Appeal Court to hear suit against deregistration of ADC, Accord, three others today

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·NMDPRA, FCCPC, Dangote Refinery, marketers, NARTO, others meet

32 die in vehicle accidents in Kwara, Ogun, Kogi

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Stiffer competition as domestic carriers embark on massive aircraft fleet expansion

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NASS to consider 69 constitution amendment bills

·Reps to pass state police bill as lawmakers reconvene today

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From left, Group Managing Director-CEO of United Bank for Africa (UBA), Mr Oliver Alawuba; retiring Group Chairman, Tony O. Elumelu; and newly-elected Group Chairman, Mr Emmanuel Nnorom, during the announcement of the retirement of Elumelu from the Board of Directors of UBA on August, 21, 2026, at the UBA House, in Lagos, on Monday.

Elumelu to step down as UBA chairman August 21, Nnorom to succeed him

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HEALTH

Ultra-processed foods are addictive like tobacco, researchers warn

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Falana kicks as police arrest father of alleged fake PFIPC DG

·He has no link with royal lineage, didn't stay in Oyo palace —Late Alaafin Adeyemi family
·Office of Accountant General denies opening of CBN accounts for agency
·PFIPC controversy exposes Nigeria's dual governance —UNILAG don

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Falana kicks, as police raid Ogbomoso home, arrest father of alleged fake PFIPC boss

·Says no legal basis for police arrest

From Francis Iwuchukwu, Soji Ajibola, Tunbosun Ogundare, and Subair Mohammed

SENIOR Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Mr Femi Falana, on Monday, accused operatives of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) of arresting the father of Prince Adeyemi Adeniyi, the alleged fake director-general of the controversial Presidential Fiscal and Infrastructure Projects Council (PFIPC), during a raid at the family home in Ogbomoso, Oyo State.

A family friend, who visited the residence on Monday morning, was also reportedly taken into custody.

The development was confirmed by the SAN to the ***Nigerian Tribune*** in a telephone interview chat, on Monday evening.

"Police have now stormed the house of the parents of Prince Adeniyi, Plot 3, Adeniyi Dynasty, behind Technical College, Road Safety Area, Ogbomoso," Falana said.

"The father has been arrested. There is no legal basis for substituted arrests. The young man has promised to show up in court, so why arrest his father?"

It will be recalled that Falana had insisted that allegations surrounding the PFIPC must be resolved through due process.

The senior lawyer specifically stated that the Presidency lacks constitutional authority to exonerate individuals accused of crimes, stressing that only the courts can determine criminal liability.

Falana equally warned against actions that could suggest intimidation, while the matter remains ***sub judice.***

The raid came amid ongoing legal proceedings linked to the PFIPC, a council alleged to have operated without legal backing, despite claims of ties to the Presidency.

Prince Adeniyi is facing criminal charges, including forgery, impersonation and related offences.

Controversial DG of 'fake' PFIPC has no link with Adeyemi royal lineage, didn't stay in Alaafin palace — Prince Adeyemi

The first son of the immediate past Alaafin of Oyo, Prince Tunde Adeyemi, has faulted the claim that the controversial director general of the "fake" PFIPC, Prince Adeniyi Matthew Adeyemi once stayed in the palace of the Alaafin of Oyo.

This is as the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF) denied opening of account with the Central Bank of Nigeria, (CBN) for the agency as reported.

Adeyemi, in a telephone chat with the ***Nigerian Tribune***, stated that the said Adeyemi has no link with the immediate past Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi.

He said, the said Adeyemi is not from Oba Adeyemi royal lineage, adding that the man never stayed in the palace of Alaafin of Oyo as was reported.

According to him, "The Matthew man never grew up or stayed in the palace. I have just called Honourable Akeem Adeyemi, my younger brother, and was told that the man once visited the palace sometimes in 2017/ 2018, to see Baba, but he did not get access to Baba."

OAGF denies opening of CBN account for agency

In a related development, the OAGF submitted that the CBN did not operate any account with the agency.

The press director of the OAGF, Mr Bawa Mokwa, in a statement disclosed that no public funds or salaries have been paid to the organisation.

He explained that the process of opening a CBN account for the PFIPC was never completed because the required documentation to activate the account was not submitted.

"You cannot open an account at the CBN without authorisation from the Accountant-General. The Accountant-General will authorise them to open an account at the CBN," he stressed.

Mokwa stated that the purported PFIPC director-general, approached the OAGF and presented an appointment letter, but alleged that the document concerned an already existing agency, rather than the PFIPC.

The account-opening process, according to him, commenced based on the document presented. Still, the account never became operational because the names of the officials expected to serve as account signatories were not submitted.

He insisted there was no channel through which the OAGF could release government funds to the agency because it did not have an operational account or a CBN-created one.

"The account, till today, has not seen the light of day. It has not seen one kobo because the account is not completely operational.

"That portrays that he has not collected a dime. The AGF has not released a dime to him because they don't even have a place where the money can be paid," Mokwa said.

PFIPC controversy exposes Nigeria's dual governance — UNILAG dean

A prominent political economist has described the existence and operations of the controversial PFIPC as a symptom of a deeply fractured Nigeria's governance system.

Adelaja Odukoya, a professor of Comparative Political Economy and Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, at the University of Lagos (UNILAG), characterised the development as an "Order of organised inversion," a dangerous political condition where informal networks increasingly overshadow formal, constitutionally recognised institutions.

Speaking, on Monday, in an interview with the ***Nigerian Tribune***, Odukoya argued that the PFIPC controversy exposes a "government that does not govern," where personalised rule takes precedence over institutional capacity.

To understand the crisis surrounding the purported council, the scholar urged analysts to look beyond mere legality and examine the core character of the Nigerian nation through the lens of Ernst Fraenkel's ***"Dual State"*** theory. This framework divides a state into two parallel realities: the normative state (legality) and the prerogative state (arbitrariness).

"From this perspective, the concern with legality ignores the other side of the coin," Odukoya explained. "The substantive concern should be what this situation throws up about the hidden nature and character of the Nigerian state."

The former Lagos Zone Coordinator of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) noted that, while formal institutions exist on paper, critical political and administrative decisions are routinely funneled through extra-bureaucratic, discretionary centres of power. This duality, he warned, actively erodes democratic accountability and destroys public confidence.

To rescue the country from this structural decay, the political economist said the government should halt the practice of multiplying parallel bodies. Instead, he called on Nigerians to demand absolute institutional transparency, strict constitutional fidelity, robust parliamentary oversight and the deliberate strengthening of existing formal institutions.

Fagbemi urges Tinubu to probe controversy, tighten State House security

A political scientist, Dr Kunle Fagbemi, called on President Bola Tinubu, to constitute a judicial panel of inquiry to investigate the controversy surrounding the PFIPC, describing the matter as one with significant implications for national security and governance.

Speaking on the morning programme of ***Arise News,*** Fagbemi said his intervention was informed by concerns over national security and statecraft, arguing that issues raised in the public domain warranted an independent investigation.

Citing Chapter Six, Part One of the 1999 Constitution, he said the Office of the President is central to the administration of the Nigerian State, and stressed the need to protect its integrity.

Fagbemi appealed to the president's security team, including the Chief Security Officer (CSO), the Aide-de-Camp, the Chief Police Officer to the President and the Commander of the Brigade of Guards, to strengthen security around the president pending the resolution of the controversy.

From left, Ambassador O C J Okocha ,SAN, Chief Wole Olanipekun ,SAN, President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Drogban Menseh, former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere Ekun and the Chairman Body of Benchers, Albert Akpomudje, SAN, as the Body of Benchers presented an award to the FCT Minister, during the commissioning of the newly completed Body of Benchers Annex Office in Abuja on Monday

Oyebanji visits family of dead kidnap victim, beefs up security around border towns

Yomi Ayeleso | Ado-Ekiti

EKITI State governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has visited the family of 82-year-old Mrs Rachael Olomi, in Eda Oniyo Ekiti, who died while in the custody of kidnappers.

He also assured residents that his administration would intensify security operations around border communities to prevent a recurrence of such attacks.

The governor's visit came barely 24 hours after the release of 15 worshippers, who regained their freedom after spending 67 days in captivity following their abduction during a church crusade in Eda Oniyo, Ilejemeje Local Government Area on April 28.

Olomi was the only victim, who did not survive the ordeal and died in the gunmen's den, following the release of the remaining victims in the early hours of Saturday.

Represented by his deputy, Chief Monisade Afuye, Governor Oyebanji visited the bereaved family to commiserate with them, urging them to take solace in the fact that Olomi remained steadfast in her Christian faith until her death.

He described the incident as one of the most painful moments of his administration, saying the prolonged captivity of the victims and the loss of Olomi subjected him to immense emotional and psychological distress.

The governor, however, expressed gratitude that the remaining 15 victims were rescued alive and are receiving medical attention at the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital on the directive of the state government.

Reaffirming his administration's commitment to protecting lives and property, the governor said security architecture across the state, particularly around border communities, would be further strengthened to combat kidnapping and other violent crimes.

He revealed that security agencies have been directed to intensify forest-combing operations, sustain round-the-clock patrols and reinforce surveillance around boundary communities to dismantle criminal hideouts and curb cross-border criminal activities.

The governor appealed to members of the community to warmly receive the released victims and support their reintegration into society.

Earlier, the Eleda of Eda Oniyo, Oba Julius Awolola, commended the governor for his unwavering commitment throughout the period of the victims' captivity, describing his intervention as exemplary leadership.

NASS to consider 69 constitution amendment bills

·Reps to pass Senate police bill as lawmakers resume for last lap ·55 state creation requests in senate for consideration ·Special seat bills to get attention too

John Ameh and Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

SENATORS will reconvene in Abuja today as their end of session break ends. Work on further review of the 1999 Constitution will top their agenda, according to findings by the Nigerian Tribune.

The lawmakers will conclude work on the remaining constitution amendment bills after the State Police Bill was separated from the pack and given accelerated passage on June 24.

"The other constitution amendment bills are there and they are ready. Now that the police bill is done with and over, attention will shift to the remaining bills", a legislative source informed the newspaper on Monday in Abuja.

Prior to the action on the state police bill, the Joint Senate and House of Representatives Committee on Constitution Review had produced a report covering all the proposed amendment bills for consideration.

At the Senate, the report was due for presentation and consideration on June 24, but was deferred till July to enable lawmakers to vote only on the state police bill "as a matter of urgency and national importance", the Nigerian Tribune gathered.

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Constitution Review and Deputy President of the Senate, Senator Barau Jibrin, had earlier hinted that the joint committee processed 69 bills, 55 state creation requests, two boundary adjustment proposals, and 278 local government creation demands during its sessions.

Investigations showed that top on the bills awaiting passage is the Special Seats Bill.

The Special Seats Bill proposes adding 37 seats in the Senate (one per state and the FCT), 37 in the House of Representatives (one per state and the FCT), and 108 in State Houses of Assembly (three per state, one per senatorial district).

This totals 182 additional women-only seats nationwide, existing alongside current constituencies without redistributing existing ones.

The bill failed to progress beyond the National Assembly during the last constitution review attempt as the majority of lawmakers kicked against it. With the rigorous work done by the promoters to campaign for the bill lately, it remains unclear whether it will scale through in the new bid as senators return to work.

The Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Senator Yemi Adaramodu, while confirming expectations to the Nigerian Tribune, had disclosed that the Legislature would devote July and August 2026 to passing all remaining constitution amendment bills.

"We are now expecting that before we close for the legislative year, all those bills will be considered and passed between July and early August", the senator stated.

"We are not going to allow any of those amendments to roll over to the 11th Assembly because all the ideas are babies of the 10th Assembly and it is the assembly that will pass them for Nigerians to behold," he added.

Section 9(2) of the 1999 Constitution specifies the general procedure for amendment, requiring a bill to pass with at least two-thirds majority of members in both the Senate and House of Representatives.

This implies that a report on any amendment bill must secure the votes of 240 members (out of 360) of the House of Representatives and at least 73 (out of 109) senators to pass.

As Members of the House of Representatives are expected to resume the fourth legislative year, Tuesday, the lawmakers are expected to commence debate on the general principles of the Executive bill which seeks to overhaul the nation's police architecture, empowers State Governors to appoint Commissioners of Police, and subject to confirmation by State Houses of Assembly.

Other priority bills to be considered during the fourth legislative year which marks the end of the 10th Assembly, include: Electoral Act (amendment) bill, with specific reference to Independent Candidacy; Special Reserved Seats for Women, and over 40 other Constitution amendment related bills.

The proposed State Police bill passed by the Senate penultimate week, further seeks to establish a dual policing structure, allowing states to run their own police services concurrently with the federal police.

Confirming this, Chairman, House Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Francis Waive disclosed that the State Police bill passed by the House before embarking on two weeks' recess which marked the end of the third legislative year, was strictly the outcome of the ongoing Constitution Review exercise.

Hon. Waive argued that the House embarked on amendment to the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to allow State Police, while the Senate passed proposed amendment to the Police Act, "which will now make provisions for the specific administration of how this (State Police) is going to run. The constitution will simply allow State Police which is what we have done in the House.

"What the President, the bill is saying, the Executive bill, does not have to do with constitutional amendment, it has to do with the administrative structure, how Police will now relate - Federal, State Police. That is the bill that the President sent which we are also going to consider and of course, there's going to be a concurrence."

Reacting to the statement credited to the Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Senator Yemi Adaramodu, he explained that Waive argued that: "usually, by law and by practice, whatever the Senate passes, the House must concur. And you are aware that since the Senate made their passage, we have not sat. So we're looking forward to doing our own concurrence."

Giving breakdown on the third year legislative activities of the 10th House spanning June 2025 to June 2026, Hon. Waive disclosed that total of 484 bills were introduced out of which 31 are Executive Bills; 391 bills sponsored by Private Members; 62 bills sent from the Senate to the House for concurrence, while 126 bills were passed during the period under review.

In addition, out of total 20 motions presented before the House, 192 Motions were referred to Standing Committees; 28 Motions referred to Ad-hoc Committees; 121 motions were presented as Matters of urgent public Importance while 48 Petitions were considered.

Speaking further on the bills progression from June 2023 – 15 June 2026, from the total of 2,747 bill is were presented for First Reading, 57 bills were transmitted from the Executive arm of Government; 95 bills transmitted from Senate for concurrence; 2,595 sponsored by Private Members while total of 363 bills passed for the past three years of the 10th House of Representatives.

For the first legislative year, 1,351 bills were introduced, 12 bills introduced by the Executive arm of Government, 1,336 bills sponsored by Private Members, 3 bills transmitted by the Senate for concurrence while 89 bills were passed during the period.

For the second session, 912 bills were introduced, 14 bills were introduced by the Executive arm of Government, 868 bills sponsored by Private Members, 30 bills transmitted by the Senate for concurrence while 148 bills passed.

For the third legislative session, from the 484 bills were introduced out of 31 bills were transmitted by the Executive arm of Government, 391 bills sponsored by Private Members, 62 bills transmitted by the Senate for concurrence while 126 bills were passed.

According to the available data on the total of 2,747 bill progression, 1,782 Bills are awaiting Second Reading, 323 Bills referred to Standing Committees; 185 Bills Awaiting Consideration, 363 Bills Passed, 5 bills Negatived while 89 bills are to be consolidated.

In his address, Chairman, House Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Hon. Akin Rotimi commended the Committee non Rules and Business and its Secretariat headed by Mrs. Florence Akerele for providing impactful service over the past three legislative years.

He said: "We'll give you highlights on the progress we've made in terms of our bills and our motions. I must say that this is also within the context, the broader context of open governance and accountability.

"As you know, next week we're going to be having the NASS Open Week. So this does not replace that session where we'll also be giving broader accounts of stewardship in terms of the scorecard that goes beyond just the scorecard.

"So this is just the bills and the motions. However, today we thought it's important, before we resume tomorrow, to come and engage with you."

According to the House Spokesman, top priority bills passed by the House and indeed the National Assembly are: NELFUND Act, Electoral Act, 2026; State Police bill, 2026; National Minimum Wage Act, and the Appropriation Acts for the three fiscal years, among others.

Tinubu orders probe of Google, Meta, X, AI, others over alleged exploitation of Nigerian media

Tyavzua Saanyol | Abuja

BIG technology companies have come under the radar of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) following allegations of anti-competitive practices, unlawful exploitation of news content, and other potentially unfair market conduct.

Also to be investigated are Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms operating in Nigeria.

A statement by Ondajeljagwu, the Director, Corporate Affairs,reads: "sequel to a directive from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR to FCCPC to look into a joint petition submitted to the Presidency by the Nigerian Press Organisation (NPO).

"The NPO comprises the Newspaper Proprietors' Association of Nigeria (NPAN), the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), the Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), and the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP).

"The Federal Government's position was communicated to the FCCPC in a letter signed by the Honourable Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris.

"The investigation promises to open a new vista in Nigeria's media history. In recent years, concerns have been raised by the Nigerian media industry over the growing impact of certain digital platforms on the sustainability of the country's news ecosystem.

"Specifically, the NPO is increasingly uncomfortable with major technology companies including Meta, Alphabet, X (formerly Twitter), and certain Generative AI platforms, citing practices capable of undermining fair competition, the commercial viability of Nigerian media organisations, and the legitimate rights of content creators and publishers."

In the statement, the executive vice chairman of the FCCPC, Mr. Tunji Bello, reacting to the directive reaffirmed the commission's commitment to conducting an independent, transparent, and evidence-based investigation.

"We recognise the strategic importance of the media to Nigeria's democracy and the equally significant role of technology in driving innovation and economic growth. Our responsibility is to objectively determine the facts and ensure that competition within the digital ecosystem remains fair, transparent, and consistent with Nigerian law," said Bello.

Clarifying the issues, Bello added that, "This inquiry is not directed at any entity by presumption of wrongdoing. Rather, it is an opportunity to carefully examine the facts, hear from all affected parties, and determine whether any conduct has resulted in anti-competitive outcomes or unfair business practices. Every party will be accorded a fair opportunity to present relevant information before any conclusions are reached.

"In specific terms, FCCPC will determine whether the practices in question constitute a breach of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act (FCCPA) 2018 or any other applicable law.

"In the past, FCCPC had investigated META and in 2025 won a landmark case against the tech giant for violations of FCCPA including data breach, for which the tech giant was fined $220m. Meta has however appealed the fine.

"Under the new investigation, areas of interest include allegations of market dominance and potential anti-competitive conduct. Second is the allegation of unauthorised extraction, scraping, ingestion, or commercial utilisation of copyrighted news articles, broadcast materials, and other original journalistic content for the development and training of Generative Artificial Intelligence models.

"Third is the concern regarding the lack of equitable commercial engagement between global tech companies and Nigerian news publishers. Central to this is the allegation that affected media organisations have been denied meaningful opportunities to negotiate fair compensation or appropriate commercial arrangements for the use of their journalistic content."

It stated further: "Following similar agitation by media organisations in South Africa and investigation by the South African Competition Commission, it was finally negotiated that Google compensate South African news media by R688 million ($40 million) annually for three to five years."

Tinubu defends FCTA's TSA exit, says policy fast-tracked Abuja projects

Clement Idoko | Abuja

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu, on Monday, defended his administration's decision to remove the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) from the Treasury Single Account (TSA), saying the policy has accelerated project delivery, improved financial flexibility and driven the rapid transformation of Abuja.

The president also dismissed claims that his administration is interfering in the judiciary through the provision of infrastructure, insisting that supporting the justice sector is a constitutional responsibility of the Executive, not an encroachment on judicial independence.

Tinubu, who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, spoke while commissioning a new office annex for the Body of Benchers and 10 units of four-bedroom staff quarters at the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja.

Reflecting on the decision to exempt the FCTA from the TSA, Tinubu said the policy was initially met with skepticism, but has since delivered measurable results through faster execution of infrastructure projects in the nation's capital city.

"When we pulled the FCT Administration out of the Treasury Single Account (TSA), there were skeptics. There were those who questioned the wisdom of that financial liberation.

"But we did it because we knew that local administration must have the liquidity, the speed and the corporate flexibility to interface with financial institutions and deliver critical projects without bureaucratic strangulation. Today, the results are glaring," the president said.

Tinubu said the policy enabled the FCT Administration to respond more efficiently to development needs, adding that the transformation witnessed across Abuja validates the decision.

He commended the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, for translating the policy into visible development, saying the minister has expanded the scope of infrastructure beyond roads to include strategic institutions that strengthen governance and the administration of justice.

The president particularly praised Wike for resolving the long-standing land title challenge facing the Nigerian Law School by facilitating the issuance of its Certificate of Occupancy after years without formal documentation.

From left: Former governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola; Chancellor, Osun State University Osogbo, Mrs Victoria Samson; Governor Ademola Adeleke; chairman, BOVAS, Mr Bamidele Samson, and pro-chancellor, Osun State University, Professor Wale Oladipo, during the inauguration of the 3rd Chancellor of Osun State University, Osogbo, on Monday. Photo: NAN.

Adeleke charges new UNIOSUN chancellor to sustain legacy of excellence

Adeolu Adeyemo | Osogbo

OSUN State governor, Senator Ademola Adeleke, has charged the newly installed Chancellor of the Osun State University, Mrs. Victoria Adunola Samson, Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of BOVAS Group, to sustain the institution's tradition of quality leadership and academic excellence.

Speaking at the investiture ceremony of Mrs. Samson as the university's third Chancellor on Monday, Governor Adeleke described leadership as "a relay, not a race," stressing that every generation has a responsibility to build on the achievements of its predecessors.

He urged the Chancellor to consolidate on the successes recorded by the institution and continue providing purposeful leadership that would enhance its growth and development.

Earlier, the governor commissioned several landmark projects at the university, including the UNIOSUN Sports Complex, a Science Laboratory, the 750-seat Adeleke Lecture Theatre, and a 500-seat Lecture Hall.

He commended the university management for its commitment to infrastructural development and urged it to sustain the momentum.

Governor Adeleke also paid tribute to the immediate past chancellor, Apostle Folorunso Alakija, describing her tenure as one that left an enduring legacy on the institution.

In his remarks, the vice-chancellor, Professor Odunayo Adebooye, expressed appreciation to Governor Adeleke for his administration's support for the university, noting that it created an enabling environment for the institution to record significant achievements.

Professor Adebooye described Mrs. Samson as eminently qualified for the role of chancellor, citing her distinguished record of leadership, service, and contributions to national development.

Responding, Mrs. Samson pledged to work with the university's management to mobilise resources for infrastructural development and strengthen support for both staff and students.

Obi to Tinubu: You have failed, resign, do not seek re-election

Collins Nnabuife | Abuja

THE presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, has again called on President Bola Tinubu to either resign from office or refrain from seeking re-election, citing what he described as the Federal Government's handling of insecurity and the prolonged captivity of abducted schoolchildren in Oyo state.

In a *Facebook* post on Monday, Obi expressed concern over the fate of the schoolchildren, who he said remain in captivity for more than 50 days, describing the situation as a failure of leadership and compassion.

According to Obi, he has spoken publicly on two occasions about the incident, including appealing directly to the kidnappers to release the children. He also said he contacted Oyo State governor, Seyi Makinde, twice to express solidarity, describing the abduction as "a Nigerian tragedy" rather than an issue affecting only the state.

The former Anambra State governor said he travelled to Ibadan on July 3 alongside Pat Utomi to meet with Governor Makinde after more than seven weeks elapsed without the children's rescue.

Obi said that during their meeting, he shared his experience in tackling security challenges, while serving as governor of Anambra.

He recalled that former Presidents Olusegun Obasanjo, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, and Goodluck Jonathan regularly contacted state governors whenever major security incidents occurred.

He further claimed that he was surprised to learn that Governor Makinde has not received a phone call from President Tinubu since the abduction, despite the prolonged nature of the incident.

Drawing comparisons with the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapping, Obi noted that the incident generated widespread national and international attention, with criticism directed at the administration of former President Jonathan over its response.

The NDC presidential candidate argued that the current administration has witnessed multiple school kidnapping incidents and questioned the level of engagement between the president and affected state governments.

"I cannot imagine any issue more important than the lives of our kidnapped children, their teachers, and the many other Nigerians being held captive across the country," Obi said, adding that the situation reflects what he described as a lack of capacity, compassion and sensitivity in governance.

He urged President Tinubu to either resign or, at the very least, abstain from seeking re-election for the sake of our dear country," maintaining that his position was patriotic, not political.

Alleged cyberstalking: Sowore opens defence in suit against him for calling Tinubu "criminal"

·Yet to perfect N200m bail conditions

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

THE presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC) and activist, Omoyele Sowore, on Monday, opened his defence in the two-count charges bothering on defamation of President Bola Tinubu before a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja.

The Federal Government is prosecuting Sowore, who is also the publisher of *Sahara Reporters*, an online media platform, for alleged criminal defamation over claims that he referred to President Tinubu as a "criminal" in posts made on his official *X* and *Facebook* accounts.

At the proceedings on Monday, Sowore, called his first witness, an Abuja-based lawyer, Deji Adeyanju.

Led in evidence by counsel for the defendant, Olumide Fusika, the witness told the court that President Tinubu, during an official engagement in Benue State, said citizens have the right to insult, criticise and call him names and that law enforcement agencies should allow citizens exercise their rights as it is part of democracy.

Adeyanju added that the president said the judiciary should be the guardian of the public and should not be used as instrument of oppression against critics.

Video clips of where the president made those remarks were tendered in evidence as exhibit via flash drive before the court.

Meanwhile, Sowore risks being remanded at the Kuje Correctional center in Abuja, following his inability to perfect the bail conditions granted him by the trial judge, Justice Mohammed Umar.

The prosecution counsel, Akinlolu Kehinde, informed the court that the defendant was yet to fulfill the bail conditions granted him by the court.

The senior lawyer consequently applied to the court to issue an order remanding Sowore at the Kuje Correctional Centre, arguing that the order of court is meant to be obeyed and submitted that since Sowore had not obeyed the court order by perfecting the bail conditions, the consequence is for his remand until the conditions are fully met.

Although Justice Umar released Sowore to his lawyer, pending bail perfection, the prosecution counsel argued that, up till Monday, the defendant had not communicated to him of having any challenge in meeting the bail conditions or filing any application for bail conditions variations.

"The defendant was released to his lawyer to go and bring his passport to be deposited with the court. That has not been communicated to us, and other conditions of the bail have not been met. The law is trite, no sentiment," the prosecution lawyer said.

However, Fusika, counsel for the defendant, told the court that bail is not for punishment but for the accused to attend trial and that, it is incorrect to say the conditions are yet to be met.

He added that the verification of documents has been substantially done and then assured the court that the passport will be deposited in court before the close of work on Monday.

The defence counsel further said, there was slight delay in the passport recovery from the American Embassy in Lagos because Friday was the country's 250th anniversary celebration and they were on holidays.

Fusika prayed the court to allow Sowore be in his care until the next adjourned date of July 13 as everything will be done to ensure the terms of bail are met.

The court consequently adjourned the matter to July 13, for continuation of trial.

Take advantage of evacuation, FG urges Nigerians in South Africa

Kazeem Biriowo | Abuja

THE Federal Government has urged Nigerians living in South Africa, particularly those who feel their lives are at risk amid ongoing xenophobic attacks, to take advantage of the remaining government-sponsored evacuation flights, warning that the opportunity to leave will soon come to an end.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Bianca Odumegwu-Ojukwu, gave the warning, in a statement, posted on her verified social media platforms on Monday, saying the government remains deeply concerned about the worsening security situation in South Africa.

She said the latest appeal follows the deaths of two Nigerians: Musa Joe and Charles Iroegbu, during the recent wave of xenophobic violence and stressed that Nigeria has demanded an urgent investigation by South African authorities to ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

"There are no signs that the situation is improving," Odumegwu-Ojukwu said, urging Nigerians who believe their safety is threatened to return home on the Federal governments chartered evacuation flights.

According to her, President Bola Tinubu approved an extension of the evacuation exercise beyond the initial June 30 deadline after three successful evacuation operations.

She disclosed that a fourth evacuation flight arrived in Nigeria on July 3, while another aircraft is scheduled to depart for Johannesburg today to bring home more stranded Nigerians.

Odumegwu-Ojukwu added that the final evacuation flight is expected to arrive in South Africa on July 10, urging citizens to carefully assess the risks of remaining in the country.

She cautioned Nigerians who have yet to register for evacuation against delaying their decision, noting that waiting until the exercise ends before seeking emergency assistance could complicate rescue efforts.

The minister stressed that while lost property and investments could be replaced, lives cannot.

She reaffirmed the government's commitment to the protection and welfare of Nigerians abroad, assuring that all necessary measures would continue to be taken to safeguard citizens facing danger overseas.

Oyo govt, multinational firm begin distribution of 30,000 bags of rice to vulnerable residents

By Busola Oworu

THE Oyo State Government, in partnership with a multinational company, on Monday commenced the distribution of 30,000 bags of rice to vulnerable residents across the state's 33 local government areas as part of efforts to cushion the effects of the prevailing economic hardship.

The intervention, which complements the state's Sustainable Action for Economic Recovery (SAfER) initiative, is targeted at persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups to mitigate the effects of inflation and rising food prices.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony held at the state local government building, secretariat, Ibadan, Governor Seyi Makinde, represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Professor Musibau Babatunde, commended the donor company for partnering with the state government to support vulnerable residents.

"Our administration remains committed to implementing policies and programmes that will cushion the effects of inflation, hunger and economic hardship on our people. We appreciate our development partners for joining hands with us to improve the welfare of vulnerable residents across Oyo State," he said.

Makinde added that his government would continue to explore strategic partnerships with the private sector and development organisations to expand social intervention programmes and ensure that no vulnerable group is left behind.

Also speaking, the Head of Operations of the partnering multinational company, Mr. Victor Ejiro, said the donation formed part of the company's annual corporate social responsibility initiative aimed at supporting one million vulnerable Nigerians nationwide.

He said the company recognised the economic challenges confronting many households and considered it necessary to support government efforts in addressing hunger.

"We are pleased to partner with the Oyo State Government because of its demonstrated commitment to accountability and the welfare of its citizens. We are confident that these food items will get to those who truly need them," he added.

Chairman, Broadcasting Corporation of Oyo State (BCOS), Chief (Mrs) Dotun Olaitan (third left), guest on Gbagede Oselu; Chief (Mrs) Bose Adedibu (third right); directors of BCOS; and Chief (Mrs) Adedibu's entourage during the monthly programme, *Gbagede Oselu*, held at BCOS, Ile-Akede, Bashorun, Ibadan. Photo: Odunayo Odedoyin.

Ultra-processed foods are addictive like tobacco, researchers warn

By Sade Oguntola

MANY ultra-processed foods may trigger addictive behaviours similar to tobacco products because they are deliberately engineered to stimulate the brain's reward system, according to a new study.

The study, published in The Milbank Quarterly, argues that packaged snacks, sugary drinks, ready-to-eat meals and many fast foods are designed to encourage repeated consumption in much the same way cigarettes were developed to keep users hooked.

Researchers from the University of Michigan, Harvard University, and Duke University said the findings challenge the long-standing view that unhealthy eating is simply a matter of poor self-control.

Lead author, Professor Ashley Gearhardt, a clinical psychologist at the University of Michigan, said many ultra-processed foods are specifically formulated to maximise pleasure and promote habitual consumption.

According to the researchers, the products share several characteristics with tobacco, including being engineered to intensify reward signals in the brain while being heavily marketed to consumers.

The study draws on evidence from addiction science, nutrition research and the history of tobacco regulation, arguing that public health efforts should focus more on the food environment rather than placing responsibility solely on individuals.

"For decades, the emphasis has been on personal choice, but many of these products are intentionally designed to be difficult to resist," the researchers said.

Gearhardt stressed that eating is not the same as smoking but noted that some modern foods are manufactured in ways that make moderation particularly challenging.

She said understanding how these products are engineered is crucial to addressing rising rates of obesity and diet-related diseases.

The researchers called for greater scrutiny of food industry practices and stronger policies to reduce the availability and aggressive marketing of highly processed foods, particularly to young people.

They said shifting the conversation from individual blame to industry accountability could play an important role in tackling preventable chronic diseases linked to poor diets.

WACP seeks health sector reforms, warns brain drain threatens Nigeria's healthcare system

By Sade Oguntola

The West African College of Physicians (WACP) has called for comprehensive reforms of Nigeria's healthcare system, warning that persistent underfunding, poor welfare for health workers and the continued migration of medical professionals are undermining the country's capacity to deliver quality healthcare.

The national chairman of the Nigerian chapter of the WACP and vice president of the College, Professor Benjamin S. C. Uzochukwu, made the call during a press conference, to announce the College's 50th Annual General and Scientific Conference (AGSC).

Uzochukwu addressed journalists alongside the National Secretary, Dr Somide Malomo; National Treasurer, Dr Maria Mukhtar-Yola; immediate past chairman of the Nigerian chapter, Professor J. K. A. Madaki; and Chairman of the local organising committee, Professor J. Ogunbiyi.

The conference, themed: "Building Bridges, Supporting Resilience and Partnership in Health," is expected to bring together more than 400 fellows, members and international collaborators to examine emerging challenges in healthcare delivery, specialist medical education, digital health and regional collaboration.

Speaking on the growing exodus of Nigerian health professionals, Uzochukwu said the solution lies not in restricting doctors from leaving the country but in creating a healthcare system that offers professionals compelling reasons to stay.

He stressed that strengthening the health system requires deliberate investment across all its pillars, including governance, financing, human resources, service delivery, health information systems, and the local production of medicines and vaccines.

