

UBA Group dominates 2025 Banker Awards, emerges Africa's Bank of the Year

...Wins Best Bank in nine out of 20 African subsidiaries



AMID BLACKOUTS: NERC, experts clash as DisCos' revenue rises to N1.7trn

- Billing, collection efficiency on the rise - NERC
- Experts disagree, say customers are being cheated

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Vanguard

...towards a better life for the people

VOL. 41: NO. 10,731

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

N250

DEMOCRACY SURVIVES!

How Benin Rep coup failed—FG

- Benin interior, foreign ministers speak
- A dozen soldiers arrested
- Nigerian Air Force conducts multiple precision airstrikes on fleeing coup plotters
- FG, ECOWAS, AU condemn attempted takeover
- ECOWAS deploys troops to Benin Republic

SEE PAGE



• President of Benin Republic, Patrice Talon



FACE OF A COUP PLOTTER
• Lt-Col Pascal Tigri

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SERAP to INEC: Explain missing N55.9bn voted for 2023 poll materials

- Lists smart card readers, ballot papers, others

Police storm kidnappers' camp in Abuja, rescue 7 victims

- Arrest suspected killers of retired Judge in Delta

PDP CRISIS: Wike's camp moves to re-organise state chapters, conduct fresh congresses, convention

30 SPORTS

AFCON 2025: Super Eagles face chaotic build-up

- As team fight against Egypt friendly



Mr & Mrs

THE GROUP ASKED ANOTHER TRICKY QUESTION. THEY SAID "MENTION THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD". I WAS CONFUSED, SO I LET IT PASS!



WITH A WOMAN UNDER HIS ROOF, ONLY A STUPID, WICKED, GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, VISIONLESS AND DUMB MAN WILL LET SUCH QUESTION PASS!

dadadekola@yahoo.com
08052201913

COLUMNISTS

OWEI 15

ODINKALU 19

SOBOWALE 22

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FAMFA OIL ANNOUNCES PROGRESS TOWARD THE COMMISSIONING OF THE MODUPE AND FOLORUNSO ALAKIJA MEDICAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING HOSPITAL



Famfa Oil Limited is pleased to announce continued progress on the Modupe and Folorunso Alakija Medical Research and Training Hospital, donated to Osun State University. The state-of-the-art medical research and training hospital represents a major step forward in strengthening medical education, research, and healthcare delivery in Nigeria.

The facility features advanced diagnostic suites, surgical theatres, simulation centres, research laboratories, and purpose-built training spaces designed to develop the next generation of medical professionals.

This initiative reflects the vision of Mr Modupe Folarin Alakija, Chairman of Famfa Oil, and Apostle Folorunso Alakija, Vice Chairman, whose commitment to national development continues to drive impactful investments in education and healthcare.

The project supports Nigeria's advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Quality Education, Good Health and Well-being and Partnerships for the Goals.

Famfa Oil and the leadership of Osun State University are working closely together as preparations for the official commissioning continue.

Famfa Oil remains focused on building institutions that empower communities and contribute to a stronger and healthier future for Nigeria



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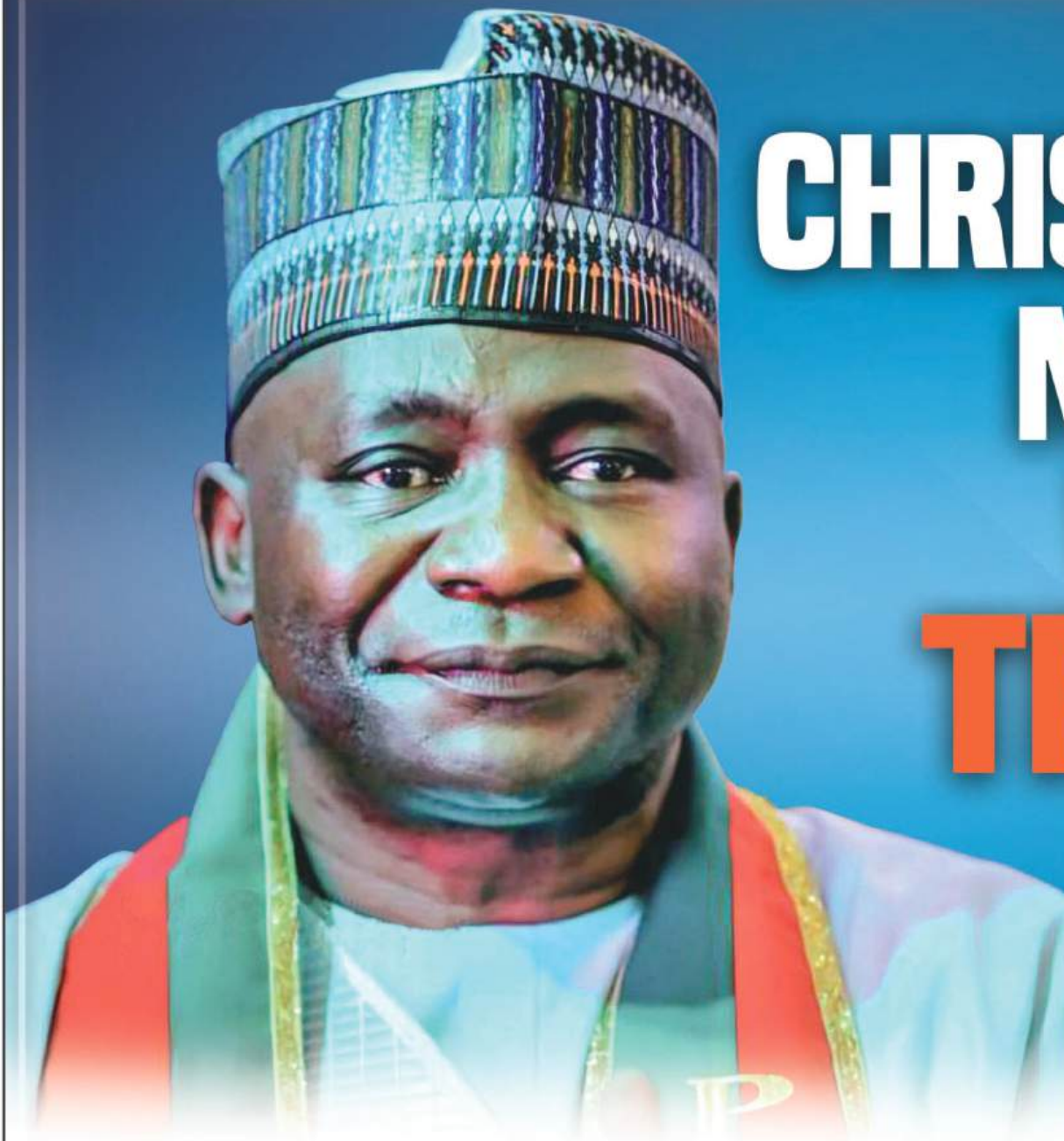
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CHRISTOPHER MUSA WE TRUST!

Gen. Christopher Musa, OFR,
Minister of Defence



We know that your reputation precedes you. We also know that this is your natural turf, and we are very confident that you understand the terrain very well.

You have the right attitude towards your responsibilities, no doubt, and your temperament commands immense respect. Your team admires you—not because you bought their loyalty, but because you earned it.

Your appointment as the new Minister of Defence, by His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu, GCFR, is therefore no coincidence. Your hard work as a decorated four star general has only brought you greater responsibilities.

Of course, nothing ahead of you suggests this will be easy. Indeed, it will be one of the most challenging tasks you have ever been entrusted with. But we know you and we trust you to carry out this duty with all your strength and the fear of God.

While Nigeria and her allies look up to you in many respects to help end the scourge of insecurity, we, at Advonics Services Nigeria Limited (ASNL), will continue to pray for you and ask God for the special grace to successfully discharge this onerous task.

Many congratulations on stepping unto this challenging path. The Lord is your strength, and may He guide you as His chosen leader.

from the management and staff of

ASNL

ADVONICS SERVICES NIGERIA LIMITED

...going beyond boundaries

Emmanuel Egbolu
MD/CEO



News

How Benin Republic coup failed — FG

● Coup attempt foiled, says Benin interior, foreign ministers ● A dozen soldiers arrested over coup attempt ● Nigeria withdraws fighter aircraft as situation stabilises ● FG, ECOWAS, AU condemn attempted military take-over ● As ECOWAS deploys troops to Benin

By Tunde Oso, Nkiruka Nnorom, Johnbosco Agbakwuru & Favour Ulebor with agency reports

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu yesterday commended the gallantry of Nigeria's military for responding swiftly to the request by the Government of Benin Republic to save its 35-year-old democracy from coup plotters, who struck at dawn yesterday.

A statement by his Special Adviser to the President, Information & Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, said the Federal Government, "Acting on two separate requests from the Government of Benin, President Tinubu first ordered Nigerian Air Force fighter jets to enter the country and take over the airspace to help dislodge the coup plotters from the National TV and a military camp where they had regrouped."

The Presidency said, "The Republic of Benin, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a Note Verbal, requested immediate Nigerian air support "in view of the

urgency and seriousness of the situation and to safeguard the constitutional order, protect national institutions and ensure the security of the population."

In the second request, the authorities in Benin requested the deployment of Nigerian Air Force assets within Benin airspace for surveillance and rapid intervention operations under Benin-led coordination.

The Benin government also requested Nigerian ground forces, "strictly for missions approved by the Beninese Command authority in support of the protection of constitutional institutions and the containment of armed Groups."

Nigeria's Chief of Defence Staff, General Olufemi Oluyede, said all the requests have been fulfilled, with Nigerian ground forces now in Benin.

"Ours is to comply with

the order of the Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces, President Tinubu," he said.

Constitutional order was upended in the Republic of Benin, Nigeria's neighbour, when some soldiers led by Colonel Pascal Tigri announced a coup on Sunday morning. The putschists seized the National TV and claimed they had toppled President Patrice Talon and suspended all democratic institutions.

It took some hours before the government's loyal forces, assisted by Nigeria, took control and flushed out the coup plotters from the National TV.

In his remarks after the restoration of the democratic and constitutional order, President Tinubu saluted the Nigerian armed forces for standing firm as a protector and defender of democracy.

"Today, the Nigerian armed forces stood gallantly as a defender and protector of constitutional

order in the Republic of Benin on the invitation of the government. Our armed forces acted within the ambit of the ECOWAS Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. They have helped stabilise a neighbouring country and have made us proud of their commitment to sustaining our democratic values and ideals since 1999. Nigeria stands firmly with the government and people of the Republic of Benin."

Shedding light on the coup attempt, Beninese Foreign Minister, Olushegun Adjadi Bakari and Minister of Interior, Alassane Seidou, said in separate interviews that the coup plotters had taken control of state TV and the signal had been cut for several minutes.

A group of soldiers, led by Lt-Col Pascal Tigri, who is now on the run, made a broadcast, saying they had ousted President Patrice Talon and suspended the constitution.

The group, which labelled itself the Military



Committee for Refoundation, announced the removal of the president and all political officeholders and dissolution of all democratic institutions.

The soldiers leading the attempted coup justified their actions by criticising President Talon's management of the country.

"The army solemnly commits to give the Beninese people the hope of a truly new era where fraternity, justice and work prevail," a statement read by one of the soldiers, said.

Confirming the attempt earlier in the day, the French Embassy in Benin said gunfire was reported near the residence of the president in the main city of Cotonou, which is the seat of government.

Eyewitnesses, according to the BBC, also reported that they had heard gunshots and that some journalists working for the state broadcast organisation were held hostage.

But speaking hours after the attempted coup, the Interior Minister, Alassane Seidou, urged the people to go about their businesses, saying soldiers loyal to the state had regained power. This came after the Presidency insisted in the morning that Talon was safe and assured that loyal guards would regain control of government.

Seidou said: "Early on

Sunday (yesterday) morning, December 7, 2025, a small group of soldiers launched a mutiny aimed at destabilising the state and its institutions.

"Faced with this situation, the Beninese armed forces and their leadership, true to their oath, remained committed to the republic. Their response allowed them to retain control of the situation and foil the attempt."

"The government, therefore, urges the population to go about their activities as normal," he said.

While also confirming that power had been regained from the mutineers, Foreign Minister, Bakari, said: "There is an attempt, but the situation is under control. Now it's a small group of military. A large part of the army is still loyal, and we are taking over the situation. This is a small group of people who only control the television. The regular army is regaining control. The city and the country are completely secure."

Soldiers arrested

Some other members of the group have since been arrested, while their leader, Tigri remains on the run.

Following the coup scare, the French and Russian embassies urged their citizens to stay

Continues on page 26



From left: Ms. Adeshola Adekunle Bello, Head of Restorative Justice Centre, Lagos State; Dr. Babajide Martins, State Director of Public Prosecutions; Mr. Lawal Pedro (SAN), Commissioner for Justice; Professor Akeem Olajide Bello, Chairman, Restorative Justice Steering Committee and Mrs. Ajibola Ijimakinwa, State Coordinator of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (RoLAC) Programme at the just-concluded Restorative Justice Week, in Lagos.

People Talk

BY OKIKIOLA LATEEF

On President Tinubu's ambassadorial nominees



I'm not surprised by the list of non-career ambassadorial nominees. It reflects a pattern that has become increasingly obvious in this administration: political appointments deployed as rewards for loyalty and patronage. Right now, Nigeria needs professional and globally competitive diplomatic corps so this approach raises legitimate concerns about the quality of representation the country will project abroad. Including the former INEC Chairman, who presided over the election that produced this govt, further reinforces the perception that PBAT is either unbothered by optics or has simply chosen to take Nigerians for granted.

—Opata David,
Public Relations expert



The nomination is long overdue, and it has finally happened even if some of the nominees are being criticized by the opposition. Whatever their reason/reasons, it's only the President and Commander-in-Chief that has the constitutional power to make the appointment. The nominees should be given the benefit of the doubt, if approved by the National Assembly.

—Raymond Tedunjaiye,
Media practitioner



While it is good the President wants to send ambassadors to various countries to represent Nigeria, I see it as a very wrong selection because it is a paddy choice. This is not the best. Let President Bola Ahmed Tinubu remove most of these people because some are very corrupt, and they are not good choices for such positions.

—Oladimeji Ayodele,
Entrepreneur



The list offers both hope and risk. The mix of experienced diplomats and influential figures could strengthen Nigeria's diplomacy. However, many former politicians and appointees risk politicizing the Foreign Service and damaging credibility. Success depends on transparent, merit-based selection, rigorous Senate vetting, and strict oversight. Questions remain about some nominees' competence and suitability, as some backgrounds may lack the required diplomatic expertise. Critics have questioned the character of certain nominees.

—Segun Balogun,
Entrepreneur



PBAT's list offers Nigeria a chance to reset its global diplomatic posture after a long gap without envoys. The blend of career diplomats and non-career nominees reflects an attempt to balance technical expertise with political representation, which if strategically deployed, could strengthen Nigeria's influence in key bilateral and multilateral spaces. However, public concern remains strong over the inclusion of several politically exposed and controversial figures, raising questions about merit, neutrality, and term professionalism. Nigerians expect a transparent, competence-driven selection process that prioritizes credibility, expertise, and the country's global reputation.

—Susan Kelechi,
Human rights activist



Given Nigeria's current global challenges, diplomatic, economic, security, and reputational, this moment calls for ambassadors with deep expertise, integrity and global policy savvy. With that in mind, the inclusion of seasoned career diplomats seems right and should be prioritized for key postings. But many non career nominees appear like loyalty appointments; that doesn't disqualify them if vetted thoroughly and assigned well, but it does raise serious questions about competence for the high stakes diplomatic tasks.

—Dodo E. Denen,
Journalist

Court stops sale of aircraft over alleged indebtedness

By Henry Ojelu

A High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, sitting in Bwari, has issued an interim order restraining Galactic Aviation Limited and two others from selling an Embraer EMB-145LR aircraft identified as 5N-BZM.

Justice M. A. Madugu granted the order on Friday, December 5, 2025, after hearing an ex parte application filed by the claimant, Reekers Engineering and Construction Limited.

The claimant, through its counsel, Mr. Azeez Hassan, SAN, filed and argued the motion ex parte in a suit marked FCT/HC/BW/CV/391/2025. Reekers Engineering and Construction Limited had instituted the suit against Galactic Aviation Limited, Mr. Abdullahi Ahmed, NG Eagle Airline Limited,

and the Minister for Aviation and Aerospace Development as first to fourth respondents respectively.

In his ruling, Justice Madugu granted the application and restrained the first to third defendants—Galactic Aviation Limited, Mr. Abdullahi Ahmed, and NG Eagle Airline Limited—from putting up for sale or selling the aircraft with Manufacturer Serial Number 14500842 and engine serial numbers ESN 25606 and ESN 25831.

The court noted that the aircraft had allegedly not been fully paid for by the first and second defendants. Justice Madugu also ordered the defendants to show cause within seven days why the key prayers in the claimant's ex parte motion should not be granted. The matter was adjourned to December 16, 2026, for hearing.



From left, Chairman, Onigbongbo, Local Council Development Area, LCDA; Moyosore Adebajo; Vice Chairman; Sam-sideen Oloyede, Lagos State Commissioner for Wealth Creation & Employment; Akinyemi Ajigbotafe, Lagos APC, Chairman; Pastor Cornelius Ojelabi presenting CNG-powered tricycle to a disabled beneficiary.

FG secures release of 100 schoolchildren abducted in Niger State

THE Federal Government has reportedly secured the release of 100 schoolchildren abducted from St. Mary's Private Catholic Primary and Secondary School, Papiri, in Agwara Local Government Area, Niger State.

Arriving around 2:00 a.m. on motorbikes, the gunmen stormed the school dormitories over a three-

hour period, abducting 315 people—303 students and 12 teachers.

Security forces and community hunters were deployed to comb nearby forests for the abductees.

In the immediate aftermath, 50 pupils escaped within the first day and were reunited with their families.

However, 265 individuals—including 253 children and all 12

teachers—remained in captivity.

The Federal Government responded by imposing a 24-hour security cordon and launching aerial surveillance across parts of Kwara, Kebbi, and Niger States.

President Bola Tinubu cancelled planned international travel to address the crisis.

Authorities also ordered the indefinite closure of all

schools in Niger State and many federal institutions in high-risk regions.

FG's Assurance

Last Monday, the National Security Adviser (NSA) to the President, Nuhu Ribadu, reassured parents and authorities of St. Mary's Private Catholic Primary and Secondary School, Papiri, in Agwara Local Government Area, Niger State, that the abducted pupils "are doing fine and will return soon."

He conveyed President Tinubu's message of hope, noting that efforts to rescue the children were progressing and security deployment in the affected area had been intensified.

"God is with them and God is with us. Evil will never win. They are going to come back. I give you that assurance," Ribadu said during a visit to the Catholic Bishop of Kontagora Diocese and Proprietor of the school, Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, as well as parents of the abducted children at St. Michael's Catholic Cathedral, Kontagora.

R-E-V-E-A-L-E-D: How Abuja street names are allegedly sold for up to N35m

By Luminous Jannamike

ABUJA—A Vanguard investigation has uncovered an alleged multi-million-naira payment scheme within the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)'s street-naming and house-numbering process, in which applicants were reportedly asked to pay large sums into private bank accounts instead of authorised government revenue accounts, despite the honour being officially presented as free.

The probe began after AMAC sent letters to Vanguard's Editor-in-Chief, Eze Anaba, and Chairman/Publisher, Sam Amuka-Pemu, informing them of their "unanimous" selection for streets to be named after them within Abuja Municipality.

The letters, dated November 13, 2025, and signed by Peter Ijwo, Director of Operations, and Gwebe Amos, Director of Administration,

stated that the nominations were based purely on merit "in recognition of outstanding contributions and commitment to society and the national economy."

However, subsequent engagements with officials of the Street Naming and House Numbering Unit, particularly Jeffrey Iorshe, allegedly revealed that

nominees were required to make substantial payments to "process" the honour. According to Vanguard's findings, the requested sums allegedly ranged from about N5 million in Nyanya, roughly N 11 million in Lokogoma, and between N25 million and N35 million in the Central Business District (CBD).

Police arrest suspected killers of retd Delta judge

By Ochuko Akuopha

ASABA—THE Delta State Police Command, yesterday disclosed that it has arrested a security guard, one Godwin Mngumi and one other suspect in connection with the murder of retired Delta State High Court Judge, Justice Ifeoma Okogwu.

Police Public Relations Officer of the State Command, Mr. Bright Edefe, who confirmed this in a statement, said the suspect was arrested in Anambra State and that the phone of

the retired judge was also recovered from him.

Recall that the lifeless body of the retired judge was discovered in the sitting room of her residence in Asaba with her hands, legs and mouth tied.

Confirming the arrests, Edefe in the statement, said: "On December 6, 2025, Operative of homicide section of State CID, Delta State Police Command acting on intelligence has arrested one Godwin Mngumi aged 25

years, the security who allegedly murdered Justice Ifeoma Okogwu (Rtd) in Anambra State and the phone of the late RTD justice has also been recovered from him.

"He confessed that he invited his friend one Nnaji Obalum and one other suspect at large over to the house where they carried out the dastardly act together.

"Nnaji Obalum has also been arrested while the manhunt for the third suspect is ongoing."

Police storm kidnappers' camp in Abuja, rescue 7 victims

By Kingsley Omonobi

THE Police in Abuja have busted a kidnapping syndicate following a raid on their den in Ushafa, which led to the rescue of seven kidnapped victims after a gun duel.

Spokesperson for the FCT Command, SP Josephine Adeh, disclosed this in a statement. She said: "On December 5, 2025, the FCT Police Command received a distress report that armed men had invaded a community in Ushafa and abducted several residents.

In a swift response, a joint team comprising operatives of the FCT Anti-

Kidnapping Unit, alongside personnel of the Army and the DSS, mobilised to the area on 6 December 2025 and immediately commenced a coordinated search operation.

"Acting on credible intelligence, the team traced

the suspects through the outskirts of Mpape community and into settlements extending towards Kagarko LGA of Kaduna State.

"Upon sighting the security operatives, the kidnappers opened fire, engaging

Imo govt seals hotel, mortuary over alleged kidnapping, organ harvesting

By Emmanuel Iheaka

THE Imo State government has ordered the closure of a hotel and a mortuary allegedly used for kidnapping and the harvesting of human organs. The State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Chioma

Egu, Chief Pathologist of the Imo State Specialist Hospital, Dr. Ibeaja Okechukwu, and the Commissioner of Police, Aboki Danjuma, visited the hotel and mortuary in the Ngor Okpala area of the state, where decomposing and mutilated corpses were reported-

ly found. The Police Public Relations Officer, Henry Okoye, disclosed this in a statement on Saturday night, noting that the operation followed credible intelligence.

Okoye stated that the owner of the hotel and mortuary, one Stanley Morocco Oparaugo, has been declared wanted.

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MR. NSOBUNDU KEN EZEIMO

MR. CLEMENT AKUBUILO

MR. IFYSIFEANYICHUKWU AGUOCHA

FOR UMU IRUOJI.

GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

Change Of Name and Correction Of Date Of Birth

That my name was Ajaino Enohor Josephine but I wish to be called and address as Edamwen Ajaino Enohor Josephine and my date of birth was wrongly captured as 15th September 1970, instead of 15th September 1972, former documents remain valid. The General public should take note

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

I, NKWOCHA, CHINAZA SOPHIA WISH TO NOTIFY THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT I WAS BORN ON JUNE 11TH, 2008 (11/06/2008) AND NOT JUNE 11TH, 2005 AS WAS MISTAKENLY RECORDED ON MY BIRTH CERTIFICATE. THEREFORE, MY CORRECT DATE OF BIRTH IS 11/06/2008. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC, PLEASE TAKE NOTE.

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

My name was wrongly captured as ORITSEDERE ROLI FAITH instead of ORITSEDERE ROLI during Account opening/BVN registration. My date of birth was also wrongly captured as 26th day of July, 2003 instead of 26th day of July, 2005. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

SPACE FOR SALE

ECONOMY & Life Style

By Elizabeth Adegbesan
amihorelizabeth@gmail.com

Economy: Why some gorgeously dressed ladies steal food, plates, spoons at owambes

AS funny as this may sound, not all gorgeously dressed ladies at parties came to honour the celebrant.

While many came to merry with the host, some came for free food as the economic downturn has reduced many people's ability to afford three-square meals.

But some others came for a sinister purpose not fit for the noble. They use the opportunity of such parties to stow away food, plates, forks and knives. The embarrassing scenario not only debases human dignity, it puts caterers and party hosts in debt.

Some caterers who spoke to *Economy&Lifestyle*, said more sophisticated looking ladies who ordinarily appear classic have even joined the trend. They attributed the menace to the quest for survival.

