

Govt ends passport production at multiple centres after 62 years

8 Marketers want us to increase pump price by N75 — DANGOTE 19

FLOOD ALERT: FG raises fresh alarm as Rivers Niger, Benue reach peak level 9

Plateau targets Middle East Halal market to boost economy, says Mutfwang •NGE pays courtesy visit to Gov 9

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

N250

NIGERIA LEADS AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SIGN PETROLEUM REGULATORY CHARTER...



Chief Executive, Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, Engineer Gbenga Komolafe (middle) flanked by his counterparts from 15 African countries at the signing of a charter to birth the African Petroleum Regulators Forum (AFRIPERF) in Accra, Ghana, yesterday. SEE STORY ON PAGE 10

RIVERS: Assembly resumes sitting, Fubara fails to show up

SEE PAGE 5

●House urges Fubara to forward commissioners list, appropriation bill ●Asks Gov to probe Ibas' expenditure ●Massive crowd leave in disappointment after waiting 12 hours ●I've spoken to Fubara, he assured he'll resume – Wike ●Adds I've forgiven him ●Ibas quits, seeks support for Fubara ●Says Tinubu's mandate achieved, cautions against crippling state again ●Tinubu playing god in Rivers – ADC ●Atiku, Obi, others speak

ENUGU OPEN FOR BUSINESS



From left, Vice Chairman, Programmes Committee, Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce, NBCC, Mrs. Adenike Ibirogba; Patron, NBCC, Asiwaju Dr. Olawale Cole; President and Chairman of Council, NBCC, Prince Abimbola Olashore; Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah; British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Jonny Baxter and Chairman, Programmes Committee, NBCC, Mr. Tajudeen Ahmed, during NBCC's "Meet the Governor Series," which featured Mbah in Lagos, yesterday.

Osun LG crisis: Probe judicial irregularities, PDP tells CJ 10

AWUJALE STOOL: Fusengbuwa ruling house in leadership face-off 10

Mr & Mrs

BUY A BIRTHDAY GIFT FOR YOUR UNCLE? NEVER. HE ONCE CALLED ME A CHURCH RAT, THAT I DON'T DESERVE YOU. SINCE THAT DAY, HE HAS DROPPED IN FIFA RANKING!

MEANING?

HE HAS LOST MY RESPECT!

dadadekoia@yahoo.com

08052201913



NDI NA ASU BIA SOCIAL CULTURAL ORGANIZATION
 OGBAKO-IGBO ZARA IGBO ORU NA NDIDA

Our Ref: Your Ref: Date:

IGBO UNIFICATION MOVEMENT

in collaboration with

NDI N'ASU BIA SOCIO CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

A COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF TWO-DAY CONFERENCE HELD IN OKPANAM, DELTA STATE

1. Igbo youths of various backgrounds from all the 13 contiguous states of their major or minor indigeneity, under the umbrella of the Igbo Unification Movement, in collaboration with Ndi Na Asu Bia, sociocultural organization, met on Friday and Saturday, 29th and 30th August 2025, at the great historical city of Okpanam in Asaba metropolis, the capital of Nigeria's Delta State.
2. They were joined by several invitees, such as the Governor of Delta State, His Excellency Rt Hon Sheriff Oborevwori, represented by his Chief of Staff, Hon Johnson Erijo, Distinguished Senator Ned Munir Nwoko, champion of the Anioma State movement; Keynote Speakers, Emeritus Professor Uzodinma Nwala, Professor Obasi Igwe, Professor Chidi Osuagwu, Professor Chinedu Innocent Ewonye, Professor Paul O. Opono; and HRH Anakwenze, Head of the World Igbo Congress.
3. Enthusiastic delegations of Igbo indigenous communities in Abia, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bayelsa, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu, Imo, Kogi, Rivers States; all parts of the Igbo society, from Anioma to Etche, Igbanke, Igweocha or Port Harcourt, Ikwerre, Ndoki, Ngwa, Opobo, Ubani or Bonny, Ukwuani, Waawa, and so on, as well as significant elements from the diaspora, were in full attendance. [02/09, 8:48 am] agadacosmaschike:
4. Whereas the State Governor wished the gathering well in peacefully pursuing their lawful concerns; the distinguished Senator Ned Munir Nwoko re-emphasized the noble objectives in the quest for the creation of an Anioma State; while the keynote speaker, Emeritus Professor Timothy Uzodinma Nwala and five other guest speakers were of one mind that Igbo unity is an indispensable prerequisite for a prospective Restructuring of Nigeria in terms of ethnic nationalities or groupings of consenting ethnic nationalities, while Anioma State remains the most logical, reasonable and strategic equalization State for the Igbo nation.
5. The gathering affirmed the unity of all Igbo-speaking peoples in Nigeria, down to the coast; condemned the entities and circles that either sponsor or permit themselves as instruments of Igbo division, dismemberment and landlocking; expressed pride that unlike many other nationalities that can't understand one another, Igbo dialects are close, mutually intelligible, and facilitating easy and smooth Igbo interactions; and greatly praised Senator Ned Nwoko for his unmatched efforts to have the Anioma State created.

6. The Igbo youths thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for the gradual improvements in security nationwide, although a lot still needs to be done; urged him to immediately lift the economic blockade unfairly imposed on the Igbo almost 60 years ago, which closed the main Igbo coastal ports of Port Harcourt, Bonny, and Opobo; dredge, modernize and functionally reopen those coastal ports to re-trigger a pole of development in the East, with spillover effects to the Middle Belt and down to Lake Chad.
7. The groups expressed enormous gratitude to the Anioma branch of the Igbo Unification Movement, and Ndi Na Asu Bia sociocultural organization, for their enormous hospitality, the Jace-Darl Hotel & Suites, Okpanam, for their high-level efficiency, and to all participants for the enthusiasm shown and commitments demonstrated for renewed Igbo renaissance and unity in liaison with other nationalities in the search for a new and equitable national order in Nigeria.
8. The Igbo Unification Movement, Ndi Na Asu Bia, and all participants, equally expressed profound gratitude to Obi of Obomkpa, HRM. Onyemaechi Josiah Kanyinaga, who chaired the proceedings, HRM. Dr. Michael Mbanefo Ogbolu, The Ugoani of Okpanam, that was the traditional host, the wonderful dancers and other entertainers, the events managers that decorated the befitting hall, the groups that were in charge of security and refreshments, and last but not least, the great and dynamic Press Corps that covered the elaborate proceedings.

IGBO UNITY HAS COME TO STAY, AND WE COLLECTIVELY STAND ON IGWEBUIKE!

WE WISH ALL PARTICIPANTS GOD'S BLESSINGS AND JOURNEY MERCIES.

Yours faithfully,


 Chief Onyenwemadu Kingsley Kainebi
 (President, NNABSCO)


 Ofochi Benjamin-Atagana, Esq.
 (Secretary, NNABSCO)


 Chief Agada Cosmas Chikeobi
 (Chairman, Local Organising Committee)

Happy BIRTHDAY

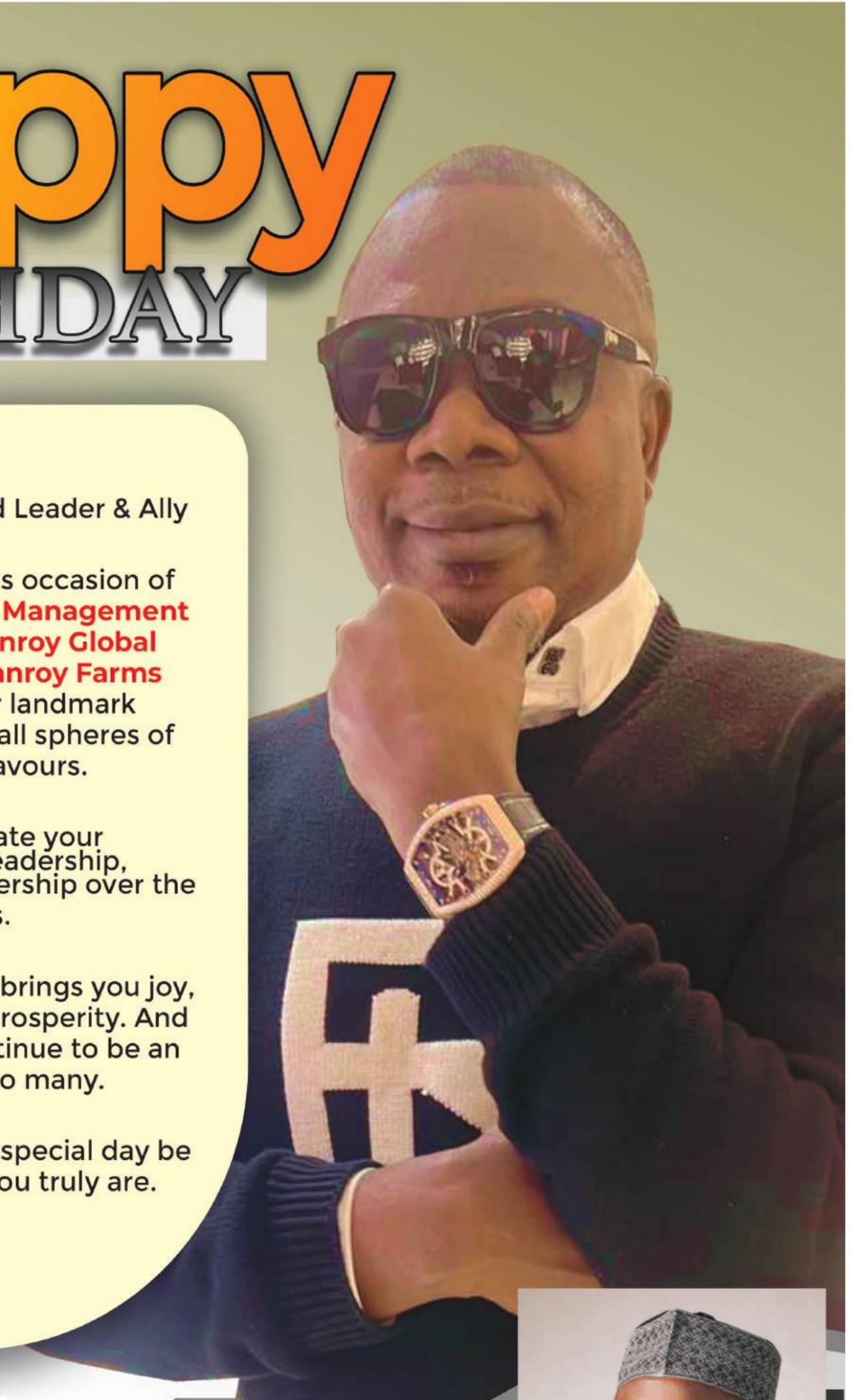
To A Distinguished Leader & Ally

On this auspicious occasion of your birthday, the **Management and Staff of Manroy Global Services** and **Manroy Farms** celebrate your landmark achievements in all spheres of your endeavours.

We appreciate your exceptional leadership, guidance and leadership over the years.

May this new year brings you joy, good health and prosperity. And may your life continue to be an inspiration to many.

We pray that your special day be as amazing as you truly are.



Signed
Michael Taniowho,
MD/CEO.



Politics



2027: Obasa, Orelope-Adefulire, Aregbesola in pitched battle for Alimosho

By Oluksunmi Akoni

SPEAKER of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, former Lagos State Deputy Governor (2011 to 2015) and Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Adejoke Orelope-Adeulire; and Minister of Interior under late President Muhammadu Buhari administration, Engr Rauf Aregbesola are locked in a battle

for the soul of Alimosho.

Alimosho is the most populous local government area in Nigeria and has always played critical roles in determining winners of elections in Lagos. Alimosho was the decider when Governor Bola Tinubu won his re-election in 2003. Then, Aregbesola, his Commissioner for Works led Tinubu's electoral foot soldiers in Alimosho.

Ahead of the 2027 polls, there is a battle for the control of Alimosho. Aregbesola, who later became governor of Osun State before serving as a minister, still wields influence in the area but whether his influence is strong as before remains to be seen.

Aregbesola's recent exit from the All Progressives Congress, APC and landing in the African Democratic Congress, ADC, where he is national secretary, has paved the way for the emergence of other strong forces in Alimosho, who are expected to work for President Tinubu's re-election in 2027.

These include Obasa, Orelope-Adefulire, and Senator Idiat Adebule, a serving senator for Lagos West.

In Lagos, Alimosho is noted for its political and electoral strength in determining the overall results of elections at every electoral cycle. It is dubbed Tinubu's Country due to the fact it always delivers huge votes to the ruling party in the state since the reign of Tinubu.

The battle to take charge of the coveted area started since the fall out of Aregbesola who has always held sway in Alimosho for Tinubu, his mentor and godfather, with APC replacing the leadership with Orelope Adefulire, dumping Aregbesola's stooge, Enilolobo, as well.

Orelope-Adefulire

Orelope-Adefulire is an administrator, social worker, politician and princess from the Alimosho royal family. As a grassroots politician, she is the apex leader of the APC in Alimosho Federal Constituency. She is also a prominent



•Adebule

•Obasa

•Orelope-Adefulire

•Aregbesola

member of the Lagos State Governance Advisory Council, GAC. The GAC is the highest political decision-making body of Lagos State.

It was gathered that Orelope Adefulire had held series of meetings with leaders and stakeholders in Alimosho to resist any form of takeover by the opposition parties such as Aregbesola's ADC and has embarked on massive mobilization for the re-election of President Tinubu.

Obasa

Obasa, an emerging political force in Tinubu's camp has also been talking tough about control of Alimosho.

The Lagos speaker, who has been speculated to be eyeing the governorship slot in Lagos, with Alimosho and Lagos West as his base, on a TV programme recently, stressed that the decision on his political future rests with the leadership of the APC.

"As a politician, you must wait for the hierarchy of the party to determine where they want you to go, whether as a lawmaker, governor, or senator. People should not be misled or try to misinterpret the party's plans. Let all tension calm down. Our main focus is how to move the country forward. President Tinubu is making significant progress day by day," Obasa explained.

Aregbesola's factor

Talking of betrayal, Tunji Malomo, a member of ADC in Ifako Ijaiye, at a meeting, took a swipe at Tinubu's supporters for accusing Aregbesola of betraying the president saying that Tinubu was the first to betray Aregbesola.

"So, whatever Aregbe does now, no one should call him a betrayer. Aregbe had been loyal to Tinubu for almost 30 years. And loyalty is not a one-way street. It is mutual with a natural law of reciprocity.

"The task of rescuing Nigeria has begun and we don't mind taking prisoners. And that time

is now To rescue Nigeria is a task that must be done,

"We are hereby using this medium to bring it to the notice of the state Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the Lagos State House of Assembly and the state party chairman that Alimosho has been and is still under the control of Abdullahi Enilolobo. We also use this medium to appeal to the respective authorities to look into the matter and do justice as required by law," Malomo affirmed.

As part of moves to whittle down Aregbesola's influence in Alimosho, the State House of Assembly last year, suspended one of his staunch loyalists, the Chairman of Alimosho Local Government Area, Jelili Sulaimon, indefinitely.

Sulaimon was unanimously removed over allegations of

What is playing out in Alimosho is the struggle to maintain influence by APC, and opposition parties' plot to hijack power from the incumbent for the control of Lagos in 2027

misconduct and defiance of the legislative House. His Vice, Akinpelu Johnson, loyal to Tinubu was directed to assume control of the council's affairs.

Chairman of the House Committee on Local Government Administration and Chieftaincy Affairs, Sanni Okanlawon, who moved the motion for the suspension, said:

"It is evident that Jelili Sulaimon has continuously disregarded this House's authority and failed to comply with directives, showing blatant misconduct. We cannot stand by and allow such chaos to persist."

Attack on ADC

Aregbesola had earlier in August launched a mass membership drive for ADC in Kosofe Local Government Area of Lagos, calling on Nigerians to vote out APC in the 2027 general elections.

Aregbesola criticised the APC, PDP, and LP, accusing them of failing to deliver good governance and development. He urged Nigerians to embrace the ADC as a fresh alternative capable of "resetting the country on the path of progress."

He encouraged members to begin grassroots sensitisation, register as voters during the ongoing INEC continuous voter registration, and prepare to "protect their votes."

ADC leaders present included Lagos State ADC Chairman George Ashiru, Lagos State Influencer Rahman Owokoniran, and Kosofe LGA Influencer Funmi Onita-Coker, who underscored the importance of mass mobilisation ahead of 2027.

Last week, suspected political thugs attacked ADC members during a political gathering in Alimosho, organised by Aregbesola in a church premises. The event was organized to receive and welcome Peter Obi, Labour Party Presidential Candidate in the 2023 poll and the party's Governorship flag bearer in Lagos, Gbadebo Rhodes-Vivour, to the party.

Shortly after kick off of the programme, miscreants stormed the venue and sacked participants on sight.

The rally was also organized to sensitize residents on the importance of obtaining their Permanent Voter Card, PVC, and urge members to mobilize youths to register during the

exercise in preparation ahead for the 2027 general elections in Lagos.

The miscreants who were suspected to be supporters of the ruling APC inflicted varying degrees of injuries on the victims.

Policemen deployed from the State Police Command were obviously overwhelmed as the miscreants went haywire sending everyone in different directions.

Consequently, the opposition coalition accused APC of descending into violence and "acting like a terrorist organisation."

APC reacts

The Publicity Secretary, Lagos Chapter of the APC, Seye Oladejo, in a swift response dismissed the allegation by ADC against APC. According to Oladejo, "The opposition is certainly not helping our democracy to grow by accusing the ruling party of being the cause of their internal rifts.

"It is a well known fact that the opposition in the country is a house divided against itself. The APC as the ruling party is the greatest stakeholder when it comes to maintaining peace and tranquility in the state. The opposition as presently constituted poses no threat to us and we are not interested in their inability to put their house in order.

"They are already looking for excuses for their imminent defeat come 2027. We vehemently deny any role in the failure of their rally and want to urge them not to throw the state into turmoil."

APC called on police and other law enforcement agencies to ensure that the peace of the state is not disrupted by some "political jobbers."

What is playing out in Alimosho is the struggle to maintain influence by APC, and opposition parties' plot to hijack power from the incumbent for the control of Lagos in 2027. However, time will tell the tendency that will prevail.

News

Rivers: Assembly resumes sitting, Fubara fails to show up

**House urges Fubara to forward commissioners' list, appropriation bill *Asks Gov to probe Ibas' expenditure *Massive crowd leave in disappointment after waiting 12 hours *I've spoken to Fubara, he assured he'll resume – Wike, says he's forgiven him *Ibas quits, seeks support for Fubara *Says Tinubu's mandate achieved, cautions against crippling state again *Tinubu playing god in Rivers – ADC *Atiku, Obi, others speak*

By Clifford Ndujihe, Dan Abia, Omeiza Ajayi, Davies Iheamnachor, John Alechenu & Luminous Jannamike

LAGOS — The return to democratic rule in Rivers State after six months of emergency started on a shaky and disappointing note, yesterday. While the House of Assembly resumed, Governor Siminalayi Fubara, and his deputy, Prof. Ngozi, failed to show up.

Fubara's absence made a crowd of enthusiastic supporters, who thronged the Government House, Port Harcourt, to disperse in disappointment about 7p.m., after waiting for about 12 hours. The crowd started arriving Government House from the 23 local government areas of the state as early as 7a.m.

The polity was replete with speculations on why the governor, who left the country shortly after his suspension on March 18, did not resume as expected. While some feared that he may not return because he had been 'robbed' of powers and hobbled, sources said he was holding meetings with key stakeholders in Abuja on the way forward before returning to Government House.

However, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT and Fubara's predecessor, Mr Nyesom Wike, said he had called and the governor assured of his readiness to resume.

Speaking during an interview on Channels Television, Wike said he had

spoken to Fubara and he was ready to return to the country to assume office.

Asked if he would support Fubara for a second term, Wike said it was too early to do so.

Earlier in the day, former Sole Administrator, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ibas (retd), paved the way for Fubara's return. He officially quit his position, handed power over to elected executives, urged support for Governor Fubara, and bid Rivers people good bye.

Ibas, who was silent on how much he spent in the six months he administered Rivers, since March 18,

despite calls from stakeholders to give a financial report, said President Tinubu's mandate of restoring order had been achieved and cautioned stakeholders against bringing the state to the brink of collapse again.

However, while the governor failed to return, the lawmakers resumed.

Assembly urges Fubara to forward commissioners list, appropriation bill

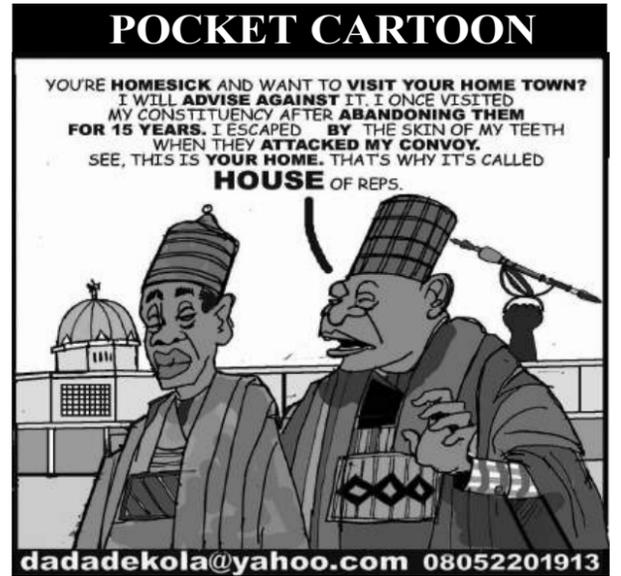
At its first sitting after six months suspension, the Rivers State House of Assembly urged the yet-to-

return Governor Fubara to commence the process of submitting a list of commissioner-nominees for screening and confirmation.

The Assembly also asked the governor to come up with an appropriation bill that will address current realities in the state, and to ascertain what happened during the emergency rule.

The House, through a motion set the legislative agenda for the remaining session of the 10th Assembly.

Moving the motion on behalf of eight co-sponsors, Leader of the House, Major Jack, said that the House considered it imperative to



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set the agenda to reflect the current situation in the state.

Contributing to the debate on the motion, members applauded it and supported all the prayers therein.

Commenting on the Motion, Speaker Martin Amaewhule commended President Tinubu for restoring democratic institutions in the state, saying "Going forward, the House will work with the governor and abide by the terms of the peace parley and the provisions of the

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the interest of peace and good governance in the state."

The House resolved to call on Governor Fubara to forward the list of commissioner-nominees to the House for screening and confirmation in line with the Constitution and "the terms of the peace parley."

Amaewhule, after a voice vote in which all members backed the motion, said the Assembly will formally write the governor to request the names of commissioner-nominees and a fresh budget proposal.

A statement by Martins Wachukwu, Special Assistant on Media to the Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly, said: "The House further called on the governor to commence the process of coming up with an Appropriation Bill to cover the remaining part of the year to address current realities.

"Ascertain what transpired in the last six months with regards to the award of contracts and expenditures from the State's Consolidated Revenue Fund."

Massive crowd besiege Rivers Govt House, wait hours for Fubara

For over 12 hours yesterday, a huge crowd massed at the Government House and waited in vain to welcome Governor Fubara

Continues on page 27



From left—Olumo Abdulazeez Esq, Secretary National Judicial Institute, Corps Marshal, FRSC, Shehu Mohammed, and Justice Babatunde .A. Adejumo, OFR, Administrator of the National Judicial Institute (NJI), during a visit to the Corps Marshal to strengthen strategic partnership in Abuja.

People Talk

BY OKIKIOLA LATEEF

Graduation ban for nursery, primary & secondary schools



Banning graduation ceremonies for nursery and primary schools may ruin students' sense of achievement and motivation. Celebrating milestones encourages confidence and community spirit.

Regarding the end of compulsory textbook and workbook combinations, flexibility can benefit diverse learning styles, but clear guidance and a balanced curriculum are essential to ensure comprehensive education. Overall, policies should prioritize students' well-being and effective learning experiences.

— Adebayo Abayomi, surveyor



I think the textbook reform helps reduce costs for parents.

Regarding graduation ceremonies, I believe they should be reserved for notable milestones like completing Primary 6 (JS3 graduation might be debatable, but I lean towards removing it) and SS3. Graduating from nursery school seems unnecessary and expensive, while Primary 6 graduation makes more sense as a celebration of achievement.

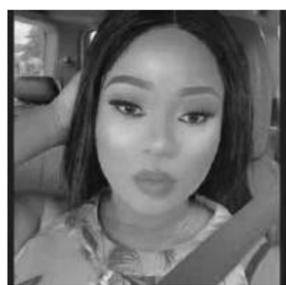
— Uyanna Jeremiah, student



I strongly believe the ban on graduation ceremonies for nursery and primary schools should be lifted. It's a crucial milestone that acknowledges children's hard work and progress. Graduation ceremonies boost their confidence and motivation, marking an important step in their educational journey.

As for the textbook and workbook merger, I'm not convinced it's a game-changer, but let's see how it plays out.

— Praise Odhegba, student



These bans offer much-needed relief in a challenging economic environment, preventing undue pressure on parents and aligning celebrations with meaningful educational milestones. These ceremonies often demand new clothes, uniforms, contributions, and parties, which put unnecessary pressure on parents, especially in today's tough economy.

It prevents publishers and schools from forcing parents to buy new "consumable" books every year. Parents and teachers must guide pupils so that reused textbooks remain in good condition.

— Oluyemi Jumoke, businesswoman



Honestly, I think banning graduation ceremonies for nursery and primary schools takes away a fun memory for kids and parents, but I understand that some schools overdo it.

As for stopping the compulsory combination of textbooks and workbooks, that's a good move. It gives parents more choice and can ease costs.

— Halimot Ajasa, hairstylist



The decision was made because of the financial burden on parents. The compulsory textbook prices are always outrageous. Imagine buying the same book inside the school for ₦5,000 when outside bookshops sell it for about ₦1,000. The profit margin is too high for parents to bear.

Regarding graduation ceremonies, it has become a competition among parents. The expenses are overwhelming. For just primary school alone, you may have up to three graduations, and then in secondary school, another two, making five in total. That is far too much.

— Afeni Afolashade, student



Police arrest cleric with suspected human flesh

By Adeola Badru

THE Oyo State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of a middle-aged Islamic cleric, identified as Alfa Basiru, found in possession of items suspected to be human flesh at the Ibadan Toll Gate end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

In a related development, the Command's Stop and Search team also recovered an abandoned Toyota Camry vehicle, after its driver reportedly fled on foot during a routine search on the expressway.

The Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Adewale Osifeso, made the disclosure via the Command's verified X (formerly Twitter) handle yesterday.

He stated that the discovery involving the cleric occurred during a Stop and Search operation conducted by the Federal Highway Patrol Team on a Lagos-bound commercial bus with registration number XA 561 IRG at the Ibadan

Toll Gate area.

According to Osifeso, the case has been transferred to the Homicide Section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Iyaganku, for further investigation.

He added that forensic analysis would be carried out on the seized items to determine their content.

In a separate incident, Osifeso also confirmed the recovery of a Toyota Camry vehicle abandoned by its driver during another search operation.

He explained that police operatives flagged down the car during a Stop and Search, at which point the driver attempted to evade arrest by fleeing the scene. The vehicle has since been taken into police custody.

"The car has been taken into custody by the Command, while members of the public with legitimate claims to the vehicle are urged to come forward with verifiable documents or contact the Police Command," Osifeso stated.

Ogun seals 5 Chinese firms, arrests staff over assault

By James Ogunnaiké

THE Ogun State Government has sealed five Chinese companies and arrested some of their officials for assaulting and inflicting bodily harm on law enforcement officers and state officials while they were performing their lawful duties.

The companies, located in the Ogere axis of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, include DL Plastics Limited, Dyschenghan Plastics, SH Agricultural Limited, Beautiful Fibre Limited, and Jincaicai Nigeria Limited.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Environment and Managing Director of the Ogun State Waste Management Authority, OGWAMA, Abayomi Hunye, said the companies mobilised their workers to attack the officials who had gone to enforce a seal-up order after repeated warnings.

According to him, the firms were repeatedly invited and officially notified of their environmental infractions, including improper waste disposal, open waste

burning, and refusal to engage government-approved waste collectors.

"These infractions are not only degrading their premises but also threatening their host communities and the state at large," Hunye said.

He explained that despite six months of letters, invitations, and visits by government officials, the companies refused to cooperate. Notices of intention to seal their premises were pasted on their gates for over three months, but the companies ignored them.

"When our officials eventually sealed the companies last Thursday by locking their entrance gates, the firms brazenly broke government chains and removed the seal order," he stated.

To enforce the order, OGWAMA officials, accompanied by law enforcement officers, revisited the premises. However, they were violently attacked by workers who inflicted injuries on both law enforcement and state officials, forcing them to be rushed to the hospital. Hunye condemned the action as "barbaric."

NDLEA commander found lifeless in Calabar hotel

By Ike Uchechukwu

THE Cross River State Commander of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Morrison Ogbonna, was in early hours of yesterday found dead in his hotel room in Calabar.

Vanguard gathered that the commander was found dead by his officers, who had come to pick him up for a scheduled assignment.

An impeccable source who pleaded anonymity said, "This is what happened this morning. Some officers were in the hotel where he slept to pick him

up, but when they didn't hear from him they went to his room.

"It was upon knocking without success that they drew the attention of the hotel management that opened his room and found him dead."

According to the source, the commander was just transferred to Cross River to replace Rachel Umebuali in August this year.

When contacted, the police Relations Officer, SP Irene Ugbo-Obase confirmed the report of the death.

"I can confirm to you that it is true, but what led to the death is what I can't readily tell you," she said.



MEDICAL OUTREACH—Chairman, Ikeja Local Government Area, Comrade Akeem Olalekan Dauda (AKOD), Special Guest of Honour (middle) during the free medical outreach organised by Vanguard Media Ltd for members of the Newspapers and Magazines Distributors' Association of Nigeria (NDAN), Ikeja Zone, assisting one of the beneficiaries during the presentation of free eyeglasses at the Ikeja under-bridge on Tuesday, while Vanguard's Technical Consultant, Mr. Patrick Oduone looks on. The donation of eyeglasses was part of Vanguard's continuing and impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to ensure a better life for the people by putting community health at the forefront.

Alleged \$6bn fraud: EFCC re-arraigns ex-Minister of Power, Agunloye

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA—THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, yesterday, re-arraigned a former Minister of Power and Steel, Mr. Olu Agunloye, before a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory sitting at Apo, following his alleged complicity in a \$6billion contract fraud.

The anti-graft agency had alleged that Agunloye, who served as a Minister between 1999 and 2003, under the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, had while he was in the position, illegally awarded a contract for the construction of 3,960mw Mambilla Hydroelectric Power Station on a Build, Operate and Transfer Basis.

It told the court that the contract, which was award-

ed to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited, was done without any budgetary provision, approval and cash backing.

According to the EFCC, the embattled former Minister knowingly disobeyed a presidential directive that was made after a Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting that held on May 21, 2003, by issuing a letter to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited, conveying Federal Government's approval for the contract.

The prosecution which had accused the defendant of collecting N3.6million kickback from the company, maintained that forged documents were relied upon to facilitate the contract award.

However, the former Minister pleaded his innocence to the seven-count amended charge that was

read to him before trial Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie.

The prosecution counsel, Mr. M.K Hussein subsequently applied for a date to enable the third witness in the matter to continue his testimony.

Justice Onwuegbuzie adjourned the matter till October 9, 2025, for continuation of trial. The court had earlier granted the defendant bail to the tune of N50million with two sureties in the like sum.

Some of the count in the charge against him, read: "That you, Olu Agunloye, whilst being the Minister of Power and Steel on or about the 2nd of May, 2003 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, knowingly disobeyed the directive of the President, made in the Federal Executive Council meeting of 21st May 2003, directed at you pursuant to

the Presidents' powers under Section 5(1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) when you signed a letter addressed to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited, conveying the approval of the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the construction of the 3,960 megawatts Mambilla Hydroelectric Power Station and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 123 of the Penal Code Law."

"That you, Olu Agunloye whilst being the Minister of Power and Steel and Leno Adesanya (at large) of Sunrise [Power and Transmission Company Limited, on or about the 22nd of May, 2003 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, with bad intent."

PSN disowns suspected female illicit drug dealer

By Precious Okunowo

ASABA—THE Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria, PSN, Delta State Branch, has distanced itself from a suspected female illicit drug dealer who allegedly claimed to be a member of the professional body.

In a disclaimer signed by its Chairman, Pharmacist Ogheneovo Aghoja, and made available to journalists, the PSN described the suspect, Mrs. Egbulem Isioma, as an "impostor" and urged the public to disregard her claims.

According to the statement, Mrs. Isioma is not licensed or registered by the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN), and therefore cannot be recognised as a pharmacist or member of the PSN.

"It should be noted that from all available records, Mrs. Egbulem Isioma is not licensed or registered by the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (PCN) and she is not a pharmacist or a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nige-

ria (PSN) as claimed. The body has no connection with her," the disclaimer read.

The PSN explained that the suspect was recently arrested by law enforcement agents while allegedly operating as a quack and exhibiting a range of medicines she is not qualified to handle.

"She is not qualified to

handle the scope of medicines exhibited by the police when she was arrested, so any advice, services or claims made by her are unauthorized and potentially harmful to the public," Aghoja said.

The society used the opportunity to caution members of the public to be vigilant and verify the credentials of anyone offering

pharmaceutical services. It stressed that pharmacists are professionals guided by strict legal and ethical principles.

"We strongly encourage the public to double-check professional credentials through official licensing bodies before seeking healthcare services," the statement advised.

Imo community leader flees amid threat to life

By Olayinka Ajayi

A cousin to the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mr Gedion Okoye, has narrated how his relative, Mr Okwudiri Ndurue, was forced to flee Nigeria after years of persecution, harassment, and threats to his life.

Okoye, a native of Nike, Enugu State, described Ndurue, who hails from Amachara clan in Akokwa Town, Ideato North Local Government Area of Imo State, as a once-thriving businessman whose life took a tragic turn after he

became deeply involved in IPOB activities.

He explained that Ndurue, who ran both an ICT company and a cosmetics store, joined IPOB in 2015, motivated by concerns about the political and economic marginalisation of the Igbo people. His business frustrations, especially the absence of a seaport in the Southeast that forced importers to depend on Lagos, further strengthened his activism.

Okoye said his cousin quickly rose to prominence as a community leader, organising peaceful rallies and protests. However, this made him a target of security operatives.

According to him, on May

19, 2020, security forces raided Ndurue's ancestral home in Akokwa during the night. The operation, he alleged, was aimed at eliminating him, similar to the 2017 attack on IPOB leader Nnamdi Kanu's residence. Ndurue narrowly escaped after scaling a fence with the help of neighbors and sympathizers.

The raid, however, came at a heavy cost for his family. His aged uncle, in his nineties, died the next day, allegedly from torture or shock. His mother, traumatised by the uncertainty surrounding her son, slipped into a coma shortly after and died in September 2020.