He added that Nigeria must also prioritise local manufacturing of essential medicines and vaccines while embracing digital technologies to improve healthcare management and service delivery.

FG pushes for petrol price reduction

Taofeek Lawal | Abuja

THE Federal Government has called on the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) to rein in oil marketers to reduce the pump prices of petroleum products in line with the decline in current crude oil price.

The Minister for State, Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, stated this on Monday in Abuja during a meeting with oil marketers and stakeholders tagged meeting on cost-reflective pricing of petroleum products, organised by the NMDPRA.

According to Lokpobiri, the meeting was convened to bring industry players to a round table and discussed how to reduce the price of petroleum products and also to make consumers have confidence in the sector in line with rules and regulations.

The minister said:"I urge the authority to strengthen market surveillance and enforce pricing transparency across the supply chain to ensure that reductions in underlying costs are reflected promptly in ex-depot and retail prices. Equally, there is urgency for the NMDPRA to accelerate the operationalisation of the National Strategic Stock (NSS). The NSS will strengthen national energy security, reduce exposure to supply disruptions, and moderate price volatility."

Lokpobiri stated that in the last six months, the international crude oil market has experienced significant volatility adding that brent crude traded between $61 and $65 per barrel in January, moved to over US$118 per barrel in April amid heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and recently has dropped to $71 per barrel as the war subsided.

He said he expected such movements in crude oil prices to reflect in the pricing of refined petroleum products as he reiterated government's commitment to protect consumers and public interest.

He added: "While the initial increase in crude prices understandably exerted upward pressure on PMS prices, the subsequent moderation in crude oil prices has not translated into a commensurate reduction in pump prices across the domestic market, with PMS peaking at N1,596/litre in May to N1,296/litre as at today. This disconnect has understandably raised concerns.

"I am aware that PMS pricing is influenced by several factors beyond crude oil prices, but it is equally important to distinguish between genuine replacement cost and windfall gains arising from inventory management. As inventories are replenished at lower costs, the benefits of those lower costs should be transmitted to consumers in a timely and transparent manner. That is the essence of a competitive and efficiently functioning market.

"Deregulation was never intended to create opportunities for excessive pricing or market distortions but rather promote efficiency, deepen competition and ultimately deliver value to Nigerians."

Speaking, the NMDPRA's Chief Executive Officer, Rabiu Umar, in his remarks said: "Recently, we have witnessed a welcome easing of those tensions, which has driven a downward shift and moderation in global crude prices.

"As a responsible regulatory authority, it is our duty to step in alongside you, our valued partners, to interrogate the market forces, understand the operational bottlenecks, and directly address this disconnect between falling replacement costs and sustained retail prices."

He added:"His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, has laid a resilient foundation for a deregulated, competitive, and investment-driven market. But let me be clear: deregulation is not a license for market distortion or unfair consumer pricing. It is intended to drive efficiency, maximise value, and protect the public interest.

"We need to build a transparent ecosystem where the benefits of market improvements are passed down to the Nigerian consumer in a timely and fair manner."

Those who attended the event are TotalEnergies, Eterna, Matrix Energy, the Depot and Petroleum Products Retailers Association of Nigeria (DPPRAN), Major Energy Marketers Association of Nigeria (MEMAN), Depot and Petroleum Products Marketers Association of Nigeria (DAPPMAN). Others are Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Nigerian Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and officials of the NMDPRA.

From left, Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Sean Manley; Board Chairman, Sen. Abdul-Aziz Abubakar Yari; Company Secretary, Ms. Gbeminiyi Shoda and Non-Executive Director, Dr. Abdullahi Abdulkarim Tsafe, all of Geregu Power Plc during the Company's 14th Annual General Meeting in Abuja on Tuesday.

Elumelu to retire as UBA board chairman August 21, Nnorom set to takeover

UNITED Bank for Africa Plc has announced that Mr. Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, Group Chairman of UBA, will retire from the Board of Directors of UBA on 21 August 2026, upon the completion of the 12-year tenure limit prescribed for Non-Executive Directors of Banks by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

At its meeting held on 6 July 2026, the Board accepted Mr. Elumelu's retirement and elected Mr. Emmanuel N. Nnorom, a Non-Executive Director of the Bank, as his successor, with effect from 21 August 2026.

The Board places on record its profound appreciation to Mr. Elumelu for his visionary leadership and exceptional contribution to the strategic vision and institutional strength of the UBA Group.

Mr. Elumelu's tenure has been a defining chapter in the Group's history. Under his stewardship, UBA was transformed into a pan African institution, operating in 20 African countries and 4 global financial centres and serving over 50 million customers.

Mr. Nnorom is a chartered accountant with over forty years' experience in banking, finance and audit. He brings to the role extensive leadership experience and deep institutional knowledge of UBA.

Commenting on his retirement, Mr. Tony O. Elumelu, CFR, said: "Serving United Bank for Africa has been one of the great privileges of my career. UBA has established a unique competitive position, across Africa and globally, and I leave the Board with great confidence in UBA's future. Emmanuel Nnorom is a leader of integrity, experience and sound judgement, and I am confident that the Bank will continue to thrive under his leadership."

Mr. Emmanuel N. Nnorom, on his appointment, said: "I am honoured by the trust the Board has placed in me and deeply conscious of the legacy I inherit. I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Board, Management and our staff across all our markets to sustain UBA's momentum and continue delivering long-term value to our shareholders, customers and stakeholders."

United Bank for Africa Plc is Africa's Global Bank. Operating across twenty African countries and in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, France and the United Arab Emirates, UBA provides retail, commercial and institutional banking services, leading financial inclusion and implementing cutting edge technology. UBA is one of the largest employers in the financial sector on the African continent, with 25,000 employees group wide and serving over 50 million customers globally.

Naira maintains stability amidst improved daily Forex Turnover, higher reserves

Chima Nwokoji | Lagos

THE Nigerian naira held steady against the US dollar on Monday, reflecting improved liquidity in the foreign exchange market and a strengthening of the country's external reserves, according to market data and Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) figures.

At the official foreign exchange market, the naira strengthened marginally to ₦1,368.27 per US dollar on Monday from ₦1,370.19 per dollar recorded on Friday, July 3, 2026.

In the parallel market, the local currency remained stable at ₦1,400 per dollar, according to Bureau De Change operators in Lagos.

The foreign exchange market has witnessed a notable surge in liquidity during the first half of 2026, with daily turnover frequently approaching $1 billion.

Data from the CBN website indicates that daily turnover regularly surpassed the $900 million mark, peaking at a record $1.82 billion on May 12.

Nigeria Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM) data further shows that more than $31 billion worth of foreign exchange was traded in the official market between March and June 2026, highlighting a substantial improvement in market depth and participation.

Unlike earlier periods that relied heavily on periodic CBN interventions, turnover remained consistently robust throughout the second quarter, with daily trading volumes often ranging between $500 million and $1 billion. Key high-turnover sessions included: May 12: $1.82 billion (record high under the NFEM framework); March 10: $1.14 billion; March 13: $1.13 billion; June 30: $1.07 billion; June 15: $985.6 million; March 23: $984.1 million; April 8: $966.4 million; June 25: $923.6 million; June 29: $910.8 million.

Fleet expansion gains momentum as domestic airlines add 3 aircraft in June

Anthony Awunor | Lagos

NIGERIA'S domestic aviation industry is witnessing a renewed wave of aircraft acquisitions as indigenous airlines embark on aggressive fleet expansion programmes aimed at meeting rising passenger demand, improving schedule reliability and strengthening their competitive positions.

In June, 2026 alone, two carriers, United Nigeria Airlines and Air Peace took delivery of three aircraft: two Boeing aircraft and one Embraer aircraft respectively.

The June's aircraft acquisitions done through outright purchases give cautious optimism for operational prospects over the remainder of the year, as more aircraft are expected before the end of the year.

The development comes amid growing passenger traffic, increasing demand for air travel and efforts by airlines to overcome capacity constraints that have contributed to flight delays, cancellations and higher fares.

Air Peace Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Allen Onyema described the recent arrival of the aircraft, as a significant step in the airline's growth strategy.

According to him, the E175 will enhance operational flexibility, expand market reach, and support the airline's commitment to safe, reliable, and efficient air transport services across Nigeria and neighbouring countries.

On their new acquisition and expansion initiatives, Chief Commercial Officer of United Nigeria Airlines, Mr Adedayo Olawuyi also stated that, beyond the airline taking delivery of the Boeing aircraft, they still have more on the way.

According to Olawuyi, their plan is to grow within the region and also internationally, just as they are looking at increasing their presence in West Africa, starting with routes such as Monrovia, Banjul, Dakar, Abidjan, and Conakry.

Industry analysts say the renewed investment signals increasing confidence in the Nigerian aviation market despite persistent challenges, including high operating costs, foreign exchange volatility, rising maintenance expenses and the soaring cost of Jet A1 aviation fuel.

Expected N4.6trn inflows to boost money market liquidity this week

Chima Nwokoji | Lagos

THE Nigerian money market is poised for a significant liquidity boost this week, with analysts projecting inflows of approximately ₦4.6 trillion that could ease funding pressures despite the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) ongoing tight monetary policy.

Market expectations are high for relatively comfortable liquidity conditions, underpinned by ₦269.36 billion in Treasury bills maturities and nearly ₦3.92 trillion from Open Market Operations (OMO) maturities. However, a planned ₦700 billion Treasury bills primary market auction is expected to partially sterilise these inflows as the apex bank maintains its aggressive liquidity management approach.

Last week opened on a robust note, with banking system liquidity recording a net surplus of ₦7.0 trillion, supported by ₦102.7 billion in primary market repayments. Yet, the CBN continued its sterilisation drive through an OMO auction, mopping up around ₦1.4 trillion from the system. As a result, system liquidity moderated to close the week at ₦2.87 trillion, reflecting the central bank's commitment to curbing excess liquidity and anchoring inflation expectations.

This tighter environment translated into mixed movements in key money market rates. The overnight Nigerian Interbank Offered Rate (NIBOR) rose modestly by 2 basis points week-on-week to 22.30 percent, signalling slightly firmer short-term funding costs. In contrast, longer tenors eased, with the 1-month, 3-month, and 6-month NIBOR declining by 15bps, 25bps, and 48bps respectively, indicating improving medium-term liquidity sentiment.

The Overnight (OVN) rate eased by 5bps to 22.18 percent, while the Open Repo Rate (OPR) held steady. On the Nigerian Treasury Bills True Yield (NITTY) curve, most tenors posted lower yields, with the 1-month, 3-month, and 12-month segments declining by 7bps, 6bps, and 4bps. The 6-month tenor bucked the trend, rising 39bps amid stronger demand in the mid-segment.

Secondary market activity remained subdued, as sell-side pressure lifted the average Treasury bills yield by 6bps to 18.65 percent. Meanwhile, the CBN's latest OMO auction saw overwhelming demand, with subscriptions hitting ₦1.6 trillion against a ₦600 billion offer for the 7-day and 161-day tenors. The bank allotted ₦1.4 trillion at stop rates of 21.90 percent and 19.80 percent, highlighting investors' sustained appetite for high-yielding, risk-free instruments.

Dealers anticipate that the anticipated massive inflows will provide breathing room for market participants, though the CBN's vigilant oversight is likely to keep liquidity dynamics in check.

From left, Head, Approved Schemes & Inclusions, Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers, John Okhueleigbe; Relationship Manager, Stanbic IBTC Asset Management, Oluwaseyi Akinola; Team Lead, South-West, Stanbic IBTC Insurance Brokers, Rafiat Afolabi; Regional Manager, South-West 2, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Olusegun Oladejo and Specialist, Health & Wellbeing, Dr Sylvanus Jatto, during the Stanbic IBTC Pension Managers Pre-retirement Seminar, held in Akure, the Ondo State capital.

Customs hopeful on meeting N11trn revenue target by December

·Vehicle tariff reduction, US-Iran crisis slowing down progress —Adeniyi

John Ameh | Abuja

THE Controller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Mr Bashire Adewale Adeniyi, assured the Senate, on Monday, that the service would meet its N11.074 trillion revenue target set for 2026, despite emerging setbacks.

According to Adeniyi, N4.4trn of N11trn was already generated by the end of June, though he said the agency projected the figure to have been N5.5trn by mid-year but for the setbacks.

The CG, who met with the Senate Committee on Customs and Excise over the agency's 2026 budget, listed the new excise regime on reduction of vehicle import duties by 15 percent as one of the setbacks.

He also said the Iran-US crisis, which led to the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz for weeks, affected revenue haul because it reduced the number of cargoes discharged into Nigeria.

However, the CG expressed hope that as the restrictions eased off, cargo arrival and duty charges would rebound, leading ultimately to meeting the overall revenue target by December, 2026.

"On the question of how far we have come, yes, we are on N4.4trn, though what we should have collected by the half way is N5.5trn," he told the committee, which is chaired by Senate Isah Jibrin Echocho (APC, Kogi-East).

He recalled that in 2025, the agency surpassed its revenue target by 10.24 percent.

While the agency was given a target of N6.58tn by the National Assembly, Adeniyi stated that by the end of the year, it generated N7.277trn.

"That means we generated N674bn or 10.24% above what was the target in 2025," he added.

He explained that in 2025 too, certain factors like delayed implementation of the telecommunications tax and the presidential intervention on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), intended to cushion the effects of economic reforms on Nigerians, affected the revenue haul in spite of the fact that the NCS surpassed the target.

For its operations, the National Assembly approved a budget of N1.1trn for the NCS in 2025, though Adeniyi informed the lawmakers that only N808.86bn was released to the agency. In 2026, the agency proposed roughly the same figure for internal operations, covering capital and recurrent expenditure.

The committee, while appraising the performance of the service for the period under review, commended Adeniyi for the measures he had introduced to boost revenue generation.

However, lawmakers asked him to work harder to not only meet the 2026 target of N11trn but to also surpass it.

"Government needs a lot of money to provide infrastructure. I call on you to work harder to meet your 2026 budget proposals, which I consider quite ambitious," Senator Jibrin Echocho said.

'How Nigerian engineers can compete favourably in local, international markets'

By Nurudeen Alimi

IMMEDIATE past chairman, Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Mr Ibraheem Folarin Bello, FNSE, has said Nigerian engineers who combine strong engineering fundamentals with AI, data analytics, cloud computing and automation skills will be well positioned to lead innovation, improve infrastructure, and compete in local and global engineering markets.

Bello, who is the Regional Transmission Operations Coordinator (RTOC), Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Osogbo Region, stated this as guest speaker during a technical presentation titled: Artificial Intelligent and the Future of Engineering Practice organised by the Young Engineers Forum of Nigeria (Ibadan branch).

He noted that over the next decade, AI is expected to become as fundamental to engineering as computer-aided design (CAD) is today. "Artificial Intelligence (AI) presents enormous opportunities for Nigerian engineers across all engineering disciplines. As Nigeria embraces digital transformation, AI is becoming a powerful tool for improving infrastructure, industrial productivity, healthcare, agriculture, transportation, energy, and manufacturing," he said.

Bello, stated further that engineers who key into the numerous opportunities AI has to offer, stand the chance to enjoy career in the following sectors: Telecommunications, manufacturing, oil and gas, construction, agriculture, healthcare, financial services, government agencies, universities and research institutions as well as engineering consulting firms.

Zedvance appoints Olanrewaju as Board Chairman

ZEDVANCE Finance Limited has appointed Professor Pius 'Deji Olanrewaju as Chairman of its Board of Directors, effective July 1 and, subject CBN approval.

This milestone underscores Zedvance Finance's commitment to building a robust governance structure capable of supporting its next phase of growth. With an enhanced board structure and strengthened oversight capabilities, Zedvance is positioned to accelerate its growth ambitions, deepen innovation, and create sustainable value for all stakeholders.

The company described Professor Olanrewaju as bringing "extensive boardroom experience, exceptional leadership credentials, and deep expertise in governance, strategy, and organizational transformation" to the role, further strengthening its leadership and governance framework

Speaking on his appointment, Professor Olanrewaju stated:

"I am honoured to assume the role of Chairman of the Board of Zedvance Finance. The Company has established a strong reputation as a trusted financial partner, leveraging innovation and technology to create meaningful impact. I look forward to working with the board and management to support the Company's strategic aspirations and deliver sustainable value for our stakeholders."

Olanrewaju

Professor Olanrewaju is a distinguished legal scholar, banking expert, and accomplished corporate leader with over four decades of experience spanning banking, finance, academia, and institutional governance. He holds an LLB (Hons) BL, BA, M.Sc, LL.M and a PhD, and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (FCIB), a Fellow of the Institute of Capital Market Registrars (FIMA), a Fellow of the Institute of Management and Administrative Technology (FCMR), and a Fellow of the Enterprise Risk Management Professionals (FERP).

He belongs to several professional bodies, among which is the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), where he served as the immediate past President/Chairman of Council aside holding other positions including Chairman of the Capacity Building and Certification Committee, following over 35 years of continuous service to the Institute. He also holds professional memberships including APNM and AMNIM.

Well-grounded in Banking and Commercial Law, Olanrewaju is a Professor of Banking Law at

Babcock University, where he served as the immediate past Provost/Dean of Law in the School of Law and Security Studies, Babcock University, playing a pivotal role in advancing legal education and academic leadership. He has co-authored several books and articles in learned journals. He seats on a number of Boards including the Board of the Babcock University MFB.

As Chairman of the Board of Zedvance, Professor Olanrewaju brings a wealth of experience in strategic leadership, corporate governance, and financial services oversight.

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5th July 2026

NOTICE OF DISCLAIMER

We are Solicitors to the Registered Trustees of NBM of Africa, who we shall refer to as our Client that retained our Professional services to issue this disclaimer.

The leadership of our Client, NBM of Africa Worldwide, an Organisation founded on 16 October 1977, hereby gives notice to relevant security agencies, the media, and the general public that the Organisation has no affiliation, association, authorisation, endorsement, approval, or involvement whatsoever with the purported July 7 Celebrations.

The purported July 7 Celebrations are neither recognised nor sanctioned by NBM of Africa Worldwide and do not form part of the Organisation's Constitution, official programmes, activities, traditions, or calendar.

For the avoidance of doubt, NBM of Africa Worldwide has consistently maintained that it is a separate and distinct legal entity and has no connection whatsoever with the group commonly referred to as Black Axe. Accordingly, no individual, group, association, or entity is authorised to represent, describe, portray, or hold out the Organisation as being connected with the purported July 7 Celebrations or any activity associated therewith.

This position has been consistently communicated through public notices and was reaffirmed by the Delta State High Court, Warri, in Suit No. EHC/210/2021, in the judgment delivered by Hon. Justice Roli Daibo Harriman on 29 April 2024, wherein the Court held that NBM of Africa is a separate and distinct legal entity from Black Axe and cannot be described or referred to as Black Axe.

Members of the public are hereby advised that any person or group that uses, represents, associates, exploits, or attempts to link the name, identity, insignia, logo, goodwill, or reputation of NBM of Africa Worldwide with the purported July 7 Celebrations does so without the authority, consent, or approval of the Organisation and entirely at their own legal risk.

The Organisation shall not hesitate to pursue all appropriate civil and/or criminal remedies available under the Constitution and the applicable laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria against any person or group that misrepresents, impersonates, or unlawfully associates NBM of Africa Worldwide with the purported July 7 Celebrations or any related activity.

This notice is issued to protect the legal identity, reputation, and integrity of the Organisation, prevent public deception and misrepresentation, preserve public confidence, and ensure that no person is misled into believing that NBM of Africa Worldwide sponsors, endorses, authorises, or participates in the purported July 7 Celebrations.

The general public, relevant security agencies, and the media are hereby requested to take due notice and be guided accordingly.

Signed:

Ezekwesiri Nwauwa Esq. LL, M (England)

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION NBA EZEKWESIRI U. NWAUWA

n Chambers: Ezekwesiri Nwauwa LLB, BL, LLM (England), Nkiruka Nwau

Reforming the NYSC

THERE is hardly any Nigerian who would argue that the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) should remain frozen in time. Institutions, like nations, must evolve to remain relevant. After 53 years, a comprehensive review of the scheme is both desirable and inevitable. Nigeria has changed. The economy has changed. Technology has changed. The security environment has changed. Nigeria's young graduates now face a labour market vastly different from that of 1973.

Reform, therefore, is not the issue. The real issue is how that reform is undertaken. The recent approval by the Federal Executive Council of a far-reaching restructuring of the NYSC has generated both interest and concern. The proposed reforms include extending orientation camp from three to six weeks, introducing 11 specialised career streams, expanding entrepreneurship and digital skills training, redesigning deployment, replacing the Passing-Out Parade with a graduation ceremony, and replacing the long-standing military operational leadership with civilian leadership while retaining military support for security. Some of these proposals deserve commendation. Better digital literacy, stronger entrepreneurship, improved welfare, risk-sensitive deployment, and enhanced employability are goals every Nigerian should support. Yet support for reform must not require silence on process.

The NYSC is not an ordinary government programme. It is a statutory institution governed by the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria. This distinction matters because constitutional democracy is built on one principle: executive convenience cannot replace legislative authority. An Executive Council may propose policy direction, but where the philosophy, leadership structure, and statutory objectives of an institution are to be fundamentally altered, the proper constitutional path is legislative amendment after broad national consultation. Institutions created by law must be changed through law. That is why the National Assembly exists. It is therefore difficult to understand why a reform of this magnitude appears to have advanced without sufficient national debate. The NYSC has existed for 53 years. Millions have passed through it. Thousands of communities have benefited from it. An institution of such significance deserves not only executive announcement but national conversation.

The future of the NYSC should not be decided within government offices alone. The National Assembly must exercise its constitutional responsibility, while citizens, employers, universities, traditional institutions, civil society, and former corps members are fully engaged. This becomes more important because the Federal Government has not sufficiently demonstrated why the original philosophy of the scheme should give way to the proposed model. The central justification appears to be employability through entrepreneurship and digital skills. These are commendable objectives. But entrepreneurship is already taught in many Nigerian universities and polytechnics, and digital literacy is increasingly embedded in higher education. If vocational training is now the primary objective, the government must explain why graduates should still be deployed nationwide. If national integration remains the goal, then vocational training should complement, not redefine, the Scheme.

The NYSC was created after the Civil War because Nigeria's leaders understood a deeper truth: peace is not sustained by military victory alone but by deliberate human relationships. Young Nigerians were encouraged to leave familiar environments, experience other cultures, and discover that the "other Nigerian" is not an enemy but a fellow citizen. That philosophy remains relevant today. Nigeria is increasingly polarised. Social media amplifies division. Regional suspicion is rising. If ever there was a time to strengthen institutions of unity, it is now. The NYSC has never been merely a posting scheme. It is one of Nigeria's most effective instruments of nation-building. Many governors, judges, ministers, diplomats, military officers, academics, and business leaders first understood Nigeria's diversity through national service. Many rural communities received teachers, doctors, pharmacists, engineers, and agricultural workers through corps members. Community development service has produced classrooms, boreholes, ICT centres, health outreach programmes, and community projects nationwide. No serious assessment of the NYSC can ignore these contributions.

This is why the proposal to civilianise its operational leadership deserves careful scrutiny. The Scheme was designed to cultivate discipline, resilience, patriotism, teamwork, sacrifice, and national consciousness. These values require institutional culture. For over five decades, military leadership has helped preserve that culture. The military remains one of the few national institutions where Nigeria's unity is lived daily. Officers from all regions train and serve under one command structure. That institutional discipline is precisely why many believe operational leadership of the NYSC should remain with a serving or retired senior military officer. This is not to deny the need for innovation. Rather, it ensures that innovation is supported by structure, logistics, and discipline. Military operational leadership and civilian innovation are not opposites; they are complementary strengths.

Nigeria's current security environment makes disciplined coordination even more important. The orientation camp is often the first environment where many graduates experience structured living, punctuality, teamwork, endurance, responsibility, and respect for lawful authority. These are not military values alone: they are leadership values. Government should modernise the curriculum: emergency preparedness, disaster response, first aid, cybersecurity awareness, civic responsibility, climate resilience, entrepreneurship, and leadership development should all be strengthened. But modernisation must reinforce the Scheme's original philosophy, not replace it.

Nigeria must be careful not to weaken one of its most successful nation-building institutions while attempting to improve it. This is neither an endorsement nor a rejection of reform. It is a call for constitutional fidelity, transparency, and broader consultation. Governments come and go. Institutions endure. The NYSC has survived multiple governments, transitions, and crises because its founding purpose is larger than any administration. If that purpose is to be redefined, it must be done through due legal process and national consensus.

Nigeria must be careful not to weaken one of its most successful nation-building institutions while attempting to improve it. This is neither an endorsement nor a rejection of reform. It is a call for constitutional fidelity, transparency, and broader consultation. Governments come and go. Institutions endure.

FLAT-OUT

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Oríire: When will Tinubu bring back our children?

EDA Oníyò, Oriire. Has anyone heard any word said directly by the Commander-in-Chief since the attacks happened? Mr Peter Obi recently claimed that he was surprised to learn that Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, had not received any call from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu over the Oyo incident which happened over 50 days ago. .

"But, to my utmost shock, I discovered that, contrary to my assumption that they had been in regular communication over the matter, Governor Seyi Makinde had not received a single call from President Bola Tinubu," he said. Should it be like that?

A ruler's first duty is empathy. Shakespeare understood this. In King Lear (Act 33, scene 4), he admonishes those in power: "Expose thyself to feel what wretches feel." A king or president who does not share the anguish of his people risks appearing distant from their suffering.

Something close to Eda Oníyò and Oriire incidents happened in an Ekiti community years ago. I will tell you the story of what the king of the town did. This is a true life story.

It was sometime in 1979. Schools were on holiday. A group of primary school pupils went to a nearby orchard to pluck oranges. The boys were between the ages of 9 and 12 years.

The orange trees were behind a house. Behind the house was a bush path that led to a stream, called Àjoni (jointly owned). Among the boys was an Urhobo boy, whose parents came from the then Bendel State to farm in the Ekiti community.

One of the boys climbed the tree and the rest were picking the oranges. It was a boisterous gang; children full of happiness. Children of that era considered it fun to go-a-plucking, even when the owners of the fruits would have given them willingly. The adventure of plucking and running away was thrilling enough!

Then a man showed up. The boys on the ground mistook him to be the owner of the orange. They took to their heels. The one on the tree, he was just 10 years old then, could not jump down. So, the man asked him to climb down and led him away through the bush path towards the stream. According to the boys, the man who led their mate away wore an all-black attire.

The other boys ran home and told their friend's guardian that the owner of the orange had taken the boy away. The guardian also went to the mother of the boy that was caught to inform her that her son had been taken away by the owner of the orange. The mother responded that the one who took away her son would be the one to also return him. Nobody paid any further attention to the matter.

Then it was dusk, and the boy had not returned. An older brother, who lived in another town, happened to have arrived in the town on a visit, and was told about the development. He was the one who raised the alarm and the whole town became alive with the news of the yet-to-return boy. As of that time, he was not considered missing; very unthinkable that anyone would steal a child!

The other boys were contacted and asked what happened. The Urhobo boy was more forthcoming of the lot. He told the people that he knew the man who took their mate away. He added that he was a regular face at his father's place. But before he could be asked to give a name to the man, his father spoke Urhobo Language to him and the poor boy went mute!

When he spoke again, what followed was a disaster. The Urhobo boy told the gathering that he did not know the man again. The case became what the elders of my place describe as: Odò gbè Ìwọ̀fà, ogun pa onígbòwó ẹni to mọ ìdó owó pin (The pawn got drowned and the guarantor became a war casualty, those who knew about the borrowed funds are no more).

Another woman said that she saw a man and a child on the path to the stream. The woman added that she was answering the call of nature in the bush when she saw the duo but could not put a face to them. A search party led by the older brother of the now missing boy left for the stream path and then got the shock of their lives!

Not far away, they discovered the boy's trousers. Someone had pulled it off and sat on it before departing the area. Also, there were two sets of footprints; one of an adult and the other of a child that would fit into the boy's size. The party looked around and could not find any other clue. They picked the trouser and returned home to a wailing community.

The elders met and sent hunters to the bushes around. Adjoining communities were also contacted. It was a coordinated search that brought out no result. The search party returned to a distraught community.

Of course, the family of the missing boy did not sleep. Their elders met at the usual place where curses are usually laid on the perpetrators of any heinous crime such as the kidnap that the agrarian community just witnessed. Curses were issued in their most scary ways!

The Oba of the town also summoned his senior chiefs over the case. One after the other, the traditional heads of the quarter that made up the town came out with their own traditional staff, and offered prayers. When they had all finished, the monarch concluded the session with his own prayers. His royal pronouncements carried the force of a command.

First, he said, in this deep Ekiti dialect thus: Oni p'ugún hí ha ká'gún odún (he who kills the vulture will not last another 20 years); Oni pà'kàlàmàgbò hí ha p'ógbòn osù (he who kills the ground hornbill will not last 30 months); Ajá p'odíde hí mó la (the dog which kills the parrot does not live to know the following day). Then he added: L'úlé oni gbé Túndé, ati hirá kan mò síi, kán bá ti hí gb'oku ehúré hí ho lé, naa gbé t'àgùntàn a já de (let there be multiple deaths in the homes of the one who kidnapped Tunde and those who are in the knowledge of it). The town chorused Àse!

The women, still not satisfied with the efforts, took to the streets. They went round the community, their breasts exposed, weeping and issuing curses. Theirs was carnivalesque, very pictorial. I could picture the train of women as they marched round the town that fateful day. The wailing was indescribable. Later, it rained. Heaven joined in the lamentation. It was a shared grief; something akin to the Biblical Rachael weeping inconsolably for her children because they were no more (Jeremiah 31:15)!

Did the prayers happen as wished? I answer with a resounding YES! The boy was never seen. His corpse was never discovered. But, three months later, disaster started happening. The prime suspect, the man many believed to have been the old man who took the boy away, was the first to go. He died in an accident one evening in a circumstance that no one could explain. One other man fell off from his palm tree and died.

In two other neighbouring communities, deaths were recorded. A party of three friends died on their farms in a very strange way. One of the people suspected to have been involved in the boy's disappearance, and a friend to two of the ones that died earlier, ran away from his town. He forgot that he who commits a crime and runs off to Ibadan should know that Ibadan does not obliterate crime. He also died, hit, by a hit-and-run driver around Ita Ogbolu.

Why this story?

To date, the boy was the first and the last case of kidnap in the town. But more importantly, no single individual suspected of having participated in the dastardly act lived to tell the story. All those who died, both in the town, or in the other neighbouring towns, were traced and found to have had something in common in the past! This ugly incident is recorded in the derisive song used at every festival in my neighbourhood. The song serves as a reminder that the community has not forgotten the incident and those responsible for it.

Relations of the suspects remain pariahs in their towns and sections. While their homes are not necessarily the homes of the enemies, we are told, nevertheless, that they are homes children should not run to if it rains!

Our forebears had a way of settling tricky issues like kidnapping. Yours sincerely believe that the power of old is still there, residual, in our various communities. I may not be able to vouch for the 'civilised' cosmopolitans; but I know that in the hinterlands, there are some crimes that are dared not to be committed without repercussions. So, what is wrong with us?

I saw the video of the return of the Eda Oníyò Ekiti kidnapped victims. The 16 victims were kidnapped on April 28, 2026, during a church service at the Christ Apostolic Church in the agrarian community. The officiating minister at the service was killed by the assailants who invaded God's sanctuary. The victims were ferried into the forest between Eda Oníyò Ekiti and Kwara State.

By the time they were released on Saturday, July 4, 2026, the victims had spent 65 days in captivity. One of them, an octogenarian woman, was said to have died in the forest! Was she buried? The remaining 15 came in their skeletons. Malnourished children, drained-up women; they were a sight to behold. Some could not walk and had to be carried.

A man, possibly the husband of one of the women, lifted a woman the way one lifts a bag of salt! The woman, looking sickly, with all her bones showing, could only wrap her hands round her lifter! What a pity!

The question has been asked: are there no ways the people in the locality could have helped those victims? What happened to the owners of Eda Oníyò Ekiti? Not just Eda Oníyò this time around, but other towns and villages where this type of incident takes place every now and then? Have the powers of our forebears gone to sleep; are they on sabbatical?

Like it happened in the story above, there could have been a compromise. And I want to believe so. Otherwise, how do we explain that a set of 16 people was kept in a forest for over two months without anyone discovering them? Were people not going to their farms for that period? What about palm wine tappers? What about palm fruit harvesters? No hunters and other wayfarers? How wide or large is the Eda Oníyò forest itself?

Then, to come to the real issue, why are our towns and villages porous nowadays? Are our gods no longer active? Eda Oníyò Ekiti is not cosmopolitan for goodness' sake. I also don't want to subscribe to the suggestion that everybody in the town is now a spirit-filled, born-again Christian.

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Vote buying weakens democracy, it should be stopped

As Nigeria prepares for another round of elections, many citizens are hoping for a free, fair, and credible electoral process. However, one issue that continues to threaten democracy is vote buying and vote selling.

Recently, on 20 June, 2026 Ekiti State held its governorship election. During the election, it was reported that a 68-year-old man, Ade, clutched a bag of rice and a few thousand naira after casting his vote. For him, the gifts meant food for his family for a few days. For democracy, however, it represented the growing problem of vote buying, where poverty is exploited in exchange for political support.

For instance, election observers alleged that some voters received cash, gifts, and food items in exchange for political support during the Ekiti governorship election. Although many accepted the gifts because of economic hardship, the practice raised concerns about the fairness and credibility of the election.