Mrs. Harietta Lawrence, a caterer, said: "It is quite alarming that not everybody you see at parties is sensible and okay." These guests have shown me 'shege promax'.

"Some of them carry my forks and glass cups home.



***Guest serving themselves in a party**

"champagne glass can be 200 before an event. "After the event we will see just 190."Guests will remove table cover clothes and napkins to pack extra chickens and small chops home.

"Some even take the LED candles used in decorating the tables."The culprits are mostly women."When you see these women looking

radiant with large head gears, shoes, bags, clothes, jewelry, you will think they have arrived. "But what most people don't know is that some of the things these women put on were borrowed."

Mrs. Owodunni Alakija, a caterer, said: "Apart from party guests, the drivers and securities are also culprits of

stealing plates. "Once they are served, they leave the plates and cutlery inside their cars or post.

"Whenever we go for a job, the LED lights are never complete, even the napkins.

"I decided to put the burden on the hosts."I include damages to the fees I charge them and it covers my losses."It is very embarrassing that people with high class and good looks can steal plates, cups, spoons, forks, knives or even LED lights at parties.

"And these things are very expensive because most hosts request the best in their parties."Mr. Lucky Idugbo, an event planner and caterer, lamented: "The act is becoming unbearable.

"These guests don't pity caterers at all. Between July and now I have over 200 plates missing at events I catered.

"I have even lost count of spoons, cups and napkins. It is tiring and these things are very expensive. These guests have frustrated us in food and have now migrated to stealing cutlery.

"When we prepare food for 200 guests two to three people will collect food meant for ten guests. At the end, the host will be complaining about us not feeding her entire guests.

"This tends to destroy our reputation as caterers. It is when we explain to some that they understand. Others will still blame us."

Mrs. Faith Braimoh, a kitchen accessories seller, noted that stealing table clothes, napkins and plates is a very ugly thing to do as a woman."Yes, I know these items are expensive but there are affordable ones like the unbreakable plates, spoons and cups.

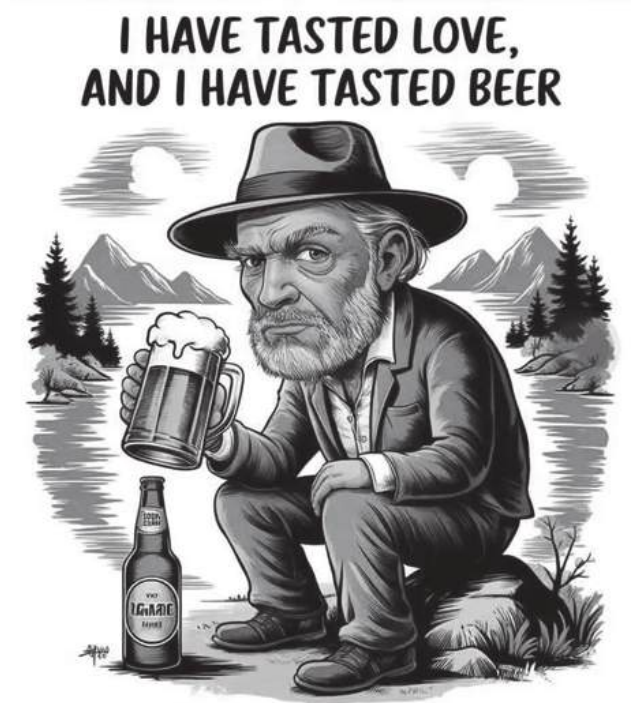
"A quality ceramic plate is sold for N3,000 to N5,000 depending on if it's a soup bowl or flat plate.

"A quality stainless steel spoon is sold for N25,000 above per dozen. A good quality champagne glass set of three to six costs between N50,000 to N100,000.

"Imagine spending such an amount on these items and someone from nowhere steals them. It will be painful. It is a huge loss when the items stolen start accumulating", she added.

SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation



I HAVE TASTED LOVE,
AND I HAVE TASTED BEER

I HIGHLY RECOMMEND BEER

No. You tasted the wrong love sample!

I have discovered why people in government never criticise the government, no matter how bad it is. This is because they have table manners; you don't talk while eating

The bitter truth!

A girl can forget where she left her charger two minutes ago but she will remember what you said in 2019 at 19:37



Encyclopaedia of negativity!



Do as I say...don't do what I do!

My Dearest Daughter,

MISS. BODUNRIN MOSINMILOLUWA TILDA

Being your dad is one of the greatest joys of my life. From the moment you entered my life, you filled it with purpose, laughter, and love I never knew I was missing.

Life gave me you, with loads of reasons to be joyful—and for that, I am forever grateful. Your strength, your smile, your heart—they all combine to make me proud every single day.

Always remember: you are my daughter, by love, by choice, and by a bond that can never be broken.

Endless love,

Dad MR. BODUNRIN OLALEKAN EBENEZER

MISS. BODUNRIN MOSINMILOLUWA TILDA

Signed:

MR. BODUNRIN OLALEKAN EBENEZER



VISIT: National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, flanked by the US Ambassador to Nigeria, Richard Mills, and members of the US Congressional team on fact-finding in Nigeria, Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, Rep. Normal Torres, Rep. Scott Franklin and Rep. Juan Ciscomani during their visit to the NSA, in Abuja, yesterday

PDP crisis: Wike's camp moves to re-organise state chapters, conduct fresh congresses, convention

By Omeiza Ajayi

ABUJA: The factional Board of Trustees, BoT of the Nyesom Wike's tendency in Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has unveiled a major internal restructuring plan to reorganise troubled state chapters and prepare the grounds for fresh congresses and a national convention.

Chairman of the factional BoT, Senator Mao Ohuabunwa, who disclosed this at the opening session of the board's meeting held at the Life Camp official residence of the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, Abuja, yesterday, said the group was committed to rebuilding the PDP from within and restoring public confidence in its internal processes.

Ohuabunwa said the faction was already making meaningful progress in reorganising affected states, including the constitution of credible caretaker

committees, explaining that the initiative would "prepare the ground for transparent congresses and subsequent convention process."

He insisted the reforms were necessary to "build trust, strengthen internal structures and ensure that our party remains a model of fairness and inclusiveness in the Nigerian democratic space."

Declaring full support for the Abdulrahman Mohammed-led National Working Committee, NWC, Ohuabunwa said: "We are going to work with this NWC, we are going to encourage them, we are going to support them to ensure that the right things are done, and that things will be done in line with the law and the guidance of our great party."

He stressed that the BoT must reclaim its statutory role in stabilising the PDP, noting that "as the constitution of our party entails, the Board of Trustees must continue to provide

stability, wisdom and moral guidance."

He added that its responsibility was to "safeguard the party's soul, steer it away from divisive tendencies, and reinforce the values that have historically set the PDP apart as a disciplined and democratically established institution."

Ohuabunwa urged members to prioritise unity as they pushed through the restructuring agenda, saying, "in this defining moment, therefore, we must rise above sentiments and act with unity of all."

He also reaffirmed the faction's determination to ensure that the PDP emerges stronger after the reforms.

"Our duty is clear, well stated, to consolidate the reforms already underway, deepen internal cohesion, and ensure that the People's Democratic Party emerges stronger, more virile, more united and fully prepared for the leadership responsibilities ahead," he said.

Describing the BoT as the "conscience of the party" and its "moral compass," he warned that the board must not be found wanting in upholding legality and due process.

He said; "We must stand and face the truth, and ensure that this party stands to be counted at all times in our obedience to the laws of the Federation, the laws of our party, and the guidelines of the regulatory body, which is the Independent National Electoral Commission".

Ohuabunwa thanked members who attended, despite the short notice and travel delays, expressing optimism that the meeting would set the tone for a stable and reinvigorated PDP.

Some of those at the meeting included the factional National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu; former governor of Abia State, Okezie Ikpeazu; former deputy governors, including, Dr Philip Salary of Kogi State and several other chieftains.

Hunger: FAO's \$2.5bn fund to support 100m people in Nigeria, 53 others

By Gabriel Ewepu

ABUJA - THE Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO, has said its new Global Emergency and Resilience Appeal seeks \$2.5 billion to support 100 million people in Nigeria and 53 other countries.

The FAO in a statement, explained that its first-ever fund appeal was for a more coherent and urgent approach to rising levels of acute food insecurity at a moment of tightening humanitarian resources.

The statement read: "The Appeal places emergency agricultural assistance at the center of efforts to protect food production and strengthen resilience in crisis contexts."

"The Appeal seeks \$2.5 billion to support more than 100 million people in 54 countries and territories in 2026. By consolidating all humanitarian and resilience requirements into a single framework, FAO aims to address urgent needs, while reducing the likelihood of repeated, costly assistance in future crises."

"The Appeal reflects FAO's

commitment to deliver differently, with clearer priorities, stronger sequencing and solutions rooted in what farmers consistently ask for, all aligned with areas members have urged FAO to reinforce."

According to the statement, while launching the Appeal on the sidelines of the 179th FAO Council, FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, underscored the need to strengthen how food crisis responses are designed and delivered, so that every contribution has the greatest possible impact.

Dongyu said: "Acute food insecurity has tripled since 2016, even with high levels of humanitarian funding. The current model simply does not keep pace with today's realities."

"Supporting farmers to maintain production is critical to ensure food availability. When farmers can keep producing, communities stabilize and the path to resilience becomes real."

He added that at this year's World Food Forum,

young people in crisis contexts, delivered a clear message – they want opportunity, not permanent handouts.

This Appeal responds to that demand because "it is member-driven, reality-driven, demand-driven and solutions-driven and most important cost-efficiency driven."

"A call for collective support: FAO emphasised that the Appeal represents a leadership commitment to protect food production and reduce future humanitarian needs through proven solutions, ensuring that every contribution delivers maximum impact for the most vulnerable communities, members and donors. This Global Appeal reflects the new, faster, leaner and more effective FAO."

Focusing on solutions that reduce needs over time, FAO's 2026 Appeal recognised that the drivers of food insecurity in today's protracted crises could not be sustainably addressed through short-term aid alone.

Although 90 per cent of humanitarian resources are now spent in long-running emergencies, hunger

continues to rise.

The statement also revealed: "Around 80 per cent of people facing acute food insecurity live in rural areas, relying on farming, herding, fishing or forestry."

"Yet only five per cent of humanitarian food-sector funding supports agricultural livelihoods—a persistent imbalance that traps families in a cycle of crisis and dependence."

"Strengthening local food production improves food availability, supports markets, creates jobs, and stabilises communities, especially in countries such as Sudan, South Sudan, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

"The Appeal emphasises the importance of anticipatory action and rapid emergency agricultural support. Timely seed distributions, livestock vaccination campaigns, rehabilitation of key infrastructure, provision of tools, cash assistance and market-oriented support have consistently proven highly cost-effective, especially in conflict- and climate-affected contexts."

LP Reps to Tinubu, APC: Prioritise welfare, security of Nigerians, not 2027 politics

By Gift ChapiOdekina

ABUJA-The Labour Party caucus in the House of Representatives has expressed disappointment that the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, was prioritising 2027 politics over the welfare and security of Nigerians, labeling it insensitive, unconscionable and a clear example of questionable leadership.

It emphasised that while the President's aspiration for re-election was legitimate, his priority should be addressing the pressing challenges facing Nigerians.

In a statement issued by the Labour Party caucus leader, Afam Victor Ogene, in Abuja yesterday, the lawmakers reiterated that the primary duty of a government was to ensure the welfare and security of its citizens.

However, the caucus criticised the APC and President Bola Tinubu for prioritising their 2027 reelection bid over these responsibilities.

The statement expressed concern and bewilderment that while the nation grappled with insecurity, the ruling party was either ignoring the issue or offering superficial solutions, rather than addressing the problem effectively.

These concerns were raised amid escalating insecurity nationwide and the administration's struggles to fund budgets and demonstrate accountability.

"The situation has led to prolonged protests by local contractors who remain unpaid for completed

projects, sparking economic hardship, stalled development, and a dearth of new projects," it said.

The caucus highlighted that the "Appropriation Act", a law governing budget allocation, had been consistently disregarded by the current administration.

It pointed out the irony of the government pursuing costly projects, such as the controversial multi-trillion naira Lagos-Calabar coastal road without proper appropriation or procurement processes, while essential federal road infrastructure laid in disrepair.

According to the LP caucus, this has raised concerns among citizens, particularly those planning to travel during the festive season, who face not only difficult road conditions but also heightened insecurity.

Also of grave concern to the caucus is the opaque expenditure of N17.5 trillion in 2024 alone on a pipeline-security contract, as revealed in the recently audited accounts of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, NNPC.

"Nigerians would remember that over a 12-year period, the country spent about N18 trillion on subsidy (which benefitted everyone through affordable transportation and cheaper costs of foodstuffs), but on the excuse of lack of funds to sustain the subsidy regime, this administration has clearly robbed Peter (Nigerians), to pay Paul (cronies), through a questionable pipeline-security contract whose executors are unknown," it stated.

Calabar-Odukpani-Itu road: FG revokes Raycon's contract, reassigns to Hitech

• Umahi, NASS pledge value for money of coastal highway

By Egufe Yafugborhi

UYO—FEDERAL government has terminated Raycon and Company (Nigeria) Limited's rehabilitation contract on a 9.7Km Section on the Calabar-Odukpani-Itu Road in anger over slow pace of work.

The Minister of Works, David Umahi, who revoked the contract weekend, said the project was "definitely beyond the capacity" of the company, and directed the Federal Controller of Works in Akwa Ibom State to issue a stop-work order.

Umahi and some National Assembly members, joined by other stakeholders, were on tour of Akwa Ibom and Cross River states Sections 3A and 3B of the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway and the lingering Calabar-Odukpani-Itu Road which delayed completion has induced public resentments for years.

The minister refused to entertain Raycon's claim of not receiving mobilisation funds, affirming the sacked contractor was informed that the ministry's policy required contractors to report to site and achieve reasonable level of work certified before mobilisation are released.

He instructed assessment of the level of completion reached by Raycon to facilitate payment as he reassigned the job to Hitech Africa Construction Company on emergency

procurement basis, assuring road users that it would be completed within two months.

"I am asking the director of works to issue a stop-work order on Raycon effective today (Saturday). A joint measurement of work done should be carried out, so Raycon can be paid when funds are available."

"We will look for a less challenging project for the company. We are not blaming you, and we are not blaming ourselves."

"This is one of the worst roads in this country. There is no one that goes through this road that will not take a pain-relieving tablet. Giving the job to Raycon was a mistake on the part of the ministry, and we admit our failure because we did not carry out due diligence," he said.

He appealed to Akwa Ibom State government to expedite payment of compensation to affected property owners on the job, describing it as crucial to unhindered progress on the project.

The Federal Controller of Works in Akwa Ibom, Okoduwa Vincent, explained that Raycon had completed about 400 meters of lane on one carriageway and was battling deep ravines that overturn trucks.

Raycon's Managing Director, Sakis Gabriel, said the firm remained on-site throughout the rainy season to attend to emergencies.

LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

We rise by lifting others

By Jide Ajani

THE Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, SERAP, has urged Professor Joash Amupitan, the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, to promptly account for the missing or diverted N55.9 billion meant for the purchase of smart card readers, ballot papers, result sheets and other election materials for the 2019 general elections.

It said the grave allegations were documented in the latest annual report published by the Auditor-General on September 9, 2025.

It also in a letter, dated December 6, 2025, and signed by the deputy director, Kolawole Oluwadare, urged the INEC chairman to disclose the names of the contractors that reportedly collected over N55.9 billion for the purchase of smart card readers, ballot papers, result sheets and other election materials for the 2019 general elections, including details of the directors and shareholders as well as the contractors' addresses.

The letter, which asked Prof. Amupitan to take the matter to appropriate anti-corruption agencies for prosecution, to ensure the full recovery of proceeds of corruption, read: "INEC must operate without corruption if the commission is to uphold Nigerians' right to participation in their own government.

"Allegations of corruption in the supply of smart card readers, ballot papers, result sheets and other election materials directly undermine Nigerians' right to participate in elections that are free, fair, transparent, and credible.

"INEC cannot properly carry out its constitutional and statutory responsibilities to conduct free and fair elections in the country if it continues to fail to uphold the basic principles of transparency, accountability and the rule of law.

"These allegations also constitute abuse of public office and show the urgent need by INEC under your leadership to commit to transparency, accountability, clean governance and the rule of law.

"According to the recently published 2022 audited report by the Auditor General of the Federation, AGF, the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC,



CONSTITUENCY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME — From left: Vice President Kashim Shettima; Senate President, Senator Godswill Akpabio; Leader, House of Representatives, Julius Ihonvbere; Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State and Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Mr Benjamin Kalu, seeing off Senator Shettima at the Victor Attah International Airport, Uyo, after attending the constituency empowerment programme organised by Unyime Idem in Ukanafun, Akwa Ibom State, yesterday.

SERAP to INEC: Explain missing N55.9bn voted for 2023 poll materials •Lists smart card readers, ballot papers, others

'irregularly paid' over N5.3 billion [N5,312,238,499.39] 'to a contractor for the supply of Smart Card Readers for the 2019 general elections.

"The contract was awarded without prior approval from the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) and the Federal Executive Council. The payment was also 'made without any document and any evidence of supplies to the commission.

"INEC claimed approval was not sought because 'the supply of smart card readers falls under national defence or national security and therefore exempted under the Procurement Act.

"But the Auditor-General rejected the claim as 'alien to the Procurement Act', and stated that 'INEC ought to have received a Certificate of No Objection from the BPP for the contract. He is concerned that the money 'may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury.

"INEC also reportedly 'paid over N4.5 billion [N4,505,220,044.06] to six contractors for ballot papers/result sheets', but 'the payments were without any documentary evidence of

supply from the contractors.'

"There was 'no evidence of advertisement, bid submission, bid evaluation, approvals and no Certificate of No Objection'.

"There was also 'no evidence of the contractors' eligibility', as 'INEC failed to show the contractors' Tax clearance certificate, pension clearance certificate, NSITF certificate, ITF certificate of compliance, and BPP registration.

"The Auditor-General is concerned that the money 'may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury.

"INEC reportedly paid over N331 million [N331,228,070.04] to 'some contractors in doubtful circumstances as several payments had contradictory supporting documents.

"The contract 'for the supply of 25 pieces of generating sets was dated 28 December 2019 but the receipt for the payment was issued 12 months before the contract, that is, 15 January 2019.' The contractors 'were paid even before the award of the contracts.

"INEC claimed that these infractions are justified for the 'Commission to ensure

that the 2019 general elections were concluded and to avoid what would have been a deep constitutional crisis', but the Auditor-General considered the commission's response 'unsatisfactory.

"The Auditor-General is concerned that the money 'may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury.

"INEC also reportedly failed 'to deduct over N2.1 billion [N2,193,484,804.06] of stamp duty from contractors between 2018 and 2019.' According to the Auditor-General, 'there were no justifiable reasons by the commission for the

failure to deduct and remit the stamp duty.

"INEC claimed it did not receive 'any circular requesting it to deduct stamp duty from contract payments to contractors', but the Auditor-General considered the commission's response 'unsatisfactory.

"The Auditor-General is concerned that the money 'may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury.

"INEC also failed to 'retire over N630 million [N630,625,319.80] of cash advances granted to some officers of the Commission. Some officers 'were granted multiple advances when the

previous ones had not been retired.

"The Auditor-General is concerned that the money 'may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury.

"The commission also 'awarded contracts of over N41 billion

[N41,312,066,801.00] for the printing of ballot papers, result sheets, and voting point result sheets for various elections', but 'without due process.' According to the Auditor-General, 'there was no evidence that the contractors were eligible to carry out such contracts.

NECA pushes firms towards responsible profit making

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

THE Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association, NECA, has stepped up efforts to drive what it described as responsible and sustainable business practices across the country.

To achieve this goal, it announced the establishment of a new Environmental, Social and Governance, ESG, Advisory Board.

The initiative, according to NECA, is designed to shift Nigerian companies away from traditional profit-maximisation toward more ethical, environmentally conscious profitmaking.

NECA's Director-General, Mr. Adewale Smatt-Oyerinde, who unfolded the plan during the ESG State of Play Report Launch Conference, organised in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation, ILO, in Lagos, expressed concern that while large corporations had embraced ESG, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSMEs, and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, SMEs,

•Launches Advisory Board on industry standards

remained largely left out of the conversation.

According to him, the Advisory Board will be composed mainly of major organisations that already have the structures, expertise and capacity to champion ESG compliance nationwide.

He said: "What we want

to do immediately after this launch is to constitute the NECA ESG Advisory Board involving many of these organisations that are already up there. That is because they have the structure, the knowledge and the information. Through them, and with them, we keep reaching out to all our collaborative platforms.

Fighting terrorism: France pledges support to Nigeria

FRENCH President, Emmanuel Macron, has expressed France's solidarity with Nigeria in addressing its security challenges, particularly the terrorist threat in the country's northern region.

In a message posted on X yesterday, Macron said he spoke with President Bola Tinubu and affirmed that France would strengthen its partnership with Nigerian authorities.

He wrote: "I spoke with President Tinubu of Nigeria, @officialABAT. I conveyed France's solidarity in the face of the various security challenges, particularly the terrorist

threat in the north.

"At his (Tinubu's) request, we will strengthen our partnership with the authorities and our support for the affected populations.

"We call on all our partners to step up their engagement. No one can remain a spectator."

Macron also stated that, in fulfillment of Tinubu's request, his government would cooperate with the federal government to provide support for the affected populations.

His statement followed a wave of gunmen attacks and kidnappings, particularly in the northern region, that had drawn international condemnation.

Military jet crash: NAF pilots undergoing routine medical evaluation as CAS visits

By Kingsley Omonobi

FOLLOWING the military plane crash that occurred in Niger State on Saturday, the Nigerian Air Force, NAF, is currently subjecting the pilots of the Alpha Jets to routine medical evaluation.

The evaluation came as the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Kelvin Aneke, visited the pilots in the hospital.

Air Commodore Ehimen Ejodame, Director of Public Relations and Information, who disclosed this in a statement yesterday, said: "NAF commends the exceptional bravery and professionalism of its Alpha

jet pilots who safely ejected, following an in-flight emergency during a post-inspection functional check flight on December 6, 2025, at Nigerian Air Force Base, Kainji.

"Shortly after take-off, the aircraft developed an emergency, prompting the pilots to act swiftly and with remarkable composure.

"They expertly manoeuvred the aircraft away from populated areas before executing a safe ejection. The crew is currently undergoing routine medical evaluation.

"The Chief of the Air Staff, CAS, Air Marshal Sunday Kelvin Aneke, has praised the pilots for their courage,

discipline and sound judgement, which prevented loss of life.

"He has also directed the immediate constitution of a Board of Inquiry to investigate the incident.

NAF further acknowledges the prompt, coordinated and highly professional response of its personnel, including search and rescue teams, fire and crash response units, and medical practitioners who swiftly secured the area and ensured the safety and well being of the aircrew.

"Their dedication, teamwork and sacrifice reflect the unwavering commitment to service that the NAF is known for."



Family, friends to honour Dan Agbese

LAGOS— A special tribute event honouring the legacy and impact of the late Dan Agbese, whose work and contributions shaped Nigerian journalism, will be held on December 15, 2025.

The tribute, titled 'The Dan Agbese Standard: A Celebration of Love and Excellence,' will take place at Whitestone Event Place, No. 3 Billingsway Road, Oregun, Ikeja, where media professionals, family and friends will share stories and memories in celebration of Agbese's life and legacy.

Agbese passed away on November 17, 2025.

In her tributes, his daughter, Dr Aje-Ori Agbese, said: "This tribute is not just a celebration of his life. It is an opportunity for us to say goodbye in a positive way. My father touched many lives and minds through his work. But outside of his work, he was deeply committed to making people's lives better through various personal and community projects. He was a very kind, playful and caring man. I think he should be remembered with joy."

Awujale Stool: Ruling House orders KWAM 1 to prove lineage

By James Ogunnaike

ABEOKUTA — THE Fusengbuwa ruling house of Ijebu-Ode has directed Fuji musician, Wasiu Ayinde, popularly known as KWAM 1, to prove his legitimate membership of the ruling house, following his declaration to fill the vacant stool of Awujale of Ijebuland.

With this, the popular musician, who is the Olori Omooba of Ijebuland, is expected to complete the family's royal lineage data form to establish his legitimate membership of the ruling house.

The Chairman of the ruling house, Abdulateef Owoyemi, stated that only bonafide members of the family would be allowed to participate in the selection process of the next Awujale.

Recall that Ayinde, in a letter dated December 3, 2025, addressed to the Chairman of the Fusengbuwa Ruling House in Agunsebi Quarters, Ijebu-Ode, announced his interest in the stool.