Lagos Afriland Towers fire: Death toll hits 10, as Tinubu, Sanwo-Olu, Obasa, Obi, others mourn

Lagos reveals cause, says no one died from injury from fire

By **Olasunkanmi Akoni, Victor Ahiuma-Young and Johnbosco Agbakwuru**

Following the devastating inferno that gutted Afriland Towers, a six-storey commercial building on Broad Street, Lagos Island on Tuesday, six additional victims were confirmed dead yesterday, after the initial four persons on the fateful day.

Meanwhile, President Bola Tinubu, Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, and Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, LP, in the 2025 election, Peter Obi, had in separate messages, expressed their condolences to family members, management of Federal Inland Revenue Service, FIRS, United Bank for Africa, UBA, and United Capital Plc over unfortunate incident.

The latest six casualties were employees of United Capital Plc, a financial and investment services firm, situated on the third and fourth floors of the building.

Lagos fire service confirms 10 dead

Meanwhile, Director, Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, Mrs. Margaret Adeseye, in a statement earlier, confirmed 10 persons dead.

In her response, titled; "Update on the report of fire incident at Afriland Towers Broad Street, Lagos," simply stated, "Further investigation with the Afriland team however, revealed that 10 adults male including female were confirmed dead afterwards."

Recall that the management and staff of FIRS, had earlier in a statement on Wednesday, by the Special Adviser on Media to the FIRS chairman, Dare Adekanmbi, confirmed the death of four staff members to include: Mrs. Ekelikhostse George (Assistant Director), Mr David Sunday-Jatto (Assistant Director), Mrs. Nkem Onyemelukwe (Senior Manager) and Mr Peter Ifaranmaye (Manager).

One of the deceased, Jatto, it was gathered was in the office on the fateful day to hand over officially to his successor after been redeployed to another branch when the tragedy claimed his life.

The raging fire it was gathered by emergency agencies, originated in the inverter room located in the basement of the building while smoke spread across multiple floors and engulfed the structure, trapping occupants in the process.

"It is with a heavy heart that FIRS announces the tragic loss of four of its staff members during the fire incident at Afriland Towers, Broad Street, Lagos, on Tuesday.



***The Afriland building in Lagos**

"FIRS is one of the tenants occupying the Towers with our Medium Tax Audit and Onikan Emerging Tax Office housed on the sixth and seventh floors.

"Our Security and Safety officials quickly mobilized and contacted the fire service as soon as they were alerted. On getting to the scene, thick dark smoke was already billowing out of the building.

"The Management and entire staff are in deep shock and sorrow over the development. They offer their condolences to the grieving families and are in touch with the families of our departed colleagues whose commitment to excellence, dedication and professionalism were never in doubt. We will provide all the necessary support at this trying time.

"We are working in collaboration with all relevant agencies in Lagos to get to the root cause of the unfortunate incident. While this is going on, we will be reviewing safety measures across FIRS offices in both rented and owned buildings nationwide," the statement reads.

According to the state government the fire was caused by a spark on the inverter batteries, powering light to the tower located at the basement of the building.

However, statement by United Capital Plc yesterday, reports came in from another affected firm management, confirming the loss of six members of staff to the tragic incident, raising the total death toll to 10 so far.

A statement by United Capital Plc, made available to the media yesterday confirmed six of its staff dead in the incident.

The statement read in part; "It is with profound grief that the Management and Staff of United Capital Plc announce the passing of six of our dear colleagues,

following the tragic fire at Afriland Towers on Tuesday, September 16, 2025.

"Our departed colleagues were an integral part of our company and family. Their painful loss leaves an immeasurable void. We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences to their families, friends, and loved ones, and we continue to hold them in our thoughts and prayers, as well as provide all the support we can to them during this most difficult time.

"We are making preparations for an appropriate memorial service to honour their lives and mark their passing with dignity and solemnity. We thank the emergency services and all those who responded for their valiant assistance at the time of the incident.

Tinubu, Sanwo-Olu, Obasa, Obi others mourn

President Tinubu in a statement by his Spokesman, Bayo Onanuga, called for more caution, training, and alertness to avert future occurrences.

Tinubu extended his condolences to the management and staff of Afriland Properties Limited, the FIRS, UBA, and particularly those who lost loved ones in the inferno, and the injured who are currently receiving medical attention.

He commended the emergency responders, including the Federal Fire Service, first aiders, medical personnel, and members of the public for their quick intervention with their deep sense of responsibility during the evacuation operations.

Tinubu prayed that God Almighty will receive the souls of the departed and grant quick recovery to the injured.

Sanwo-Olu

Sanwo-Olu who described the tragedy as "unfortunate," expressed shock over the ugly incident that claimed the lives of people and the destruction of properties.

The Special Adviser to Governor Sanwo-Olu on Media and Publicity, Gboyega Akosile, in a statement issued on Thursday, said: "It is with a heavy heart that I received news of the fire outbreak. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and the management and staff of all the organisations that lost their loved ones in the ugly incident. I wish the injured persons a speedy recovery."

He pledged the government's continued support for further prevention and arrest of such ugly incidents.

Obi mourns

"I like to sincerely extend my deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers to all the families and companies affected by the tragic fire, as well as the traders at Mandilas Market and adjoining plazas along Taiwo Street, Lagos Island, whose stores were engulfed in the fire. It is deeply heartbreaking that valued lives and livelihoods were lost in this devastating incident.

NLC demands probe, compensation

The Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, in its reaction, raised alarm over the recent spate of devastating fires in Lagos and called for probe.

Lagos reveals cause, says no one died from injury from fire

Meanwhile, Lagos State Government has revealed cause of the inferno.

According to the state government the fire was caused by a spark on the inverter batteries, powering light to the tower located at the basement of the building.

Director-General and Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Lagos State Safety Commission, Mr. Lanre Mojola attributed caused of the death recorded to the smoke inhaled by the victims at the scene of incident.

He said the smoke from the source of the fire spread quickly to all the floors.

SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation



You may not be a HERO or a STAR at 33, but the greatest gift you've got is LIFE. Whenever the urge to quit sets in, just put on the attitude of a TIGER and keep fighting Because a TROPHY is certain at the end.

Peace of mind is not about fat bank accounts; it is about contentment.



It is a question of orientation !

You will never see African parents kissing, hugging or in any form of romance... But Boom! 11 children... How come? 🤔🤔



Fathers have no time for frivolities!



From right: CEO Megastar Media Communications/Founder Megastar Man of the Decade Award, Dr. Adeniyi Ifetayo and Group Executive Chairman/CEO Transoceanic Energy Group, Alhaji Amin Ilyas during presentation of letter of nomination "Man of the Decade Award" to Alhaji Amin at Transoceanic Energy Headquarters in Maitama Abuja yesterday.

2027: Buhari's men rally behind Atiku, slam Tinubu's APC

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA — In a dramatic political shift ahead of the 2027 general elections, some loyalists of former President Muhammadu Buhari, have declared support for former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, signalling deep cracks within the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC. The move was formalised yesterday, at a private meeting in Abuja, where state chairmen of the defunct Congress for Progressive Change, CPC, Buhari's original political platform, gathered at Atiku's residence to chart a new

political course.

Atiku, who is spearheading efforts to build a broad coalition under the African Democratic Congress, ADC, hosted the delegation and pledged to work with them to reshape Nigeria's political landscape.

The CPC bloc, long regarded as Buhari's most loyal political base, accused the current administration of abandoning the ideals that had united the coalition which brought APC to power in 2015.

One of the leaders said: "Bring it out, make it visible. Politics does not operate in the corner, bring your politics out. That is

essentially what we are here to emphasise.

"We are the true followers of Buhari, and we are here today, Sir. When this coalition started, we identified early on with the party we wanted to align with.

"My leader, I want to assure and reassure you of our commitment. The CPC bloc is intact. President Buhari has left an unprecedented mark in the history of this country, and we will not allow it to be lost.

"We are now ready to merge into the new political platform that God has chosen for us, appointing you as the leader, that platform now being the ADC."

Their declaration of allegiance to Atiku heightens tensions within APC and could tilt the balance of power ahead of 2027, especially in the North where Buhari retains significant grassroots influence.

Another CPC leader, drawing comparisons between Buhari's era and the present, said the current faces in government do not represent the movement's original values.

"You see me, I don't need to tell you I'm CPC. If you see former Attorney-General Malami, former Kaduna Governor El-Rufai, and others who worked closely with President Buhari, you don't need to be told they are CPC.

"Then, you can compare this with the faces you see now in positions of power," he remarked.

In his response, Atiku welcomed the move, describing it as a step towards building a formidable alliance capable of challenging the APC's dominance.

"I am particularly delighted to receive you today. This meeting represents a continuation of your journey and your struggles. I believe that with your support, we will be able to translate this journey into success.

"We will also work to form a government that reflects the vision of inclusivity and service to the people, a government responsive to the needs of ordinary citizens and committed to peace and unity across Nigeria," Atiku said.

Insecurity: Again NEC shuns deliberations on state Police

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA — AGAIN, the National Economic Council, NEC, at its 152nd meeting, declined deliberations on the pending issue of State Police to curb insecurity across the country.

It, however, endorsed solar-powered irrigation pumps produced by the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure, NASENI, for national rollout ahead of the 2025 dry season farming.

Recall that President Bola Tinubu's backing for the establishment of State Police had attracted accolades for him from different segments of the country.

No fewer than 34 state governors had also expressed their support for the establishment of state Police.

It was gathered that the matter was scheduled for discussion at the last NEC meeting but was stepped down.

Although, there were expectations that going by its importance, it would be one of the cardinal things to be deliberated upon at the 152nd NEC, but a source at the meeting said it was not even in the agenda.

Moves to boost food security

The NASENI solar irrigation pump, produced to replace the petrol-powered pump, is aimed at reinforcing the nation's food

security strategy, as it is expected to increase agricultural productivity, lower operational cost, higher incomes and improve livelihoods.

In anticipation of the President's approval and the need to provide funding for NASENI, the Council also mandated the Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu, to work out modalities of funding to enable NASENI to mass produce the solar irrigation pumps and distribute in time for the 2025 dry season.

Chairman of the Council, Vice President Kashim Shettima, who presided over the meeting, said the scaled-up solar irrigation pump was an indication that Nigerians can compete at the global level with their creativity.

"We must also face the challenge of innovation in agriculture. NASENI's scaled-up solar irrigation pumps are ready for national rollout ahead of the 2025 dry season. These pumps replace expensive petrol-powered systems, lower farmers' costs, expand dry-season cultivation, and even provide backup power for households.

"Their advanced features, including GPS tracking, mobile app dashboards, usage monitoring, and pay-as-you-go integration, prove that Nigerian ingenuity can compete with the world," he stated.

The Vice President hinted at other efforts by the Tinubu

administration to ensure food security, saying, recently, "250,000 farmers have been insured across eight states, the 30 percent Value Addition Bill is advancing, and the N250 billion Bank of Agriculture facility is being activated to reach smallholders."

Briefing State House correspondents, Governor Sheriff Oborewori of Delta State, gave update on account balance as at September 17, 2025.

According to him, the Excess Crude Account was \$ 535,823.39, the Stabilization Account was N83,495,784,133.24, while the Natural Resources Account stood at N125,818,396,257.41

The Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Bagudu, said the Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, NESG, briefed NEC on the forthcoming 31st Nigerian Economic Summit.

Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State said the National Security Adviser, NSA, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, briefed on the Anticipatory Action Framework for Riverine Flooding in Nigeria.

The governor said the framework outlined a proactive strategy to reduce the humanitarian and economic impacts of riverine flooding through early warning, targeted preparedness, and coordinated response.

2025 budget: NASS wants contracts' circulars withdrawn

•As N23.9trn capital component extends to 2026

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA- THE National Assembly is seeking the withdrawal of all circulars already issued for contract awards in the 2025 fiscal year strongly indicating that the N23.9trillion capital component of the entire N54.99trillion 2025 budget would extend to 2026 fiscal year.

Resolution for withdrawal of circulars already issued for contract awards for the 2025 fiscal year by the executive, was jointly taken by committees on Appropriations of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The resolution was sequel to the earlier arrived at by the Appropriation Committee in the House of Representatives on Wednesday during interactive session with the economic team of the Federal Government.

Collective adoption of the resolution came to the fore at a joint session with the economic team, yesterday, at the Senate wing of the

National Assembly.

Reading the resolution at the joint session with the economic team, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Senator Solomon Adeola (APC, Ogun West), said: "Capital Component of 2024 budget will continue till December 31, 2025.

"Implementation of Capital component of 2025 budget will commence as soon as possible as Authority to Incur Expenditure, AIE, should be issued within seven days after this session with the economic team.

"Circulars issued by the Ministry of Finance to the MDAs should be withdrawn pending issuance of AIE."

Members of the economic team at the assessment of 2024/2025 budget implementation session with the joint committee were the Minister of Finance, Wale Edun, Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu, the Accountant General of the Federation, Samsudeen Ogunjimi and Director-General of the Budget, Tanimu Yakubu.

FG ends passport production at multiple centres after 62 years

THE Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS, has officially ended passport production at multiple centres, transitioning to a single, centralised system for the first time in 62 years.

Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, said this, yesterday, while inspecting Nigeria's new Centralised Passport Personalisation Centre at the NIS Headquarters in Abuja.

He stated that since the establishment of NIS in 1963, Nigeria had never operated a central passport production centre, until now, marking a major reform milestone.

"The project is 100 percent ready. Nigeria can now be more productive and efficient in delivering passport services," Tunji-Ojo said.

He explained that old machines could only produce 250 to 300

passports daily, but the new system had a capacity of 4,500 to 5,000 passports every day.

"With this, NIS can now meet daily demands within just four to five hours of operation," he added, describing it as a game-changer for passport processing in Nigeria.

"We promised two-week delivery, and we're now pushing for one week. Automation and optimisation are crucial for keeping this promise to Nigerians," the minister said.

He noted that centralisation, in line with global standards, would improve uniformity and enhance the overall integrity of Nigerian travel documents worldwide.

Tunji-Ojo described the development as a step toward bringing services closer to Nigerians while driving a culture of efficiency and total passport system reform.

Nasarawa, Digitslaw sign digitisation deal

By Innocent Anaba

NASARAWA State has signed a landmark agreement with Digitslaw, a leading legal technology company, in a bold step toward digitising the state's justice system.

Digitslaw is an all-in-one law practice management software that offers the easiest, intuitive, and most organised way for ministries, government agencies, and legal professionals to manage their cases.

The innovative software will enable the ministry to manage cases more efficiently, track progress in real time, and enhance transparency across all levels of justice delivery. It can also be used on the web and mobile devices.

Nasarawa State Attorney-General, Mr. Isaac Ahmadu, described the agreement as a "milestone achievement" and commended Governor Abdullahi Sule of the state for granting approval.

He explained that the platform would allow lawyers and even the governor himself to remotely monitor cases and legal activities, boosting accountability and efficiency.

Ahmadu noted that with just a single click, Digitslaw offers the convenience of real-time updates, enabling lawyers to stay on top of their cases and manage workflows seamlessly, even from a mobile phone.

He assured that lawyers in the Ministry were ready to leverage the technology to

transform justice administration in the state.

Leading the Digitslaw team, Mr. Joseph Okonkwo (Head of Operations), accompanied by Mr. Afolabi Akinwale and Miss Alaba Osho, explained that the platform provides comprehensive case management, court process tracking, and digitisation of key workflows.

He added that lawyers in the Ministry of Justice have already been onboarded and trained.

Miss Osho emphasised that the adoption of Digitslaw would deliver greater efficiency, accessibility, and transparency, positioning Nasarawa State as a leader in legal innovation in Nigeria.

LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

When you tell a man a proverb and explain it to him the dowry paid on his mother's head becomes a waste

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

"Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer." — Maya Angelou
Gratitude softens the heart and sharpens vision, multiplying joy in ordinary days.— Ella Randle



Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang (8th left) President, Nigerian Guild of Editor, NGE, Mr. Eze Anaba, 9th left, state government officials and members of the NGE, when the Guild paid courtesy visit to the governor at Government House, Jos yesterday.

'I only took a break', Wike dismisses reports of illness

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA: Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Mr Nyesom Wike, has dismissed claims that he recently travelled to London for treatment of heart-related complications.

Wike, who spoke, yesterday at the flag-off of the Arterial Road N1 linking Wuye District to Ring Road II, Abuja, explained that his trip abroad was purely for rest, stressing that he had not taken a break since assuming office.

Some online reports had alleged that the minister was flown to London after being diagnosed with congestive heart failure and had allegedly turned down medical advice to undergo bypass surgery, fearing it might keep him away from his duties long enough to necessitate his replacement.

Reacting to the speculation, Wike said: "Normally, each time I travel, I carry files along to ensure no work is delayed. But this time, I told myself I must travel without any file, even if the whole system crumbles, because one must first be alive to meet the demands of others."

"Before I knew it, I started hearing that I had a heart attack. God will help them to have their own heart attack. It is my prayer that very soon, I will be the one signing their condolences," Wike said pointedly.

The minister faulted the growing trend of using falsehoods to score political points, questioning where the rumours originated from.

"This country plays politics with everything. Somebody sits somewhere and writes stories about hospitals I have never been to, and yet people are busy spreading them," he lampooned them.

Flood alert: FG raises fresh alarm as Rivers Niger, Benue reach peak level

• NiHSA says no water release from Lagdo Dam

By Gabriel Ewepu

ABUJA - AS the rains and water level rise, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, NiHSA, yesterday, warned that Rivers Niger and Benue have reached their peak, therefore, posing threat to Nigerians living in the areas.

NiHSA in a statement by its Director General, Muhammad Umar, said that it was very critical at this point for people to heed the warning and evacuate the areas prone to flood disaster. Umar said: "Rivers Niger and Benue have reached peak levels thereby posing threat of flooding to surrounding areas."

"Communities along Rivers Niger and Benue should take proactive steps to safeguard their lives and property against flooding. "NiHSA is working

closely with dam authorities to mitigate the impact of flooding on downstream communities and vulnerable populations."

He explained how the water levels were rising fast and posing great risk to lives and property.

"The tributaries of these major rivers, namely Rima, Kaduna and Gongola are also at their peak."

"Several major dams in Nigeria are experiencing surge in reservoir levels due to the peak of rainy season."

"Kainji Dam is spilling excess water. Nearby communities at risk of flooding are Kainji town, Patigi, New Bussa, Borgu and Mokwa as well as other communities along River Niger in Niger and Kwara states."

"Jebba Dam is spilling excess water. Nearby communities at risk of

flooding are Jebba town, Gungu, Gana, Fanga, Bele, Bere, Gaba, Baro and communities along River Niger in Kwara and Kogi states.

"Zungeru Dam: Not spilling. Goronyo Dam is spilling at maximum rate, causing flooding to surrounding communities in Sokoto State, especially Goronyo, Wamako, Shinaka, Yerimawa, Kurukuru and environs."

"Kiri Dam is spilling excess water, causing flooding to nearby communities in Adamawa State such as Kiri, Tallum, Banjiram, Purokayo-Lakumna, and Shelleng."

According to the DG, activities of dams as at September 18, indicates that Kainji and Jebba dams located on River Niger while Zungeru and Goronyo dams located on rivers Kaduna and Rima (major tributaries

of river Niger) respectively, are currently experiencing a surge in reservoir levels as the peak of the rainy season progresses.

"Kainji Dam: The dam is currently spilling and the reservoir water level is 138.69m while the water level at the downstream (Tail Race) is 105.00m."

"Jebba Dam: The dam is currently spilling excess water in coordination with Kainji. The reservoir water level is 102.20m while the water level at the downstream (Tail Race) is 76.30m. There is likelihood of significant level of flooding as the flood water propagates downstream."

"Zungeru Dam: The dam is not spilling currently and the reservoir level at Zungeru dam is 229.15m while the water level at the downstream (Tail Race) is 134.17m."

"Goronyo Dam: The dam is currently filled to its designed capacity of 288m

spilling at maximum rate. This situation is causing flooding to the surrounding communities, both at downstream and upstream."

"Kiri Dam: Kiri dam is located on river Gongola, a major tributary of River Benue, in Adamawa State. The dam is currently spilling and the water level is 8.42m at the downstream of the dam. Some communities within are presently flooded."

He noted that no water had been released from Lagdo Dam in Cameroon.

"Lagdo Dam (Cameroon) is not spilling, but heavy rainfall and internal runoff in its catchment is causing flooding in Adamawa State, especially in Yola North and South, Girei and Numan."

"The Lagdo dam is located on River Benue in Garoua, Cameroon Republic. River Benue takes its cause from Cameroon mountains and it enters Nigeria through Wurobokki village in Adamawa State."

Reps Deputy Speaker champions Africa's digital trade drive at WTO-IPU meet

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

GENEVA: Nigeria's Deputy Speaker House of Representatives, Mr Benjamin Kalu, has

urged parliamentarians across the world to take bold legislative steps that would turn the promise of digital trade into a shared engine of growth, stressing that

Africa was determined to shape its own destiny in the fast-moving global economy.

Speaking at the World Trade Organisation, WTO-IPU Steering Committee session of the WTO Public Forum 2025 in Geneva, Switzerland, Kalu described digital trade as "One of the defining governance challenges of our time," warning that countries which fail to craft robust rules risk being left behind.

According to him, "The digital economy is no longer a distant promise, it is the daily reality of our entrepreneurs and the horizon of opportunity for our youth. In Africa, we have chosen not to wait for others to write our future."

"Through the African Continental Free Trade Area, AfCFTA, and its Protocol on Digital Trade, we are building our own regional multilateralism, a blueprint for a harmonized, integrated digital market."

"But blueprints alone do not build houses. Success depends on the laws we pass, the trust we create, and the predictability we guarantee. In Nigeria, we have put in place the Nigeria Data Protection Act of 2023 safeguards privacy.

MTN secures fresh spectrum lease from 9Mobile to boost digital inclusion

By Juliet Umeh

MTN Nigeria Communications Plc, has announced the approval of a new spectrum lease agreement with 9Mobile. This move is expected to enhance national roaming, expand network capacity, and accelerate digital inclusion across the country.

In a notice to the Nigerian Exchange Limited, NGX, and the investing public, MTN disclosed that the Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, has approved the lease of 5MHz frequency division duplex, FDD, in the 900MHz band and 15MHz FDD in the 1800MHz band from 9Mobile's holding company, T2 Mobile Limited.

According to MTN Nigeria, "The lease, effective

from October 1, 2025, will run for three years. The spectrum lease is strategically tied to our national roaming agreement with 9Mobile, allowing us to handle increased network traffic from 9Mobile's customer base while leveraging our infrastructure."

"This integrated approach, combining spectrum trade and national roaming, demonstrates our commitment to industry collaboration, infrastructure sharing, and the broader goal of expanding broadband access and driving Nigeria's digital transformation."

Speaking on the development, MTN Nigeria CEO, Karl Toriola, said the milestone aligns with the company's Ambition 2025 strategy and reinforces its commitment to delivering reliable, high-quality connectivity to Nigerians.

Plateau targets Middle East Halal market to boost economy, says Mutfwang

By Marie-Therese Nanlong

JOS - Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State, has unveiled plan to position the state as a key player in the multi-billion-dollar halal economy of the Middle East, describing it as one of the pathways of his government's drive for peace and prosperity.

He made this disclosure, yesterday, while receiving the President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, NGE, Mr Eze Anaba, who is also the Editor of Vanguard Newspaper, and members of the Guild during a courtesy visit to Government House, Jos.

Welcoming the Editors, Mutfwang said: "We are working to create a livestock industry that meets global standards and allows us to key directly into the halal economy in the Middle East, which is worth billions of dollars."

He explained that the plan includes the introduction of high-yield dairy cattle capable of producing up to 20 litres of milk a day, far above the two to four litres typical of local breeds.

He said: "We are also

reviving the Jos abattoir to handle up to 500 cattle daily, supported by large-scale cattle-feed production. All of this is geared toward meeting international halal standards and creating thousands of jobs along the value chain."

"For over two decades, Plateau has been in the news for the wrong reasons with conflicts that were mischaracterised as farmers-herders clashes but were really about land grabbing."

He pointed out some of the efforts at mitigating insecurity which include revival of Operation Rainbow, setting up of a State Security and Information Centre with a toll-free line and drone surveillance as he is determined to ensure stability so that investors can have confidence.

Highlighting other development efforts, the governor pointed to the rehabilitation of more than 100 kilometres of urban roads, the construction of hundreds of rural roads under World Bank

programmes, and major water projects such as the N30 billion water scheme.

"Security is a distraction, our real mission is to unleash Plateau's potential. This state is blessed with fertile soil, a favourable climate, and abundant minerals. By focusing on modern agriculture and the halal market, we can lift our people out of poverty and open Plateau to the world," he added.

Earlier, NGE President, Mr Anaba commended the governor's peace initiatives and invited him to address the Guild's annual conference scheduled for next month in Abuja.

"There are so many stories to tell about Plateau, and we want the whole country to hear from you directly."

Mutfwang accepted the invitation and thanked the Nigerian media for their support during the legal battles that followed his election, adding, "The media stood with us when it mattered most."

The editors are expected to tour selected projects in the state before departing.



Brain drain: FG rolls out training reforms to retain medical experts

By Chioma Obinna

THE Federal Government, yesterday, in Lagos, pledged special funding and structural reforms to support postgraduate medical education in Nigeria, as part of strategies to curb brain drain and strengthen the country's health workforce.

Speaking at the 43rd Convocation Ceremony of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, NPMCN, Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Mohammed Ali Pate, who was represented by the Director of Hospital Services, Dr. Jimoh Saludeen, said the government was adopting a phased approach to tackle the critical challenges confronting postgraduate medical training.

Pate, assured that the Ministry would work closely with the College to accelerate the training of specialists, describing its role as indispensable in building a resilient health system.

"Without a strong and well-trained workforce, no health system can thrive. This makes the role of the National Postgraduate

Medical College of Nigeria absolutely indispensable. Your graduates remain the backbone of our specialist healthcare services across all geopolitical zones of the country," the minister said.

Pate listed several priority interventions under consideration, including special funding to speed up specialist training, measures to mitigate brain drain, access to TETFund as the apex postgraduate medical education institution, and increased budgetary allocation for residency training with expansion of college activities across the six geopolitical zones.

In his convocation lecture titled "A Pandemic, Examinations and a Degree," a senior Fellow of the College, Prof Solomon Kadiri reflected on how the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted training, accelerated the adoption of online learning, and shaped medical practice.

The lecturer described these reforms as milestones that boosted the academic profile of Fellows and enhanced the credibility of College examinations.

Osun LG crisis, probe judicial irregularities, PDP tells CJ

By Shina Abubakar

AS litigation on the Local Government Council crisis in Osun State lingers, the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in Osun State, has demanded that the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court should probe irregularities being perpetrated in the matter.

Recall that the State Government had dragged the Federal Government before a Federal High Court in Osogbo to restrict the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, from releasing allocation to the APC elected council officials.

However, the state government described the move as prejudice, saying "there is no need to move the case to Abuja" alleging foul play.

The Osun PDP Chair-

man, Sunday Bisi, while speaking with newsmen in Osogbo, earlier, said the issuance of letters to assign the case to a judge purportedly written by Joshua Ibrahim Aji, who claimed to be an aide of the Chief Judge deserves investigation.

"We, the People's Democratic Party in Osun State, therefore call on the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to immediately probe these irregularities. He must investigate how and why persons, purportedly working in his office, who are not judicial officers, are signing letters that carry the force of judicial authority."

"We demand accountability. We demand transparency. Above all, we demand respect for the rule of law."

Charterhouse Lagos opens new boarding house for students

By Niyi Okiri

CHARTERHOUSE Lagos, has officially opened its new boarding facility and welcomed the first cohort of secondary students.

The event also coincided with the school's first anniversary, following the launch of its primary school in September 2024.

Director of Education, John Todd, acknowledged the collective effort behind its success. "Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. We are not only creating an outstanding place of learning but also a true home where students can feel safe, supported,

and inspired to thrive," he said.

Mark Healy, newly appointed Head of Secondary, said: "I am proud to be the founding Head of Secondary at Charterhouse Lagos. My experience leading secondary schools across three campuses in Doha has prepared me for this wonderful opportunity to provide world-class education here in Lagos.

"The occasion, filled with colour, culture, and community spirit, signalled the beginning of an exciting new chapter for the first British independent school in Nigeria's economic capital, even as the celebration came just ahead of the 2025/26 academic year."



AOW 2025—From left: Paul Morton, Partner, Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer; Mr. Roudolph Holali Dirackco, Director, Chemslov, Ghana; Chuka Eze, MD, Frazimex Eng. Ltd., Nigeria, and Mr. Yagouba Traore, Head, Energy Policy, Planning and Development, Senegal, during a panelist session at the African Oil Week, AOW, in Accra, Ghana.

AWUJALE STOOL: Fusengbuwa ruling house in leadership face-off

By James Ogunnaike

THE families of Adeberu, Olufadi and Ayora/Tunwase of Fusengbuwa Ruling House, Ile Nla, Agunsebi, Ijebu Ode have dragged the Ogun State Government, former National president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, ICAN, Abdulateef Owoyemi; founder of Eye Foundation Hospital, Dr. Kunle Hassan, and two others, before an Ogun State High Court, sitting in Ijebu Ode, over the leadership tussle rocking the ruling house.

According to the suit

....Shifts battle to court

filed on September 17, and made available to journalists yesterday, representatives of the three royal families, Adedokun Ajidagba, Adeleke Adeyemi and Ademola Sonaya, urged the court to stop Owoyemi from parading himself as the head (Olori Ebi) of the Fusengbuwa ruling house. The Fusengbuwa ruling house is the next to produce the Awujale and paramount ruler of Ijebu Land after the demise of 91-year-old Oba Sikiru Adetona on July 13, 2025 after 65 years' reign.

Adedokun, according to the documents filed before the court, asserted that Owoyemi has no ancestral link to the Ile-Nla compound in Agunsebi, the historic family house of Fusengbuwa.

He listed the ruling house's eight recognised branches as Olufadi, Ayora/Tunwase, Shenowo, Okuyandewo, Oshinuga, Adekenu, Adebiyi, and Adeberu.

Adedokun claimed that Owoyemi hails from Ikoro-Ekiti and not Ijebu-Ode, a position he affirmed was

corroborated by the late Awujale of Ijebuland, during a court proceeding at Ijebu-Ode in 2018.

He said his appointment as Olori-Ebi of Fusengbuwa was ratified on November 23, 2023, with official notification sent to the Ogun State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs and the late Adetona.

Adedokun declared that he remains the authentic head of the Fusengbuwa ruling house and prayed court to accede to the request of the three royal families and stop Owoyemi from parading himself henceforth as the head of the ruling house.

The court is, however, yet to fix a date for the hearing of the suit.

Nigeria leads African countries to sign Petroleum Regulatory Charter

•AFRIPERF Charter to promote investments, harmonisation of petroleum regulations

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

NIGERIA has, once again, demonstrated leadership in Africa's oil and gas sector by spearheading the signing of a charter to birth the African Petroleum Regulators Forum, AFRIPERF.

The landmark signing ceremony, chaired by the Commission Chief Executive (CCE) of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Engr. Gbenga Komolafe, took place on Thursday, September 18, 2025, on the sidelines of the 31st edition of the Africa Oil Week (AOW) in Accra, Ghana.

This was contained in a statement by Head, Media and Strategic Communications of NUPRC, Mr. Eniola Akinkuotu.

According to him, the event was gracefully attended by regulators from 16 African countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Gambia, Madagascar, Sudan, Guinea and Togo.

Others in attendance were: Kenya, Mauritania, Benin, Mozambique, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Mo-

rocco.

The Chairman of Nigeria's Senate Committee on Upstream, Senator Etang Williams, was also present as an observer.

At the ceremony, regulators from eight African countries formally endorsed the AFRIPERF Charter, while seven others present expressed support with a pledge to join at a future date after consultations.

Those who signed the charter include: Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Gambia, Madagascar, Sudan, Guinea and Togo.

Also, the milestone is the climax of the proposal first introduced by Engr. Komolafe last year when he championed the creation of AFRIPERF to strengthen petroleum governance across Africa.

The Forum held its inaugural meeting in July 2024, followed by a second gathering in November 2024, setting the stage for Thursday's breakthrough.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Engr. Komolafe, who doubles as the interim chairman of the forum, described the landmark 4th AFRIPERF meeting and Charter Signing Ceremony as a decisive step towards building a harmon-

ised and sustainable petroleum industry in Africa.

The CCE said as the world navigates complex transitions toward cleaner, more sustainable energy systems, Africa must ensure that its vast hydrocarbon resources are managed with innovation, responsibility and foresight.

Komolafe said: "From our initial announcement at the 8th SAIPEC, to our inauguration during the NOG 2024 event and the careful drafting of the AFRIPERF Charter, each milestone has brought us closer to this historic day.

"By activating our Executive Committee, Technical Committee and Secretariat, we are establishing the functional pillars that will drive AFRIPERF forward, ensuring that our shared vision is translated into measurable results with defined timelines and accountability."

The Executive Committee will serve as the principal oversight body guiding the implementation of AFRIPERF's objectives, while its membership is for heads of Africa's oil and gas regulatory bodies/agencies.

"The Technical Committee will be activated as needed

based on thematic or sectoral priorities arising from the Executive Committee or broader membership while its membership will be drawn from subject matter experts from member countries and partners to handle matters regarding specific regulatory areas and industry issues.

"AFRIPERF provides regulators with the mechanism to harmonise our policies, address shared challenges and ensure that our perspectives are not only heard but respected on the global stage.

"I strongly recommend that we consider forging a strong partnership with Africa Oil Week (AOW) by aligning the AFRIPERF Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the dates and venue of AOW, as this will help boost attendance and engagement.

"The AFRIPERF Charter defines both the mission and vision of the Forum. Its mission is to enhance cooperation and collaboration among African petroleum regulators, to ensure a safe, efficient, rewarding, equitable, and sustainable petroleum industry."

The Forum is also designed with the bold vision "to be the premier platform for African petroleum regulators to share knowledge, best practices, and expertise, in order to attain regional excellence in petroleum regulation."



TRAINING—From left: Training Officer, Nigerian Red Cross, Bayelsa State branch, Frank Lucky; Corps member and project initiator, Miss Blessing Nwokeoma; Principal, Government Secondary School, Ovom, Yenagoa, Mrs. Tanize Thomas, and Trainer, Divine Dick, Ogu Detachment Commandant, Yenagoa, during the first aid training for students to mark her community devt. service.

Mbah's 2nd tenure, done deal —Nkanu stakeholders

PEOPLE of Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State, yesterday said Governor Peter Mbah's re-election is a done deal, citing the governor's superlative performance in just two years.

They gave the assurance at Amagunze, headquarters of Nkanu East council, during the grand finale of a statewide sensitisation programme on the ongoing continuous voter registration exercise organised by the Enugu State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

The Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP in Enugu State, Dr. Martin Chukwunwike, said the sensitisation was imperative to ensure that no eligible vote was lost in order to sustain the good work the governor was doing in the state.