Furthermore, vote buying has serious effects on elections and democracy. When people sell their votes for money, food, or gifts, they may not choose the best candidate. As a result, this can lead to poor leadership and bad governance. In addition, many election observers and civil society groups have condemned the practice, saying it is unfair and against democratic values. They believe elections should be based on the free choice of voters, not on gifts or cash.

Therefore, reducing vote buying and vote selling requires the efforts of everyone. Voters should refuse money, food, or gifts in exchange for their votes and choose candidates based on their ability to lead. Likewise, the police and other security agencies should arrest and prosecute anyone caught buying or selling votes. At the same time, the government should reduce poverty by creating jobs and improving people's living conditions so that voters are less likely to be influenced by cash or gifts. Finally, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should strengthen election monitoring, educate voters on the dangers of vote buying, and work closely with security agencies to ensure free and fair elections. When all these groups play their part, elections will become more transparent and credible.

Oshoko Oluwabukola is a student of the Redeemer's University Ede, Osun State.

Send your opinion of about 1,000 words, with full name and address, to: optribune@yahoo.com

opinion

Flooding reflects conditions established before it begins

By Remi Ladigbolu

THE Nigerian Meteorological Agency issued its Seasonal Climate Prediction on February 10, 2026. The forecast covered southern Nigeria, including Lagos, and projected above-average rainfall, a longer wet season and a delayed end to rains. The report was circulated to federal and state agencies responsible for drainage, transport planning and emergency response. Seven weeks later, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency released its Annual Flood Outlook. Lagos was listed among areas where heavy rainfall, tidal movement and drainage limitations were expected to combine during the rainy season. At the seasonal briefing in Lagos, Tokunbo Wahab, Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, said rainfall would be intense again this year. He also noted that lagoon levels could slow the release of rainwater into the Atlantic during heavy downpours.

In Accra, the first major flooding came with the same weather system. Ghanaian President, John Dramani Mahama, said at least 12 people died after heavy rain caused flash flooding in parts of the capital. Government figures put rainfall at about 140 millimetres in one day, more than double the highest daily total recorded the year before. Mahama said changing weather patterns were increasing rainfall intensity. He also pointed to blocked drains and buildings placed along waterways as part of what made the flooding worse once the rain started. Emergency teams in Accra rescued more than 150 people from flooded homes and roads. Some areas recorded electrical fires after floodwater reached installations. Among the dead were a mother and child.

The same weather system moved into southern Nigeria and brought heavy rain to Lagos. Across the city, water built up quickly in several districts. In Surulere, major junctions filled within a short period of rain, slowing movement across key roads. Along Ikorodu Road, vehicles moved through standing water for long stretches, with traffic reduced to a crawl in some sections. In Lekki and Victoria Island, several roads were temporarily closed after drains overflowed. In Mushin and Agege, water entered residential streets during sustained rainfall. Access to Apapa port is reduced when arterial roads flood. Trading activity slows in Balogun and Ladipo markets during heavy rain. Movement along Ikorodu Road, the Third Mainland Bridge approaches and the Lekki–Epe corridor becomes difficult when water builds up on the road surface. These disruptions affect transport, logistics and daily movement across the city. Flooding in Lagos has followed a similar pattern in recent years. In 2011, low-lying parts of the city were submerged after days of rainfall. In 2012, heavy rain affected Lagos Mainland and Eti-Osa, cutting off parts of the road network. In 2020, flooding returned to Lekki, Ajegunle and Surulere, entering homes and shops in several areas. Each of these events was preceded by rainfall forecasts. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has linked rising global temperatures to higher atmospheric moisture, which increases the likelihood of intense rainfall events across West Africa.

Forecasts are issued before each rainy season by meteorological and hydrological agencies. Drainage systems are maintained in some areas and blocked in others.

Lagos sits on a low coastal plain made up of lagoons, wetlands and creeks. Over time, many of these wetlands have been built over with housing estates, commercial buildings and roads. Rainwater now moves across concrete and asphalt into drainage channels that were not designed for the current size of the city. Along the Odo Iya Alaro corridor in Maryland, drainage workers regularly clear plastic waste, sand and construction debris from blocked channels. Similar work takes place in Idumota, Ijora and Apapa, where water flow is often slowed by tide levels during heavy rain. Waste remains one of the most consistent causes of blocked drainage in the city. After rainfall, plastic bags, household refuse and construction debris are commonly removed from drainage channels during clearing operations by state teams. Lagos State has increased enforcement against structures built on drainage paths. Buildings and roadside extensions have been removed in parts of Alaba, Mushin, Agege and sections of the Lekki corridor where water flow was blocked. Officials from the Ministry of Environment and Water Resources continue cleanup and enforcement work across different parts of the city. Some of these actions have led to disputes, especially where buildings existed before current rules were enforced or grew from longstanding informal settlements.

Flooding is not limited to Lagos. In Benin City, heavy rainfall regularly leads to overflowing drains and road flooding. In Port Harcourt, low-lying terrain and blocked drainage channels combine during rainfall to flood residential areas. In Makurdi and parts of the River Benue corridor, seasonal river rise has displaced communities during peak flood periods. The World Bank has noted that rapid urban growth without matching infrastructure investment increases flood exposure in fast-growing cities. It also notes that coastal cities face added pressure when high tides reduce drainage capacity during rainfall. Forecasts are issued before each rainy season by meteorological and hydrological agencies. Drainage systems are maintained in some areas and blocked in others. Wetlands are preserved in some places and developed in others. Enforcement is carried out in some locations and delayed in others. Construction continues in flood-prone areas of the city. Waste collects in drainage channels across several districts. Flooding reflects conditions established before it begins.

•Ladigbolu is a journalist based in Lagos.

Is Nigeria's system of government the real problem?

By Olusola Ekundayo

I would like to examine what I believe is one of the fundamental issues affecting our nation: our system of government. My analysis will focus on Nigeria's Fourth Republic, which began on May 29, 1999, and continues to this day. Looking critically at the leaders who have governed Nigeria since then, one important question comes to mind: Why have we not witnessed the kind of rapid transformation experienced by countries such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), despite Nigeria's vast human and natural resources? The UAE achieved remarkable economic and infrastructural development between 1999 and today. Nigeria possesses abundant resources that many believe could support even greater levels of development. Yet, the results have not met the expectations of many citizens. Why is this so?

President Olusegun Obasanjo came to power on May 29, 1999, under extraordinary circumstances. Having been imprisoned by the regime of General Sani Abacha and facing serious charges related to an alleged coup plot, many Nigerians saw his eventual emergence as President as divine intervention and believed it carried a special responsibility to transform the nation. While Obasanjo made notable contributions during his eight years in office, many expected even more far-reaching change given the circumstances of his rise. President Umar Musa Yar'Adua, who served from May 29, 2007, until his death on May 5, 2010, left many questions unanswered as his administration was cut short by ill health. President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, who served from May 6, 2010, to May 29, 2015, also rose from humble beginnings that resonated with ordinary Nigerians. Millions voted for him believing a leader who had experienced hardship would better understand their pain. Although he recorded achievements in several sectors, many felt his performance did not fully meet the enormous expectations that accompanied his presidency.

President Muhammadu Buhari's election from May 29, 2015, to May 29, 2023, was historic. For the first time in Nigeria's democratic history, an opposition party defeated a ruling party at the presidential level. Many Nigerians saw Buhari, a former military ruler, as a man of integrity who would tackle corruption decisively. By the end of his tenure, however, opinions were deeply divided. While supporters pointed to infrastructure and anti-corruption efforts, critics argued the economy had deteriorated and insecurity remained a major concern. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, in office since May 29, 2023, is widely regarded as one of Nigeria's most strategic politicians, with Lagos' economic growth often cited as evidence of his capacity. Since assuming office, he has implemented bold reforms including fuel subsidy removal and naira floating. Economists describe these as necessary, but many Nigerians are yet to feel their impact as inflation remains high and the cost of living continues to rise.

We must be willing to ask difficult questions about our institutions, our leadership, and whether our governance structure is helping or hindering national progress.

This brings me to the central question: Why do we practice a system of government largely modeled after that of the United States, yet fail to achieve similar outcomes? Is the problem the system itself, the way it is implemented, or the strength of our political institutions? As a student of political science, I conducted a comparative analysis of four countries: the United Arab Emirates with a hybrid governance system; China with a state-led model; the United States with a presidential democratic system; and Canada with a parliamentary democratic system. My preliminary conclusion is that the American model was designed by Americans to suit their own history, culture, institutions, and national realities. That is one of the reasons it works effectively for them.

I am not opposed to democracy. However, I believe Nigeria must honestly evaluate whether our current version of democracy is fully aligned with our social, economic, and political realities. Perhaps the challenge is not democracy itself, but that we have adopted a system that requires modification, adaptation, and stronger institutions to better suit the Nigerian environment. If Nigeria truly desires rapid and sustainable development, we must be willing to ask difficult questions about our institutions, our leadership, and whether our governance structure is helping or hindering national progress.

•Ekundayo is a political analyst and entrepreneur.

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35 million Nigerians at risk of food insecurity in 2026 —Agric economist

.Wants FG to launch dedicated nutrition programme for pregnant women, nursing mothers, children

By Nurudeen Alimi

A food security expert and agricultural economist, Agboola Bello, has said that nearly 35 million Nigerians are projected to face acute food insecurity during the 2026 lean season between June and August, the highest figure ever recorded in the country, according to the latest *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis.

In the light of this, Bello, called on the Federal Government to establish a dedicated nutrition programme for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five, warning that Nigeria's existing food interventions are failing to reach the population groups most at risk of lasting harm.

In Borno State, about 15,000 people face catastrophic hunger and are one step away from famine. The World Food Programme's 2023 to 2027 Nigeria Country Strategic Plan warns that, without structural change, the situation will deteriorate further through 2027.

"Nigeria's existing programmes measure how many meals were served. But only a few measures whether children are better nourished," Bello said.

He noted that the country was not short of food programmes. Nigeria runs the National Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, Conditional Cash Transfers and N-Power, among others, while the WFP has committed $2.5 billion between 2023 and 2027 to strengthen such efforts. "The crisis is worsening anyway. Highlighting that the issue may not be a funding problem, but a design one." he said.

The figures behind the projection are stark. Food inflation averaged 38.5 per cent in 2024, and between October 2023 and October 2024 the price of beans rose by 282 per cent while local rice rose by 153 per cent. About 5.4 million children under five are suffering acute malnutrition, including 1.8 million with severe acute malnutrition, a condition that is fatal without treatment. On the 2022 Global Food Security Index, Nigeria ranked 107th out of 113 countries, performing poorly on affordability, availability, quality and sustainability.

According to Bello, several forces are driving the crisis. Sustained insurgency in the Borno, Adamawa and Yobe corridor and farmer-herder violence in the North-West have pushed smallholder farmers off land that once fed their communities. "When farmland is a conflict zone, agricultural policy cannot function," he said.

He added that a collapse in purchasing power had spread hunger well beyond conflict zones. The removal of fuel subsidies in 2023, naira devaluation and high transport costs have made food unaffordable for tens of millions of Nigerians, about 84 million of whom, roughly 37 per cent of the population, live below the poverty line. Post-harvest losses compound the problem, with the country losing an estimated 30 to 40 per cent of its grain harvest and up to 50 per cent of perishable produce each year to spoilage, poor storage and weak transport links.

The most important gap, he argued, is that none of Nigeria's current programmes specifically targets pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five with nutrition-focused support. "These are the groups for whom food insecurity causes irreversible damage, including stunting, cognitive impairment and low birth weight. Reaching them later does not undo what was lost," he said.

Bello pointed to two long-running American programmes as useful design comparisons, while cautioning that neither was a perfect model for Nigeria. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, known as WIC and established in 1974, provides vouchers for specific foods alongside nutrition education and healthcare referrals, and served 6.2 million people in 2020. Decades of evaluation, he said, show that it reduces low birth weight and infant mortality, lowers anaemia in young children and improves cognitive development.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which reaches about 42 million Americans, provides monthly food purchasing benefits to low-income households. Drawing on his own research evaluating food assistance programmes, Bello said well-targeted purchasing assistance reduced food hardship and lowered healthcare costs by preventing diet-related illness. The central lesson from both programmes, he said, is that assistance which specifies nutrient-dense foods outperforms general cash transfers when the aim is to improve nutrition, particularly for children and pregnant women.

To close the gap, Bello proposed a Nigerian Maternal and Child Nutrition Assistance Programme, which he referred to as N-MCNAP, built on four elements. It would target pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five first. It would provide vouchers redeemable at registered local markets for specific nutritious foods such as iron-rich beans, eggs, fortified cereals, fresh vegetables and infant formula, rather than general cash. And it would tie beneficiary certification and voucher renewal to antenatal visits and child growth monitoring at primary healthcare centres, creating a built-in way to detect severe acute malnutrition early.

The programme, he said, should also be evaluated from the outset using administrative records rather than surveys, with policy variation across states serving as a natural experiment for measuring impact. "Nigeria has the academic institutions to do this. What has been missing is demand from policymakers that evidence matters," he said.

He warned that the country could not afford another decade of programmes that distribute food without knowing whether it is the right food, reaching the right people, at the right developmental moment. "A focused, well-evaluated nutrition programme for mothers and young children is the intervention Nigeria most conspicuously lacks," he said.

Participants at a training organised by the Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network (YARN), on agroforestry, perennial farming systems, water conservation, contour farming, and mulching to help farmers improve soil fertility, conserve water, reduce erosion, and adapt to the effects of climate change in Ijaiye Town, Oyo state.

FG inaugurates Bank of Agriculture board, tasks members on agricultural finance, food security

Collins Nnabuife | Abuja

THE Federal Government has inaugurated the Board of Directors of the Bank of Agriculture (BoA), charging the members to reposition the institution as the country's leading vehicle for agricultural financing and the delivery of food security initiatives.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony in Abuja, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, urged the new board to rebuild the bank into a stronger development finance institution capable of accelerating food security, expanding access to agricultural credit, creating jobs and driving Nigeria's agricultural transformation under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

"You are not being invited to preside over an institution. You are being charged to rebuild one," Kyari told the board members.

"The work of renewal has already begun; your task is to give it scale and permanence. And from today there is no old guard and no new arrivals: one Board, one management, one institution, one mandate," he added.

The minister described the Bank of Agriculture as Nigeria's foremost agricultural development finance institution, established to provide financing for farmers, cooperatives, processors and agribusinesses across the country.

Tracing the bank's history to its establishment in Kaduna in 1972 as the Nigerian Agricultural Bank, Kyari said although the institution had undergone several structural changes, its mandate of supporting Nigerian farmers had remained unchanged.

He disclosed that President Tinubu had approved the recapitalisation of the bank, describing the intervention as the boldest commitment to agricultural financing in the country's history.

According to him, the restructuring process is being supervised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises, while the Ministry of Finance Incorporated and the Central Bank of Nigeria serve as shareholders.

Young farmers, women champion agroecology in Ibadan

By Olawale Olaniyan

YOUNG farmers and women in Ijaiye Town, Ibadan, Oyo State, have intensified efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture through agroecological practices under the Seeds of Change – Youth Mobilising for Food Systems Transformation project.

The initiative, implemented in Nigeria by the Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network (YARN), is part of a regional programme running across Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Zambia to strengthen sustainable food systems and improve climate resilience.

The second phase of the project brought together participants for practical training on agroforestry, perennial farming systems, water conservation, contour farming, and mulching to help farmers improve soil fertility, conserve water, reduce erosion, and adapt to the effects of climate change.

The training followed an earlier session held in April, which attracted about 120 young people and women from communities around Ijaiye. During the first phase, participants received hands-on training in compost production and biopesticide preparation as affordable alternatives to synthetic fertilisers and pesticides.

One of the major outcomes of the first phase was the establishment of a Model Agroecology Farm in Ijaiye, which now serves as a demonstration and learning centre where farmers can observe agroecological practices and exchange knowledge.

Unlike many short-term agricultural interventions, YARN said the project includes continuous engagement with participants through follow-up visits to support farmers in implementing the techniques learned during training.

African cocoa-producing countries urged to form alliance to shield farmers from commodity markets volatility

By Nurudeen Alimi

A call has gone to African cocoa-producing countries to form an alliance which will see to setting a common price benchmark and protecting farmers from the volatility of international commodity markets.

The call was made by the Global President of the Cocoa and Coffee Farmers Alliance Association of Africa (COCEFAAA), Comrade Adeola Adegoke, who proposed a minimum cocoa price of $6,000 per metric tonne as part of efforts to strengthen Africa's influence in the global cocoa trade.

Adegoke said the continent's producers must move beyond isolated national interventions and adopt a coordinated strategy that would give farmers greater bargaining power while reducing dependence on commodity exchanges in London and New York, which continue to shape global cocoa prices.

Adegoke, spoke while reacting to the conclusion of the 7th Steering Committee meeting of the Côte d'Ivoire-Ghana Cocoa Initiative in Abidjan, describing the development as a major step towards producer-led governance of the cocoa sector.

According to him, the partnership between Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, responsible for roughly 60 per cent of global cocoa production, has shown that producing countries can collectively influence industry policies and market conversations when they act in unity.

He, therefore, called for the expansion of the initiative into a broader African cocoa coalition involving other major producers, including Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Adegoke expressed concern over the continued vulnerability of African economies to price fluctuations driven by external markets, noting that cocoa prices recently climbed above $11,000 per tonne before retreating sharply, exposing producers to uncertainty and revenue shocks.

He further lamented that despite supplying the bulk of the world's cocoa beans, African countries earn only a fraction of the wealth generated across the global chocolate industry.

With the chocolate value chain estimated at about $165 billion, Adegoke said the continent receives barely six per cent of the returns, underscoring the need for a new pricing and marketing framework that places greater value in the hands of producers.

He maintained that establishing a continent-wide producers' bloc and enforcing a minimum floor price would help secure farmer incomes, strengthen Africa's negotiating position and ensure that cocoa-producing nations play a more decisive role in determining the value of one of their most important export commodities.

Students from the Department of Horticulture, Federal University of Agriculture (FUNAAB), Abeokuta, during their study visit to the National Horticultural Research Institute (NIHORT), Ibadan.

China supports Nigeria with cassava mechanisation equipment

By Nurudeen Alimi

CHINA has supported Nigeria with the supply of first complete set of full-cycle cassava mechanisation equipment, targeted at increasing agricultural modernisation and strengthening the country's food security efforts.

This was made known in a statement signed by Dr Duan Yun and made available to journalists by the Chinese Embassy in Abuja.

According to the statement, the equipment was handed over to the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI), Umudike, Abia State, representing a significant step forward in agricultural science and technology collaboration between both countries.

The shipment, which arrived on June 17, consists of four specialised machines designed to improve efficiency throughout the entire cassava production process.

Among the equipment delivered are a deep plough, a rotary tiller, a combined ridging and cassava planter, and a vibrating-chain cassava harvester.

The machinery is designed to support every stage of cassava cultivation, from land preparation and planting to harvesting, with the goal of reducing dependence on manual labour while improving operational efficiency on farms.

"The introduction of these machines is expected to transform cassava farming in Nigeria by making it more scalable, standardised and profitable for farmers,"the statement said.

The embassy explained that the equipment delivery is part of a wider collaboration between the Chinese Academy of Tropical Agricultural Sciences (CATAS) and the National Root Crops Research Institute, supported through the Hainan Provincial International Science and Technology Cooperation Project.

Over the years, both institutions have worked together on initiatives focused on cassava germplasm innovation, sustainable cultivation methods and capacity development.

Their cooperation also includes the establishment of the China-Nigeria Joint Laboratory on Cassava, which is expected to strengthen locally driven research and technological advancement in cassava production.

Livestock Ministry unveils digital platform, pushes value addition in leather industry

Collins Nnabuife | Abuja

THE Federal Government has reaffirmed its commitment to transforming Nigeria's livestock sector through digital innovation and strategic investments aimed at promoting industrialisation, value addition and private sector-led growth across the livestock value chain.

The Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Mukhtar Maiha, stated this on Saturday during the second day of his working visit to Kano State, where he unveiled the Kano State Livestock Information Management System (LIMS) at the Gwale Model Veterinary Hospital and inspected the KANOTAN S.A. Tannery Industry.

Maiha described the digital platform as a landmark innovation that aligns with the Federal Government's efforts to modernise livestock administration through technology, data-driven planning and efficient service delivery.

The Livestock Information Management System integrates livestock registration, veterinary health management, disease surveillance, vaccination monitoring, licensing, farmer support services and digital medical records into a single online platform accessible to government agencies and the public.

The minister disclosed that the Federal Government's planned national livestock digital platform would be interoperable with Kano State's system to facilitate seamless information sharing.

"On behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, I congratulate Kano State for taking this bold step.

"This is a model worthy of emulation, and we will continue working together to ensure that digital innovation strengthens livestock development across Nigeria.

"When we launch our national digital infrastructure, there will be connectivity between the national platform and what Kano has developed. That synergy will strengthen livestock governance, improve planning and provide reliable data for policy formulation," he said.

Maiha urged the Kano State Government to continue expanding the platform to capture data across all livestock value chains, including dairy, poultry, hides and skins, meat production, livestock markets, processors, veterinarians, animal scientists and other industry stakeholders.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, Dr. Mubashshir Mustapha Umar, demonstrated the platform's data-mining capabilities, highlighting its potential to generate reliable information for policy formulation.

The minister later visited the KANOTAN S.A. Tannery Industry, where he toured the company's leather processing facilities and held discussions with industry operators.

FG targets Wudil livestock market as West Africa's model trading hub

Collins Nnabuife | Abuja

THE Federal Government has unveiled plans to transform the Wudil Livestock Market in Kano State into a world-class livestock trading hub and a reference point for modern livestock commerce in West Africa.

The Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Mukhtar Maiha, disclosed this during an inspection tour of key livestock infrastructure in Kano State on Friday, saying the initiative forms part of the Federal Government's efforts to modernise Nigeria's livestock value chain through improved market systems, industrial processing and value addition.

Maiha described the Wudil Livestock Market as a strategic national asset with significant commercial importance, noting that the facility handles an estimated 130 trucks of livestock every week, with each truck conveying at least 35 cattle.

According to him, the market is already one of the busiest livestock trading centres in Northern Nigeria and provides a solid foundation for its transformation into an international-standard facility.

He, however, observed that despite its economic significance, the market faces major infrastructural and environmental challenges, including poor sanitation, inadequate slaughtering facilities, the absence of loading bays, weak veterinary services and insufficient regulatory controls.

"Wudil is a strategic national asset; however, the environmental and operational gaps are significant. Our goal is to redesign this market and reposition it into a modern, permanent livestock exchange hub that operates daily and meets international standards," the minister said.

Maiha explained that the reform would shift the focus of livestock trade from the sale of live animals to a value-added system driven by feedlots and modern abattoirs.

"On average, animals lose about 25 kilograms in transit. This is avoidable loss of value that we must eliminate," he said.

He disclosed that the proposed upgrade would include structured animal pens, segregated holding areas for different species, veterinary quarantine and inspection units, administrative offices, banking facilities, security posts, hospitality services and organised commercial zones.

POLITICS & POLICY

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2027: As parties test strength in Jigawa

As politicking towards 2027 election gathers momentum, the major political parties in the country have been strategisng on ways to win the governorship and other elections in Jigawa State. ADAMU AMADU, in this report, looks at the contest and the approaches of some of the parties

Lamido

Dutse

Namadi

Nakudu

WITH political activities gradually gathering momentum ahead of the 2027 general elections, the race for the Jigawa State Government House is beginning to take shape as major political parties move to consolidate their structures and present consensus candidates.

In compliance with the electoral law and Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) time table, four of the political parties have fielded their candidates for all elective positions which produced through consensus.

In Jigawa State, the African Democratic Congress (ADC), the All Progressives Congress (APC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and National Democratic Congress (NDC) are currently the most visible political platforms actively mobilising ahead of the polls. They had continued strategic plans to compete and wrestles for executive and legislative posts in the nationwide polls in the states and in the central government.

APC rallies behind Namadi

In line with the timetable released by the INEC, the APC adopted incumbent governor Umar Namadi as its governorship aspirant through a consensus arrangement reached during a stakeholders' meeting held at the Government House, Dutse.

The party's elders also pledged to purchase nomination forms for both Governor Namadi and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in support of their second-term ambitions, a promise they later fulfilled.

The APC Elders Committee, led by former governor Ali Sa'adu Birnin Kudu, formally presented the expression of interest and nomination forms to Namadi in Dutse.

Birnin Kudu said the gesture was in appreciation of what he described as the purposeful leadership demonstrated by both Tinubu and Namadi.

"We have not only endorsed them for a second term, but also decided to purchase the forms as a symbol of appreciation for their sacrifices and service to the people," he stated.

Responding, Governor Namadi described the endorsement as a renewed call to service and assured party stakeholders that his administration would continue to pursue policies aimed at transforming the state through infrastructure, agriculture, job creation and social development.

Namadi's strengths and political hurdles

Political analysts believe that Governor Namadi enters the 2027 race with enormous advantages associated with incumbency, control of state structures and the backing of the Federal Government under the APC-led administration.

Observers also point to ongoing infrastructural projects, expansion of agricultural programmes, social intervention schemes and rural development initiatives as factors that could strengthen his re-election prospects.

The governor is equally expected to benefit from the political machinery of the ruling party across the 27 local government areas of the state, including the support of elected officials and appointees.

However, analysts say internal cracks within the APC could pose a serious challenge to the governor's second-term ambition.

The alleged political disagreement between Namadi and his predecessor, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, is believed to have polarised sections of the party and created rival camps within the APC structure in Jigawa.

The situation allegedly triggered defections by some APC members and loyalists of Badaru to the ADC, a development many fear could weaken the ruling party's traditional dominance if not resolved before the election.

The crisis deepened following disagreements over the legitimacy of the APC state congress.

Despite the internal disputes, many political observers still regard Namadi as the candidate to beat owing to the advantages of incumbency and the APC's longstanding electoral strength in Jigawa.

On the opposition side, the PDP appears to be consolidating around a single political direction following the adoption of Mustapha Sule Lamido as the party's consensus governorship candidate.

In his acceptance speech, Lamido promised to prioritise education, healthcare, agriculture, youth empowerment and economic development if elected governor.

He maintained that the PDP remained the most credible platform capable of addressing Nigeria's socio-economic and security challenges despite the internal difficulties confronting the opposition party nationally.

"We will do everything humanly possible to protect the interests of the PDP and the people of Jigawa State," he declared.

Advantages and setbacks for Mustapha Lamido

Analysts believe Mustapha Lamido's greatest political asset remains the enduring influence of the Sule Lamido political structure in Jigawa politics.

Many residents still regard Sule Lamido's administration as one of the most impactful in terms of human capital development, road construction, education and public service reforms, a perception the PDP hopes will boost Mustapha's acceptance among voters.

The PDP candidate is also expected to benefit from the alleged division within the APC and the reported defection of some APC members and Badaru loyalists to the ADC, which they believe could split votes traditionally controlled by the ruling party.

In addition, some observers believe the PDP may capitalise on growing economic hardship and public dissatisfaction in parts of the country to market itself as a credible alternative.

However, political watchers argue that Mustapha Lamido may still face the difficult task of overcoming the enormous influence of incumbency and the APC's deep-rooted grassroots network across the state.

The PDP is equally battling internal challenges at the national level, including leadership disputes and defections, developments that analysts say could affect the morale of party supporters ahead of the polls.

Critics also question whether the PDP has sufficiently rebuilt its structure in Jigawa after years out of power.

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) has conducted it's primary elections where former senator, Alhaji Sabo Muhammad Nakudu emerged as the gubernatorial candidate of party after defeating his opponent, Hon Bashir Adamu Jumbo with over 35,000 votes against 19,500.

ADC seeks third-force relevance

Meanwhile, the ADC is gradually emerging as a possible third force in the state's political equation.

Sabo Muhammad Nakudu, a former two-term senator elected under the APC, had defected to the ADC and declared his governorship ambition shortly after registering with the party.

Nakudu's entry into the race is already attracting attention, particularly among politicians dissatisfied with the ongoing crisis within the APC.

Political observers believe that the senator could benefit from protest votes, especially from aggrieved APC members seeking an alternative platform outside both the APC and PDP.

His experience as a former senator and long-standing involvement in Jigawa politics are also seen as factors that could give credibility to the ADC's governorship bid.

Analysts further argue that if the APC crisis persists, the ADC could emerge as a major beneficiary of defections and political realignments ahead of the election.

However, the ADC still faces major obstacles in its attempt to challenge the dominance of the APC and PDP.

The party currently lacks the widespread grassroots structure, financial strength and statewide political machinery enjoyed by the two major parties.

Post primary election criss is deepening in the party where the party aspirant who contested against Senator Sabo Muhammad, Hon. Bashir Adamu Jumbo has protesting the conduct and the outcome of governorship primary election and petitioned the ADC appeals committee.

Observers also note that Nakudu may struggle to match the influence, resources and mobilisation capacity available to both the ruling APC and the PDP political establishment.

With more than a year to the election, political analysts say alliances, defections and internal party reconciliation efforts may ultimately determine the direction of the 2027 governorship contest in Jigawa State.

National Democratic Congress (NDC) is the newly arrived political party in Jigawa State.

The party in is fielding a retired INEC administrative secretary, Dr Aminu Sani Musa as it's gubernatorial candidate.

NDC political activities remain skeletal happening largely within the premises of the state party secretariat.

Appeal Court to hear suit against deregistration of ADC, Accord Party, three others today

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

THE Court of Appeal, Abuja division will, today hear an appeal challenging the deregistration of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Accord Party and three other political parties.

The Appellate Court adjourned the hearing date from June 25 earlier fixed to July 7 (today) to enable the parties in the appeal file and exchange their processes filed for full scale hearing.

At the proceedings of June 25, Counsel for the Accord Party, Musibau Adetunbi, SAN informed the three-member panel of Justices of the appellate Court that the record of appeal and final judgment of the Federal High Court, obtained on Monday June 22 has been transmitted to the Court of Appeal as required by law.

The senior lawyer subsequently applied for a short adjournment to enable him and others in the matter file their briefs of argument and exchange same to pave way for the hearing of the matter.

The application for adjournment was not opposed by all over parties prompting the panel, headed by Justice Abubakar Mohammed to adjourn the hearing of the appeal till today by 2 pm.

Although, Adetunbi applied for three days to file and exchange briefs of argument, Justice Mohammed said, some of the Justices would be out of Abuja by next week for special session and announced July 7 as the hearing date in the appeal.

It would be recalled that, Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court had in a judgment ordered the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to deregister the ADC, Accord Party and three other political parties on the ground that they did not fulfill Constitutional requirements in the previous election.

Although, INEC opposed the move on the ground that the parties met required Constitutional requirements and even provided evidence, the Judge nonetheless ordered the electoral body to deregister the ADC, Accord Party, Action Alliance (AA), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP), and Action Peoples Party (APP), having failed to secure 25 per cent of the votes in the last general elections in compliance with the provisions of the law.

The Court said the parties failed to meet the constitutional threshold of Section 225 of the 1999 Constitution which gives INEC the power to deregister parties that failed to meet the constitutional threshold.

In the judgment, Justice Lifu barred INEC from further according recognition to the parties, accepting nomination of candidates from the affected parties or giving effects to their activities for the purpose of participating in the 2027 general elections.

He also ordered the defendants to stop parading themselves as registered political parties in the country and held that there was merit in a suit filed against them by the National Forum of Former Legislators (NFFL).

In a unanimous ruling of the three member panel, in the appeal challenging the judgement of the trial court, which was delivered despite Appeal Court order directing the trial Judge to stay proceedings in the matter, pending the outcome of an interlocutory appeal filed in the matter, Justice Mohammed held that, the appellate court has a duty to invoke its power to ensure that its order is obeyed.

He described the action of Justice Lifu as judicial impunity and rascality adding that, "What the trial court did was a violation of judicial precedent and the Constitution.

"Enforcement of the judgement of the trial court delivered on June 15 2026 is hereby stayed pending the hearing and determination of appeal filed by the appellant", the Court of Appeal held.

The Benue State governorship candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) Herman Hembe and the vice presidential candidate of the party, Hon Rotimi Amaechi, during a visit to Amaechi's residence in Abuja on Monday

Kwara APC stakeholders dismiss rotation claim, back Ajuloopin's re-election

Biola Azeez | Ilorin

THE Amalgamated Stakeholders of Ekiti, Oke-Ero, Isin and Irepodun Federal Constituency have dismissed claims that emergence of member representing the constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Abdulraheem Tunji Olawuyi (Ajuloopin), as the All Progressives Congress (APC) candidate for re-election violated any rotational arrangement between the Igbomina and Ekiti people.

The stakeholders, in a press statement signed by Adeboye Olanrewaju, described as false and misleading, a media campaign and petition allegedly pushed by some members of the constituency against Olawuyi's candidacy.

According to the statement, there has never been any formal or informal agreement providing for a rotational arrangement between the two ethnic groups, insisting that both communities have co-existed peacefully for generations and have remained united in the political development of the constituency.

The group challenged proponents of the alleged agreement to produce credible evidence, questioning when and where such an arrangement was reached, who participated in it, and whether any document or gentleman agreement existed to support the claim.

The stakeholders also faulted argument on equity and fairness, arguing that the proponents lack moral standing to criticise Olawuyi, having served as a Personal Assistant to former Senator Simeon Suleiman Ajibola, who represented Kwara South Senatorial District for 12 consecutive years.