However, Owoyemi said the Olori Omooba of Ijebu land had been directed to complete the Fusengbuwa ruling house royal lineage data form.

He said: "The first step for anyone interested in contesting for the Awujale throne is to declare their lineage by filling the standard Fusengbuwa ruling house royal lineage data form. Once confirmed as a legitimate member of the ruling house, they can then apply for the expression of interest form."

"We have told him, just like everyone else interested in the Awujale throne, that the first step is to declare his lineage."

Onigbongbo LCDA empowers 500 residents

By Jeremiah Urowayino

LAGOS— NO fewer than 500 persons in the Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area of Lagos State have received support items such as cash grants, sewing machines, grinding machines,



INAUGURATION : L-R, the Executive Chairman of Ejigbo Local Council Development Area, LCDA, Aare Taoheed Taiwo; Wife of the Deputy Governor of Lagos, Mrs Oluremi Hamzat; and the First Lady of Lagos State, Dr Ibiyoke Sanwo-Olu, during the inauguration of Ambulance Bus within the Premises of the Ejigbo LCDA as part of the activities marking the first 100 days in office of the Council Chairman held in Ejigbo, Lagos.

By Rotimi Ojomoyela & Adeola Badru

ADO-EKITI — THE founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, ABUAD, Aare Afe Babalola, yesterday, bemoaned the rampant and incessant security challenges in Nigeria, calling on the Federal Government to take drastic action on kidnapping, banditry mitigating Nigeria.

Babalola, who condemned the recent attacks in different parts of the country, lamented the prolonged fear that the menace has instilled in Nigerians.

The legal icon stated this during the commemoration of the 16-day of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Advocacy Campaign by ABUAD in partnership with UN Women

Afe Babalola to FG: Take drastic action on kidnapping, banditry

● Ladoja tasks Yoruba communities to be vigilant

in Ado-Ekiti.

Speaking at the event themed 'Unite to End Digital Violence Against Women and Girls', the elder statesman harped on the principles of the University, saying no women and men have been violated and abused in ABUAD since the inception of the University.

His words: "Section 13 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as amended, says the duty of the government is the welfare and safety of the citizens."

"I appeal to the Federal Government to go on about the

safety of people on the farm, road, so that we can have a safe society.

"Many people are now being killed; everybody is afraid of going to work and farms. It is not only violence against women and girls, but violence against me and you now."

"While I agree with you about ending violence against women and girls, the Government should do more about the safety of Nigerians."

On her part, the Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Smaranda Olarinde, said ABUAD will continue to work

proactively with the government, private sectors, development partners and multinational organisations to address issues affecting women and girls.

Ladoja tasks Yoruba communities to be vigilant

Meanwhile, the Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Rashidi Ladoja, has urged Yoruba people across the South-West to remain vigilant in the face of Nigeria's ongoing security challenges.

The monarch gave the charge at the weekend in Ode-Omu, Osun State, during the annual Ode-Omu Day celebration.

Commending the efforts of the

Alaye of Ode-Omu, Oba James Bolarinwa Oladipupo, and the entire community for their dedication to development initiatives, the Olubadan pledged that Ibadan would continue to support the growth of Ode-Omu.

The monarch: "Let me use this occasion to urge Yoruba people to be vigilant amid security challenges facing Nigeria."

"I want to pledge the readiness of Ibadan to always support Ode-Omu's development. That next year, an illustrious son and Parakoyi of Ibadanland, Chief Tunde Afolabi, would be drafted to chair Ode-Omu Day."

Law pivotal to stability, upholding freedoms — CJN

By Innocent Anaba

ABUJA — THE Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has emphasised the pivotal role of the law in maintaining political stability, ensuring economic confidence, and upholding freedoms and responsibilities in society.

She spoke on the 'Law, Politics, and Economic Development: Nigeria at Crossroads,' at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, NIALS's 2025 Fellows' Lecture and 19th Conferment of the Institute's Honorary Fellowships in Abuja.

She stressed that, amidst Nigeria's current socio-economic challenges, the rule of law is

paramount, particularly for the judiciary in fulfilling its vital role.

Also speaking, the Director General of NIALS, Prof. Abdulqadir Abikan, reiterated the Institute's dedication to excellence and societal impact.

He highlighted the significance of the Fellows' Lecture in driving scholarly discussions and promoting

intellectual capacity within Nigeria's legal system.

The Guest lecturer, Mr George Etomi, highlighted Nigeria's governance struggles, citing institutional weaknesses, electoral distrust, and public disillusionment.

He noted that Nigeria's low ranking in the Rule of Law Index indicates a need for enhanced

adherence to legal principles. Addressing issues in key sectors like oil and gas, telecommunications, and banking, he underscored the importance of good governance for national development.

He proposed strengthening institutions, promoting transparency, and fostering accountability as crucial steps to address governance deficiencies.

Falana to FG, govs, first ladies: End digital repression now

LAGOS— HUMAN Rights lawyer, Mr Femi Falana, SAN, has urged the Federal Government, the 36 governors and first ladies to "immediately end digital repression and embrace digital democracy, uphold human rights

and media freedom."

He said this in a paper titled 'Press Freedom and Cybercrime Law in Nigeria: Bridging the Justice Gaps' delivered at the plenary session of the Nigeria Bar Association-Section on Public

Interest and Development Law (NBA-SPIDEL).

Falana said: "Across Nigeria, serving and former public officers and increasingly their spouses have systematically weaponised law enforcement agencies to

silence journalists, students, activists, whistleblowers, and political opponents.

"This pattern persists despite clear constitutional guarantees under Sections 35, 36, and 39, and judicial pronouncements

prohibiting the misuse of the criminal law for personal grievances.

"This conduct mirrors the tactics of the British colonial administrators who used sedition and criminal libel to suppress dissent."

"In many cases today, 'cyberstalking' complaints are filed not to protect public order, but to punish criticism, expose corruption, or intimidate perceived opponents. These abuses violate the rule of law and constitute misapplication of state power."

"Press freedom remains a constitutional and democratic imperative in Nigeria. Yet cyber security legislation, particularly the former Section 24 of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act 2015, has been systematically weaponised by public officials and their spouses to silence dissent, intimidate journalists, and criminalise legitimate criticism."

"Despite clear judicial guidance from Nigerian courts and binding decisions of the ECOWAS Court of Justice, security agencies continue to arrest journalists and citizens for offences that no longer exist under Nigerian law."

Ruling house to Sanwo-Olu: Install Prince Kosoko as Oloja of Lagos

By Dapo Akinrefon

LAGOS —THE Akinsanya Olojo Family, a branch of the King Kosoko Royal Dynasty, yesterday, urged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to approve the installation of Prince Abiola Olojo-Kosoko as the next Oloja of Lagos.

The family said Prince Abiola was duly selected as Oloja-elect

on December 12, 2020, but has remained uninstalled four years after his emergence.

In a statement addressed to the governor and copied to the Secretary to the State Government, SSG, the Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Chairman of Lagos Island Local Government, and the Council of Heads of

livelihoods.

He also announced the forthcoming launch of the Onigbongbo Marshall (O'Marshall) Security Initiative, a community-based security network designed to strengthen neighbourhood safety and support existing security agencies.

Kosoko Royal Family, the General Secretary of the Akinsanya Olojo-Kosoko Ruling House, Prince Theophilus Olojo-Kosoko, reaffirmed the family's position.

He noted that a follow-up letter dated November 28, 2025, had also been submitted to all relevant authorities, seeking urgent action on the matter.

According to the statement, the stool became vacant following the death of Adebola Idris Disu Ige on December 23, 2017.

The family stressed that neither the judgment of Justice Obadina of the Lagos State High Court nor that of the Court of Appeal nullified the 1983 Registered Declaration, which outlines the succession order.

They explained that letters dated September 26, 2023, and February 20, 2024, were sent to the state government reaffirming their compliance

with all required procedures, but no installation approval has been issued.

The statement said: "At this stage, we are compelled to state clearly and firmly that it is the descendants of King Kosoko, the 10th King of Lagos and the 1st Oloja of Lagos, who are entitled to the throne."

"The Akinsanya Olojo Ruling House is next in line to present a candidate, and this tradition should be sustained for the dignity of the stool and in accordance with the Akarigbere class hierarchy."

"We hope to be invited for discussions to address the prolonged delay in the confirmation and installation of Prince Abiola Olojo-Kosoko."

"As responsible members of the royal family, we shall continue to conduct ourselves respectfully and in accordance with the laws guiding chieftaincy affairs in Lagos State."

Catholic Church marks 140 years in eastern Nigeria

•As Peter Obi salutes missionary legacy

By Vincent Ujumadu

O NITSHA — The Catholic Church, at the weekend, marked 140th anniversary of Catholicism in Eastern Nigeria at Onitsha, with thousands of faithful gathering to mark the historic milestone in the life of the Church.

The celebration took place at the Field of the Basilica of the Most Holy Trinity, where worshippers honoured the legacy of the early missionaries and reflected on the enduring impact of the Catholic Church in Nigeria over the past 140 years.

Nearly all the bishops from dioceses within Onitsha Province attended the ceremony. The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Michael Crooty, who represented the Holy Father, Pope Leo, presided over the Mass, during which some candidates were ordained deacons.

Francis Cardinal Arinze was present, as well as his younger colleague in the College of Cardinals, Ebele Cardinal Okpaleke, who is the Bishop of Ekwulobia Diocese, was also present.

Speaking after the Mass, the presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 election, Mr Peter Obi, described the anniversary as a moment to "look back with

gratitude and look forward with hope."

Obi praised the early missionaries, including Rev. Fr. Joseph Lutz, Bishop Joseph Ignatius Shanahan, and Archbishop Charles Heerey, for laying the spiritual and educational foundations of the Church. He noted that their sacrifices remain the seed of a faith that has continued to flourish across generations.

He also commended successive leaders of the Onitsha Archdiocese - Cardinal Francis Arinze, Archbishops Stephen Ezeanya and Albert Obiefuna, and the current Archbishop Valerian Okeke - for sustaining the Church's significant contributions to education, healthcare, and social development.

Highlighting the Catholic Church as the largest provider of social services in Nigeria after the government, Obi said its schools and hospitals have shaped countless lives.

A proud product of Catholic education himself, Obi added that the values of discipline, integrity, and service continue to guide him. He congratulated the Archbishop, clergy, and faithful of the Archdiocese and prayed for God's continued blessings on their work.



Yuletide: Come home, IPoB assures Ndigbo of safety

By Chimaobi Nwaiwu

NEW I - The Indigenous People of Biafra, IPoB, has urged Ndigbo to return home in large numbers for the Christmas and New Year celebrations, assuring them of adequate security during the festive period.

The group also dismissed a viral video alleging the kidnapping of passengers at Ngor Okpala along the Owerri-Aba Road, describing it as an old clip being circulated by "enemies of Ndigbo" to tarnish the image of the region.

In a statement by its Media and Publicity Secretary, Emma Powerful, IPoB said operatives of the Eastern Security Network, ESN, and its volunteers would ensure safety across the South-East throughout the holidays.

It maintained that the region remains one of the most peaceful parts of the country despite what it called "sponsored instability."

According to the group,

Soludo votes N2bn for small scale businesses

By Vincent Ujumadu

ANAMBRA State Governor, Professor Chukwuma Soludo, has voted N2 billion to empower small scale entrepreneurs in the state.

The Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget, Mrs Chiamaka Nnake disclosed this while defending budget estimate for her ministry before the Committee on Finance and Appropriation of the Assembly.

security in the South-East has significantly improved over the last four years. It added that government-backed elements who allegedly orchestrated insecurity to blackmail IPoB and ESN have "lost momentum."

"The South-East remains secure because Ndigbo are inherently peaceful," the statement said, urging residents and visitors to "ignore exaggerated media portrayals" of insecurity in the region.

While acknowledging isolated incidents caused by nationwide insecurity, IPoB insisted that ESN and the support of local communities have helped maintain relative calm.

IPoB also debunked the recent kidnap report from Ngor Okpala, insisting there was no such incident.

"The footage circulating online is an old video that resurfaced on social media," it said, adding that many ESN operations are conducted discreetly without online publicity. It reiterated that ESN has no

social media accounts.

The group said the stability in the region is evidence that "lions are guarding the land," and challenged those claiming ESN has been dismantled to "ask why terrorists avoid the East."

It accused the Federal Government and some Igbo politicians of making failed attempts to weaken IPoB and ESN.

Reaffirming its

SEVEN-UP BOTTLING COMPANY SUSTAINABILITY WEEK —

From left: Nkemdirim Agboti, Head of Function, Legal and Corporate Affairs, Seven - Up Bottling Company, (SBC); Jimoh Olawale Saliu (Olugbani), Executive Chairman, Apapa-Iganmu LCDA; Lovelyn Okoye, Head of Sustainability Unit, Seven-Up Bottling Company; Mr Badmus Lateef, Council Manager, Apapa-Iganmu LCDA, at the Plastic Waste for Products Initiative in observance of SBC Sustainability Week 2025.

Air turbulence not threat to aircraft safety — Nnaji, OAS Chair

By Dennis Agbo

GROUP Chairman of GOAS Helicopters, Captain Everest Nnaji has disclosed that air turbulence is not a threat to aircraft safety but a normal part of flight for which aircrafts are designed to control, and pilots expertly trained to contain.

Captain Nnaji stated that aviation remains the most reliable, effective, efficient and safest mode of transportation in the world and urged passenger not to develop anxiety each time there is air turbulence.

Nnaji, a licensed pilot, made the remarks, yesterday, in contribution to the celebration of the 2025 International Civil Aviation Day.

Nnaji said that air turbulence remains one of the most misunderstood aspects of air travel which triggers anxiety among many passengers, but disclosed that Air turbulence is well-studied, well-managed, and—contrary to public perception—rarely a threat to the safety of an aircraft.

He said that Air turbulence is caused by rough air pockets encountered during a flight, explaining that Rough air pockets are derived from air with poor molecules.

"When an air pocket contains rich air molecules, the sky is clear and devoid of clouds. Clouds form when atmospheric conditions in a section of the sky collect or attract interference components in the form of moisture, mist, fog, smog, steam, dew, condensation, convection, haze, vapour, etc.

"The introduction of any or more of these elements into the atmosphere reduces the molecules in the air and

creates visible air pockets known as clouds. Clouds, when formed by the earlier mentioned interference components, then have poor air molecules which, in turn, will not be strong enough to warrant the smooth flow of rich air over an aircraft's airfoils (wings), thereby causing turbulence," Nnaji explained.

He stressed that when clouds form, they contour into different shapes and structures, giving them divergent patterns. Different clouds are named after their shapes and strengths, such as Stratus, Stratocumulus, Cumulonimbus, Nimbostratus, Altostratus, Altocumulus, Cirrus, Cirrostratus etc.

He disclosed that a more troublesome source of air turbulence in flight is thunderstorms.

"Thunderstorm is a weather system that includes lightning, thunder, heavy rain, strong winds, and sometimes hail. It can form from large towering cumulonimbus clouds, and can also form rapidly over adiabatic temperature change rate in rising

Otti gives outstanding Abia Poly graduates N1m grant each

By Steve Oko

UMUAHIA — Governor Alex Otti has announced a business grant of N1 million each for 100 distinguished graduates of Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic (formerly Abia Poly).

This comes less than a week after the Governor awarded N1 million grants to 150 exceptional students of the institution who graduated between 2022 and 2025.

At the weekend, Governor Otti presented a posthumous

•Pledges employment for Abia's best

award conferred on the first civilian Governor of the old Abia State, the late Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu, by the Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba.

The Governor also announced a N100 million business grant for 100 graduates of the institution with viable business proposals. He made the disclosure during the school's 12th convocation, stressing that beneficiaries must present sound business plans.

Otti further directed that job opportunities be created for the state's best-performing graduates from all tertiary institutions in Abia.

He said:

"Beyond the business grants, I have directed the Commissioners for Works, Housing, Power and Public Utilities, and the heads of the three regional development authorities to develop a six-month field training programme for 200 graduates with proven

technical competencies in the operational areas of the establishments.

"The days of letting our best and brightest wander off after graduation to struggle in far-off places without support are gone. The message to students in all our tertiary institutions is clear: do your best, and we shall give you the leverage to find genuine success right here in Abia."

Otti promised to transform the institution into a centre of excellence in line with his "New Abia" agenda.

relationship between government and communities, resulting in significant development across many rural areas.

He noted that Governor Mbah has introduced transparency into government acquisition of community land by fully involving host communities, unlike in the past when such processes were often marred by intimidation and harassment of landowners.

"This government considers the interests of the communities that own the land, and they also benefit," Agu said.

He condemned what he described as the activities of some unscrupulous aides who allegedly undermine the governor's policies and create a wrong impression about government land acquisition. He urged the government to remain vigilant.

Agu, an APC chieftain in the state, praised the governor's policy of partnering with communities in the housing sector and other grassroots development efforts, describing it as a strategy that will deepen development in rural areas.

He expressed satisfaction that the state government, through the Housing Corporation, engages communities to voluntarily donate land for housing projects, with the communities receiving 35 per cent of the completed houses.

The APC chieftain, who once contested as deputy governorship candidate on the ACN platform, said the arrangement contradicts the narrative being pushed by some individuals that the state government engages in land grabbing.



MEETING: From left: Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Olorogun Festus Keyamo, SAN; Delta Central All Progressives Congress, APC, Chairman, Chief Paulinus Akpeki; Delta APC Chairman, Elder Omeni Sobotie, Senator Ede Dafinone and Francis Waive, during APC Delta Central stakeholders' meeting, at PTI conference centre, Effurun, yesterday.

Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway: WINHOMES files fresh suit, calls for Tinubu's intervention

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR— A real estate firm, WINHOMES Global Services Ltd., yesterday, faulted the recent court ruling on its property, saying the judgment on the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway merely echoed earlier public comments made by the Minister of Works, Engr. Dave Umahi.

While it confirmed that it has filed a fresh lawsuit against the Federal Ministry of Works to stop any takeover of its property without proper compensation, the firm said Umahi failed to address the real human and legal concerns of thousands of Diaspora investors.

WINHOMES, in a statement by its CEO, Engr. Stella Ifeoma Okengwu said it respects the judiciary but insisted that the ruling does not reflect the situation on the ground.

Okengwu said: "WINHOMES is not vacant or undeveloped land but a fully planned estate built by hardworking Nigerians, with more than 80 per cent of the subscribers living in the Diaspora. "This is not bush or raw land. It is an estate of homes, roads, drains, hospitals and dreams. The diversion of a Federal Coastal Highway into a developed estate without consultation, due process or compensation is not a land dispute; it is an abuse of executive power and a direct threat to the dignity and survival of families.

"Diasporans send home over \$24 billion annually, yet you frustrate the very people sustaining the economy.

"Each demolition threat, unannounced marking and sudden diversion sends a message that Nigerians abroad should not invest back home. No nation grows when the government becomes the biggest threat to its own investors."

In addition, Okengwu said: "No portion of WINHOMES will be taken until compensation is identified, negotiated and paid according to law. Only then can refunds be properly made."

The estate assured Diaspora investors that their interests remain protected, noting that their patience, loyalty and courage are deeply appreciated.

Calling for President Bola Tinubu's intervention, she said: "The buck stops at your table. Diaspora confidence in Nigeria is being destroyed by the actions

- Highway to get relief stations, CCTV—Minister
- Says FG to pay N1bn compensation

of the Ministry of Works. Families are crying, investors are restless and the nation's image is at stake."

Highway to get relief stations, CCTV—Minister

Meanwhile, Minister of Works has announced that the Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway will feature relief stations, solar-powered lighting and CCTV cameras to enhance safety and ensure rapid emergency response

times of under ten minutes.

Umahi made this known during an inspection of the Calabar–Itu Road and the 71.4-kilometre Section 3A and 3B of the 750-kilometre Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway, currently under construction in Cross River State.

Speaking in Awi, Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State, Senator Umahi commended HITECH for maintaining high construction standards, deploying modern equipment and engaging skilled personnel.

He described the company as a key development partner in Nigeria's progress.

He also commended President Tinubu for championing the project, saying the President remains committed to completing the highway, a vision he began nurturing over 27 years ago as Governor of Lagos State.

According to Umahi, the highway will include essential facilities such as relief stations, solar lighting and CCTV cameras at strategic points to improve travel safety and support security agencies.

Epileptic power crippling Nigerian businesses— NACCIMA President

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY — THE National President of the Nigerian Association of Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, NACCIMA, Dr. Jani Ibrahim, weekend, rued the impact of epileptic power in the country and its effect on those in the private sector.

He stated this in Benin City, Edo State, at the 4th Annual General Meeting and the investiture of the leadership of the Coalition of South-South Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, COSSCIMA.

He commended COSSCIMA for sustaining the regional platform, which he said is strengthening the voice of the private sector across the South-South geo-political zone.

Ibrahim said: "In Nigeria, the cost of unreliable power is staggering. According to the World Bank's Power Sector Recovery Program, businesses lose approximately \$29 billion annually due to erratic electricity supply. The power outages are also frequent and deep.

"On average, private enterprises in Nigeria reportedly endure 239 hours of power outages per month, translating into a significant percentage of loss of sales.

"Many businesses are compelled to self-generate power at prohibitive costs. These losses and inefficiencies impose a heavy burden not only on individual enterprises but also on the national economy. The cumulative effect is a drag on competitiveness, innovation and growth, especially for the micro, small and medium

enterprises, which are sensitive to operating costs.

"On the other hand, Africa possesses immense renewable energy potential, especially in solar power."

He also lamented the global massive potential of solar power in Africa, which he said was also being underused.

"The World Economic Forum also

Oil industry records zero theft in one year— Chevron boss

CHAIRMAN and Managing Director of Chevron Nigeria/mid-Africa business unit, Mr. Jim Swartz, has said Chevron recorded zero incidents of sabotage in one year.

Swartz made the disclosure when he visited the corporate headquarters of the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, NUPRC, in Abuja at the weekend.

Speaking during the visit, Swartz said: "Chevron has not recorded any oil theft or attacks on our pipelines this year. This is the longest we've gone without oil theft.

Chevron is a member of the Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), a subgroup of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Meanwhile, the record-breaking success story of Chevron may not be unconnected with the giant strides recorded by Tantis Security Services Nigeria Limited (TSSNL), a private pipeline security surveillance

company owned by

High Chief Government Ekpemupolo, widely known as Tompolo.

The proactive approach taken by TSSNL, using technology, local intelligence, has not only enhanced monitoring and control of activities in the region but has also contributed to the increase in the nation's oil production output from 2022 to the present.

Further investigation revealed that the NNPC and the International Oil Companies, IOCs, have been able to ramp up their production to 1.8m barrels per day, unlike in the past when production was trapped at 600,00 barrels per day.

Further checks revealed that with unhindered production, the government is setting a target of 2.06 million barrels per day as unveiled in the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, MTEF, revealed to newsmen last week by the Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu.

GCUOBA Lagos to raise N500m for ultra-modern secretariat

UGHELLI— GOVERNMENT College Ughelli Old Boys' Association, GCUOBA, Lagos Branch, has announced the construction of an ultra-modern secretariat aimed at strengthening its administrative capacity, enhancing alumni engagement and deepening its long-standing contributions to educational development in Nigeria.

As part of activities to mobilise support for the project, members and friends of the association will converge on Sunday, December 14, 2025, by 2:30pm, at the Grand Ballroom of Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos, for the 2025 annual luncheon.

The high-profile gathering will celebrate alumni unity and raise funds for the development of the ultra-modern secretariat building and other impactful initiatives to strengthen the association and support the growth of its alma mater, Government College Ughelli (GCU).

Speaking on the initiative, President of GCUOBA, Lagos Branch, Charles Uwensuyi-Edosmwan, SAN, described the

secretariat as a legacy investment that reflects the association's commitment to preserving the heritage of Government College Ughelli while positioning it for greater impact in the years ahead.

On his part, the Vice-President and Chairman of the GCUOBA Lagos Branch Luncheon Organising Committee, Okosubide Mozimo, noted that the N2 billion secretariat project is not merely a physical structure but "a symbol of unity, continuity, and our renewed pledge to give back to the institution that shaped us."

Special Guest of Honour at the luncheon is Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, while Mr. Ateko Peterside will serve as Guest of Honour.

The event will be chaired by former Governor of Cross River State, Mr. Donald Duke, while the keynote address will be delivered by Mr. Sonny Iroche.

The Fathers of the Day are GTS Adokpaye and Mr. Sam Amuka, Publisher, Vanguard Newspapers, while the Chief Host is the President of the Lagos Branch, Charles Uwensuyi-Edosmwan, SAN.

100 Bayelsa children participate in orphanage games, sports

YENOGA— ABOUT 100 children from Five Orphanage homes in Bayelsa State at the weekend participated in the maiden edition of the 2025 Orphanage Games and Sports.