Chukwunwike, who was represented by Deputy Chairman of the party in the state, Barr. Steve Oruro, said, "We have seen the quality of governance in Enugu State that needs to be shielded by the masses. This particular governor has bridged the gap between government and the governed. The masses now have faith in what their governor is doing. We have seen lots of developmental strides to the extent that beyond party affiliation, the All

Progressives Congress-led presidency has recognised the fact that Enugu is delivering. As of today, the presidency has given the governor of Enugu two awards. Enugu was again recently awarded ₦100 million as the cleanest state in the federation.

"Now the only way the masses can respond is to come out in their numbers to show absolute support for the government, and that can only come by the masses ensuring that they register to vote. When you are talking about voting strength and you have not gotten your PVC, you are literally wasting your time," he stated.

A former Deputy Governor of Enugu State, Dr. Sunday Onyebuchi, in commending the sensitisation, described Mbah's re-election as "a done deal" and urged all the stakeholders to go to their villages to ensure that all the eligible voters who did not register in the last exercise were duly registered.

"You can assume comfortably that Governor Mbah will get more than 90 per cent of the votes in Nkanu East. But coming to tell our people to participate in the INEC continuous voter registration exercise is to ensure that Nkanu East returns the highest number of votes come 2027."

Igbo leader urges members to respect host community

By Esther Onyegbula

NEWLY inaugurated President-General of the Igbo Speaking Community in Lagos State, Chief Sunday Udeh, has called on members of the community to show respect to their host state and work in harmony with traditional rulers and government authorities.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the group's new executive council in Lagos, Udeh stressed that the unity of the Igbo in Lagos would only be meaningful if it was anchored on peaceful coexistence and respect for the customs and traditions of their Yoruba host community.

"I want to advise the Igbo to make sure they respect our host state. One of my major priorities is ensuring that the Igbo in Lagos pay due respect to traditional rulers and, to that effect, we are setting up a

Lagos team that will guide us in observing local festivals and customs, so that our people do not act in ways that can cause misunderstanding."

Udeh, who acknowledged the high expectations from his leadership, promised to prioritise reconciliation of factions within Igbo organisations in Lagos. He noted that the resolution of internal divisions would enable Igbo to speak with one voice and contribute more positively to development in the state.

Immediate past President General of the association, Chief Sunday Eze, pledged support for Udeh's administration, urging the new executive to sustain peace and unity within the Igbo community. "For a very long time, we have been divided. We don't want acrimony anymore. We must be at peace within ourselves so we can be at peace with our host community," he said.

Abia farmer cries out over destruction of crops, farmland by cows

By Steve Oko

MRS Felicia Nwokonte from Umuana Ndume in Umuahia North Local Government Area of Abia State, has cried out over the total destruction of her crops and farmland located near Obioma quarters behind Timber Shed Market, Umuahia, by cows.

The 53-year-old mother of four, who said she was into farming to support the family, told Vanguard that she could not recognise her farm again, as cows not only ate up the crops in the farm but also completely leveled the entire farmland in a fenced plot of land.

Narrating her ordeal to our Correspondent, Mrs Nwokonte accused the herders of breaking the padlock with which she locked the entrance gate to the fenced plot of land before grazing their flock on the farm.

"I could not recognize my farm again. All the cassava, yams, vegetables, and other crops that I planted were eaten up by cows. They turned the farmland into a football pitch. It's like the Fulani boys rearing the cows are sleeping inside my farm."

Describing the destruction of her farm as cruelty and height of wickedness, the mother of four called on the Abia State Government to come to her aid.

Ohanaeze, Igbo Bishops plead for Kanu's release

By Anayo Okoli, Chidi Nkwopara & Dennis Agbo

ENUGU — Apex Igbo socio-cultural organisation, Ohanaeze Ndigbo and a body of clergy identified as Igbo Bishops, have called on the Federal Government to release the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, stating that the government has no justification for continuing to detain him.

The apex Igbo body also called on the Igbo across Nigeria to go and register and get their voters' cards in the on-going INEC registration exercise.

Ohanaeze Ndigbo made the call through a video released by its President General, Sen. John Azuka Mbata.

Mbata called on the Federal Government to adopt a political solution to resolve Nnamdi Kanu's case.

In the video, Mbata said: "I would like to call on Ndigbo Nile (all Igbo) wherever you are in Nigeria, to quickly go and take advantage of the voters' registration exercise. Don't joke with it;

go and get your card as quickly as possible.

"Secondly, I would like to call on the President of the Federal Government of Nigeria to quickly release Nnamdi Kanu. The government has no serious advantage in keeping him.

"The government must adopt a political solution to this situation. I do not believe that the government has any serious advantage in keeping him further."

Igbo Bishops

Similarly, representatives of the Fathers of Faith in Igboland have appealed to

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to "release Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, in furtherance of the renewed hope agenda and pursuit of national unity, peace, and peaceful co-existence in the nation".

The plea was made in an open letter to the President, signed by the group's Chairman, Most Rev. Dr. David O. C. Onuoha; Secretary General, Most Rev. Dr. Chibuzo Raphael Opoko; the Catholic Archbishop of Onitsha, Most Rev. Valerian Okeke, and two others.

The clerics said: "The matter

of our son, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, has lingered for years and continues to cast a shadow of tension and unease across the South East region.

"While his agitation arose from perceived injustice and marginalisation, we cannot ignore the fact that criminal elements have hijacked the process, leading to insecurity, economic disruption, and avoidable loss of lives in our region.

"We, as Fathers of Faith, acknowledge that the case is before the court and adjourned to 10 October 2025, for continuation of the hearing."

S-East traditional rulers laud governors' devt strides

....Harp on regional devt

By Jeff Agbodo

ABAKALIKI — SOUTH East Traditional Rulers Council has commended the governors of the zone for

their development strides across the states.

The monarchs said that the South East governors have woken up to their responsibilities of providing adequate infrastructural development over the years.

The Chairman of the South East Traditional Rulers Council, Dr. E. C. Okeke, who stated this in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State capital, during their conference, said that they were impressed by the rapid development cutting across the zone.

He said that the current South East governors have shown capacity and demonstrated willpower to take the zone to the next level.

Igwe Okeke described Ebonyi State as a tourism centre with many aesthetic projects that beautify the state capital, saying that successive administrations have attracted many projects in the state.

The monarch also commended President Bola Tinubu for championing a regional development where each region or state can manage its resources.

Enugu to generate 1,000MW from coal

—Gov. Mbah

GOVERNOR Peter Mbah of Enugu State has declared that coal deposits in the state would be used to generate 1,000mw of power and would not be treated as a stranded asset without adequate compensation.

Mbah explained that coal deposits in the state have about 0.5 sulphuric content, saying he was counting on technology to make the impact of coal utilisation on the environment minimal.

Mbah spoke, yesterday in Lagos, when he was the guest of the Nigeria British Chamber of Commerce, NBCC, "Meet The Governor Series," where he presented a business case for investing in Enugu State.

He said: "We cannot treat our coal as a stranded asset, particularly the Enugu coal, which is a premium coal.

"Our target is to see how we

can use our coal to generate at least 1000 megawatts of power. We do have technology today that makes coal utilisation less adverse to the environment. Essentially, that is the direction for us.

"Coal deposits in Enugu have less than 0.5 percent sulphur content. For a lot of coal, if you have 1.0 percent you are still okay. But we have 0.5 percent.

"Our coal is also very good to fire power plants due to its high calorific value. So, we are on that and we are not going to warehouse our coal resources.

"However, if we have to warehouse or treat coal as a stranded asset, then there has to be a conversation on compensation."

Mbah also said that his administration had cut crime rate in the state by 80 percent and was putting infrastructure in place to attract three million visitors per year.

"Businesses are not designed to absorb security challenges."



VISIT—CMD, University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, Prof. (Mrs) Idia Ize-Iyamu (1st left), flanked by management staff of the hospital, during a courtesy visit to the Oba of Benin, HRM Oba Ewuare II, at the Oba's Palace, in Benin City, yesterday.

By Luminous
Jannamike

ABUJA—THE Warri Indigenous Peoples Movement, WIPM, has called on the Federal Government to take decisive action against large-scale crude oil theft networks operating in the Niger Delta, while demanding equitable treatment for the Itsekiri ethnic nationality, a people whose lands host some of Nigeria's most strategic oil assets.

The appeal came as the group distanced itself from a protest staged at the Nigerian National

Tackle high-level oil theft, WIPM urges FG

....Distances self from anti-Ojulari protest

Petroleum Company Limited, NNPC, Towers headquarters in Abuja, where some Niger Delta groups demanded the removal of the company's Group Chief Executive, Engr. Bayo Ojulari.

Speaking during a counter-rally, General Secretary of WIPM, Comrade Monoyo Edon, said the Itsekiri people had

no hand in the anti-Ojulari demonstration and were committed instead to peaceful dialogue and constructive engagement with the Federal Government and NNPC.

"We wish to state clearly and unequivocally that the Itsekiri Ethnic Nationality is not involved in any protest or campaign calling for the removal of

Engr. Bayo Ojulari.

"Our focus remains on fostering unity and progress, not division, and on addressing the real issues affecting our communities," Edon declared.

He emphasised that the Itsekiri, one of the oldest and most prominent oil-producing groups in the country, were more concerned about stopping the systemic plunder of national resources through illegal bunkering.

He urged all stakeholders to pursue reforms through lawful and transparent processes that would bring sustainable peace to the Niger Delta.

"Concerns about past policies or decisions of the NNPC should be addressed through proper oversight and due process. Any calls for reviews or investigations must be made responsibly and through the appropriate government institutions," he said.

Also speaking at the rally, Chairman of WIPM, Kingsley Tenumah, urged the Federal Government to direct its energy toward dismantling the powerful cartels responsible for large-scale oil theft on the high seas rather than targeting only small-scale operators in the creeks.

"We want the authorities to go after the high-level oil bunkerers in the Niger Delta region, the ones operating on the high seas, not just the small-scale jerrycan bunkerers. Shiploads of illegal Nigerian crude oil are being taken out of this country on a daily basis," Tenumah said.

\$6bn loss: Firm urges action on methane emissions

By Jeremiah
Urowayino

NETZEN Sustainability Limited, has called for urgent action to address Nigeria's methane emissions, warning that air pollution is already costing the economy over \$6 billion annually.

The firm's Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dr.

Edo cautions companies fueling boundary dispute with Delta

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—THE government of Edo State, yesterday, cautioned companies against creating a boundary dispute between it and its neighbour, Delta State, just as it called on the Federal Government through the National Boundary Commission, NBC, for adjudication and adjustment in the areas of disputes between the two states.

The call was made by the Deputy Governor of Edo State, Dennis Idahosa who visited the disputed area on behalf of the state government.

A statement issued by Idahosa's Chief Press Secretary, Friday Aghedo said Idahosa was accompanied on the visit by the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG), Zone 5, Salman-Dogo Garba, and other top security officials.

The statement said Idahosa urged the affected communities to remain peaceful and law-abiding, stressing that the dispute was being handled at the highest level of national authority.

Corps member trains Bayelsa students in lifesaving skills, SDGs

A National Youth Service Corps member, Blessing Nwokeoma, has trained over 40 students of Government Secondary School, Ovom, Yenegoa in Bayelsa State, on basic first aid and Sustainable Development Goals.

The exercise, part of her Community Development Service, was held in partnership with the Nigerian Red Cross Society and the Nigeria Network of NGOs.

Trainers taught the students how to handle emergencies, provide basic life support, and respond to accidents at school and in their communities.

While speaking with newsmen after the event, Nwokeoma said the initiative would equip teenagers in the community with skills that could save lives, while partners commended her for raising a new generation of first aiders.

She said, "The training aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4 and 17, which

"We are here at the boundary to see the disputed area and the actual demarcation. We are appealing to the Federal Government and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to ensure that the NBC steps in and expedites action so that this dispute is resolved once and for all.

"This River Ethiop is a natural boundary. We don't want a crisis in the South-South or between Edo and Delta States. We are brothers, having once been the Bendel State before Delta was created. We want peace, and we want the right thing done quickly," he said.

While addressing residents of Urhionigbe Community in

Orhionmwon Local Government Area, he reassured them of his administration's commitment to safeguarding their interests, but urged restraint.

"Please don't take laws into your hands. As a government, we will protect the territorial integrity of Edo State. But we must maintain peace and harmony with our neighbours while this matter is before the NBC," he pleaded.

stress the need for goodness and well-being, quality education and partnership respectively."

In his remarks, the Executive Director, Nigeria Network of NGOs, Oyebisi B. Oluseyi, expressed delight at the training and commended Nwokeoma for undertaking it.

He said, "I am particularly thrilled that Blessing is carrying out these important activities as a personal Community Development Service initiative, a volunteer project that reinforces active citizenship.

"As we raise the profile of skills-based volunteering in Nigeria, we at the Nigeria Network of NGOs are glad that this initiative is also supported by the Nigerian Red Cross Society, a foremost volunteer-based organisation.

"Giving life-saving skills to teenagers adds to the pool of individuals who already have this skill that is necessary for keeping life going in an emergency."

Edo leaders query Obaseki's N5bn Ossimo power bills

By Precious
Okunowo

BENIN CITY—EDO Leaders of Thought, a prominent civil society organisation, has raised fresh concerns over the opaque operations of Ossimo Power Company Limited, alleging inflated tariffs, questionable billing practices, and undue state patronage under the immediate past administration of Governor Godwin Obaseki.

The group said its concerns followed the circulation of an unsigned statement purportedly from Ossimo, which it dismissed as "faceless, poorly conceived and lacking credibility."

It noted that no serious corporate entity issues anonymous press releases and vowed to separate fact from fiction in the growing controversy.

According to its Coordinator, Momodu Adams, the group embarked on an independent inquiry into the relationship between the Edo State Government and Ossimo Power. Findings, he said, showed that the state has no equity in Ossimo, which is entirely privately owned.

Despite this, Adams explained, the government under Obaseki became deeply entangled with the firm, paying billions of naira in what the group

described as "inflated and unstable" electricity charges.

"From January to November 2024 alone, more than ₦5 billion was paid by the Obaseki administration to Ossimo for powering government facilities. Monthly bills ranged from ₦308 million to as high as ₦718 million, with the heaviest charges coming shortly after his party lost the 2024

Court stops LG by-elections in Edo

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—AN Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City, has restrained the Edo State Independent Electoral Commission, EDSIEC, and the State Government from going ahead with the planned local government by-elections across 59 wards in the state.

Justice Mary Itsueli, sitting as a vacation judge, granted the order, following an ex-parte motion brought by the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP.

The PDP, through its counsels, Oluwole Uzzi, Michael Ekwemuka, and P. W. Akwuen, in the suit, B/247M/2025, prayed the court for leave to apply for judicial review of EDSIEC's decision to conduct by-elections to fill councillorship positions in the affected wards.

The party argued that the

governorship election," Adams revealed.

The group accused the Obaseki government of deliberately refusing to install meters in government establishments throughout its eight years in office. It stated that instead, agencies operated under estimated post-paid billing, which guaranteed Ossimo hefty monthly inflows without proof of actual consumption.

councillors' tenures remain valid until September 2026, making any attempt to declare their seats vacant unlawful.

In the Certified True Copy, CPC, of the ruling sighted by Vanguard, late yesterday, the judge ruled that "the respondents are to stay further actions and are restrained from conducting the election or taking any further steps in connection with the planned Local Government by-election across 59 wards in the local government areas of Edo State, particularly as it relates to the seats/offices of the duly elected Councillors in their respective wards, pending the hearing and determination of the originating motion on notice for Judicial review to be filed, pursuant to the grant of leave.

"This case is referred to the Chief Judge for assignment to a regular court. Return date is September 30, 2025."



UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC.
...OUR WORD IS OUR BOND RC 2460

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC
2024 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at 31, DECEMBER 2024

Assets	NOTES	GROUP		COMPANY	
		31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23
		N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6	3,102,043	1,137,146	3,098,572	1,137,011
Financial Assets	7	2,346,623	3,049,565	2,346,623	3,049,565
Premium Receivable	8	192,476	45,613	192,356	45,564
Reinsurance Contract Assets	9	1,665,403	970,622	1,665,403	970,622
Deferred tax assets	21.a	403,685	403,685	403,685	403,685
Other Receivables	10	594,767	513,418	584,038	459,876
Investment in Subsidiaries	11	-	-	2,788,184	2,788,184
Investment Properties	12	7,812,334	6,138,229	3,607,000	2,408,229
Intangible Asset	13	100,467	69,061	100,467	69,061
Property, Plant and Equipment	14	5,640,734	4,460,130	5,249,639	4,068,903
Statutory Deposits	15	335,000	335,000	335,000	335,000
Total Assets		22,193,531	17,122,470	20,370,968	15,735,670
Liabilities					
Insurance Contract Liabilities	16	5,880,378	4,138,492	5,880,378	4,138,492
Borrowings	17	-	-	-	-
Trade payables	18	786,813	289,019	770,560	766,673
Other payables	19	123,370	66,729	123,370	66,187
Reinsurance Contract Liabilities		-	-	-	-
Employee benefit liability	20	-	-	-	-
Income Tax liabilities	21	47,756	16,778	46,556	31,297
Deferred tax liabilities	22	386,668	386,668	296,875	296,875
Total Liabilities		7,224,985	4,897,686	7,117,738	5,299,524
Equity					
Issued and paid Share capital	23.1	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000
Share Premium	23.2	825,018	825,018	825,018	825,018
Contingency Reserves	23.3	1,623,340	1,164,923	1,623,340	1,164,923
Fair value reserve	23.4	952,350	952,350	952,350	952,350
Non Current assets revaluation reserve	23.5	3,707,173	2,904,343	1,571,159	768,329
Retained Earning	23.6	(139,335)	(1,621,850)	281,363	(1,274,473)
Shareholders funds		14,968,546	12,224,784	13,253,229	10,436,146
Other equity instruments		-	-	-	-
Non - controlling interests		-	-	-	-
TOTAL EQUITY & LIABILITIES		22,193,530	17,122,470	20,370,968	15,735,670

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors on May 12, 2025

JEFF DURU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FRC/2018/CIIN/00000018014

EKEOPARA DORIS
CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
FRC/2014/ICAN/00000009074



UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC.
...OUR WORD IS OUR BOND RC 2460

UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC
2024 ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

Consolidated statement of profit or loss and Other Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2024	Note	GROUP		COMPANY	
		31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-23
		N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
Insurance Revenue	24a	13,760,500	8,006,851	13,760,500	8,006,851
Insurance service expenses	24b	(10,522,591)	(5,991,966)	(10,522,591)	(5,991,966)
Insurance service result from insurance contracts issued		3,237,909	2,014,885	3,237,909	2,014,885
Net income (expenses) from reinsurance contracts held	24c	(440,862)	(477,528)	(440,862)	(477,528)
Insurance service result	34	2,797,047	1,537,357	2,797,047	1,537,357
Interest calculated using the effective interest method					
Other investment income	25a	308,879	145,408	308,879	145,408
Net fair value gains/(losses) on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7.a	(649,543)	523,678	(649,543)	523,678
Net fair value gain/(loss) on investment properties	25.c	1,198,771	131,815	1,198,771	131,815
Net credit impairment losses	26	(3,921)	2,853	(3,921)	2,853
Net Investment Income		854,187	849,809	854,187	803,755
Finance income (expenses) from insurance contracts issued	34	87,679	(242,986)	87,679	(242,986)
Finance income (expenses) from reinsurance contracts held	34	61,079	23,200	61,079	23,200
Net insurance finance expenses		148,758	(219,786)	148,758	(219,786)
Net Insurance and Investment Result		3,799,991	2,167,381	3,799,991	2,167,381
Other operating and administrative expenses (Non attributable)	27	(1,811,171)	(1,704,377)	(1,739,183)	(1,640,664)
Profit before Tax		1,988,821	542,102	2,060,809	526,716
Income Tax Expense	20	(47,756)	(12,043)	(46,556)	(12,043)
Profit for the Year		1,941,065	530,059	2,014,253	514,673
Other comprehensive income / (expense)					
Items reclassified to profit and loss					
Revaluation surplus on PPE		802,830	380,304	802,830	-
Items that will not be reclassified to profit and loss					
Finance income (expenses) from insurance contracts issued		-	-	-	-
Finance income (expenses) from reinsurance contracts held		-	-	-	-
Tax		-	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the year net of tax		802,830	380,304	802,830	-
Unrealised fair value gain		-	945,890	-	945,890
Total comprehensive income for the year		2,743,895	1,856,253	2,817,083	1,460,563



UKWUEGBU, OGBELEJE & CO.

(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)

23, Rasaki Shittu Street, Isheri-Osun; P.O. Box 53830, Falomo, Lagos.
Newton Hotels Ltd Complex, Plot H2, Imo Specialist Hospital Rd, New Owerri, Imo State
Tel no: 08033006646, 08033047135; Email: consultants@uocng.net, essenceicu@yahoo.com
Website: www.uocng.net

Partners: Ifechukwu C. Ukwuegbu, B.Sc, MNCS, FCA; Evaristus C. Ogbeleje, MPA, ACIT, FCA.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Universal Insurance Plc
Report on the audit of the financial statements of Universal Insurance Plc for the year ended 31st December 2024

What we have audited:

We have audited the accompanying consolidated and separate financial statements of Universal Insurance Plc (the company) and its subsidiary (together the group)

Universal Insurance Plc's consolidated, and separate financial statements comprise:

- The consolidated and separate statements of financial position as at 31 December 2024;
- The consolidated and separate statements of comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- The consolidated and separate statements of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- The consolidated and separate statements of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- The notes to the consolidated and separate financial statements, which include a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) Professional Code of Conduct and Guide for Accountants and other independent requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in Nigeria. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the ICAN Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in Nigeria. The ICAN Code is consistent with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) (Parts A and B).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated and separate financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In accordance with the requirements of the Schedule 6 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, CAP C20 LFN 2020 and Section 28(2) of the Insurance Act 2003, we expressly state that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- The Company has kept proper books of account, so far as appears from our examination of those books and returns adequate for our audit have been received from branches not visited by us.

The Company's statements of financial position and comprehensive income agree with the books of account and returns.

Contraventions

The Company did not contravene in any of the requirements of National Insurance Commission, or the Insurance Act in the year under review.

compliance with FRC Guideline on Assurance Engagement Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria, we performed a limited assurance engagement and reported on management assessment of the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2024. The work performed was done in accordance with ISAE 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and the FRC Guidance on Assurance Engagement Reports on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. We have issued an unmodified conclusion in our report dated May 12, 2025

Ukwuegbu, Ogbeleje & Co.
(Chartered Accountants)
Lagos, Nigeria

Engagement Partner: Evaristus C. Ogbeleje FCA
FRC/2015/PRO/ICAN/004/00000010796
May 12, 2025

NOTICE OF 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC {RC No. 2460}

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 55th Annual General Meeting of UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC. will be held at The Grandeur Events Center, 17 Billings Way, Oregon, Ikeja, Lagos State, on Thursday, the 23rd Day of October 2025 at 10.00 a.m. prompt to transact the following business:

Ordinary Business:

- To lay before the Members, the Report of the Directors and the Audited Financial Statements together with the Auditors and Audit Committee Reports for the year ended 31st December 2024.
- To authorize the Directors to appoint External Auditors.
- To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
- To re-elect Directors.
- To elect members of the Audit Committee.
- To disclose the remuneration of Managers of the Company in Compliance with Section 257 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

Special Business

- To determine the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors.
- To seek approval from members to recapitalize the Company

Notes:

- Proxy: Any member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. For the appointment of the proxy to be valid for this meeting, a Proxy Form must be completed and emailed to info@camationregistrars.com or deposited at the office of the Registrars, Camation Registrars Limited, 2, Gbagada Expressway, Anthony, Lagos not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. A blank Proxy Form is attached to the Annual Report and may also be downloaded from the Company's website at www.universalinsuranceplc.com.

- Closure of Register and Transfer Books: The Register of Members shall be closed from 13th October to 16th October 2025, (both days inclusive) for the purpose of updating the Register of Members.

- To Determine the Remuneration of Non-Executive Directors: In accordance with Section 253(1) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap C20, Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2020, the remuneration of the Directors shall be determined by members in general meeting.

- Nomination of Statutory Audit Committee Members: In accordance with Section 404(6) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap C20, Laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2020, any member may nominate a shareholder as a member of the Statutory Audit Committee by giving notice in writing of such nomination to the Company Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before the Annual General Meeting. Such notice of nominations should be sent via email to chinedu.onyilimba@universalinsuranceplc.com.

- Re-election of Mr. Jasper Nduagwuike as a Director: In accordance with Section 265(1) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, Mr. Jasper Nduagwuike will retire by rotation and being eligible, offers himself for re-election. His profile is contained in the Annual Report and also on the Company's website.

- Rights of Security Holders to Ask Questions: In compliance with Rule 19.12(c) of the Nigerian Stock Exchange's Rulebook 2015, a member and other Security Holder of the Company have a right to ask questions not only at the Annual General Meeting, but also in writing prior to the Meeting, and such questions must be submitted at least one week before the meeting. Kindly send all questions to info@universalinsuranceplc.com.

- E-Annual Report: The electronic version of the annual report (e-annual report) can be downloaded from the Company's website www.universalinsuranceplc.com. The e-annual report will be emailed to shareholders who have provided their email addresses to the Registrars. Shareholders who wish to receive the e-annual report are kindly requested to send an email to info@universalinsuranceplc.com or info@camationregistrars.com.

- Website: A copy of this Notice and other information relating to the meeting can be found on the Company's website at www.universalinsuranceplc.com

Dated This 19th day of September 2025

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

CHINEDU A. ONYILIMBA, ESQ.
COMPANY SECRETARY

FRC/2016/NBA/00000015776



Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VANGUARD NEWSPAPER



**The carcasses of vehicles burnt by a mob in Jos*



**Davou's house after it was vandalised by a mob*

Plateau: From Home of Hospitality to hub of jungle justice

...Irate mobs now kill, burn suspects on the spot

By Marie-Therese Nanlong

Jos— For decades, Plateau State was branded as the home of hospitality. It was acclaimed for its peaceful disposition to issues, and there was no report of jungle justice or inexplicable resort to criminality—looting, burning or stealing in the public space. But all that has fizzled into the oblivion, as mobs, irate elements and hoodlums have taken over the space and have been violating the law by killing, burning anyone accused of theft, or breach of any moral code. Rather than report such actions to the police or any other law-enforcement agency, irate gangs execute the suspect instantly and move on, in a manner that speaks of primitivism and lawlessness in an age of civilization and progress. In the circumstance, Plateau and many of its communities have now gained a notoriety of jungle justice arising from years of brutal killing, lynching and burning of people suspected of committing any form of crime. These heinous and malevolent acts have not only stained the image of the communities but have also left in their wake grief and unmitigated losses in human and material resources.

For instance, in 2022, a young man accused of theft in the Eto Baba area of Jos had a little chance to defend himself before an irate mob descended on him, beating him to death in full public glare. His pleas of innocence were drowned in a frenzy of rage. The matter sparked days of tension and disturbances but quietly fizzled without justice served.

Barely a year later, in 2023, the Tudun Wada axis of the city witnessed another incident. Then came 2024 in the Jenta Adamu community of Jos, where some suspected cultists were lynched before the police could arrive. Despite investigations and media

outrage, the perpetrators largely walked free.

A few weeks ago, a woman, identified as CeCe, accused of stealing a drunkard's manhood, was almost lynched over a false alarm.

These chilling episodes illustrate a grim pattern: a culture where suspicion, fear, and misinformation replace the rule of law. In each case, mobs turned into judges, prosecutors and executioners, leaving behind trails of sorrow and impunity.

Sadly, the latest victim of this deadly cycle is Davou Boyi, a physically-challenged man from Vom in the Jos South LGA, whose life was torn apart by mob violence.

What began as a Sunday tragedy spiraled into a horror story that has left him broken in body and spirit. On April 27, 2025, some three children attending Sunday service in a church in the Dankarang community, Kuru District, strayed into a car parked in Davou's compound. Unnoticed,

they played inside, but tragedy struck when two of them suffocated and died, while one miraculously survived.

Davou, unaware of their presence, had been away at church. Returning home late, he went to bed, and left home again the next day, but on his return on Monday evening, he discovered the children in his car and quickly alerted neighbours, the police, and vigilante members. But before he could process the shock, rumours had swept through the community. Someone accused him of ritual sacrifice, branding him a murderer.

The mob did not want to hear anything from Davou. They instantly descended on him with fury. "They hit me from behind, beat me mercilessly, threw tyres on me, ready to set me ablaze," Davou recalled. Neighbours, who pleaded for him, were also attacked. Only the timely arrival of Police from Kaduna Vom Division saved him from instant death.

But the mob's thirst for vengeance had only begun. While Davou was being treated in a clinic, they looted his house, destroyed property worth over N50 million, and eventually set it on fire. But they were not yet done. The most gruesome part of the blow came when his elder sister, Laraba Gyang, a mother of five and civil servant nearing retirement, arrived at the scene to seek explanations for the ill-treatment of her brother. The mob swooped on her, dragged her, beat her, and set her ablaze. She was burnt alive. In other words, she was killed by the mob, who saw no reason for her attempt to enquire about her brother's fate.

"It was wickedness," lamented Pastor Ovey Abene, who has known Davou for over two decades. "Davou is a peace-loving man. Those responsible must be

punished."

Lawyers and rights advocates agree. "Mob action is criminal and dangerous. In a civilized society, suspects should be handed over to the Police. Such behaviour can incite ethno-religious violence," warned Leah Hassan, Chairperson of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, Jos branch.

Amnesty International, through its Nigeria representative Sanusi Isa, has also demanded justice, urging authorities not to allow the case to be swept under the carpet.

From Eto Baba to Tudun Wada, Jenta Adamu to Vom, Plateau's story is now stained with repeated mob killings that trample on justice and mock the rule of law. Jungle justice is not bravery, it is barbarism. It is not community protection, it is cold-blooded murder. Each time a mob takes the law into its hands, it destroys lives, fuels fear, and deepens the wounds of a fragile society.

The death of Laraba Gyang and the destruction of her brother Davou's life should be the final warning bell. Plateau State cannot continue to excuse lawless killings under the guise of anger or suspicion.

Authorities must fish out perpetrators, prosecute them publicly, and show that no one, no matter his or her position, is above the law. Community leaders, religious figures, and parents must also rise to educate followers that violence is never justice.

If nothing is done, Davou's case will be just another name on a long, bloody list. But if taken seriously, it can be the turning point that finally ends mob action on the Plateau. Society owes it to Davou, to Laraba, and to every past victim of jungle justice to ensure that this shameful cycle is broken, once and for all.

From distress to stability: Stranded Benue female IDPs gifted economic lifeline

...as Centre avails displaced women vocational training to become self-reliant

By Peter Duru, Makurdi

..my children no more need to sweep market stalls to enable us feed - physically-challenged mother

There is no gain saying that the impact of armed herdsmen attacks on communities is being felt more by women and children. Over time, many have not only been sacked from their ancestral homes but have also had their sources of livelihood destroyed, leaving them without options than to seek refuge in internally displaced person camps.

Many of the displaced and traumatised women and their children also lost their husbands, fathers and bread winners to the attacks in several of the invaded communities. The surviving women and children have as a result been forced into seeking solace in IDPs camps, while also contending with menial jobs to augment whatever they get from the government and kind-hearted individuals and organisations for survival.

That is the pathetic story of many of the displaced families taking refuge in several of the IDPs camps scattered across Benue State. Widows who have been left to bear the burden of catering for the needs of their

children whose fathers had since been slaughtered by marauding armed herdsmen in Benue communities, now dominate the IDP centres spread across the state.

One of such victims is 35-year-old physically challenged mother of three, Mnena Juku, who currently lives with her three children at the Daudu II IDPs camp in Guma Local Government Area, LGA.

With a challenge that inhibits her movement, the mother of three is now left to rue her fate after her husband was murdered by armed herdsmen. Hear her: "It happened six years ago when we were forced to flee our community to reside in the IDPs camp. On that fateful day, well-armed Fulani herdsmen attacked Akaha village, a Tiv settlement in Obi LGA of neighbouring Nasarawa State.

"That attack left many persons dead, while many others sustained injuries. This was in late 2019. I was lucky because I was born with my physical deformity and I

cannot walk without clutches. And in this instance when they attacked, my husband was not at home. He went to the farm and did not know that we were under attack.

"But luckily for me I was able to gather my children and we ran into a nearby forest in our community. We hid there as they were shooting and burning down people's houses and it was from the forest, when we noticed that they had withdrawn that we escaped to the camp in Dauda till day.

"But unfortunately because there was no way we could alert my husband that we were attacked, after working in the farm which was far away from our community he returned home and walked into an ambush by the armed herdsmen in our village. And when they caught him, they dragged him to the village and killed him there."

Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com



**Mnena Juku*



Voice

A PUBLICATION OF VANGUARD NEWSPAPER

Kaduna residents optimistic, cautious over FG's moves to revive dead textile industry

By Ibrahim Hassan-Wuyo

Kaduna was for decades, the heartbeat of Nigeria's textile industry. It was a thriving industrial city powered by industrial machines, bustling factories, and a workforce that once stood in the tens of thousands.

The city's Kakuri area, in particular, was a vibrant industrial hub where workers ran shifts, operated round the clock, and the textiles, according to analysts, were among the state's biggest employers after government.

Sadly, the story has taken a bad turn in recent years. The once-flourishing textile factories were grounded by series of challenges, ranging from the dumping of substandard foreign products, especially from China, to poor power supply, weak policy enforcement, and rising production costs. The result was mass unemployment, deepening poverty, and a surge in crime as thousands of skilled and unskilled workers were left stranded with no alternatives.

When one visits the industrial areas, the sight of abandoned factory buildings now overrun by weeds, rodents, and in some cases used as criminal hideouts, became symbolic of a fallen giant in Nigeria's industrial history.

However, hope appears to be on the horizon once again, as barely a week after the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, assured stakeholders in Kaduna that President Bola Tinubu's administration is committed to reviving dormant industries across the North, a Federal Government delegation led by the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, Senator John Owan Enoh, commenced an inspection tour of key textile facilities in the state.

The tour is part of Agenda 7 under the President's 8-point economic agenda, which emphasises industrial revitalisation, job creation, and inclusive growth.

During his visit, Senator Enoh toured the facilities of United Nigeria Textiles Limited, UNTL, and Chellco Industries, two



*UNTL... for revival

iconic names in Kaduna's textile history. He stressed that the revival of UNTL is critical to restoring investor confidence and jump-starting a broader industrial transformation in the country.

The symbolic importance of this move wasn't lost on stakeholders. Speaking during the minister's visit, His Royal Highness, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, the Emir of Kano and Chairman of UNTL, lamented the 2022 shutdown of the factory due to economic headwinds, despite its legacy of employing over 10,000 people at its peak.

Sanusi warned that without

urgent government intervention, the factory's collapse could become permanent. He highlighted persistent challenges facing the textile industry: inconsistent electricity supply, unchecked smuggling of textiles, weak enforcement of intellectual property rights, and lack of institutional support for sourcing local materials, especially for military and paramilitary uniforms.

At the UNTL, the Minister emphasized that textiles revival would restore investors' confidence in Nigeria's textile heritage and catalyse broader industrial growth.