They also said that Olawuyi's political influence, particularly in Omu-Aran, played a significant role in the APC's breakthrough during the 2018 by-election, describing him as one of the party's major electoral assets in Kwara South district.

Rejecting the figures allegedly being circulated by some people, the stakeholders described them as inaccurate and inconsistent with the actual voting strength, registered voters and membership profile of the constituency.

They argued that Olawuyi's previous electoral victories and popularity remained as evidence of his acceptability across the four local government areas.

The group called on party members and residents of the constituency to remain united behind the lawmaker ahead of the 2027 general election, expressing confidence that his return to the National Assembly would guarantee continuity in effective representation and attract more developmental projects to the constituency.

The stakeholders also said that the APC stands a better chance of retaining the federal constituency if Olawuyi's name appears on the 2027 ballot, describing him as a tested, experienced and accepted candidate capable of delivering another electoral victory for the party.

APM dismisses Oyo APC reconciliation committee, predicts failure ahead of 2027

By Busola Oworu

THE Oyo State chapter of the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) has dismissed the reconciliation committee recently inaugurated by the All Progressives Congress (APC), describing the initiative as an exercise that will not resolve the opposition party's internal challenges ahead of the 2027 general elections.

In a statement issued on by its Publicity Secretary, Mr Amubode Oluwatosin, the APM said the APC was embarking on what it termed a "failed mission," insisting that the reconciliation effort was "dead on arrival" due to alleged deep-seated divisions within the party.

Amubode alleged that the camp of the APC governorship candidate, Senator Sharafadeen Alli, was operating a "winner-takes-all" approach and lacked the willingness to accommodate aggrieved stakeholders and party loyalists.

He further claimed that appointments into key political offices, including positions such as Secretary to the State Government, commissioners, special advisers and local government chairmen, had allegedly been discussed among leaders within Alli's political camp despite the 2027 governorship election still being some distance away.

According to the APM spokesman, genuine progressives within the APC would not be persuaded by the reconciliation move, adding that dissatisfied members would resist what he described as political manipulation.

Amubode also questioned the appointment of former Senator Olufemi Lanlehin as co-chairman of the reconciliation committee, arguing that he had previously led a similar assignment before the 2023 general elections without achieving the desired outcome.

He alleged that Lanlehin headed the committee established to address disputes arising from the APC's congresses and primaries ahead of the 2023 elections, but that the exercise failed to unite the party and instead deepened internal divisions.

According to him, reappointing Lanlehin to head another reconciliation effort would produce a similar outcome and could further weaken the APC's prospects in the 2027 elections.

"The Oyo APC is on a failed mission again. The reconciliation committee co-chaired by Olufemi Lanlehin and Taoheed Adedoja will fail woefully, just as it did in 2023," Amubode said.

He maintained that the committee lacked the capacity to address the party's longstanding grievances, promote harmony among stakeholders and foster the unity required to prepare the APC for future elections.

Senator Adeola's robust legislative experience has prepared him to lead Ogun —Kashamu

Olayinka Olukoya| Abeokuta

THE lawmaker representing Ijebu North 1 State Constituency in the Ogun State House of Assembly, Hon Rasheed Kashamu, has said that the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress in the 2027 general elections, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola, robust legislative experience as prepared him to lead the State into its next phase of development.

Kashamu in a statement issued on Monday, noted that the successor of Prince Dapo Abiodun,from May 29,2027, must be a leader whose credentials are built on years of proven public service, sound legislative experience, financial expertise and a demonstrable commitment to improving the lives of the people.

He posited that the extensive career in public service of the gubernatorial candidate has distinguished him as one of Nigeria's most accomplished legislators.

The lawmaker revealed that his journey from the House of Assembly to the House of Representatives and subsequently, the Senate reflected years of consistent leadership and dedication to nation-building.

"Leadership is about preparation, competence and performance. I am convinced that when the good people of Ogun State go to the polls in 2027, they will look beyond campaign promises and assess those who have built enduring records of service. Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola has demonstrated over the years that he possesses the experience, capacity and vision required to govern Ogun State successfully," Kashamu said.

He noted that Adeola's years in the National Assembly have exposed him to the intricacies of governance and public administration, qualities he believes are critical for managing the affairs of a state with Ogun's economic importance.

Kashamu also highlighted Adeola's professional background as a chartered accountant, saying his financial expertise would further strengthen prudent resource management and ensure greater accountability in government.

According to him, the senator's representation of Ogun West Senatorial District has been marked by numerous interventions in infrastructure, education, healthcare, youth empowerment, human capital development and community development, describing the projects as practical evidence of leadership that prioritises the welfare of the people.

Makinde's party, APM, targets insecurity, economic recovery in governance plans

John Ameh | Abuja

THE Allied Peoples Movement (APM) has said its main target is to revive the country's economy and combat spiralling insecurity in the march to be in office next year.

According to the party, an elaborate blueprint is underway to address the issues and to be unveiled soon.

Oyo State governor, Seyi Makinde, is the presidential candidate of the APM.

The party disclosed its focus in a statement issued on Monday by the National Publicity Secretary, Honourable Abubakar Yusuf, noting that Nigeria was in urgent need of a governance style that prioritised accountability and prudent management of funds.

The APM blamed the country's current challenges on mismanagement by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), citing hunger, insecurity, high cost of living and failing infrastructure as evidence of the alleged misgovernance.

It also stated that increasing public debt, high taxation, inflation and insecurity had contributed to the exit of several multinational companies from Nigeria, just as many young Nigerians had left the country in search of improved economic prospects elsewhere.

According to the party, the governance agenda in view will focus on strategic investments in critical sectors, including oil and gas, power, agriculture, manufacturing, education, housing and healthcare, with the objective of creating jobs, attracting foreign direct investment and boosting private sector productivity.

The APM explained further: "APM blueprint comes with a new and transparent approach to governance. An approach that puts Nigerians first, prioritizing inclusive human development and wellbeing through people-oriented policies and prudent management of resources that guarantee security of lives and property, industrialisation, massive youth employment, national infrastructural revolution, efficient public service and sustainable prosperity for all.

"The APM blueprint is service oriented, forward looking and tailored to put Nigerians back to work, attract Foreign Direct Investment and boost private sector productivity through strategic investments in critical sectors including oil and gas, power, electricity, agriculture and food production; manufacturing, education, housing, healthcare among others."

In addition, the party promised people-oriented policies anchored on social justice, respect for the rule of law, freedom of expression and efficient public service if elected into office.

It called on Nigerians to embrace the party and he rest assured that they would be better off for the choice in 2027.

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria, Ambassador Gautier Mignot and the presidential candidate of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar during a meeting between the duo at Atiku's residence in Abuja on Tuesday.

ADC warns against internal divisions, inaugurates Kano caretaker committee

Kola Oyelere, Kano

THE National Deputy Chairman (North West) of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Hajia Najatu Muhammad, has warned party members against internal disagreements, saying factional disputes could undermine the party's ambition of becoming a credible political alternative in Nigeria.

Speaking on Monday during the inauguration of the party's Kano State Caretaker Committee, Najatu urged members to prioritise grassroots mobilisation, membership expansion and community engagement rather than engaging in internal conflicts.

She said political opponents would closely monitor the party for signs of division, stressing that unity, discipline and reconciliation were essential as the ADC prepares for future electoral contests.

Announcing the constitution of the caretaker committee, Najatu described the move as a constitutional measure designed to preserve unity, stability and continuity within the party.

She explained that the committee was established to address a leadership vacuum in accordance with the ADC constitution and the Electoral Act.

According to her, the decision was neither a victory for any faction nor an attempt to sideline any group, but a necessary administrative step to ensure the party's affairs continued without disruption.

"The letter presented today is not a political weapon or an instrument of exclusion. It is simply a constitutional response to an administrative reality," she said.

Najatu emphasised that the formation of the caretaker committee should not be interpreted as a judgment on the loyalty or contributions of party members, acknowledging the sacrifices made by supporters across Kano State in building the party.

She called on party elders, youth and women leaders, ward executives and other stakeholders to support the committee and place the collective interest of the party above personal ambitions.

The ADC leader charged members of the caretaker committee to promote reconciliation and rebuild confidence in the party's structures rather than deepen existing divisions.

"Their mandate is to heal divisions, dismantle old camps and ensure that every genuine member of the ADC has a place within our collective family," she said.

She further urged the committee to lead with fairness, transparency and impartiality, describing leadership as "a trust, not a privilege," while encouraging members to consult widely and make decisions that foster unity.

Addressing party members across Kano State's 44 local government areas, Najatu appealed for cooperation and inclusiveness, assuring members that the ADC remained open to all and that no genuine member should feel alienated.

She expressed confidence that strict adherence to the party's constitution, democratic principles and a spirit of reconciliation would strengthen the ADC in Kano State and position it for future electoral success.

Our NASS candidates list unchanged —Oyo APC

By Soji Ajibola

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) in Oyo State has insisted that no change has been effected on the list of its candidates for the National Assembly posts in 2027 general elections as released by the National Working Committee of the Party.

The party, in a statement by its Publicity secretary, Olawale Sadare described the purported report on the changes on the list of candidates as misleading.

Some aspirants who did not secure the desired party tickets were reported to be misleading the public with fake claims through social media even as their supporters do more to create crisis within the party.

He stated that the National secretariat of the APC has uploaded the names of its three Senatorial District and 14 House of Representatives candidates in Oyo state on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) portal as required by law and this was followed up with the filling of the Commission's Nomination forms by individual candidates at the national secretariat of the Party in Abuja.

He added that nothing has changed from the list that was made available to the candidates, chieftains and the entire members of the party last week.

For the avoidance of doubt, nothing has changed from what was made public last week. The names submitted to INEC are as follows; Senator Yunus Akintunde, Hon. Aderemi Oseni and Mrs. Hannah Ogunesan as candidates for Oyo Central, Oyo South and Oyo North Senatorial Districts respectively while House of Representatives candidates are; Hon. Akeem Adeyemi (Afijio/Atiba/Oyo East/Oyo West), Hon. Segun Odebunmi (Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere), Hon. Tajudeen Abisodun Kareem (Atisbo/Saki East/Saki West).

Other candidates are; Hon. Akin Alabi (Egbeda/Ona-Ara), Hon. Olafisoye Akinmoyede (Akinyele/Lagelu), Hon. Folake Olunloyo-Oshinowo (Ibadan North West/South West), Hon. Tolulope Akande-Shadipe (Oluyole), Hon. Olamijuwon Alao-Akala (Ogbomoso North/Ogbomoso South/Oriire), Hon. Olatubosun Oladele (Irepo/Olorunsogo/Oorelope), Hon. Umar Farouk Alao (Ibadan North), Hon. Ibrahim Iyiola (Ibadan North East/Ibadan South East), Hon. Sarafa Olaoniye (Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North), Hon. Saheed Adejare Yusuf (Kajola/Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Iwajowa) and Hon. Yusuf Asimiyu Osuolale (Ibarapa East/Ido).

He, thereby, informed the members that window for the substitution of candidates has closed.

"We are using this medium to remind aspirants and stakeholders that the window of opportunity for nomination of candidates by political parties is already closed. To this end, we urge individuals parading themselves as APC candidates illegally to desist from doing so or be ready for the consequences of their actions.

'There cannot be two candidates for a single ticket and as Democrats, one should make it a do-or-die affair," he said.

INEC Oyo extends voter registration to July 26, introduces online self-service for first-time voters

By Rukiyat Ogunwade

THE Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, in Oyo State has extended the Continuous Voter Registration, CVR, exercise by two weeks and introduced an online self-service option for eligible first-time voters.

The Resident Electoral Commissioner in the state, Professor Adeniran Rahmon Tella, made this known in a statement made available to journalists on Monday .

According to him, the exercise, earlier scheduled to end on Friday, July 10, 2026, will now run until Sunday, July 26, 2026, across all 33 INEC Local Government Area offices and the State Office in Ibadan.

Professor Tella , also hinted that the extension would also accommodate the introduction of an online self-service registration portal for first-time voters, which opens on Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

He explained that eligible citizens can now initiate and complete their voter registration, including biometric capture, using their personal devices through the Commission's dedicated portal, cvr.inecnigeria.org.

The Oyo REC urged all eligible Nigerians in Oyo State who are yet to register to take advantage of the extended window, either by visiting INEC State and local government area offices or by using the new online platform.

He however reiterated the commission's committment to a credible, inclusive, and accessible voter registration process ahead of future electoral activities in the state.

"The online self-service option includes a step-by-step guide that enables citizens to complete the process without having to physically visit any INEC office

"Eligible citizens can now initiate and complete their voter registration, including biometric capture, using their personal devices through the Commission's dedicated portal, cvr.inecnigeria.org.

"The commission remain committed to a credible, inclusive, and accessible voter registration process ahead of future electoral activities in the state, " he stated.

PDP stakeholders urge Arapaja to discontinue 2027 governorship ambition, seek alternative platform

By Soji Ajibola

THE stakeholders of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) code named Team Arapaja have urged the former deputy governor of Oyo State, Amb. Taofeek Arapaja to discontinue his governorship ambition under the platform of the party.

The stakeholders, in a communique signed by Barr. Michael Lana,Hon. Ogunsola Niyi ,Hon. Peter Olapoju and Hon. Sunday Babatunde at the end of their meeting in Ibadan on Monday threw their weight behind his plan to seek alternative in any of the registered political parties.

The candidates reaffirmed their absolute confidence in the leadership, integrity, and rich political pedigree of Ambassador Arapaja, saying "as a prominent and foundational member of the historic Molete political dynasty, his extensive experience and political influence extend far beyond the shores of Nigeria".

The meeting, which was convened by Arapaja had in attendance all PDP candidates for the upcoming elections, including three Senatorial candidates, fourteen House of Representatives candidates and thirty-two House of Assembly candidates in Oyo State.

The meeting resolved that in light of recent court verdicts that have effectively crippled the party, the PDP is practically defunct, offering no viable future or political security for its members.

The communiqué read in part, "Based on the stark reality of the party's collapse, the forum earnestly advised Ambassador Arapaja to discontinue his 2027 gubernatorial ambition under the banner of the PDP.

"The forum unanimously agreed that it is time to seek a fairer, alternative political platform that will genuinely protect their collective interests and serve the welfare of the general public. We, the legislative candidates of the PDP, remain united and resolute to work under the name of TEAM ARAPAJA.

"We stand ready to transition and mobilize toward a new political dawn that guarantees equity, justice, and progress for the people of Oyo State," the communiqué read.

The meeting declared unalloyed loyalty to what they termed "Team Arapaja". They solemnly pledged to follow him to any political party he chooses to align with, affirming that their allegiance remains firmly with him wherever the peoples' interests are best served'

The forum also condemned the Oyo State governor, Seyi Makinde for his alleged persistent marginalisation of party elders and total disregard for their vital contributions to the party's growth.

The stakeholders also warned those they termed dissidents and former loyalists who have turned into detractors, attacking Ambassador Arapaja, asking them to stop such moves as Arapaja's name cannot be dragged in the mud.

Members of the G15 Group of the Kwara State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC), soon after a march in Ilorin to protest the choice of the governorship candidate by the party...yesterday

Kwara gov has become the minority in the APC, says G15 Coalition

THE Kwara APC G15 Coalition on Monday declared that Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq no longer enjoys the support of the majority of stakeholders within the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, saying the balance of political support in the party has shifted away from the governor.

The coalition made the declaration during a solidarity walk in Ilorin attended by thousands of party supporters, where it also announced what it described as the relaunch of the "OTOGE movement" that brought the APC to power in Kwara State in 2019.

The G15 is a coalition comprising the ten governorship aspirants who participated in the last APC governorship primary, the state's three serving senators, a majority of APC members in the National Assembly, serving members of the Kwara State House of Assembly, the party's Elders Caucus, youth and women leaders, and other stakeholders.

The procession commenced at the Geri-Alimi Underpass, passed through the Emir's Palace and terminated at the Post Office in Ilorin.

Addressing supporters after the march, leaders of the coalition said the turnout underscored what they described as the governor's declining influence within the APC and demonstrated that the majority of party members remained committed to the ideals of the OTOGE movement.

In a statement issued after the rally, the coalition said Governor AbdulRazaq had failed to sustain the principles that united the progressive movement in 2019.

According to the group, the original OTOGE movement was founded on inclusion, internal democracy, accountability and collective leadership, ideals it alleged have since been abandoned.

"History has placed upon us the responsibility of ensuring that the dreams and sacrifices of the OTOGE Revolution are neither abandoned nor betrayed," the coalition said.

It argued that the APC in Kwara had become increasingly divided under the current administration, alleging that political participation had narrowed while decision-making had become concentrated in the hands of a few.

The coalition maintained that the governor no longer represents the majority tendency within the party, insisting that the broad coalition of elected officials, governorship aspirants, legislators, party elders, youth and women leaders aligned with the G15 reflects the prevailing mood of APC members across the state.

Pantami, four other gov candidates visit Lamido, seek guidance ahead of 2027 polls

Adamu Amadu | Dutse

THE governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Gombe State, Professor Isah Ali Pantami, alongside the party's governorship candidates for Bauchi, Kano and Yobe states, have visited to former Jigawa State Governor and PDP founding member, Sule Lamido, at his residence in Bamaina village.

Pantami said the visit was aimed at seeking the blessings, guidance and wise counsel of Lamido, whom he described as an elder statesman and one of the founding fathers of the PDP.

According to him, consulting elders remains an important political tradition that enables younger leaders to benefit from their wealth of experience.

"We are in Jigawa State to pay homage to one of our elders and leaders, His Excellency Sule Lamido. It is our tradition to visit our elders, wish them well and seek their words of wisdom because the words of elders are always words of wisdom," Pantami said.

The former Minister of Communications and Digital Economy commended Lamido for what he described as his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the masses during his administration between 2007 and 2015.

He noted that the former governor's policies reflected the ideals of the late Aminu Kano, particularly his emphasis on social justice and the protection of the ordinary people.

Pantami also praised Lamido for consistently speaking truth to those in authority, regardless of public opinion.

"One of the qualities I admire in him is his courage to speak the truth to power. Whether people agree or disagree, he always expresses what he believes is right. Such independence of mind is worthy of emulation," he added.

Responding, Lamido urged the governorship candidates to see themselves as the "building blocks" for rebuilding Nigeria, stressing that the country's future rests on committed and visionary younger leaders.

He said political parties should present credible candidates capable of laying a solid foundation for national development.

"Nigeria needs a new foundation, and that foundation must be built by younger leaders who have commitment, passion and the courage to protect the country's reputation. Whoever emerges victorious should govern in the interest of all Nigerians," Lamido said.

The PDP chieftain also advised the candidates to conduct issue-based campaigns rather than attacking their opponents personally.

Ododo urges Kogi youths to support Tinubu, flags off mining and jewellery empowerment programme

KOGI State Governor, Alh. Usman Ododo, has called on young people in the state to support the administration of Bola Tinubu, saying the president's youth-centred reforms and empowerment programmes are laying the foundation for sustainable economic growth and shared prosperity across the country.

The governor made the call on Monday in Abuja while inaugurating the Kogi Youth Mining and Jewellery Craftsmanship Empowerment Programme, a strategic initiative of the Kogi State Government designed to equip young people with globally competitive skills in the mining and jewellery value chain.

Governor Ododo said the Tinubu administration has demonstrated a clear commitment to empowering Nigerian youths through transformative policies and targeted interventions aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, reducing unemployment and creating sustainable sources of income.

According to him, the Federal Government's investments in youth development represent a new direction in governance where young people are not merely beneficiaries of government programmes but are being equipped to become creators of wealth and drivers of economic growth.

"I urge our young people to appreciate the commitment President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has shown towards their future. The opportunities being created today are designed to prepare you for tomorrow. The best way to reciprocate this commitment is through hard work, discipline, patriotism and a determination to succeed," the Governor said.

Governor Ododo reiterated his administration's resolve to continue investing in initiatives that empower youths with practical skills capable of transforming their lives, stressing that Kogi's development agenda is anchored on building a generation of productive entrepreneurs rather than creating dependence on government support.

"Our objective is not to give you temporary assistance but to equip you with lifelong skills that will make you financially independent, create employment for others and contribute meaningfully to the economy of our state and our nation," he stated.

Congratulating participants selected for the inaugural batch of the programme, the Governor noted that Kogi State is richly endowed with 32 commercially viable solid minerals, describing the sector as one of the state's greatest economic assets with enormous potential for job creation, industrial development and wealth generation.

He urged the beneficiaries to maximise the opportunity by dedicating themselves to the intensive training, assuring them that the knowledge and technical expertise they would acquire would position them to compete favourably in both domestic and international markets.

Governor Ododo also commended the programme's technical partner, Malivelihood, for partnering with the Kogi State Government to develop a highly skilled workforce capable of adding value to the state's abundant mineral resources.

REAL ESTATE

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Rental appreciation is already displacing people in Lagos —Okoro

Chief Meckson Innocent Okoro, an astute professional, is the Principal Partner, M. I. Okoro and Associates. In this Interview with DAYO AYEYEMI, he speaks on population explosion in Lagos, accommodation challenge, and the Renewed Hope Estate in Abuja, Kano and Lagos, as well as the launch of Real Estate *Today Magazine* in Nigeria.

What can you say about the housing crisis in Lagos State?

Lagos is the centre of excellence and the population is huge. People migrate every day. In fact, as I'm talking to you, every hour, people are migrating into Lagos and they're not going. And what I'm seeing as a property expert is that from now to the next five years, an average Lagosian may find it very difficult to be able to pay house rent within the urban city. The rents are already going up every day, and there is nothing anybody can do about it by way of price control, because you cannot control what you do not have.

So, I want to use this opportunity to advise the Lagos State government to start from this hour to begin to look into going to Epe, going to Shagamu, the outskirts and Ikorodu to begin to prepare an expanse of land that will house the average working population. The rental appreciation is already starting to displace people.

Those from Ikoyi, when the rent goes up too high, they migrate to Lekki, and when that increases again, they go to Osapa London, Victoria Garden City (VGC). When the Dangote Refinery fully comes upstream, there will be a surge on demand for rental houses which will automatically push up rental values. So, the rental pressure will be coming from Ibeju-Lekki and the one from Lekki Phase 1 will be pushing towards that end and they will meet. and there will be somersaults, depending on which side is stronger.

Therefore, the best bet is for the Lagos State Government to go and begin to acquire those land we see as not having value. The government may discuss with the owners and begin to acquire very large expanse, create infrastructure, roads, drainages, light, and if possible, begin to encourage income owners to have their homes developed with them, either through special social housing arrangement or special mortgage arrangement that can solve that problem. What they will do when that is done, they have to establish a very high-level transport system through the Lagos big transport buses. It will be easier for people to migrate to Lagos Island to do their official work and then go back. And the same thing Ikorodu, and the same thing to Sagamu area.

If this advice is considered by the government, we would have succeeded in arresting the embarrassing rental escalation that may happen between now and the next five years. This prediction must come to pass. So, I'm talking from over 35 years of experience. And we are saying this in the interest of our people. So, it's not when that time comes, you begin to go and say you are going to create a rent edict, that people should not increase their rent. If you do that, you even create more problems because people who invest in houses will divert their investable funds to either government's Treasury Bill or any other thing that is not property.

This will create more problems because there will be less supply of houses and population is increasing and demand will also continue to increase. So, this is my message to Lagos and the federal governments. That is the only way forward. There's nothing we can do about it.

What is the success story of the Renewed Hope Estate in Abuja, Kano and Lagos. How can an average Nigerian subscribe to it?

For the success of the project, Abuja was a flagship. The project is a PPP arrangement with the Federal Government to see how to drive homeownership in Nigeria, especially through mortgage. So presently, we have a lot of companies that we support their management that have bought into our Kasana project. We have a lot of government's officials that through their management, they've been assisted to purchase into the project.

And today, there's an elevation of funding for mortgage. So, if you want to buy into any of the projects, you'll have 20 percent equity contribution or 20 percent contribution of the price of the house. And that particular contribution is also a function of your income and your age. Your mortgage is 60 years minus your age. The difference is what they were used to calculate how long will it take you to pay back the money. While the mortgage interest is six percent and it's a fixed rate,

Okoro

that's what the person will be paying every month.

So there's mortgage availability for people that want to use mortgage to buy. The main factor here is the mortgage component. Because everywhere in the world, for you to drive home ownership, it must be through mortgage. That's why the government has made funds available for people that want to access mortgage. In fact, there's a $100 billion off-take guarantee for people in the ecosystem to have access to these homes, especially in Abuja and in Kano

For the sustainability of this programme, it is being financed by the firm of Chief M. I. Okoro and QShelter Ltd for now. The programme is not just about selling houses, it's about advocacy, it's about letting government to be aware of the need of the people in terms of homeownership and also letting people to be aware of what government is doing.

For example, a lot of people are not aware that there's mortgage. People believe that it's not true. But it's real. We've packaged a lot of people from different corporations in Lagos and Abuja to buy our Kasana projects. So the programme, over time, will be self-financing. But for now, it's being financed by the parties involved in ensuring that we have a programme that people can listen to; people can get reliable information; people can know what is happening in the Nigeria ecosystem. People in the diasporas also can hear about the development that's going on in their country, about mortgage, about housing finance, about different locations that will be coming up as we go in this journey to participate in the 100,000 housing initiative by the Federal government of Nigeria.

This thing we are doing today is what government, state governments supposed to be doing. The television houses are supposed to bring out this 30 minutes as part of their contribution, not just collecting money. If you do not empower citizens of a country with information, there will be a problem. And government will end up spending more in solving that problem.

The point I'm trying to make is that it's because we saw the gap in information in the housing industry, and we felt that people are supposed to know. When people know, it will cause the bliss to keep into some of these opportunities. And in order for us to make our own contribution to humanity, that's why we decided to midwife this very important project.

And let me tell you, some of us may be taking it as a joke. In the next one year, this thing we are saying today will be louder than life. And people will be asked; where has this information been before now?

Why is so much secrecy in real estate?

Real estate is not everyday business. And before now, in fact, it is even people like us that are trying to unmask the secrecy behind the real estate. It's normally concluded at arm's length. For instance, if as a parent, if you really have a house and want to sell, I'm sure you wouldn't even like any of your children or your brothers to know you're selling your property. So, it is in government.

There are certain things government will be doing in regards to real estate's issue that they wouldn't want every Tom, Dick and Harry to know, unless you are the one transacted.

But, the truth is, during the course of this programme, we are going to help the government to unmask them. There wouldn't be any secret because we're going to invite them to talk and we will hear what they will say.

Due to lack of land, population growth and huge demand for accommodation in Lagos, is it possible to embark on vertical structures?

I'm not speaking for government, but I know that the country hasn't grown to that level. It costs so much to go vertical. If we tell you, for those who are building them along Gerrard Road, Alexander in Ikoyi, Lagos , if we tell you how much it's causing them to sink one pillar that we carry that high rise, it costs a lot. So, an average Nigerian that will are trying to help may not be able to buy if we begin to go vertical unless government does it as a social housing, If government says is not building if for profit then, it is possible.

However, will we get there, after all before now, nobody knew that if you are passing Gerrard Road, Bourdillion and Alexander Roads that you will see a lot of high-rise buildings. Some are going to up to 25-storey buildings now. It used to be one-storey building. So we are evolving.

All those countries you are mentioning, China and India, they didn't start today. This is the reason we are asking government for social housing to help the average Nigerian worker and the masses. The only thing the government can do is to support them with good transport system.

Like I said before, that somebody who lives in Manchester, I mean the UK, can come to work. It only takes you two and a half hours from Manchester to city of London to work. And you can go back.

All you need, if your office starts by 8am, leave your house early, catch a train. That train must get to the final station within two and a half hours. And then, if you close by 5pm, you already know that you'll get to your house latest by 7:30 or 8pm.

So, we can do it here! If we cannot do train, we can do buses, all these long buses. Lagos State government is already doing it because from Mile 2, Marina to Mile 2 and beyond, train is accessing it. So, we're getting there and it is possible.

All those countries you are mentioning, China and India, they didn't start today. This is the reason we are asking government for social housing to help the average Nigerian worker and the masses. The only thing the government can do is to support them with good transport system.

Experts call for scalable solutions to meet rising housing demand

Stories by Dayo Ayeyemi | Lagos

DISTURBED by the current housing crisis with galloping affordability gap affecting mostly low income earners, emerging real estate market industry experts under the auspices of Association of Housing Corporations of Nigeria (AHCN), are calling for urgent scalable solutions to meet the rising housing demand of the people.

They also suggested brilliant solutions to enhance homeownership among Nigerians.

This was contained in a communique at the end of a two-day National workshop combined with 19th Annual General Meeting / 114th Council Meeting held in Calabar, Cross Rivers State.

They bemoaned the increasing housing shortage and acute problem of housing availability, accessibility and affordability without corresponding to match the demand. They canvassed urgent collaboration among stakeholders with realistic strategies that will directly address the housing needs of the people and, at the same time, create and empower the people to reduce unemployment in the society.

The event was, themed: 'National Workshop on "Affordable Housing Solutions For Low Income Earners In Emerging Real Estate Markets".

The communique was signed by the president/ Chairman of Council, AHCN, Eno Obogha and Executive Secretary, Toye Eniola.

"The workshop observes that the traditional affordable housing programmes which often focus on reducing the selling price of housing units is no longer enough to address the scale of housing demand of the low and medium groups. The meeting, therefore, advocates for immediate adoption of innovative housing finance and industrialized housing construction models such as prefabricated housing, precast concrete system and modular construction with replicable and standardized designs for faster delivery and cost efficiency housing for the people, " the communique read.

It observed that the current housing demand arising from rapid urbanisation, population growth, rising construction costs and financing constraints demand a fundamental shift from small scale interventions to large scale housing ecosystems and affordable housing deliver.

The experts called on government to establish National Housing Delivery Frameworks and Housing Infrastructure Funds that will set clear housing production targets and finance infrastructure for housing development to address scalable.

They also called members to rekindle the mass housing revolution of yesteryear, recalling golden era when housing corporations emerged as strategic institutions for housing delivery across many Nigerian states.

HBM Nigeria advocates accelerated climate action, sustainable infrastructure development

HBM Nigeria was called for acceleration of climate action, sustainable infrastructure development and stronger cross-sector collaboration to unlock Nigeria's green-economy potential.

The company made the call during the 2026 Nigeria Environmental Summit (NESt), in Abuja.

The Director, Organisation & Human Resources, HBM Nigeria Plc, Gbemiga Owolabi, made this known at the summit, themed: "Unlocking Nigeria's Green Economy: Driving Climate Action and Environmental Governance."

It brought together government officials, investors, private sector leaders, academia, civil society and international partners, who used the opportunity to advance strategies aimed at unlocking over $5 billion in investment pipelines, strengthening governance reforms and driving equity-focused climate action across Nigeria.

While commending the organisers for convening a timely platform for national dialogue on climate and sustainability, Owolabi noted that Nigeria's transition to a green economy presents both a development imperative and an economic opportunity. He explained that achieving the green transition requires collaboration across government, industry, academia, development institutions and civil society, stating that there is a need to move beyond dialogue to measurable action.

"We congratulate the organisers of the Nigeria Environmental Summit for convening this timely platform. As Nigeria pursues sustainable economic growth, the transition to a green economy presents a unique opportunity to drive development while addressing climate change. Economic progress and environmental stewardship are not competing priorities; they are mutually reinforcing."

Through climate-smart investments and sustainable practices, Nigeria can create jobs, strengthen resilience, attract investment and secure long-term prosperity for future generations," he said.

Also, the Country Head, Aggregates and Concrete, HBM Nigeria Plc, Emmanuel Ilaboya, highlighted the growing pressures shaping Nigeria's infrastructure and urban development landscape, including rapid population growth, urbanisation, climate change impacts such as flooding and increasing demand for improved living standards.

Ilaboya noted that future cities must prioritise resilience, durability and efficiency, noting that infrastructure must be designed not only for current needs but also for future generations. He added that verified emission reductions in construction projects could unlock significant carbon finance opportunities, creating additional revenue streams for developers, governments and citizens.

From left, Representative of General Overseer, Omega Fire Ministries, Apst Aliu Daniel; Representative of Chairman Delta State Internal Revenue Service, Mr Keneth Akpotu; Chairman, APBN Delta State, Rev Lewis Afolabi; his wife, Adetola; former Chairman of APBN Delta chapter, J. O. Aikpokpo-Martins, and Chief Inspector of Education Warri South, Dr. Samson Ugbejeh, during the investiture of APBN's executive committee, in Warri, Delta State.

Professional bodies urged to build strong institutions for sustainable devpt

ASSOCIATION of Professional Bodies of Nigeria, Delta State chapter, has been urged to build strong institutions for sustainable development.

Given the charge on the occasion of the investiture ceremony of Mr. Timi Afolabi as the Chairman of Delta's APBN and other executive committee, Commissioner, Delta State Ministry of Secondary Education, Dr. Kingsley Ashibogwu, pointed out that nations were not built merely by charismatic individuals, but by strong institutions guided by enduring values.

As professionals, he urged that they have to become custodians of institutional excellence.

Whether in engineering, medicine, law, education, accounting, architecture, surveying or public administration, the commissioner said professionals' responsibility extends beyond personal achievement to strengthening the systems within which they serve.

He noted that strong institutions are characterised by transparency in decision-making, accountability in public service, and respect for the rule of law, merit-based appointments, professional competence, ethical leadership and continuous innovation.

"Whenever these principles are weakened, institutions lose credibility and development slows.

"Institutions provide stability beyond political tenures. They ensure continuity of policy, protect public resources, enforce standards and inspire confidence among citizens and investors," he said.