Among the participating orphanage homes are the Daisy's Home for Special Children, the Daniel and Dorothy Orphanage, the Victorian Orphanage and Child Care centre, the Destiny Child Orphanages and Homes and the Blossom Home for the Deaf and the Blind.

The Orphanage Games and Sports, which was an initiative put together by a Corps Member, Ms. Victoria Abiye Kiolawson, witnessed the participation of Children from Orphanage homes in Athletics, Sack race, Music and Dance performance.

Kiolawson said the goal of the games is to give the children visibility so that more people

could now see that the children have sporting potential and talents could be discovered in the orphanage homes.

She also called on the management of the National Youths Service Corps, NYSC, to make it a mandatory community Service session for "corps members in Orphanage homes to encourage interaction service to children in need."

Kiolawson also welcomed the idea of the State Government organising similar games for Orphanage homes and called on the state government to subsidise the medical care of children in such homes and support them with educational support.

The Commissioner of Sports, Mr. Daniel Igali, commended the organiser of the games saying that the State Government's attention has been drawn to the need to support such sporting competition and bring out the best in children with special needs.

2027: Delta Central APC backs Tinubu, Oborevwo

EFFURUN— LEADERS and other stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress, APC, in Delta Central Senatorial District, yesterday, converged at the Petroleum Training Institute, PTI, Effurun, for a high-level strategic meeting and pledged unalloyed loyalty to President Bola Tinubu and Governor Sheriff Oborevwo.

Moving a motion, which was seconded by Andrew Oru, the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Olorogun Festus Keyamo, SAN, commended President Tinubu for remarkable strides in national security and economic stability.

In his remarks, Keyamo urged party members to remain steadfast and united as APC congresses approach, cautioning aspirants that no one would secure the party's ticket "from

Abuja" without the endorsement of grassroots leaders.

He emphasised that loyalty, internal alignment, and respect for party structures were non-negotiable for electoral success.

He said: "Nigeria is beginning to record improved security across various regions," attributing the progress to the President's renewed commitment to confronting insecurity.

Also speaking, the APC Chairman of the party, Omeni Sobotie, underscored the strategic realignment from PDP to APC.

Sobotie stressed the importance of genuine grassroots engagement and the involvement of respected elders, urging members to remain united, resilient, and prepared against political attacks and expressed optimism for a landslide victory.

Obi to unveil new book on Tort

NIGERIAN jurisprudence would be enriched on Wednesday December 10, with the public presentation in Lagos of the book titled 'Contemporary Law of Tort in Nigeria.'

Authored by Uche Val Obi, SAN, the book would be launched under the chairmanship of Wole Olanipekun, SAN, and will be reviewed by Prof. Fabian Ajogwu SAN.



WORKSHOP: From left, Alhaji AbdulFatai Olajide, Secretary, Da'wah Committee, Lekki Muslim Ummah, LEMU; Imam Nojeem Jimoh, Chairman of the occasion; Dr Ridwan Jamiu, Chief Imam, Lekki Central Mosque; Ustas Hussain Bin Hyacinth, Director, Voice of Nigeria, Lagos; Sodiq Akanmu, Software Engineer representing Vice Chancellor, Summit University, Offa and Ibrahim Akiode, Vice President, LEMU during Lekki Muslim Ummah quarterly Da'wah workshop in Lekki, Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Lamidi Bamidele, Photo Editor

Christian genocide: US lawmaker Moore visits Nigeria amid rising concerns

UNITED States Congressman Riley Moore, representing Virginia's Second District, is currently in Nigeria as debate intensifies in Washington over alleged targeted killings of Christians in the country.

Moore confirmed his arrival in a post on his X handle yesterday, saying he was in Nigeria "in the name of the Lord and on behalf of the American people," and had concluded a "very productive" round of meetings. He promised to release further details of his mission soon.

Although Moore did not disclose the specific purpose of his visit, it coincides with renewed US congressional scrutiny of insecurity and alleged religious persecution in Nigeria.

Several American lawmakers have accused Islamic extremist groups of executing what they describe as an emerging Christian genocide, despite Nigeria's repeated denial of such claims.

The US House Appropriations Committee, in a statement on Saturday,

...Fani-Kayode warns against one-sided narrative

warned that Nigeria is rapidly becoming "one of the most dangerous places on Earth to follow Christ," citing what it called a steady decline in safety for Christian communities.

The Committee's comments signal renewed pressure on the White House to respond more forcefully to the violence in Nigeria.

The Committee added that it "will continue to defend liberty and uphold religious freedom across the globe," while senior lawmaker Rep. Robert Adersholt urged stronger US action.

He said Washington must "stand firmly with Nigeria's Christian communities and all persecuted believers worldwide," noting that Congress is working to equip the President with the necessary information to confront what lawmakers describe as a growing tragedy.

Reacting to Moore's visit, former aviation minister, Femi Fani-Kayode, urged him to adopt a more balanced and fact-based perspective during his visit.

Responding to Moore's announcement, Fani-Kayode welcomed him to Ni-

geria but warned against analyses that reduce the country's complex security crisis to a singular narrative of Christian persecution.

"Whilst you are here, I hope you will learn a thing or two about being factual and objective in your analysis of what is going on in our beautiful country," he wrote on his X handle.

He stressed that both Christians and Muslims have suffered extensively from terrorist attacks, insisting that the violence cannot be accurately portrayed as one-sided.

Why I oppose state Police, withdrawal of Police from VIPs —Senator Hanga

By Bashir Bello

KANO—SENATOR Sani Hanga, representing Kano Central, has defended his opposition to the creation of state police, warning that the move would hand excessive power to governors and heighten political intimidation across the states. Speaking to journalists at

his constituency office in Kano, Hanga said he is prepared to vote against the proposal in the Senate.

According to him, state-controlled police forces would deepen political crises and could have triggered violence during the recent Emirship dispute in Kano. He argued that the endorsement of state police by 19 Northern governors was driven by fear and desperation over rising insecurity, rather than by genuine conviction.

"If we had state police during the Emirship tussle, Kano would have been thrown into civil war. Federal police kept the situation from escalating," he said. Hanga

warned that state police would give governors unchecked influence over law enforcement.

"Creating state police is creating a police state. Governors will use them to intimidate, harass, and suppress opponents. It will also create a rival to the Nigerian Police Force, leading to clashes and disorder," he said.

The senator also raised concerns about funding, noting that many states already struggle to pay existing security personnel.

"If we create state police without the resources to train, arm, and pay them properly, we will be creating a monster. They will start taking care of themselves, and the people will suffer," he said.

Beijing women's summit holds Dec 9

By Tunde Oso

As part of the activities commemorating the 2025 edition of '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence,' the Amandla Institute for Policy and Leadership Advancement (AIPLA), in collaboration with the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN-Nigeria) and Womanifesto, will on December 9 convene the Beijing+30 Women's Summit.

Organised to strengthen women's movements in Nigeria, the event is coming up 30 years after the historic Beijing, China, International Women's Conference of 1995, as a platform to review the decades past while projecting for the years ahead.

Themed "Beijing+30 Women's Summit - Holding the Line for Women's Rights: Looking Back and Marching Forward", the event aims to re-examine the pivotal roles played by African women, both on the continent and in the diaspora, in shaping the agenda, while facilitating inter-generational exchange and galvanising collective agency to advance feminist sensitive rights issues.

To set the ball rolling, three distinguished African feminists, Erelu Bisi Adeleye-Fayemi, Co-founder, Amandla Institute; Prof. Funmilayo Para-Mallam, Chair, AWWLN-Nigeria; and Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi of Womanifesto, would give welcome remarks and provide instructional context setting for the event.

CANAN hails U.S. terror designation of Nigeria

...urges urgent action to end religious violence

THE Christian Association of Nigerian Americans (CANAN) has welcomed the decision by the United States government to designate Nigeria as a "Country of Particular Concern" (CPC) under the International Religious Freedom Act, describing the move as a critical step toward global accountability over ongoing violence in the country.

In a statement issued from Washington, D.C., CANAN praised the U.S. administration, the Department of State and members of Congress for what it described as their vigilance and moral leadership in recognising the severity of attacks against Christian and other vulnerable communities in Nigeria.

The organisation said the designation reflects the reality of what it called decades of terror targeting religious minorities, adding that successive Nigerian governments had often downplayed or denied the situation.

CANAN urged the Feder-

al Government to confront the crisis with sincerity and urgency, calling for a series of immediate reforms, including the strengthening of intelligence and early-warning systems in rural areas, the creation of structured community protection initiatives, and deeper investment in socio-economic development to counter radicalisation.

The group also called for strict accountability, demanding the prosecution of perpetrators and sponsors of attacks, and the investigation of any officials found to be negligent or complicit.

Highlighting the humanitarian impact of the violence, CANAN said millions of Nigerians had been displaced, with many living in dire conditions in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, while others have fled to neighbouring countries such as Cameroon.

It appealed for expanded food, shelter, healthcare and psychosocial support for displaced persons, as well as protection for refugees and safe, voluntary resettlement once security improves.

Globacom expands spectrum, clears congestions

IN order to provide faster internet speeds, ensure better coverage and better customer experience across the country, Globacom has announced extensive network infrastructure enhancements fuelled by significant spectrum acquisitions and increased data resources.

The measures, which have been in effect since the beginning of this month, are a component of the company's plan to create a communications network that is future-proof and equipped to assist the nation's digital development.

According to the company, the boosting of its capacity has greatly improved Glo's broadband performance across the country.

Now, the network can process larger amounts of data at high speeds. The enlarged spectrum makes it possible for continuous video

streaming, faster downloads, better upload capabilities, and clearer voice communications.

According to Globacom, more physical infrastructure is being deployed in addition to this upgraded spectrum capacity, with hundreds of new sites under construction in various locations across the country. Thousands of LTE sites that were established this year are also being strengthened. In order to increase broadband penetration and improve indoor and outdoor connectivity in cities, towns, and rural communities across the nation, thousands more sites are planned for roll-out over the course of the next 12 months.

A company official disclosed that: "These new network resources are not isolated improvements; they represent a nationwide transformation.

Man O' War pledges commitment to safe school initiative

COMMANDER of Man O' War Nigeria, NC Adedamola Gbenga, has assured the Federal Government of the organisation's continued partnership in safeguarding schools under the Safe School Initiative.

Adedamola gave the assurance at the 3rd National Commandants Conference held in Abuja to commemorate International Volunteers Day, where the organisation launched its 2025 Man O' War Week.

He described Man O' War Nigeria as the largest volunteer organisation in Africa, working in youth leadership, emergency response, civic discipline, and community safety. According to him, the group is already deploying personnel to schools across states in support of the Safe School Initiative.

"Man O' War is a strategic na-

tional partner in securing schools, empowering young people and strengthening community resilience. Every contribution matters and we remain committed to supporting government efforts to keep Nigerian children safe," he said.

Representing the Director-General of the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre (CLTC), Ms. Rinsola Abiola, the Director of Operations and Rescue, Dr. Alero Abokwara Adjekota, commended Man O' War for its role in volunteer mobilisation and community safety programmes.

She said the collaboration between CLTC and Man O' War Nigeria reflects a shared philosophy of civic responsibility, adding that volunteer organisations remain vital to addressing national challenges in security, education and community development."

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**Invitation For Expression of Interest (EOI)
for International Business Collaboration**
EOI No: RailTel/EOI/CO/MKTG/SB/2025-26/03
dated 01-12-2025

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd., a premier ICT service provider under the Ministry of Railways, Government of Republic of India, invites Expression of Interest from reputed **global and local companies, country representatives, associates and partners** to strengthen participation in **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** and to explore business opportunities abroad. EOI documents are available on RailTel's website <https://www.railtel.in>. Interested bidders may download the same for complete information and participation.

**Principal Executive Director/EB
For RailTel Corporation of India Limited**

FACES AT THE SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN BOYEF AND NOUN FOR TECHNICAL AND MANAGEMENT COOPERATION, IN ABUJA



From left: Team leader, Senator Bode Olajumoke; Prof. Oluokun; Chairman, Bode Olajumoke Youth Empowerment Foundation, BOYEF, Alhaji Lateef Busari; Vice Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria, NOUN, Prof. Oluwafemi Peters; Bukola Ipadeola; Legal Adviser BOYEF, Wale Adekola and Sola Tegbe after the signing of memorandum of understanding by the Bode Olajumoke Youth Empowerment Foundation, BOYEF, team and the management team of National Open University of Nigeria NOUN, in Abuja



From left, Chairman Bode Olajumoke Youth Empowerment Foundation, BOYEF, Alhaji Lateef Busari; Team leader, Senator Bode Olajumoke and Vice Chancellor, National Open University of Nigeria NOUN, Prof Oluwafemi Peters.

FACES AT THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BODE OLAJUMOKE OPHANAGE AND CENTRE FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES ON IBADAN-LAGOS EXPRESSWAY, YESTERDAY



From left, Tunde Runsewe; Special guest of honour, Lateef Busari; Bukky Ipadeola; Mrs Doris Ipadeola; Grand Patron, The Care Peoples Foundation, Dr Bode Olajumoke; Mrs Faith Tioluwani and President, The Care Peoples Foundation, Pastor Paul Tioluwani, when The Bode Olajumoke Ophanage and Centre for Persons Living with Disabilities in conjunction with the Care Peoples Foundation held 35th anniversary of establishment at Km15, Ibadan-Lagos Expressway, yesterday. Photos: Dare Fasube



Medical outreach for members of the public that visited the venue of the celebration.

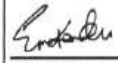
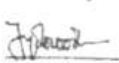
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024			STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024		
	2024 N'000	2023 N'000		2024 N'000	2023 N'000
Assets			Gross revenue	4,670,879	2,373,328
Current assets			Interest and similar income	3,908,764	1,772,648
Cash and bank balances	3,767,616	7,238,293	Interest and similar expense	(2,844,336)	(1,631,147)
Investment securities:			Net interest income	1,064,428	141,501
Debt instruments at amortised cost	8,966,104	1,717,508	Net fee and commission income	221,762	136,346
Loans and advances to customers	456,291	825,228	Net trading profit	170,648	383,055
Other assets	618,144	736,423	Other operating income	261,789	78,120
Total current assets	13,987,954	10,517,452	Net operating income	1,718,628	740,022
Non-current assets			Net impairment allowance losses written back	22,010	338,924
Investment securities:					
Unquoted equities at fair value through other comprehensive income - FVOCI	1,487,678	877,278	Fair value gain on investment properties	-	-
Debt instruments at fair value through other comprehensive income - FVOCI	1,331,763	1,561,469			
Loans and advances to customers	11,235,601	8,204,154	Depreciation of property and equipment	(83,036)	(74,127)
Other assets	46,397	46,397	Amortisation of intangible assets	(6,440)	(5,463)
Trading properties	624,078	294,259	Personnel expenses	(487,092)	(410,671)
Property and equipment	222,644	236,020	Other operating expenses	(790,178)	(416,231)
Intangible assets	63,936	44,479	Profit before tax	373,803	162,254
Deferred tax asset	10,937	10,937	Income tax expense	(38,941)	(5,950)
Total non-current assets	14,924,034	11,275,003	Profit for the year after tax	333,862	156,304
Total assets	28,911,988	21,792,455	Other Comprehensive Income:		
Liabilities and equity			Changes in the fair value of equity investments designated at FVOCI	666,723	15,193
Current liabilities			Total comprehensive income for the year	899,585	171,498
Deposits from customers	23,870,136	16,595,897			
Borrowings	66,932	2,065,749	Key financial information		
Current income tax liabilities	26,117	8,206	Basic earnings per share (kobo)	0.04	0.02
Deposit for shares	6,849	571,697	Total non performing credit facilities (N million)	779	1,032
Other liabilities	448,217	328,051	Total non performing credit facilities to total credit facilities (%)	7%	11%
Provisions	20,960	20,000			
Total current liabilities	24,429,351	19,517,600			
Non-current liabilities					
Borrowings	1,227,424	1,420,376	SUMMARY OF STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024		
Total non-current liabilities	1,227,424	1,420,376	Net cash from operating activities	4,258,840	1,631,929
Total liabilities	25,656,775	21,037,976	Net cash from financing activities	(1,324,187)	1,995,518
Equity			Movement in cash and cash equivalents	(2,065,347)	3,627,447
Share Capital	8,988,436	7,865,086	Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	7,022,606	3,639,388
Share Premium	660,470	560,470	Cash and cash equivalent at 31 December	4,957,259	7,266,836
Sustained losses	(8,383,160)	(8,808,306)			
Statutory reserve	129,980	129,080			
Regulatory risk reserve	636,886	628,232			
Fair value reserve	936,700	376,977			
Total equity	3,255,413	754,479			
Total liabilities and equity	28,911,988	21,792,455			

The full financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26 March 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

 Mr. Emeka Ndu Chairman FRC/2013/CAN/00000003966	 Mr. Ayodele Olowookere Managing Director FRC/2018/CAN/00000004072	 Mr. Sunday Abo Chief Financial Officer FRC/2013/CAN/00000000391
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The above summarised financial statements and report of the independent auditor are published in accordance with the requirements of S. 26 of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Shareholders of Imperial Homes Mortgage Bank Limited

Opinion

The summarised financial statements of Imperial Homes Mortgage Bank Limited, which comprised the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the summary statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, were derived from the audited financial statement of Imperial Homes Mortgage Bank Limited for the year ended 31 December 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020, the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No. 42, 2023 (as amended) and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars and Guidelines.

Summarised Financial Statements

The summarised financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the International Financial Reporting Standards, Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020 and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars and Guidelines. Reading these summarised financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The audited Financial Statements and our report thereon

We express an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 26 March 2025 which include the communication of key audit matters.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summarised Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for preparing and presenting an appropriate summary of the financial statements, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 2020, the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, No. 42, 2023 (as amended) and relevant Central Bank of Nigeria Circulars and Guidelines.

Independent Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summarised financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on procedures which were conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA) 310 (Revised) "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements".


Benson O. Adejayan
FRC/2013/PRO/CAN/00000002226
For: PKF Professional Services
Chartered Accountants
FRC/2023/CO/Y141906
Lagos, Nigeria
Dated: 26 March 2025





The Board: Mr. Mutiu Sunmonu (CON), Mr. Ayodele Olowookere (Managing Director), HIM Oba Adeyeye Enitan (CON), Mr. Oludolapo Ajayi, Mr. Ikenna Nwizu, Mr. Emeka Ndu, Mr. Cyrille Nkotchou (Cameroonian), Mr. Ralph Gilchrist (British)



CONVERSATION

Owei
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Blacklisted Gov Eno takes on intellectual Offiong Aqua hits rock

The International Press Institute, IPI, Nigeria, part of a global network of editors, journalists and media executives, on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, blacklisted three serving Nigerian leaders. It found Governor Umo Bassey Eno of Akwa Ibom, his Niger State counterpart, Umaru Bago, and the Inspector General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun guilty of suppressing press freedom across the country.

Eno had on May 24, 2025, expelled Channels Television's Christopher Mufat and Kufe Ipe from the Akwa Ibom Government House for allegedly revealing remarks made by him. Seven months later, he refused to lift the ban.

IPI Nigeria President, Musikilu Mojeed, therefore declared: "For refusing to reverse his administration's repressive action and for perpetuating a climate hostile to journalists, Governor Umo Eno is hereby listed in the Book of Accountability."

Rather than reflect, Eno like a man in quick sand, digging deeper, went into over-drive. Mr. Anietie Usen, his Media Senior Special Assistant, accused the victims of "ethical misconduct". He described the withdrawal of accreditation from the TV crew as routine as they, "without doubt, violated the rules of the

game".

Assuming, without conceding that the crew were guilty, did Eno have to take the law into his hands? Why did he not report the journalists to their professional organisations or the institutional Nigerian Press Council, NPC, whose core duties include upholding high professional and ethical standards and investigating complaints about the conduct of journalists and media organisations? What gives Eno the arrogance that he can constitute himself into a law court and find Nigerians guilty?

The Eno spokesman added: "The curious aspect of this issue is that it was not the reporter who filed the embargoed story but his cameraman." Assuming this were true, how is that the business of the Governor? Who told Eno that a television cameraman cannot be a journalist or, professionally, cannot file a news story? Who told him that the Editors at Channels Television were unaware that the story was filed by their cameraman? In any case, since Eno was aware that it was not the reporter that filed the story, why also expel him? Vicarious liability?

Eno, with his Commissioner for Information, Aniekan Umanah, tried to be diversionary and hit below the belt. They claimed, without providing any proof,

that the Premium Times Newspapers, whose Editor-in-Chief is Mr Mojeed, has an "antagonistic disposition" towards his government.

The highly intolerant Governor Eno, founder of a Pentecostal

His actions are as illogical as banning Christmas or Easter festivals because some people commit crimes under the guise of marking them

church had also on November 30, 2025, banned masquerades which are part of the traditional religion and culture of the people. He claimed that some criminals disguised as masquerades. But rather than go after the criminals, he criminalised the religion and culture, claiming he wants a crime-free Christmas festival. So, he bans an African traditional festival for a Christian festival. His actions are as illogical as banning Christmas or Easter

festivals because some people commit crimes under the guise of marking them.

Eno has gone as far as illegally using Commissioner of Police Baba Azare to clamp down on Akwa Ibom masquerades, disrespecting and dehumanising them and parading them before the media as criminals.

In contrast, neighbouring Cross Rivers State is encouraging masquerades to showcase African tradition as part of its famous Calabar Carnival. Responsible and responsive states like Lagos are also doing the same. In fact, in the case of the latter, lots of efforts are being put to celebrate the Eyo Masquerade Festival this December.

Governor Eno, who had climbed into the State House on the back of the opposition Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, and has now taken refuge in the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, disrespectfully ordered all commissioners and political appointees to report to the APC.

However, the imperial Eno did not realise he was overreaching himself when he took on Offiong Aqua, the respected New York University Professor of Facio-Maxillary Surgery. If Eno had enquired into the background of Aqua, he would have realised he was up against a 69-year-old veteran fighter who has spent the last 45 years living in Russia and United States, US, after he was forced out of Nigeria by the Murtala-Obasanjo military regime. Back in 1978, Prof was the pioneer President of the University of Calabar Students Union and one of the four core student leaders who organised the mass peoples revolt against military rule. When the revolt was brutally suppressed, he was detained for months without trial and eventually fled the country without a passport.

As an Akwa Ibom elder living in US, he has watched the scarce resources of the state annually wasted on jamborees in the name of attending the Akwa Ibom State Association of Nigeria, USA Inc, AKISAN, convention. He had agonised over the sometimes,

hundreds of state officials who fly annually to US under full state sponsorship for the jamboree. So this year, when he got information that Eno was going to lead over 100 delegates from Nigeria to the August 10, 2025 Convention, he decided to stop it.

In a podcast, he complained against the delegates: "They will fly business class, they will sleep in four-star hotels, they will collect estacode in dollars that will triple what a teacher earns in one year in Akwa Ibom."

He added: "Akwa Ibom is crying and those in power are flying; people are dying and their leaders are dining."

Aqua called on the US to check visa abuse by denying such a huge number of delegates visa or entry and, help "stop ego tourism". He added: "Governor Umo Eno himself should stay home, lead from the trenches, fix Uyo before flying."

Governor Eno was enraged. He described Aqua's podcast as "a distasteful diatribe (and) his remarks reflect opportunism, bitterness, and a complete lack of constructive engagement". Eno announced that he would not be attending the convention in person and that only a "lean five person delegation" will represent the state. This, he said, is in line with "the administration's commitment to prudence, responsibility, and focused governance."

But Aqua laughed off the governor's response, preferring to toast to "Umo Eno, for his staying in Uyo and, strategic backpedal." He joked that the official statement from the state government could not even spell his name, Offiong Aqua correctly but rather referred to him throughout as Offiong Akwa, adding: "Let the Governor learn how to spell".

He said his is podcast, would truly have been distasteful to the government because it was built on facts.

He concluded: "We have saved the state (Akwa Ibom) millions of dollars...Nigerians do to your own governors what we have done to Governor Eno."

In Professor Aqua, Governor Eno met a serious challenger; a veteran who will neither step back nor back away.

Political ethnic classifications: A heap of fabrications and fallacies

BY DUMBI OSANI

In an earlier article titled, "State Creation, Political Frivolities and the Anioma Question", I debunked Senator Ned Nwoko's assertion that the people of Delta North Senatorial District are Igbo. I categorically affirmed, based on linguistic and cultural facts, that the Ukwuani are not Igbo. I also questioned why the Senator is particular about Igbo ethnic grouping when ethnicity is not a criterion for state creation in Nigeria.

