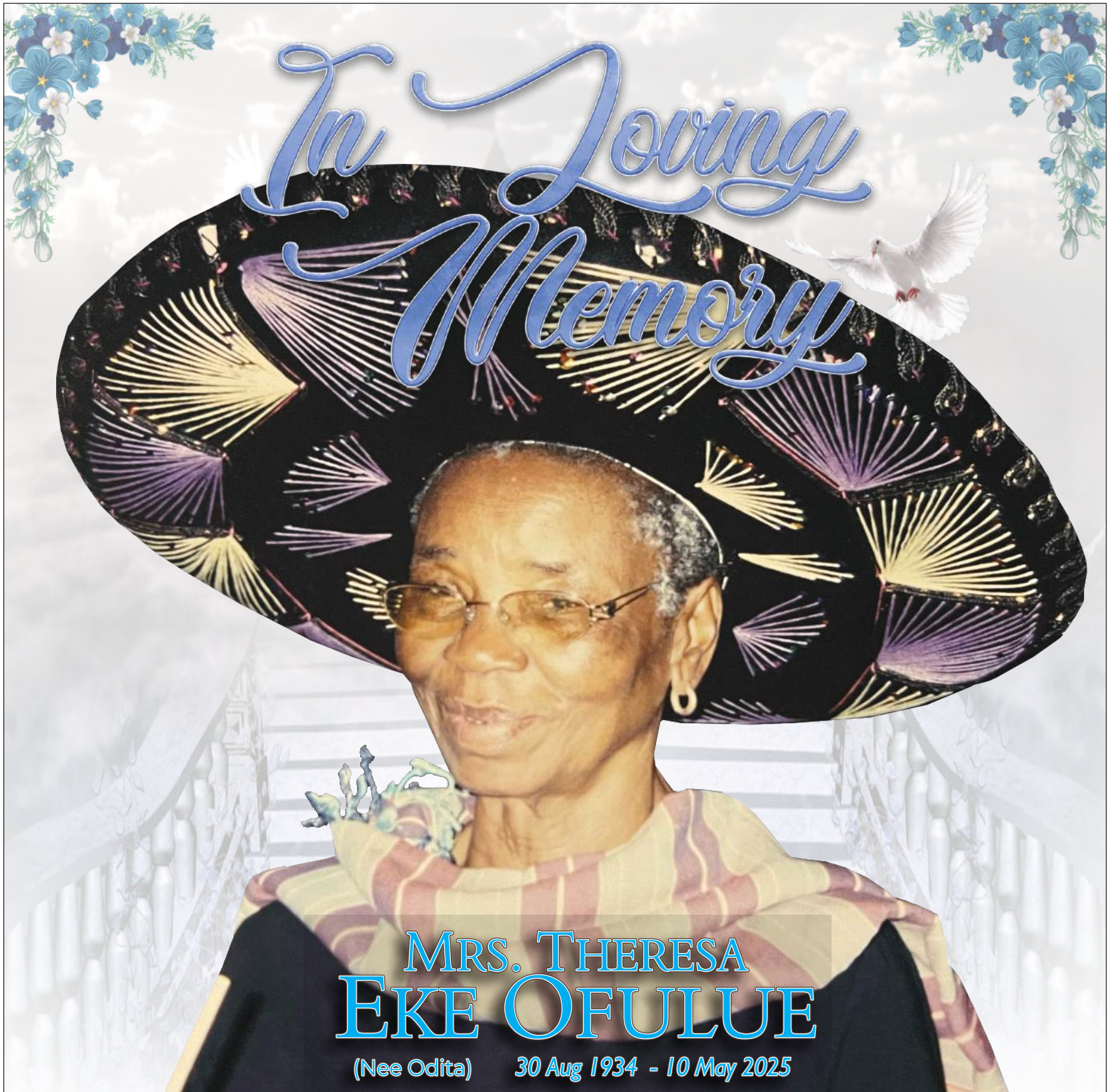
Fulham's interest in Chukwueze dates back to the January transfer window, and Milan are reportedly open to parting ways with him as they pursue Juventus forward Federico Chiesa. As such, a deal could materialise if both clubs find common ground in the coming weeks.

National Sports Federation elections shifted to October

The National Sports Federation (NSF) elections have been rescheduled for the first week of October, following a strategic review by the National Sports Commission (NSC).

This marks a shift from the earlier September timetable and introduces a structured two-stage electoral framework for the National Sports Federation elections.





**MRS. THERESA
EKE OFULUE**
(Nee Odita) 30 Aug 1934 - 10 May 2025

We, the committee of friends of Mr. Francis Ofulue, join his family in celebrating the life of **Mama Theresa Eke Ofulue** who passed unto glory on 10 May 2025.

As you walk through this season of sorrow, may the beautiful memories you shared with Mama and the remarkable legacy she leaves behind bring comfort and strength. Her life of grace, warmth, and quiet dignity will forever be remembered.

We stand with you in thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Please accept our sincere condolences.

Signed: Committee of Friends

Burial Arrangements (as announced by the family)

Service of Songs

Friday, 1 August 2025
Harbour Point Event Centre
4, Wilmot Point Road,
Victoria Island, Lagos
5.00 p.m.

Funeral Service

Thursday, 7 August 2025
St. Thomas Catholic Church
Ugbodu, Aniocha North LGA,
Delta State
11.00 a.m

Christian Wake-Keep

Wednesday, 6 August 2025
Ohe Primary School Compound
Ugbodu, Aniocha North LGA,
Delta State
5.00 p.m.