Speaking on the theme: "Professional Leadership and National Development: Strengthening Institutions for a Sustainable Nigeria," the commissioner said it could not have come at a more appropriate time as Nigeria stands at an important crossroads.

"We are blessed with abundant natural resources, an energetic youth population, rich cultural diversity, resilient entrepreneurs and exceptional professionals whose expertise competes favourably with the very best across the world. Yet, despite these enormous advantages, our developmental journey has been slower than our collective aspirations. This reality naturally raises an important question: What truly differentiates developed nations from developing nations?

"Many would argue that the answer lies in natural resources. Others may point to technology, capital or political leadership. While these factors are undeniably important, history has consistently demonstrated that the greatest determinant of national prosperity is the strength of institutions and the quality of leadership that guides them, " he said.

He noted that countries become great not because they possess abundant mineral deposits but because they deliberately build institutions that uphold justice, reward excellence, encourage innovation and protect the public interest.

Nigeria's finance minister to speak on the future of housing

MINISTER of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Taiwo Oyedele, will deliver the keynote address at the opening ceremony of the 20th Anniversary Edition of the Africa International Housing Show, next week, in Abuja.

The announcement has heightened expectations for what is widely regarded as Africa's largest and most influential housing and construction event, which this year is being held under the theme: "Housing Solutions for Low Income and Informal Workers in Africa."

Adding further prestige to the opening ceremony, Senator Dr. Anyim Pius Anyim, GCON, former President of the Senate, has confirmed his participation as the chairman of the opening ceremony, where he is expected to deliver the chairman's address on the future of housing, governance and sustainable development in Africa.

The participation of the finance minister underscores the strategic importance the Federal Government attaches to housing as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, industrial development, infrastructure expansion and national prosperity.

According to the organiser of the show, the choice of Oyedele as the keynote speaker reflects the growing recognition that sustainable housing delivery requires sound fiscal policies, innovative financing mechanisms, tax reforms and a conducive investment environment.

"The housing sector remains one of the strongest drivers of economic growth. It has the capacity to stimulate manufacturing, create millions of jobs, deepen financial inclusion and attract both domestic and foreign investments. We are delighted that the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy will lead this important conversation at AIHS 2026, "the statement said.

This year's edition tagged "Anniversary Legacy Edition" is expected to bring together an unprecedented gathering of housing and construction leaders from across Africa, including ministers responsible for Housing and Urban Development, Development Finance Institutions (DFIs), multilateral organisations, mortgage institutions, commercial banks, sovereign wealth funds, pension fund administrators, private equity investors, policymakers and industry experts.

The event will also feature leading real estate companies with proven records of delivering quality developments, alongside major manufacturers of building materials, paint products, construction technologies and cement, including Dangote Cement Plc, all showcasing innovative products and solutions designed to transform Africa's housing sector.

LABOUR

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Africa cannot end poverty without tackling inequality —Anyigba, ITUC-Africa Chief Economist

In this interview with CHRISTIAN APPOLOS, Dr Hod Anyigba, Executive Director of the African Labour Research and Education Institute (ALREI) and Chief Economist of the African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa), examines Africa's widening inequality, and related issues. Excerpts:

OXFAM's latest research paints a disturbing picture of inequality in Africa. As an economist, do you agree with its findings?

Absolutely. Oxfam's research is rigorous and evidence-based, and its conclusions reflect a troubling reality. One of its most striking findings is that just four individuals own wealth equivalent to that of the poorest half of Africa's population. That level of concentration should concern everyone because it shows how unevenly wealth is created and distributed across the continent.

There is nothing wrong with people becoming wealthy. The problem is when economic systems allow wealth to accumulate among a few while millions of workers remain poor, despite contributing to growth. Increasingly, global economic structures favour those at the top through sophisticated tax planning, offshore financial systems and control of strategic sectors such as finance, energy and technology. The result is an economy where prosperity expands for a few while opportunities shrink for millions. That is why inequality has become one of Africa's defining development challenges.

Several African economies continue to record economic growth. Why hasn't that translated into better living standards for ordinary people?

That is one of Africa's biggest development paradoxes. Many countries report impressive GDP growth, but much of it comes from capital-intensive sectors such as oil, gas and mining, which generate significant revenue but relatively few jobs because they rely heavily on technology and automation.

Economic growth alone does not reduce poverty if it fails to create decent employment. Across Africa, millions of workers still earn wages that cannot meet basic living standards. At the same time, governments under pressure to service rising debt often prioritise short-term revenue over long-term structural transformation. The result is that growth figures improve while poverty and inequality persist.

Who bears greater responsibility for this growing inequality: external forces or Africa's own leadership?

Both are responsible. Africa's economies were historically designed to export raw materials, rather than manufactured products, and that pattern largely remains. We continue exporting cocoa, coffee, minerals and other resources while importing finished goods at much higher prices. That limits industrialisation, value addition and job creation.

External factors such as unequal trade arrangements, debt dependence and the influence of international financial institutions also shape policy choices. But African leaders cannot be absolved of responsibility. In many cases, political and economic elites benefit from existing systems and therefore resist reforms that would promote broader national development. Lasting change requires both fairer global economic relations and stronger domestic leadership committed to inclusive growth.

You often refer to Africa's political economy. What does that mean in practical terms?

Political economy recognises that economic outcomes are shaped not only by markets but also by power, institutions and political decisions. Nigeria's electricity challenge is a good example. It is not simply a technical problem. Different interests profit from the current system, making reforms difficult. When influential groups benefit from inefficiency, meaningful change becomes harder to achieve.

Countries such as South Korea succeeded because governments, businesses and other stakeholders built consensus around long-term industrial development. Africa needs similar political commitment, where national development takes priority over narrow interests and policies remain consistent beyond political transitions.

What role can regional integration play in changing Africa's economic fortunes?

Regional integration is essential because many African economies are too small to industrialise effectively on their own.

Anyigba

Yet, only about 16 percent of Africa's trade takes place within the continent, far below levels seen in Europe and Asia.

The African Continental Free Trade Area presents a major opportunity to expand markets, strengthen regional value chains and promote manufacturing. Africa must also encourage the free movement of skills, labour and investment, while processing more of its own agricultural products and minerals instead of exporting them in raw form.

When Africa produces, trades and adds value within the continent, it creates jobs, raises incomes and reduces dependence on external markets. That is the pathway to more inclusive and sustainable development.

If Africa is to break this cycle of poverty and inequality, where should governments begin?

The starting point is recognising that no country will develop Africa for us. International partners can support development, but lasting transformation must be driven by African governments through clear vision, strong institutions and deliberate policy choices.

Industrialisation should once again become the centrepiece of economic policy. Africa must move beyond exporting raw materials to producing higher-value manufactured goods. That means investing in productive sectors, improving infrastructure and creating an environment where industries can thrive.

> History shows that successful industrialisation has always involved active and strategic governments working alongside the private sector. The state has responsibilities that cannot be outsourced.

Industrialisation is not simply about building factories. It is about creating decent jobs, expanding domestic industries, increasing exports and building a strong middle class. Without it, reducing poverty and inequality on a sustainable basis will remain difficult.

Africa has one of the world's youngest populations. How can that become an economic advantage, rather than a burden?

Africa's youthful population is one of its greatest assets, but only if young people have access to decent work. If millions of educated youths remain unemployed, the continent risks increased migration, social instability and lost economic potential.

Education systems therefore need to evolve. They must produce innovators, engineers, technicians and entrepreneurs, rather than simply preparing graduates for administrative jobs. Greater investment in science, technology, engineering, vocational education and digital skills is essential.

Africa's young people are talented and resilient. With the right policies, investment and opportunities, they can become the driving force behind the continent's industrial and economic transformation.

You have repeatedly emphasised energy. Why is electricity so central to Africa's development?

Because no country has industrialised without reliable and affordable electricity. Energy powers manufacturing, agriculture, technology, healthcare, education and virtually every productive sector. When electricity is unreliable, businesses rely on expensive alternatives, production costs increase and investment declines.

Africa is richly endowed with hydro, solar, wind, natural gas and other energy resources. The challenge is converting those resources into affordable electricity that supports industries, creates jobs and improves living standards. Energy should therefore be treated not merely as an infrastructure issue but as a national development priority.

There is a growing view that governments should step aside and allow the private sector to drive development. Do you agree?

No. History shows that successful industrialisation has always involved active and strategic governments working alongside the private sector.

The state has responsibilities that cannot be outsourced. It provides infrastructure, regulates markets, protects vulnerable citizens and sets long-term development priorities. The private sector is indispensable because it drives investment and innovation, but it performs best within a stable policy environment created by the government.

Development is therefore not a choice between the state and the private sector. Sustainable progress comes from a partnership in which governments provide strategic leadership while encouraging responsible private investment.

Across Africa, many citizens are questioning whether democracy is delivering development. How do you see that debate?

The debate reflects genuine public frustration. Many people feel democratic governance has not significantly improved their lives because unemployment, poverty and weak public services remain widespread. That disappointment partly explains why military interventions have attracted support in some countries.

However, military rule is not the answer. The real challenge is strengthening democratic institutions so they deliver tangible improvements in people's lives.

Africa also has rich traditions of consensus-building, consultation and community participation that should inform democratic governance. Citizens ultimately judge governments not only by elections but by their ability to create jobs, reduce poverty, improve public services and uphold accountability.

Democracy and development should reinforce one another. When democratic institutions consistently deliver inclusive growth and better living standards, public confidence naturally becomes stronger.

FEPPPAN lauds Tinubu over N39bn pension liabilities settlement, hails NITEL/MTEL arrears liquidation

Stories By Christian Appolos | Abuja

THE Federal Parastatals and Private Sector Pensioners Association of Nigeria (FEPPPAN) has applauded President Bola Tinubu, for approving the liquidation of more than N39 billion inherited Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS) pension liabilities, with the settlement of the long-standing 35-month pension arrears owed to 9,675 pensioners of the defunct NITEL/MTEL emerging as the largest component of the intervention.

The association described the development as a true demonstration of the government's commitment to restoring the dignity, welfare and financial security of thousands of retirees whose pension entitlements had remained outstanding for years.

FEPPPAN also commended the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD), the National Assembly, Federal Ministry of Finance, the Budget Office of the Federation, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and other relevant government institutions for their respective roles in facilitating the successful implementation of the presidential approval.

In a statement jointly signed by its president-general, Elder Benjamin Maisamari Amako, and general secretary, Mr Franklin Erinle, the association said the intervention reflects the importance President Tinubu's administration attaches to social protection, responsible governance and the welfare of pensioners under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

According to FEPPPAN, the over N39 billion settlement includes N25.05 billion paid to clear the outstanding 35-month pension liabilities of eligible pensioners of the defunct NITEL/MTEL, N9.48 billion representing the first tranche of the Back End Computation (BEC) arrears for eligible PHCN pensioners and N5.09 billion covering the outstanding balance of the 10.66 per cent and 12.95 percent pension increment arrears due to eligible pensioners of the defunct Assurance Bank, NICON, NITEL and People's Bank of Nigeria.

The association said President Tinubu's approval was "a clear demonstration of the President's commitment to the welfare of pensioners under the Renewed Hope Agenda and a significant step towards restoring the dignity, confidence and financial security of retirees who devoted the greater part of their productive years to the service of the nation."

It added that the settlement "represents not only the liquidation of inherited financial liabilities but also the restoration of hope to thousands of retirees and their families who had patiently awaited the fulfilment of government's obligations."

FEPPPAN specifically commended PTAD for what it described as its professionalism in implementing the presidential approval through the verification of beneficiaries, computation of entitlements and seamless disbursement of the approved funds. It equally applauded the National Assembly for making the necessary budgetary provisions through the 2026 Appropriation Act and acknowledged the collaborative roles played by the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Budget Office of the Federation, the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and other government institutions.

Acting Director-General of the National Directorate for Employment (NDE), Mr Edmund Onwuliri (standing), addressing dignitaries and beneficiaries during resettlement ceremony, in Owerri.

NDE reaffirms Tinubu's commitment to youth employment

· Empowers RHEI beneficiaries in Imo

THE National Directorate of Employment (NDE) has reaffirmed the President Bola Tinubu-led administration's commitment to expanding employment opportunities for youths by empowering beneficiaries of the Renewed Hope Employment Initiative (RHEI) Phase II with business starter packs and vocational equipment in Imo State.

The Acting Director-General of the NDE, Mr Edmund Onwuliri, made the pledge during the resettlement ceremony, held at the Federal Secretariat Hall, Owerri, where beneficiaries, who successfully completed vocational and entrepreneurship training, received the tools needed to establish their own businesses and become self-reliant.

Onwuliri, said the Renewed Hope Employment Initiative is a key component of President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, designed to tackle unemployment through skills acquisition, entrepreneurship development, enterprise creation and inclusive economic growth.

He said, the initiative goes beyond training by equipping beneficiaries with the resources required to translate their acquired skills into sustainable livelihoods and, ultimately, create jobs for others.

"The tools and equipment you receive today should be seen as instruments for building sustainable livelihoods. I encourage you to utilise them responsibly, apply the skills you have acquired diligently, and remain focused on your entrepreneurial aspirations. Through hard work, innovation and perseverance, you can transform small enterprises into thriving businesses that create employment opportunities for others," he said.

NCC, DBI move to transform institute into world-class digital skills hub

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) have intensified efforts to reposition the institute as a world-class centre for digital skills development, research, innovation and policy leadership, in a renewed push to prepare Nigerians for the fast-growing digital economy.

President and Chief Executive Officer of DBI, Mr. David Daser, disclosed this following the inaugural meeting of the Institute's newly constituted Interim Governing Board, chaired by Princess Oforitsenere Emiko, at the DBI headquarters, in Abuja.

Daser described the meeting as the beginning, of a new chapter in the Institute's transformation agenda, aimed at elevating DBI into Nigeria's premier digital capacity development institution and a globally recognised centre of excellence.

According to him, the renewed vision is backed by the strategic leadership of the Governing Board and the continued support of the Nigerian Communications Commission, with a clear focus on equipping Nigerians with cutting-edge digital skills needed to compete and succeed in an increasingly technology-driven world.

"I had the honour of welcoming the newly appointed Interim chairman of the Governing Board of the Digital Bridge Institute, Princess Oforitsenere Emiko, alongside other distinguished Board members, as we held the inaugural meeting of the Board at our headquarters in Abuja," Daser wrote on his social media platform.

He said the inauguration of the Board represents another significant milestone in the ongoing repositioning of the Institute as Nigeria's foremost institution for digital skills acquisition, research, innovation and policy development.

FG, ILO launch Just Transition phase II project to drive green jobs, climate action

THE Federal Government, in partnership with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), has inaugurated Phase II of the Social Dimension of Ecological Transition Project, aimed at strengthening climate action, creating decent green jobs and promoting inclusive economic growth in the country.

Speaking at the inauguration in Abuja, on Thursday, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Dr. Muhammed Dingyadi, described the initiative as a milestone in ensuring that Nigeria's climate action agenda delivers social justice, sustainable development and broad-based economic prosperity.

Dingyadi said the renewed programme, which will run from 2025 to 2029, provides an opportunity for to move beyond policy commitments to practical actions that benefit workers, employers, enterprises and communities across the country.

"The renewal of this programme is an opportunity to move from policy commitment to implementation and turn shared aspirations into measurable progress for workers, employers and communities," he said.

According to the minister, the second phase of the project will focus on supporting sustainable local businesses, creating decent green jobs, improving livelihoods, strengthening enterprises and building resilient communities in line with Nigeria's national development priorities.

"Let us work together to ensure that Nigeria's climate commitments deliver decent jobs, stronger enterprises, resilient communities, social justice and renewed hope for all Nigerians," he added.

The ILO Country Representative to Nigeria, Ms. Vanessa Phala, said the project, supported by the Government of France, has entered its second phase, following significant achievements recorded between 2020 and 2025.

She disclosed that more than 100 government institutions and social partners were trained during the first phase, strengthening national capacity on Just Transition and laying a solid foundation for implementation.

"One of our most significant achievements was integrating Just Transition into Nigeria's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This placed Nigeria among the few global leaders to do so," Phala said.

She explained that Phase II would focus on implementing the Just Transition Guidelines and Action Plan, while promoting clean energy solutions and supporting Nigeria's transition to a sustainable energy system.

According to her, the initiative is fully aligned with the nation's Energy Transition Plan and other national development frameworks.

Also speaking, the Director-General of the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), Mrs Omotenioye Majekodunmi, said climate action could no longer be separated from human dignity, green jobs and economic survival, stressing the need for an inclusive transition.

Thousands of workers risk losing millions in FISH housing crisis

.JNPSNC urges Head of Service to intervene with FCDA, halt demolition

THOUSANDS of federal civil servants who have invested millions of naira through monthly salary deductions under the Federal Integrated Staff Housing (FISH) Programme risk losing their investments, following a demolition order issued against the housing estate by an agency of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

The development has triggered anxiety among subscribers and prompted the Joint National Public Service Negotiating Council (JNPSNC), Trade Union Side, to petition the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mrs. Esther Didi Walson-Jack, urging her to engage the FCDA to save the project.

The union warned that failure to resolve the matter could provoke industrial unrest across the Federal Public Service.

In a letter dated June 15, 2026, with reference JNPSNC/COR/VOL.1/204, the JNPSNC appealed to the Head of Service to protect the interest of thousands of workers whose investments are threatened by a demolition notice issued by the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC) over houses being developed under the FISH Programme, at Bamishi Cadastral District, in Kuje Area Council, Abuja.

The letter, signed by the National chairman, Comrade Benjamin Anto Uyanto, and the National Secretary, Comrade Olowoyo Gbenga, said many subscribers each contributed at least N3 million towards the Federal Government-backed scheme.

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Oyo governorship candidates, others donate cash, building materials to Bode market fire victims

By Soji Ajibola

Governorship candidates of the various political parties in Oyo State and other stakeholders have donated cash and building materials of over N50m to the victims of the popular Bode market fire incident, in Ibadan South-West Local Government Area of the state.

Nigerian Tribune reports that the market went up in flames on Friday which resulted in the loss of goods and other valuable worth millions of naira.

Meanwhile, stakeholders have been commiserating with the victims over what is being described as a monumental loss.

The governorship candidate of the Allied Peoples Movement, (APM) Bimbo Adekanmbi, during his visit donated N2.5m to the victims of the incident.

'The donation of N2.5 million to the affected traders is to cushion the effect of devastating loss.

'The gesture is intended to provide immediate relief and demonstrate solidarity with those affected.

"The fire disaster has further highlighted the need for improved safety measures in markets across the state, including better fire prevention facilities and emergency response systems.

Also, the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state, Senator Sharafadeen Abiodun Alli, has donated N25 million to the affected traders.

Senator Alli stressed that leadership must go beyond rhetoric and political campaigns, insisting that people-oriented governance requires prompt response, empathy and tangible support for citizens in moments of crisis.

He said that the APC remains committed to restoring hope to the people of Oyo State through responsible leadership, responsive governance and strategic interventions aimed at improving livelihood.

In another show of solidarity, the Oyo APC State Women Leader, Dr. Adekemi Opatunde, donated N5 million and 15,000 nose masks to further support affected traders and enhance safety measures in the market environment.

In a related development, the governorship candidate of ACCORD, Alhaji Oriyomi Hamzat, during an on the spot assessment of the damage done by the fire incident donated two Lorry load of plank, one lorry load of roofing sheet and nails to the victims.

He promised that more assistance are on the way for the victims.

Also, the senatorial candidate of the APC, Oyo South senatorial district has donated N20m to the victims.

From left, Babaloja-General of Oyo State, Alhaji Y.K Abass; Director of operations, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mr Deji Yinusa; state deputy governor, Bayo Lawal, and chairman, Ibadan South-West Local Government Area, Mr Kehinde Akande, during a visit to sympathise victims of the recent fire incident, at Bode market, on Monday.

Foundation gives scholarship to technical student in Igbara-Odo-Ekiti

'Yomi Ayeleso | Ado-Ekiti

ABOUT 53 students of Government Technical College, Igbara-Odo, in Ekiti South-West Local Government Area of Ekiti State have received scholarships worth N1.59 million from the Tope Adebayo Foundation in a renewed effort to promote technical education and boost students' enrollment in vocational institutions.

The scholarship covers the beneficiaries' school fees for three academic terms and is part of the foundation's sustained intervention aimed at making technical education more attractive and accessible to young people in the state.

Stakeholders at the presentation commended the founder of the foundation, Tope Adebayo, describing the initiative as a life-changing intervention that has significantly increased enrollment at the college.

Representing the founder, Honourable Ayo Adekoya-Benson said the scholarship programme has positively impacted not only students from Igbara-Odo but also beneficiaries from different communities and states.

He noted that the foundation's commitment to technical education has opened opportunities for many young people to acquire vocational skills capable of improving their future.

Adekoya-Benson appealed to other well-meaning Ekiti indigenes to emulate the gesture by investing in education, particularly technical and vocational training,.

Chairman of the State Board for Technical and Vocational Education, Kayode Babade, described the scholarship scheme as a major factor responsible for the remarkable turnaround in students' enrollment at the college.

He said enrollment at the institution rose dramatically from about 12 students to over 100 after the programme was introduced.

Babade praised Adebayo's consistency, saying the intervention has continued to strengthen technical education in Ekiti, while encouraging more youths to embrace vocational training.

Also, Commissioner for Capacity Development and Training, Patrick Tedela, said the initiative was conceived to address the challenge of low enrollment in the college.

Representative of the Arajaka of Igbara-Odo, Mr Ilesanmi Abere commended the philanthropist for his commitment to technical education.

The principal of the college, Samuel Arowosola, expressed appreciation, describing the intervention as a timely support that has brought hope to many students.

Idoani residents seek return of FirstBank to community

Hakeem Gbadamosi | Akure

RESIDENTS of Idoani in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State have renewed calls for the reopening of the FirstBank branch in the community, saying its closure has adversely affected economic activities and access to banking services in the area.

Leading the appeal, a prominent indigene of the town, former chairman of Irekari Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Steve Otaloro, urged the management of FirstBank of Nigeria Plc to restore operations at the branch.

He described the move as a fitting way to preserve the legacy of the bank's first indigenous managing director, the late Chief Samuel Oyewole Asabia.

In a statement titled: 'Asabia's legacy deserves better: Why FirstBank should return to Idoani', Otaloro recalled that Asabia, an illustrious indigene of Idoani, became the first indigenous managing director of FirstBank in 1975, and played a key role in expanding banking services to rural communities under the Federal Government's rural banking programme.

He noted that Idoani was among the communities that benefited from the initiative, leading to the establishment of a FirstBank branch in the 1980s.

He said the bank further demonstrated its long-term commitment to the community by constructing a purpose-built banking hall and an official residence for the branch manager.

Otaloro said the branch served as the financial backbone of the former Irekari LCDA for decades, providing banking services to residents of Idogun, Imeri, Owani, Afo, Ikun, Oba, and other neighbouring communities.

The branch also served institutions such as the Federal Government College, Idoani; the Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Imeri; as well as farmers, traders, artisans, cooperative societies and public servants.

He lamented that the branch was closed, following the April 8, 2019 robbery attack and an internal rationalisation exercise by the bank, forcing thousands of customers to travel long distances to carry out banking transactions, while many now rely on Point-of-Sale (POS) operators.

While acknowledging the security concerns that followed the robbery incident, Otaloro maintained that the attack should not have marked the end of the bank's presence in the community.

He argued that if FirstBank could immortalise Chief Asabia through the establishment of a Professorial Chair in his honour, it should also preserve his legacy by restoring banking services to his hometown.

Otaloro said that reopening the branch will boost economic activities, deepen financial inclusion and reaffirm the bank's commitment to grassroots development.

RCI Prestige empowers vulnerable man with wheelchair

By Olawale Olaniyan

THE Rotary Club of Ibadan Prestige (RCIP) has donated a wheelchair to Mr. Sakirulahi Yahaya, to improve his quality of life.

The donation was made during the club's handover ceremony, where Mr. Bankole Oyewole, was installed as president for the 2026/2027 Rotary year alongside members of the executive committee.

The event was attended by the district governor of Rotary International District 9126, Mr. Olaniyi Okin, the immediate past District Governor, Funke Akpo Ken Batife, among others, and featured the induction of five new members.

Speaking, Oyewole said the donation reflected Rotary's commitment to humanitarian service and community development, explaining that the club decided to intervene after discovering that Yahaya had been crawling from one place to anothe.

He urged members to continue making positive impacts in their communities through acts of kindness that transform lives.

The immediate past president of the club, Mr. Abiodun Aderemi, described the wheelchair as a symbol of hope and inclusion.

He advised the beneficiary to make good use of it, and commended members for sustaining Rotary's tradition of selfless service.

Okin, praised the club for the thoughtful intervention, noting that the donation will significantly improve the beneficiary's mobility and reaffirm Rotary's commitment to serving humanity.

Responding, Yahaya expressed gratitude to the club, saying he had never owned or used a wheelchair before, describing the donation as life-changing, saying it had restored his hope, confidence and dignity.

He thanked Oyewole and members of the club for re-

Memebers of the Rotary Club, Ibadan Prestige and District 9126 officials, during the presentation of a wheelchair to Mr. Sakirulahi Yahaya to enhance his mobility. Photo: Olawale Olaniyan.

Adeola releases funds for re-electrification of over 50 Ogun communities

Olayinka Olukoya | Abeokuta

THE governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ogun State, Senator Solomon Adeola (Yayi), has released funds for the re-electrification of more than 50 communities in Ogun Waterside Local Government Area, and other parts of Ogun East senatorial district.

The intervention fulfils his promise to restore electricity to communities that have remained without power for more than a decade.

His media adviser, Chief Kayode Odunaro, said the project is being financed from the senator's personal resources, running into hundreds of millions of naira, following a pledge he made during a consultative visit to the area two weeks ago.

According to the statement, funds have been transferred to contractors handling the project, which covers communities, including Onikintimbo, Gbegude, Olorunsogo, Malofe, Itebu-Manuwa, Mile 3 and Mile 4, Igede, Oni, Alo, Olojumeta, Ibiade, Agodo, Tigara, Igbafo, Ilushin, Camps, Agbure, Efire, Lomiro, Obu, Ayede, Abigi, Ita Ogun, Ita Otu, Makun Omi, Igbo Edu, Ode-Omi and Awodikora.

The project also extends to Ijebu East Local Government Area, where communities such as J3 Junction, Mafowoku, Trianger, Fowoseje, Fotedo, Itapanpa, Denurin, Malara, Terelu, Toliwo, Uba, Ebute Imobi, Oki Igbode, Araromi, Togunselu and Orita J4 will benefit.

Adeola said he was saddened to learn that the communities, which once enjoyed electricity, had remained in darkness for over 10 years, due to the vandalisation of critical power infrastructure that residents could not afford to replace.

He said the prolonged blackout had negatively affected socio-economic development and living standard, stressing that not every community need should be left to governments with limited resources.

He added that his decision to fund the project was aimed at restoring economic and social activities in the areas.

During a meeting with the project contractor and the member representing Ogun Waterside state constituency, Honourable Lawal Samusideen Adekunle, the senator urged the contractor to complete the work as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the Ogun Waterside Patriotic Forum has commended Adeola for the intervention.

In a letter by the Ojutumoro of Abigi and chairman of the Ogun Waterside Council of Obas, Oba Olusegun Ogunye, alongside former House of Representatives member, Honourable Abiodun Abudu Balogun, former Commissioner for Education, Professor Segun Awonusi, chairman of Ogun Waterside Local Government Area, Adetoye Odunoiki and Afolabi Ganiyu, the group described the project as the restoration of dignity and economic life, noting that it will enable students to study at night, artisans to resume work and businesses to thrive again.

UBC rolls out free medical outreach for Osogbo residents, honours Adeleke

Adeolu Adeyemo | Osogbo

THE Union Baptist Church (UBC), Osogbo, Osun State, has unveiled a week-long programme to commemorate its 70th anniversary, featuring a free medical outreach for residents, humanitarian activities, and special honours for distinguished individuals, including Governor Ademola Adeleke.

Addressing journalists to herald the celebration, the Under-Shepherd of the church, Reverend Sunday Adeoye, said the anniversary, themed: 'Celebration of God's goodness', is designed not only to celebrate the church's seven decades of existence but also to reaffirm its commitment to community development, evangelism, education and healthcare.

He said Governor Adeleke will receive the ***Distinguished Leadership Award*** in recognition of his contributions to the development of the state, while posthumous awards will be presented to deceased members and special recognition given to outstanding church workers.

Adeoye said the church deliberately chose to honour individuals whose selfless service often goes unnoticed, including a woman who has voluntarily cleaned the church premises for years without receiving payment, and a church secretary, who has served faithfully for nearly three decades.

The church will also recognise a physically challenged sportsman who uses a wheelchair, and has won several medals for the state, as well as honour its founding fathers, including 95-year-old High Chief Sheriki of Ekiti State, who established the church in a parlour at No. 103, Fagbewesa Street, Osogbo, in July 1956.

As part of its community service, the church will organise the free medical outreach for residents of Osogbo and neighbouring communities.

The programme will provide blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, vital signs assessment and other routine medical examinations aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and the early detection of hypertension, diabetes and other health conditions, campaign to raise ₦70 million for the construction of the King of Kings Church, a legacy project marking the church's 70 years of service, among other activities.

Rev Adeoye urged religious organisations to strengthen their commitment to humanitarian service, moral leadership and national unity, stressing that the church should remain a catalyst for positive social transformation, rather than partisan politics.

The anniversary which started on Sunday, will end on July 12, and also feature the foundation laying for a new Baptist church at Orisunbare, Owode-Ede, as part of the church's drive to expand its evangelistic outreach.

The new president of the Rotary Club of Ibadan, Musa Busari-Akere (second left); District Governor, Rotary District 9126, Olaniyi Okin (second right), and other members of the club, during the club's 65th investiture and fundraising ceremony, in Ibadan, Oyo State. Photo: Rukiyat Ogunwade

Busari-Akere pledges stronger commitment to community service as he becomes

By Rukiyat Ogunwade

MUSA Busari-Akere has been installed as the 65th president of the Rotary Club of Ibadan, pledging to execute community service projects worth over N21 million during the 2026/2027 Rotary year.

The investiture and fundraising ceremony at the club's secretariat in Iyaganku GRA, Ibadan, also featured the handover of leadership from the immediate past president, Fisayo Ogunbiyi, and the inauguration of new executive members.

In his acceptance speech, Busari-Akere unveiled 13 projects covering Rotary's seven areas of focus, including basic education and literacy, economic and community development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, water, sanitation and hygiene, disease prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, as well as environmental sustainability.

He pledged to lead a people-centred administration that will deepen Rotary's humanitarian impact in Ibadan and beyond through sustainable community development initiatives.

In his address, Ogunbiyi said his administration achieved about 97 percent of the targets under its seven-point agenda.

He highlighted key projects, including the renovation and equipping of the ***Radio Nigeria*** Ibadan Staff Clinic, sickle cell awareness campaigns for young people, and the sponsorship of WAEC registration fees for 45 inmates in correctional centres.

Ogunbiyi urged members to give support to the new administration to enable it to surpass the achievements recorded during his tenure.

The vice-chancellor of Summit University, Offa, Professor Abiodun Aibinu, traced the evolution of poverty reduction strategies from traditional approaches to modern methods driven by information and digital technology.

USDA-TRACE begins distribution of hybrid cocoa seedlings to farmers

By Gbenga Olumide

THE United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Trade and Climate Resilience Enhancement (TRACE) project has begun the distribution of hybrid cocoa seedlings to farmers across communities in Ekiti State as part of efforts to revive cocoa production and improve the livelihood of local farmers.

Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Security, Mr. Ebenezer Boluwade, disclosed this in a statement, describing the exercise as a major step towards achieving the government's target of raising 10 million improved cocoa seedlings over the next 10 years.

He said the initiative is aimed at restoring Ekiti's position as one of the country's leading cocoa-producing states.

Boluwade explained that the programme is being implemented through a partnership involving the USDA TRACE project, the Cocoa Research Institute of Nigeria (CRIN) and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).

He said the collaboration is promoting sustainable cocoa production, improved traceability and higher-quality cocoa to enhance the competitiveness of Ekiti cocoa in the international market.

He said improved hybrid pods were earlier distributed to selected farmers in the state.

The commissioner added that the farmers, together with members of Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) established under the USDA TRACE project, nurtured the pods into healthy seedlings, which are now being distributed for planting on farms.

He said beneficiaries are also receiving hands-on training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), including proper spacing, recommended planting methods, climate-smart farming techniques and the integration of compatible shade trees to improve productivity and strengthen resilience to climate change.

Boluwade noted that the project encourages responsible cocoa production by promoting environmentally friendly farming practices that discourage deforestation and child labour while ensuring compliance with international export standards.

He declared that officials of the USDA TRACE project will continue to monitor the growth and performance of the distributed seedlings, while providing continuous technical support to farmers to ensure adherence to recommended agronomic practices.

He assured farmers that compatible shade tree seedlings will be supplied to complement the cocoa plantations and improve climate adaptation.

The commissioner said the distribution and sensitisation exercise is ongoing across communities in the state, as he expressed confidence that the encouraging response from beneficiary farmers reflects growing trust in the initiative, which is expected to boost cocoa production, improve household incomes and support the state's goal of producing one million improved cocoa seedlings annually over the next decade.

Lenuwa of Ode-Omi joins ancestors

Tola Adenubi | Lagos

THE Lenuwa of Ode-Omi, Oba Folailu Adekunle Hassan Osoteku II, has joined his ancestors.