The minister assured stakeholders of the Federal Government's unwavering support, noting that these efforts are part of a broader strategy—Agenda 7 of President Tinubu's 8-Point Agenda—which prioritizes job creation, inclusive economic growth, and sustainable industrial development.

Enoh explained that the ministry had convened stakeholders' engagements to identify and resolve bottlenecks, promote public-private partnerships, work with development partners, strengthen policy frameworks, and support local

manufacturing with a focus on improving export competitiveness.

At Chellco Industries, he praised the resilience of the textile company, commending the management for keeping the factory running since 1980 under trying economic conditions, as it continues to provide jobs for over 290 workers.

A Kaduna resident, Samuel Yusuf, welcome the development, saying the move gives them hope for job creation and economic revival.

He recalled when the textile industry was the city's lifeline. He however, urged government to match words with concrete actions to ensure that the factories get back to life and begin to provide jobs for the teeming unemployed on the streets.

Another Kaduna resident, Elder Oibe Sunday, described the new attempt by government to revive the industry as a step in the right direction, but urged the administration to avoid the mistakes of the past that have kept the industry on its knees till date.

"Good move in the right direction. However, let the previous errors be avoided. Textiles used to be the major employers of workers in the '70s and '80s," Sunday recalled.

An expert, Muhammad Aliyu, however warns that revival won't be automatic or easy. The industry's collapse wasn't due to a single factor and its return requires coordinated policy action across multiple fronts.

Aliyu said: "Addressing energy costs, securing the borders against textile smuggling, financing industrial infrastructure, and reforming procurement laws to favour local production are all essential."

"The Federal Government has promised a new policy framework to drive the process, with support from development agencies and private sector stakeholders. However, sustained political will and practical implementation will be the true test," he added.

As President Tinubu's administration pushes forward with its industrial recovery agenda, stakeholders will be watching closely, not just for promises, but for progress.

Gender Inclusion: NGO trains 20 Kwara women on Artificial Intelligence

By Demola Akinyemi, Ilorin

As part of efforts to promote gender inclusion in Nigeria's Artificial Intelligence, AI and Digital Economy, a non-profit organisation, Webfala Digital Skills for all Initiative, WDSFAI, has completed a six-month training in AI for 20 women in Kwara State under its 'Women in AI fellowship'.

The fellowship, which ran for six months, equipped participants with technical skills of AI, including coding with Python, machine learning, mathematics, and data science, as well as soft skills such as leadership, communication, and problem-solving.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony held in Ilorin recently, the organisation's Executive Director, Nafisat Bakare, congratulated the fellows and encouraged them to continue building on the knowledge they acquired during the fellowship.

"To our graduates, I urge you to continue to build on what you have learnt. Keep improving

yourselves and position yourselves boldly in the technology space. Use social media wisely, not only as a platform to connect but also as a tool to seek and seize opportunities. The world is watching, and the world is waiting for your contribution," Bakare said.

She added that the fellowship demonstrated the organisation's commitment to closing the gender gap in Nigeria's technology ecosystem, declaring that: "The future of AI is not only male but also female; it is inclusive, it is diverse, and it is powerful."

"Our initiative aligns with global efforts to promote gender equality in STEM fields. We are ensuring that women are not only consumers but are also active players and creators of transformative digital solutions."

"We could not have reached this milestone without the generous support of our partners. I want to especially acknowledge the GSR Foundation and The Circle for

believing in this vision and for providing the resources that made this fellowship a reality. Your commitment to empowering women in technology is not only shaping careers but also shaping the future of Nigeria and Africa," she added.

In his keynote address, entrepreneur and life coach, Olusoji Oyawoye, told the fellows to see their graduation as a launchpad, not the end of their journey.

"There is no finish line. Choose a niche, keep learning, strategically position yourselves for growth, leverage social media, and expand your network, especially within your industry," he advised.

Also speaking, the Kwara State Commissioner for Education and Human Capital Development, Dr. Lawal Olohunbebe, commended WDSFAI for its Women in AI fellowship, saying that empowering women benefits their families and the society at large.

The highlight of the event was the 'Women in AI Hackathon,'

which saw five groups from the graduating fellows pitch the various innovative AI-powered projects they developed to address challenges in agriculture, women's health, and education.

The AgroVision group emerged winner of the Hackathon for its food security solution, while the EduLine group came second with its edutech platform for secondary school students. They received N500,000 and N300,000, respectively. The best graduating fellow, Hajarat Olufade, also received a brand-new laptop. Some of the fellows described the fellowship as a life-changing experience. Kafayat Abdulwahab, a product manager, said she learnt a lot from the programme and is ready to apply them.

"I learnt a lot from the Fellowship, from coding with Python to building basic machine learning models, and most importantly, my confidence has improved. I am grateful to Webfala and the partners for investing in us," she said.

Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com

AREWA VOICE TEAM

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Kaduna

Peter Duru, **Makurdi**

Marie-Therese Nanlong, **Jos**

Femi Bolaji, **Jalingo**

Charly Agwam, **Bauchi**

Demola Akinyemi, **Ilorin**

Sweet & Sour

Donu Kogbara



FROM TEMISAN FREN ABILOYE COLLINS Iyara, Warri(08147469295). He is responding to the column that was published on this page on August 28.

It used a story about students' breakfast preferences (many objected to akara and pap) to illustrate how a divided opposition can lose out to an unpopular minority. You can access this column via the Vanguard website.

Dear Donu,

I am awash with much overdue praise for you and your impactful presence on the Niger Delta struggle vis-a-viz the quest for a new Nigeria. I am obliged to make my debut entry into the Nigerian discuss after reading your pathetic Akara and Pap Rodeo.

Kudos to you once again as I state my case. Our democratic experiment which we call Nigeria is not yet ready for the kind of elitist view that Peter Obi represents. My apologies to the Obidients! We still prioritise wealth over will just as much as we break all rules of social order and will never support anything that does not offer immediate gratification. Mark my words! The 2027 election is already on, provided you have an 'NIN' to go along with your account details. The kind of wallet Nigerians are asking for, Peter Obi cannot yet muster. Even Atiku wants to spray money on Nigerians without the courtesy of a smile.

These things don't work like that in our "Nigerian Zoo", where even the

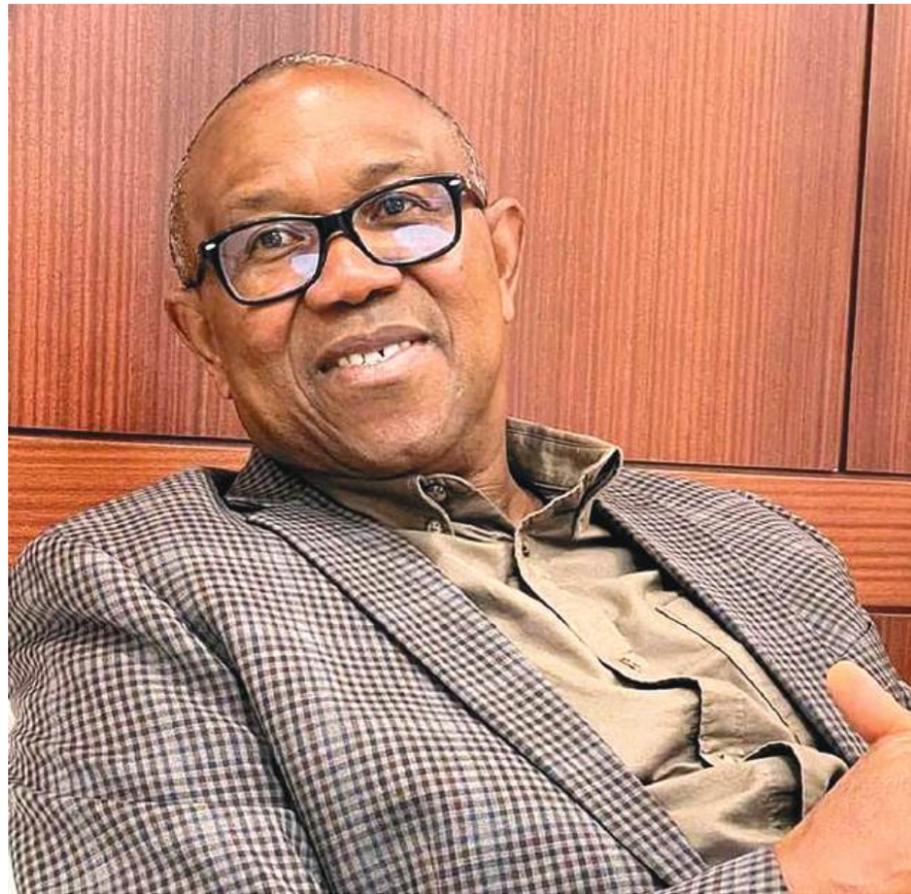
Hyena would fake civility until it has swallowed its prey hook, line and sinker. Let's not forget the Legendary Fela Anikulapokuti too soon: "we are all suffering and yet smiling". Our brand of politics calls for a winner takes it all. We have seen where American Judges call the bluffs of Presidents. This is not possible in NAIJA. Tinubu is simply impossible, we know, but the country and its pettiness in matters that border on religion and ethnicity has made the journey to the top for Obi and Atiku a very lonely one, even though their candidature cannot be entirely ruled out. "Emi lo kan" proved us all wrong (myself included) when he snubbed the arguments against the Muslim – Muslim ticket. This man seems to understand Nigeria and Nigerians.

The carrot and the stick is the way to go(at least Mr. Vice has his own testimonies), and he is still pulling through because greed and avarice is our National Anthem whether be it in the pulpit or the pew. I shall give you another instance.

The sort of wealth and level of audacity and arrogance displayed by the Jagaban so far is nothing but unprecedented. Tinubu did everything all by himself almost without help and even brags about it. Obi cannot muster the financial wherewithal necessary for the kind of electoral madness obtainable and in open display in this paranoia state we call Nigeria.

Peter Obi, other than the Ndigbo factor, thinks like a puritan, a member of

A reader's take on PO



•Peter Obi

some sort of an elite caucus; for though he has the carriage, charisma and follower-ship, the level of awareness and grassroots mobilization plus a think-tank PURSE reminiscent of what was obtainable for him before the currency withdrawal and swap which eventually nailed the coffin of his fundraising prior to the 2023 general elections, which is now needed for him to succeed, has not yet been assembled.

To rule Nigeria, you must learn to dance "surugede - the macabre dance of the gods", which by all indications appears to be alien to the Obi camp (apologies please).

If we must crown Obi President, you will require door to door evangelism, an enlightenment campaign without boundaries and here lies the uphill task facing the Obidient train because I can assure you that even this, as far as Nigeria is concerned, is not free, but seriously capital intensive. And again who will

foot this bill.

The success of the "Per-sonae" called Peter Obi

To rule Nigeria, you must learn to dance "surugede - the macabre dance of the gods", which by all indications appears to be alien to the Obi camp (apologies please)

will require that we go back to the classroom, back to the basics. The entire country all at once has to be fed up with the 'locus standi' to borrow a leaf from my brothers in the legal parlance, but this is not yet the case because there is still no rallying point or genuine consensus among Nigerians on what must remain and that which must go. Akara and pap will go on winning because we still have too many indices combined with a floating decimal, permit me to parade the lexical jargon licensed only to mathematicians. In my view, we are not yet ready, this is why we can afford to take divergent standpoints at every turn when it comes to very pressing national debate.

The major Achilles heel for Obi is not the Igbo factor but the big ele-

phant in the room called "Ohaneze Ndigbo". Up till date, the best Ohaneze could offer is "every Igbo person is free to contest 2027 presidency!" Bottom-line, they are saying "WE DON'T CARE". What a sham which we call NIGERIA. TINUBU IS BOTH OUR SAINT AS WELL AS OUR SHAME. As it stands, the effigy that "BAT" presents is the true picture of the entire nation. If I cannot teach my children at home to do right no matter the cost and if my wards cannot see me suffer for doing that which is right, then it doesn't matter what I preach; we cannot help but to go with the leviathan which we are content to call "Emi lo kon". Jagaban is not the problem of Nigeria, I can assure you.

In fact, he thinks himself more of a saviour or much rather the proverbial king Solomon that has now come to judgement. The situation here is akin to General Obasanjo's timely re-entry into the Nigerian political space – a matter of convenience as against conscience. This struggle against Jagaban is sincerely not healthy because of the timing as it will only muddle the waters and divide us much further down the middle. We must find a way to focus our governments, be it the PDP, APC, or ADC, both beauty and the beast towards proper education (the just concluded WASC 2024/2025 Result is a case in point). We must insist that they GIVE US BACK the free primary education for all Nigerians that AWOLOWO of blessed memory gave to the West and you leave the REST. In all, let all those who wish to demand equity from this reckless regime, first come with clean hands. To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

DONU'S WORLD

I have a YouTube channel. It's called DONU'S WORLD.

https://youtube.com/@donukogbara?si=bBm_IPdFZ_wUyKq

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 President Tinubu's reinstatement of Sim Fubara, the suspended Rivers State Governor.

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!

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CONVERSATION

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Venezuela wants peace, but will fight US if invaded – Ambassador Padilla

The Americas tilted towards war this week as the United States, US, on Monday September 15, 2025 and the next day, attacked and destroyed two boats it said are Venezuelan. The attacks in which an unspecified number of people were killed, followed a similar US announcement on September 1, 2025 that it blasted a Venezuelan boat killing eleven persons. The White House said the attacks were to stop the alleged trafficking of drugs to the US, but it has not provided any concrete proof. Besides, unless they pose an immediate lethal threat, the military of any country killing civilians is a crime against humanity. There are at least eight US warships carrying thousands of marines off the Venezuelan coast. These include three guided-missile destroyers and a nuclear attack submarine. Some of these warships have amphibious assault capabilities that can host F-35 fighter jets. Surely, these are not the type of arsenal with which to check drug trafficking; they are for the invasion of territories. Assessing the situation, American Democratic Senator Adam Schiff of California warned "these lawless killings may lead to war." He added:

"I don't want to see us get into some war with Venezuela because the President (Trump) is just blowing ships willy-nilly out of the water." Besides the American Senator, countries like Brazil, Colombia, Russia, Dominica, Nicaragua, Grenada, Cuba, Iran, Antigua and China have condemned the attacks, hinting that they would back Venezuela in case the situation degenerates. In fact, China has issued two statements on the situation, while the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, consisting 33 countries, denounced the US military deployment, stating that it constitutes a threat to peace across Latin America. CELAC demanded the US withdraws its military arsenal from the region. But what will be the reaction of Venezuela were the US to attack its territory? For answers, I sought an exclusive discussion with Ambassador Alberto Castellar Padilla, the Venezuelan Ambassador to Nigeria with concurrent accreditation to Chad, Sierra Leone and Liberia. As a member of the Political Bureau of Venezuela's ruling United Socialist Party, PSUV, he is an insider, and was a Congressman for 14 years from

have increased our oil production. Currently, we produce one million barrels per day. Our goal is to produce over two million barrels per day in 2026. We want to grow our oil, gas, gold and other solid minerals. We have made lots of efforts to bring investors. We have the largest

"The real reason for the military deployment is a plan for a change of government in Venezuela through violence; they want to impose a government that will give Venezuela's oil and gas to the US; the US knows we have the largest reserves of oil and gas; that is why they are spinning all these lies"

2001, representing the Falcon State. Padilla said this is not a situation his country wants to be because: "Venezuela is a peaceful country... we want the Latin America region to be a peaceful place. Venezuelans simply want to live normal lives. We have had 15 straight Quarters of continued economic growth. Also, we

oil reserves in the world and naturally, investors want to come. Even US companies like Chevron are operating in Venezuela. This is why we can't understand why the US is behaving in this manner. Venezuela simply wants to have good relations with all countries in the world. For instance, our relations with African countries are quite good. Same as with Asian countries. Venezuelans simply want to live in peace." Ambassador Padilla, with some glint in his eyes added: "We seek the peaceful resolution to all issues. President Nicholas Maduro has demonstrated this several times. Historically, so did Simon Bolivia and Hugo Chavez. However, Venezuela has the right to defend itself and its sovereignty. We have the support not only of CELAC and our Latin American and Caribbean brothers and sisters, but also of the international community." Venezuelans, he said, are ready to fight any aggression: "If the US makes an aggressive step against Venezuela, not just our military, but also millions of militia and Venezuelans will fight off the aggression". I asked if Venezuela has any military chance against the US which is a super power. He responded: "The US, not just in Latin America, but in other regions of the world, has a history of military aggression against peoples. It has tried to play the role of a policeman in the world, but it will fail. For instance, it attacked Vietnam under the false claim that Vietnam had attacked US ships. But despite being a powerful military, it was defeated by the Vietnamese. They invaded Iraq under the false claim that it had weapons of mass destruction, but after over one million were killed, America was forced to withdraw. In Latin America, US invaded the Dominican Republic twice; the last time being in 1965, but the Dominicans resisted and got all the foreign troops out. The US is always fighting, based on lies, invading people in their motherland. Our

masses are ready to defend the motherland. I reiterate that Venezuelans are a peaceful people. But we have a history of struggle from the times of Simon Bolivia (1783-1830). We have a history of resistance. In any way, we want to avoid war, but if it occurs, we are prepared and have the strategy under the leadership of Maduro to fight and win." On the US claims that it is off the Venezuelan coast in order to fight drug trafficking, Ambassador Padilla responded: "The excuse the Trump administration is giving is that this is a fight against narcotics trafficking, this is false. The US has a huge drug problem. Everybody knows that the US is the largest consumer of drugs and the reports of the United Nations reveal that almost 90 per cent of drug trafficking to the US is through the Pacific Ocean, not the Caribbean Sea. First, the US is not fighting against the real drug traffickers within its territory. Secondly, if the US really wants to fight drug trafficking, it should be in the Pacific Ocean. Thirdly, there are specific ways of fighting trafficking and none includes the use of nuclear weapons. Fourthly, Venezuela is a country free of drug trafficking; we don't have farms for drugs and no chemical laboratory producing drugs. The issue of narcotic trafficking in Venezuela is a fairy tale woven by the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio who is obsessed with the issue of radical governments in Latin America. The real reason for the military deployment is a plan for a change of government in Venezuela through violence. They want to impose a government that will give Venezuela's oil and gas to the US. The US knows we have the largest reserves of oil and gas. That is why they are spinning all these lies." I left the Venezuelan embassy, which is tucked in the Jabi area of Abuja, convinced, more than ever before, that the world needs to prevent an international conflagration in Latin America.

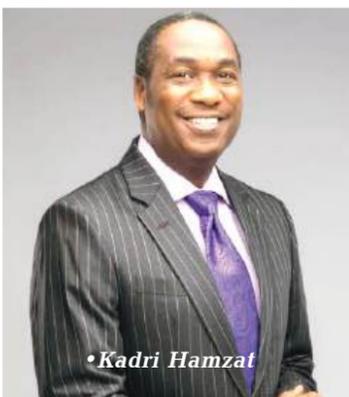
By ALIM ABUBAKRE

Today, we celebrate a statesman whose leadership blends vision with verifiable impact, humility with high standards, and public service with measurable outcomes for citizens. As a proud TEXEM alumnus, you exemplify the ideal we champion: a values-driven leader who converts strategy into service and aspiration into inclusive, sustainable growth. On this special day, we honour not only your character, but also a record of achievements that continues to strengthen Lagos and inspire a new generation of leaders across Nigeria and beyond.

Across the years, you have consistently demonstrated that technology is not a luxury in public administration—it is the backbone of efficiency, transparency, and trust. Your early stewardship of Lagos's digital transformation was catalytic: under your watch as Commissioner for Science and Technology, Lagos became the first government institution in Africa to implement eleven Oracle ERP modules across the public service, integrating data, tightening controls, and curbing waste. This was not a headline; it was a foundation—one that modernised work flows, improved accountability, and set Lagos on a durable path to smart governance.

Your commitment to a future-ready economy is equally clear in

Dr Kadri Obafemi Hamzat: Celebrating a vision and purpose-driven leader



• Kadri Hamzat

the way Lagos has positioned itself as West Africa's digital capital. In a single year, the state attracted more than one billion dollars in data-centre investment—capital that anchors platforms locally, boosts reliability for businesses, creates skilled jobs, and accelerates the growth of the tech ecosystem. By championing the enabling environment for such investments and spotlighting talent acceleration, you have helped Lagos move from potential to proof, from ambition to assets on the ground.

Security and order are prerequisites for prosperity, and you have treated them as such—insisting that the men and women who uphold the law be trained,

professional, and community-centred. Your leadership at the Passing-Out Parade of over 5,000 newly trained officers at the Lagos State Law Enforcement Training Institute underscored a higher standard for public safety: competence married to emotional intelligence; authority balanced by restraint; and service grounded in the trust of the communities being protected. This is how cities grow safer and more cohesive—by investing in people as seriously as we invest in infrastructure.

You have also championed the deep work of renewing the public service from within. The Lagos

As a proud TEXEM alumnus, you exemplify the ideal we champion: a values-driven leader who converts strategy into service and aspiration into inclusive, sustainable growth

Public Service Accelerator Programme is more than a training course—it is a mindset project that equips emerging leaders with the tools, agility, and ethics to solve complex problems in real time. By placing innovation, leadership, and accountability at the centre of public-sector capability building, you are helping to ensure that Lagos's progress is resilient, citizen-centred, and transferable across administrations.

And because investment follows clarity, you have given investors and citizens alike a window into Lagos's pipeline through the state's Investment Deal Book—framing bankable opportunities, signalling institutional maturity, and inviting partnership on a scale worthy of Africa's most dynamic mega-city. This is the quiet architecture of confidence: aligning stakeholders around credible projects and a shared vision for a 21st-century economy that creates jobs, expands opportunity, and compounds public value.

These milestones—digital transformation, anchor investments, professionalised law enforcement, accelerated talent in the public service, and transparent deal-flow for growth—tell a single story: leadership that listens, learns, and delivers. They exemplify a

philosophy you model every day: that humility is disciplined strength; that data-driven decision-making is a moral duty when lives and livelihoods are at stake; and that true nation-building is the art of converting potential into shared prosperity while safeguarding dignity and trust.

Your Excellency, Lagos is an emblem of African possibility precisely because leaders like you translate vision into velocity without losing sight of people. You engage communities at eye level, convene the private sector with purpose, and empower civil servants to become intrapreneurs. You have shown that respect and results are not competing currencies—when wisely invested, they compound together, yielding stability, innovation, and hope.

For the TEXEM family and all rising leaders, your journey is a living curriculum. It teaches that insight must become infrastructure; that policy must meet people where they are; that the best plans are those robust enough to be measured and humble enough to be adapted.

Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com

• Dr Alim Abubakre, Founder of TEXEM, UK:

Nigerians are outraged at the prospect of an additional tax burden following the Federal Government's announcement that it will soon start implementing a five per cent tax on fossil fuels for roads and bridges construction and maintenance.

The tax is built into the Nigerian Tax Administration Act, NTAA, which President Bola Tinubu recently signed into law. According to Taiwo Oyedele, Chairman of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Administration Committee, the "surcharge" is "not new" but already a part of the existing Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (Amendment, FERMA) Act, 2007. The tax will not affect domestic consumption and clean energy fuels such as kerosene, cooking gas and compressed natural gas, CNG.

Indeed, this will not be the first time that the Federal Government has taken this measure. The late General Sani Abacha had during his regime, raised the price of refined petroleum products and dedicated the difference between

Proposed fuel tax for infrastructure

the old and new prices to the Petroleum (Special) Trust Fund, PTF, for emergency intervention in infrastructure renewal and other social sector projects.

Following Abacha's demise and Olusegun Obasanjo's emergence as an elected president, the Fund was abolished. In its place was created the FERMA. Perhaps due to poor funding, FERMA has not been as effective as the defunct PTF in addressing road infrastructure renewal. Indeed, under FERMA's watch, no less than 30 stretches of federal roads have almost

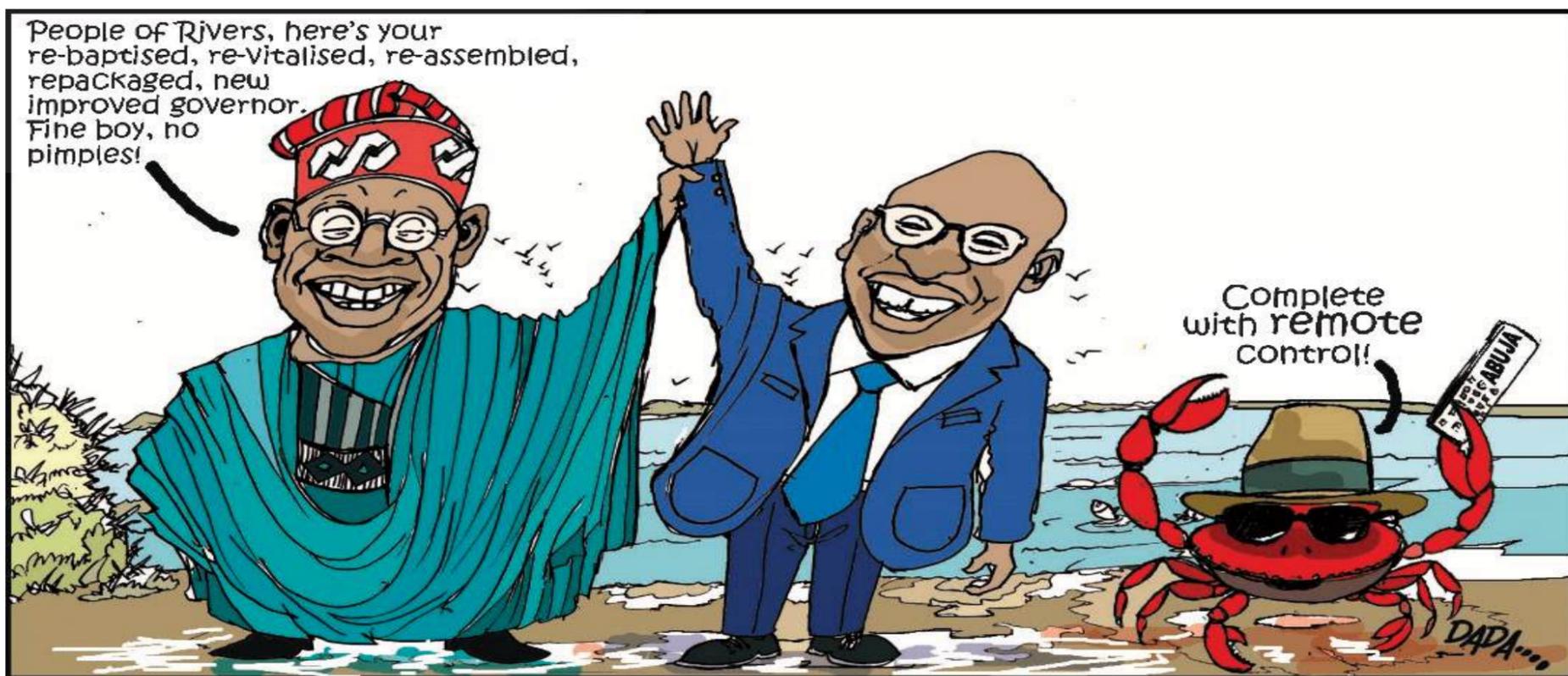
totally broken down. Possibly the worst of all are the Benin Bypass, Benin-Asaba highway, Benin-Warri highway, East-West road, to mention but a few.

Oyedele was right in pointing to the fact that dedicated taxation of certain goods and services are used in other, more developed countries, to maintain public infrastructure. Indeed, despite the large-scale corruption associated with it, the PTF went far in its assigned mandate which touched every part of the country, though unevenly. If not for the policy disruption, our federal roads and bridges would probably be in worse shape.

Our worry, however, is the extra burden this tax will place on the shoulders of already over-burdened Nigerians. Coming at a time Nigerians are forced to pay more than 400 per cent of the cost of petrol and diesel some 27 months ago, this tax is ill-timed. Since Tinubu, a well-known tax exponent, came into power, subsidies have also been removed from prime electricity consumers. Nigerians are still drowning from the floating of the Naira.

Federal Government's efforts to stabilise the economy has not impacted the people, neither have its so-called palliatives. We strongly believe that the huge sums being wasted on the white elephant Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and Lagos-Sokoto Highway, should have been invested on reconstruction of broken federal roads and bridges. We are not opposed to the tax per se, but the timing is inauspicious.

Don't tax Nigerians to death!



THE media was awash with reports earlier in the week that the Federal Government has paid out the sum of N330 billion in cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households in the country through the National Social Safety-net Coordinating Office. This development was made known to Nigerians by no less a person than the chief manager of the Nigerian economy, the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Olawale Edun.

In the course of the announcement, Mr. Edun said that there were about 19.7 million poor and vulnerable households in Nigeria and over 70 million individuals on the National Social Register. We were also informed that the cash transfers are being done from an \$800 million facility of the World Bank.

Edun explained further: "This is part of plan by Mr. President to get the social protection programme that he had in mind to help the poorest and most vulnerable through difficulties caused by increase in the price level, as we all know, as part of the necessary reforms that were put in place.

"We are pleased to report that the social protection programme, the putting in place of a safety net to help people, to cope with the rising price level is now firmly back on track.

"Of the 20 million households on the social register, covering about 75 million Nigerians, the programme was for 15 million households, covering 75 million



PICTURES & PATTERNS

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N330 billion: On the march again with cash transfers

Nigerians, 8.5 million households have now been paid at least one tranche of the funds promised to them — N25,000.

"They have two more payments to go. Some have received two, and some have received three."

I thought that this programme of official profligacy ended with the Buhari regime, which birthed and sustained it throughout the eight-year tenure of the late Katsina general. I didn't know that it had been adopted, and in fact, rolled over from the Buhari tenure into the Tinubu administration. There are a lot of things that are wrong with this programme.

When the Buhari administration announced it and "conditional cash transfers" were being made to some fellow compatriots, one of the questions asked was the on the generation of the social register. Those questions were largely ignored then, and even up till now, though they remained valid. One of the questions was which criteria were used to

determine who was a vulnerable Nigerian? How were vulnerable Nigerians identified? How were they enrolled?

Buhari started with the sum of N5,000 which most Nigerians felt did not get to the real poor people. I asked then: What could N5,000

The cash transfers are being funded from a World Bank facility of US\$800 million; that is a lot of money; \$800 million converted to Naira at the prevailing exchange rate will make the Naira look like confetti; is that why it is being spent anyhow? Where in the world do people borrow money to fund consumption?

do for any Nigerian, even under Buhari when petrol sold for N187/ per litre? A bag of rice sold for around N40,000 under Buhari. After Buhari came Tinubu who removed subsidy and a bag of rice started selling for N100,000 with petrol selling for just under N1,000 in most parts of the country. Now, they are paying N25,000 to their poor and vulnerable, five times what Buhari paid. And the question remains valid again: What can N25,000 do for a household (picture average couple with four children)? With the prevailing prices of food items and high transportation costs, N25,000 cannot last a household beyond 48 hours. What this means is that the money cannot make any meaningful impact on the lives of those who get it; if they get it. In Yoruba thinking, it is water poured on the back of a calabash or right inside a basket. No trace of it a short while thereafter. If people in government really thought this programme through and holistically reviewed its implementation under Buhari, it ought to have been jettisoned altogether. As bad as things are, N330 billion, judiciously appropriated to needy sectors of the economy will impact more meaningfully on the deliverables government is targeting than cash transfers. If the education sector gets N330 billion, the noise being made by ASUU and other unions will go down substantially. Or the health sector — the doctors would not be threatening strikes all the time. And roads? Less Nigerians

will die in motor accidents caused by dilapidated roads. The list is endless of what better value N330 billion could have purchased for us as a nation.

Then there is the economics of it. The cash transfers are being funded from a World Bank facility of \$800 million. That is a lot of money. \$800 million converted to Naira at the prevailing exchange rate will make the Naira look like confetti. Is that why it is being spent anyhow? Where in the world do people borrow money to fund consumption? A loan from the World Bank could be better utilised on projects that can generate revenues for its repayment, but not this one. After a family gets its N25,000 and a pot of soup and measure of rice or *gari* is bought from it, what remains? Zip. That is why this cash transfer programme never made sense to me, and never will. Back to how people were enrolled on the social register. Why am I not there? Or any of my poor neighbours in the suburb of Lagos that I live? Or folk in the sleepy little village I hail from in Ogun State? There must be better ways to waste resources than this. Worse, no provision for it in the budget as Mr Edun disclosed that the special funds will now be in budgets for the programme. And the National Assembly is not seeing anything wrong with these out-of-budget expenditures. What profligacy? We are on the march again. Amid worsening poverty, we still find enough money to waste. What a country! What a government? TGIF.

Business



FG secures over \$10bn external loans in 2 yrs

...Records \$5bn disbursement

By Emma Ujah, Abuja
Bureau Chief

The federal government has secured External Loans worth over \$10 billion in the last two years. Data obtained from the Debt Management Office, DMO indicated, however, that disbursement stood at

\$5 billion, about half of the secured loans. The loans were contracted from various multilateral organisations, regional financial institutions, as well as, the International Capital Market, through Eubonds. Detailed analysis of the debt data showed that the journey of the current administration's External Loans started with Agence

France De Development Euro 103, 896, 806.66 facility for investment in Digital and Creative Economy (i-DICE) which agreement was signed on October 4, 2023. That loan was taken for advancing Nigeria's computer technology and has an interest rate of 3.50 percent with a moratorium of seven years. It will mature on October 31,

2043. A loan maturity date is the date on which the final loan payment is due. In other words, the maturity date is when the loan is expected to be fully paid back. Out of the total loan amount, only Euro 3. 896 million (\$4. 211 million) has been disbursed. UniCredit S.p.A. (formerly UniCredito Italiano S.p.A.) an Italian multinational banking group and the federal government signed a loan

agreement of Euro 425. 698 million for the supply of six F.A. Aircraft – Tranche A (Defence). The loan was at 3.85 percent, a four-year moratorium with a maturity date of April 17, 2037. It has, however, remained undisbursed. The first loan from China under the present administration came from China Development Bank, which gave Euro 883. 451million for the Kaduna-Zaria Rail project. The loan agreement was signed on December 1, 2023 and was given at an interest rate of 4.33 percent and

moratorium of five years. It will mature on April 20, 2040. Only Euro 245.198 million (\$265. 010 million has so far been disbursed. In that same December, the government signed a World Bank loan (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) for Power Sector Recovery Performance-Based Operations (IBRD 1) amounting to \$449. 000 million. The loan was given at an interest rate of 6.27 percent, a moratorium of four years and maturing on April 1, 2058. Available data indicated that only \$1. 112 million has so far been disbursed.



DECORATION: From left, Comptroller, Federal Operations Unit, FOU, Mohammed Shuaibu; Superintendent of Customs Regina Anawatin; and Deputy Comptroller Timothy Worusen after the decoration ceremony at the Unit's office in Ikeja, Lagos.

ARISE IIP raises \$700m infrastructure capital for business expansion

By Tunde Oso

Developer of the Industrial Platform Remo Free Zone (IPRFZ), ARISE Integrated Industrial Platforms (ARISE IIP), in partnership with Ogun State, Nigeria, has announced the successful completion of a landmark \$700 million capital, welcoming Vision Invest, a leading Saudi Arabian infrastructure investor and developer, into its shareholder base.