Many other people have also disagreed with the Senator on the identity of the people of the Delta North region. But he would not listen. Instead, he ran to Channels Television where, in an interview aired on Sunday, October 26, 2025, all he did was a demonstration of ethnic bigotry. He said that the indigenes of Delta North have been at various periods called "Western Igbo", "Midwestern Igbo", "Bendel Igbo" and so on, and that Ika has been called "Ika Igbo". This is not true. He deliberately used the word "Igbo" instead of "Ibo" to create the impression that the word

"Igbo" has been used from the beginning. The truth is that the educated class has generally been using the word "Ibo" to refer to the people. This is evidenced by the title of Elizabeth Isichei's book "The Ibo People and the Europeans" (Faber and Faber, 1973). The classifications have been "Western Ibo", "Midwestern Ibo", "Bendel Ibo", "Delta Ibo", and then "Ika Ibo".

However, it does not matter whether it has been "Western Ibo" or "Western Igbo", "Ika Ibo" or "Ika Igbo". What matters is that the classifications are meaningless political labels. There is no ethnic group in Nigeria called "Ibo", so there cannot be Western something that does not exist. In addition, Igbo is not the ancestral cultural name by which the people know and call themselves; so, to call them "Western Igbo" or "Ika Igbo" is to impose an artificial label on them. A child should be known and called by the name his parents gave him. In the same way, an ethnic group should be known, called and addressed by its indigenous, ancestral name, not by an invented label. One of the worrisome attitudinal flaws in our part of the world is, often, the

reckless disregard for specificity. It is an attitude that is unscientific, primitive and dangerous. Instead of artificial labels, the people in Delta North should be known and called by their original ancestral names: Enuani, Ika, and Ukwuani.

Quite rightly, the Yoruboid ethnic group in Delta South is known and

The Europeans did not understand the indigenous languages they heard people speak on both sides of the southern area of the River Niger

called by its traditional name, Itsekiri, not Yoruba. The Edoid groups in Delta Central, the Isoko and the Urhobo, are also known and called by their specific traditional names, not Edo. The question is: why is it that it is only the Igboid units that are lumped together and called "Ibo" or "Igbo"? The anomaly is traceable to the European colonizers, the indigenous people of the area, successive regional governments, and the political class in the Delta North District.

The Europeans did not

understand the indigenous languages they heard people speak on both sides of the southern area of the River Niger. They only noticed similarities in the sound of many of the words they heard. Since they were neither linguists nor ethnologists, everybody became "Ibo", a corruption of Igbo. Since the people may not have rejected the colonial label outright, their individual ethnic names were overshadowed by the European umbrella name.

Successive regional governments have not bothered to know and respect the names by which the

that speaks a language that has some similarities with Igbo is, automatically, Igbo. That is a wrong attitude that must change in the light of global standards.

In Europe, there is a group of languages called the Romance languages and they include French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese and Romanian. They are called Romance languages because they all developed from Latin in Rome. In spite of the similarities in these languages, the countries where they are spoken remain separate sovereign states, and the people retain their cultural autonomy. Nobody compels all of them to become Romans. For the political class in Delta North and elsewhere, the belief has been that a politician will be relevant only when he aligns with a large ethnic group. And, since in Nigeria, politics is synonymous with material wealth, some young politicians publicly deny their small "miserable" ethnic origins in order "to belong" and "make it". Some others, even older ones, do the same in their pursuit of high political offices. In my region of the country, accepting one's small, true ethnic identity is, unfortunately, considered "self-denial".

Continues online:
www.vanguardngr.com

• Dr. Osani, a cultural and political activist, wrote from Obiaruku, Delta State.

Thirty one months into his 48-month tenure as President of Nigeria, Bola Ahmed Tinubu last week unfolded the names of 32 nominees for ambassadorial postings. This action has sent many tongues wagging, and for several reasons.

Why did the president wait this long to appoint ambassadors? Nigeria will enter full political season as from January 2026. With less than 18 months for the non-career nominees to function, many of them will hardly have enough time to settle into their offices before Tinubu's current tenure expires in 2027. Some are also attributing the sudden decision to appoint ambassadors at this point to the pressures arising from United States President, Donald Trump's military threat against perpetrators of Christian genocides and jihadist terror in Northern Nigeria.

Tinubu appears to prefer sharing his diplomatic shuttles between himself and Vice President Kashim Shettima instead of posting ambassadors to handle some of them. As of July 2025, he had travelled

Tinubu's ambassadorial nominations

to about 20 countries to, according to him, strengthen diplomatic ties, shop for investment and address regional challenges. These are functions that ambassadors could easily handle while the president channels his focus on confronting our security and economic woes. The most talked-about aspect of Tinubu's ambassadorial nominations is the public

records of some of them. The non-career ambassadors are mostly people who the president owes one political debt or the other to settle. These include former Governors Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State and Okezie Ikpeazu of Abia State, who were among the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, rebel governors led by former Rivers

State Governor, Nyesom Wike, who had since been rewarded with the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja portfolio. Surprising, if not shocking to many, were the names of some of Tinubu's worst critics, Femi Fani-Kayode and Reno Omokri. Later, Omokri appeared to earn a fond place in Tinubu's heart when he became a consistent traducer of major opposition figure, Peter Obi, while warming his way into Tinubu's camp after the latter won the 2023 presidential election.

By far the most astonishing nomination was that of controversial immediate past Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, who left office barely a month ago. Some are renowned ethnic profilers. It is such an irony that such people are going to represent Nigeria in the world out there. Political patronage, rather than the nation's higher interests, took the upper hand in the choice of many of the non-career nominees. That is unacceptable, and should be immediately corrected.



WE KNOW THEM...IT'S A MATTER OF TIME!

OPINION

Send Opinions & Letters to: opinions1234@yahoo.com

ACF: A leap from socio-cultural advocacy to political activism

By AMINU JAHUN

Kaduna, the North's regional capital, recently hosted ACF's silver jubilee celebrations. The scary state of the North should have made the anniversary a less celebratory and self adulatory exercise, and more of a prayerful and self criticism exploration. "When a large swath of the North is an ungoverned space, there is need for prayers for the region, and self criticism by regional elites and the foremost socio cultural organisation in the North: are ACF's objectives too ambitious to be achieved? And could the organisation rub shoulders with other socio-cultural organisations in reach and acceptability, fostering regional unity, peace and developmental impact? What is ACF's greatest undoing? The ACF is regarded by many a pundit as a competitive outfit, a belated but welcome reaction by Northern elites to the socio cultural and political impact of Afenifere and Ohanaeze Ndigbo in the South-West and South-East. But whether proactively or reactively midwived, there is no Northerner or a genuine Northern friend, except its incorrigible fifth columnists and cynics who would pick holes with ACF's laudable objectives. Conceived and brought forth into existence when the euphoria of the displacement of the military from power by a supposedly life more abundant, pro-human rights, people-friendly, less corrupt regime was high, the ACF could extravagantly set tall objectives and ambitious vision for itself. The adversarial religiosity and intractable ethnic conflicts baggage, reinforcing the stereotypes of incompatibilities of faiths and ethnicities,

reviving struggles against real or imaginary domination, amplified and exploited by local liberators- push regional unity further away. Elites disaggregations and detachment from the wider Northern project, sustained aloofness from the developmental needs of the region, escalating banditry and bad governance have negatively impacted on the regional economy, inhibiting growth and development. And a lucrative terror war economy, manufacturing overnight nouveau riches, has raised the stakes for regional insecurity, making peace and stability a mirage in the North. Two and a half decades of a dysfunctional democracy have turned the tide against the high spirit and hopes in the democratic current, reinforcing the cumulative baggage militating against

A lucrative terror war economy, manufacturing overnight nouveau riches, has raised the stakes for regional insecurity, making peace and stability a mirage in the North

the realisation of ACF's goals. ACF attempted to change the narrative, reduce, and if possible reverse some of the damning numbers generated by disunity and insecurity. Last year it inaugurated its unity, peace and reconciliation and security committees.

A year after, Boko Haram insurgents have become more daring, school children are more vulnerable than they were a year ago, and intergroup relations have worsened in the central Nigerian area. In its earlier years, the ACF didn't assert itself as the socio- cultural saviour of the North from misrule, disunity, insecurity, federal tyranny, etc. Its pioneer leadership kowtowed to subnational power, moving from one government house to another, warming itself to the state Governors indulged in what Dr Umar Ardo calls elite networking, sealing private deals rather than advancing Northern interests. Unlike the ACF, Afenifere evolved into the foremost socio- political force in the South-West such that there could hardly be any political cake- from restructuring, fiscal federalism, June 12 struggles, formation of Alliance for Democracy, AD, etc., - that could be baked in the South-West without its imprimatur. Unlike ACF that warms itself to power, Afenifere commands sub-national power, whilst Ohanaeze directs it to advance regional interests. There could hardly be an individual in South-West or South-East that could venture into presidential contest without the prior blessings of Afenifere or Ohanaeze Ndigbo, with commitments to actualise their regional agendas if voted into power. And none of their elected officials - even if he is Nigeria's president- could rule without their policy inputs. With its known commitment to the accelerated development of the South-West, one could discern an Afenifere imprimatur on some of the policies of the PBAT administration. If the ACF or the Northern Elders Forum, NEF, had such a leverage with the Buhari administration, the Northern narrative wouldn't have been as scary as it is today. Neither Afenifere nor Ohanaeze would

have allowed the North to be the beneficiary of an uncompleted presidential tenure zoned to their regions without a big political fight, as the late President Yar'Adua's uncompleted tenure was surrendered to the South-South with least resistance from the North. And unlike ACF that is yet to have a developmental blueprint for the North, Afenifere has an undeniable stamp on the Development Agenda for Western Nigeria, DAWN, an ambitious regional development initiative set to replicate the giant strides the Awolowo-led Action Group administration made in the West. Is there anything wrong with ACF's reach and acceptability, capacity to broker peace between belligerent communities, shape or influence policies, such that its goals are yet to be fully realised a quarter of a century after its formation? And there is need to interrogate Northern unity, reflected in two elitist parallel socio-cultural organisations- the ACF and NEF - playing identical roles, speaking for the same North, promoting its interests, fighting its woes, etc, a disturbing reflection of Northern elites divisiveness and incompatibility to jointly fight a common cause. One would hardly be surprised that the South- West and South-East are less divided than the North. Was Northern unity forced in the First Republic such that it can't be reproduced again? ACF's greatest undoing is its aloofness from political engagements, its costly refusal to be an unputdownable regional and national political stakeholder. ACF or any other socio-cultural organisation could hardly shape or influence policies beneficial to the North without a quantum leap from its socio-cultural intervention trajectory to the political turf, to become intensely political without being partisan like Afenifere some of the times and Ohanaeze most of the times.

• Jahun, a public affairs analyst, wrote from Dutse, the Jigawa State capital.

View Point

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VERITAS

Chidi Anselm
OdinkaluPolice State or State
Police?

On 26 November 2025, Nigeria's president, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, announced in a statement personally signed by him that he had "decided to declare a nationwide security emergency" to be accompanied by some measures, including the recruitment by the Nigeria Police Force, NPF, and the Armed Forces of 20,000 and 50,000 new personnel respectively. In the fortnight preceding the announcement, a flurry of frightening terror incidents had created among populations and communities around the country a heightened state of fear. It also reinforced the perception of a normalisation of insecurity and of the traumas associated with it. Yet, the text and terms of the president's announcement were odd, to say the least. Nigeria's 1999

Constitution empowers the president to declare or proclaim a "state of emergency."

Under the terms of the Constitution, an emergency proclamation is time-bound (for an initial period of not more than six months) and must be confirmed by a joint resolution of a qualified majority of both chambers of the National Assembly within 48 hours of the proclamation. The predicate conditions for the proclamation of a state of emergency in Nigeria under Section 305(3) of the Constitution are that the country is at war or in imminent danger of invasion or of entering into a war or suffering from a breakdown of public order and safety or in imminent danger of such breakdown. The flood of casualties would seem to suggest that the predicate condition of a country at war exists. Apart from thousands killed and many more unaccounted for, reports of 7,568 people abducted in 1,130 incidents across the country in just one year between July 2023 and June 2024 suggest also that there is significant breakdown in public safety. However, the president was

unwilling to cite any of these as grounds for his action, probably because it would represent an admission of how bad things have become under his watch.

Moreover, a formal acknowledgement of the existence of an armed conflict would entail the application of the norms of international humanitarian law under the Geneva Conventions Act, which could lead to the recognition as belligerents the motley crowd of insurgent groups presently afflicting the country. That is considered a step too far for a country that has already survived a brutal civil war from July 1967 to January 1970. Howsoever it is looked at, this "nationwide security emergency" declared by President Tinubu does not sound like the "state of emergency" authorized by the Constitution. The use of "emergency" to describe the measures announced by the president was artful, designed to create the public impression that the administration was at last waking up to its primary responsibility to assure the safety and security of all who live in Nigeria. In reality, none of the measures announced by the president requires the existence of an emergency for their accomplishment nor does it make sense why the administration had to wait until now to consider them for implementation. Moreover, the so-called "emergency" is open-ended. It is not hedged by duration and there has been no effort to take it before the National Assembly.

In an innocuous insertion in the announcement, however, the president invites "the National Assembly to begin reviewing our laws to allow states that require state police to establish them." In this sentence, President Tinubu commits the sleight of hand of suggesting that "state police" will be merely optional only for those states who want it. Of course, he knew better than even suggest that. State police has become a very emotive expression in Nigeria's political and security lexicon. Politicians who cannot be bothered to do the most basic of things to protect their people somehow create the impression that

they could have accomplished that and more if only they had the magic wand of state police. The evidence to the contrary is very stark and conveniently buried. First, the record of state security initiatives has been very abysmal.

Native Authority policing was abolished following the onset of military rule in 1966 because of the tendency to make them instruments of decentralized despotism. Writing in 2018, pioneer post-colonial public servant, Ahmed Joda, recalled the record of the Native Authority Police: "First generation pioneer opposition politicians of the forties and fifties and up to the end of the civilian era in 1966 experienced hell.... Many of them, especially at election times were simply rounded up at rallies, walked to the Native Authority courts, promptly convicted and sent to another Native Authority institution: the Native Authority Prison for long enough periods to take them out for the election period and render political opposition prostrate. Some were simply abducted and disappeared for the period of the elections."

There is nothing to suggest that state police this time will be any less despotic. On the contrary, the omens indicate that it could

**Those who enjoy
abuse of power will
be the first to
acquire it, not to
advance security
but to visit
insecurity on their
political enemies**

be worse. Second, when he introduced Islamic criminal law of Huddud (crimes against God) into Zamfara State at the beginning of a wave of Sharia insertion into North-West Nigeria in October 1999, then governor, Sani Yerima, justified it with reference to the need to upgrade public safety and security in the state. Despite his best spin, public safety and security in Zamfara State did not get better. Instead, it has disintegrated. Zamfara State was far from the only state to experience this trend. In the Middle Belt, Benue State adopted a vigilante law in 2000, creating armed volunteer guards supposedly to enhance the protection of the state. Far from enhancing safety and security in Benue, the State turned into a haven of insecurity.

Around the same time, Anambra State in the South-East launched its own Anambra Vigilante Service, AVS, under

cover of state law in 2000. Under that law, then Governor Chinwoke Mbadinuju claimed authority to invite and establish the Bakassi as an armed, anti-crime vigilante in the state. Anyone who wants to understand how insecurity subsequently prospered in South-East Nigeria must return to the origins of the story in the atrocity-with-impunity franchise that the Bakassi became. Third, when it reported to the presidency in August 2012, the Parry Osayande Presidential Committee on Police Reform recommended quite strongly against the clamour for state police. At the submission of the report, the Chairperson of the Committee, Parry Osayande, a former Deputy Inspector-General of Police, feared that the country lacked the institutional wherewithal to oversight, train, or professionalise a proliferation of armed police units across the country. He recommended effective decentralisation of the existing NPF "with effective participation of state governors; financial autonomy and better professionalism for the police."

Six years later, Ahmed Joda supported "the need to decentralize our policing system." The question now is how to achieve that goal. The political fad of today appears to be that the answer lies in state police. Many people will argue that any opposition to this idea, first, reflects path-dependency; and second, that the times have changed and require that the country should explore the idea. Third, advocates of "true federalism" also denounce any opposition to state police, even when they are not able to tell anyone what exactly makes their version of federalism any truer than the next.

The times may have changed certainly but not necessarily for the better. If anything, the reluctance and caution sounded by Parry Osayande 13 years ago is even more resounding today in a context of corroded democratic controls and multi-dimensional impunity. State police will not be served a la carte nor will it be a matter of variable geometry. Every state governor will see it as a necessary accessory of power. It will not be reserved to only governors who understand the idea of constrained power. Those who enjoy abuse of power will be the first to acquire it, not to advance security but to visit insecurity on their political enemies.

So, in addition to the very challenged NPF which the country struggles with today, we will have 37 more, one for each state and another for the FCT. Each will function under the control of the governor and will be armed by their gubernatorial patrons. This is not state police. Instead, it could be a recipe for a de-centralised police state with no hope of relief. In their enthusiasm, advocates of state police offer no safeguards against this danger.

***A lawyer and a teacher, Odinkalu can be reached at chidi.odinkalu@tufts.edu**

Critical tasks before developing countries: A PGM Perspective

By VICTOR DADA

Developing countries stand at a historic turning point. Their current socio-economic struggles: deepening poverty, weak institutions, infrastructural collapse, elite capture, political volatility, and dependency traps are not random misfortunes. They are systemic consequences of institutional and governance failures accumulated over decades. Emerging insights from Prosperity Governance & Management, PGM, now provide a scientific pathway for reversing these failures by introducing an automatically sustainable model of development rooted in universal system laws, self-organisation, and integrative community governance.

**Institutional Reorientation
and Systemic Integrity**

What brought this about: Post-colonial states inherited institutions designed for extraction, not development. Over time, informal power networks, bureaucratic fragmentation, and incentive misalignment produced chronic inefficiency.

What PGM accomplishes: PGM restores institutional integrity through self-organising governance systems that mimic universal sustainability patterns. It aligns incentives, roles, and responsibilities across communities through AUTOSUCOM structures, ensuring that institutions function as cooperative engines of prosperity.

**Reversing Economic
Disarticulation**

What brought this about: Most developing economies operate as fragmented systems where agriculture, industry, finance, and trade are disconnected.

What PGM accomplishes:

PGM integrates all occupational groups: AGRICA, AGRAHA, TRAGA, VOGA, EMWA, PROGA, and others into a harmonized productivity ecosystem, eliminating

**Corruption persists
because systems
reward rent-seeking
rather than value
creation**

structural leakages and ensuring that every role contributes to community wealth.

**Transition from
Consumption Economies to
Value-Creating Economies**

What brought this about: Import dependency, raw-material exports, and limited industrialization created consumption-heavy, investment-light economies.

What PGM accomplishes: PGM establishes endogenous prosperity production through community-driven industries, circular value chains, and reinvestment models that make every community an active production hub.

**Correcting Governance-
Public Disconnect**

What brought this about: Citizens remain structurally detached from governance processes, encouraging corruption, apathy, and distrust.

What PGM accomplishes: PGM restores citizen relevance through the location-role-relation identity, giving every resident a governance function, a production function, and relational obligations within the community.

**Redirecting Corruption
into Productive Channels**

What brought this about:

Corruption persists because systems reward rent-seeking rather than value creation. Anti-corruption campaigns fail because they treat corruption as a moral deficiency rather than a structural flaw.

What PGM accomplishes: PGM does not aim to eliminate corruption; rather, it makes corruption irrelevant by redirecting excess rents into structured investment pathways that transform destructive leakages into development fuel.

**Overcoming Youth
Exclusion and Talent
Wastage**

What brought this about: Young populations are excluded from economic power due to weak vocational systems and lack of innovation ecosystems.

What PGM accomplishes: Through YODA, VOGA, KINA, and PROGA, PGM creates continuous talent

pipelines, enabling youth to become producers, innovators, and emerging investors.

Conclusion

Emerging knowledge from Prosperity Governance and Management, PGM, shows that the chronic conditions in developing countries are not destiny. They result from incomplete institutional design and fragmented socio-economic systems. PGM provides a scientifically grounded, automatically sustainable model that restores order, productivity, and shared prosperity. With PGM, developing nations can finally transition from survival to self-sustaining prosperity.

**Dr Bandele Olaotan
Dada, FRSA, Chief
Executive Officer,
DESI Consultants Ltd,
wrote via:
desicoi@gmail.com**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Annual General Meeting (the "AGM") of Geo-Fluids Plc (the "Company") will be held at Gurara Hall, Hawthorn Suites, No. 1 Uke Street, Garki 2, Abuja and via teleconference on December 29, 2025, at 10:00am prompt to transact the following businesses:

Ordinary Business:

- To lay before the members of the Company the Audited Financial Statements of the Company for the financial years ended 31 December 2012 to 31 December 2024.
- To ratify the appointment of directors to the Board.
- To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
- To disclose the remuneration of the managers of the Company in line with the Companies & Allied Matters Act 2020.
- To elect the members of the Statutory Audit Committee.

Special Business:

To consider, and if thought fit, pass with or without any amendment, the following resolutions as ordinary resolutions of the Company:

- Authorization of Capital Raise
 - "That the Directors be and are hereby authorized to raise additional capital of up to N22,871,166,244.00 (Twenty-Two Billion, Eight Hundred and Seventy-One Million, One Hundred and Sixty-Six Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Four Naira Only) for the Company by way of special placement, private placement, public offer, rights issue, extraordinary grant of shares and/or any other such methods as they deem fit either in Nigeria or Internationally, on or at such dates and on such terms and conditions as shall be determined by the Directors, subject to the applicable regulatory requirements in the relevant jurisdictions as may be applicable for the capital raise."
 - "That the Directors be and are hereby authorized to do all acts and execute all incidental things including to approve, sign and/or execute all documents, appoint such professional parties and advisers, seek approvals and comply with the directives of relevant regulatory authorities in relevant jurisdictions, perform all such other acts and do all such other things as may be necessary for, or incidental to, or deemed appropriate for giving effect to the above resolution without being required to seek any further consent or approval of the members of the company or otherwise to the end and intent that the members of the company shall be deemed to have given approval thereto expressly by the authority of the above resolution."
 - "That in the event of the Company opting for a right issue, and there is an under-subscription of shares, the shareholders hereby authorize the Directors to offer/issue any and all unsubscribed shares, at a price not more than that specified in the Right Issue Memorandum in such manner as is beneficial to the Company."
 - "That the Company be and is hereby authorized to offer/issue additional shares in the case of an oversubscription of shares at a price not less than that specified in the Right Issue Circular in order to enable the Company to raise an amount which exceeds the amount in resolution above."
- Approval of Increase in Share Capital
 - "That the share capital of the Company be and is hereby increased from N2,128,833,756 (Two Billion, One Hundred and Twenty-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Six Naira) to N25,000,000,000.00 (Twenty-Five Billion Naira Only) by the creation of an additional 45,742,332,488 (Forty-Five Billion, Seven Hundred and Forty-Two Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-Two Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty-Eight) ordinary shares of 50 kobo each, each ranking pari passu in all respects with the existing ordinary shares of the Company."
 - "That the Board of Directors be and is hereby authorized to allot the newly created shares, subject to obtaining relevant regulatory approvals."
- Allotment of Shares
 - "That in consideration of the time, effort, skills and expertise expended by Jacob Babadiya Oyejoba Esan (the "CEO") on the resuscitation of the Company between 2018 and 2024, the Company be and is hereby authorized to issue 45,742,332,488 ordinary shares being the newly created shares of the Company to the CEO as an extraordinary grant of shares."