In a statement by the Osoteku royal family, Oba Hassan passed away on June 30.

The statement, a copy of which was made available to the ***Nigerian Tribune*** by the Lakoro Media Team said: "It is with sorrow and total submission to the will of Almighty God that the Osoteku royal family of Ode-Omi Kingdom announces the passing of our beloved patriarch and revered monarch, Oba Hassan, who peacefully joined his ancestors on June 30.

"Oba Hassan was a visionary leader, a custodian of our rich cultural heritage, and a symbol of peace, wisdom, and unity.

"Throughout his reign, he devoted himself wholeheartedly to the progress, development, and wellbeing of his subjects. His exemplary leadership, fatherly counsel, and commitment to his people will forever remain a source of inspiration.

"As we mourn this great monarch, we pray that God grants his soul eternal rest and gives the family, the chiefs, the people of Ode-Omi, and others the strength and to bear the irreparable loss."

Rural communities rally behind RAAMP, pledge to protect road infrastructure

Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

THE people of rural communities in Kogi State have reaffirmed their commitment to safeguarding the road infrastructure provided under the Kogi Rural Access and Agricultural Marketing Project (KG-RAAMP), as the process of establishing community-based Road Maintenance Groups (RMGs) gathers momentum across the project's intervention areas.

The development marks a significant step in RAAMP's sustainability strategy, which seeks to ensure that rehabilitated and newly constructed rural roads continue to serve farming communities, traders and other road users long after the project's completion.

At various sensitisation meetings held in the state's intervention communities, stakeholders, including traditional rulers, community leaders, market women, youth groups and farmers, unanimously pledged their support for the initiative.

They assured the project of their readiness to protect the roads from misuse and actively participate in maintenance efforts.

Many stakeholders described the roads as life-changing investments that have improved access to markets, reduced transportation challenges, enhanced economic activities and generally improved the quality of life in their communities.

They stressed that preserving the infrastructure has become a collective responsibility and promised to work closely with the State Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) to ensure the roads remain functional for future generations.

Speaking during the sensitisation exercise, the Project Coordinator of KG-RAAMP, Sheidu Obansa Adamu, explained that the formation of the RMGs is designed to strengthen community ownership of the road assets and guarantee their long-term sustainability.

Represented by team leaders deployed to the state's three senatorial districts, the coordinator noted that the composition of the maintenance groups aligns with the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), which promote inclusiveness and equal opportunity.

According to him, special consideration is being given to women, persons living with disabilities (PLWDs), vulnerable groups and other able-bodied members of the communities.

He emphasised that the benefits of RAAMP extend beyond road construction, describing the project as a comprehensive rural development intervention that is transforming livelihoods and creating economic opportunities across the state.

Obansa commended Governor Usman Ododo for his commitment to rural development and infrastructural transformation, while acknowledging the leadership and support of the Commissioner for Rural and Energy Development, Abdulmutalib Mohammed, in advancing the project's objectives.

The ongoing formation of the maintenance groups follows a recent visit by officials of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), who engaged the SPIU on community-based road maintenance mechanisms and the modalities for implementing the programme.

Ibadan Province Lions Club provides borehole to Akinware community

By Olawale Olaniyan

RESIDENTS of Akinware community in Ido Local Government Area of Oyo State have celebrated the inauguration of a solar-powered borehole donated by the Ibadan Providence Lions Club, ending years of inadequate access to potable water.

The project, valued at N5 million, was inaugurated as part of the club's humanitarian service initiatives aimed at improving the living conditions of rural communities.

Speaking at the ceremony, the chartered president of the Ibadan club, Mrs. Biobele Adebule, described the project as a milestone for the newly chartered club, inaugurated in May., and had brought relief to residents of the area.

Adebule said the borehole was the club's first service project, initiated after the first vice president, Mogaji Ishola Gbenla, informed members about the community's longstanding lack of access to safe water.

She explained that providing humanitarian services is one of the core missions of Lions Clubs International, adding that members unanimously agreed to execute the project, which cost over N5 million.

The club president urged the government at all levels to pay more attention to rural communities by providing essential infrastructure, including potable water, quality healthcare, schools and good roads.

She noted that if a club of about 20 members could execute such a project, governments have the capacity to do much more.

The District Governor of Lions Clubs International District 404B2, Mr. Adebowale Afolayan, commended the members of the club for executing a project that will have a lasting impact on the community, describing access to clean water as essential for healthy living.

Afolayan urged residents to take ownership of the facility by ensuring its proper maintenance and protecting it from vandals, stressing that well-maintained projects, it encourages donors and development partners to undertake more interventions.

Also, Mogaji Gbenla, appealed to residents to safeguard the borehole and use it responsibly so as to continue to serve future generations.

Responding on behalf of the community, the Baale of Akinware, Chief Mutiu Akanbi, expressed appreciation to the Ibadan club, describing the project as a life-changing intervention.

He assured the club that the community will properly maintain the facility to ensure its sustainability.

The District Governor of Lions Club International District 404B4, Mr Adebowale Afolayan (fourth left); Chartered President, Ibadan Providence Lions Club, Biobele Adebule (fifth left), and others, during the inauguration of borehole, at Akinware community, Oyo State. Photo: Olawale Olaniyan

Etsu Kwali celebrates completed Gomani-Yangoji road

Lawrence Bajah | Abuja

THE Etsu Kwali, Luka Nizassan III, has described the newly constructed Gomani – Dafa – Yangoji road, in Kwali Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), as a major milestone in the area.

Nizassan told journalists on the sideline of the inauguration of the project, at Dafa that the road was a long-awaited answer to the prayers of his people.

He commended President Bola Tinubu and FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, for responding to the cries and prayers of his people.

"We feel delighted that this part of the area council is benefiting from government intervention. There is nothing happier than having you make demands and the demands have been met." he stated.

He said the road holds deep historical and economic significance for the region.

The Etsu said that it is one of the oldest routes in the old Abuja Emirate, now Suleja Emirate, dating back to the colonial era when it was used by emissaries for tax collection.

He said that despite its contribution to Nigeria's development, the corridor has suffered decades of total neglect.

He said that the new road will not only revitalise the economy of the area but also enhance security.

He disclosed that before the construction, the road deteriorated to a level that severely hindered law enforcement and crippled economic activities.

Nizassan pointed out that Kwali, being predominantly an agrarian, would benefit immensely from the road that directly links four vital political wards—connecting Yangoji on the main express to Dafa, Gomani, and Pai.

Let's unite to advance Atikori's development, monarch urges indigenes

THE Kegbo of Atikori kingdom, Oba Ibitoye Solaja, has urged indigenes of Atikori Kingdom, to unite in promoting the growth and development of their ancestral community.

The monarch made the appeal during a media interview at his palace in Atikori, Ijebu-Igbo, ahead of the celebration of his Silver Jubilee coronation in December.

Oba Solaja said the continued progress of the kingdom depends on the commitment, unity and contributions of its people, irrespective of where they reside, urging them to deploy their knowledge, resources and experience for the benefit of the community.

He noted that Atikori has produced many distinguished professionals, including vice-chancellors, professors, medical doctors, engineers, architects, entrepreneurs and writers, whose expertise should be harnessed to advance the kingdom.

The traditional ruler said Atikori has historically provided leadership in Ijebu-Igbo, enjoins the community to continue to set the pace through unity, vision and selfless service while preserving its rich cultural heritage.

Oba Solaja also appealed to the Ogun and federal governments to increase the investment in Atikori Kingdom, the community hosts Abraham Adesanya Polytechnic and the Nigerian Correctional Service Academy, two institutions of significant educational value.

He said improved infrastructure and greater government investment will unlock the kingdom's educational and economic potential and accelerate development in the community.

The monarch expressed gratitude to God for His faithfulness throughout his 25 years on the throne and prayed for continued peace, progress and prosperity in Atikori.

He disclosed that activities marking the silver jubilee will include the inauguration of community development projects, installation of new chiefs, praise concert, special thanksgiving service and other programmes showcasing the kingdom's cultural heritage and developmental achievements.

Oba Solaja called on indigenes, friends of Atikori Kingdom and well-wishers to participate in the celebration, expected to attract traditional rulers, government officials, diplomats, captains of industry, professionals and Atikori indigenes from across Nigeria and the diaspora.

Ododo hails Ekinrin-Adde's self-help development initiative, backs community projects

Yekini Jimoh | Lokoja

KOGI State governor, Alhaji Usman Ododo, has applauded the people of Ekinrin-Adde in Ijumu Local Government Area of the state for their commitment to grassroots development through self-help initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of residents.

The governor, represented by his deputy, Joel Salifu Oyibo, gave the commendation at the 2026 Ekinrin-Adde Community Day celebration, where the community launched a N750 million fundraising to finance developmental projects.

Describing the initiative as a shining example of unity, patriotism and collective responsibility, Ododo said the community's determination to fund projects through self-help reflects a shared vision for sustainable development.

He urged other communities in the state to emulate Ekinrin-Adde people by complementing government efforts in the provision of essential infrastructure and social amenities.

The governor commended the community for preserving its rich cultural heritage, noting that the annual celebration has continued to promote the history, identity and traditions of the people.

In his address, chairman of Ijumu Local Government Area, Alhaji Ibrahim Haruna, who represented the chairman of the occasion, Olusoji Otitoju, said the annual celebration was designed to mobilise support for community-driven development, while preserving the cultural heritage of Ekinrin-Adde.

Haruna said the community remains committed to improving the quality of life of its people through partnerships capable of attracting meaningful development.

He commended the governor for strengthening security in Ekinrin-Adde and other parts of Okunland, noting that the administration's efforts has enhanced the safety of lives and property.

The event attracted representatives of the governors of Ekiti and Borno states, Mr. Biodun Oyebanji and Professor Babagana Zulum, respectively.

We Remember Kabiyesi Today As Always

7th July 2025 will be forever etched in our hearts as the date of your transition to eternal glory.

Today, one year after, we celebrate your life of impact and service to humanity.

Your footprints in the sands of time have left an indelible mark that will continue to shine for generations to come.

Kabiyesi, we miss you dearly and affectionately but will continue to celebrate with pride the enduring legacy of our father and grandfather.

Oba Akinloye Owolabi OLAKULEHIN
43rd Olubadan of Ibadan land

Signed:

Children & Grandchildren

Lest we forget: With Makinde's reform, pensioners now have a new lease of life

By Sulaimon Olanrewaju

ON Tuesday, June 26, 2018 in Ibadan, the Oyo State High Court corridors were filled not with lawyers in crisp suits, but with weary and worried pensioners clutching faded documents. Their faces told stories of decades of service in classrooms and council offices, now overshadowed by years of waiting.

It was the hearing of a suit filed by the Nigeria Union of Pensioners (NUP), Oyo State Council, against the then governor of the state, Senator Abiola Ajimobi, and five other top officials of the state. The union had dragged the government before the High Court over ₦42.3 billion unpaid gratuities and pensions for retired primary school teachers and local government pensioners. The figure was staggering, but for the retirees, it was beyond mere numbers; it was meals they couldn't afford, the medication they couldn't access, the responsibilities they couldn't meet, and the dignity they had lost.

The union's counsel, Lasun Sanusi (SAN), painted a grim picture of the pensioners' plight before Justice Maruf Adegbola. He said: "Primary school teachers and local government pensioners are dying almost daily because they cannot afford medications for their health challenges." The courtroom fell silent, the words echoing the desperation of thousands of senior citizens.

Outside, the pensioners gathered in clusters, some leaning on walking sticks, others supported by their children. They spoke of promises broken, of agreements to pay arrears in instalments that never materialised. Representatives of the Nigeria Labour Congress stood with them, amplifying their cries for justice.

Speaking at a press conference, the then state chairman of the union, Comrade Gbadegesin Akande, said the decision to institute a suit against the governor and others was a consequence of the roguish disposition of the government towards pensioners' welfare, which resulted in the hoary heads, who had invested their youthful years in the service of the state, being subjected to agonising hardship and excruciating denigration. He explained that their recourse to the courts became a Hobson's choice following the failure of the government to attend to the series of letters that had been written, endless pleas that had been made, and even countless protests that the union had embarked upon to get the government to address its plight.

But despite their resort to litigation, not much changed for the pensioners; pensions were still owed and gratuities were still unpaid.

At another press conference jointly addressed by the Secretary of the NUP, Comrade Segun Abatan, and the Secretary of the Association of Retired Primary School Teachers, Comrade Tunji Ogunwale, on May 4, 2019, the duo lamented the plight of pensioners and accused the outgoing administration of Governor Abiola Ajimobi of owing N62.5bn in pensions and gratuities.

Speaking at the press conference, Comrade Ogunwale said: "Today, Oyo State Government is owing us N62.5billion. That is the amount of gratuities left unpaid. I am personally being owed 35 months pension arrears. They are owing some of us 60 months, some 55 and some 40 months. It varies from eight to 60 months. He (Governor Ajimobi) has never paid anybody any gratuity in the last eight years. If we had not gone to court, that means he would not have deemed it fit to pay a kobo for eight years."

So, for pensioners in Oyo State, up to May 2019, life was rough, tough and torturous. It was marked by hardship, uncertainty, and indignity. Many retirees who had served the state faithfully for decades suddenly found themselves struggling to survive, as their pensions and gratuities were either delayed or paid in fractions. The government owed billions in arrears, and the elderly were left to bear the brunt of financial neglect. Their plight became a recurring headline, with protests and court actions reflecting the depth of their suffering.

For many of these senior citizens already in the twilight of their lives, with children already grown and independent, there was no steady support system. So, feeding became a major challenge and getting money to buy the needed medication for their ailments became a nightmare. Many retirees sold property to survive, and some even died while waiting for what was theirs. The situation robbed many of them of the dignity and honour of old age. They were forced into begging or, for those of them who could muster enough strength, taking up menial jobs as security guards or gatemen.

But when Comrades Abatan and Ogunwale held the press conference in May 2019, little did they realise how close the pensioners were to the change they had always wanted. On the 29th of that month, while being inaugurated as the Executive Governor of Oyo State for the first tenure at the iconic Liberty Stadium, Engineer Seyi Makinde made a promise that no longer would pensions be delayed or paid in percentages in the state. He then donated his entire salary as governor to the state for pension payment. He also promised to clear the backlog of unpaid gratuities. That marked the beginning of the end of the woes that retired civil servants had been subjected to over the years.

Governor Makinde kept his promise to the pensioners and began the implementation immediately. While full pensions were paid alongside workers' salaries, the governor, in 2019, approved the release of ₦500m monthly for gratuity. This was later increased to N1bn monthly in 2024, N1.5bn in 2025, and eventually N3bn monthly in January 2026. Till date, over N25bn gratuity backlog has been cleared with almost 5,000 retirees benefiting. Makinde did not stop at that. In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the governor approved the free enrolment of pensioners into the State Health Insurance Scheme, reaffirming the administration's commitment to ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare for senior citizens. The governor also raised the minimum pension in the state to N25,000. In addition, Governor Makinde approved that all pension increases since 2007, such as the 33 percent pension increase of 2010 and the consequential adjustment of 2019, be factored into the pensions of affected pensioners. With that, Oyo State pensioners became the highest paid in the country.

The consistency in pension payment and commitment to outstanding gratuity defrayment have transformed the life of many a pensioner. For many retirees, the moment they received their gratuity was life-changing. Mrs Modupe Akinola, a retired teacher said, "The day I got my gratuity, I cried." She added, "It was like a burden lifted off my shoulders. I could finally repair my leaking roof."

Equally transformative was the prompt payment of monthly pensions. Unlike what it was in the pre-Makinde era, retirees no longer have to wait for months to receive fractions of their pension. Salaries and pensions are paid side by side, restoring confidence and stability. "I can now buy my drugs without borrowing," said Mr. Adewale Oladipo, a retired civil servant. "Before, I used to skip medication because I couldn't afford it. That nearly killed me."

> The ripple effects of the regular payment of pensions and gratuities have spread to all parts of the state. Pensioners are now supporting their families, paying school fees for grandchildren and contributing to community life. Markets across the state have seen pensioners return as active buyers, injecting funds into local economies.

To express their gratitude to Governor Seyi Makinde for his commitment to their welfare, members of the Nigeria Union of Pensioners, Oyo State Council, organised an appreciation rally in front of the Governor's Office, Oyo State Government Secretariat in 2025.

Speaking at the rally, the Secretary, Comrade Olusegun Abatan, said: "16 years before you took over the mantle of government in Oyo State, pensioners had no government that was sympathetic and empathetic to their plights. Gratuities were not paid as and when due, pensions of those times were withheld or paid in instalments and all entreaties to the governments fell on deaf ears, resulting in massive deaths of our members.

"At one point, Oyo State pensioners were referred to as dead people and in actual fact, we were dying like fowls afflicted by Newcastle disease. When you contested for the first term, we just wanted anybody that would liberate us from the shackles of death and we went ahead to vote en masse for you. We did the same thing when you threw your hat into the ring for a second term.

"You have not disappointed us. Our pensions became regular; you started paying our gratuities that were criminally held down for a whole eight years."

The ripple effects of the regular payment of pensions and gratuities have spread to all parts of the state. Pensioners are now supporting their families, paying school fees for grandchildren and contributing to community life. Markets across the state have seen pensioners return as active buyers, injecting funds into local economies. The protests that once filled the streets of Ibadan have petered out. Pensioners no longer need placards to demand justice; they receive it quietly, through bank alerts. Clearing the backlog has also had psychological impact. Retirees speak of sleeping better, of reduced anxiety, of feeling valued again. "We no longer feel abandoned," says Mrs. Akinola. "We feel like citizens whose service is appreciated."

Transparency is another hallmark of Makinde's pension reform. Pensioners can track payments, confident that the system is no longer shrouded in secrecy. Families that were fractured by financial strain have begun to heal, as pensioners have now reclaimed their role as providers and respected elders.

Today, as a result of Governor Makinde's pensions reform, the average Oyo State pensioner lives a transformed life. From despair to dignity, from neglect to recognition, Governor Makinde's intervention has rewritten the story of retirement in Oyo State. Pensioners now live with peace of mind, their golden years restored to what they should be: a time of rest, respect, and pride.

In Ibadan, where pensioners once gathered in protest, the atmosphere today is strikingly different. Governor Seyi Makinde's administration has transformed the pension landscape in Oyo State, turning years of neglect into a story of relief, dignity, and hope. His reforms are not just about numbers; they are about human lives restored, they are about honouring the social contract, they are about giving the senior citizens their due.

Dr Olanrewaju is the Special Adviser (Media) to the Governor of Oyo State.

32 killed in Kwara, Ogun, Kogi road crashes

·FRSC blames driver fatigue, dangerous driving

Biola Azeez, Ilorin, Olayinka Olukoya, Abeokuta and Yekini Jimoh Lokoja

IN Ilorin, Kwara State capital, a total of 15 persons, all males, reportedly lost their lives in an auto crash at the Muslim cemetery, along Ogbomoso-Oko Olowo route on Ilorin-Jebba expressway.

A Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) report reports that the lone accident, which occurred at about 2:32 am on Monday, involved a trailer vehicle DAF XF with registration number: GWL274XC, which was carrying a total of 48 people (all males).

Seventeen 17 people sustained varying degrees of injury.

It attributed the cause of the accident to fatigue on the part of the driver, adding that the types of injury sustained include fracture, dislocation and bruises.

The auto crash was confirmed by the FRSC Sector Commander, Kabiru Babatunde Kazeem.

Kazeem said the injured victims had been taken to Arewa Medical Centre and Baki Hospital for medical attention, while the corpses had been handed over to the representative of the families and the Sarkin Hausawa, Oko Olowo in the Moro Local Government Area of Kwara State.

In Ogun, 10 persons were reported killed, while several others were injured in a road crash at Sapade Bridge, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, in Ogun State on Sunday night.

The FRSC, Ogun Sector Command, said the accident occurred at about 8:05 p.m. and involved a Dangote Sinotruk truck and a Toyota Hiace commercial bus.

According to the Sector Public Education Officer, Superintendent Route Commander Afolabi Odunsi, a total of 18 persons were involved in the crash, comprising 15 adult males, two adult females and one male child.

Ten persons (nine adult males and one male child) died in the accident, while six others, made up of four adult males and two adult females, sustained injuries.

The FRSC attributed the crash to speed violation, wrongful overtaking and dangerous driving.

According to the statement from the FRSC, the truck driver allegedly reversed on the highway after missing his route, while the approaching commercial bus, said to be travelling at high speed, rammed the truck.

FRSC rescue teams evacuated the injured victims to the Victory Hospital, Ogere, for treatment, while the bodies of the deceased were deposited at the FOS Mortuary, Ipara.

The corps added that personnel of the Nigeria Police Force from the Ishara Division had taken custody of the accident vehicles, while the obstruction had been cleared to ensure the free flow of traffic.

Reacting to the incident, the Ogun Sector Commander, Corps Commander Oludare Ogunjobi, commiserated with the families of the deceased and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

He also cautioned motorists, especially commercial drivers and truck operators, against reversing on highways, excessive speeding, dangerous driving and other traffic violations.

In a similar development, no fewer than seven persons lost their lives, while three others sustained injuries in an accident that occurred along the Okene–Osara–Lokoja Highway in Kogi State.

The FRSC confirmed that the tragic incident involved a commercial Toyota Sienna bus and a stationary heavy-duty truck that was undergoing repairs in Osara.

The Kogi State Sector Commander of the FRSC, Lawal Fagge, told reported in Lokoja on Monday that the commercial bus was travelling from Auchi in Edo State to Abuja.

He attributed the crash to excessive speeding, driver fatigue and a blowout, which caused the driver to lose control before ramming the parked truck.

According to him, six passengers aboard the Sienna bus died instantly, while the motor boy of the stationary truck also lost his life.

The three injured victims were rescued by FRSC personnel and taken to a nearby hospital for medical treatment, while the remains of the deceased were deposited at a morgue.

Fagge urged motorists to obey traffic regulations by avoiding excessive speeding, ensuring their vehicles are in good condition, remaining alert while driving and exercising caution when approaching broken-down or stationary vehicles.

From left: Chairman, House Committee on Customs and Excise, Hon. Leke Abejide; deputy chairman of the committee, Hon. Shehu Hussaini, and Comptroller-General, Nigeria Customs Service, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, during the Custom's 2026 budget defence session with the committee, at the National Assembly in Abuja...on Monday. Photo: Sunday Osunrayi

Police arrest 153 recover arms, ammunition, military camouflage ,unregistered motorcycles at Lagos dump site

Olalekan Olabulo | Lagos

OPERATIVES of the Operation Kosaye ,which was recently launched by the Inspector General of Police ,Olatunji Disu to fight kidnapping and banditry in Lagos and Ogun states have arrested 153 (one hundred and fifty three suspected criminals at a dump site in the Igando area of Lagos State .

The security operatives also recovered : hundred (100) unregistered motorcycles, fifty-four (54) mobile phones, one (1) double-barrel gun, two (2) single-barrel guns, one (1) locally made double-barrel short gun, two (2) military camouflage uniforms, assorted charms, six (6) generators suspected to have been stolen, substances suspected to be Indian-hemp and various quantities of illicit drugs from the arrested suspects .

The image maker in charge of the state police command ,Abimbola Adebisi confirmed the arrest of the suspects on Monday evening .

Adebisi in a statement said " As part of the ongoing Operation KO S'AYE, the Lagos State Police Command has sustained its aggressive clearance operations against criminal hideouts across the State, in line with the Command's commitment to ensuring that there is no safe haven for criminals."

The police image maker also stated that " On Sunday, 5th July, 2026, at about 5:45 a.m., acting on credible intelligence, a joint team of operatives drawn from different formations of the Command carried out a coordinated raid on criminal hideouts at Boolar, Okofilling Bus Stop, Igando, and other identified black spots within the Area M, Idimu axis.

The operation was aimed at flushing out hoodlums and other criminal elements terrorizing the area."

She also stated that " During the operation, a total of one hundred and fifty suspects were arrested. Exhibits recovered include one hundred unregistered motorcycles, fifty-four mobile phones, one double-barrel gun, two single-barrel guns, one locally made double-barrel short gun, two military camouflage uniforms, assorted charms, six generators suspected to have been stolen, substances suspected to be Indian-hemp and various quantities of illicit drugs.

All the suspects are currently in Police custody, while investigations are ongoing to determine their individual culpability. Those found to have committed criminal offences will be charged to court accordingly."

The Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, CP Tijani Fatai, commended the operatives for their professionalism and dedication to duty.

He reaffirmed the command's unwavering commitment to the continued implementation of Operation KO S'AYE, stressing that the operation will be sustained across the State to deny criminals any safe haven and ensure the safety and security of all residents of the state .

The Lagos CP also urged members of the public to continue providing timely and credible information that will assist the Police in identifying criminal hideouts, apprehending offenders, and enhancing public safety across Lagos State.

Again, gunmen kill six, injure many in Plateau

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

GUNMEN have launched another coordinated murderous attack in three communities in Riyom and Barakin Local Government areas of Plateau State, killing six people and injuring many more.

The marauders on Saturday and Sunday launched separate attacks on Ta-Hoss, Kwi and Sabon Layi communities of Riyom and Barkin Ladi local governments respectively.

A statement signed by the publicity secretary, Berom Youth Moulders Association (BYM), Rwang Tengwong, said the gunmen operating from the Fulani Settlement in Bangai axis attacked farmers on their farmland at Rinyan Village in Ta-Hoss Community.

They shot dead one Mrs. Hudung Luka (aged 40) and critically injured another woman, Mrs. Ladi Istifanus. Later that same night, the gunmen invaded Sabon Layi Community in Barkin Ladi Local Government and murdered another three persons, simply identified as Sunday, Benjamin James and Godwin Yakubu.

According to the BYM, the gunmen struck again in the early hours of Sunday, killing one Mr. Peter Bulus in Kwi Village, Riyom Local Government Area in attacks the group described as part of a long standing pattern of violence directed at innocent civilians, farmers and rural communities.

"This disturbing development calls for immediate, intelligence-driven security operations to identify, dismantle, and neutralize these camps before more innocent lives are lost. Security agencies must act proactively rather than waiting to respond after attacks have occurred," it pleaded.

However, the spokesman of the Plateau State Police Command, SP Alfred Alabo, could not be reached on the incident.

Police impound 81 vehicles in Kano over covered number plates

Kola Oyelere | Kano

THE Kano State police command has impounded 81 vehicles for violating regulations on the display of vehicle registration number plates as part of a statewide enforcement operation aimed at improving security and curbing criminal activities across the state.

The Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Adamu Bakori, disclosed this while briefing journalists in Kano on the ongoing exercise, codenamed Operation Clean Plates, which is being conducted across the 44 local government areas of the state.

Bakori said the affected motorists would be prosecuted in accordance with the law, explaining that the operation targets vehicles with concealed, defaced or improperly displayed number plates.

According to him, the deliberate concealment of vehicle registration numbers has become a tactic frequently exploited by criminals to evade identification and frustrate law enforcement efforts after committing offences.

He stressed that the command would not allow Kano State to become a safe haven for criminal elements using vehicles with altered or covered number plates.

news

Police arrest *Asoleke* masquerade over alleged murder of 24-year-old in Ibadan

By Rukiyat Ogunwade

OYO State Police Command has arrested *Asoleke* masquerade in connection with the alleged murder of a 24-year-old man, Sefiu Kehinde, in Labiran area of Ibadan, the state capital.

In a statement, the spokesman for the command, Ayanlade Olayinka , stated that the murder case was reported at the Mapo Divisional Police Headquarters, on Sunday, by one Mrs Aderemi.

According to him, Mrs Aderemi told the police that she received a distress call from her elder sister at about 4p.m, on Sunday, that the masquerade and its followers, while parading through Labiran, allegedly attacked her younger brother, Sefiu Kehinde, with axes and cutlasses, inflicting severe injuries on his body.

According to the spokesman, "Upon receipt of the report, a team of police operatives, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mapo Division, swiftly mobilised to the scene.

"The victim was taken to the hospital for urgent medical attention, but was confirmed dead on arrival by the medical doctor on duty."

"Police operatives processed the scene and documented it with photographs. The deceased's family was subsequently allowed to take the corpse for burial in accordance with Islamic rite.

"The police confirmed that the *Asoleke* masquerade has been arrested, while four of his alleged followers remain at large."

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Abimbola Olugbemiga, directed that the case be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), for further investigation.

"The command wishes to assure members of the public that efforts are ongoing to arrest the remaining perpetrators."

He urged residents of the state to remain calm and provide credible information to assist the investigation.

The police reiterated its commitment to the protection of lives and property, and vowed to take decisive action against all forms of criminality in the state.

Edo warns cultists against 7/7 celebration, arrests two suspects with pump-action guns

Idahosa Moses | Benin

EDO State government, on Monday, warned suspected cultists, particularly members of the Black Axe confraternity, against celebrating the annual 7/7 Founders' Day in any part of the state, declaring that anyone caught would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

The warning came as security operatives arrested two suspected cultists in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area and Auchi, Etsako West Local Government Area, respectively.

The suspects were reportedly apprehended with two pump-action guns during an operation, led by the Principal Security Officer to Governor Monday Okpebholo.

Addressing journalists in Benin, spokesman for the Edo State Security Squad, codenamed ***Operation Flush Out Kidnappers and Cultism***, Noah Idemudia, said the arrests followed actionable intelligence.

He warned cult groups in the state to abandon any plan to mark the 7/7 celebration.

"We are warning those involved in criminal activities in the state to move away from the state," he said.

"You cannot carry out that action in Edo State. If they have the plan, it is better to cancel the intention to celebrate Founders Day. If you are caught, that will be your nemesis."

Idemudia also reminded business owners that the July 31 deadline for the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in their premises remained in force, urging them to comply before enforcement begins.

"We advise business owners to abide by the directive. The governor has given a deadline that by August 1, all business owners must have CCTV. We will go round to force business owners to install CCTV," he said.

The security spokesman said the CCTV initiative is aimed at strengthening surveillance and enhancing efforts to combat crime and criminality across the state.

The suspects, however, told security operatives that they had renounced their membership of the cult group.

They admitted they were not licenced to possess the firearms recovered from them.