Interment (family only)

Thursday, 7 August 2025
Pa Ben Ofulue's Family Compound
Ugbodu, Aniocha North LGA,
Delta State
Immediately after funeral mass

Reception follows immediately after interment at Ohe Primary School Compound, Ugbodu, Aniocha North LGA, Delta State

Transition of a Trailblazer



CLUB DE JACOB condoles with the entire family, friends and colleagues on the transition to eternal glory of our former Rabbi (President),

HON. (CHIEF) AYODELE LAWAL

who was called home to be with the Lord after a brief illness.

May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace in the bosom of our Lord.

Funeral arrangements as announced by the family.

HON CHIEF
**AYODELE
MATHEW
LAWAL**
(aka AY)

SIGNED:

- HON CHIEF IKEJE I. ASOGWA(SOGI)
- HON DANNYSIUS IYOBHEBHE
- HON CHUKWUMA FRED OBASI
- HON CHUKWUDI ODIKPO
- HON VICTOR OLADIPO OLATUNJI
- HON CHUKA ODOGWU
- HON OYEYEMI OYETOLA
- HON CLEMENT MBAEGBU
- HON AZUBIKE ANYADIEGWU
- HON ANTHONY AKPOMUDIARE OTOMEWO
- HON CHIDI OBIECHINA UNACHUKWU
- HON UCHENNA OKONKWO
- HON NNAMDI UCHENDU
- HON ALBERT MABUYAKU

Tsitsipas reappoints father as coach after sacking Ivanisevic



RESULTS			
AEK Larnaca	2	Celje	1
Hacken	2	Anderlecht	1
CFR Cluj	1	Lugano	0
Shakhtar Don	2	Besiktas	0
Utrecht	4	Sheriff Tiras	1

WORLD CUP:

Why Super Eagles are struggling in qualifiers

-Ideye ● Urges players to be focused and committed

Former Super Eagles striker, Brown Ideye has blamed the constant reshuffling of players and coaches for the team's struggles in the 2026 World Cup qualifying matches despite being in a relatively easy group.

He has however, urged the players as they prepare for the decisive round of the qualifiers to give their all as they currently sit fourth in Group C with seven points, trailing leaders South Africa, who have 13 points, while Rwanda and Benin follow closely with eight points each.

Speaking on the Eagles' qualification chances, Ideye acknowledged the team's struggles in previous matches and emphasized the need for mental toughness to secure a ticket to the 2026 World Cup, set to be jointly hosted by the USA, Canada, and Mexico.

"A lot of things went wrong in our previous games," Ideye said in an interview with Brila

FM. "When you keep reshuffling players and coaches, the team bears the brunt."

"When the draw was made, everyone thought we had the easiest group. But I think we underestimated some of these teams, assuming they would be easy to beat."

The former Super Eagles forward warned that opponents now approach games against Nigeria with maximum intensity: "Any team playing Nigeria is coming with their A-game. They won't just sit back and watch us pass them by. For them, it's everything they'll do whatever it takes to qualify for the World Cup."

He concluded by stressing the importance of the upcoming fixture: "I believe the players now understand that qualification won't come easy. This next game is a do-or-die affair and extremely crucial for the country. Everyone must be fully focused and committed."



Finally: Osimhen arrives Istanbul to a heroic welcome

● Says "I feel great to be here"



WAFCON WIN: MTN Nigeria splashes N150m on Super Falcons



Fulham open talks with AC Milan to sign Chukwueze



CHAN Eagles bungle 2-0 lead, draw with Zanzibar again

SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE

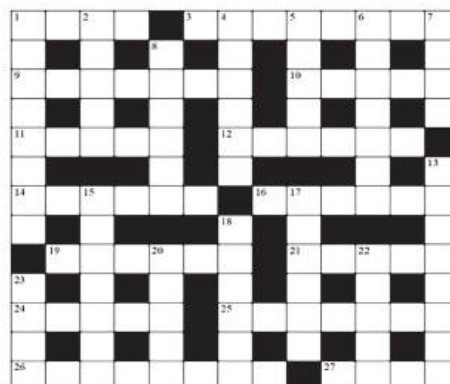
1				7		9		
7	3					1		8
	9			3	6			
3	1			5				6
	2			8				3 5
				3	7			5
6		5						2 9
	4		9					1

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

1	7	4	2	9	8	3	5	6
2	5	3	1	4	6	8	7	9
9	8	6	7	5	3	4	2	1
3	4	2	8	7	9	6	1	5
7	1	5	6	3	2	9	8	4
6	9	8	5	1	4	7	3	2
5	6	1	9	8	7	2	4	3
4	2	7	3	6	5	1	9	8
8	3	9	4	2	1	5	6	7

QUICK CROSSWORD

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- Genuine(4)
- From the New World(8)
- Unauthorised absence from school(7)
- Courageous(5)
- Grossly overweight(5)
- Solution(6)
- Horizontally(6)
- Game bird(6)
- Sum of money(6)
- Licit(5)
- Acknowledge, concede(5)
- Make unclear(7)
- Breed of terrier(8)
- Apartment(4)

DOWN

- Reasoning(8)
- Sharp(5)
- Distress signal(3,3)
- Picture puzzle(5)
- French castle(7)
- Necessity(4)
- Heavenly spirits(6)
- Recklessly determined-(4-4)
- Countryside walker(7)
- Enjoy to the full(6)
- Leisurely walk(6)
- Single(5)
- Thin porridge(5)
- Long story(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.