4. Performance

The Company be and is hereby authorized to issue additional shares to the CEO as a further performance incentive subject to detailed schedules and, subject to the discretion and approval of the Board, upon the successful achievement of the following milestones:

- Successful procurement of Oil Prospecting Licenses, Mining Fields, Petroleum Prospecting Licenses, Lithium Licenses, Bitumen/Hydrocarbon Licenses and/or other Mining Leases in the name of the Company or in conjunction with another Company, whether independently or in partnership with other companies and/or eventually transferred to company;
 - Listing the Company's shares on the Nigerian Exchange Ltd. (NGX) and delisting from NASD Plc;
 - Listing of Company's shares on any recognized International North American Stock Exchange, including but not limited to the New York Stock Exchange, Johannesburg Stock Exchange, Australia Securities Exchange, NASDAQ, or the Toronto Stock Exchange;
 - The Acquisition of a Special Purpose Acquisition Company, listed on an International Stock Exchange.
5. Reimbursement of expenses incurred by the members of the Board
- That all reasonable expenses incurred by a director for the running of the business of the Company shall be repaid to the director by the Company either through a debt to equity conversion, cash refunds, in-kind benefits or any other applicable means including and not limited to direct share subscriptions.
 - That the Board be and is hereby authorized to take all such lawful actions as it may deem necessary in order to carry into effect the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolution including but not limited to complying with any action or conditions required by any regulatory authority.
6. Approval of Listing of the Company on Various Stock Exchanges
- That subject to obtaining the relevant regulatory approvals and compliance with all applicable regulatory requirements, the shareholders hereby approve the listing of the Company's Shares on Nigerian Exchange Limited ("NGX") and other such Exchanges in other jurisdictions as may be determined by the Directors by way of a Listing by Introduction, Reverse Merger, Acquisitions or otherwise (the "Listing") on such terms and conditions as may be authorized by the Board of Directors (the "Board").
 - That the appropriate officers of the Company are hereby authorized to take the necessary steps to reflect these changes in the Company's records at the Corporate Affairs Commission.
 - That the Board, acting through one or more authorized representatives, be and is hereby authorized on behalf of the Company to negotiate, agree, finalize, execute and deliver (whether as a deed or otherwise) the listing memorandums and all other relevant documents (the "Transaction Documents") and from time to time to approve any amendments to the Transaction Documents and to approve any other documents, certificates or notices, of whatever nature, and to do all

such acts and things, in each case as they may in their absolute discretion determine are necessary or desirable in connection with the proposed listings.

- That the Board of the Company be and is hereby authorized to appoint such professional advisers and/or undertake any and all other actions deemed necessary or desirable, in their discretion, for the implementation of the proposed Listing.
 - That the Board of the Company be and is hereby to take all such lawful actions as it may deem necessary in order to carry into effect the purpose and intent of the foregoing resolutions including but not limited to complying with any action or conditions required by any regulatory authority.
7. Authorization for Jacob Esan Plc to procure and acquire Assets for the Company "That Jacob Esan Plc be and is hereby authorized to procure, acquire, and pay for assets within the mining, minerals, oil and gas, energy, power, infrastructure, and other allied industries for Geo-Fluids Plc. All assets procured or acquired by Jacob Esan Plc under this mandate shall, upon purchase, remain the economic property of Jacob Esan Plc, and the economic value and ownership shall continue to reside with Jacob Esan Plc until such a time as the said assets are properly valued in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020 (CAMA 2020), the Investment and Securities Act (ISA), and all applicable regulatory guidelines. Upon completion of the required valuation by qualified independent valuers, and subject to the acceptance of such assets by the Board of Geo-Fluids Plc, the assets may be transferred to Geo-Fluids Plc in exchange for fully paid shares of the Company, at the prevailing economic value confirmed by the independent valuation report."
8. Conversion of Debts/Loans into Shares of the Company
- That all outstanding sums in consideration of the Directors under the Directors Current Account in the sum of N2,586,019,000 (Two Billion, Five Hundred and Eighty-Six Million and Nineteen Thousand Naira) and ultimately to the benefit of Jacob Babadiya Oyejoba Esan as contained in the Company's accounts for the year ended December 2024 be converted into fully paid up ordinary shares in the capital of the Company, subject to obtaining relevant regulatory approvals.
 - That the Board of Directors be and is hereby authorized to:
 - Determine the conversion price per share in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements; and
 - Issue and allot the appropriate number of shares to the respective Director in satisfaction of their outstanding Directors Current Account balances;
 - That the Board be and is hereby authorized to take all such lawful steps, pass all requisite resolutions and do all such other lawful acts and/or things as may be necessary, incidental, supplemental, consequential to giving effect to resolutions above.
 - And all prior lawful steps taken by the Directors in the above regard be and are hereby ratified.
9. Approval of Change of Name Clause
- "That the name of the Company be and is hereby changed from "Geo-Fluids Plc" to "The Geo-Fluids Group Plc."
10. Change of Objects
- "That the objects of the Company be amended, altered and the under listed objects be included as follows:
- To undertake the business of bitumen production and processing in all its forms, including but not limited to the exploration, prospecting, drilling, extraction, refining, treatment, blending, storage, packaging, distribution, marketing, importation, exportation, shipping, transportation, trading, and general supply of bitumen, its derivatives, by-products, and ancillary materials; and to carry on all other related or incidental undertakings, services, or operations that may be considered advantageous, beneficial, or necessary for the advancement, expansion, or diversification of the bitumen industry.
 - To engage in the acquisition, development, and management of mining assets and concessions for the purpose of exploring, extracting, processing, and producing hydrocarbons, oil and gas, minerals, and other natural resources; and to develop, mine, and process coal, industrial minerals, and other raw materials required for industrial, commercial, energy, or infrastructural purposes, together with all related activities necessary to ensure the effective exploitation, utilization, and commercialization of such resources.
 - To operate and participate in all segments of the oil and gas value chain, including but not limited to the exploration, prospecting, drilling, extraction, refining, processing, storage, blending, supply, marketing, distribution, importation, exportation, transportation, shipping, and trading of crude oil, refined petroleum products, petrochemicals, liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, and other related hydrocarbons and derivatives; and to establish, own, operate, or participate in facilities, ventures, or partnerships that advance the energy and petroleum sector.
 - To carry on business in mining and natural resource development, including but not limited to the exploration, extraction, beneficiation, processing, refining, smelting, production, and trading of minerals, metals, ores, precious stones, and other commodities; and to establish plants, facilities, or industries for the conversion, utilization, or commercialization of such natural resources for industrial, commercial, or infrastructural purposes.
 - To establish, provide, and operate logistics and supply chain solutions, including without limitation, the planning, management, and execution of transportation, haulage, warehousing, distribution, freight forwarding, clearing, forwarding, import/export facilitation, inventory management, and other ancillary logistics services across all sectors of industry, trade, and commerce, with the objective of ensuring efficiency, accessibility, and value optimization.
 - To apply for, negotiate, secure, bid for, and enter into contracts, concessions, licenses, proposals, tenders, agreements, or other arrangements for the development, financing, operation, management, rehabilitation, expansion, and optimization of projects and facilities in mining, minerals, oil and gas, energy, power, infrastructure, and other allied industries; and to act in any lawful capacity, including but not limited to that of developer, operator, financier, investor, manager, service provider, technical partner, or consultant, either alone or in collaboration with governmental, institutional, or private sector entities, in furtherance of such undertakings.
 - To carry on any other lawful business, trade, vocation, profession, undertaking, or activity whatsoever which the Company may deem fit or convenient to carry on, and which in the opinion of the Board of Directors may be capable of being advantageously combined with or incidental to any of the businesses or objects of the Company, or which may directly or indirectly enhance the value of, render profitable, or further any of the Company's undertakings, rights, properties, or assets; and to do all such other things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objects or any of them.
 - To promote, incorporate, acquire, establish, hold, manage, supervise, or otherwise have an interest in any subsidiary, associate, joint venture, or allied company or undertaking, whether in Nigeria or elsewhere, and to exercise all the rights of ownership, management, or control in respect thereof; and generally to do all such acts and things as may be deemed expedient in connection with the carrying on of the business of the

Company and/or of any such subsidiary or associated company, including (without limitation) the provision of financial, technical, managerial, administrative, or other support, the sharing or transfer of resources, and the entering into of any arrangement for the conduct of their respective businesses, provided that nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing the Company to carry on any business or activity which it is not otherwise authorized to carry on by this

Memorandum of Association or applicable law.

- To carry on the business of acquiring, investing in, combining with, and undertaking equity or asset acquisitions of companies, undertakings, and businesses; to enter into and execute joint ventures, strategic alliances, mergers, business combinations, partnerships, consortium arrangements, and other collaborative business structures; to acquire, hold, manage, develop, dispose of, or otherwise deal in shares, interests, assets, intellectual property, and commercial rights in any lawful enterprise; and generally to engage in such commercial, financial, operational, and managerial activities as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the foregoing objectives.
11. Amendment of the Memorandum of Association and Article of Association
- That Clause 6 of the Memorandum of Association of the Company be and is hereby amended as a consequence of the above-mentioned increase in share capital to read as follows: "The share capital of the Company is N25,000,000,000.00 (Fifty Billion Naira Only) divided into 50,000,000,000.00 (Fifty Billion Shares) Ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each".
 - That the Memorandum of Association of the Company is hereby amended as a consequence of the above-mentioned change of name clause to reflect the new Company name below: "The Geo-Fluids Group Plc."
 - That the Articles of Association of the Company be amended by the creation of Article 49 (b) to read as follows: "General Meetings of the Company may be conducted through virtual and electronic means via any teleconferencing platform that allows shareholders and other attendees to hear one another and be heard during and throughout a meeting. Notwithstanding the foregoing, General Meetings may be convened by virtual means, physical means, or a combination of both, as determined by the Board of Directors. Shareholders attending a General Meeting virtually shall have their participation counted toward attaining a quorum. All shareholders, irrespective of their means of attendance, shall have the same rights to participate, vote, and speak as they would at a physical meeting."

12. Ratification of Acts and Deeds of Directors

The Board noted the various actions, steps, and decisions taken by both past and present Directors towards ensuring the operational commencement of the Company.

Resolution:

"That all acts, deeds, decisions, representations, and steps undertaken by all Directors of Geo-Fluids Plc, whether past or present, in furtherance of and towards ensuring that the Company becomes operational, be and are hereby ratified, approved, and confirmed. All such actions are deemed validly performed, duly authorized, and binding on the Company as though they had been expressly approved at the time they were carried out."

13. General Authorizations

- Any director of the Company, acting alone or jointly with another director or the Company Secretary ("Authorized Signatories"), be and are hereby authorized to:
 - execute any documents, giving effect to the above resolutions, to which the Company is a party on its behalf (including such amendments as the Authorized Signatories may deem fit, such agreement to be conclusively evidenced by the execution of such document as amended);
 - sign and/or dispatch all documents and notices and other ancillary documents (including any power of attorney, if required) to be signed and/or dispatched by the Company under or in connection with these resolutions; and
 - take any other actions, in connection these resolutions as the Authorized Signatories determine to be necessary and advisable in order to facilitate the completion of the transactions contemplated by these resolutions (including obtaining regulatory approvals, if required) provided that the Authorized Signatories shall do all such acts and things on behalf of the Company as may from time to time be required of the Company under any applicable laws or regulations to validate and give effect to these resolutions, or the performance by the Company of its obligations and liabilities thereunder.
- The Company Secretary be and is hereby authorized to take all such further steps as may be necessary or desirable to effect the above resolutions, such regulatory filings and corporate record-keeping as may be appropriate in the circumstances.

NOTES

- PROXY: Any member of the Company entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her stead. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. For the appointment of the proxy to be valid, a Proxy Form must be completed and deposited at No 48, Awolowo Road, South-West Ikoyi, Lagos, not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting. A blank form is attached to the Notice.
- ATTENDANCE BY PROXY: A member (shareholder) who is unable to attend the AGM is allowed to vote by Proxy. Shareholders are required to appoint a proxy of their choice from the list of nominated proxies below:
- STAMPING OF PROXY: The Company has made arrangements at its cost to stamp the duly completed and signed Proxy Forms submitted within the stipulated time.
- ONLINE STREAMING OF THE AGM: The AGM will be streamed live online. This will enable shareholders and other stakeholders who will not be attending physically to follow the proceedings. Please see the virtual joining details below:

LINK: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89069215566?pwd=ZBh4fmdMT6ZkNDJzZC1v8Rgr4bQ.1>
MEETING ID : 890 6921 5566
PASSCODE: 364640

- RIGHT OF SHAREHOLDERS TO ASK QUESTIONS: Shareholders have a right to ask questions, not only at the Meeting, but also in writing prior to the Meeting, and such questions must be submitted to the Company at the registered office address of the Company on or before the 22nd of December, 2025.

DATED THIS 8TH OF DECEMBER 2025

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Baniwo & Ighodalo
BANIWO & IGHODALO
(COMPANY SECRETARY)

Stock market rebounds as investors gain N2.4trn

•2026 positioning begins

By Peter Egwuatu

The Nigerian stock market has recovered from losses it recorded in November as investors gained N2.436 trillion in the five trading days of last week.

Specifically, the Nigerian Exchange Limited, NGX, market capitalisation, which represents the total value of shares listed on the Exchange, rose to N93.722 trillion on Friday from N91.286 trillion the previous week.

In the same manner, another major

market indicator, NGX All Share Index, ASI, surged by 2.5% to close last Friday at 147040.08 points from 143,520.53 points the previous week.

Analysts attributed the rebound to, among other factors, investors repositioning their assets ahead of year end.

They opined that the month of December opened with cautious sentiment as investors reassessed price levels across major sectors, but buying interest gradually strengthened throughout the week under review

allowing the market to close in positive territory. Further analysis of trading showed that a total turnover of 6.617 billion shares worth N113.224 billion in 109,590 deals was traded last week by investors on the floor of the Exchange, in contrast to a total of 4.140 billion shares valued at N115.889 billion that exchanged hands the previous week in 102,351 deals.

The ICT Industry (measured by volume) led the activity chart with 3.500 billion shares valued at N17.759 billion traded in 11,184 deals; thus contributing 52.89% and 15.68% to the total equity turnover volume and

value respectively. The Financial Services Industry followed with 2.625 billion shares worth N50.188 billion in 42,574 deals.

Third place was the Services Industry, with a turnover of 104.524 million shares worth N1.166 billion in 7,255 deals. Trading in the top three equities, namely E-Tranzact International Plc, Cornerstone Insurance Plc and Access Holdings Plc (measured by volume), accounted for 4.871 billion shares worth N27.422 billion in 6,438 deals, contributing 73.60% and 24.22% to the total equity turnover volume and value

respectively.

Reacting to market development, analysts at InvestData Consulting Limited, stated: "Last week's trading behaviour reflects an environment where investors particularly institutional players, are gradually repositioning for the final stretch of the year. "Rather than pursuing speculative swings, the approach has been more selective and value-driven, targeting stocks with stable fundamentals, improved liquidity, and favourable technical setups."

"This slow and deliberate flow of funds into equities has contributed to the market's ability to hold steady even when selling pressure surfaces in certain segments".

Financial

www.vanguardngr.com MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025 Vanguard

Amid blackouts: NERC, experts clash as DisCos' revenue rises to N1.7trn

•Billing, collection efficiency on the rise - NERC • Experts disagree, say customers are being cheated

By Ediri Ejoh

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, and experts in the sector appear to be singing a different song over the factors driving the increase in the revenue of electricity distribution companies, DisCos.

While NERC attributed the increase in revenue to what it described as efficiency in revenue collection, experts pinned down to customers' exploitation.

According to the experts, customers are made to pay for power not consumed.

Meanwhile, electricity Distribution Companies, DisCos, have recorded a huge jump in revenue, hitting N1.713 trillion in nine months, from January to September 2025.

This represents a 27 per cent rise against N1.249 trillion recorded in the corresponding period of 2024.

Also, the latest report of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, on Commercial Performance of the DisCos, showed that total revenue collected by DisCos in September 2025 alone stood at N196.26 billion out of the N241.54 billion total energy bills issued during the period under review, indicating N49.28 billion



•President Tinubu



•Adebayo Adelabu, Minister of Power

"The issue of the rise in revenue just showed that we have upped our game, we have increased our efficiency, including collection efficiency, and of course, we've deployed technology in many cases"

unpaid bill.

But the revenue trend showed the DisCos' have recorded steady rise in revenue quarter-on-quarter - N559.3 billion in the first quarter of the year, Q1'25, N573.5 billion in Q2'25, and N581.3 billion in Q3'25.

The NERC data also showed rising efficiency in billing and collection of revenue.

The billing efficiency, according to NERC, was 86.43%, while revenue collection efficiency was 81.25%.

Also revenue recovery was high, with 83.45% recovery efficiency.

NERC said DisCos, such as Eko, Abuja, and Ikeja Electric, remained strong performers across billing, collections and recovery efficiency.

Aba, according to the facts sheet, achieved a 102.85 per cent billing efficiency, reflecting improved energy optimisation and legacy recovery.

Benin, Port Harcourt, and Kano posted moderate efficiency levels, while Jos, Kaduna, and Yola continued to trail and show room for improvement.

NERC explained that the "figures give a clear picture of how effectively DisCos are billing, collecting, and recovering revenue, key indicators for strengthening liquidity and improving service delivery across the Nigerian

Electricity Supply Industry, NESI."

Experts react

However, industry experts seem unhappy with the impressive financial performance of the DisCos, especially at the backdrop of unhappy consumers who are paying the bills.

Commenting on the situation, Energy Economist, Professor Wumi Iledare, said, "The anomaly in Nigeria's electricity pricing structure is what appears to be driving revenue growth-not efficiency, not improved service delivery, and certainly not fairness."

"First, the estimated billing system is deeply problematic, with cross-subsidies embedded in ways that disproportionately

burden low-income households. Those who can least afford it end up paying the most for power they often do not receive.

"Second, the Band Pricing approach has created further distortions. I am not aware of any energy pricing framework anywhere in the world that is this inefficient in resource allocation while simultaneously ignoring ethics, equity, and effectiveness."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a power sector operator revealed: "NERC has a lot of responsibility in ensuring Nigerians are getting a commensurate services received as utility, as the regulators have the yam and the knife."

"For over 12 years, they have refused to do the needful thereby causing harm across the power sector value chain."

Similarly, convener and Executive Director of PowerUp Nigeria, a Power Consumer Advocacy Group, Adetayo Adegbelembe, said Nigeria's electricity subsidy was unsustainable as it constituted a huge financial burden on the federal government.

He said: "Historically, the Nigerian government has been paying electricity subsidy to the Nigeria Electricity Supply Industry, NESI. This means there is the cost reflective tariff of supplying 1kWh (kilowatt hour), and the allowed tariff consumers are "allowed" to pay.

"This variance, otherwise called subsidy, has now turned into an elephant in the China ware shop. The subsidy is as a result of government policy consideration on welfarism, targeted at supporting the social welfare of consumers who might not be able to pay the high true cost of the service."

"Economic stability, aimed at ensuring a stable and affordable energy supply, is essential for economic development, and political stability that further aims at mitigating possible social unrest and creating political instability."

"The federal government in 2020, with the introduction of Service Based Tariff, SBT, decided to phase out subsidy on electricity tariff because of the strain it is putting on government finances, and the inefficiencies it promotes in the energy sector".

“NNPCL battles N8tn outstanding debt.”
News, December 1, 2025.

Petroleum Sector Retards National Progress

NNPCL is the only state-owned oil producing organization in the entire world which has become a perpetual drag on the nation's progress. Last week, just as the nation was celebrating the declaration of Ntn profits from operations last year, Nigerians were once again reminded that very little has changed in the management of the affairs of the most important business organization in Nigeria. Until new evidence surfaces indicating a new re-orientation of corporate governance, the NNPCL will find it difficult to shed its negative image. For the most part, nothing seems to work well in the organization.

ANOMALLY OF PRESIDENT AS MINISTER.

“Power tends to corrupt; and absolute power corrupts absolutely.” Lord Acton, 1834-1902. Absolute power over the affairs of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, later renamed NNPCL, started under President Olusegun Obasanjo when he became civilian Head of State. Hitherto, every military leader, as well as President Shagari, had appointed at least one Minister to manage the sector. Obasanjo, labouring under delusions of omniscience upturned everything in 1999. Ministers

were appointed for every other important sector; he retained the Petroleum Ministry portfolio for himself – without even bothering to appoint a Minister of State. Obasanjo established a bad example for governance in a nation largely oil-dependent. The excuse given that the NNPC was a cesspool of corruption turned out to be self-serving. NNPC from 1999 to 2007 was just as corrupt as anytime before it. Anyone interested in a more detailed explanation is invited to go and read my book PDP: CORRUPTION INCORPORATED.

Late President Yar'Adua and former President Jonathan appointed Ministers who served themselves more than Nigeria, and, although they were not well supervised, the two Presidents were personally above reproach with regard to the operations of the NNPC. Failure to ensure that the mandatory Turn Around Maintenance, TAM, was carried out, as and when due was the only error which can be justifiably charged to their accounts.

Buhari returned Nigeria to the discredited President/Minister approach to governance. It was a monumental disaster. Unlike when he was Petroleum Minister in 1973 and left office in a cloud of financial uncertainty, the sector had become highly technical; and only very few people in any country could successfully manage it. Buhari was not one of them.

He left an unmitigated disaster behind. One of them was the N8tn Crude-for-Loans

agreement reached to finance budget deficits incurred by the FG. Under the agreements, 213,000 barrels of crude oil were daily reserved to service the loans. Given that, at the time, daily output of crude was about 1.4 million barrels a day, daily net production was under 1.2 million barrels each day. Meanwhile, the budgets each year were based on 2 million barrels per day; and later, Alhaji Dangote was promised all the crude required to run his 600,000 barrels refinery. TAMs were not carried out; petrol was imported in large quantities and

the overall performance this year has been underwhelming. The news report in reference touched on some of the problems. According to the reporter, “Fuel security slowed in October as the Dangote Petroleum Refinery supplied only an average of 17.1 million litres per day of the nation's

OUR CURRENT PREDICAMENT

“828M litres of fuel imported to avert nationwide shortage.” News, December 1, 2025.

Tinubu came into office and applied a shock treatment to the economy which almost killed the patient. Divinely, the nation survived the therapy is now gradually getting out of the intensive care unit. A recovery is now underway – even if tentative. Still, it is undeniable

Given that, at the time, daily output of crude was about 1.4 million barrels a day, daily net production was under 1.2 million barrels each day. Meanwhile, the budgets each year were based on 2 million barrels per day; and later, Alhaji Dangote was promised all the crude required to run his 600,000 barrels refinery

that the economy might be turning the corner. The Organised Private Sector, OPS, has demonstrated resilience, once again, as it did when the Structural Adjustment Programme, SAP, was introduced in the 1980s. There is faint light at the end of the dark tunnel. There is however, an elephant in the room – NNPCL. Notwithstanding the profits recently declared by the company,

petrol needs, forcing the country to rely heavily on imports, despite earlier hopes of self-sufficiency.” In reality, the hope of self-sufficiency which was based on the assumption that Dangote would be fully supplied with crude was delusory at best.

DELE SOBOWALE
on Business



Dangote's refinery could not attain full capacity in 2025; even if the crude promised was fully delivered. Furthermore, Dangote was not expected to be the sole supplier of petrol to Nigerians. NNPCL, under the former Group Managing Director, Mele Kyari, requested for and was given \$2.9 billion to revive the Port Harcourt and Warri refineries; and get them to start supplying fuel. Promises were made to start production by December 2024.

We are now in December 2025. After months of shameless deceit, including reported supply of fuel by the two refineries, Nigerians woke up to the truth. Funds provided for another TAM by NNPCL had vanished with no fuel being produced. That has been the history of the NNPCL since all the four refineries produced petrol during the Babangida administration – a feat which has not been repeated by any other government since 1993.

The NNPCL(L) has consistently duped Nigeria because our governments have repeatedly appointed untrustworthy individuals to manage the business. Their crimes have been overlooked by Presidents and the National Assembly for reasons most of us can only guess because nobody has been prosecuted in Nigeria yet.

NNPC(L) ROBIN HOODS

Robin Hood, the famed fairy tale English robber, took from the rich to give to the poor.

Meanwhile, two former Directors of the NNPC(L) have been successfully prosecuted and sentenced in the United States for stealing Nigerian money and laundering the proceeds of crime in the US. The funds stolen in Nigeria were forfeited to American states. The robbers of NNPC(L) rob Nigeria to enrich wealthy nations even more.

CRUDE PRODUCTION PROMISES UNFULFILLED

“Promises like [cookies] are made to be broken.” Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745.

Nothing is more dangerous than a convincing illusion. Nigerian governments have operated on one for over ten years; and NNPC(L) was responsible for it. Nigeria's budgets in the last twelve years have been based on two million barrels per day crude oil production. NNPC(L) directors invariably accept the budget estimates for crude production. In no single month was the target achieved. That fact has never stopped NNPC(L) from repeating the same promise to Presidents – who were too eager to be deceived. The repercussions have been devastating.

Expected crude oil revenue estimates were never achieved; the increasing negative variances generated were largely responsible for the escalating national debt – of which the N8tn is just a small fraction. Question is: when will NNPC(L) play a positive role?

SPECIAL PROJECTS UNIT PUBLICATION

20 Years Of Microfinance Banks In Nigeria: A Special Serial Publication On Top 20 Most Reliable Microfinance Banks Supporting SMEs And Financial Inclusion (Series)

In Nigeria, early institutions such as Community Banks and Rural Development Banks served as precursors to today's microfinance framework. However, modern microfinance banking truly began to gain momentum after the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) released its landmark guidelines in 2005. This regulatory framework paved the way for the establishment of more microfinance banks across the country, with a clear

mandate to provide financial services to the unbanked, low-income earners, and small businesses.