MINISTRY OF LANDS AND PHYSICAL PLANNING OSOGBO, OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

LAND USE ACT NO. 6 OF 1978 (ADVERTISEMENT NO. 2 OF 2026)

S/N	NAMES	ADDRESS/LOCATION	PLAN NO/AREA	PILLAR NO.	PURPOSE.
1.	DE-HORSE GLOBAL VENTURES LUA/AUT/0039	OFF GBONGAN/ OSOGBO ROAD, ON ESIN NLA FAMILY LAND, ELEWURE VILLAGE AKODA, EDE NORTH	OS/3738/2024/076/ 63334.089m ^{2}	SC/OS BC7959KM-SC/OS BC7960KM-SC/OS BC7961KM-SC/OS BC7962KM-SC/OS BC7963KM-SC/OS BC7964M-SC/OS BC7965KM-SC/OS BC7966KM-SC/OS BC7967KM-SC/OS BC7968KM-SC/OS BC7969KM-SC/OS BC7970KM	AGRICULTURAL
2.	MR. YUSUF OLATUNJI OLARIBIGBE LUA/AUT/0062	OLUODE ATURUKU FAMILY LAND OFF OSOGBO - ILESA ROAD OLORUNSOGO COMMUNITY, ILESA GARAGE OKE IJETU OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/2583/2022/091/ 517.517m ^{2}	SC/OS AV6683GP-SC/OS AV6684GP-SC/OS AV6685GP-SC/OS AV6686GP	RESIDENTIAL
3.	MR. ALIMI WASIU OPEYEMI LAU/AUT/0051	ILUPEJU GANTRY AREA OFF UNIVERSITY ROAD IKIRE, IREWOLE	OS/3266/2019/045/ 451.684m ^{2}	SC/OS AG4083 HR-SC/OS AG4084 HR-SC/OS AG4085 HR-SC/OS AG4086 HR-	RESIDENTIAL
4.	MR. AKINWOLE HEZEKIAH AKINTUNDE LUA/AUT/0057	BEING AT PLOT 1 & 2, BLOCK B, ON PA DOSU OLATUNJI LAYOUT PHASE 1 ALONG MOKURO ROAD ILE-IFE, IFE-EAST	OS/1188/2024/099/ 1152.023m ^{2}	SC/OS AF5433FS-SC/OSAF5437,SC/OS AL1680FS	RESIDENTIAL
5.	MR. OLAKANMI ABDULLAHI OLAGOKE AND MRS. ALABI FAYZAH OLATEJU LUA/AUT/0031	ALONG OBA ROAD, BOLORUNDURO COMMUNITY, AGANGA AREA OSOGBO, OLORUNDA	OS/3345/2020/076/ 1779.748m ^{2}	SC/OS AK6591HT- SC/OS AK6592HT-SC/OS AK6593HT-SC/OS AK6594HT	RESIDENTIAL
6.	ENGR. ADISA UTHMAN ADEKUNLE LUA/AUT/0053	OFF OSOGBO, IWO ROAD, BOLANLE AREA , FAJOBI ESTATE IDO-OSUN, EGBEDORE	OS/3345/2018/137/ 456.924m ^{2}	SC/OS AD3800HT-SC/OS AD3801HT-SC/OS AD3802HT-SC/OS AD3803HT	RESIDENTIAL
7.	MR. ADEDAYO AUGUSTINE FAPONLE LUA/AUT/0063	BEING PLOT 3, BLOCK C ON CHIEF DAVID FASINA OLAOLUWA FAMILY LAYOUOT, AT APESIN FARM, OFF IWO ROAD OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/0829/2024/54/ 455.997m ^{2}	SAN 7365-SAN 7366 SAN 7357-SAN 7358	RESIDENTIAL
8.	AYODEJI TEMITAYO FATUNMBI LUA/AUT/0050	ON AKILE FAMILY LAND ALONG IFE - ILESA EXPRESS ROAD ILE-IFE, IFE-CENTRAL	OS/1152/2024/149/ 3849.011m ^{2}	SAR 2696-SAR 2696-SAR 2701-SAR 2702	AGRICULTURAL
9.	MR. OYEWALE JOHN OLAYEMI LUA/AUT/0055	OFF EDE/AISU ROAD EDEDIMEJI AREA EDE, EDE	OS/2134/2025/007/ 1172.625m ^{2}	SC/OS Y7427FK-SC/OS Y7428FK-SC/OS Y7429FK-SC/OS Y7430FK-SC/OS Y7431FK-SC/OS Y7432FK-	RESIDENTIAL
10.	MRS FATIMOH FEYISARA SALAUDEEN LUA/AUT/0056	PLOT 31, ROAD 2, ZONE E AT GOLDEN ESTATE, IGI GOGORO IDO-OSUN, EGBEDORE	OS/4708/2025/011/ 16600m ^{2}	SC/OSBH0630QV-SC/OSBH06310QV-SC/OSBH0632QV-SC/OSBH0633QV	COMMERCIAL
11.	MR. OLUFEMI AKINOLA OGUNTUYI LUA/AUT/0052	OFF GBONGAN/OSOGBO ROAD, BACK OF OLD GOVS OFFICE OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/894/2021/06/ 1179.6m ^{2}	SC/OS AM 7804L-SC/OS AM 7805L-SC/OS AM 7806L-SC/OS AM 7807L	RESIDENTIAL
12.	OLASEEWO & SONS LUA/AUT/0047	ALONG IGBAJO ROAD ADA, BORIPE	OS/1787/2025/062/ 443.631m ^{2}	SC/OS J4422DZ-SC/OS J4423DZ- SC/OS J4424DZ- SC/OS J4425DZ	COMMERCIAL
13.	MISS. ARILEWOLA GRACE OLAITAN LUA/AUT/0064	BEING BLOCK L, PLLOT 31, ON FADEYI RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, BEHIND IFEOLUWA GRAM. SCHOOL OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/5632/2025/036/ 649.892m ^{2}	SC/OS BG7973NZ-SC/OS BG7974NZ-SC/OS BG795NZ-SC/OS BG7976NZ	RESIDENTIAL
14.	DR. BUARI TIRIMISIYU ABIODUN LUA/AUT/0054	OFF LOOGUN/EDE ROAD, ASIPADE FAMILY LAND, ABANI AREA EDE, EDE	OS/3844/2024/050/ 20400m ^{2}	SC/OS BF5918KG-SC/OS BF5919KG-SC/OS BF5920KG-SC/OS BF5921KG-SC/OS BF5922KG-SC/OS BF5923KG	AGRICULTURAL
15.	ACME MECURY LIMITED LUA/AUT/0046	ON IWARO COMMUNITY FARMLAND, AT IWARO COMMUNITY VIA IPETUMODU, IFE NORTH	OS/1188/2025/048/ 931.7m ^{2}	SC/OS BG 2622KA-SC/OS BG 2623KA -SC/OS BG 2624KA-SC/OS BG 2625KA	AGRICULTURAL
16.	ACME MECURY LIMITED LUA/AUT/0045	ON IWARO COMMUNITY FARMLAND, AT IWARO COMMUNITY VIA IPETUMODU, IFE NORTH	OS/1188/2025/034/ 261500m ^{2}	SC/OS BG6831KA-SC/OS BG6841KA	AGRICULTURAL
17.	ACME MERCURY LIMITED LUA/AUT/0044	ON IWARO COMMUNITY FARMLAND, AT IWARO COMMUNITY VIA IPETUMODU, IFE NORTH	OS/1188/2025/034(2)/ 7740.916m ^{2}	SC/OS BG6846KA-SC/OS BE5339CM-SC/OS BG6844KA-SC/OS BG6845KA	AGRICULTURAL
18.	MR. OYEWOLE BABATUNDE PETER AND MRS. OYEWOLE FOLASADE IYABO (OLUWABUKUNMI VENTURES LUA/AUT/0038	ALONG OKE AFO/ OJA OBA ROAD, ALAMINSI MARKET, OKE AFO AREA IKIRUN, IFELODUN	OS/1770/2023/004/ 227.839m ^{2}	SC/OS AW1982EL-SC/OS AW1983EL-SC/OS AW1984EL-SC/OS AW1985EL	COMMERCIAL
19.	ALHAJI BASHIR GBOLAGADE ADEBAYO AND ALHAJA RUKIYAT OLADUNNI ADEBAYO LUA/AUT/0036	ALONG GBONGAN/ OSOGBO ROAD, AREGBE AREA OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/1770/2022/089/ 701.787m ^{2}	SC/OS AS4886EL-SC/OS AS4887EL-SC/OS AS4888EL-SC/OS AS4889EL-	RESIDENTIAL
20.	DOYIN DE BEST LIMITED LUA/AUT/0061	ALONG IBADAN/ IFE EXPRESS WAY, AGBANDA AREA IPETUMODU, IFE NORTH	OS/1378/2024/325/ 23022.486m ^{2}	SC/OS BE3538FZ-SC/OS BE3539FZ-SC/OS BE3540FZ-SC/OS BE3541FZ-	AGRICULTURAL
21.	ALHAJI AZEEZ GANIYU ADEMOLA LUA/AUT/0072	ON EJEMU FAMILY LAND, ODO ARO AREA, OFF OKO ROAD EJIGBO, EJIGBO	OS/1186/2022/120/ 79530m ^{2}	SC/OS AU1082FM-SC/OS AU1083FM-SC/OS AU1084FM-SC/OS AU1085FM-SC/OS AU1086FM-SC/OS AU1087FM-SC/OS AU1088FM-SC/OS AU1089FM-SC/OS AU1090FM-SC/OS AU1091FM-SC/OS AU1092FM-SC/OS AU1093FM	AGRICULTURAL
22.	SANNY NOHAMMED LEATY LUA/AUT/0085	LUCY ADEOTI STREET, ALEKUWODO, OSOGBO OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/1787/2024/135/ 1014.557m ^{2}	SC/OSBB813DZ-SC/OSBB814DZ-SC/OSBB815DZ-SC/OSBB816DZ-SC/OSBB817DZ-SC/OSBB818DZ-	RESIDENTIAL
23.	MR OLAOYE OLANREWAJU TITILAYO & MRS CELESTINA OMOSI TITILAYO LUA/AUT/0067	ON MORAKINYO FAMILY LAND , OFF EDE ROAD ILE-IFE, IFE-CENTRAL	OS/630/2024/045/ 1835.1m ^{2}	SC/OSBC8708CM-SC/OSBC8709CM-SC/OSBC8710CM-SC/OSBC8711CM	RESIDENTIAL
24.	HIS COMING EVANGELICAL CHURCH (CAMP GROUND) LUA/AUT/0068	ALONG IBADAN / IFE EXPRESS WAY, OKEMEFA EBE MAJEROKU, IREWOLE	OS/3950/2024/090/ 39250m ^{2}	SC/OSBC6283KE-SC/OSF2274W-SC/OSF2272W-SC/OSBC6284KE-	COMMERCIAL
25.	FALODE OLUWOLE CALEB LUA/AUT/0096	OFF KELEBE/IRAGBIJI ROAD, AYETORO IDI OGUNGUN AREA, IRAGBIJI IRAGBIJI, BORIPE	OS/894/2023/07/ 715.545m ^{2}	SC/OSAX1182L-SC/OSAX1183L-SC/OSAX1184L-SC/OSAX1185L	RESIDENTIAL
26.	FALODE OLUWOLE CALEB LUA/AUT/0097	OFF KELEBE OSOGB/IRAGBIJI ROAD, MARINFIN AREA IRAGBIJI IRAGBIJI, BORIPE	OS/894/2023/08/ 1014.788m ^{2}	SC/OSAX1186L-SC/OSAX1187L-SC/OSAX1188L-/SCOSAX1189L-SC/OSAX1190L-SC/OSAX1191L	RESIDENTIAL
27.	MR. LUKMAN TUNJI AMINU LUA/AUT/0082	ON IGEGE FAMILY LAND ALONG ONILETE/ IKIRE-ILE ROAD OFF IWO / EJIGBO ROAD IGEGE, IWO	OS/2180/2025/22/ 26620m ^{2}	SC/OSBG7428JC-SC/OSBG7429JC-SC/OSBG7430JC-SC/OCBG7431JC-SC/OSBG7432JC-SC/OSBG7433JC-SC/OSBG7434JC	AGRICULTURAL
28.	HON. ODERINWALE ELISHA AKINYEMI LUA/AUT/0077	OGBURO TOWN VIA IWO, IWO	OS/2616/2024/065/ 12900m ^{2}	SC/OSBA4012LZ-SC/OSBA4013LZ-SC/OSBA4014LZ-SC/OSBA4015LZ	AGRICULTURAL
29.	ALHAJI GBADEGESIN OLUWAFEMI TAOFEEK LUA/AUT/0071	ON IGEGE FAMILY LAND, ALONG IWO/OGBAGBA ROAD IGEGE, OLA OLUWA	OS/350/2024/031/ 433.5m ^{2}	SC/OSBC8108A-SC/OS8109A-SC/OS8110A-SC/OS8111A	RESIDENTIAL
30.	MISS OLUWATOSIN FUNMILOLA ADEJUMO LAU/AUT/0078	BEING PLOTS 24,25,26 ON ALHAJI MARUFU OLASUNKANMI AZEEZ FAMILY LAYOUT OFF OSOGBO/IBOKUN, BEHIND UNI-OSUN MAIN CAMPUS-AMULEGBARO AREA OKE BAALE OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/1388/2016/190(2)/ 1482.79m ^{2}	SC/OSY6391CZ-SC/OSY6392Z-SC/OSY6393Z-SC/OSY6390Z-	RESIDENTIAL
31.	MR. AJAYI ADEYEMI AYODEJI LUA/AUT/0080	AT OKE - OPA ISALU AREA ESA-OKE, OBOKUN	OS/1919/2022/057(1)/ 4152.989m ^{2}	SC/OSAS8597GE-SC/OSAS8598GE-SC/OSAS8599GE-SC/OSAS8600GE-	RESIDENTIAL
32.	CHIEF ABIOLA FALAYAJO LUA/AUT/0074	ON AJITENA FAMILY PROPERTIES, ALONG IWO/IBADAN EXPRESS WAY AJITENA, EJIGBO	OS/4199/2024/067/ 211254.907m ^{2}	SC/OSBC3320KQ-SC/OSBC3321KQ-SC/OSBC3322KQ-SC/OSBC3324KQ-SC/OSBC3325KQ-SC/OSBC3326KQ-SC/OSBC3327KQ-SC/OSBC3328KQ-SC/OSBC3329KQ-SC/OSBC3330KQ-SC/OSAY1142KQ-SC/OSBC3331KQ	AGRICULTURAL
33.	MR. ADIO MONSURU OMOTAYO LUA/AUT/0095	BESIDES REDEEMER UNIVERSITY, OFF OLOGBO VILLAGE ROAD, AKODA AREA, EDE , OSUN STATE . EDE, EDE NORTH	OS/3844/2024/028/ 6000m ^{2}	SC/OS BE 0828 KG-SC/OS BE 0829 KG-SC/OS BE 0830 KG-SC/OS BE 0831 KG-SC/OS BE 0832 KG-	AGRICULTURAL
34.	MR OLUWADAMILARE MOSES ATOYEBI LUA/AUT/0065	ALONG OSOGBO / GBONGAN, VIA OWODE MARKET AREA OWODE EDE, EDE NORTH	OS/1976/2021/067(2)/ 594.043m ^{2}	SC/OSAM3693GD-SC/OSAM3694GD-SC/OSAM3695GD-SC/OSAM3696GD	COMMERCIAL
35.	MR. JIDE OLUFUNMINIYI ELUDIRE LUA/AUT/0083	BEING ON NICHOLAS OLUFEMI OGUNWUSI FAMILY LAND, OFF IBADAN / IFE EXPRESS WAY FASINA AREA ILE-IFE, IFE-CENTRAL	OS/2829/2022/043/ 102980m ^{2}	SC/OS AS 2480HG-SC/OS AS2481HG-SC/OSAS2482HG-SC/OSAS2483HG-SC/OSAS2484HG-SC/OSAS2485HG-SC/OSAS2486HG-SC/OSAS2487HG-SC/OSAS2488HG-SC/OSAS5539HG-SC/OSAS5540HG-SC/OSAS5541HG-SC/OSAS5542HG-SC/OSAS5543HG-SC/OSAS5544HG-SC/OSAN1281HG-SC/OSAN1279HG- SC/OS AN 2208HG-SC/OSAN1280HG-SC/OS AS 5545HG-	AGRICULTURAL
36.	LASISI AYANKUNLE MARUFF LUA/AUT/0079	OFF OBA / IKIRUN ROAD, FIDIBOMI AREA IKIRUN, IFELODUN	OS/3964/2025/064/ 1798.271m ^{2}	SC/OS BH4116JZ-SC/OS BH4117JZ-SC/OS BH4118JZ-SC/OS BH4119JZ-SC/OS BH4120JZ-SC/OS BH4121JZ-	RESIDENTIAL
37.	PRIMTS LIMITED LUA/AUT/0094	ON OLODE FARMLAND, ALONG IKOYI/ AGO-OWU ROAD, OLOMOYE AREA, IKOYI. ISOKAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA. IKOYI, ISOKAN	OS/3586/2024/033/ 453.5m ^{2}	BB 3053 JW-BB 3054 JW-BB 3055 JW-BB 3056 JW-BB 3057 JW-BB 3058 JW-BB 3059 JW-BB 3060 JW-BB 3067 JW-BB 3068 JW-BB 3069 JW-BB 3070 JW-BB 3071 JW-BB 3072 JW-BB 3652 JW-BB 3653 JW-BB 3654 JW-BB 3655 JW-BB 3656 JW-BB 3657 JW-BB 3658 JW-BB 3659 JW-	AGRICULTURAL
38.	MR. ADESOJI OLUFEMI ADEDAYO LUA/AUT/0081	OFF OSOGBO/GBONGAN ROAD, PLOT 2, BLOCK 1, ON CHIEF J.A OKUNOLA RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, BEHIND ONWARD FARM, OKE OSUN AREA OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/1787/2020/22/ 443.402m ^{2}	SAB 6194-SAB 6195-SAB 6198-SAB 6199	RESIDENTIAL
39.	OGUNYEMI ABIODUN DAVID LUA/AUT/0109	ON ALAWO FAMILYLAND, ALONG BAALE OLOPE ROAD, AJEJA VILLAGE AREA, AWO AJEJA VILLAGE AREA, AWO, EGBEDORE	OS/1299/2020/044/ 197600m ^{2}	SC/OS AB5689GN-SC/OS AB5690GN-SC/OS AB5691GN-SC/OS AB5692GN-SC/OS AB5693GN-SC/OS AB5694GN-SC/OS AB5695GN-SC/OS AB5696GN-SC/OS AB5697GN-SC/OS AB5698GN-SC/OS AB5699GN-SC/OS AB5700GN-SC/OS AB5701GN-SC/OS AB5702GN-SC/OS AB5703GN-	AGRICULTURAL
40.	AJAYI NATHANIEL OPEYEMI LUA/AUT/0092	OFF IDO - OSUN OKINNI ROAD, IGIGOGORO AREA, IDO - OSUN IDO - OSUN, EGBEDORE	OS/1787/2024/154/ 894.177m ^{2}	SC/OS BF 3684 DZ-SC/OS BF 3685 DZ-SC/OS BF 3686 DZ-SC/OS BF 3687 DZ	RESIDENTIAL
41.	AJAYI OPAYEMI NATHANIEL LUA/AUT/0093	OFF ILOBU ROAD, OKE - OBEDU AREA, OKINNI OKINNI, EGBEDORE	OS/1787/2024/118/ 368.834m ^{2}	SC/OS BE 874DZ-SC/OS BE 875DZ-SC/OS 876 DZ-SC/OS BE 877DZ	RESIDENTIAL
42.	AJAYI OPEYEMI NATHANIEL LUA/AUT/0100	OFF ILOBU ROAD, OKE - OBEDU AREA, OKINNI OKINNI, EGBEDORE	OS/1660/2024/07/ 1233.253m ^{2}	SC/OS BE 6310 CY-SC/OS 6311 CY- SC/OS BE 6312 CY-SC/OS BE 6313 CY- SC/OS BE 6314 /OS BE 6315 CY-CY-SC/OS BE 6316 CY-SC/OS BA 6665 EM- SC/OS BE 6317 CY- SC/OS BE 6318 CY- SC/OS BE 6319 CY	RESIDENTIAL
43.	PROF. OLUREMI RAPHAEL AINA LUA/AUT/0107	ALONG OTAN - AYEGBAJU / ILA ROAD, OLU - AINA NEW TOWN, ARAGBA VILLAGE, IGBAJO ARAGBA VILLAGE, IGBAJO, BOLUWADURO	OS/1834/2025/020/ 100043m ^{2}	SC/OS AZ 4967JR-SC/OS AZ 4968JR-SC/OS AZ 4969JR-SC/OS AZ 4970JR-SC/OS AZ 4971JR-SC/OS AZ 4972JR-SC/OS AZ 4973JR-SC/OS AZ 4974JR-SC/OS AZ 4975JR-SC/OS AZ 4976JR-SC/OS AZ 4977JR-SC/OS AZ 4978JR-SC/OS AJ5320 GE-SC/OS AJ5321 GE-SC/OS AJ5322 GE-SC/OS AJ5323 GE-SC/OS AJ5324 GE-SC/OS AJ5325 GE-SC/OS AJ5326 GE-SC/OS AJ5327 GE-SC/OS AJ5328 GE-SC/OS AJ5313 GE	AGRICULTURAL
44.	MR. ADENIYI WEMIMO AND MRS. ADENIYI OLUWABUNMI MARY LUA/AUT/0115	OFF ILESA / OSOGBO ROAD, IREPODUN VILLAGE, OSOGBO OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/3404/2022/002/ 3377.834m ^{2}	SC/OS AR7253JJ-SC/OS AR7254JJ-SC/OS AR7255JJ-SC/OS AR7256JJ	COMMERCIAL
45.	IBRAHEEM ADEBAMIJI RAIMI LUA/AUT/0110	ON AMERANMABO FAMILY LAND, OFF ELEWONTA PRIMARY SCHOOL ROAD, IWO IWO, IWO	OS/5100/2024/110/ 12100m ^{2}	SC/OS BE8471MQ-SC/OS BE8472MQ-SC/OS BE8473MQ-SC/OS AY9964HR-SC/OS AY9963HR-	AGRICULTURAL
46.	MR AKINBOYE KEHINDE STEPHEN AND MRS AKINBOYE OLUBUKOLA ADEOLA LUA/AUT/0084	ALONG OLORIN - APONLA ROAD, ELELU VILLAGE VIA OLORIN ELELU VILLAGE, EJIGBO	OS/1186/2022/106/ 41100m ^{2}	SC/OS AT 7381FM-SC/OS AT 7382FM-SC/OS AT 7383FM-SC/OS AT 7384FM-SC/OS AT 7385FM-SC/OS AT 7386FM-SC/OS AT 7387FM-SC/OS AT 7388FM-SC/OS AT 7389FM-SC/OS AT 7390FM-SC/OS AT 7391FM-SC/OS AT 7392FM-SC/OS AT 7393FM-SC/OS AT 7394FM	AGRICULTURAL
47.	MR. LAWAL SAMSON OLUWANISHOLA LUA/AUT/0048	PLOT 9 & 11, BLOCK 1 ON IGBAROOLA FAMILY RESIDENTIAL LAYOUT, OFF IFE/ IBADAN EXPRESS WAY FASINA AREA ILE-IFE, IFE-CENTRAL	OS/5141/2024/038/ 951.282m ^{2}	SC/OS BB0679MW-SC/OSBB0680MW-SC/OS0681MW-SC/OS0682MW-	RESIDENTIAL
48.	ENGINEER JULIUS OJEYEMI LUA/AUT/0113	BEING PLOT 3 & 12, BLOCK A, ON TRIO GROUP LAYOUT, AT AGUNBELEWO, OFF ILOBU/OSOGBO ROAD, OSOGBO OSOGBO, OLORUNDA	OS/1207/2019/078/ 1421.093m ^{2}	SC/OS AG5516FV-SAC 7273- SAC 7274- SAC 7291 - SAC 7286-SC/OS AG5517FV	RESIDENTIAL
49.	OLOYEDE OLUWASEYI DANIEL LUA/AUT/0073	OFF LORDSHIP ROAD, AKEJU AREA, OSOGBO, OSOGBO LOCAL GOVT. AREA, OSUN STATE OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/2134/2020/051/ 827.074m ^{2}	SC/OS AJ 2919 FK-SC/OS AJ 2920FK-HL5083-SC/OS AJ 2921	RESIDENTIAL
50.	PASTOR AKINYEMI SAMUEL AND PASTOR MRS AKINYEMI DEBORAH OLUTOLA LUA/AUT/0114	AT ABA ASAAWO, OLOGOBI AREA EDE, EDE	OS/2773/2021/024/ 4351.277m ^{2}	SC/OS AM1677HX-SC/OS AM1678HX-SC/OS AM1679HX-SC/OS AM1680HX	RESIDENTIAL
51.	ALHAJA FALILAT ARIKE BASIT LUA/AUT/0161	OFF WEST BYE PASS, RING ROAD, STADIUM AREA OSOGBO, OLORUNDA	OS/1976/2018/218/ 457.319m ^{2}	SC/OS V1774GD-SC\0S V1775GD-SC\OS V1776GD-SC\OS V1777GD	RESIDENTIAL
52.	ALHAJA FALILAT ARIKE YUSUF LUA/AUT/0162	ALONG WEST BYE PASS ROAD, ILESA GARAGE AREA OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/2773/2025/080/ 783.351m ^{2}	SC/OS AG644HX-SC/OS AC2969EZ-SC/OS AC2970EZ-SC/OS AC2971EZ	COMMERCIAL
53.	MR. OYEWOLE BUKOLA OYEKANMI LUA/AUT/0136	AT OKE - OKANLA AREA, OKINNI OKINNI, EGBEDORE	OS/1919/2020/485/ 21360m ^{2}	SC/OS AA2390GE-SC/OS AA2391GE-SC/OS AA2392GE-SC/OS AA2393GE-SC/OS AA2394GE-SC/OS AA2395GE-SC/OS Z8786GE-SC/OS Z8787GE-SC/OS Z8788GE-SC/OS Z8789GE	AGRICULTURAL
54.	AJEIGBE ADELEKE LAWRENCE LUA/AUT/0157	ALONG OBA ADESOJI ADEREMI ROAD, MONTANMI FAMILY LAND, OKE BAALE OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/355/2025/044/ 490.189m ^{2}	SC/OS BG 8812CH-SC/OS BG 8813CH-SC/OS BG 8810CH-SC/OS BG 8811CH	RESIDENTIAL
55.	MR MAYOMI ADEWALE ANTHONY & MRS MAYOMI OLUWAKEMI IDOWU LUA/AUT/0135	AT ERANLOSEJIYAN, BELOVED LIFEWALK MONTESSORI SCHOOLS AREA, OFF ADEJUWON ORISUNMARE AREA, OWODE - EDE. OWODE - EDE, EDE NORTH	OS/3345/2023/08/ 3613.658m ^{2}	SC/OS AY0239HT-SC/OS AY0240HT-SC/OS AY0241HT-SC/OS AY0242HT	RESIDENTIAL
56.	MR. ADEWOYIN ADEWUNMI MICHAEL LUA/AUT/0148	BEING ON PA. ADERETI BAMIGBOYE FAMILY LAND, OFF ILESA/ AKURE EXPRESS ROAD, ILE-IFE. IFE CENTRAL. AREA. IFE, IFE-CENTRAL	OS/2829/2022/177/ 1364.825m ^{2}	SC/OS AW6437HG-SC\OS AW6438HG-SC\OS AW6439HG-SC\OS AW6440HG	RESIDENTIAL
57.	ENGINEER ADAMOLEKUN JOSEPH KAYODE LUA/AUT/0142	AT SERIKI VILLAGE, OFF IWO/ IBADAN ROAD, ORIGO. EGBEDORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA. ORIGO, EGBEDORE	OS/1930/2025/031/ 36500m ^{2}	SC/OS BHO634EL-SC/OS BHO635EL-SC/OS BHO636EL-SC\OS BHO637EL-SC\OS BHO638EL-SC\OS BHO639EL-SC\OS BH0640EL-SC\OS BHO641EL-SC\OS BH0642EL-SC\OS BH0643ELL	AGRICULTURAL
58.	MR. POPOOLA OLUKAYODE WASIU LUA/AUT/0147	OFF IWO / IBADAN ROAD, GBAMILA AREA, AWO. EGBEDORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA. AWO, EGBEDORE	OS/1770/2025/005/ 68500m ^{2}	SC/OS BF8678EL-SC/OS BF8679EL-SC/OS BF8680EL-SC/OS BF8681EL-SC/OS BF8682EL-SC/OS BF8683EL-SC/OS BF8684EL-SC/OS BF8685EL-SC/OS BF8686EL-SC/OS BF8687EL-SC/OS BF8688EL-SC/OS BF8689EL-SC/OS BF8690EL-SC/OS BF8691EL	AGRICULTURAL
59.	MR. AGBOOLA ISIAKA AKANDE LUA/AUT/0121	ALONG JALEYEMI / GIRL'S SCHOOL ROAD, ODI - OLOWO, OSOGBO OSOGBO, OSOGBO	OS/2134/2024/018/ 511.628m ^{2}	SC/OS AH2447FK-SC/OS AH2448FK-SC/OS AH2449FK-SC/OS AH2450FK	RESIDENTIAL
60.	ENGR. ISHOLA BILIAMINU ADEGBOYE LUA/AUT/0143	AT ABA-ATAN VILLAGE BESIDE, AGO-ARE VILLAGE. IRAGBIJI. BORIPE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA. IRAGBIJI, BORIPE	OS/2595/2020/56/ 55430m ^{2}	SC/OS AJ3483JB-SC\OSAJ3484JB-SC\OS AJ3485JB-SC\OS AJ3486JB-SC\OS AJ3487JB-SC\OS AJ3488JB-SC\OS AJ3489JB-SC\OS AJ3490JB-SC\OS AJ3491JB-SC\OS AJ3492JB-SC\OS AJ3493JB-SC\OS AJ3494JB-SC\OS AJ3495JB	AGRICULTURAL

DR. FRITZ MOBOLAJI OLAOYE
PERMANENT SECRETARY

OMOTOSHO

CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH: In my BVN details, my name was written Omotosho Stephen T. instead of Omotosho Stephen Oluwatobiloba. Henceforth, I wish to be known as OMOTOSHO STEPHEN OLUWATOBILOBA. My correct date of birth is **29th January, 1991.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OJO

I, formerly Miss Ojo Kehinde Mary now MRS. OGUNDIPE KEHINDE MARY. All former documents remain valid. GTBank, Wema Bank, Ecobank, all other financial institution and general public take note.

OLATUNJI

I formerly (in BVN) First name- Olatunji Surname– Osobukola Middle name- Yemi now (in NIN) first name- TUNJI Surname - OSOBUKOLA Middle name- JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

RAJI

I formerly Miss Raji Temitope Opeyemi now MRS SALAKO TEMITOPE OPEYEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TEMITOPE

I formerly Temitope Olorundare Abiola now ABIOLA OLORUNDARE TEMITOPE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ODEFADEHAN

I, formerly Odefadehan Blessing Tosin now ADEKUNLE BLESSING TOSIN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADESOKAN

I formerly Miss Adesokan Ruphina Adeyoola now MRS AJEKIIGBE RUPHINA ADEYOOLA. All former document remain valid. Iwajowa Local Government, Iwere Ile, First Bank Plc, United Bank of Africa (UBA) and general public take note.

ADEOLA

CONFIRMATION OF NAME: I, Adeola Ibukun Adekanmi am the same person as Adeola Ibukunoluwa Adekanmi. Henceforth, I want to be known and addressed as ADEOLA IBUKUNOLUWA ADEKANMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SALAWU

I formerly Salawu Ismaila Niyi now SALAUDEEN SUMOILA ADE NIYI. My correct date of birth is **December, 13 1966.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

YUSUF

I formerly Miss Yusuf Islamiat Bukola now MRS. ABDULMALIK ISLAMIAT BUKOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ARIYO

I, formerly Miss Ariyo Hannah Oluwakemi now MRS ADEGOKE HANNAH OLUWAKEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SHEIDU

CORRECTION OF NAME IN BVN/BANK ACCOUNT: I, formerly Sheidu Adeyiza Kabir now SHEIDU ABDULKABIR ADEIZA. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc and general public take note.

ABDULKAREEM

I, formerly Abdulkareem Balquees Ajoke and Abdulkareem Bilikis Ajoke now ABDULKAREEM BALQEES AJOKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ALAO

I, formerly Alao Mary Oluwadamilola now ELUYINKA MARY OLUWADAMILOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OKEZIE

I, formerly Okezie Jennifer Ijeoma now MRS CHUKWU JENNIFER IJEOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ALABI

I formerly Alabi Modupeoluwa Esther now MRS ADEDEJI MODUPEOLUWA ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

BADMOS

I, formerly Badmos Abdulmalik Olamilekan now BADMUS MALIK AYOMIDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AJIMOBI

CORRECTION OF NAME: I, formerly Ajimobi Wasiu Delodun now AJIMOBI WASIU ADEGBOYEGA.. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADEYEMO

ADDITION OF MIDDLE NAME AND CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH IN BVN: I, formerly Adeyemo Habeeb now ADEYEMO HABEEB AYOMIDE. My correct date of birth is **04/11/2004** and not 04/11/2003. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SANUSI

I formerly Miss Sanusi Selimot Kehinde now MRS. LAWAL SELIMOT KEHINDE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

OLAYIWOLA

ADDITIONAL OF NAME AND CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH: I formerly Olayiwola Kehinde now OLAYIWOLA KEHINDE TAOFEEK and my correct date of birth is **7th May, 1974.** All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

YUSUFU

I formerly Yusufu Kafayat Adenike now OLAWUWO KAFAYAT APEKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OMOTOSHO

I formerly Omotosho Folashade Temitope now ADEDIRAN FOLASHADE TEMITOPE. All former name remain valid. General public take note.

OLAGOKE

I formerly Olagoke Titilope Funmlola now ADEWALE TITILOPE FUNMILOLA. My correct date of birth is **25/08/1979** and not 20/12/1974. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

OWOLABI

I, formerly Owolabi Kafilat Olusola now OWOLABI SHOLA KAFILAT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADEYEMI

I, formerly known as Miss Adeyemi Aminat Wumi now want to be addressed as MRS AFEEZ AMINAT WUMI. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

SULAIMON

I, formerly known as Miss Sulaimon Aishat now wish to be known as MRS SHUAIB AISHAT ABOSEDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADARABIOYO

I, formerly Miss Adarabioyo Opeyemi Rebecca now MRS AZEEZ OPEYEMI REBECCA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

HALLIRU

RE-ARRANGEMENT AND REMOVAL OF NAME: I, formerly Halliru Sani Muhammad now SANI HALLIRU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note

MURITALA-BALOGUN

I, formerly Muritala-Balogun Kafilat Olanike now BALOGUN KAFILAT OLANIKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

YUSUF

I, formerly Yusuf Sekinat Tanwa now OYENEYE SEKINAT TANWA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AKINLOYE

I formerly Akinloye Bisola Grace now ABIOLA BISOLA GRACE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OGUNDEPO

I, formerly Ogundepo Janet Olubunmi now OKEDEPO JANET OLUBUNMI. All former documents remain valid. Ibarapa North West LCDA, NIMC, Banks and general public take note.

SALAMI

I, formerly Miss Salami Opeyemi Balikis now MRS. OYEWESO OPEYEMI BALIKIS. All former documents valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

AKEEM

I formerly Akeem Kehinde now ADESOKAN KEHINDE IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADELOLA

I, formerly Adelola Oluwafunke Esther now DADA ADELOLA OLUWAFUNKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OGUNLOLA

I formerly Ogunlola Bisi Lydia now OGUNLOLA OLUBISI LYDIA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SULIMAN

I formerly Suliman Andrew Sunday now AROME ANDREW SUNDAY. My correct date of birth **12/08/1999** and not 08/12/1999. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OJO

I, formerly Miss Ojo Christianah Fisayo now MRS OMOTOSO CHRISTIANAH FISAYO. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

ISA

I, formerly known as Miss Isa Rofiyat Odunola now want to be addressed as MRS ABDULLAHI ROFIYAT ODUNOLA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

FASHOLA

CORRECTION OF NAME: That I, Fashola Olabamiji Olusiji is the same person with the name Fashola Paul Olabamiji now to be addressed henceforth as FASHOLA OLABAMIJI OLUSIJI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLOYEDE

I formerly Oloyede Musbaudeen Oluwafemi now OLOYEDE MUSBAU OLAMILEKAN. My correct date of birth is **25/08/1986** and not 25/08/1989. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AKINOLA

I, formerly known and addressed as Akinola Christopher OlaKris now wish to be known and addressed as AKINOLA OGUNGBEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AYINDE

I, formerly Ayinde Boluwatife Alice now to be known and addressed as SOBALAJE BOLUWATIFE ALICE. All former documents remain valid. Babcock University Teaching Hospital, Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and general public take note.