This transaction marks one of the largest private infrastructure capital raises in Africa to date, with both primary and secondary components. The capital will support ARISE IIP's continued expansion across the continent and the

development of green, inclusive, and sustainable industrial ecosystems. Highlighting the strategic significance of the new investment, Founder and CEO of ARISE IIP, Gagan Gupta said, "ARISE has always believed in Africa's promise and the talent driving its growth. The partnership with Vision Invest and the continued support of our institutional shareholders will help us build resilient, self-sustaining industrial ecosystems that deliver long-term value."

President and CEO of Africa Finance Corporation and Chairman of ARISE IIP, Samaila Zubairu, harped on the alignment between capital and continental development goals: "ARISE IIP has demonstrated what is possible when global capital aligns with Africa's ambitions. We are proud to deepen our partnership and support ARISE IIP as it scales industrial transformation across the continent."

Chairman of Afreximbank, Prof. Benedict Oramah, said: "Afreximbank congratulates Arise IIP management on this landmark deal. With this capital increase, Arise IIP will become an even stronger partner of Afreximbank in the drive to promote export manufacturing and industrialization in Africa."

Ajaokuta Steel Company in good shape, says FG

By Gabriel Ewepu

The Federal Government, yesterday, declared that Ajaokuta Steel Company is in good shape as against media reports recently. This was contained in a statement signed by the Head, Press and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Steel Development, Salamatu Jibaniya.

The statement reads in part: "The attention of the Federal Ministry of Steel Development has been drawn to recent media reports regarding the future of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL). "While we note the concerns expressed, it is important to state that the

Federal Government remains firmly committed to the development of Nigeria's steel sector, including the resuscitation of ASCL. "A comprehensive technical and financial audit of the plant is presently underway to ensure that any decision taken is transparent,

data-driven and in the best interest of Nigeria. "The overall assessment of the previous technical audit report dated 2018 maintained that the general status of the Steel Plant is in robust condition except for normal deterioration of replaceable parts and

recommended automation of manual control systems for improved efficiency." Meanwhile, according to the statement, "The ministry remains confident that the updated audit will provide a sound basis for decisive action that advances Nigeria's industrial aspirations".

UBA delivers N335bn PAT, gross earnings up 17% to N1.608trn

By Peter Egwuatu

United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has recorded N335.53 billion Profit After Tax, PAT in the half-year ended June 30, 2025, H1'25, representing a growth by 6.06% from N316.36 billion recorded in the same period 2024, H1'24. The audited financials released to the Nigerian Exchange Limited (NGX)

N1.003 trillion in June last year to N1.334 trillion, while total assets went up by 9.71% to N33.3 trillion up from N30.3 trillion recorded in December 2024. Total Customer deposits, also leapt by 11.9% in the same period to close at N27.6 trillion up from N24.6 trillion recorded at the end of 2024.

The results filed also showed that profit before tax dropped slightly from N401 billion to N388 billion in the period under consideration. However, the banks' shareholders' funds remained strong as it increased by 23% from N3.41 trillion in December 2024, to N4.22 trillion in June 2025.

UBA's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Oliver Alawuba, while commenting on the results underscored the bank's commitment to consistently delivering long-term value to its shareholders.

He said, "UBA's first half results highlight the strength of our business and the trust our customers continue to place in us. We delivered strong double-digit earnings growth across our markets, with Profit After Tax rising year-on-year to N335 billion, from N316

billion, underscoring the resilience of our business and the success of our strategy." Giving further update on the bank's ongoing Rights Issuance Programme, the GMD assured shareholders and investors that UBA remains on track with its financial goals and projections for 2025. "We have made significant progress on our capital raising

program. Phase I of our Rights Issue was successfully completed, enhancing our capital by N234.3 billion and providing a stronger buffer for growth and expansion across our markets. With Phase II currently underway, we remain firmly on track to meet the new capital requirements by the end of the year," Alawuba stated.

Marketers want us to increase pump price by N75 — DANGOTE

Dangote Petroleum Refinery has revealed that the Depot and Petroleum Products Marketers Association of Nigeria (DAPPMAN) requested it to increase the price of petrol and diesel by N75 per litre, to allow its members to match the refinery's gantry prices at their respective depots. If implemented, this would result in the pump price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and diesel rising to as high as N950 and N1,090 per litre, respectively, in some parts of Nigeria.

The refinery disclosed that although it offers petroleum products to marketers at its gantry price, DAPPMAN insists on taking delivery via coastal logistics. This option would incur an

additional N75 per litre in extra costs. Based on daily consumption volumes of 40 million litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) and 15 million litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), this amounts to an additional annual cost of N1.505 trillion (N1,505,625,000,000), which they effectively asked the refinery to absorb and pass on to Nigerians.

"We wish to make it clear that we have no intention of increasing our gantry price to accommodate such demands, nor are we willing to pay a subsidy of over N1.5 trillion, a practice that historically defrauded the Federal Government for many years. DAPPMAN and other marketers are welcome to lift products directly from our gantry

and benefit from our logistics-free initiative," it said.

The refinery alleged that its refusal to comply with DAPPMAN's subsidy request is the core reason behind recent public criticisms and attacks. It reiterated that the refinery has sufficient capacity to meet domestic demand and support exports as it consistently maintains a closing stock of 500 million litres of refined products in its tanks each month.

"Between June and September, the refinery exported a combined total of 3,229,881 metric tonnes of PMS, AGO, and aviation fuel, while marketers imported 3,687,828 metric tonnes over the same period, an action that amounts to dumping, which is detrimental to the Nigerian economy and the well-being of its citizens," it said.

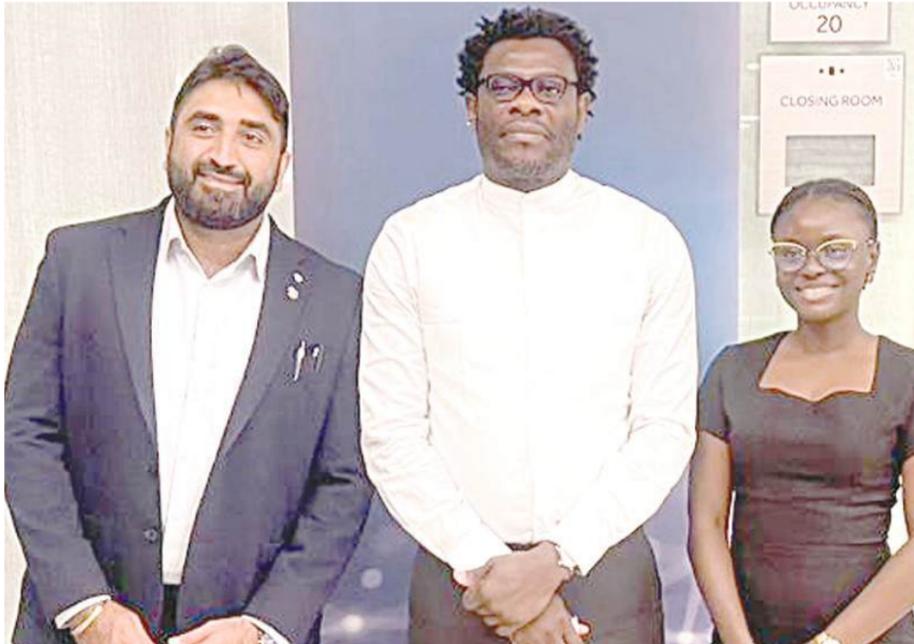
AGRIC COMMODITIES		
Coffee	21.26	-0.11
Cocoa	11,240.00	+11.02%
Sugar	19.12	-0.24

ENERGY & OIL		
Brent Crude	74.44	+0.27
Light Crude	78.62	-2.30

CURRENCY BUYING			
	BUYING	SELLING	
USD DOLLAR	1535.9170	1536.4170	1536.9170
POUNDS	1928.9582	1929.5861	1930.2141
EURO	1597.0465	1597.5664	1598.0863
SWISS	1696.3961	1696.9483	1697.5006
YEN	9.7550	9.7581	9.7613
CFA	2.4124	2.4224	2.4324
WAUA	2000.8181	2001.4695	2002.1208
RIYAL	408.7060	408.8390	408.9721
RAND	81.6995	81.7260	81.7526
SDR	2002.9894	2003.6414	2004.2935

CBN Exchange rate as at 18/09/2025

Interest income also increased by 32.89% from



BRIEFING – From left: Chief Operations Officer, EmoSIM, Aditya Khosla; Founder and Chairman, EmoSIM, Jimmy Eboma; and Global Partnership and Engagement Lead, EmoSIM, Praise Adio at the EmoSIM Digital Innovations Media Briefing held in Lagos yesterday

65% of Nigeria's FDI inflows come from UK — Envoy

By Providence Ayanfeoluwa

The United Kingdom (UK) accounts for 65 percent of all foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Nigeria, even as the country is ranked as

UK's second largest trading partner in Africa.

British Deputy High Commissioner, Jonny Baxter, disclosed this yesterday, at the 2025 Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce, NBCC, Meet the Governor Series, with the Governor

of Enugu State, Dr. Peter Mbah, on Business and Investment Opportunities.

According to Baxter, the UK and Nigeria trade relationship is currently valued at 7.9 billion pounds.

"The UK and Nigeria share a dynamic, long-standing and multi-dimensional trade relationship, which is currently valued

FG facilitates production of 128m bags of fertiliser ...Imports 48 vessels of raw materials

By Emma Ujah

The Presidential Fertilizer Initiative (PFI) has intensified efforts to meet fertilizer needs of Nigerian farmers in the quest to boost the nation's food production.

To this end, it has imported 48 vessels of raw materials for fertilizer and facilitated the production of 128 million bags of the product.

Dr. Armstrong Takang, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry of Finance Incorporated, MOFI, said that the focus of PFI extends beyond mere volumes.

"We are meticulously building a system that can insulate farmers from global market shocks and instill the confidence needed for long-term agricultural planning. We see the PFI as a prime example of public-private collaboration that can solve complex national challenges, and its future is a testament to Nigeria's capacity for strategic reform," Takang was quoted as saying in a statement yesterday.

"As of September 2025, more raw materials have already been supplied or ordered than the total supplied in 2024, and additional arrangements have been concluded with fertilizer raw material manu-

facturers to stock warehouses nationwide", the statement indicated.

According to MOFI, "From 2022 to date, 48 distinct vessels have delivered critical raw materials for fertilizer blending under the PFI. In 2025 alone, 10 vessels have already discharged and are expected

to discharge cargoes, accounting for more than 560,000 metric tonnes of inputs received at Nigerian ports.

"This steady inflow is laying the foundation for robust production and ensuring continuity of supply and stability across Nigeria's fertilizer value chain."

Clarion shipping woos importers to patronise locally-owned vessel

By Providence Ayanfeoluwa

Clarion Shipping West Africa Limited has unveiled MV Ocean Dragon, a 349-capacity containership, for the movement of containerised cargoes within Nigeria and the West African region.

The vessel would depart China on September 28 and is expected to berth in Nigeria on October 25.

Speaking at a meeting with importers at the Balogun Business Association, BBA Trade Fair Complex, Vice President of Clarion Shipping West Africa, Mrs. Bernadine Eloka, said that the vessel would eliminate transshipment, while ensuring that consignments are delivered directly to destinations.

She added that the vessel would facilitate maritime trade and improve move-

ment to Nigeria.

"We understand that one of the challenged most people are having taking export produce to other West African countries. This is one of the purposes for Ocean Dragon is for moving made in Nigeria product to other African countries. We have people that have made bookings from within Nigeria.

"Currently, we operate internationally with China, with a strong base in Abidjan. If we get more African patronage, we will expand further".

Also, President Balogun Business Association, BBA Oscar Odogwu, described the complex as the biggest business hub in the whole of West Africa.

While appealing to members to patronize Clarion Shipping, he assured the company of full support, even as he promised to sensitize

at 7.9 billion pounds, which is the highest figure since records began and is increasing every year. This relationship is fundamentally the cornerstone of the relationship between the two countries.

"The UK is the biggest investor in Nigeria. We account for 65 percent of all foreign direct investment flows into Nigeria, and that shows the depth of commitment based on historic ties, based on personal and family ties, but based on Nigeria being a good place to invest in, and that is a real testament to what Nigeria is doing and to the strength of relationship between our two countries.

"Nigeria is also the UK's second largest trading partner in Africa and it is the largest export market.

Baxter recalled that in order to increase the levels of trade and make trade smoother between both countries, the UK in February 2024 signed the Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership, ETIP with Nigeria.

"In February 2024 we signed something called the Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership (ETIP), which was about trying to increase those levels of trade, trying to make trade smoother between our two countries. It's the first of its kind that we have signed with an African country.

"In fact it is the second globally, the first being with India, and you've seen where the trade relationship between the United Kingdom and India has gone, so we certainly hope for the same sort of trajectory between us and Nigeria.

"It is a jointly developed framework and it aligns with Prime Minister Starmer's growth agenda and President Tinubu's eight-point economic agenda, supporting job creation, economic expansion, business environment reforms, and what it's looking to do is enhance collaboration between the public and private sectors".

members on the need to work with an indigenous shipping company such as Clarion.

Odogwu said: "This is the biggest business hub in the whole of West Africa, where we have major importers of goods and services. I want to appeal to the members to patronise because actually I

Union Bank completes N6.3bn series 2 bond issue

By Peter Egwuatu

Union Bank of Nigeria has completed the full redemption of its Series 2 15.75% Bond Issue with the payment of both principal and coupon totalling N6,314,000,000 on September 3, 2025.

This payment fulfils the Bank's obligations to bondholders in accordance with the regulations set by the Securities and Exchange

FG should roll out incentives to achieve single digit inflation —Farmers

By Gabriel Ewepu

FARMERS yesterday, urged the Federal Government to incentivise farmers across the various value chains to achieve single digit inflation rate.

Speaking with Vanguard, the Chief Executive Officer, DeBranch Farmers Limited, Sandra Victor-Gwafan, described the announcement of achieving single digits inflation rate as a commendable target for the economy.

Victor-Gwafan said: "As the CEO DeBranch farmers limited we welcome the government's ambition to bring inflation down to single digits; it is a commendable goal, but it must be looked at realistically.

"Inflation is still hovering around 20 per cent, even though we have seen a steady decline over the past few months."

However, she said, "For this figure to fall to single digits, we would need consistent monetary discipline, a stable exchange rate, fiscal restraint, and most importantly, a real improvement in food supply and security.

"As someone working closely with farmers, I know that food inflation is where Nigerians feel the most pain."

She also added that, "Unless we deal with insecurity in farming areas, support production, and fix logistics bottlenecks, prices of basic food items will remain high.

"So, while single-digit inflation is not impossible, it is unlikely to happen in the immediate future.

"What is more realistic is moving into the mid-teens within a year if reforms hold and policies remain consistent.

"Nigerians need hope, but also honesty, so expectations are not raised beyond what current conditions can deliver."

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive Officer, CEO, EA Daniels Farm, Engr Daniel Ijeh, said if government at all levels put in place measures that would drive massive food production it will go a long way to reduce inflation because high food prices had made Nigeria's inflation trend to rise astronomically.

He said, "The major factor of inflation in Nigeria is high food prices including transportation network is a challenge".

Stanbic IBTC named best corporate bank

By Segun-Ogundeyi Fiyinfoluwa

Stanbic IBTC Bank has been crowned the "Best Corporate Bank" by the International Business Magazine.

This prestigious award announcement showcases the bank's commitment to delivering excellent banking services that help businesses grow and strengthen Nigeria's economy.

The International Business Magazine Awards honor organizations and individuals who excel in leadership, innovation, and smart business practices. Stanbic IBTC Bank earned this recognition for its creative financial solutions and outstanding support for its clients, making it a trusted name in corporate banking.

Eric Fajemisin, the bank's Executive Director of Corporate and Transaction Banking, said: "This honor reflects our team's hard work in providing innovative products and top-quality service to help businesses succeed," he said. The bank's efforts have played a big role in supporting Nigeria's economic progress".

Wole Adeniyi, Chief Executive of Stanbic IBTC Bank, also expressed pride in the achievement. "This award shows our dedication to innovation and the trust our clients place in us. Our team is focused on offering banking solutions that make a real impact".

Stanbic IBTC Bank is known for creating financial tools that meet the needs of businesses, from loans to expert advice. This award highlights the bank's ability to stay ahead in the competitive world of corporate banking. Its team works tirelessly to ensure clients have the support they need to thrive.

Commission (SEC).

The Series 2 Bond was issued under the Bank's N100 billion Debt Issuance Programme and was fully subscribed, with the final coupon payment also settled on September 3, 2025. This completion represents a significant achievement for Union Bank, particularly following the recent merger with Titan Trust earlier in early September. The timely execution of coupon payments and the full re-

demption of the bond significantly enhance investor confidence in the Bank's governance and financial stability, setting a positive precedent for future investment opportunities.

Mr. Tosin Ibikunle, the Bank's Head of Strategy and Planning, remarked on this milestone, stating: "The successful conclusion of the Bond Issue repayment process signals Union Bank's commitment to meeting all obligations to our financial stakeholders.

FEDERAL ROAD SAFETY COMMISSION
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES

The general public is hereby notified to come for payment of their overstayed motorcycle/vehicle within 10 days upon this publication failure to come forth, their vehicle/motorcycle shall be forfeited through public auction.

RSS. 11 EDO STATE SECTOR COMMAND (TOTAL NUMBER: 1)

S/N	DATE OF ARREST	REG. NO	MAKE/TYPER	COLOUR	VEHICLE/BIKE	OFFENCE	REMARK
1	17/04/2014	USL176XB	FORD TRANSIT	BLUE	BUS	DLV	IMPOUNDED

RSS. 11 AUCHI UNIT COMMAND (TOTAL NUMBER: 22)

S/N	DATE OF ARREST	REG. NO	MAKE/TYPER	COLOUR	VEHICLE/BIKE	OFFENCE	REMARK
1	16/05/2016	T442ENU	QLINK	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
2	18/05/2016	RS180B01	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
3	19/05/2016	NSK100QC	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
4	21/05/2016	UY304ENU	QLINK	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
5	24/05/2016	QN914MBC	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
6	05/01/2017	8850	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
7	08/01/2017	9371	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
8	11/01/2018	5193	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
9	13/01/2018	U278QG	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
10	15/02/2018	ABK590US	DAYLONG	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
11	18/03/2018	7314	SIMBA	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
12	22/03/2019	5596	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
13	10/01/2019	4782	CARGO	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
14	10/02/2019	8422	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
15	11/04/2019	0588	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
16	15/09/2019	6283	SIMBA	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
17	29/11/2019	UB13020A	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
18	01/01/2020	1646	SIMBA	YELLOW	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
19	01/02/2020	1056	QLINK	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
20	01/04/2020	3877	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
21	01/04/2020	XB314FEE	BUS	WHITE	BUS	DLV/SUV	IMPOUNDED
22	01/06/2020	BEN195ZW	VAN	WHITE	VAN	DLV/SUV	IMPOUNDED

RSS. 13 IRUEKPEN UNIT COMMAND (TOTAL NUMBER: 1)

S/N	DATE OF ARREST	REG. NO	MAKE/TYPER	COLOUR	VEHICLE/BIKE	OFFENCE	REMARK
1	09/05/2023	BEN810FK	FLAT	GREY	VEHICLE	OLV	IMPOUNDED

RSS. 15 SAPELE ROAD UNIT COMMAND (TOTAL NUMBER: 4)

S/N	DATE OF ARREST	REG. NO	MAKE/TYPER	COLOUR	VEHICLE/BIKE	OFFENCE	REMARK
1	07/01/2022	BEN191ZZ	NISSAN VANITTE	TAXI COLOR	VEHICLE	DLV	IMPOUNDED
2	16/01/2022	BEN991CW	PEUGEOT	BLUE	VEHICLE	SUV,VWV	IMPOUNDED
3	10/03/2022	BEN112QQ	TVS TRICYCLE	BLUE	TRICYCLE	OLV	IMPOUNDED
4	14/04/2022	MUS741CI	MAZDA	RED	VEHICLE	OLV	IMPOUNDED

RSS. 17 UROMI UNIT COMMAND (TOTAL NUMBER: 22)

S/N	DATE OF ARREST	REG. NO	MAKE/TYPER	COLOUR	VEHICLE/BIKE	OFFENCE	REMARK
1	11/02/2019	3877	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
2	30/02/2019	NIL	QLINK	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
3	02/02/2019	BUS810TL	FIAT	GREY	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
4	22/02/2019	QES20UML	QLINK	BLACK	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
5	24/02/2019	NIL	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
6	22/02/2019	NIL	QLINK	BLUE	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
7	23/02/2019	04107	LIFAN	YELLOW	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
8	24/02/2019	RLU921QC	QLINK	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
9	24/02/2019	AFZ309QA	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
10	24/02/2019	05323	QLINK	BLACK	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
11	26/02/2019	KED730QR	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
12	06/05/2021	4210	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED
13	18/10/2021	8649	DAYLONG	RED	BIKE	RMH	IMPOUNDED

For More Details: Please Contact
FRSC AUCTIONEER

Anthony O. Ebhotemen
17/09/2025
ANTHONY O. EBHOTEMEN
08166995994

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (FCE) OBU DU CROSS RIVER STATE
PUBLIC AUCTION SALES

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION OBU DU, CROSS RIVER STATE WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC AUCTION SALES OF ITS BOARDED UNSERVICEABLE SCRAP VEHICLES AS DETAILED BELOW.

THE SALES SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON THE 26TH SEPTEMBER, 2025 AT 10 AM BY A FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LICENSED AUCTIONEER, MESSR TONY MOTORS NIG ENT. AT THE DESIGNATED LOCATIONS IN LINE WITH THE BEUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT ACT, 2007.

THE ITEMS CAN BE INSPECTED BY PROSPECTIVE BUYERS FROM THE DATE OF THIS PUBLICATION, FROM MONDAY TO FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10 AM TO 3 PM DAILY.

KINDLY NOTE THAT THE HIGHEST BIDDER SHALL BE THE PURCHASER AT THE FALL OF THE AUCTIONEER'S HAMMER WITH CASH PAYMENT ON THE SPOT.

S/N	TYPES OF VEHICLES	REG. NOS.	LOCATION OF VEHICLES
1	Peugeot Expert Bus	FG 41L48	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
2	Peugeot Expert Bus	FG 40L48	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
3	Mercedes 1414 Bus	FG 24L48	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
4	Peugeot 406 Sal. Car	48L09 FG	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
5	Peugeot 504 S/W Car	FG 18L48	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
6	Marco polo Luxury Bus	FG 46L48	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
7	Toyota Corolla Sal. Car	48 L08FG	Mechanic Matthias W/shop by Fire Service/Animal Junction
8	Toyota Corolla Sal. Car	48L07FG	" " " " " "
9	Joy long Coaster Bus	48L18FG	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
10	Toyota Coaster Bus	48L13FG	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
11	Toyota Hilux Pick-Up	48L06FG	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku
12	Toyota Camery Sal. Car	48L02FG	FCE Camp Amunga Obanliku

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, YOU MAY CONTACT THE AUCTIONEER ON GSM NUMBERS 08166995994, 09124751088

Anthony O. Ebhotemen

AUCTIONEER, ANTHONY O. EBHOTEMEN,
MD/CEO/ TONY MOTORS NIG. ENT.
SUITE 36 GARKI 2 SHOPPING COMPLEX, GARKI 2 ABUJA, FCT.



My beloved child,
Chikaima Sharon Okechukwu

This is to let you know how much I treasure you beyond measure, cherish you beyond words, and celebrate your coming into my life every day. I'm honored to be your mom, guiding you through life's adventures and sharing in its joys. You are loved for who you are.

I'm so proud to call you my daughter and I'm here for you always. With all my love,

Mom
Okechukwu Ebere Linda

Congratulatory
MESSAGE



We are thrilled to see you grow into an excellent, smart, and hardworking child, focused on success in life.

Your good grades and dedication inspire us daily.

We, your family, are proud of you. Keep shining, son!

FATHER:
**MR. JOSHUA CHIDIEBUBE
OHAIKE**



Useni's fight for London house from the grave shames us

In the incredibly sad courtroom drama of Tali Shani v Chief Mike Agbedor Abu Ozekhome (2025) UKFTT 1090 (PC), two ordinary Nigerians from unlikely quarters, each doing what would appear to be their daily work, made the difference.

The first was Ibrahim Sani, a superintendent of police at the Force Intelligence Department of the Nigeria Police Force in Abuja, a department under retired DIG Mike Ogbizi.

Sani had received a request and complaint from Chief Ozekhome (the Respondent in this case) to investigate alleged forged documents, including a "9 mobile" number, stated to be that of Tali Shani (the Applicant), registered at a Jos, Plateau State address.

Ozekhome (SAN) needed the police report in the case in Judge Ewan Paton's court regarding the ownership of a house he claimed had been given to him by the late General Jeremiah Useni, but which the land registry in London had referred to a tribunal after one Ms Tali Shani, claiming to be Useni's "wife," emerged.

Following a search, Superintendent Sani found that not only did the phone number not belong to Ms Tali Shani, but the registered Jos address was also fake. Sani's evidence during the trial left a strong impression on Judge Paton.

The judge said similar nice things about Festus Esangbedo, the head of legal of the National Identity Management Commission, NIMC, who worked with Sani to expose the fake NIN that Ms Tali Shani and her accomplices, including her phoney son, Ayodele Damola, wanted to use to claim the London house that they claimed Useni bequeathed them.

Indictment redefined?

Tali Shani (male) and Ms Tali Shani (female),

like Tweedledee and Tweedledum, are fictional characters in sordid tale of how a London tribunal found that 79 Randall Avenue, London, owned by the late General Useni, which he bought for £110,000 at the time, was marred by evidence of extensive identity fraud, forged documents, and non-existent persons, in a cast of very senior lawyers in Nigeria and their accomplices abroad on both sides of the case.

I desperately hoped that Ozekhome, a senior advocate of Nigeria and equivalent of a King's Counsel, whom I hold in high esteem, would say it was not true; that what Judge Paton said about him recruiting his son, a young lawyer, to invent and contrive evidence to produce a charlatan to take over the property of General Useni who he

In the two and a half years that the matter was in court, the only thing that seemed real, and which the evidence before the judge could support, was that General Useni might have bought the house sometime in 1993, under a code name; everything else was an elaborate web of fakery

said was his friend and client, was mistaken.

However, in an extraordinary interpretation of the judgement that left many speechless, Ozekhome told LEADERSHIP that the judgement was "not an indictment." Mohammed Edewor, another senior lawyer prominently named on the Applicant's side of this bizarre case, has been missing in action.

A phantom's revenge

In the two and a half years that the matter was in court, the only thing that seemed real, and which the evidence before the judge could support, was that General Useni might have bought the house sometime in 1993, under a code name. Everything else was an elaborate web of fakery, from the witnesses, their identities, a Keffi court order, email addresses, and medical certificates – including ones issued under the letterhead of an actual Lagos-based hospital.

The death certificate was fabricated by the fake son and fake uncle of General Useni's fake wife, who also went on to fabricate the obituary of the fake wife, who purportedly died in a road accident between Jos and Abuja.

Whether Tali Shani, the Applicant, was a product of the Respondent or a reactionary phantom in his own right, also out to grab, one thing was clear: Tali Shani (male) was no less an audacious character in the sordid tale.

He couldn't tell the court how much he paid for the house he claimed he owned or produce any conveyancing documents; yet, in a striking moment of epiphany, he remembered that he bought the house for £200,000 (the price was £110,000) through his "cattle business," after a prosperous spell of "selling sweats and mangos." By his own record, he was only 20 at the time.

One more for the Crown

He didn't forget to add that, out of the goodness of his heart, he asked General Useni (who was not his mate by any stretch) to be the agent for him! Would General Useni, who testified in this case on his sickbed, not be saddened in his grave to know that the house he bought, under apparently shadowy circumstances, may potentially pass to the Crown (under the principle of ownerless goods) after this bizarre dispute?

Or that a twat is calling him his errand boy, when circumstantial evidence suggests that he, Useni, probably "invented" Tali Shani as a conduit at the height of the searchlight on his offshore account for money laundering.

I do not expect this story to interest the man on the street, who thinks that the average Nigerian big man is a thief, no matter what, and that, in any case, the fuss over 79 Randall Avenue is material only because this sad dispute has brought it to light. Who knows how many more have passed quietly?

Silence as outrage

But can and should professional groups also look the other way? For example, should the Nigerian Bar Association pretend that it's OK for lawyers to contrive and invent evidence actively without a rebuke?

At the onset of this case, at least one lawyer of British origin, Tom Walsh, was involved. Before the matter ended, he had exited, leaving only counsel of Nigerian origin, including Abimbola Badejo and Kingsley Efemuai, stewing in the mess.

In *Framed*, John Grisham and Jim McCloskey demonstrate that manipulating the court system is not racial. But "Tali Shani v Mike Ozekhome" is a variety of the Nigerian jurisprudential engineering that activist lawyer, Chidi Odinkalu, has railed against ceaselessly.

Now, jurisprudential engineering appears to be an export commodity, calling into question every document a Nigerian files, even for routine processes such as visa applications. Is it business as usual one year after Her Lordship, Chief Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, promised "to elevate the judiciary to new heights, improve its reputation, and sustain public confidence in the judicial system"?

Will the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, ignore evidence of a fabrication of a death certificate bearing the name of a "doctor" issued in an actual hospital in Jibowu, Lagos, with a fake obituary? Or is travesty normalised?

A mini P&ID

Fifteen years ago, a dispute centred on a Gas Supply and Processing Agreement, GSPA, under which Nigeria was to supply "wet" natural gas to Process and Industrial Developments Limited, P&ID. The company was to deliver "lean" gas, keep the natural gas liquids for sale, and build a plant in Nigeria.

One thing led to another, and five years later, after P&ID bribed Nigerian officials, committed perjury and improperly obtained documents from Nigeria, the company still got \$11 billion in arbitral awards. It took nine years of a feisty legal challenge by the Nigerian government in a UK high court to topple the house built on fraud by two Irish citizens on the foundation of a trail of paper fraud by their Nigerian cohorts.

79 Randall Avenue has similar features of big men, treachery, forgeries and fraud. The amount involved is less on the scale, and the government is not involved. But the shame is of comparable magnitude.

**Ishiekwene is Editor-in-Chief of LEADERSHIP and author of the book: Writing for Media and Monetising It.*

News vanguardnews



NEWS HOTLINES

01-8773962
08052867058

Cross-border collaboration, data accuracy critical to unlock Africa's natural resources — Okwuosa

ACCRA—THE Group Chief Executive Officer of Oilserv Group, Engr. Emeka Okwuosa, has emphasised the need for Africa to leverage existing capabilities in harnessing its abundant natural resources, particularly in the oil and gas sector.

Speaking at the African Oil Week, AOW, in Accra, Ghana, Okwuosa, represented by Chuka Eze, Managing Director of Frazimex Engineering Limited, said relaxed visa restrictions and cross-border collaborations are essential to drive development.

"Cross-border collaborations are critically important to the upscaling of the upstream to solve Africa's

problems because it is the first process to harvest the natural resources. We don't need to reinvent the wheel; we need to leverage existing capabilities," he said.

He stressed the need for regional movement accords for energy professionals, searchable opportunity platforms, mandatory apprenticeship clauses in contracts, and multi-country pilot projects to strengthen Africa's energy ecosystem.

Highlighting Oilserv's success story, Okwuosa credited the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), for policies that empowered local operators. "We started from refurbishing a swimming pool to playing

a major role in gas infrastructure in Nigeria, with Pan-African extensions to Benin, Ghana, Togo, and Uganda," he said.

On executed projects, he cited the Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (OB3) gas pipeline and the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK), pipeline, stressing the importance of government's support. "Clients are doing their best to bring projects to life, but the right policies must be available to solve continental problems," he added.

Okwuosa further urged

African governments to move from conversations to implementation. "We can't just walk alone. There are synergies we can leverage from one country to another to optimize resources," he noted.

Other stakeholders echoed his call. Mr Yagouba Traore, Head of Energy Policy, AFREC, Senegal, said: "There is need for more collaborative work towards championing robust growth in Africa's energy industry. The capacity is available to achieve whatever we want."

USAOSA Lagos meets, honours Akpojovi, SAN

UNITY SCHOOL Agbarho Old Students Association, USAOSA, Lagos Chapter holds her 2025 third quarterly Meeting on Sunday,

September 21 at Pepperoni House, by General Paints Bus Stop, Lekki Ajah Expressway, Alasia-Ajah.

A statement by the

New yam festival: Asagba of Asaba celebrates, says kingdom moving in right direction

By Ochuko Akuopha

ASABA—THE Asagba of Asaba, Delta State, HRM Prof. Epiphany Azinge, SAN, yesterday, celebrated his first new yam festival since ascension to throne, expressing happiness that the kingdom was moving in the right direction.

Speaking at his palace during the celebration that attracted notable

personalities, the monarch called for renewed commitment to agriculture as a lasting solution to food insecurity.

He emphasized the need for the Asaba people to start farming again, saying that "no kingdom can thrive while ignoring agriculture. We have fertile lands, and we can also decide to fish in the River Niger."

The monarch, who cut the New Yam (Iwa-ji) at the ceremony, said: "I am celebrating the goodness of God and the blessings of our ancestors since my ascension."

"Asaba continues to blossom and flourish and seems to be moving in the right direction. For that we are grateful; for that, we are thankful to God; for that, we have every reason to celebrate."

He thanked the people of the kingdom for their continued support, lauding them for trooping out in their numbers to show their support and solidarity to the throne.

The Asagba recognised and honoured some personalities who have worked for the progress of the Asaba kingdom, including the member representing Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency, Mr Ngozi Okolie, the member representing Oshimili South Constituency the Delta State House of Assembly, Bridget Anyafulu, among others.

Also speaking, Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, in the State, Elder Omeni Sobotie, described the monarch as a very attractive personality.



DONATION: From left— Mr Tunde Bakare, Mr Itse Orughoh, Mr. Ejenavwo Adarighofua, President, Sapele zone, Mrs Josephine Okotie, Ethiope Primary School, Okirighwre, Sapele Headmistress, Mr David Igho Temisan, Mr Solomon Abeke, Mr Joshua Orose, and Mr Akwavbiokpene Erhumu Eva, at Ethiope Primary School, Sapele when Neo Black Movement of Africa, Sapele zone, donated writing materials to schools in Sapele Local Government Area, Delta State.

HAPPY
53RD
Birthday
TO A
PATRIOT

Happy Birthday To A Wonderful Brother And Benefactor, **MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA, A.K.A. PETER BLACK.**

May God continue to preserve and sustain your life in robust health and abundant wealth.

May the years ahead of you be the sweetest of your journey.

Congratulations, brother, on your 53RD Birthday.

God bless you in all days of your life.