The core objective of microfinance banks in Nigeria is to deepen financial inclusion by granting access to credit and other basic financial services to underserved segments of the population. Their operations are designed to promote economic empowerment, reduce poverty, and enhance financial stability through tailored

offerings such as savings products, micro-credit facilities, and other financial solutions that meet the needs of their target customers.

Over the years, the Bank of Industry (BOI) has consistently demonstrated its capacity to meet these national development goals—providing structured financing, empowering enterprises, and strengthening the economic fabric of the country.

BOI Microfinance Bank: Sixteen Years Of Expanding Financial Inclusion and Supporting Enterprise Growth

In a nation where access to finance remains a major obstacle for entrepreneurs, BOI Microfinance Bank continues to stand out as a beacon of financial hope. For sixteen years, the bank has quietly but powerfully transformed the microfinance space, supporting micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises across Nigeria.

Founded as a subsidiary of the Bank of Industry (BOI), and fully regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria, BOI Microfinance Bank was established with a clear mission and mandate to bring banking closer to the underserved and stimulate inclusive economic growth. Today, BOI stands as one of Nigeria's most trusted microfinance institutions, rooted in impact, integrity, and innovation.

In the last 16 years of its existence, the bank has disbursed N27 billion to 13,162 individuals and groups, empowering entrepreneurs to create 78,972 direct and indirect jobs – farmers, artisans, traders,

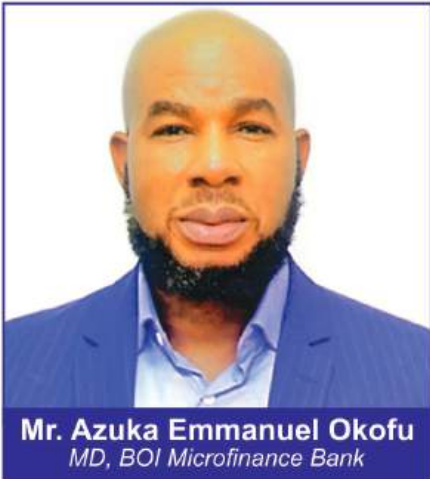
school owners, and small manufacturers – and reviving dreams to strengthen local economies, prioritizing female gender-focused financing. As a testimonial, N10.1 billion had been disbursed to 5,632 women-led businesses, creating 33,000 jobs.

The bank created noble initiatives to deliver tailored support and favourable loan terms with a growth-focused structure for women-owned enterprises. One of such is the CredHer, which is exclusively for women entrepreneurs. Other products of the bank designed as flexible solutions for real-world need include: working capital loans (for daily business operations), asset finance loans (for purchasing machinery, equipment, vehicles, appliances, and more), consumer loans (for personal needs such as school fees and healthcare), group loans (for cooperatives, associations, and market groups), BOIMFB-MEL (fast and accessible credit for micro-businesses), and BOI-Federal Government Intervention

Scheme (Single-digit-interest loans for MSMEs).

BOI helps its customers to build financial stability through savings methods that promote discipline and long term growth. And this is available in three different categories. The micro savings is designed for artisans and low-income earners, collateral savings is for customers preparing for loan access, and fixed deposits offers competitive interest rates. These products ensure security, flexibility, and accessibility for all customer categories.

The impact of BOI Microfinance Bank goes beyond numbers, it builds a future for individual entrepreneur who aspires to take the business to the next level for acquisition, expansion, increasing productivity and for family keeping their children in school. It is certainly sure that with every loan and every savings account, the bank continues to deepen financial inclusion to uplift communities.



Mr. Azuka Emmanuel Okofu
MD, BOI Microfinance Bank

As Nigeria navigates evolving economic realities, the pivotal roles of microfinance banks cannot be over emphasized. BOI Microfinance Bank has sworn to remain committed to its mission of supporting dreams, powering businesses, and building a more inclusive economic future for all.



BOI MICROFINANCE BANK
.....Your Business Partner

What If Your Next Loan Didn't Cost You Your Future?

Some lies you've been told about Loans

They told you credit would grow your business.

But when the interest rate swallows half your profit,
 when repayment schedules ignore your reality...

when one slow month puts you in default, and the calls
 start coming...

That's not help. That's a trap.

BOIMFB's lendings are designed not to extract, but
 empower you.

16 Years of Providing Fair Finance that Works:

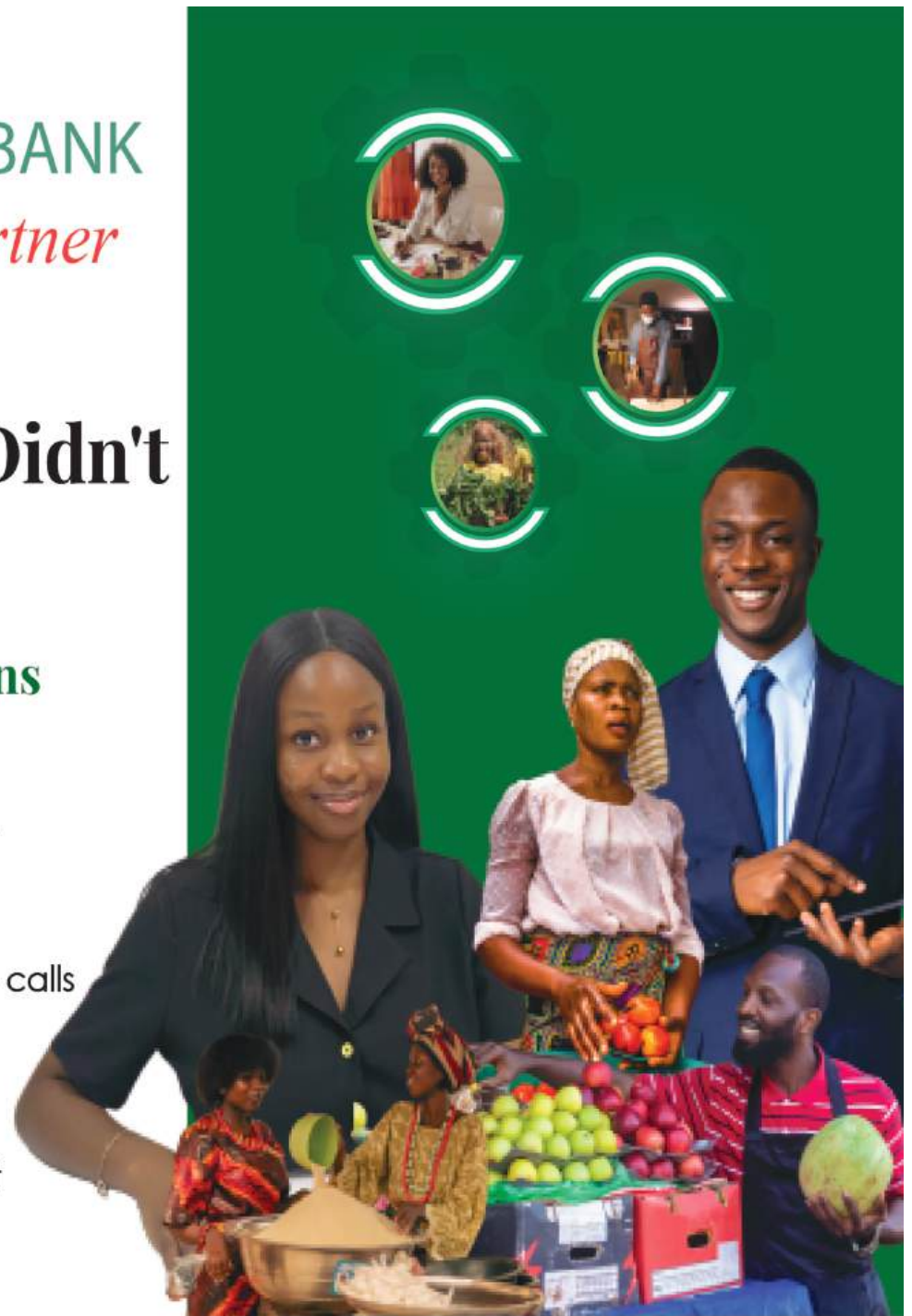
- ₦27 Billion disbursed to 13,162 Nigerian businesses.
- 78,972 jobs created across the nation.
- ₦10.1B deployed to 5,632 women entrepreneurs through CredHer.
- 33,000+ jobs created by women we believed in.

**Our rates are conceived with
 relevance to Nigeria's reality
 and that is why we remain
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We are CBN-regulated and INDIC Insured.



WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

Reducing balance — pay less as you pay down.

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Start Keeping More of What You Make.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Interim Forfeiture

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
ON MONDAY THE 17TH OF NOVEMBER, 2025
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
JUDGE

SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/1981/2025

BETWEEN

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION.....APPLICANT

AND

1. WISE RIDE LIMITED
2. AROLASAFE OLUWAGBEMILEKE

..... RESPONDENTS

ORDER

UPON THIS EXPARTE ORIGINATING MOTION dated 19th day of September, 2025 and filed on the 22nd day of September, 2025 coming up before this Honourable Court this 17th day of November, 2025, praying for the following Orders:

1. **AN INTERIM ORDER** of this Honourable Court, forfeiting to the Federal Government of Nigeria a 2016 Toyota Corolla and 2015 Nissan Altima, being properties found and recovered by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission from the Respondents which properties are reasonably suspected to have been acquired with proceeds of unlawful activity.

HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
Presiding Judge

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA

2. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court directing the publication in any National Newspaper of the interim order under the relief (i) above for the Respondents or anyone who is interested in the property sought to be forfeited to appear before this Honourable Court to show cause within 14 days why the final order of forfeiture of the said properties should not be made in favour of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

3. **AND FOR SUCH FURTHER ORDER OR ORDERS** as this Honourable Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances of this case.

SCHEDULE TO THE APPLICATION

S/N	VEHICLE MADE	CHASSIS NUMBER
1.	2016 Toyota Corolla	4T1BF1FK7GU131351
2.	2015 Nissan Altima	1N4AL3AP7FC441825

AND UPON READING the Affidavit in support of the application deposed to by Olaewe Taiwo, an Investigating Officer with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Institutions and Research District, Jabi, Abuja; the Exhibits and the Written Address of the Counsel, filed at this Court's Registry.

HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
Presiding Judge

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA

AND AFTER HEARING T. M. Anameze, Counsel for the Applicant move the application and urged the Court to grant the Orders sought.

AND THIS HONOURABLE COURT having delivered its Ruling this 17th November, 2025.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. **AN INTERIM ORDER** of this Honourable Court is made forfeiting to the Federal Government of Nigeria a 2016 Toyota Corolla and 2015 Nissan Altima, being properties found and recovered by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission from the Respondents which properties are reasonably suspected to have been acquired with proceeds of unlawful activity.
2. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court is made directing the publication in any National Newspaper of the interim order under the relief (i) above for the Respondents or anyone who is interested in the property sought to be forfeited to appear before this Honourable Court to show cause within 14 days why the final order of forfeiture of the said properties should not be made in favour of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
Presiding Judge

HON. JUSTICE H. J. YILWA
Presiding Judge

SCHEDULE TO THE APPLICATION

S/N	VEHICLE MADE	CHASSIS NUMBER
1.	2016 Toyota Corolla	4T1BF1FK7GU131351
2.	2015 Nissan Altima	1N4AL3AP7FC441825

ISSUED AT ABUJA under the seal of the Court and the Hand of the Presiding Judge this 17th day of November, 2025.

JESSY ANDREW
Registrar

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY
FEDERAL HIGH COURT
ABUJA



NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

OBASANJO SPACE CENTRE
KM 17, UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA EXPRESSWAY (AIRPORT ROAD), ABUJA, NIGERIA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR DESIGN, BUILD, LAUNCH AND EARLY-ORBIT TESTING OF SYNTHETIC APERTURE RADAR (SAR) SATELLITE, OPTICAL SATELLITE, AND DEVELOPMENT OF A STATE-OF-THE-ART MODULAR SATELLITE ASSEMBLY, INTEGRATION, AND TESTING (AIT) FACILITY

INTRODUCTION

The **National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA)**, under the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, hereby invites qualified and technically experienced international firms, consortia, space agencies, and space industry partners to submit an **Expression of Interest (EOI)** for potential collaboration on the design, manufacture, launch and early-orbit testing of an Ultra-High-Resolution Optical Earth Observation (EO) satellite, a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite, and a Modular Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) facility to support end-to-end development of small to medium-sized satellites.

This initiative aligns with Nigeria's National Space Policy and NASRDA's Strategic Roadmap, aimed at strengthening indigenous space capabilities, supporting national development priorities (including but not limited to agriculture, disaster management, security, climate monitoring, and broadband connectivity), and fostering international cooperation in Space Science and Technology.

LOT No	DESCRIPTION	SCOPE
LOT 1: Design, build, launch and early-orbit testing of a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) Earth Observation Optical Satellite.	To design, build, test, launch and early-orbit operations of high-performance optical satellites capable of acquiring ultra-high-resolution multispectral and panchromatic Earth observation data. Supports autonomous mission operations, offer multiple imaging modes and be fully compatible with NASRDA's existing or planned ground segment infrastructure.	i. Design and build of an ultra-high resolution multispectral and panchromatic imager payload. ii. High resolution hyperspectral imager and onboard Automatic Identification System (AIS). iii. Microsatellite - Minisatellite class bus system. iv. Designed for a minimum of 7 years in Sun-synchronous orbit. v. High-speed onboard data bus integrated with high performance data handling, processing, and storage subsystem. vi. Deployable solar panels for peak power tracking and generation. vii. Radiation shielding and mitigation features for long-term system reliability. viii. Onboard Fault Detection, Isolation, and Recovery (FDIR) capabilities. ix. Modular architecture to support streamlined subsystem integration and replacement. x. Ground segment design (mission control, AI data processing, user terminals).
LOT 2: Design, build, launch and early-orbit testing of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) Satellite.	To design, build, test, launch and early-orbit operations of a Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite capable of capturing very high-resolution SAR imagery under all weather and lighting conditions. Supports autonomous mission operations, offer multiple imaging modes and be fully compatible with NASRDA's existing or planned ground segment infrastructure.	i. Microsatellite to minisatellite-class bus system. ii. Mission lifetime: Minimum of 7 years in Sun-synchronous orbit. iii. Large onboard data handling and processing system, including High-Speed Data Recorder. iv. Deployable solar panels optimized for peak power tracking and generation. v. Modular architecture in command, telemetry, and data handling systems to enhance reliability. vi. Radiation shielding and hardening for critical subsystems to ensure mission longevity. vii. Autonomous health monitoring and fault detection, isolation, and recovery (FDIR) mechanisms. viii. Ground station development, mission control integration, AI image processing and data analytics system setup. ix. Integrated Automatic Identification System (AIS) receiver.
LOT 3: Design, construction, and commission a state-of-the-art Modular Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) Facility.	To design, construct, and commission a state-of-the-art Modular Satellite Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) Center with international standards, including ISO 14644-1 (cleanroom standards) and ECSS (European Cooperation for Space Standardization) guidelines.	i. Cleanroom Facilities: ISO 14644-1 Class 7 or better cleanrooms for satellite assembly and integration. ii. Testing Facilities for thermal vacuum, vibration, acoustic, and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) testing. iii. Modular Design of configurable workspaces to accommodate various satellite sizes. iv. Dedicated zones for subsystem integration, payload integration, and final assembly. v. Support Infrastructure: Power systems, HVAC, electrostatic discharge (ESD) protection, and data management systems. vi. Safety Systems: Fire suppression, emergency evacuation systems, and hazardous material handling protocols.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Interested contractors, suppliers and service providers are required to submit the following documents:

- Evidence of certificate of incorporation issued by corporate affairs commission (CAC) including form CAC 1.1 or CAC2 and CAC7 (for Nigerian bidders) or equivalent registration for foreign firms;
- Evidence of company's income tax clearance certificate for the last three years (2022, 2023, 2024) valid till 31st December, 2025 (for Nigerian bidders);
- For foreign bidders, evidence of tax compliance or exemption in their country of origin;
- Evidence of pension clearance certificate valid till 31st December, 2025 (this requirement is only applicable to Nigerian bidders whose number of staff is 15 and above);
- Evidence of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) compliance certificate valid till 31st December, 2025 (this requirement is only applicable to Nigerian bidders whose number of staff is 5 and above or the bidder's annual turnover is ₦50M and above);
- Evidence of Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) clearance certificate valid till 31st December, 2025 (for Nigerian bidders);

- Evidence of registration on the national database of federal contractors, consultants and service providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring on 31st December, 2025 or valid certificate issued by BPP (for Nigerian bidders);
 - Sworn affidavit disclosing whether any officer of the relevant committees of the National Space Research and Development Agency or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars;
 - Comprehensive company's profile with the curriculum vitae of key staff to be deployed for the project, including copies of their academic/professional qualifications such as COREN, QSRBN, ARCON, CORBON etc. Or its foreign equivalent;
 - List of plants/equipment with proof of ownership/lease;
 - Evidence of financial capability to execute the project – including bank reference letter or credit facility guarantee from a reputable commercial bank;
 - Company's audited accounts for the last three (3) years (2022, 2023, 2024) duly signed and stamped by certified auditors;
 - Evidence of capacity to mobilize skilled international and local manpower where required. Local Nigerian content and partnerships will be favorably considered;
 - For joint venture/partnership, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) should be provided (CAC, tax clearance certificate, pension compliance certificate, ITF compliance certificate, NSITF compliance certificate, IRR & sworn affidavit where applicable are compulsory for each JV partner);
- All documents for submission must be transmitted with a covering/forwarding letter under the company/firm's letterhead paper bearing amongst others, the registration number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) or the foreign equivalent, contact address, telephone number and e-mail address. The letterhead paper must bear the names and nationalities of the directors of the company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorized officer of the firm.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

To be considered, vendors must meet the following requirements:

LOT 1	LOT 2	LOT 3
a) Minimum of ten (10) years of experience in the design, development and deployment of a microsatellite or minisatellite. b) Financial and technical capacity to execute complex, multi-year space projects. c) At least five (5) or more successfully delivered operational satellite missions in LEO. d) Heritage in optical satellite development and deployment. e) Quality assurance certification, such as ISO 9001 or equivalent, demonstrating compliance with international standards. f) Proven technical team comprising of qualified engineering, system integration, and project management personnel. g) Demonstrated legal capacity to export, import, or transfer satellite technology across jurisdictions (subject to applicable regulations). h) Compliance with Nigerian laws, and UN Space Treaties.	a) Minimum of seven (7) years experience in SAR satellite systems. b) Financial and technical capacity to execute complex, multi-year space projects. c) Heritage in SAR development and deployment. d) At least five (5) successful SAR missions delivered to LEO. e) Quality assurance certification, such as ISO 9001 or equivalent, demonstrating compliance with international standards. f) Legal capacity to export and/or import satellite technology, where applicable. g) Compliance with Nigerian laws, and UN Space Treaties.	a) Proven experience in the design and successful development of a functional AIT facility, preferably within the last 7 years. b) Financial and technical capacity to execute complex, multi-year space projects. c) Quality assurance certification, such as ISO 9001 or equivalent, demonstrating compliance with international standards. d) Compliance with Nigerian laws. e) Legal capacity to export and/or import technology, where applicable.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

All proposals must be submitted both electronically and in hardcopy.

Interested firms are to submit two (2) bound copies of the Expression of Interest (EOI) documents separated by dividers and arranged as indicated above. The documents should be submitted in a sealed envelope and addressed to Director General/Chief Executive, National Space Research and Development Agency, KM 17 Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Expressway (Airport Road), Abuja, and clearly marked with the name of the project and Lot number. Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should bear the name and address of the bidder and dropped in the designated tender box in the office of the Director, Procurement, NASRDA Headquarters, Abuja not later than 12:00 noon of Monday 22nd December, 2025.

In addition, an electronic copy of the submission should be sent to the email below: eos.project@nasrda.gov.ng

OPENING OF EOI

The EOI will be opened immediately after the deadlines for submission at 12:00 noon on Monday 22nd December, 2025 at the Prof. Borroffice Ajayi Conference Hall, NASRDA Headquarters, Abuja; please ensure that you sign the bid submission register in the office of the Director, Procurement, Ground Floor, Admin Building, NASRDA Headquarters, Abuja, as the Agency will not be held liable for misplaced or wrongly submitted bids.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Bids must be in English language and signed by an official authorised by the bidder;
- Bids submitted after the deadline for submission would be returned un-opened;
- No bidder should bid for more than two (2) lots overall;
- The EOI/bid opening will be carried out in the presence of two (2) representatives of private sector professional bodies and civil society organization in the areas of anti-corruption/transparency;
- The agency reserves the right to authenticate all claims made by any contractor in its submission;
- Failure to provide any information required shall lead to instant disqualification;
- Submission of expression of interest should not be construed as a commitment on the part of the agency;
- It shall not entitle any contractor to make any claims whatsoever or seek any remedy/indemnity from the agency by virtue of such company having responded to the advertisement;
- Only shortlisted bidders at the eoi evaluation will be contacted at a later date for collection of request for proposals.

DISCLAIMER

The National Space Research and Development Agency will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by any interested party in connection with any response to this invitation. The Agency is not bound to shortlist/pre-qualify any bidder and reserves the right to annul the procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with section 28 of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), 2007.

SIGNED:
DIRECTOR GENERAL/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
NATIONAL SPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
OBASANJO SPACE CENTRE
KM 17, UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA EXPRESSWAY (AIRPORT ROAD), ABUJA, NIGERIA.

How Benin Rep coup failed — FG

Continues from page 5

indoors for their safety. The US embassy equally advised its citizens to stay away from Cotonou, especially the area around the presidential compound.

A presidential adviser also assured that the president is safe and is at the French embassy.

Nigerian Air Force conducts multiple precision airstrikes on fleeing coup plotters

While the coup drama lasted, the Nigerian military deployed fighter aircraft to the Benin Republic, according to security sources.

Zagazola Makama, a counter-insurgency publication focused on the Lake Chad region disclosed that the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) carried out strategic airstrikes on fleeing elements of the foiled military coup, according to security sources.

The publication said it was reliably informed by sources that the operation targeted coup plotters and their equipments attempting to escape Cotonou in armoured vehicles following the swift intervention by loyalist forces in the country.

The airstrikes, involved multiple coordinated strikes carried out by Nigerian fighter jets operating within Beninese airspace.

"The operation was meticulously planned and executed. Our objectives were clear: neutralize fleeing hostile elements, prevent regrouping, and restore stability in coordination with regional partners," the sources stated.

The sources emphasized that all actions were conducted with the consent of Benin authorities as well as in strict adherence to international protocols to minimise collateral damage while maximising operational impact.

Nigeria withdraws fighter aircraft as situation stabilises

Hours later, Nigeria was said to have withdrawn the fighter aircraft after the situation in the country had stabilised.

ECOWAS, AU condemn attempt

Also reacting to the coup yesterday, the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, and the African Union, AU, praised the efforts of the government and the republican army in bringing the situation under control, while condemning the attempt by the group of soldiers.

Both regional bodies described the incident as an unacceptable assault on democratic order and vowed to support Benin in safeguarding its constitutional governance.

Describing the unconstitutional move as subversion of the will of the people, the ECOWAS Commission called for the full respect of Benin Republic's constitution.

"ECOWAS holds the leaders of the plot both

individually and collectively responsible for any loss to life and property occasioned by their action.

"ECOWAS will support the government and the people in all forms necessary, including the deployment of the regional standby force, to defend the constitution and the territorial integrity of Benin," a statement by the commission said.

Similarly, AU Commission chair, Mahmoud Ali Yousouf, reiterated the pan-African organisation's "zero tolerance stance toward any unconstitutional change of government, regardless of context or justification".

He warned that "these trends erode citizens' trust in public institutions, weaken state authority, and endanger collective security."

He noted that any form of military interference in political processes constituted a grave violation of the fundamental principles and values of African Union.

Yousouf recalled several continental instruments that prohibited unconstitutional changes of government, including the AU Constitutive Act, the Lomé Declaration, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the Ezulwini Framework.

"These frameworks categorically reject military encroachment in governance and affirm the primacy of constitutional order and democratic legitimacy as pillars of peace and stability on the continent," the AU stated.

The AU leadership demanded that those involved in the coup attempted halt all illegal activities, return to their barracks, and respect state institutions.

"The Chairperson calls on all actors involved in the coup attempt to immediately cease all unlawful actions, to fully respect the Constitution of Benin, and to return without delay to their legitimate barracks and professional obligations," the statement read.

Yousouf also urged national actors to prioritise dialogue and unity, expressing worry over the increasing frequency of coups in Africa.

He pledged to work with partners to ensure the full restoration of constitutional normalcy and the strengthening of democratic institutions.