AKOBI

I, formerly known as Akobi Morisade Elizabeth now want to be known, called and addressed as OLUFEMI MORISADE ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

OLAWUMI

I, formerly known as Mrs Olawumi Esther Ajewole now MRS ABIODUN BALQEES OLAWUMI ABOLADE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ASEKUN

CORRECTION AND RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAMES IN MY INTERNATIONAL PASSPORT: My names was wrongly registered and arranged as Asekun Olufunke Kafayat instead of Asekun Kafayat Olufunke. Henceforth, I wish to be called, known and addressed as ASEKUN KAFAYAT OLUFUNKE. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

NWAFORAGU

I, formerly Nwaforagu Destiny Oluebube now OKECHUKWU MIRACLE DESTINY. My correct date of birth is **12th January, 2000** and not 12th April, 2001. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AFOLAMI

ADDITION OF NAME: I, formerly known and addressed as Afolami Muyiwa now wish to be called and addressed as AFOLAMI MUYIWA EBENEZER. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

MEBUDE

I formerly Mebude Ramatallah Omolara now MEBUDE RAMATULL. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

KELVIN

I formerly Kelvin Okechukwu G. now OSUAGWU OKECHUKWU GEOGALIS. All former documents remain valid. FCMB and general general public take note.

ISMAILA

RECONCILIATION/CHANGE OF NAME: This is to inform the general public that I am the one bearing Ismaila Alirat. Henceforth, I wish to be known, called and addressed as ISMAIL HAIRAT ADEGBEMIJO. All former documents remain valid. Concerned aurthorities and general public take note.

ADEKOLA

I, formerly known as Adekola Jelilat Dasola now ADEKOLA JELILA DASOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

BUNMI

I, formerly Bunmi Elizabeth Adedokun wish to be addressed as OLUWAKEMI CHRISTIANA ADEDOKUN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

AKINWALE

CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH: In my Bank Verification Number, my name and date of birth were written as Gbadamosi Akinwale Ayodeji and December 2, 1997. My correct name and date of birth are AKINWALE AYODEJI ADESIMI and **December 2, 1999.** All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc, other banks and general public take note.

ABIOLA

I, formerly Abiola Oluwasegun Yusuf now ABIOLA OLUWATOMIWO OLUWASEGUN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

KAZEEM

I, formerly Mr Kazeem Razak Ajani now MR QOZEEM RASAQ AJANI. All former documents remain valid. First Bank Plc, concerned authorities and general public take note.

AJAO

I, formerly Ajao Taiwo Hassan now AJAO TAIWO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ONI

I, formerly known and addressed as Oni Abimbola Deborah now OLADOSU ABIMBOLA DEBORAH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADENIRAN

I, formerly known and addressed as Adeniran Funmilayo now ADENIRAN FUNMILAYO CHRISTIANAH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

FELIX

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH: I, FELIX OYEKUNLE OMOLAJA, my date of birth was wrongly stated as 11th June, 1979 instead of 11th June, 1980. Henceforth, my correct date of birth is **11th June, 1980.** All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

OGUNSEYE

I, Ogunseye Raheem Dayo, my name was wrongly captured in my NIN as Ogunseye Akinsola Raheem. Henceforth, I want to be known and addressed as OGUNSEYE RAHEEM DAYO. All former documents remain valid. Banks, NIN, BVN and general public take note.

LATEEF

I formerly Lateef Comfort Eniola now ATOYEBI COMFORT ENIOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLAOSEBIKAN

CHANGE OF NAME AND CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH: I, formerly Olaosebikan Basirat Toyin now AKINWUMI BASIRAT TOYIN. Also, my correct date of birth is **17th November, 1993** and not 22nd August, 1987. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

ADEDIWURA

I, formerly Adediwura Kiishi Adekemi now ADEDIWURA BLESSING ADEKEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADELEKE

I formerly Adeleke Damilola Blessing now ODERINDE DAMILOLA BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

SEIDU

I, formerly Seidu Adams now ADAMS SEUDU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLADAPO

I, formerly Miss Oladapo Kehinde Racheal now wish to be known as MRS AKANBI KEHINDE RASIDAT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ADEKUNLE

I, formerly Miss Olusola Busayo now to be known and addressed as MRS ADEKUNLE BUSAYO JOY. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

ADEYEMI

I, formerly Adeyemi David Abidemi now ALADEOKIN ADEYEMI DAVID. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OLADIPUPO

I, formerly known as Oladipupo Oluwatoyin Suratu now wish to be known called and addressed as OLANREWAJU OLUWATOYIN ASAKUN. My correct date of birth is **23/12/1971** and not 23/02/1971. All former documents remain valid. First Bank of Nigeria and general public take note.

OMOTE

I, formerly known and addressed as Omote Happiness now wish to be known and addressed as OMOTE HAPPY EGHOGHON. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TEJUOSHO

That during the registration of my BVN, my name was wrongly stated as Tejuoso Elizabeth Itunu. Now, I wish to be known and addressed as TEJUOSHO ITUNU ELIZABETH as it appears in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

AZEEZ

That during the enrollment of my BVN and NIN, my name was mistakenly arranged as Azeez Muminat Abisola instead of Azeez Mumeenat Abisola. My date of birth was wrongly written as 16/01/1996. Henceforth, I wish to be addressed as AZEEZ MUMEENAT ABISOLA and my correct date of birth is **16/10/1996** as it appears in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

ODERINLO

I, formerly known and addressed as Miss Oderinlo Kemisola now wish to be known and addressed as MRS KOLAWOLE KEMISOLA AYINKE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

ALE

I, formerly known and addressed as Ale Dolapo Hellen now wish to be called and addressed as MRS AFOLAMI DOLAPO HELEN. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

AKADIRI

I formerly Akadiri Semiyu now AKADRI MONDAY SEMIU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

EDALERE

CORRECTION OF NAME: I formerly Edalere Abdulazeez Olanshile now EDALERE ABDUL-AZEEZ OLANSHILE. All former name remain valid. General public take note.

MARIAM

I, formerly Mariam Adejoke Aderounmu now MARIAM ADEJOKE SAKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

OWOLABI

ADDITION OF NAME: In my BVN and account details, my name was mistakenly omitted and my name was captured as Owolabi Olawale instead of Owolabi Muraina Olawale. Henceforth, I wish to be known as OWOLABI MURAINA OLAWALE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public take note.

SOTUNDE

I, formerly Sotunde Aminat Temitope now ADEKANYE AMINAT TEMITOPE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TAJUDEEN

In my BVN details, my name was wrongly written as Tajudeen Adewuyi Adisa. Now, I wish to be known and addressed as TAJUDEEN WASIU ADEWUYI. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and general public take note.

ADIATU

I, formerly Miss Taofik Iyabo Opeyemi now to be known and addressed as MRS ADIATU OPEYEMI ESTHER. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities, banks and general public take note.

AJAO

I, formerly Ajao Sukurat Afolakemi now OGUNTUGA DEBORAH AFOLAKEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Alleged bias: Court orders ADC chieftain to pay federal high court CJ, Justice Lifu N100m

Sunday Ejike | Abuja

THE Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on Monday, ordered the National Welfare Secretary of the African Democratic Party (ADC), Mr Nkemakolam Ukandu, to pay the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho, and Justice Peter Lifu the sum of N50 million each.

Justice Salim Ibrahim, in a ruling on an oral application made by Mr J. U. K. Igwe, SAN, counsel for Justice Tsoho and Justice Lifu, ordered that the total sum of N100 million should be paid within 14 days of the order.

Justice Ibrahim earlier stuck out Ukandu's case filed against the National Judicial Council (NJC), Justice Tsoho and Justice Lifu respectively for lack of diligent prosecution.

Ukandu had sued the NJC, the Federal High Court Chief Judge and Justice Lifu as 1st to 3rd defendants respectively, over alleged bias and disobedience to court order.

Ukandu, in a suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/1165/2026, sought an order compelling the NJC to investigate allegations of corruption, abuse of judicial powers and bias levelled against Tsoho and Lifu.

It would be recalled that neither the plaintiff nor his lawyer had appeared before the trial judge, Justice Ibrahim since the matter was assigned to the judge.

The judge had, on June 30, threatened to dismiss the suit for failure of the plaintiff or his lawyer to appear in court for the proceedings.

The suit stemmed from the ADC leadership crisis involving an aggrieved member, Nafiu-Bala Gombe, whose case is currently before Justice Lifu.

Gombe's suit seeks an order stopping the Senator David Mark-led leadership of ADC from parading themselves as leaders of the party.

Ukandu, who is seeking to be joined in the suit number: FHC/ABJ/CS/1819/2025, brought by Gombe, accused the Chief Judge and Justice Lifu of manifest bias, and willingness to do the biddings of persons against the interest of the party.

The plaintiff, in the suit he personally filed at the Federal High Court, faulted the CJ for reassigning the suit to Lifu after it was taken away from Justice Emeka Nwite, saying that the reassignment was in disregard to the orders of the Supreme Court, as well as Justice Nwite.

Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, Professor Folasade Tolulope Ogunsola (left), congratulating the Group Managing Director, Arco Group Plc, Engineer Alfred Okoigun, after delivering his speech at the 2026 Academy Technology Dinner and Award Night, organised by the Nigerian Academy of Engineering, in Lagos.

Oriire school abduction: Oyo govt assures families, gives update on rescue efforts

By Busola Oworu

Oyo State government, on Monday, reassured residents that intensive efforts are ongoing to secure the safe release of pupils and teachers abducted in Oriire Local Government Area, saying security agencies are actively working to rescue the victims and apprehend those responsible for the attack.

The government gave the assurance in a statement posted on its official *X* (formerly Twitter) handle, amid growing anxiety among residents and renewed calls for the swift rescue of the victims.

Expressing sympathy with the families affected by the abduction, the government acknowledged the emotional trauma and uncertainty they have endured since the incident, while reiterating its commitment to ensuring the victims are reunited with their loved ones.

"The Oyo State government remains committed to the safe return of our children and teachers abducted from Oriire Local Government Area. Our thoughts are with their families in these trying times," the statement read.

The government stressed that it was maintaining close collaboration with security agencies spearheading the rescue operation, assuring the public that every available effort was being deployed to secure the victims' freedom.

"We will continue to collaborate with the security agencies who are actively working to rescue the victims and bring the perpetrators to justice," it stated.

While urging residents to remain calm, the government reaffirmed its determination to prioritise the safety and security of citizens, adding that it would continue to support ongoing security operations until the victims regain their freedom.

Reps hold national security roundtable, Youth town hall on 2027 elections

Kehinde Akintola | Abuja

SPEAKER of the House of Representatives, Honourable Abbas Tajudeen, on Monday,unveiled plans to hold national security roundtable, Youth Town Hall on 2027 elections, as part of activities to commemorate the three-year anniversary of the 10th Assembly.

According to a statement by the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Speaker, Musa Abdullahi Krishi, Tajudeen, on his social media handles, over the weekend, announced that the third Open Week will hold from July 14 to 16.

He explained that the theme for this year's Open Week: 'Three Years of the 10th Assembly: Advancing Transparency, Inclusion, and Reform,' "reflects not just our journey but our commitment to building a legislature that is accessible, accountable, and responsive to every Nigerian."

The speaker's posts read in part: "A parliament that listens earns the trust of the people. A parliament that opens its doors strengthens democracy.

"That conviction inspired the birth of the National Assembly Open Week, and I am delighted that we are set for the 3rd edition of this unique initiative from 14th to 16th July, 2026.

"The National Assembly belongs to the people. Open Week provides an opportunity for Nigerians to engage with their parliament, evaluate our performance over the past year, understand the work we do, and contribute ideas that will strengthen our democratic institutions."

He added that the 2026 edition of the Open Week: "promises even more robust, people-centred engagements. We will convene a Legislative Business Breakfast to deepen collaboration between the legislature and the private sector on policies that drive economic growth, investment, and job creation.

Tajudeen emphasised: "We will also host a National Security Roundtable, bringing together critical stakeholders to exchange ideas and chart practical legislative pathways for addressing the nation's evolving security challenges.

"Equally significant is the national conversation on reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities—a transformative reform that seeks to make our democracy more inclusive, representative, and equitable."

"I also eagerly look forward to engaging with young Nigerians at the Youth Town Hall on the 2027 elections, where we will discuss their vital role in strengthening democratic participation and shaping the Nigeria of tomorrow.

"Democracy flourishes where there is openness. Institutions grow stronger when they are subjected to public scrutiny. And nations make lasting progress when every citizen has a voice.

"I warmly invite all Nigerians to be part of this year's National Assembly Open Week. Together, let us continue to deepen transparency, promote inclusion, and advance the reforms that will strengthen our democracy for generations to come."

OAU celebrates appointment of Tegbe as power minister

Francis Iwuchukwu | Lagos

THE Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife, has congratulated Engineer Joseph Olasunkanmi Tegbe, on his appointment as Minister of Power, by President Bola Tinubu.

In a statement by the university's Public Relations Officer, Abiodun Olarewaju, OAU described Tegbe's appointment as a well-deserved recognition of his sterling leadership qualities, impeccable character, and proven competence in both public and private sectors.

The institution's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Adebayo Simeon Bamire, expressed confidence that Tegbe's wealth of experience and administrative acumen will provide the visionary leadership needed to reposition Nigeria's power sector, making electricity more accessible, reliable, and sustainable for all Nigerians.

The Great Ife Alumni Association, led by Dr Leye Falode, also pledged full moral support and prayers, affirming optimism that Tegbe's tenure will be marked by innovation, transformational leadership, and landmark achievements.

OAU emphasised that Tegbe's appointment underscores the University's enduring legacy of producing exceptional leaders who contribute significantly to nation-building and global development.

The institution prayed for divine wisdom, courage, and success as he embarked on this critical national assignment.

Smart Balance Oil Reduces Bad Cholesterol

Every time we sit down for a meal, a silent process is happening inside our bodies that most of us never even think about. We often talk about "cholesterol" as a single boogeyman, but the truth is more nuanced. Your body needs cholesterol to build healthy cells, but it is a delicate balancing act. There is "good" cholesterol, High-Density Lipoprotein (HDL), and "bad" cholesterol, Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL).

Low-Density Lipoprotein can be a messy guest that leaves behind sticky deposits along your artery walls. Over time, these deposits harden into plaque, narrowing the pathways your blood needs to travel. When your heart has to pump twice as hard just to get blood through those clogged pipes, the risk of heart disease and stroke moves from a distant worry to a daily reality.

To help against this, Golden Terra Smart Balance Oil was created. Smart Balance Oil is rich in Gamma Oryzanol to reduce bad cholesterol. Instead of clogging your system, it helps restore your body's natural equilibrium by lowering LDL levels while supporting High-Density Lipoprotein, the "good" cholesterol, that clears your arteries. It is a simple, powerful switch in the kitchen that acts as a functional health partner, ensuring your favorite dishes are fueling your future rather than weighing down your heart.

Maintaining heart health is an intentional journey that requires us to be mindful of every choice we make. For individuals living alone, it can be tempting to prioritize convenience over quality, but even a single meal is an investment in your longevity. For families, the stakes are even higher, as the habits formed at the dinner table today become the health foundation for children tomorrow. Making an intentional choice means looking past the packaging and understanding the science of what we consume.

Cardiologists consistently advise that while medication has its place, the first line of defense against cardiovascular decay is what we put on our plates. They emphasize that the right nutrition acts as a preventative shield, keeping the heart muscle strong and the vascular system clear. Golden Terra Smart Balance Oil is designed to be that shield, providing the right fatty acid profile to ensure that whether you are cooking a quick stir-fry for one or a large Sunday feast for the extended family, you are making a decision that supports healthy living.

In many Nigerian households, the kitchen is the heart of the home, but the oils we traditionally use can be a hidden threat. Many common cooking fats are high in saturated and trans fats which are the primary culprits behind rising Low-Density Lipoprotein levels. When we cook with these, we inadvertently build up those silent blockages in the arteries.

Choosing Smart Balance Oil by Golden Terra is a fundamental shift in preventative healthcare. It allows you to prioritize long-term vitality without giving up the rich, traditional flavors that bring us together. Ultimately, reducing bad cholesterol is about preserving your legacy. It means more years of shared laughter and the strength to be there for your family's biggest milestones. It is a commitment to ensuring your body remains as resilient as your spirit.

Probal Bhattacharya, Chief Marketing Officer at TGI Group, said, "Heart health is shaped by the choices we make every day. Health experts recommend reducing Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) or bad cholesterol and choosing oils rich in Monounsaturated Fatty Acids (MUFA) and Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA). Smart Balance Oil was developed with these considerations in mind, offering consumers a cooking oil option that supports healthier lifestyle choices without compromising everyday cooking."

Golden Terra Smart Balance Oil is a premium quality oil made from natural rice grown on Nigerian soil. Smart Balance Rice Bran Oil is rich in Gamma Oryzanol. Several studies suggest that Gamma Oryzanol may contribute to the reduction of bad cholesterol. It has a good balance of Poly unsaturated fats (PUFA) and Monounsaturated fats (MUFA). Golden Terra Smart Balance Oil is also an excellent source of Vitamin E and is fortified with Vitamin A. It is a balance between good taste and health.

I'm fulfilled with or without W-Cup title —Ronaldo

By Ganiyu Salman

Portugal captain, Cristiano Ronaldo, has declared that he gave everything in life and football, even if he fails to win the World Cup in his career.

"I am not going to be more Cristiano Ronaldo or less because I win the World Cup.

"I even say thanks for the attacks [criticism] I feel after I turned 40... the criticism is how you grow, so thank you for doing this.

"Whatever happens tomorrow, Cristiano Ronaldo will leave with a clear conscience - not 100 per cent but 1,000 per cent because in life and football I gave everything," Ronaldo who led Portugal to win the 2016 Euro was quoted as saying by ***bbc.com.***

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner responding to a question concerning his future, stated that he had been subjected to heavy criticism in the last 23 years, adding that he remains unperturbed.

"I'm not doing too bad.

"You have been trying to kill me for the past 23 years, but you must have seen that is not worth it, it's a waste of time, but you try and try and try and try and try.

"As I said before, [I will stop] when I choose, not when you choose. You always ask the same question.

"This will be my last World Cup, but let's hope tomorrow isn't my last game [against Spain]," the 41-year-old forward who confirmed the 2026 Mundial would be his last World Cup said.

Ronaldo who inspired Selecao das Quinas to the last-16 remains the first player ever to score in six World Cups following his sixth minute's goal against Uzbekistan on June 23 in a group K game.

The Al Nassr talisman finished the game with a brace as he also scored in the 39th minute to aid Portugal to a 5-0 victory at the NGR Stadium, Houston.

Musiala undergoes another surgery

JAMAL Musiala has undergone a scheduled surgical procedure following his return from the 2026 World Cup duty with Germany.

The Bayern Munich superstar is now set to begin a tailored recovery programme as the Bundesliga giants prepare for the upcoming campaign.

Bayern have confirmed that Musiala has undergone minor, routine surgery after concluding his participation in the World Cup. The procedure was not the result of a fresh injury sustained during the tournament in North America, but rather a pre-planned step in his medical management.

The German giants revealed in an official statement that the operation is part of the standard medical protocol following the serious injury the attacker suffered last summer. While the news of another operation might initially cause concern for the Allianz Arena faithful, the club have clarified that this was a long-standing arrangement kept aside for the post-tournament break.

The timing of the surgery is designed to ensure that the 23-year-old does not miss significant portions of the 2026-27 season. By addressing the clinical necessity during the summer lull, Bayern believe they have cleared the path for Musiala to hit the ground running when the real action begins.

According to the club, the procedure will allow the playmaker to participate in a "clearly structured plan" for pre-season training. This roadmap is intended to ensure he is back in top physical condition in time for the first of Bayern's competitive fixtures, providing a major boost to the squad's preparations.

France appeal Olise yellow card

THE French Football Federation (FFF) has launched an appeal to FIFA in an attempt to have Michael Olise's yellow card rescinded. The Bayern Munich star was booked during Les Bleus' last-16 victory over Paraguay, leaving him on a disciplinary tightrope ahead of the quarter-finals.

Olise has been one of the standout performers of the 2026 World Cup, but his participation in the latter stages of the tournament is now under threat. The playmaker was cautioned following a heated altercation with Paraguay's Matias Galarza during Saturday's knockout clash. While Galarza fell to the turf claiming facial contact, television replays suggested the initial contact from the Frenchman was limited to a tug on the opponent's shirt.

The yellow card carries significant weight as it places Olise just one booking away from a mandatory one-match suspension. Should he receive another caution in Thursday's quarter-final showdown against Morocco in Foxborough, he would be ruled out of a potential semi-final against either Spain or Portugal.

According to The Athletic, the FFF has approached world football's governing body to rectify what the French officials perceive as a clear officiating error. The appeal comes at a time of immense disciplinary controversy within the tournament. FIFA recently made the unprecedented decision to suspend a one-match ban for USMNT striker Folarin Balogun. This move followed high-level interventions involving U.S. President Donald Trump and a comprehensive legal team from U.S. Soccer. While Balogun was initially sent off against Bosnia-Herzegovina, FIFA cited Article 27 of its disciplinary code to allow him to face Belgium in the last 16.

The FFF has been quick to distance its current request from the American situation, insisting that their appeal is based entirely on the merits of Olise's specific case.

They maintain that the booking was an injustice in its own right and deserves to be erased regardless of other rulings.

WORLD CUP FIXTURES:

July 7:
Argentina vs Egypt 5:00pm
Switzerland vs Colombia 9:00pm

July 9:
France vs Morocco 9:00pm

July 11.
Norway vs England 10:00pm

2026 W-Cup leading scorers

1.	Kylian Mbappe,	France	7
2.	Lionel Messi,	Argentina	7
3.	Erling Haaland,	Norway	7
4.	Harry Kane,	England	6
5.	Ousmane Dembele,	France	4
6.	Vinicius Junior,	Brazil	4

I asked FIFA to review Balogun ban —Trump

·It's a dangerous precedent —Tuchel

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has confirmed he asked FIFA to review United States striker Folarin Balogun's one-match suspension at the World Cup.

Balogun, 25, was set to miss his side's last-16 tie against Belgium after being shown a straight red card for a foul on Bosnia-Herzegovina defender Tarik Muharemovic in the previous round.

But FIFA made the shock decision to suspend the automatic one-match ban for 12 months - freeing the United States forward, who has scored three goals at this summer's tournament, to be selected for the match in Seattle.

Trump said football's world governing body "made the right decision", adding it would have left a "big stain" on the tournament had the ban been implemented.

Speaking at the White House on Monday, Trump said he had asked FIFA to review the decision because he "didn't think it was a foul".

He confirmed he had spoken to Fifa president Gianni Infantino but said "all" he did was ask for a review and added he did not tell the Swiss he had to suspend Balogun's ban.

"I thought it was two great athletes who crashed into each other and got entangled.

"I think it [the suspension] would have left a big stain. I can't tell them what to do. I don't believe they made the decision; I believe it was the commission that made the decision. And it was the right decision," Trump said.

Trump said referee Raphael Claus' decision to send off Balogun was "horrible" and called the Brazilian "a little bit suspect".

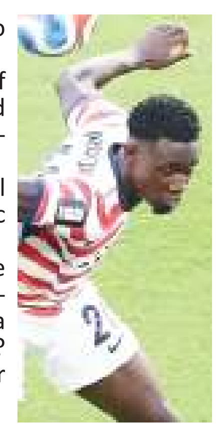
Earlier on Monday, the Royal Belgian Football Association said it was "astonished" by FIFA's decision to allow Balogun to be selected for the last-16 tie.

Asked by ***BBC Sport*** to comment on Trump's comments, his view on Claus, Belgium's claims and the appeal process, FIFA said it had "nothing more" to add "for now".

Meanwhile, head coach of England, Thomas Tuchel, said the ruling set a dangerous precedent.

Tuchel had defender Jarell Quansah sent off in a dramatic 3-2 win over Mexico.

"Where to draw the line is the question that I ask. I have no answer to that. Do we appeal if a yellow card is not a yellow card? Do we think it is not a red card or who thinks it?," he said.



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SIDELINES

Whenever a national problem becomes too embarrassing to ignore, the first official response is almost predictable: set up a committee. Committees have become nation's favourite painkiller. They soothe public anger without curing disease. They hold meetings, issue communiques, take group photographs and promise recommendations. Then silence. Until another crisis demands... another committee.

LEARNED EXPRESSIONS

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The electoral act 2026 and the prospect for political stability (1)

Introduction

THE Egbe Amofin Oodua, a collective of lawyers from the South-West extraction of Nigeria, organized a robust conference at the Ojaja Conference Centre in Ile-Ife, to which I was invited as a guest speaker/panelist. The keynote address was delivered by the inimitable Professor Ademola Popoola of the Faculty of Law of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. Other panelists were Dr. Wahab Shittu, SAN, an astute legal practitioner and a cerebral academician and Prince Adewole Adebayo, a brilliant lawyer, politician and the presidential candidate of the Social Democratic Party. The theme of the conference dwelt on the role of law in advancing constitutional democracy, accountability and responsible governance. The gathering was very timely, considering the state of the nation and the issues surrounding the upcoming 2027 general elections. The discussions were very frank, incisive and illuminating, in dissecting the topic for the day. I did not have the opportunity of participating in the other sessions but I later learnt that they were equally thought-provoking and explosive. As stated at the conference, the major challenge of these landmark gatherings is always the absence of documentation and implementation of key points identified by speakers and participants, thus leading to a recycling of conferences and topics year in year out. Permit me to share with you the contents of my brief presentation at the event.

Protocols

I crave your kind indulgence to stand on the protocols already established for this event whilst not forgetting to acknowledge my teacher and law giver, Professor Ademola Popoola, at whose feet we learned law and jurisprudence at the Faculty of Law of Obafemi Awolowo University. Thus, this is a form of home coming for me, having served as the President of the Students' Union of Great Ife and also worked with the Ooni of Ife who was the predecessor of the present Ooni, on behalf of students and stakeholders of Great Ife. However, the best way to welcome you all to the source (as we call Ife-Ile) is to humbly ask you to rise up for us to take the Great Ife anthem. As Professor Popoola has dealt wonderfully with the main issues in his keynote address, I will limit myself to other areas of the Electoral Act which deserve greater attention.

What is political stability?

According to a widely cited definition of Professor Claude Ake, political stability refers to the regularity and predictability of distribution of power – a system where the rules governing political behaviour are consistently observed. For Leon Hurwitz ("Contemporary Approaches to Political Stability"), the concept has been perceived as a multidimensional mix of related ideals such as absence of violence, governmental longevity, the existence of a legitimate constitutional order, the absence of structural change, and societal attributes. It represents the enduring state of a government that is free from turmoil, conflict, or abrupt changes, which fosters a predictable environment for citizens and investors. The main issue however is to situate these definitions within the context of our national experience in order to determine if indeed the Electoral Act alone, as a legal instrument, can birth political stability.

Political stability in Nigeria

In the present dispensation, can it be boldly asserted that Nigeria is in observance of the rules governing the distribution of power in order to avert chaos in the political circle? The starting point in answering the question is to turn to the organic law of the land, being the Constitution. Section 14(2)(b) & (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as altered) ("the Constitution") is pivotal in this regard. It provides that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government; the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution." Simply put, government must first create the enabling environment for political stability through adequate security and enduring welfare of the people. When people are not safe or they are hungry, electoral issues become not only secondary but also relegated to the background. The politicization of security and weaponization of poverty are two cardinal factors hindering political stability in our nation. The alarming incidences of terrorism come just a little short of overwhelming and disarming of the security apparatus of the government. It is so bad nowadays that critical agencies and schemes of national integration have grown wary and developed jumpy nerves and cold feet. For instance, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has indicated that it would stop posting its youth corps members to troubled zones. It is noteworthy that INEC deploys youth corp members as ad hoc staff for major elections. If insecurity goes unchecked, such electoral manpower would be a thing of the past. With the rising spate of kidnapping and violence across the land, participation at elections and other electoral activities will become largely unpredictable, leading to voter apathy and loss of confidence in the electoral process such that even if you have the best law to regulate politics and political behaviour, the underlying factors insecurity and endemic poverty will ultimately hinder political stability. It is against this background that we must situate our focus on the role of the Electoral Act as an instrument of securing stable governance.

In a constitutional democracy such as Nigeria, societal and institutional code of conduct is not arbitrary. Behaviour is defined and regulated by law. As such, any enduring reform in the electoral system must be fixed through legislation following honest and robust review of the electoral issues that have continued to trouble the waters in our political/electoral landscape. The critical question remains this. Is the 2026 Electoral Act fashioned for domestic democracy? Is there such a possibility that democracy can be tailored to suit particular expectations and experiences given its universal concepts? Has the 2026 Electoral Act addressed the nagging electoral issues or are there still surviving issues which it failed to fix hence the need for another piece of legislation?

Surely, since the signing into law of the Electoral Act, 2026, much internet ink and opinion voices have flowed ceaselessly critically appraising the improvements or shortcomings of the Act. A host of voices think it was hastily designed and foisted on the polity to overreach the opposition. Yet, many believe certain laudable advances have been made through some of the key innovations introduced by the new Act. We shall further examine some outstanding electoral issues which appear to have eluded the newborn Act.

Key innovations in the electoral act, 2026: problems and prospects

In order to robustly explore the substance of the topic, it would be necessary to x-ray some of the key innovations in the Electoral Act, 2026 ("the Act") in the light of problems or matters arising and the prospects attending.

a. mandatory digital membership register under section 77 (2) – (7) of the act:

The Problems:

Systematic Disenfranchisement:

The stringent sanction imposed by the section to the effect that failure to submit the digital register to INEC not later than 21 days before the date fixed for party primaries, convention or congress, can have the effect of systematically disenfranchising millions of voters, thereby hampering democratic participation. A careful examination of the register of members of many political parties will show inflated and non-existent members whose identities and locations cannot be verified. It is even doubtful if INEC itself has the capacity to undertake any verification, thus leaving the foundation of electoral contests and leadership recruitment vacuous. Pray, what can you build on a faulty foundation? According to Lord Denning, you cannot put something on nothing and expect it to stand.

Constitutionality Issues:

To my mind, this provision also conflicts with Section 40 of the Constitution which guarantees the right of every citizen to "assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to any political party." Thus, for political parties that are recognized by INEC, what chances has a citizen who desires to join a political party after the submission of the digital membership register under pressure to beat the 21 days threshold? Citizens in rural areas are automatically ostracized and marginalized in such a process, rendering political engagement elitist and at best, at large.

Cyber Insecurity of Digital Membership Data:

We must be conscious of the worrisome reality of criminal access into INEC'S database by compromised INEC elements in cahoots with political parties to overreach the opposition. The alleged unlawful sharing of voters or candidates' membership information in INEC database allegedly by any INEC insider from INEC's backend, exposes the credibility of the electoral umpire, especially where such is alleged to have been executed in agreement with close associates of politically exposed persons.

Prospects:

Designed to Curb Membership Data Manipulation:

The bright side of this however is that this reform is designed to curb manipulation of party membership lists, a longstanding source of intra-party dispute. By prohibiting the use of alternative registers and imposing the severe sanction of disqualification from fielding candidates, the Act seeks to enforce discipline and transparency. The question then is compliance, by all stakeholders, both the actors, players and the regulator.

Sport

W-Cup: UEFA slams FIFA over Balogun's red card decision

UEFA has strongly criticised FIFA's shock decision not to uphold Folarin Balogun's automatic ban at this World Cup, calling it "unprecedented, incomprehensible and unjustifiable".

United States striker Balogun, who was sent off against Bosnia-Herzegovina, should have served a suspension for the last-16 tie against Belgium to be played in the early hours of today [July 7].

But World Cup organisers FIFA, the governing body of world football, opted not to enforce an immediate sanction on the 25-year-old, meaning the co-hosts' leading goalscorer will be available to play.

The European football's governing body, said that intervening to effectively cancel a suspension at a tournament "crossed a red line".

Of the 188 other red cards at the World Cup, only one other player has escaped a suspension.

That was Brazil's Garrincha in 1962, which was before automatic bans were in place and it was shrouded in allegations of political interference.

The *BBC's* US media partner *CBS News* has confirmed that Balogun's reinstatement came after US President Donald Trump called FIFA President Gianni Infantino on Thursday and spoke about the suspension.

On Sunday, President Trump had thanked FIFA for "reversing a great injustice".

The Royal Belgian Football Association (RBFA) said in a statement on Monday that it "has no alternative but to challenge the player's eligibility for the upcoming match".

Belgium's foreign minister Maxime Prevot said: "If a phone call is really the reason for this incomprehensible decision, it would be a blatant violation of the most basic rules of football and sport."

Former FIFA president, Sepp Blatter, who was replaced by Infantino in 2016 after a corruption scandal, wrote on X that "football must never become a playground for political power".

UEFA said that an automatic suspension of one match "is not a discretionary option" and it is "a principle embedded in regulations".

"When the certainty of rules is no longer guaranteed by its guardians, the integrity of the game is at stake and the credibility of a competition is undermined.

"Equally, such a decision creates a precedent in the ongoing tournament, where similar situations will now require an equal treatment, to the detriment of the competition," UEFA said in a statement.

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