SIGNED:

**ASIWAJU 'SOLA RASHEED ADEBAYO
CHAIRMAN, LAWAL IYANDA FARMS LTD
OREROKPE, DELTA STATE.**



**MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA
A.K.A. PETER BLACK**

Happy
53RD
Birthday
TO AN
**AMAZING
BOSS!**

I, ESE MARTINS IKUKU, on behalf of the Management and Staff of ARTUR FERDINARD LTD, congratulates an Inspirational Leader, Mentor and Benefactor, MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA, ALIAS PETER BLACK, on this auspicious occasion of his 53RD BIRTHDAY, today, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2025.

Sir, without any iota of doubt, you have demonstrated an admirably strong affection and passion for humanity.

Sir, we at ARTUR FERDINARD acknowledge that your guidance and mentorship have impacted our team.

Your leadership has always been a beacon of hope and inspiration to all of us. Your ability to transform challenges to opportunities is truly admirable and inspirational.

Sir, as you mark this special day, may it be filled with joy, blessings, and continued success.

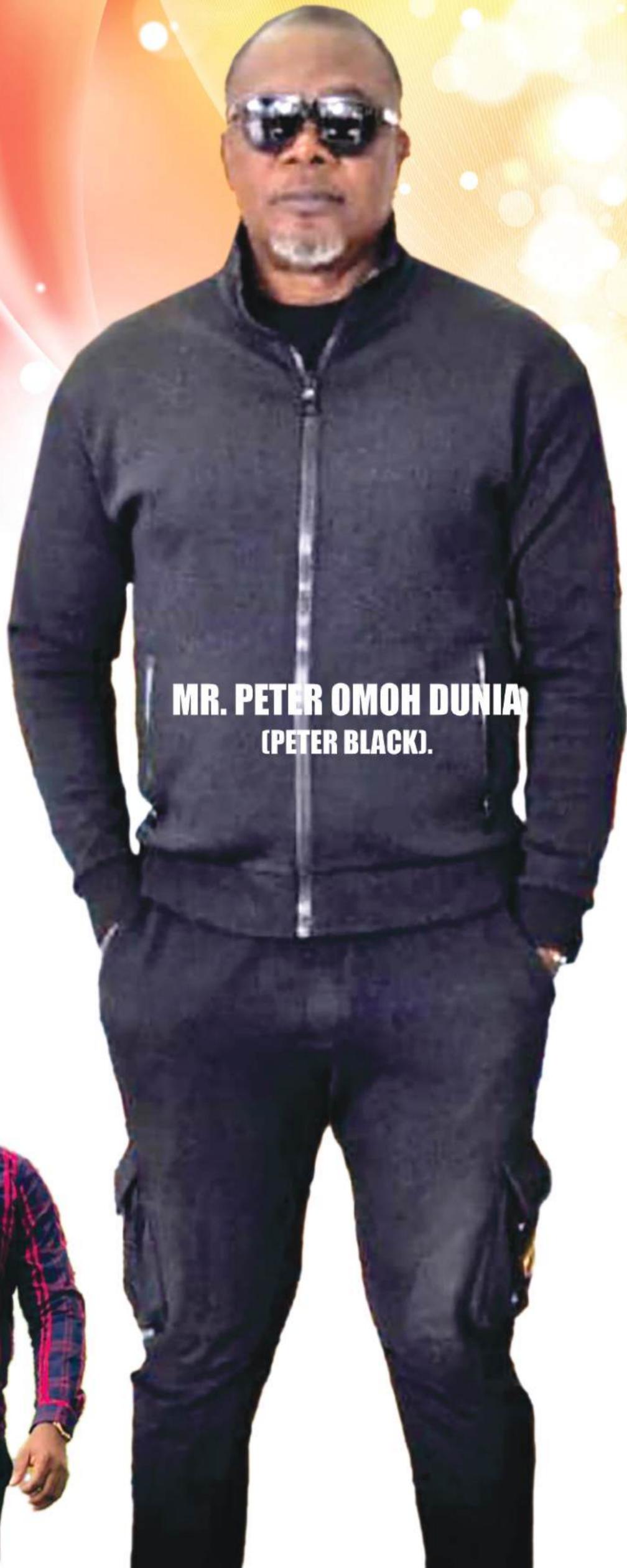
May God continue to bless you with strength, wisdom and good health as you serve our people in the Niger Delta in particular and the nation in general.

Once again, Congratulations and Happy Birthday, Sir.

God bless you the more.



SIGNED:
MR. ESE MARTINS IKUKU
MANAGING DIRECTOR
FOR MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF
ARTUR FERDINARD LTD.



MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA
(PETER BLACK).

Happy **53RD** Birthday
TO A LEADER
PER EXCELLENCE

On behalf of the Management and Staff of AMITY GLOBAL FARMS, I, FERDINARD AMURUN, Congratulates MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA (ALIAS PETER BLACK), on his 53RD BIRTHDAY, TODAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2025.

Sir, our hearts overflow with joy as we celebrate you on this remarkable milestone.

Your leadership status is unique and unparalleled. As a leader, you have the heart to serve others without seeking reward.

More importantly, you do good without bothering about who recognises your kind gesture.

Indeed, you have exhibited a shining example of purposeful living. You are a man of grace, means and integrity.

Sir, at 53, you wear your achievements handsomely, not in material success but in warmth and kindness you extend to everyone fortunate enough to know you.

To us at AMITY GLOBAL FARMS, you remain that loving and caring godfather, who has stood with us through the seasons of life.

Sir, on this auspicious occasion of your 53RD BIRTHDAY, we wish you Many Happy Returns in Stable Health and Abundant Prosperity.

CONGRATULATIONS SIR! GOD BLESS.



SIGNED:
MR. FERDINARD AMURUN
MANAGING DIRECTOR
FOR AND BEHALF OF THE MANAGEMENT AND
STAFF OF AMITY GLOBAL FARMS.



MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA
(PETER BLACK).

A Tribute to a Remarkable Leader

at 53



**MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA
(PETER BLACK).**

The IDAMA AMURUN AND FAMILY proudly join numerous family members, friends and associates in celebrating the 53rd birthday of our **LEADER AND BENEFACTOR, MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA (PETER BLACK).**

This milestone is more than a marker of time—it is a profound celebration of a man, whose extraordinary generosity and steadfast dedication have transformed the lives of millions across Nigeria.

Your philanthropic legacy is etched deeply into the fabric of our nation.

Through remarkable donations and strategic interventions, you have turned charity into a powerful force for hope and renewal.

Beyond financial generosity, your personal presence and compassionate disposition have provided solace and strength, particularly within and beyond AMURUN FAMILY DYNASTY OF EKPAN COMMUNITY IN Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State.

These humanitarian efforts demonstrate your unwavering commitment to alleviating poverty, responding swiftly to the needs of our people across the length and breath of the Niger Delta, championing the empowerment of disadvantaged youths and nurturing the potential of its young people.

THE IDAMA AMURUN AND FAMILY proudly acknowledge these transformative contributions as seeds of lasting change.

On this special day, we affirm our support for your vision for the general of good of our dear country, nay Niger Delta.

We salute your unparalleled generosity, strength, and relentless dedication to Nigeria's progress.

As you celebrate today, may God crown this new dawn with solid health, renewed strength, joy beyond measures and greater fulfillment.

Once again, Happy 53rd birthday, our Leader—a true patriot.



SIGNED:

**MR. IDAMA ARTUR AMURUN
FOR IDAMA AMURUN AND FAMILY**



Happy BIRTHDAY

TO THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND OUR SUCCESS

We, the undersigned, congratulate and rejoice with our Principal and Boss, **MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA, ALIAS PETER BLACK**, on the occasion of his 53RD birthday today, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2025.

Your roles in the human capacity development of Uvwie people in Delta State in particular and Niger Delta in general are epochal and commendable.

We seize this opportunity to express our appreciation in particular and that of teeming Uvwie people in general for your leadership, mentorship, and positive impacts you have had on us.

You are not only an incredible boss but a wonderful person. Thank you for your kindness, empathy and particularly, knowledge you brought into the lives of Uvwie people.

We also wish to place on record that your dedication and passion for excellence inspired us all to reach for new heights in our various endeavours.

May your 53RD birthday mark the beginning of a new chapter filled with greater achievements and fulfilment.

May the incoming years also bring fresh opportunities for growth and success in both your business and personal life.

We thank God for giving us the opportunity to know and meet you.

Sir, thank you for being a great boss.

We wish you good health, joy and many more years of fruitful service to humanity. Once again, Happy Birthday to an amazing boss, who always brings out the best in us.

Congratulations, Sir.

MR. PETER OMOH DUNIA ALIAS PETER BLACK



MR. SWEET ILELEJI
MD/CEO
OVIDAF VENTURES



MR. FRANK ABUGEWA
CEO
ABUS OIL SERVICES LTD.



SIGNED:

MR. JOEL ILELEJI
CEO
JAMIL AND JAYS COMPANY LIMITED



ENGR. MARTINS OGAGA
CHAIRMAN/MANAGING DIRECTOR
MOGASON GLOBAL SERVICES LTD.

PROCUREMENT NOTICE: Invitation for Bids Without Pre-Qualification



Enugu State Water Corporation

PROGRAMME: AFD Support to 3rd National Urban Water Sector Reform Project

Procurement of Package N°3

Construction of Distribution Network of Central Zone, Sub-zone 1 of the Enugu State Water Supply System

Date: **Friday, September 19, 2025**

Project Name: AFD Support to 3rd National Urban Water Sector Reform Project

IFB No: ENS/NUWSRP-3/IPC/W/2025/01

The Enugu State Water Corporation (ENSWC) has received funds from Agence Française de Développement ("AFD") towards the cost of French Development Agency Support to the 3rd National Urban Water Sector Reform Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of these funds will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the **Construction of Distribution Network of Central Zone, Sub-zone 1 of the Enugu State Water Supply System.**

The Enugu State Water Corporation now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the execution of the following works ("the Works"): **Construction of Distribution Network of Central Zone, Sub-zone 1 of the Enugu State Water Supply System.** This package covers the Construction of distribution network of Enugu City Central Sub-Zone 1 of the Enugu Water Supply System, including the supply and installation of Ductile Iron (DI) and High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipes and fittings of various diameters of between 100 mm and 1200 mm. The works also includes the rehabilitation of existing pipe network, installation of concrete chambers and associated pipeline appurtenances for air-valves, washouts, Pressure Regulating Valves, flowmeters, isolation valves, etc. The contract is planned to start in December 2025 with a construction period of 12 months and a Defect Liability Period (DLP) of 12 months.

A Pre-bid meeting and Site Visit will take place on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025**, at ENSWC office. This is optional.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Enugu State Water Corporation, No. 3 Constitution Road,

GRA, Enugu, Nigeria. Telephone: +234 08037112076. Electronic mail address: afdenuwsrp3@gmail.com; charleseze96@gmail.com

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) or Euro 170 (One Hundred and Seventy Euro)** or the equivalent sum in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cheque, bank draft or in cash, made out in favour of SPIU, Enugu State Water Corporation and lodged in the designated account (with payment slip tendered as evidence of payment). The Naira Account details are as follows: **Bank:** Access Bank; **Bank Branch:** Garden Avenue, Enugu; **Account Number:** 0783994965; and **Account Name:** Enugu State French Development Water Project - Current Operating Cost Account.

The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of AFD's Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works.

Bids must be delivered to the above office on or before 12.00 pm (GMT+1) on **Friday, November 14, 2025**, and must be accompanied by a Security (Unconditional Bank Guarantee) of **N410,000,000.00 (Four Hundred and Ten Million Naira) or EUR235,000 (Two Hundred and Thirty-Five Thousand Euro)**, with a bid validity period of 120 days from bid submission date.

Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12.30 pm (GMT+1) on **Friday, November 14, 2025**, at the conference room of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), Enugu State Water Corporation, No. 3 Constitution Road, GRA, Enugu, Nigeria

Qualification criteria are detailed in section III – Evaluation and Qualification Criteria of the

Bid Document including the under stated minimum Conditions for participation:

- Suitability to pursue the professional activity, including requirements relating to enrolment on professional or trade registers.
- Experience in water construction contracts (pumping stations, transmission pipeline construction and rehabilitation, concrete tanks rehabilitation, etc.), in the role of prime contractor, JVCA member, subcontractor, or management contractor for at least the last 5 years, starting 1st January 2020.
- Economic and Financial Standing Average annual turnover from construction contracts (calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed) over the last five (5) years of **Euro 23,000,000 (Twenty-Three Million Euro)** equivalent.

Access to or availability of financial resources, such as liquid assets, unencumbered real assets, lines of credit, and other financial means, other than any contractual advance payments, not less than **Euro 5,500,000 (Five Million, Five Hundred Thousand Euro)** equivalent, taking into account the tenderer's commitments for other contracts.

- Technical and professional ability Two (2) contracts successfully implemented, each of minimum value **Euro 19,000,000 (Nineteen Million Euro)** equivalent in Design & build, and construction works and commissioning of large water supply system including water distribution pipelines with diameters between DN 100 and ND 1200 and length above 50 km that have been satisfactorily and substantially completed as a prime contractor, joint venture member, management contractor or subcontractor between **1st January 2015** and application submission deadline.

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 Orchid Hotel/ Ebony Life Place

Address: 1637 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos.
☎ 0901 200 2206



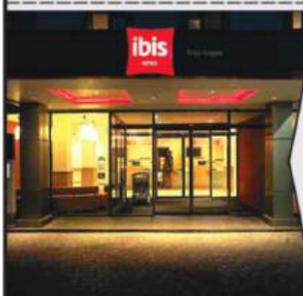
Hotel Inn

Address: 1 Prince Yomi Daramola St, Oniru, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos
☎ 0707 451 8500



Ibis Hotel

Address: 23 Toyin St, Ikeja, Lagos 100282, Lagos
☎ 0201 277 7888



Proof Hotel Lekki

8 Rafiat Ayinke Tinubu Close off T F Kuboye Street Oniru, Eti-Osa, Lekki, Lagos
Phone: 0814 242 2888



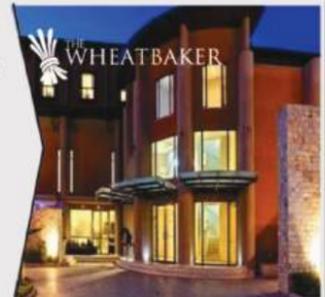
MountRoyal Centre Hotel & Suites

Address: Plot B19, Between GTBank and Anchorage Estate Apple Junction, Lagos
☎ 0906 917 9335



The Wheatbaker Hotel

Address: 4 Lawrence Rd, Ikoyi, Lagos 101233, Lagos
Phone: 0916 435 9466



Glee Hotel

287b Akin Olugbade St, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos
Phone: 0909 114 2755



PHOTOSCOPE



AGM—From left: Sulaiman Koguna, Non Executive Director, Red Star Express Plc.; Frances Akpomuka, Company Secretary; Suleiman Barau, Chairman; Auwalu Babura, GMD; Chioma Sideso, Non Executive Director; Charles Ejekam, Group Executive Director, during the 32nd Annual General Meeting of Red Star Express, held in their Lagos office, yesterday. Photo: Lamidi Bamidele, Photo Editor.



GRADUATION—From left: Vice Principal, Administration, Babcock University, BU, High School, Mr. David John; Dep. Bursar, BU, Dr. Dipo Adebawojo; Principal, BU High School, Dr. Bolanle Adebawojo; Guest Speaker, Dr. Sunday Audu; Chairman, Babcock University Schools Management Board, Prof. Abiodun Adesegun; Vice Principal, Finance, BU High School, Dr. Olubunmi Alao, and Chairman, Parent Teachers Association, BU High School, Prof. Taiwo Ojo, during Babcock University High School's 30th Graduation and Award ceremony, held at Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.



LAUNCHING—From left: Seun Adaramola, Director, Marketing, Visa West Africa; Tareq Muhmood, Visa's Regional President, CEMEA; Farooq Oreagba, Campaign Ambassador; Aminat Kane, Visa's Senior Vice President, Group Country Manager, CEMEA, and Andrew Uaboi, Vice President and Cluster Head, Visa West Africa, during the Visa Affluent Rewards programme launch event, at Ikoyi, Lagos. Photo: Akeem Salau.



From left: The National Treasurer National Union of Textile Garment & Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN), Mr. Martin Kundi with the General Secretary Comrade Ali Baba and the National Trusty Comrade Abdulganiyu Bankole at a press briefing on the recent development in Edo State NLC and resignation of the Union representative from the NLC Edo State caretaker Committee in Kaduna yesterday. Photos : Olu Ajayi.

Leadership: PFN harps on succession, integrity, accountability

By Ebunoluwa Sessou

THE Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, has called on ministers of God to be deliberate in succession plan, financial prudence and setting strong moral standards among themselves.

Speakers at the third edition of the Biennial Ministers' Conference and open air crusade in Lagos, made the call with a view to raise a new crop of responsible church leaders who will address the challenges confronting churches in Nigeria.

The conference, themed, 'Help From Above' taking from Psalm 37: 40, aimed at bringing all the churches in the Alimosho Local Government Area together for Christ in soul-winning.

State Chairman of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, Lagos chapter and founding Pastor of Global Impact Ministries, Pastor Yemi Davids, explained that the conference was designed to "build leaders that build the church by equipping them with skills to manage people and resources while offering encouragement to pastors under pressure."

He cautioned younger ministers against moral failings, stressing that charisma alone cannot sustain a calling.

"Your gift can make you visible but your character will help you last. While you are developing your gift, reinforce it with solid character so you don't damage your future."

One of the guest speakers, the Senior Pastor of Calvary Bible Church, Pastor Olumide Emmanuel, urged ministers to see the need in succession plan adding that, the call of God is "a generational call that must flow from one generation to another.

According to him, "God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob adding that every minister of God must be intentional, in the succession plan that is geared towards raising the next generation.

He warned ministries against living from hand to mouth, urging churches to cultivate a savings culture and invest part of their weekly offerings in treasury bills, bonds and fixed deposits while encouraging legitimate ventures such as schools, restaurants, saloons and transport services to fund projects rather than allowing funds "sit idle."

Iheanacho Ekedo is dead

ROYAL High Chief in Ugwu Nkpa, Bende Local Government Area of Abia State, Chief Iheanacho Ekedo (Oyi Nat Mba 1 of Ugwu Nkpa) has died, after a brief illness.

He has since been buried in his home town, Ugwu Nkpa, after royal ceremonies.



• Late Ekedo



With N5bn in 25 years, Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation changes lives across Nigeria

The Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation, has become a beacon of hope for many Nigerians, a lifeline drawn across the nation for the poor and needy, just as it announced that more than N5 billion had been disbursed in zakat and sadaqat over 25 years, touching the lives of over 100,000 direct beneficiaries and more than 600,000 indirectly.

Executive Director Prince Sulayman Olagunju gave the figure at the 2025 Zakat Distribution Ceremony held in Lagos recently, where N296.6 million was shared among 1,835 beneficiaries.

Olagunju said: "This final leg in Lagos reminds us that zakat is not just a transfer of wealth but the fulfillment of a divine trust. It restores dignity, hope, and opportunity."

He outlined the growth of the foundation thus: "over N3 billion in zakat and over N2 billion in sadaqat disbursed, a testament to donor



A beneficiary (middle) receiving an empowerment tool from Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation

trust. In 2025, N653.2 million went to 2,821 people across 28 states, among the highest disbursements in the Foundation's history.

According to him, the distribution focused on empowerment, education, and medical support: N283.8 million for 1,818 business startups and skills, N53.6 million to 611 students, and N51.3 million to 130 patients.

Olagunju described four pillars—education support, empowerment, community development, and welfare/relief—encompassing orphan tuition payments, widow support, free water in 50+ communities, food, and elderly rent stipends.

He said: "103 million has been disbursed in 10 years to 208 young entrepreneurs, many now livelihoods for others, proving zakat can transform dependency into empowerment."

Looking ahead, the Foundation aims to extend beyond 28 states, expand empowerment and education, strengthen medical interventions, and forge partnerships to multiply impact. He thanked donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and leaders, including Chairman Dr. Adebola Akindele Ismail of Courteville, and the media team.

"Our hope is to build a Nigeria where zakat and sadaqat become true instruments of poverty alleviation, social justice, and community transformation," he said, closing a night of concrete change and renewed trust," Olagunju said.

"You can be anything," SIDF encourages vulnerable children to dream big

At Baytu Sakeenah Orphanage, Ogba, Lagos, the Sisters in Deen Foundation (SIDF) held its Capacity Development Day, themed "Empowering Orphans and Widows Through Sustainable Development Goals." The event aimed to uplift vulnerable children and widows through targeted empowerment and emotional support.

Dr. Nurat Akinlabi-Babalola, President of SIDF, emphasized the importance of building capacity among orphans and widows to unlock their potential and strengthen the foundation's mission.

"After careful evaluation of the work we do, we realised the need to empower these children because there are innovators and leaders among them. They need that support to grow... This is one of our social interventions for vulnerable children," she said.

Retired Justice Sherifat Solebo urged parents and caregivers to prioritize emotional presence alongside financial support, warning that neglect can lead to societal vices.

"As much as money is important in the upbringing of children, parental guidance and availability go a long way in raising children that are beneficial to the society," she noted.

Referencing the Qur'an, she advocated for balanced family roles and praised the Minister of Education's efforts to upgrade technical education.

Mrs. Modupeola Saheed-Adebambo, Chairperson of the Nigeria Association of Social Workers (Lagos Chapter), highlighted the role of adult support in shaping resilient youth.

"Overcoming fears, building resilience, and having significant support from adults are inevitable to building responsible future adults," she said. "We also need to let them know that it is okay for them to make mistakes. What matters is how they respond and learn from those mistakes." Psychotherapist Dr. Fatai Olajobi delivered a powerful message of hope, urging children not to let their current circumstances define their future.

"You can be anything you want to be... Despite being orphans or deprived kids, they can be presidents, lawyers, doctors, farmers, journalists, accountants, and architects," he said. "Pain is an energizer of success. No great person has ever achieved greatness without going through some kind of pain."

The event served as a beacon of encouragement, reminding vulnerable children that their dreams are valid and achievable—regardless of their beginnings.



From left: Dr. Akinlabi Babalola; Justice Solebo Rtd; Mrs Saheed Adebambo and Mrs Basirat Oladosu, SIDF Welfare Officer, during their Capacity Development Day, held in Ogba, Lagos, recently.

Ahmadiyya holds global walk, run & bike for Humanity across 65 countries

Humanity First, the international humanitarian relief and development organisation, has announced its upcoming global event: Walk, Run & Bike for Humanity, taking place simultaneously across 65 countries from September 6th to 20th, 2025.

The initiative invites people of all ages and fitness levels to walk, run, or cycle in support of Humanity First's global programmes in health, education, clean water, and disaster relief.

By uniting communities through simple acts of movement, the campaign aims to highlight the power of collective action in addressing humanity's most urgent needs.

Ahmad Yahya Sayed, Chairman of Humanity First International, said: "This event is more than just miles covered on foot, wheels, or track, it is a global movement of compassion, service, and unity. As Humanity First marks 30 years of service, every participant becomes part of a living message: that together, with even the smallest steps, we can circle the world with Humanity and Hope."

Dr. Y.A Habeeb, Country lead, Humanity First Nigeria country said: "Everyone has the power to make a difference. Whether you walk, run, or bike, every step counts towards creating a healthier, stronger, and more compassionate world," Dr Habeeb said.

A life, legacy, lively celebration: Alhaji Abdulfatai Dawodu turns 90

Last Saturday, the Arcade Hall of Eko Club in Surulere, Lagos, shimmered with warmth as friends, family, and admirers gathered to honor Alhaji Abdulfatai Dawodu on a milestone that feels both personal and public: his 90th birthday. The hall was filled to the brim, a testament to a life that has touched many individuals, Lagos society and beyond.

The evening carried a purposeful warmth, that brought both gratitude and fun combined. The chairman of the occasion, Retired Major General Tajudeen Olanrewaju, framed the night as a double celebration: the remarkable milestone of ninety years and the launch of a memoir that chronicles a remarkable life and the family's enduring legacy.

He spoke with a quiet gravitas, beginning with a tribute to the tireless work Dawodu poured into producing the memoirs of the Mabinuori family, a project that binds generations and preserves stories that might otherwise fade with time. The gathering, he explained, was not merely to celebrate a life but to launch a memoir on his behalf, a symbolic gesture that binds the past, present, and future into one ongoing narrative.

In a moment of civic candor, he reflected on Lagos with frankness that resonated beyond the hall: "We the sons and daughters of Lagos state are not happy. The Lagos state that is bequeathed to us is not where we want it to be. Lagos state is slipping off our hands." It was a gentle prompt to the audience about responsibility—an invitation to protect heritage and to learn from the experiences of their father, who has made himself an open book for those willing to read. The message suggested that Dawodu's life offers practical wisdom about resilience, service, and the importance of documenting and sharing family and community stories, a reminder that the elder's journey can guide the younger generations toward a more mindful future.

The evening offered a tapestry of moments that linger far beyond the banquet table. An entrancing Indian dance performance lit up the room, as a young woman in traditional Indian attire graced the stage and treated guests to a sequence of elegant steps.

The centerpiece of the night, the "Book Lunch," featured the memoir authored by the celebrant himself and reviewed by LASU's former Vice Chancellor, Prof Olanrewaju Fagbohun. Guests contributed generously to the launch, their contributions signaling broad recognition of a life woven into Lagos's social, civic, and cultural fabric. The ceremonial moment of cutting the cake punctuated the evening, a traditional rite that felt both celebratory and reflective—a symbolic pause to honor nine decades of service, community, and family.

The guest list read like a who's who of Lagos's civic and cultural corridors. Among those present were the former Inspector General Muslim Smith, the President of Eko Club Sirajudeen, LASU's former Vice Chancellor Prof Olanrewaju Smith, the past chairman of the Yoruba Tennis Club, and HRH Oba Riliwanu Akiolu of Lagos, represented by Olori Oloye of Lagos, Chief Lateef Aderibigbe. Also in attendance were Chief Adisa Abisogun, the chairman of the occasion Retired Major General Tajudeen Olanrewaju, the Lagos Island Club President Prince Olasoye Matins, and Taofeek Abdulrasaq. Their presence lent the evening a resonance that stretched across the Arcade's halls of power and culture, weaving together institutions that have helped shape the city's civic and social life over decades.



The new nonagenarian, Alhaji Abdulfatai Dawodu Mabinuori and wife (middle) flanked by President of Eko Club, Barrister Surajudeen Adedeji Lawal; and Vice President, Prince Babatunde Adele (2nd right) and other members of Eko Club during the 90th Birthday celebration and Book lunch of one of them Alhaji AbdulFatai Dawodu, held at Arcade Hall, Eko Club, Surulere recently.

True dignity lies in submission to Allah, not in wealth or power

By Imam Murtadha Gusau-Okene

All praise is due to Allah, Who guided us to Islam, and prayers and peace of Allah be upon the best of all Prophets and Messengers, our beloved Prophet, Muhammad, and upon all his family members and Companions.

Dear brothers and sisters! One of the most profound aspects of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is that despite being Allah's beloved, the final Messenger, leader of nations, and the most influential human in history, he always identified himself first as a servant of Allah (Abdullah).

Servitude (Ubudiyah) to Allah is the highest rank a believer can attain — higher than kingship, leadership, fame, or wealth. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) embodied this perfectly. While rulers of history gloried in palaces and armies, he (Peace be upon him) gloried in humility, worship, and obedience.

This identity is especially relevant today. In an age of self-promotion, materialism, and status-seeking, people measure worth by wealth, titles, or followers. The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) showed that true dignity comes not from possessions or power but from submission to Allah Almighty.

By studying him as a servant of Allah, we learn how to surrender the ego, seek Allah's pleasure in all actions, and live an Allah-centred life.

The Noble Qur'an repeatedly honours the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) by calling him a servant (Abd). Allah the Most High says: "Exalted is He who took His servant by night from al-Masjid al-Haram to al-Masjid al-Aqsa..." [Qur'an, 17:1] "And indeed, when the servant of Allah stood up supplicating Him, they almost became about him a compacted mass." [Qur'an, 72:19] "Blessed is He who sent down the Criterion upon His servant that he may be to the worlds a warner." [Qur'an, 25:1]

Notice that at the moments of greatest honour — the Isra'i and Mi'raj, the revelation of the Qur'an, and his Da'awah — Allah described him first as His servant. This shows that servitude is the most dignified identity. The Prophetic Hadith further reinforces this:

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) said: "Do not exaggerate in praising me as the Christians praised the son of Mary (Isa/Jesus), for I am only a servant. So call me the servant of Allah and His Messenger." [Bukhari]

Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) reported that: "The Messenger of Allah would be in the service of his family, and when the time for prayer came, he would go out to pray." [Bukhari]

His greatness was not in worldly kingship, but in being Allah's devoted servant. Although he (Peace be upon him) was the Messenger of Allah, the leader of all believers, and followed by thousands, the Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) lived with extraordinary simplicity. He never considered himself above ordinary people, nor did he surround himself with the luxuries of kings and rulers. Instead, his life reflected humility, detachment from worldly possessions, and complete servitude to Allah.

His home was made of modest mud-brick rooms, roofed with palm branches. His furniture was minimal — often a mat of woven palm fibres or a leather cushion filled with palm leaves. Many nights passed with no cooked food in his household. Aisha (may Allah be pleased with her) once said that sometimes a whole month would pass with nothing in the Prophet's house but water and dates. Yet he (Peace be upon him) never complained. Rather, he thanked Allah and remained patient.

One of the most touching moments was when Umar Ibn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) entered the Prophet's room and saw him lying on a rough mat. The mat had left deep marks on his back, and there was little else in the room — just a few barley grains, a hanging water skin, and some simple belongings. Umar (RA) could not hold back his tears. He said:

"O Messenger of Allah, the kings of Persia and Byzantium live in splendour, resting on silk and surrounded by wealth, while you — the Messenger of Allah — sleep on this rough mat?" The Prophet (Peace be upon him), however, smiled calmly and replied: "What have I to do with this world? My relationship with this world is like that of a traveller who stops under the shade of a tree for a short while, then rises and leaves it behind." [Tirmidhi]

This single statement captures his entire outlook on life. The world was temporary, like a tree offering shade on a long journey. His real focus was the Hereafter, and he lived as a humble servant of Allah, not as a king seeking luxury.

His humility was not only in his possessions but in his daily conduct. He (Peace be upon him) sat with his companions on the ground, ate simple food, and never separated himself from the poor. He would accept invitations even from the humblest in society. At home, he mended his own clothes, milked goats, and carried out chores. Aisha (RA) said:

"He was in the service of his family."

Visitors to Madinah often could not distinguish him from his companions because of his modest dress and simple manner. He was approachable, gentle, and without arrogance. Even when wealth from victories and conquests flowed into Madinah, he did not keep it for himself but gave it to the poor, needy, widows, and orphans.

The Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) could have chosen grandeur. He was offered kingship and wealth but chose to live as a servant of Allah. His life was a living reminder that dignity lies not in possessions but in closeness to Allah.

In our today's society, success is often measured by positions, possessions, titles, or public recognition. Servitude is misunderstood as weakness, instead of recognising it as ultimate strength. Pride is rooted in wealth and status, rather than in submission to Allah.

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FACING THE KA'ABA

Rabiul Awwal 26, 1447 A.H.

Haroon I. Balogun

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Lekki Muslim Ummah grows exponentially, sets agenda for inclusive progress

THE Lekki Muslim Ummah (LEMU) marked another financial year of remarkable growth and infrastructural expansion as it held its 7th Annual General Meeting recently.

The event held at the Jubrila Ayinla Multipurpose hall, Lekki Central Mosque, revealed that donations surged by 29%, from N251 million in 2023 to N322.8 million in 2024, while the second phase of staff accommodation—six new rooms—was commissioned, indicating LEMU's commitment to building a transparent, inclusive, and non-sectarian Ummah.

Presiding over the meeting on behalf of Vice Admiral Jubrila Ayinla (rtd), Engr. Raji Adeniji praised the exponential growth of LEMU, attributing its success to member dedication and visionary leadership.

LEMU President, Dr. Abdul Ganiyu Olusola Labinjo called for continued unity and urged greater youth involvement, warning, "The absence of youths in the masjid today portends the absence of Islam in our community tomorrow."

Dr. Labinjo announced the completion of three major projects: mosque painting, a new school bus, and a 100kva generator. Plans to upgrade the solar inverter system were also revealed, aimed at reducing the mosque's N3 million monthly electricity bill.

He acknowledged the resignation of Alhaji Adeniji Kazeem (SAN) as Chairman of LEMU Schools' Board of Governors, welcoming Alhaji Niyi Yusuf as successor. Labinjo expressed optimism about Yusuf's leadership, especially in addressing the urgent need for school expansion.

He called for renewed unity, accountability, and collective commitment to building a stronger, inclusive Ummah—

one that reflects the true spirit of Islam: compassion, progress, and unwavering faith.

He also applauded the educational strides made by LEMU Schools and the vibrancy of the Da'wah Committee's programmes. "Phenomenal expansion, infrastructural upgrades, and strategic vision," he said, "have left a lasting positive legacy."

The Zakat Committee, led by Alhaji Yunis Saliu, disbursed N99 million in 2024, with N63 million directed toward empowering small businesses. Welfare and Da'wah Committees were commended for their outreach and support, while the Ramadan Committee was lauded for innovations in Itikaf and daily iftar.

In his goodwill message, Vice Admiral Ayinla (rtd), through Engr. Adeniji, described LEMU's growth as "exponential," attributing its success to member commitment and executive leadership. He praised the Zakat and Sadaqah Committee's role in poverty alleviation and highlighted the contributions of the Women Forum and Youth Committee to health, charity, and community development.

He praised the outgoing Exco's "phenomenal expansion and strategic vision," urging continued collaboration as the administration heads toward July 2026.

Vice Admiral Ayinla's message called for unity, accountability, and collective commitment to a stronger Ummah.



Meritorious Awards: Mr. and Mrs Hassan Balogun, Awardees, during the presentation of Certificate of Merits by Lafenwa Central Mosque, Itele, Ado-Odo Ota, Ogun State, recently.



From left: Alhaja Muinat Shopeyin, Member, Board of Trustee, Lekki Muslims Ummah, LEMU; Alhaji Yunus Saliu, Member; Barrister Adeniji Kazeem, former Attorney General, Lagos state/President, Ansarudeen Society of Nigeria; Dr AbdulGaniyu Labinjo, President, LEMU; Engr. Adeniji Raji, member, BOT; Imam Najeem Jimoh, Chief Imam, Lighthouse Mosque, Lekki; Senator Kamaldeen Odunsi, member, BOT and Alhaji Mojeed Ninalowo, Secretary, BOT during Lekki Muslim Ummah, LEMU 7th Annual General meeting held in Lekki, Lagos on Sunday. Photo Lamidi Bamidele, Photo Editor



Rivers: Assembly resumes sitting, Fubara fails to show up

Continues from page 5

following the end of emergency rule in the state.

Residents, including politicians and major stakeholders, as early as 7a.m., besieged Government House in Port Harcourt to welcome the governor as he resumes duty after his six months suspension.

Fubara was expected in Government House, yesterday morning following the lifting of the six months emergency rule by President Bola Tinubu via a statement on September 17.

Various groups in the different attires from the 23 councils of the state were seen singing and dancing outside the gate, anticipating Fubara's arrival.

Excited supporters of Fubara expressed satisfaction with the restoration of democratic rule in Rivers, hoping that the state would now witness more accelerated development to make up for the six months of emergency rule.

Former President of Nigerian Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, Mr. Marvin Yobana, told **Vanguard**: "Today is a great day. A joyous day. I want to thank Mr. President that at the expiration of six months, he has been able to lift up the emergency rule in the state."

"I want to urge all political actors who have embraced peace to keep the peace. I commend the governor and the FCT Minister for toeing that path of peace. Rivers people voted for the governor and they love him very much."

"We must appreciate one another. We are here because we are happy as a people. The projects the governor embarked on are people-oriented. We believe that he will continue in that same speed to complete them for the best interest of Rivers State."

Vanguard gathered that most of those who thronged Government House were members of the Simplified Movement (Fubara's political structure) with some of the banners displaying photographs of former Speaker of the House and Governor Fubara's top ally, Victor Oko-Jumbo.

Among them were immediate past council chairmen loyal to Fubara and their supporters such as former chairman of Obio/

Akpor, Chijoke Ihunwo, and his counterpart from Port Harcourt City LG, Ezeibunwo Itchemati.

Surprisingly, supporters of the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, were not seen, including the newly-elected LG chairmen.

Those seen leaving the Government Gouse Gate expressed frustration over the governor's absence after waiting for several hours.

"We are going because we are hungry. Maybe when the governor comes we will return," one of them said.

Empty Government House

Meantime, it has been gathered that the Brick House is now empty, following failure of the governor to return, yesterday as expected. Sources said the house would remain so until the governor resumes

Ibas quits, seeks support for Fubara

While handing over, Ibas said: "Six months ago, President Tinubu entrusted me with the solemn responsibility of steering Rivers State through an extraordinary moment in its history."

"Today, I can say with conviction that by the grace of God and through our collective efforts, the mandate has been accomplished; law and order has been restored; local government elections have been conducted and chairmen elected by the people now serve in their offices."

"Statutory boards and commissions have been reconstituted and are performing their duties. State budget had been passed by the National Assembly providing a legitimate fiscal framework for governance and development."

"These are milestones of progress that belong to all of us because they reflect the resilience of the people determined never to allow their state slip into paralysis."

Constant vigilance

Ibas said despite the milestones, "we must be mindful, however, that statecraft is not a destination. Even the most advanced nations and countries must constantly renew themselves because governance is a living process."



From left: The National Treasurer National Union of Textile Garment & Tailoring Workers of Nigeria (NUTGTWN), Mr. Martin Kundi with the General Secretary Comrade Ali Baba and the National Trusty Comrade Abdulganiyu Bankole at a press briefing on the recent development in Edo State NLC and resignation of the Union representative from the NLC Edo State caretaker Committee in Kaduna yesterday. Photos : Olu Ajayi.

"Rivers State will continue to require vigilance, sacrifice and leadership anchored on one enduring truth that governments exist to protect the people and to promote their welfare and well-being."

Lessons learned

On the lessons learned from the emergency rule, Ibas said: "One of the enduring lessons of this season is that the exercise of power without restraint can cripple institutions and rivalry without dialogue clearly endangers democracy."

"Let this chapter stand as a permanent reminder that the health of our polity depends not on who wins or loses but on how political actors manage their differences and in the strength of the institutions we preserve and the unity we nurture."

Support Fubara

"As I hand back the reins of leadership to Governor Fubara, I do so with confidence and respect. I urge Rivers people to support him wholeheartedly because leadership and followership is a shared responsibility."

"No matter how competent and clear a vision may be it can only come to fruition and thrive with the active support of citizens. For me this is the closing of another chapter in life, devoted to service in diplomacy and now in governance."

"I leave with gratitude to God, proud of what we have accomplished together and hopeful of what lies ahead. May history remember not just the titles we bore but the fidelity with which we have served."

Ibas thanked President Tinubu for reposing confidence in him and entrusting him with the onerous task of restoring order in the state as well as supporting him throughout the period.

I've forgiven Fubara — Wike

Meanwhile, Wike has said that he has put aside past differences with Fubara, insisting that reconciliation has already taken place.

While featuring on Channels TV programme,

Wike said he would not engage with Governor Fubara if he had not forgiven him, stressing that for him, "everything is over."

"I have already said that we have been speaking. I will not engage with a man I have not forgiven. Everything is over. I am not a politician who says one thing today and another tomorrow. We must move forward," he said.

The former Rivers governor, however, accused some unnamed individuals of attempting to frustrate the peace process by deliberately twisting legal interpretations surrounding the conduct of local government elections in the state.

"Unfortunately, there are people who do not want peace. Today, I watched individuals twisting the law, claiming illegality in the conduct of local government elections. But ask them: what did they do to prevent such illegality in the first place?" Wike queried.

He further lauded President Tinubu for his intervention in restoring calm in Rivers, noting that peace had returned to the state despite efforts by "conflict merchants" to stir the crisis, adding "the president has done a great deal."

Nothing to celebrate — Atiku

Speaking on the restoration of democracy in Rivers, former Vice President and 2023 Presidential Candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, said on his X handle: "Lifting the suspension of Governor Simi Fubara is nothing to cheer about. The suspension of the Rivers State Governor and the State House of Assembly was unconstitutional when it was done six months ago and is still illegal today."

"President Tinubu had no power to suspend a democratically elected governor and state lawmakers. The Rivers shenanigans only signpost the dictatorship of the Tinubu administration."

A misstep that shouldn't have happened- Peter Obi

The 2023 Presidential candidate of Labour Party, LP, Mr. Peter Obi, described the emergency as a misstep which should not have happened.

Obi expressed hope that all political gladiators in the state had learned a lesson from the sad episode because it would be a tragedy if no lessons were learned.

The former Anambra State governor said this in a post captioned: "The misstep that should not have happened," on his X handle, yesterday.

He said: "The restoration of democracy in Rivers State after six months of needless disruption remains a sour side of our democracy today. It was a constitutional breach that will hurt our democracy for a long time."

"I just hope that some lessons were learned by all the gladiators in the Rivers State impasse. Great minds remind us that 'The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing.'"

"A true leader is the one who admits his/her mistakes, is smart enough to learn from them, and is strong enough to correct them."

"I would like to congratulate the good people of Rivers State for their endurance in the face of provocations. And to appeal to Governor Siminalayi Fubara, the members of the state House of Assembly and all the political leaders in the state to embrace peace and forge ahead."

"The real mistake is the one where we end up learning nothing. Be assured that a new Nigeria is Possible and inevitable."

Tinubu playing god in Rivers — ADC

The African Democratic Congress, ADC, criticised President Tinubu's handling of the Rivers State political crisis, describing the suspension and subsequent reinstatement of Governor Fubara as a dangerous precedent that could weaken Nigeria's democracy and encourage federal overreach.

The party warned that the development posed a serious risk to constitutional governance and the balance of power between federal and state authorities.

In a statement by its National Publicity Secretary, Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, the ADC expressed concern over the President's approach to resolving the conflict in Rivers State, aying it raised questions about the proper limits of executive authority.

Abdullahi said the move was more about 'political strategy' than genuine efforts to strengthen democracy.

"On September 17, Nigerians witnessed a curious spectacle: President Tinubu directing the governor, deputy governor, and members of the state Assembly in Rivers State to 'resume' duties after serving his six-month suspension from office," Abdullahi said.

The ADC argued that Tinubu's actions amounted to assuming powers not granted to the presidency under the constitution, thereby undermining the rule of law and the democratic process.

The ADC argued that by sidelining elected officials without judicial process, the President effectively stripped the people of Rivers State of their right to be governed by leaders they freely chose at the ballot box.

"For six long months, the will of the people of Rivers State was set aside. Their elected leaders were, in effect, put on suspension, not by a court of law, but by a President who himself was elected."

"Now, with the wave of a hand and the stroke of his pen, the same President has decided to 'allow' other duly elected officials back to work, as though they were his political appointees," the ADC added.

The party reminded Tinubu of his own history as a state governor who once championed federalism and state autonomy, contrasting it with his present actions, which it said have reduced governors to subordinates of the federal government.

"The President is not a headmaster, and governors are not his pupils to be sent home and recalled at his discretion. Yet, with this action, the President and his men have achieved their goals; not to restore peace to Rivers State, but to secure a thoroughly pacified government loyal to Abuja," Abdullahi stressed.



Naira appreciates to N1,530/\$ in parallel market

By Elizabeth Adegbesan

The Naira yesterday appreciated to N1,530 per dollar in the parallel market from N1,537 per dollar on Wednesday.

Likewise the Naira appreciated to N1,490 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 N1,490 per dollar from N1,498 per dollar on Wednesday, indicating N8 appreciation for the naira.

Consequently, the margin between the parallel market and NFEM rate widened to N40 per dollar from N39 per dollar on Wednesday.

Motoring



Toyota unveils models for 2025

• Reinforces global leadership

DETERMINED to maintain its position as the world's top automaker, Toyota Motor Corporation kickstarted the 2025 model year with a bold and aggressive rollout of refreshed and all-new vehicles across multiple segments.

From sedans and station wagons to SUVs, hybrids, and electric vehicles, Toyota is making a strong statement with redesigned models and expanded trim options—delivering innovation, comfort, and efficiency across the board.

The Japanese auto giant has not only refreshed designs across its lineup but also improved ride quality, enhanced interior comfort, and introduced more fuel-efficient and eco-friendly powertrains. The strategy is clear: offer a broader range of choices while maintaining Toyota's reputation for reliability and value.

In a bid to meet the diverse preferences of global consumers, Toyota has expanded its model and trim offerings, allowing buyers to select configurations that best suit their needs—whether it's for urban commuting, off-road adventure, or family travel.

Despite maintaining competitive global pricing, import taxes and levies—particularly in Nigeria and other developing markets—have continued to push retail prices higher.

Nevertheless, Toyota remains one of the most sought-after brands in these regions, thanks to its reputation for durability, resale value, and accessible service networks.

Major model updates for 2025 Several popular Toyota models have either undergone complete redesigns or received major facelifts.

Among the key models refreshed or overhauled for the 2025 model year are Corolla Sedan & Corolla Cross, Camry, RAV4, Rion, Crown, Land Cruiser Series (including FJ, Prado, and Land Cruiser Estate), Hilux & Tacoma pickups, Highlander, Fortuner, Sequoia, 4Runner, Sienna.

The all-new RAV4 debuts with bold exterior styling, improved suspension, and a roomier cabin. A 2.5-litre petrol-hybrid powertrain delivers a combined

output of 219 horsepower, paired with an e-CVT automatic transmission and an all-wheel-drive system, making it a capable performer on varied terrain.

The front fascia features a more aggressive grille, sleeker LED headlights, and sportier bumpers, giving the RAV4 a commanding new look.

Also benefiting from Toyota's latest design philosophy, the updated Fortuner now offers premium styling, a spacious and refined interior, and improved performance. Under the hood is a robust 2.7-litre petrol engine mated to a 6-speed automatic transmission, available in both 4x2 and 4x4 variants—ideal for both city roads and rugged terrains.

Also joining Toyota's impressive 2025 lineup is the redesigned Toyota 4Runner, a nameplate long associated with ruggedness, durability, and legendary off-road capabilities.

The new 4Runner has undergone a bold transformation, emerging with a muscular exterior,



modernized styling, and upgraded off-road gear. It's powered by a 2.4-litre turbocharged engine, producing 275 horsepower and 317 lb-ft of torque, delivering the perfect blend of performance and utility for adventure seekers.

With its enhanced toughness and modern tech, the 4Runner remains a favorite among outdoor enthusiasts and SUV purists.

The Toyota family also welcomed the return of a legend: the all-new Land Cruiser. Following the successful launch of the Land Cruiser Prado last year, the full-sized Land Cruiser is back-

bigger, bolder, and better equipped than ever.

This flagship SUV combines luxury, capability, and cutting-edge technology in a refined yet imposing package.

Whether it is ride comfort, off-road capability, spacious interior, advanced infotainment, or sheer presence, the 2025 Land Cruiser delivers on every front, further cementing Toyota's dominance in the large SUV segment worldwide.

Toyota is also gaining ground in the increasingly competitive compact SUV segment with the

Corolla Cross. Leveraging the global success of the Corolla nameplate, the Corolla Cross brings practicality, style, and efficiency in a small SUV package that appeals to a wide range of buyers.

Loaded with advanced features and safety tech, this compact crossover is fast becoming a consumer favorite, especially in emerging markets. It complements the Corolla Sedan's legacy as the world's best-selling car model, helping Toyota capture even more market share.

Why compact SUVs are winning in Nigeria

• And Suzuki deserves a look



IN Nigeria's ever-evolving automotive landscape, one trend is clear: compact Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are taking over.

As road conditions and the growing complexity of city life challenge the dominance of

sedans, more drivers are turning to smaller, more versatile SUVs that offer both comfort and resilience.

The compact SUV segment has become a battleground for manufacturers from Japan,

Korea, China, and the U.S., each offering models tailored to different needs - from fuel efficiency to off-road capability.

But among the crowd, Suzuki's lineup quietly makes a compelling case.

With petrol prices on the rise, fuel economy is no longer a luxury - it's a necessity. Suzuki's Grand Vitara, for instance, reportedly covers up to 23 kilometres per litre, making it one of the most fuel-efficient options in its class.

That kind of mileage means fewer stops at the pump and more freedom on the road - whether you are commuting in Lagos or heading out to Onitsha.

Compact Doesn't Mean Compromise

Suzuki's approach to compact SUVs blends Japanese engineering with practical features. The Grand Vitara, available in GL and GLX trims, offers a modern dashboard with touchscreen display and a 360-degree camera - features that

enhance both safety and driving confidence.

Then there's the Jimny, a rugged 4x4 that's built for Nigeria's toughest terrains. Its compact size belies its off-road capabilities, making it a favorite among adventure seekers and rural drivers alike.

For those who prefer city driving, the Fronx brings a touch of urban sophistication, with connectivity features and a sleek design that doesn't sacrifice fuel efficiency.

With a ground clearance of 210mm, a 1.5L engine, and automatic transmission, the Grand Vitara is designed to handle both city potholes and country roads.

Its 45-litre fuel tank means fewer refueling stops, and its five-seat capacity makes it a practical choice for families and professionals alike.

Support That Goes Beyond the Sale

Suzuki by CFAO, the brand's authorized distributor in Nigeria, backs its vehicles with a 3-year or 100,000 km warranty and provides genuine spare parts across its dealership network - not just in Lagos, but in other regions as well.

For those considering a new SUV, Suzuki by CFAO is currently offering a limited-time promotion: buyers this September get a discounted price and an all-expense-paid trip to Nairobi, Kenya.

It's a rare opportunity to combine practicality with a bit of adventure.

About Suzuki By CFAO Suzuki By CFAO is an authorized distributor of Suzuki vehicles in Nigeria, committed to providing high-quality vehicles and services to meet the needs of customers across the country.

With an extensive network of service centers all over Nigeria, Suzuki By CFAO offers sales, service, and support to ensure a seamless ownership experience.

Coscharis Motors slashes price on Renault vehicles

COSCHARIS Motors Plc, the sole franchise holder of Renault vehicles in Nigeria, has announced a special Price Slash Campaign on select Renault models, giving customers an unprecedented opportunity to own brand-new Renault vehicles at more affordable prices.

For this campaign, three distinct Renault models now enjoy significant discounts with great savings across board. Any purchase of the Renault Koleos stand to give a customer a savings up to N5million. While a purchase of the Renault Taliant will deliver a discount of about N7million. Likewise the Renault Oroch gives the customer up to N5 million discount respectively.

Speaking on the campaign, Mrs. Helen Osandu, General Manager, Renault Sales, Coscharis Motors Plc. enjoin members of the public to seize

this rare opportunity to own a brand-new Renault. According to her, "this price slash is our way of making the Renault brand more accessible and affordable to our customers. Beyond the reduced prices, each Renault model comes with a 3-year warranty or 100,000km, free services, delivery outside Lagos, as well as finance and operational lease options. This is truly an unbeatable value proposition, and we encourage customers to take advantage while stocks last," she concluded.

Also commenting on the campaign, Mr. Abiona Babarinde, General Manager, Marketing & Corporate Communications, Coscharis Group posited that the campaign underscores the company's drive to deliver superior value for customers' money. In his words,

"At Coscharis, we continue to push boundaries in offering quality mobility solutions at the best value at all times. With this Renault price slash, we are reaffirming our promise to continually provide accessible budget - friendly and reliable ownership options to our

customers with our French iconic Renault brand," he stated.

This special price slash campaign which is currently ongoing by Coscharis Motors is available to all existing Renault owners that wants to have a repeat purchase and new prospects alike.



CHANGE OF NAME

IFEOMA I formerly known as Onuorah ifeoma mzyeblessing now wish to be known as NZEKWE IFEOMA MARYBLESSING all former documents still remain valid general public take note.	IHUNANYACHI I formerly known, called and addressed as ANINTA IHUNANYACHI WISDOM, now wish to be known, called and addressed as FELIX WISDOM IHUNANYACHI as it appears on my NIN. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.	FUNKE I FORMERLY KNOWN AS OMOBOYE FUNKE BENITA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS IWALUWA FUNKE BENITA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	TAIWO I, formerly known as Taiwo Saidat Jimoh, now wish to be known as Mrs. Taiwo Saidat Akwudike. All documents still remain valid. This change of name is for record purposes. The public should please take note.	PAUL I formerly known as PAUL EFFIONG BASSEY now wish to be known and addressed as UBAH INUA PAUL. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	TAWAKALITU I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ABOBERIN TAWAKALITU KEMI. That I now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ABDULKAREEM TAWAKALITU KEMI. All former document remain valid general public take note.
ESTHER I formerly known as ANELE ESTHER CHIONA now wish to be known as UBABUKO ESTHER CHIOMA all former documents still remain valid general public take note	BLESSING I formerly known and addressed as MISS ONOVAE BLESSING now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ENOGHEGHASE BLESSING All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public take note.	EZE I FORMERLY KNOWN AS ONYEKA PRINCE EZE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS EZE ONYEKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	SHETTI I FORMALLY KNOWN AS MISS ARUOFOR ORITSETIMEYIN SHETTI, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN MRS UNOKAN ORITSETIMEYIN SHETTI. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC ,BANKS AND CONCERNED INSTITUTION SHOULD TAKENOTE	FEJIRO I formerly known as MISS BEINWARI FEJIRO LAYIEMIE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ASIBOR FEJIRO LAYIEMIE. All former documents remain valid, Any Authority it may concern and general public to take note.	ERIGHA IFORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS ADAMS ERIGHA PRINCESS. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS ADAMS -- AGINDOTAN ERIGHA PRINCESS. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE
QUEEN I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. KELUBIA QUEEN BLESSING now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. PHILIP QUEEN BLESSING. All documents remain valid. General Public take note.	OBİ I formerly known and addressed as Miss Joy Nididi Obi now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Joy Ohwofosa Onoriode, all former documents remain valid Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	VERO I formerly known and addressed as EMAGHAN VERO now wish to be known and addressed as ODIKWU VERO OMAVIVWRIGHE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.	UFUOMA I FORMERLY KNOWN AS ETIERNAJIRHEVWE EGBAOGHENE UFUOMA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS ETIENAJIRHEVWE UFUOMA DAVID ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	OGHENEKEVWE I formerly known as MISS ONISURU OGHENEKEVWE BRIDGET now wish to be known and addressed as MRS EBIWAREBO OGHENEKEVWE BRIDGET. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	MARVELLOUS I, formerly known and addressed as WILLIAMS OFURE MARVELLOUS. I now wish to be known and addressed as OKO MARVELLOUS CHINEDU. All former document remain valid general public take note.
NELSON I, formerly known and addressed as Ekpenisi Nelson, now wish to be known and called Osumeke Nelson. All documents remain valid. General public take note.	FAITH I, formerly known, called and addressed as. MISS OVEKAILI FAITH ELO but now wish to be known, called and address as. MRS IJAMANI FAITH ELO all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public please take note.	UDUAKOBONG I, formerly known and addressed as MISS UDUAKOBONG GEORGE UDOH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. UDUAKOBONG MICHAEL HANSON. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. UNICAL, MIN. of Agricultural and the general public should take note.	OYONORIFO The names OYONORIFO EMMANUEL OMOKHAGBO and OYONORIFO EMMANUEL refer to the same person. I now wish to be known as OYONORIFO EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. Banks, NYSC, general public and concerned authority take note.	AREGBOR The names Aregbor Eriyamremu and Aregbor Eriyamremu Dorothy which appeared in my documents refers to the same person but now bears Aregbor Eriyamremu Dorothy. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	UWEJA That during my Account opening/BNV registration, my name was wrongly captured as UWEJA OGBEMI instead of UWEJA WILFRED OGBEMI being my correct name as reflecting in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.
DEBORAH I, formerly known as MISS BOLUWA DEBORAH, now wish to be known as MRS. EBEREYIE STANLEY DEBORAH. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public to please take note.	TRACY I, formerly known as. MISS EKPEEKPA UKU-ORITSEMOFE TRACY but now wish to be known and address as. MRS AKPASIBOSWEI UKU-ORITSEMOFE TRACY all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public take note.	FAVOUR I formerly known as MISS MILLER FAVOUR OCHUKO now wish to be known and addressed as MRS UROKOR FAVOUR OCHUKO. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	GLADYS I, formerly known as MISS TILLY IYIOKU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GLADYS PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. All public institutions and general public should take note.	FRANCES I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS. OMOREGBEE FRANCES IGUEHITA AND DUE TO MARRIAGE NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MRS. EDIAGBONYA FRANCES IGUEHITA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	HARUNA In my BVN/Account details, my name was wrongly captured as INUSA HARUNA. Now I wish to be known and addressed as YUNUSA HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. General public pls take note.
ATOGRHGREHRE I, formerly known as Miss Atoghrehgre Josephine Mudiaga and Atoghrehgre Josephine Oh-Yes now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Bakare-Atoghrehgre Josephine Mudiaga. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	UCHECHUKWU I, Formerly known and addressed as SAMUEL GODSFAVOUR UCHECHUKWU. Now wish to be known and addressed as EJIKE UCHECHUKWU GODSFAVOUR. All former documents remain valid. General public, Bank please take note.	UDUAKOBONG I, formerly known and addressed as MISS UDUAKOBONG GEORGE UDOH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. UDUAKOBONG MICHAEL HANSON. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. UNICAL, MIN. of Agriculture Akwa Ibom state, the general public, please take note.	GODFREY I, formerly known and addressed as MISS GODFREY OGECHI FAVOUR, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OKELEKE OGECHI FAVOUR. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	WEHBE I, formerly known as HUSSEIN WEHBE, now wish to be known as WEHBE HUSSEIN HANI. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	ENUAGWUNE I formerly known, called and addressed as, MISS ENUAGWUNE LOVETH CHUKWUMALJEM, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, MRS. EBUBEDIKE LOVETH MIJE. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
PATRICIA I, formerly known as MISS OBASI PATRICIA SOCHIMA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CHUKWUEMEKA PATRICIA SOCHIMA. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	PATIENCE I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS EZE PATIENCE NKOLIKA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS OGU PATIENCE NKOLIKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	ISIOMA I formerly known, called and addressed as AJABOR ISIOMA SANDRA. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ROWLAND ISIOMA SANDRA. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concern to please take note.	PRECIOUS I, formerly known and addressed as PRECIOUS OKECHUKWU FIKIMENA. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as PRECIOUS OKECHUKWU FESTUS. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.	ROSEMARY I formerly known as Mustafa Rosemary, now which to be known as David Rosemary Eguonor. All document remain valid, General public, take note.	OGBE That in my BVN DETAILS, my name was wrongly spelt, arranged and written as, EGBE ROSELINE IYADERI instead of, OGBE IYADERI ROSELINE. That my true and correct arrangement of name is, OGBE IYADERI ROSELINE. All former documents remain valid, the general public please take note.
OLUCHI I, formerly known as MISS OBI OLUCHI PRINCESS now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OBADJERE OLUCHI PRINCESS. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	OKECHUKWU I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS OKECHUKWU HOPE CHINYERE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS ONYIA HOPE CHINYERE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	NGOZI I formerly known, called and addressed as OBIWURU NGOZI, Now wish to be known, called and addressed as UKWUOMA NGOZI. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concern to please take note.	EFEMENA I, formerly known and addressed as EFEMENA FESTUS FIKIMENA. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as EFEMENA FESTUS OSIOGO. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.	AISOSA I, formerly known as MISS. EBOMWONYI AISOSA SEBINA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. EDOSOMWAN AISOSA SEBINA. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public take note.	EBOYEM I formerly known, called and addressed as, EBOYEM ELOKA LIBERTY, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, EBOYEM LIBERTY. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
GLORY I, formerly known as Miss Glory Emmanuel Henry now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Glory Emmanuel Bassey. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should please take note.	EZINWANNE I, formerly known and addressed as EDEH EZINWANNE DORILINDA now wish to be known and addressed as ANOYIKA EZINWANNE DORILINDA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	SOLOMON Formerly known as. SOLOMON GOODNEWS ONOTUGOMA. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. SOLOMON OKEOGHENE EXCEL. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	ADELEKE I, formerly known and addressed as Mordi Veronica Ifeanyi, now wish to be known and addressed as Adeleke Veronica Ifeanyi. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.	EMMANUELLA I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS AGHOMON EMMANUELLA BOSE. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS OKOYOMOH EMMANUELLA BOSE. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	EGBUNU That in my BVN and BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS, my name was wrongly spelt and written as, EGBUNU AYISHATU instead of, EGBUNU AYISHETU. That my true and correct name is, EGBUNU AYISHETU. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
ESTHER I, formerly known as MISS OJO OLUWASEUN ESTHER now wish to be known and addressed as MRS OLAWALE OLUWASEUN ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	SOROCHI I, formerly known and addressed as OKWARAEBO SOROCHI GOODNESS now wish to be known and addressed as OBIOHA SOROCHI GOODNESS. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	EPHIREUM That my name was wrongly captured on my Bvn/account platform as. EPHRAM instead of EPHIREUM. I now wish to be known called and addressed as. NATHAN EPHIREUM. All former documents remain, valid general public should please take note.	LILIAN I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ANYIGOR NDIIDAMAKA LILIAN. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. ALINSHI CHIAMAKA LILIAN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.	LUCKY I, formerly known and addressed as LUCKY MUSA OGIESOSA; Now wish to be known as LUCKY STEVE OBIALOR. All former documents remain valid. Banks and General Public take Note.	NDIDI That in my BVN and BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS, my name was wrongly spelt and written as, INNOCENT NDIDI respectively instead of, INNOCENT NDIDI. That my true and correct name is, INNOCENT NDIDI. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
MICHAEL I, formerly known as OKON-OTOM MICHAEL GRAHAM now wish to reconcile my name and be known and addressed as OKON MICHAEL GRAHAM. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	CHINYERE I formerly known and addressed as MISS ANAEDU CHINYERE QUEENDALINE, And EZENWA CHINYERE QUEENDALINE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS CHIMEZIE CHINYERE QUEENDALINE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.	DEBORAH I, formerly known as MISS. KEYAMO DEBORAH ORAWANENURENE now wish to be known as MRS. OBERIA DEBORAH ORAWANENURENE. All previous documents remain valid. The general public is hereby notified.	GLORY I, formerly known and addressed as EZEMELIE GLORY OKIEMUTE. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as UDOBİ GLORY OKIEMUTE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.	EFETEMABOR Formerly known called and addressed MISS ESIRI EFETEMABOR ERICA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED MRS UNUKEGWU EFETEMABOR. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	ORUGBE In my account details my name was captured as ORUGBE ESTHER NKECHI instead of ORUGBE ESTHER, my true and correct name is ORUGBE ESTHER, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
DOOSHIMA I, formerly known as MISS AONDOAKAA DOOSHIMA WINIFRED now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SEFA DOOSHIMA WINIFRED. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	NWACHUKWU I formerly known and as MISS NWACHUKWU SHEERAH CHIOMA, now wish to be known and address as MRS ONYENEKE SHEERAH CHIOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	GERGINA I, formerly known, called and addressed as AIMIENBHONAN GERGINA, now wish to be known, called and addressed as AKHIMIEMONA GERGINA. All former documents remain valid the general public should please take note.	FLORENCE I, formerly known and addressed as AGBASIMERE FLORENCE CHIGOZIE. Now wish to be known, called and addressed as TACHERE FLORENCE CHIGOZIE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General public should please take note.	UVIE I formerly known and addressed as OKONORU UVIE JERSEY now wish to be known and addressed as IGHOVWUNU UVIE JERSEY henceforth. All documents bearing former names remain valid. General public to take note.	GRACE I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS GRACE OGORCHUKWU ONUOMA, I now wish known called and address as MRS. GRACE OGORCHUKWU ONUOMA EVANS, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
JOHNSON This is to notify the general public that in my BVN details my name is appearing as Asewha Ogheneruemu Johnson instead of Asewha Johnson Paradise. Which is my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	OSOWE I formerly known and addressed as OSOWE OLUWAEW now wish to be known and addressed as OSOWE SEYI OLUWABE. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.	PAULMARK I, OKOYE PAULMARK MMADUABUCHI, declare that my name was wrongly captured on my BVN as OKOYE PAULMARK MMADUABUCHI. Instead of my correct name OKOYE PAULMARK MMADUABUCHI. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.	VIVIAN I, formerly known as MAGEGE VIVIAN and PRECIOUS OGHENEVWEUYERE VIVIAN, now wish to be known as PRECIOUS OGHENEWAIRE VIVIAN. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	BLESSING I formerly known as MISS EKO BLESSING now wish to be known and addressed as MRS MIYERAYE BLESSING EBRUVWIYO. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	FRANCA I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS MORDI FRANCA BUCHI, I now wish known called and address as MRS. PHILIP FRANCA BUCHI, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
IFEOLUWAPO I, Ifeoluwapo Tolulope Somoye, wish to inform the general public that I am the same person also known and referred to as Ifeoluwa Tolulope Somoye and Ifeoluwapo Somoye. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	DAVID Formerly known called and addressed as. IKPEN DAVID KEVWE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. IKPEN DAVID. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	UGOCHUKWU I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss. UGOCHUKWU THECLA ONWUKA now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. UGOCHUKWU THECLA IZUNWANNE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.	PATIENCE I, formerly known and addressed as MISS GERMAN, ODIRI PATIENCE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. AKPUKUPULA, PATIENCE. All former documents remains valid. Public notice.	OGHENERO I formerly known as ISUOSUO OGHENERO now wish to be known and addressed as UMUKORO VINCENT OGHENERO. All former documents remain valid Any Authority it may concern and general public to take note.	AMAECHE In my account and BVN details my name was wrongly captured as EMMANUEL AMAECHE ODIGA instead of AMAECHE EMMANUEL ODIRACHUKWUMA, my true and correct name is AMAECHE EMMANUEL ODIRACHUKWUMA, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
OGBOGU I, formerly known as OGBOGU UDOCHUKWU CHINAECHEREM now wish correct my name and be known and addressed as OGBOGU PEACEMAKER CHINECHELEM. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	OBAHOR I, was formerly known called and addressed as. OBAHOR ELISABETH NGOZI. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. OBAHOR ELIZABETH NGOZI. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	THECLA I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss. UGOCHUKWU THECLA ONWUKA now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. UGOCHUKWU THECLA ONWUKA - IZUNWANNE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.	FLORENCE I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS EKO FLORENCE UFUOMA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS ORIDO FLORENCIO UFUOMA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE	FAITH I formerly known as MISS ONOVWAKPOR FAITH ESE, now wish to be known as MRS GOMEROMO FAITH ESE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	ANTHONIA This is to confirm that ANTHONIA NKWA and ONYISI ANTHONIA NNEBUOGOR is one and the same person, I now wish to be known, called and address as ONYISI ANTHONIA NNEBUOGOR. All former documents remain valid general public please take note.
EKONG I was formerly known and addressed as Ekong Anna Idorenyin, I now wish to be known and addressed as Patience Ekong Idorenyin. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.	AKASA I, was formerly known and addressed as. AKASA DEKAWEI GBOLOMEYERIN and AKASA GBOLOMEYERIN DEKAWEI. Now wish to be known and addressed as. AKASA GBOLOMONYERIN DEKAWEI. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	GLORIA I, formerly known as MISS NWEKE GLORIA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. NWA-JESUS GLORIA AMARACHI JOY. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	RICHARD That during my BVN registration my name was wrongly written as SYLVANUS RICHARD IBIYE instead of SILVERNUS RICHARD IBIYE which appears on my NIN. That my correct name is SILVERNUS RICHARD IBIYE. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.	PIUS Formerly EHIZOGIE PIUS now EHIZOJIE PIUS. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	MORKA That in my BVN and Bank Account Details, my name was wrongly spelt, arranged and written as, Morka Patience Omebera instead of, Morka Omebera Patience. That my true and correct arrangement of name is, Morka Omebera Patience. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.
HENRY My name was wrongly written on my BVN and bank account as ANYAKU HENRY. My correct name is ANYAKU CHUKWUEMEKA HENRY. All former documents remain valid. Access Bank and General Public should take note.	NANA I, formerly known called and addressed as. NANA O A WILLIAMS. I now wish to be known called and addressed as. NANA WILLIAMS OHOREOGHENE. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	JESSICA I, formerly known as MISS AGBOJERE TEGA JESSICA and TEGA JESSICA OJO, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OJO JESSICA TEGA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	MONDAY That my name was wrongly captured in my Account/BNV details as ABRAHAM MONDAY ENEMONA instead of IBRAHIM MONDAY as it was captured in my NIN. My correct name is IBRAHIM MONDAY. Former documents remain valid, general public take note.	OVWAH I FORMERLY KNOWN AS OVWAH ANDREW TRUST. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS OVWAH ANDREW. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	EMMANUEL I formerly known and addressed as EDUN EMMANUEL OGBE now wish to be known and addressed as EUOGHARAN EMMANUEL OGBEMI henceforth. All documents bearing former names remain valid. General public to take note.

Glo-sponsored African Voices features star author, Chimamanda Adichie

LAGOS—CNN African Voices Changemakers this week beams its light on celebrated author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The 30-minute magazine programme is sponsored by telecommunications company, Globacom.

The author was engaged by the show's anchor, Larry Madowo, at Nsukka, where she spent her childhood at the same staff quarters of the University of Nigeria, where the legend of literature, Chinua Achebe, lived.

Arguably Africa's most prolific contemporary writer, Adichie's compelling story of grit and talent promises to inspire the audience, as it does her readers across the globe. The special package premieres on Saturday,

September 20, 2025, at 11:00 a.m., with rebroadcasts on Sunday, September 21, at 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Monday, September 22, at 3:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.; as well as the following weekend, Saturday, September 27, at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.; Sunday, September 28, at 3:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; and Monday, September 29, at 3:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m.

Her narratives, beginning with Purple Hibiscus, query stereotypes, re-evaluate identities, and honour African traditions. Her two prose offerings, Half of a Yellow Sun and Americanah, as well as Dream Count, the new one in the works, confirm her deep interests in the values that make Africa and its traditions and cultures unique and relevant in a fast-evolving world. Her books also accentuate feminism, heritage, and authenticity.

Globacom's continued collaboration with African Voices has further given credence to the programme's celebration of the African essence, its excellence, talents, creativity, and originality.



INSURANCE: From left— Chairman Nigerian Insurance Association, NIA, Kunle Ahmed; Convener of IMT and Chief Executive Officer Modion Communications, Odion Aleobua; President, Chartered Institute of Insurance Institute of Nigeria, CIIN, Yetunde Olubunmi Ilori; Deputy Commissioner for Insurance, Finance and Administration at National Insurance Commission, NAICOM, Ekerete Gam-Ikon; Ex-Mckinsey Partner, Insurtech Innovator, BehaviourTech Pioneer, Per Lagerstorm during the IMT4.0 Insurance Meet Tech Innovation for the New Trybe in Lagos, yesterday.

ESTHER

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Eduok, Esther Paul now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Esther Paul. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should take note.

UDO

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Eduok, Udo Johnson now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Udo Johnson. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should take note.

VICTOR

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Eduok, Victor Paul now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Victor Paul. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public take note.

EMEM

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Eduok, Emem Paul now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Emem Paul. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should take note.

MONICA

I, formerly known, called and addressed as Eduok, Monica Paul now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Monica Paul. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should take note.

DANIEL

I formally known, called and addressed as Eduok, Daniel Paul now wish to be known, called and addressed as Uwemedimo, Daniel Paul. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. General public should take note.

AUSTINE

Formerly known and addressed as KOLADE AUSTINE ATSEYIKPE OKOLO Now wish to be known and addressed as AUSTINE ATSEYIKPE CHURCHILL NIKATSEKPE. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration and Ireland Immigration and general public take note.

CHINWE

I, formerly known as PATRICK CHINWE GLORIA. Now wish to be known and addressed as CHRISTIAN CHINWE GLORIA. All former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.

PEACE

I, formerly known as MISS. OTOMEWO MARIEN PEACE. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. AREGBOR OGHENEMARIEN PEACE. All former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.

OMODION

I, formerly known and addressed as OMODION BLESSING and I wish to add ELLIOT to my now wish to be known and addressed as OMODION BLESSING ELLIOT. All former documents remain valid. Ambrose Alli University and the general public take note.

OKOSUN

The general public is hereby notified that Okosun Osas Godstime, Okosun Osas and Okosun Osas Osamudiamhen is the same person. Henceforth, I now bear Okosun Osas Osamudiamhen. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OKOBIA

That my name was wrongly written on my Account/BVN as OKOBIA CHIYEN CHRISSE. That my correct name is OKOBIA CHRISSE henceforth. General public take note.

Electricity Summit: Why achieving steady power for Akwa Ibomites won't elude me — Gov Eno

By **Egufe Yafugborhi**
IKOT EKPENE — GOVERNOR Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State, has said the

state for too long has suffered epileptic power supply inimical to her development amidst abundant energy potentials, adding that he has stepped in as the liberator to rescue the state from the trajectory.

Eno who addressing stakeholders, yesterday at Ikot Ekpene as he welcomed stakeholders to the Akwa Ibom State Electricity Summit, wondered why a state blessed with abundant gas, a state owned power plant still grapples with epileptic power supply while still paying a \$9million loan on account of the power plant.

He said: "For decades, our people have lived with the paradox of great energy

potential but could not fully appropriate the gift.

"We're blessed with abundance of gas, a state owned power plant yet too many of our homes, businesses, schools and hospitals are grappling with epileptic power supply.

"The questions then become, why is our state owned Ibom Power Company, IPC, with installed capacity of 191 megawatts not working optimally for the benefit of our people since it was established in 2001?

"What clear parts can we adopt to make it work despite the huge resources that have been sunk into its operation of which we today are still

repaying the Afriexim bank loan of \$9million? What do we need to do to get the IPC working to the very benefit of our people?

"These are very hard questions and we dare to threaten on grounds that angels fear to tread on in this summit. The hard questions must be asked. Answers must be taken because if we don't, this will be another talk shop."

He added, "We have not gathered the key players in this industry from the length and breathe of this country for nothing. Time has come that someone should step out there and take the decision to make this work."

CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOD'S GLORIOUS FOUNTAIN CHURCH
YAHWEH HEALING HOME INTERNATIONAL CHURCH, situate at Enuru Street, Beside Enuru Water Board, Uruto Community, Ozoro, Isoko-North L.G.A., Delta State, has changed its name to GOD'S GLORIOUS FOUNTAIN CHURCH. All former documents remain valid. The general public to should please take note.

Signed:

PST. EZIOROBO JOSIAH ALUTAFE

CORRECTION OF NAME

I, Ocheribe Moses Sunday wish to state that during my account registration with Zenith Bank PLC, my name was captured as: Ocheribe S Moses, instead of Ocheribe Moses Sunday. That the letter S stand for Sunday but now wish to be known, called and addressed as: Ocheribe Moses Sunday. All former documents remain valid. The general public to please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

REMOVAL OF TRUSTEES OF THE HAVEN ROCK CHURCH

This is to notify the general public that the following person have been removed as Trustees of THE HAVEN ROCK CHURCH an Association duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) under Part F of the Companies and Allied Matters Act with Registration Number 129192 1. David Edore Emagun
The removal of the above-named Trustees was duly approved at the meeting of the Association held on the 22nd day of July 2025, in accordance with the Constitution of the Association and the provisions of CAMA.
Dated this 18th day of September 2025.

Sign:

Ayomitsi Metseagharun
For: THE HAVEN ROCK CHURCH

PUBLIC NOTICE

By Urhobo Native law and custom which confers on me the right of ownership of the properties of my late father, CHIEF THADDAEUS ONOTANOMEYOWWI OMIRAGUA. Being the first son, I hereby apply for the Certified True Copy of the Certificate Of Occupancy of the property located at Number 3 Cousin close, behind former Savanna Bank, Agaga layout, Warri, in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State of Nigeria.

The original copy of the said Certificate Of Occupancy got burnt on November 27, 2003 at No. 25/27 Mudiaga Odje street, Okumagba, Warri, in Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State of Nigeria.

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Ministry of Lands and Survey, Delta State within 21 days of this publication.

Signed

THADDAEUS ISRAEL OBEGHARE

Tinubu's Tax reforms boldest in Nigeria's history — Olorogun Olori

By **Paul Olayemi**

ELDER statesman and businessman, Olorogun Morrison Olori, has described President Bola Tinubu's tax reforms as the most audacious economic policy since Nigeria gained independence. He said no previous administration had taken such bold steps, insisting the reforms stand out as Tinubu's greatest achievement so far.

Speaking at a press conference in Ughelli, Delta State, the Obaseki of Ughelli Kingdom stressed the importance of sound tax policies. "Any nation that wants to move forward must design economic reforms, especially in the area of tax, to put the country on the path

of progress," Olori declared.

Olori, who has investments in real estate, hospitality, and oil and gas, said Nigerians should be grateful for Tinubu's emergence at a critical period. According to him, the Buhari administration left behind a "dead economy."

He added: "President Tinubu met a dead economy from the late President Muhammadu Buhari. Governments at all levels were struggling to pay salaries and execute projects. But for the bold decision to remove fuel subsidy, there is now surplus for projects at the grassroots level."

He maintained that the reforms would eliminate multiple taxation and distortions that discouraged

foreign investment. "No Nigerian leader has taken such a daring decision. As a businessman with over 60 years of experience, this is the best decision any Nigerian President could make," he said.

Olori also commended key cabinet members, praising FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, for unprecedented infrastructural development in Abuja, and Aviation Minister, Festus Keyamo, for improving airports and expanding Nigeria's aviation agreements.

Turning to Delta State, he hailed Governor Sheriff Oborevwori for his infrastructural drive and peace-building initiatives, describing him as the best governor in the state's history and predicting his easy reelection in 2027.

NBM donates books, cash to pupils, teachers in Sapele

By **Paul Olayemi**

SAPELE—THE Neo Black Movement of Africa, NBM, Sapele Chapter, has extended its social responsibility to education, donating books, writing materials, and cash gifts to teachers and pupils in Delta State.

In a three-day outreach from September 15 to 17, the group toured six public primary schools in Sapele Local Government Area. Led by the zone's President, Mr Ejenavwo Adarighofua, the delegation included members of the National Board of Founders such as Elder Andrew Areyinka, Prince Itse Orugboh, Chief Ike

Onyeachonam, and Mr Solomon Abeke.

At Sapele Local Government Council Group of Schools, Crudas Road, pupils cheered as cartons of notebooks, pencils, rulers, and markers were distributed. Teachers who reported early also received cash gifts. "We believe education is the greatest investment in the next generation," Adarighofua told the children.

Elder Areyinka emphasised the group's commitment to sustaining the initiative: "This is part of our responsibility to the communities where we live and work." Prince Orugboh encouraged the pupils: "Education is the key that unlocks opportunities."

Teachers hailed the gesture as timely. Mrs. Iqweh Alice, Headmistress of SLGC, said many classrooms had been running short of materials. At Gana Basic Primary School, NBM also donated 50,000 to clear the overgrown environment, moving the headmistress, Mrs. Laurenta Diodemise, to tears.

The outreach continued at Okotie-Eboh 1, Abeke, Ethiope, and Ethiope Model Primary Schools, where pupils and parents expressed gratitude. "These days, buying notebooks is not easy. This group has touched our hearts," said parent, Mr Emmanuel Ugbede.

Chief Onyeachonam summed up the mission: "When you invest in children, you invest in tomorrow."

NIHOTOUR, HOFA in dialogue: Balancing professional standards with industry realities

By Jimoh Babatunde

THE hospitality industry in Nigeria sits at a delicate crossroads. On one hand, government institutions are pushing for higher professional standards to make the sector globally competitive.

On the other, operators are grappling with harsh economic realities that threaten business survival.

This tension came to the fore on Tuesday in Abuja when the National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR) met with the leadership of the Hotel Owners Forum Abuja (HOFA).

The meeting, held at Nihotour headquarters, brought together senior management of the Institute led by Director-General Aare Dr. Abisoye Fagade and HOFA executives led by President Mr. Emeka Ezekwesili.

At stake was a clearer understanding of Nihotour's regulatory role under its 2022 Establishment Act and the 2025 Regulations—and how these will affect operators on the ground.

Clarifying Mandates

Dr. Fagade took pains to explain that Nihotour's mandate does not extend to registering hotel buildings or physical establishments, a responsibility that lies with other government agencies.

Instead, the Institute is tasked with training, certifying, and regulating the human capital—the chefs, front-desk managers,

tour operators, and hospitality professionals—who ultimately determine service quality and customer experience.

"This is about people, not just places. Hotels do not run themselves—people do. And it is these people we are committed to upskilling, accrediting, and empowering in line with the law," Fagade said.

By positioning itself as the custodian of professionalism in the sector, Nihotour aims to ensure that Nigerian hospitality workers meet global standards.

But for many operators, the challenge lies not in the vision, but in the cost of achieving it.

Industry Pushback

HOFA President, Mr. Ezekwesili, was clear in his

appeal: Nihotour must avoid becoming another agency adding to the industry's financial burden. With rising operational costs, multiple taxation, and dwindling patronage, many hotels are already struggling to stay afloat.

"Professionalizing the sector is best achieved through affordable training and continuous skill development, not heavy levies or registration fees," he argued, aligning with the long-standing position of the Federation of Tourism Associations of Nigeria (FTAN).

The strongest criticism came from HOFA's solicitor, Barr. B.V. Inedia, who described recent demand notices for N1.3 million in personnel registration fees as an "undue burden" imposed without proper industry consultation.

For him and many other

hoteliers, such measures threaten not just profitability but also employment within the sector.

A Sector in Transition

The Abuja meeting highlights a broader struggle within Nigeria's hospitality and tourism ecosystem: the push to raise standards while maintaining a business-friendly environment.

For Nihotour, the professionalization of the workforce is non-negotiable if Nigeria is to compete with destinations like South Africa, Kenya, and Egypt, which boast structured training and certification systems.

For operators, however, survival in the current economic climate is the priority.

Many fear that without careful implementation, the Nihotour Act could displace workers, undermine existing qualifications, and make hotels less competitive.

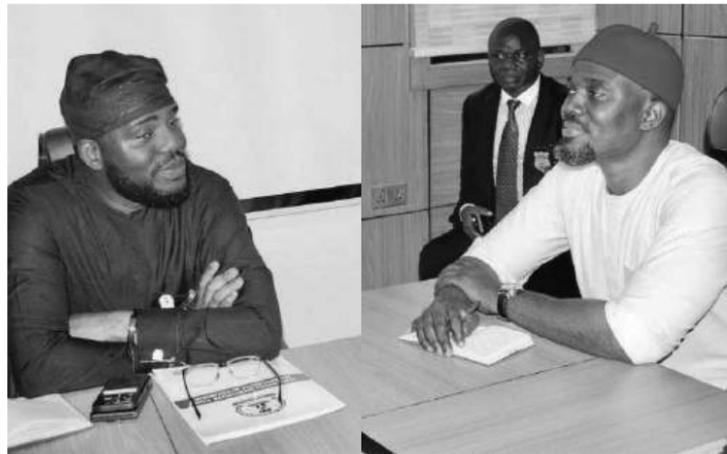
The Way Forward

Despite these differences, the session ended on a conciliatory note, with both parties agreeing to set up a Joint Implementation Committee to drive resolutions and maintain open channels of communication.

Whether this collaboration leads to a shared vision remains to be seen.

What is clear, however, is that the future of Nigeria's hospitality industry will depend on striking the right balance—between regulation and flexibility, professional standards and economic realities.

The Nihotour-HOFA dialogue is only the beginning of what promises to be a long conversation about how best to build a globally competitive hospitality workforce without crippling the businesses that employ them.



•NIHOTOUR's DG, Dr. Abisoye Fagade, and HOFA executives led by President Mr. Emeka Ezekwesili, during the meeting.

'Nigeria's direct flight announcements: Ambition without strategy'

By Jimoh Babatunde

Elizabeth Agboola, Founder and CEO of NTT Global Destinations, is no stranger to building bridges through aviation.

She was instrumental in spearheading the first-ever direct flight between Nigeria and Jamaica, a milestone that brought Africa and the Caribbean closer.

But as Nigeria continues to announce direct flights to destinations as far as Brazil, Colombia, and the Caribbean, Agboola is urging caution: "Every new announcement of a direct flight should be taken with caution."

Ambition Without Aviation Strategy

Over the past year, Nigeria has witnessed a wave of announcements about direct flights to far-flung destinations—from Brazil to Colombia and even the Caribbean.

These headlines may sound exciting, but they reveal a troubling pattern: bold declarations are being made without confronting the hard realities of aviation.

The truth is simple. Nigeria does not have a national carrier. At the moment, the only airline connecting Nigeria to the world at any meaningful scale is Air Peace, a privately owned operator that has shouldered the enormous responsibility of opening and sustaining international routes against all odds.

Without a national carrier or serious government-backed support, every new "direct route" announcement remains, at best, aspirational.

Announcements vs. Operations

Establishing a direct flight is not symbolic; it is a multimillion-dollar commercial commitment.

An airline must secure aircraft, crew, ground handling, marketing, bilateral permissions — and above all, consistent passenger and cargo demand.

One-off government-funded charters to foreign destinations may grab headlines, but they are not the same as opening a viable route.

A charter is a showcase. A direct route is a bridge — and building that bridge requires sustained investment and support.

This is why such pronouncements should only be taken seriously when they come directly from an airline, or from a country that actually owns and operates one. Without this, Nigeria risks falling into an endless cycle of promises without planes.

Supporting Nigerian Airlines

Right now, Air Peace is Nigeria's sole international workhorse, linking Nigerians to London, Jeddah, and other destinations.

But no private airline should be expected to carry the weight of an entire nation's aviation aspirations alone.



•Elizabeth Agboola

We want to highlight Nigeria's authentic culinary heritage — Hala, ...elevates Sunday Brunch with food,

By Jimoh Babatunde

THE Lagos Continental Hotel, Nigeria's tallest five-star luxury property, is redefining weekend dining in the city with its signature Sunday Brunch — an experience that blends fine cuisine, live entertainment and panoramic views of Victoria Island's skyline.

Far from being just another buffet, the hotel's Sunday Brunch has quickly become a lifestyle ritual for Lagosians seeking to unwind in style.

Guests are welcomed to a spread that features everything from freshly baked pastries and seafood platters to live cooking stations where chefs whip up international favourites alongside Nigerian delicacies with a contemporary twist.

According to the hotel's Food and Beverage team, the brunch is designed to "take guests on a culinary journey around the world without leaving Lagos."

The variety spans Mediterranean, Asian and African flavours, paired with champagne, curated cocktails and fresh juices.

The Group General Manager, Continental Hotels in Nigeria, Karl Hala, said they want to highlight Nigeria's authentic

culinary heritage at the hotel with the sourcing of their ingredients directly from the farms.

"We just have to take it into the mind of everybody and say, yeah, let's buy locally. We buy more locally, we produce more foods, menus with the produce we can get. The food business is amazing if you think about it."

He said they have visited many farms sourcing for organic food,

"everybody benefits with it.

There are a lot of farms. We're talking about tilapia and goat farms. So all of that we need to take to our heart. So the instructions given to our chefs, go out and look at the goat, look at the fish and the cassava farms. It's all there. So we want to be part of that. We want to develop that."

Beyond the food, the

atmosphere makes the Sunday Brunch an event in itself. Live bands and acoustic performances provide a soothing backdrop.

Families are also not left out. With dedicated children's menus and fun activities, the brunch creates a wholesome outing for parents and kids alike, making it more than just a couple's treat or corporate networking stop.

Speaking on the appeal, a regular guest, Frank Adejare, described it as "a perfect Sunday indulgence — where great food meets great vibes."

For the Lagos Continental Hotel, the Sunday Brunch is also about cementing its place in the city's hospitality and lifestyle scene.

As Lagos continues to evolve as a cosmopolitan hub, such curated experiences highlight the city's growing appetite for luxury leisure in line with global metropolitan trends.

With its fusion of taste, music and ambience, the Lagos Continental Hotel's Sunday Brunch is not just a meal — it is becoming one of Lagos' most talked-about weekend traditions.



•Lagos Continental Hotel's Ekaabo Restaurant



2026 WCQ:

FIFA opens case on Mokoena's yellow card saga

Gives gives SAFA six days to respond



South Africa's Bafana Bafana are in trouble for fielding Teboho Mokoena against Lesotho in a 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier played in March as FIFA has opened investigation on the matter, according to South Africa's National Broadcaster, SABC.

FIFA were reluctant to act, which made the majority of South African fans think they are off the hook, but it seems it is not going to be

the case. "FIFA have officially opened disciplinary proceedings against the South African Football Association (SAFA) and Bafana Bafana midfielder Teboho Mokoena," the SABC reported.

"In a letter to SAFA dated 15 September 2025; FIFA confirmed that both the player and the association face charges of breaching several disciplinary

regulations, including the fielding of an ineligible player.

"The case has been referred to the FIFA Disciplinary Committee, with SAFA and Mokoena given six days to submit their response," they added.

The Mamelodi Sundowns midfielder had been cautioned twice in the initial rounds, meaning he was not eligible to play against the Crocodiles.

Lesotho did not file an official complaint immediately, but they have been vocal about FIFA docking Bafana Bafana points.

Nigeria and Benin have also been asking for the same from the World Football Governing Body since it was the only way of slowing down the runaway leaders.

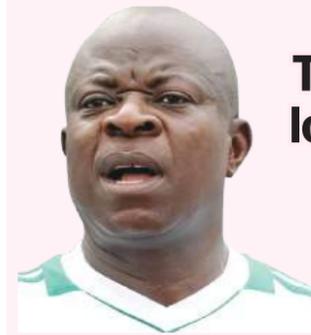
Currently, Bafana Bafana lead Group C with 17 points, but if they are docked, they will be on 14, the same as Benin, who will remain second owing to their inferior goal difference.

Nigeria and Rwanda will be three points off the race.

South Africa can still qualify if they beat Zimbabwe in their next game and Benin drop points against Rwanda. The only advantage is that South Africa will play Amavubi in their final group game while Nigeria will face the Cheetahs.

SAFA has six days to respond to the case, and South Africans hope they will give a satisfying response to FIFA.

It will be an anxious moment for South African fans, but one filled with hope for Nigeria and Benin in their quest to qualify.



By Jacob Ajom

Former Nigeria international and one time assistant coach of the Super Eagles Sylvanus Okpala has charged the national team players to go all out and win the

2026 WCQ: There's still a lot to play for, Okpala tells S/Eagles

remaining two matches in the 2026 World Cup qualifiers because a lot is still at stake.

Speaking to Sports Vanguard on the team's tight situation in the qualifying campaign, Okpala counseled, "in my opinion, the Super Eagles should stop looking at the group table, go out there and win the remaining two matches. It's only then they can sit back and ask themselves where the two wins can take them to. Not now, because there is still a lot to play for."

"You don't need to look at the calculator," he continued. "When I was playing, I didn't need a calculator until I knew there was nothing to play for anymore. You have two matches to play. Go and win the two matches before you can talk about qualifying. As a player or a coach that is my approach and philosophy."



Chairman, Ikoyi Club Community Nigeria Association (IGCNA), Rotimi Obajimi, Annie Eimiakhena, Vice Lady Captain, Chairman 2025 Nigeria Cup Organizing Committee Wale Onaolapo and Ayo Adegboye in group photograph after Nigeria Cup Press Briefing at Ikoyi Club, Golf Section on Wednesday

Golf: IGCNA, organisers promise unforgettable 2025 Nigeria Cup

By Solomon Nwoke

When this year's edition of the annual Nigeria Cup, a tournament put in place to celebrate the nation's independence anniversary gets underway tomorrow, it will be with pomp and pageantry, Chairman, organizing Committee of this year's edition, Wale Onaolapo has disclosed.

Speaking at a pre-tournament press briefing at the golf section of Ikoyi Club 1938 on Wednesday, Onaolapo promised participants, sponsors and guests of an unforgettable experience, saying all necessary arrangements to make sure the weeklong Nigeria Cup goes as planned has been put in place.

"This year's tournament promises to be an unforgettable experience,

with top notch golfers within the club competing on the challenging Ikoyi Club 1938 Golf Course for glory and recognition", Onaolapo said.

While thanking the event's sponsors for their support in making this year's edition possible, Onaolapo promised them a gratifying experience.

Also speaking, Chairman of Ikoyi Golf Community Nigeria Association, (IGCNA), owners of the Nigeria Cup, Rotimi Obajimi, while thanking the Organising Committee for a job well done also informed that apart from the Nigeria Cup, IGCNA also contribute to the development of the golf section in bankrolling some of its projects.

Meanwhile, the 2025 Nigeria Cup will officially tee off on Saturday with the Children tournament; Sunday September 21 will witness a game tagged 'Golf for good and Chipping Competition'. On Monday, it will be the turn of Caddies while Tuesday has been

Champions League: Rivers Utd battle FC Les Aigles in Kinshasa

By Peculiar Oke

All eyes turn to the heart of Kinshasa today Champions League preliminary round showdown at the iconic Stade des Martyrs as Rivers United battle homers, FC Les Aigles du Congo.

The first-leg fixture promises fireworks as both sides battle for a place in Africa's most prestigious club competition.

The squad and officials had arrived in Lagos on Wednesday from Port Harcourt to make final preparations for the journey.

Rivers United, who last featured in the CAF Champions League in 2023, will be hoping for a better run this time around after crashing out in the second round during their previous campaign. For FC Les Aigles du Congo, the match presents a significant opportunity to make their mark in continental football.



FIFA U20 World Cup: Flying Eagles begin training in Santiago

Nigeria's U20 boys, Flying Eagles, had their first training session in Santiago, Chile on Wednesday evening at Cancha Liga Training Pitch.

The session, which lasted for 2 hours, was supervised by head coach Aliyu Zubair. This comes after a recovery session in the morning at the

team's base, Le Meridien Hotel. The Flying Eagles were scheduled to continue training on Thursday in their build-up ahead of the friendly game against Chile U20 team on Saturday, September 20.

They will also play against the Australia U20 team on Tuesday, September 23.



D'Tigers slip 11 places to 53rd in latest FIBA world rankings

Nigeria's senior men's basketball team, D'Tigers, have dropped 11 places in the latest FIBA World Rankings, falling to 53rd globally in the standings released on September 15.

The slip follows their underwhelming performance at the 2025 FIBA AfroBasket, where they crashed out in the quarter-finals after a 91-75 defeat to Senegal, extending their wait for a second continental title.

Previously ranked 42nd in the world and sixth in Africa in March, Nigeria now sit eighth on the

continent, behind South Sudan, Angola, Ivory Coast, Egypt, Senegal, Cape Verde, and Tunisia.

D'Tigers will look to bounce back later this year when they face Tunisia, Guinea, and Rwanda in the first round of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2027 African Qualifiers in November.

At the top of the global rankings, the United States maintained first place, while Germany, fresh off their FIBA EuroBasket 2025 triumph, climbed to second, leapfrogging Serbia, who dropped to third. France held steady in fourth, with Canada rounding out the

MMA: Expect more from AFC World series — Aswani

By Jacob Ajom

Over 100 Mixed Martial Arts fighters participated in the maiden AFC World series that ended in Lagos last weekend. The Molade Okoya-Thomas Indoor Sports Hall at Teslim Balogun stadium was full to the brim with fans as fighters exhibited doggedness and dexterity.

At the post event interview with the media, Raad Aswani of the AFC World Series promised that there was more to come. "The future is very bright. This year's edition was well delivered and electrifying, especially with government backing, which made the whole experience worthwhile," Aswani said.

He noted that the next step was to expand the

tournament regionally, creating opportunities to discover and nurture Nigeria's best athletes.

"The quality of production was rock solid. The fighters were brilliant, while officiating, medicals and government presence all contributed to a hugely successful tournament.

He noted that the next step was to expand the tournament regionally, creating opportunities to discover and nurture Nigeria's best athletes.

"What a week this has been!" he wrote, adding, "The journey we just witnessed was nothing short of beautiful. The athletes gave their hearts, their sweat, and their spirit and the results were incredible." experiences of their lives.

Flamingos win back-to-back friendlies in Abuja

Nigeria's U17 Women's National Team, the Flamingos, stepped up preparations for the 2025 FIFA U17 Women's World Cup in Morocco with two wins on Wednesday, 17th September at the FIFA Goal Project, Abuja.

In the first game, the Flamingos edged Eagle's Wing U13 Boys 1-0 thanks to an early strike from Fatimoh Shuaib, who calmly slotted home after a neat exchange with Tabitha Terlumu. Despite pressure from the opponents, goalkeeper Elizabeth Boniface and her defence held firm to secure the narrow win.

Later in the day, the

Flamingos returned to action against Harmony FA U13 Boys, sealing a comfortable 3-0 victory. Zainab Raji opened the scoring after pouncing on a defensive error, before Olamide Olanrewaju tapped in for the second. Substitute Favour Etim made an instant impact, adding the third to complete a dominant performance, even as Terlumu saw her penalty kick saved. With these results, the Flamingos have now shown both resilience and attacking sharpness as all called-up players remain in camp ahead of the World Cup (Oct 17-Nov 8), where they face Canada, France, and Samoa in Group D.

OJOBO FEDERATED COMMUNITIES MOURN!!!



MR TITO WARE-EBI ZUOKUMOR (1970-2025)

With heavy hearts, but with gratitude to God, we honour the memory of a life well lived, our dear brother, MR TITO WARE-EBI ZUOKUMOR, who untimely departed this world on the 4th of September, 2025.

Your legacy of kindness and love will continue to inspire us.
You will be dearly missed, but forever remembered.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE FAMILY.

SIGNED:

CHIEF SUNDAY CUPSON
Amananaowei,
Ojobo Federated Communities

PRINCE DOUBRA BARO
Chairman,
Ojobo Federated Communities

HON. PULLAH EK POTUAYERIN
Chairman, Burial Committee

RT. HON. (CHIEF) FUNKEKEME SOLOMON
Leader, Ojobo Federated Communities

OBITUARY



**Rear Admiral
DAVID ANTHONY ONOJA (rtd)
psc+ mni CFR**

With gratitude to God for a life spent, we, the Members of NDA Regular Combatant Course 5, in total submission to the Will of God, regret to announce the passing to eternal glory of our dearly beloved friend and coursemate NDA/199 Rear Admiral David Anthony Onoja (rtd) psc+ mni CFR on 4th May 2025.

Burial Arrangement.

Body leaves National Hospital, Abuja at 08:00 am on 26th September 2025 to Otukpa, Benue State.

Further details to be announced by the family.

May his gentle soul rest in peace.
Amen.

SURVIVING MEMBERS OF NDA REGULAR COURSE 5

1. NDA/176 Maj. B Aliyu
2. NDA/178 Brig. Gen. EF Olutunmogun
3. NDA/180 Maj. PC Briggs
4. NDA/181 R/Adm PI Eluma
5. NDA/188 Maj. Gen. AS Mukhtar
6. NDA/189 Wg. Cdr. SD Ibrahim
7. NDA/194 Maj. OO Ayeni
8. NDA/195 Brig. Gen. DO Idada-Ikponmwen
9. NDA/198 Capt. (NN) IE Princewill
10. NDA/202 Maj. MA Daba
11. NDA/203 Maj-Gen. BS Magashi
12. NDA/204 AVM BR Suara
13. NDA/205 Maj. MO Yusuf
14. NDA/206 AVM MN Umaru
15. NDA/208 Maj. Gen. LMS Ajiborisha
16. NDA/209 Maj. Gen. FA Mujakperuo
17. NDA/210 Maj-Gen. AA Sangotade
18. NDA/213 Maj. Gen. AA Majali
19. NDA/216 Maj. Gen. SOG Ango

IN EVERGREEN MEMORIES

1. NDA/174 Maj. SP Danladi
2. NDA/175 Lt. Col. F Abdullahi
3. NDA/177 Lt. (NN) JET Sugh
4. NDA/179 Maj. Gen. MO Odaro
5. NDA/182 Capt. Y Ahmed
6. NDA/183 Sub/Lt. (NN) EE Okhumale
7. NDA/184 Lt. Col. OB Wyom
8. NDA/185 Brig-Gen. G Ayankpele
9. NDA/186 AVM A Rufai
10. NDA/187 Maj. J Amueh
11. NDA/190 Lt-Col. MA Alaiyemola
12. NDA/191 Capt. SB Ogale
13. NDA/192 Maj. SA Raji
14. NDA/193 Capt. A Dimas
15. NDA/196 Lt. Col. EF Inyang
16. NDA/197 Maj. Gen. A Dada
17. NDA/199 R/Adm. DA Onoja
18. NDA/200 Air Cdre. IT Udoh-Idoh
19. NDA/201 Brig. Gen. I Aliyu
20. NDA/207 Col. BO Kassim
21. NDA/211 Lt. AJS Mshelia
22. NDA/212 Col. LA Olorogun
23. NDA/214 Maj. AS Garko
24. NDA/215 Lt-Col. I Kachako

For and on the behalf of NDA Regular Course 5 chairman
His Royal Majesty
NDA/209 Major General FA Mujakperuo mni CFR
Orhue i, Orodje of Okpe Kingdom

Vanguard Sports

FIFA Ranking: Super Eagles slip again, drop out of Africa's top 5



World football governing body FIFA, has released the latest ranking of teams following the conclusion of games in the last international window. The Super Eagles slipped to 45th in the ranking made public yesterday by FIFA, it is their lowest position in over six years, and it came despite an

unbeaten run in the World Cup qualifiers under new coach Eric Chelle. They picked up wins over Rwanda and forced South Africa to a 1-1 draw away from home, but it wasn't enough as they also sit sixth on the African continent, behind Morocco, Senegal, Egypt, Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire.



2026 WCQ: There's still a lot to play for, Okpala tells S/Eagles

Champions League: Rivers Utd battle FC Les Aigles in Kinshasa

D'Tigers drop 11 places to 53rd in latest FIBA world rankings

TODAY'S MATCHES

LIGUE 1		
Lyon	v Angers	7.45pm
BUNDESLIGA		
Stuttgart	v St. Pauli	7.30pm
SERIE		
Lecce	v Cagliari	7.45pm
LALIGA		
Betis	v R/Sociedad	8pm
CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE		
Dadje	v Al Ahly	3pm
Aigles du Co	v Rivers Utd	4pm
Wiliete	v Young Afri	4pm
African Stars	v Vipers	5pm
CAF CONFED CUP		
Welayta Dich	v Al-Ittihad	1pm
Aigle Royal	v San Pedro	2pm
Nigelec	v Olympique	4pm
USFA	v Gbohloe-Su	5pm

RESULTS

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE			
Club Brugge	4	Monaco	1
Copenhagen	2	Leverkusen	2
E/Frankfurt	5	Galatasaray	1
Man City	2	Napoli	0
Newcastle	1	Barcelona	2
Sporting CP	4	Kairat Almaty	1

2026 WCQ: FIFA opens case on Mokoena's yellow card saga

● Gives gives SAFA six days to respond



SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE

		1	8					
		2			7			
	8	3			6	2		7
		9		5				4
	3	8		2		1	7	
	4			9		8		
8		7	4			5	3	
			3			7		
					9	6		

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

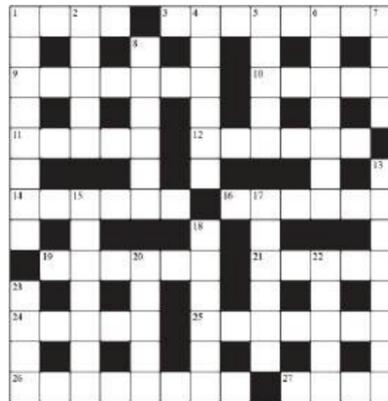
8	1	7	6	3	4	5	9	2
3	5	9	8	1	2	4	6	7
4	2	6	9	5	7	1	8	3
6	7	2	4	8	9	3	5	1
1	3	4	5	7	6	9	2	8
9	8	5	3	2	1	6	7	4
7	9	8	1	6	3	2	4	5
2	4	1	7	9	5	8	3	6
5	6	3	2	4	8	7	1	9

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.

QUICK CROSSWORD

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Chilly(4)
 - Perhaps(8)
 - Make right(7)
 - Spring month(5)
 - Venomous snake(5)
 - Imitations(6)
 - Stableman at an inn(6)
 - Turf accountant(6)
 - Hardy's partner(6)
 - South American mountain range(5)
 - Loathed(5)
 - Greedy eater(7)
 - Omens(8)
 - Siamese(4)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



- DOWN**
- Crested parrot(8)
 - Enticed(5)
 - Science of light(6)
 - Skin of the head(5)
 - In a violent frenzy(7)
 - Yellow part of an egg(4)
 - Name of six British kings-(6)
 - Capital of Finland(8)
 - Farm vehicle(7)
 - Not transparent(6)
 - Aeroplane journey(6)
 - Raised strip(5)
 - Drainage channel(5)
 - Karate blow(4)