ECOWAS deploys troops to Benin

Edo gets \$100m Presco FDI for agric devt

EDO State has received a significant boost to its economy, with the announcement of a landmark \$100 million Foreign Direct Investment, FDI, into Presco Plc by Belgian agro-industrial leader - SIAT NV.

The investment marks the crucial first tranche of an ambitious \$1 billion FDI commitment designed to accelerate agro-industrial development across Nigeria over the next decade.

The \$100 million fund will be utilised to support Presco's expansion initiatives, including scaling industrial capacity, expanding plantation development and driving value-addition across its

Meanwhile, ECOWAS has ordered the immediate deployment of its Standby Force to the country. "In a statement issued yesterday, the commission said the action was in line with provisions of its 1999 Protocol on Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security.

The deployment, approved after consultations among ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, will include troops from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana.

The regional force is tasked with supporting the Benin government and the Republican Army to safeguard constitutional order and maintain the territorial integrity of the nation.

ECOWAS emphasised that the aim was to stabilise the situation, prevent further disruption, and ensure that democratic governance was preserved in the Republic of Benin.

The statement read:

Northern elites must take responsibility for security failures—Olawepo-Hashim

● Welcomes Gen Musa's appointment as defence minister

PRESIDENTIAL aspirant and internationally renowned businessman, Dr. Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, has urged Northern political and social elites to take responsibility for the intensifying insecurity in the region.

He also applauded the appointment of General Christopher Musa as Minister of Defence, describing it as a crucial opportunity that must yield concrete results.

In a statement yesterday, Olawepo-Hashim said he closely followed Musa's Senate screening and was impressed by what he called the nominee's sincerity, clarity and commitment to national service.

"I watched General Musa's Senate clearance session. He sounded like someone genuinely committed to Nigeria. I hope he receives the full executive support needed to succeed in this critical assignment," he said.

Hashim cautioned that Nigerians, and global security observers, were increasingly losing patience with political promises, stressing that citizens now expected decisive, immediate action to halt killings, kidnappings and the territorial ambitions of extremist groups in

Edo gets \$100m Presco FDI for agric devt

operations. The investment, according to Presco, will enhance technology adoption, bolster talent development, and strengthen Nigeria's position in the regional edible oils and specialty fats market.

Olakanmi Rasheed Sarumi, Chairman, Presco Plc, said: "This substantial commitment highlights the critical role of strong subnational governance, particularly the exemplary leadership of Governor Monday Okpebholo.

"His administration has successfully enhanced security, strengthened governance structures, and cultivated a robust, business-friendly climate which



From left, Ondo State Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Mr. Laolu Akindolire; Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Devt, Dr. Oluwaseun Osamaye; wife of Deputy Governor, Mrs Bosede Adelami; wife of governor, Mrs. Oluwaseun Aiyedatiwa and Chairman, Joint Association of Persons Living with Disabilities, Mr. Olusegun Abiodun, presenting cheque to Persons with Disabilities in the state in Akure, Ondo state capital

"Pursuant to the provisions of relevant ECOWAS instruments, in particular Article 25(e) of the 1999 Protocol Relating to the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution Peacekeeping and Security, and after consultation among members of the Mediation and Security Council at the

level of Heads of State and Government.

"The Chair of ECOWAS Authority of Heads of state and Government has ordered the deployment of elements of the ECOWAS Standby Force to the Republic of Benin with immediate effect.

"The Regional Force shall be made up of troops from

responsibility for security

framework.

Hashim further argued that the north must acknowledge the internal governance failures that had fuelled extremist recruitment across the region.

"That extremists are finding recruits in their thousands is not accidental. It is the product of deep poverty caused by decades of governance failure at state and local government levels. While the Sahel crisis has contributed, poor local governance has compounded the problem," he stated.

Reflecting on the First Republic, he contrasted the era's integrity-driven leadership with what he

described as the opulence and detachment of many present-day northern leaders.

"In the days of Sir Ahmadu Bello, Aminu Kano, Joseph Tarka and Sir Kashim Ibrahim, the north was safer, more united and governed with honesty and discipline. Today, too many of our leaders live like oil sheikhs in the midst of mass poverty," he lamented.

Hashim, who concluded with a bold call for leadership renewal across northern Nigeria, said: "It is time for the north to replace leaders who live like oil sheikhs amid poverty and continue to hold onto power through ethnic and religious manipulation."

described as the opulence and detachment of many present-day northern leaders.

Hashim, who concluded with a bold call for leadership renewal across northern Nigeria, said:

"It is time for the north to replace leaders who live like oil sheikhs amid poverty and continue to hold onto power through ethnic and religious manipulation."

Lagos plans new sub-national financing model in 2026 —FINANCE COMMISSIONER

By Tunde Oso

LAGOS State is preparing to launch one of the most ambitious sub-national financing initiatives in Africa—a new asset securitisation model set to reshape how governments fund infrastructure in 2026.

In a conversation posted on DataPro Monthly Rating Brief for December, state Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Abayomi Oluayomi disclosed, "the initiative is not just a financial strategy but a structural shift in how the state intends to unlock

value, mobilise capital and accelerate development."

According to Oluayomi, "the motivation is simple: Lagos requires up to N20 trillion in infrastructure financing to remain competitive as a 21st-century megacity. Budget allocations and traditional borrowing can no longer keep pace with the scale of demand.

"We have identified and categorised over 300 state-owned assets," he explained.

"Through securitisation, Lagos State will package selected assets into portfolios that can be sold to investors through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a structure that keeps the state from becoming a direct obligor. This ensures the state's debt service ratio remains below global sustainability thresholds while still raising large volumes of capital. It even creates room for tokenisation, enabling digital and fractional investments—an emerging trend that allows ordinary Lagosians to invest in state projects.

Market watchers say this may result in significant deepening of Nigeria's financial markets. While securitisation is not new in Nigeria, previous deals largely involved the private sector and Federal Government entities. Lagos is now set to scale it to a new

level.

"A multi-billion-naira state-level securitisation will fundamentally reshape the market," Oluayomi said. "This will introduce innovative products, accommodate both retail and institutional investors, and encourage broader participation in governance."

Oluayomi reinforced, "Lagos has always been a forerunner," he said, referencing the state's history of innovative financing, including its 14.8 billion Green Bond, the first sub-sovereign climate impact bond in Africa, and a N230 billion bond that was oversubscribed.

He continued: "Beyond the big-ticket infrastructure, Lagos intends to redirect budget savings to social and economic programmes. Since securitised assets will now fund major infrastructure, the regular budget can channel more funds into MSMEs, youth entrepreneurship, skills programs and trader support schemes.

"Securitisation is not just about raising money; it is about reviving halted or inactive state assets. Idle lands, old buildings and fallow properties will be transformed into logistics hubs, technology parks and commercial spaces, fueling job creation and attracting private investments.



BALOGUN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
(International Centre for Commerce)

Secretariat: Int'l Centre for Commerce
Lagos. Int'l Trade Fair Complex,
Badagry Exp. Way, Lagos.
Website: www.bbacomplex.com
Email: balogunbizass@yahoo.com
Tel: Chairman: 0803-329-8842
Secretary: 0803-302-8110
Admin: 0703-900-3709

PUBLIC NOTICE

BALOGUN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION DISCLAIMS AND DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM INVOLVEMENT IN ANY ACTIONS OR CONDUCT PLACING THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AND MERCHANTS AND CUSTOMERS IN HARMS WAY AT THE ASSOCIATIONS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR COMMERCE PREMISES AT THE LAGOS INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR COMPLEX, BADAGRY EXPRESSWAY, LAGOS STATE OR OTHERWISE ENDANGERING THE LIVES AND WELLBEING OF OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC)

It is with the utmost sense of responsibility and deep concern for the well-being, safety and businesses of the members of our Association, Balogun Business Association, that the incumbent Caretaker Committee of the Association under Hon. (Chief) Anselm Dunu, as Chairman of the Committee, and the incumbent Board of trustees of the Association, under Chief Anthony Obioh, as Chairman of the board, address the recent incident involving an operation by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) at the Association's International Centre for Commerce ("the Centre") premises at the Lagos International Trade Fair Complex, Badagry Expressway, Lagos State.

Members of our Association, as a general rule, engage in their respective private and individual businesses at the Centre in accordance with the Constitution registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission, unless voided by a Court of law, and other applicable laws.

Exceptions to this general rule are matters of individual responsibility and liability for any person(s) operating outside the Constitution and laws applicable to businesses and goods in the Centre, particularly those laws and regulations with which NAFDAC is responsible for the enforcement, and the Association and the vast majority of its members who are law abiding ought not to be held responsible and visited with sanctions for breaches they have not committed.

With the foregoing as background, we condemn unreservedly the alleged conduct of some usurpers unlawfully parading themselves as managers of the Association who seem to have carried on their established and long running impunity and disdain for pending Judicial and legal processes to the dangerous dimension of putting the lives, wellbeing and businesses of innocent members of the Association and their customers and other users of the Association's Centre in potential mortal danger by seemingly attempting to incite and physically mobilize them against armed agents of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on a law enforcement operation, conduct that seem to be confirmed by an unauthorised publication at page 37 of the Vanguard newspaper of Thursday, 6th of November, 2025 seems to confirm.

We absolutely condemn such recklessly dangerous actions and conduct by these violent usurpers and we unreservedly disassociate the Association and the Incumbent and lawful Caretaker Committee and Board of Trustees of the Association and the vast majority of the law abiding members of the Association from the disreputable actions and conduct.

We call for a thorough investigation of the unfortunate incident in order to uncover the inciting culprits, bring them to Justice and vindicate the innocence of the vast majority of the members of the Association and its lawful and incumbent management.

SIGNED:

Hon. (Chief) Anselm Dunu
(Chairman, Caretaker Committee)

Chief Anthony Obioh
(Chairman, Board of Trustees)



IRRUA SPECIALIST TEACHING HOSPITAL (ISTH)
PRIVATE MAIL BAG 08, IRRUA, EDO STATE



INVITATION TO TENDER

1. INTRODUCTION

The Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital Edo State, Centre for excellence for the management and control of Viral Haemorrhagic Fevers and Emergent Pathogens hereby invite interested and reputable companies with relevant experience to submit bids/expressions of interest for the following projects for Integrate Therapeutic Consortium.

2. SCOPE OF WORK/SUPPLIES

Lot 1	Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
Lot 2	Supply of IPC items
Lot 3	Supply and Installation of Dialysis Machine, Water Treatment, Repair of Dialysis Machine/Consumables and Accessories
Lot 4	Installation of Oxygen Piping and Manifold to Isolation Ward
Lot 5	Supply and Installation of Ward Items/Medical and Laboratory Equipments, Kits and Consumables / Repairs in the Ward
Lot 6	Supply and Installation of Solar Energy to the Ward
Lot 7	Supply of Administrative and Office Equipments and Consumables

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Forms CAC2 and CAC7 (or CAC 1.1). Business Name with Form BN1 is also acceptable for Consultancy Services;
- Evidence of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate (or Personal Income Tax Clearance Certificates of all the Partners in case of Business Name) for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December, 2025;
- Evidence of Pension Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025 (this requirement is only applicable to bidders whose number of staff is 15 and above);
- Evidence of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025 (this requirement is only applicable to bidders whose number of staff is 5 and above);
- Evidence of Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025;
- Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring on 31st December, 2025; or valid Certificate issued by BPP.
- Sworn Affidavit:
 - disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital Edo State or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars;
 - that no Director has been convicted in any Country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter;
 - that the Company is not in receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings.
 - that the company does not have existing loan or financial liability with a bank, other financial institution or third party that is classified as doubtful, non-performance, bad or whose repayment portion has been outstanding for the last four (4) months;
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years - 2022, 2023; 2024
- Reference Letter from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria, indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of the project when needed;
- Verifiable documentary evidence of Awards, Valuation Certificates, Job Completion Certificates and Photographs of the project evidence of at least three (3) similar jobs executed in the last three (3) years including Letters(s);
- For Supply of Medical and Laboratory Equipment: Letter of Authorization from the Original Equipment Manufacturers listed in the Approved Policy for Procurement of Health and Medical Equipment for Tertiary Hospitals in Nigeria;
- For Supply of Other Equipment: Letter of Authorisation as representative of the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs);
- Works: List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease Agreement;
- All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company/Firm's Letter Headed Paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), and e-mail address. The Letterhead Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorised officer of the firm.

4. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (GOODS & WORKS)

Interested Companies are to collect the Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) from the office of the Director of Procurement on evidence of payment of a non-refundable tender fee of N10,000.00 per Lot, paid into the Federal Teaching Hospital Irrua's Remita account in any reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria.

5. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS (GOODS & WORKS)

Prospective bidders are to submit bids in two (2) hard copies each of the technical and financial bids with soft copy of financial bid only in MS Excel format, packaged separately in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Bid" or "Financial Bid". Thereafter, put the two sealed envelopes together in a bigger sealed envelope addressed to Chief Medical Director at the first floor of the Hospital administrative building and clearly marked with the Lot bid for. Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should bear the name and address of the bidder and dropped in the designated Tender Box in the Office of the Chief Medical Director not later than **12:00 noon Monday, 22nd December, 2025**.

6. OPENING OF FINANCIAL & TECHNICAL BIDS

The technical and financial bids will be opened immediately after the deadlines for submission at **12:00 noon Monday, 22nd December, 2025** in the Board Room of the Hospital. Please, ensure that you sign the Bid Submission Register in the Office of the Director of Procurement, as the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital will not be held liable for misplaced or wrongly submitted bids. For further enquiries, please contact the Asst. Director of Procurement on atimogodwin@yahoo.com.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bids must be in English Language and signed by an official authorised by the bidder;
- Bids submitted after the deadline for submission would be returned unopened;
- Bidders should not bid for more than Two (2) Lots;
- All costs will be borne by the bidders;
- The Technical/Financial Bids Opening will be opened in the presence of Bidders or their representatives, CSOs in the areas of Anti-Corruption and Transparency and Private Professional bodies; and will be covered by video recording;
- Bid documents can also be collected in soft copies and Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services);
- The Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital is not bound to pre-qualify/shortlist any applicant and reserves the right to annul the Procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

Signed:
Chief Medical Director
Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital



KENYA HIGH COMMISSION, ABUJA

TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

The Kenya High Commission, Abuja, invites sealed tenders for the Proposed Removal, Disposal and Reroofing Works of The Chancery, Six (6) Staff Houses, and the High Commissioner's Residence at The Kenya High Commission, Abuja, Nigeria

- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased or obtained by interested tenders upon payment of a non-refundable fees of **15,000 Nigeria Naira (NAIRA)** in cash or Banker's Cheque and payable to the address given below. Tender documents may be obtained electronically. Tender documents obtained electronically will be free of charge.
- Tenders shall be quoted in **Nigeria Naira (NGN)** and shall include all applicable taxes and Levies.
- Tenders shall remain valid for **One Hundred and Twenty-Six (126) days** from the date of opening.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a Tender Security equivalent to one percent (1%) of the total tender sum.
- Prices quoted shall be fixed for the entire duration of the contract.
- A pre-tender site visit will be held on **11th December 2025 at 12:00 noon** (West Africa Time).
- Completed, serialized, and paginated bidding documents—consisting of one (1) original and one (1) copy—shall be enclosed in plain sealed envelopes clearly marked on the top with the Tender Number and Tender Name/Description, and shall be addressed to the:
Kenya High Commission, Abuja
Plot No. 357, Diplomatic Drive Way
Central Business District
Abuja, Nigeria
- Completed bidding documents must be deposited in the Tender Box located at the **Kenya High Commission, Abuja, Plot No. 357, Diplomatic Drive Way, Central Business District, Abuja**, to be received on or before **22nd December 2025 at 12:00 Noon** (West Africa Time). Tenders will be opened immediately (**22nd December 2025 at 12:00 Noon**) thereafter in the presence of the bidders or their duly authorized representatives who choose to attend.
- Late tenders shall be rejected.
- The Evaluation and Qualification Procedures shall be as specified in the Tender Document.
- All other conditions stated in the Invitation to Tenderers shall remain unchanged.

KENYA HIGH COMMISSION, ABUJA

News



Vanguardnews



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From left, Mr Sanmi Oladunni, CEO MOL Tech Ltd and popular music celebrity and Nigerian singer, Simisola Bolatito Ogunleye popularly called Simi, signing a five-year partnership endorsement deal with MOL Tech Ltd as the new face of MOL Tech and Brand Ambassador, in Eko Atlantic City, Lagos.

Payment of derivation funds directly to host communities'll be counter productive—Ogie

By Victor Otigbu

CHAIRMAN of Delta State Oil Producing Areas Development Commission (DESOPADEC) Indigenous Contractors Forum, Samson Ogie, has said direct payments of derivation funds to host communities would be counter productive.

Ogie, who stated this in a statement, he said there could be no concrete evidence to show in terms of projects in direct payments of derivation funds to host communities, adding that there is

feasible evidence from derivation funds in the hands of the state government.

According to him, "we could boldly speak on evidence in projects like infrastructure and other activities that derivation funds, going through state government has been fruitful. Paying it straight to host communities will only end in the pockets of powerful community leaders and individuals and the purpose of allocation will be defeated."

Ogie noted that it would be out of place to pay the funds that were supposed to be used to develop oil producing communities directly to

host communities, adding: "We suggest that the money be paid directly to the oil producing state governments which should set up a commission to manage the disbursement and usage of the funds for the purpose they were meant for."

"It will be out of place to pay the money that is supposed to be used to develop oil producing communities directly to host communities, but rather, the money should be paid directly to government, while it should be managed by a commission such as DESOPADEC."

UBA Group dominates 2025 Banker Awards, emerges Africa’s Bank of the Year

●Wins Best Bank in nine out of 20 African subsidiaries

By Babajide Komolafe

UNITED Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, has once again, reaffirmed its leadership as one of the continent's most innovative and resilient financial institutions, as the bank has, for the third time in five years, been named the African Bank of the year 2025 by the Banker.com. UBA also won the Best Bank of the Year awards in nine of its 20 African subsidiaries, bringing its total awards this year to ten as UBA Benin, UBA Chad, UBA Republic of Congo (Congo-Brazzaville), UBA Liberia, UBA Mali, UBA Mozambique, UBA Senegal, UBA Sierra Leone, and UBA Zambia, all came out tops as the best banks in their respective countries, underscoring the bank's strength across West, Central and Southern Africa and highlighting the depth of its Pan-African franchise.

The Banker.com, a leading global finance news publication published by the Financial Times of London, organises the annual Bank of the

Year Awards, and this year's edition was held at a grand ceremony at the Peninsula, London, on Wednesday.

The Chief Executive Officer, UBA UK, Deji Adeyelure, received the awards on behalf of the bank, representing the Group Managing Director/CEO, Oliver Alawuba, and was accompanied by the bank's Head Business Development, Mark Ifashe, and Head, Financial Institutions, Shipam Jha.

The Banker's awards are widely regarded as the most respected and rigorous in the global banking industry, celebrating institutions that demonstrate outstanding performance, innovation and strategic execution.

In its remarks on UBA's winnings, the banker.com said, "For the third time in five years, UBA Group has won the coveted Bank of the Year award for Africa. UBA Group time after time punches above its weight against its larger African rivals."

UBA's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Oliver Alawuba, while reacting to the achievement, said the recognition affirms the bank's long-term strategy and customer-first philosophy.

Jericho summit: ALTBank charts new digital pathway for youth

By Etop Ekanem

THE Alternative Bank, ALTBank, a Nigerian bank committed to sustainable financial services, recently joined industry stakeholders at the Jericho Businessmen Club's (JBC) third Annual Socio-Economic Summit to chart a definitive path for empowering Nigeria's burgeoning tech talent.

The summit centred on high-level discussions regarding sustainable economic models, with a particular focus on how the business community can actively bridge the digital skill gap among local youth.

The event served as a critical platform to foster synergy between business leaders and the academic community, highlighting the urgent need for investment in capacity building to ensure Nigeria remains competitive in the global digital economy.

The Alternative Bank emphasised that genuine nation-building must be anchored in human capital development, moving beyond conventional

financing to provide ecosystem support, mentorship, and access to resources for young innovators.

Korede Demola-Adeniyi, Executive Director (South) of The Alternative Bank, underlined the bank's philosophy, stating: "Technology is the most potent equaliser in modern commerce, and by investing in the technological upliftment of our youth, we are future-proofing our economy. We believe in providing alternatives not just in finance, but in opportunity, ensuring that local talent have the tools and environment to compete globally."

LAIF: X3M Ideas wins Agency of the Year

By Tunde Oso

X3M Ideas has once again secured the prestigious Agency of the Year title at the 20th anniversary of the Lagos Advertising and Ideas Festival (LAIF) Awards, themed "20 Years of Crazy", following an impressive haul of awards.

LAIF was established by the Association of Advertising Agencies of Nigeria (AAAN) to celebrate and elevate creativity within Nigeria's marketing communications industry.

The award ceremony, held recently at the Marriott Hotel, GRA Ikeja, saw the Steve Babaeko-led agency top the medal tally with 12 Gold, 20 Silver, and 24 Bronze awards, totaling 336 points. The second and third-placed agencies scored 153 and 141 points, respectively.

Speaking about the agency's success, Steve Babaeko, CEO and Chief Creative Officer of X3M Ideas, said: "We are extremely excited to win again at LAIF. This achievement demonstrates how we have continuously evolved, innovated, and remained creative, going 'crazy', in line with the theme of the award, by turning every brief into campaigns that resonate across all ages."

CHANGE OF NAME

ENEBOSE	DORIS	CHINWE	EMMANUEL
I, formerly known and addressed as Enebose Felix now wish to be known and addressed as Enebose Fedison . All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	IFORMERLY KNOWN AS AKPORIAYE DORIS. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED AS. ALEX DORIS. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD PLEASE TAKE NOTE	I, formerly known and addressed as NWAFOR CHINWE FLORENCE, now wish to be known and addressed as OYILIDIKE CHINWE FLORENCE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	I formerly known and addressed as EMMANUEL UDOH Now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL EBUKA UZOR. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.
OROWARUEYOR	HOPE	CHIMAMANDA	IWERIEBON
I formerly known and addressed as Miss Umudjere Orowarueyor Esther now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Orgiribo Umudjere Esther. All former documents remain valid Authorities Concerned and general public please take note.	That AZAKA HOPE & GABRIEL HOPE IFELUNWA are same as one person but now wish to be addressed as GABRIEL HOPE IFELUNWA all formal documents remain valid general public whom it may concern take note	I, formerly known and addressed as NWAFOR CHIMAMANDA DAVIDA, now wish to be known and addressed as IFEANYICHUKWU CHIMAMANDA DAVIDA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	That this is to certify that the names, IWERIEBON OPHILIA which I bore in my WAEC CERTIFICATE and IWERIEBON OPHILIA CHRISTIAN as written in my NIN and other Documents belong to one and the same person. Now wish to be known as, IWERIEBON OPHILIA CHRISTIAN. All former documents remain valid the general public take note.
THANKGOD	GIFT	BLESSING	PATIENCE
I, Formerly known and addressed as Ozué ThankGod now wish to be known and addressed as Omoghene ThankGod Omodunefe. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	In my BVN and/or BANK registration, my name was wrongly captured as MRS. GIFT AJUEBOR BLESSING CHINONYE. My correct name is MRS. GIFT AJUEBOR BLESSING CHINONYENIM. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.	I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS. ODIETE BLESSING AND DUE TO MARRIAGE NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MRS. OKHIPO BLESSING. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERN AUTHORITIES AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	I, formerly known, called and addressed as EKASIWE PATIENCE . I now wish to be known called and address as OKAFOR PATIENCE ELIZABETH , all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
ESEONE	OHAGUDOSI	OMEJE	BECKY
This is to notify the general public that my name was wrongly captured in my Primary School Certificate as Eseone Maxwell instead of Eserinome Maxwell. Which is my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	In my BVN and/or BANK registration, my name was wrongly captured as OHAGUDOSI ONYEKACHUKWU. My correct name is OHAGUDOSI, ONYEKA DESMOND. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as Omeje Chekwube, now wish to be known and addressed as Itihwe-Jolly omeje Chekwube. All documents remain valid. General public take note note.	I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS NZEMEKE BECKY ONAEZE . I now wish to be known called and address as MRS. PATRICK BECKY ONAEZE , all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
OLUWAKEMI	ODOZIE	LOVETH	AZIKE
I formerly Miss AKINROLABU OLUWAKEMI REBECCA. Now Mrs ABIODUN OLUWAKEMI REBECCA BIMBO. All former documents remains valid, general public please take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ODOZIE CHRISTIANA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHUKWUMA CHRISTIANA. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.	I, formerly known, called and addressed as Miss. LOVETH OMOYEMIRE OKOGBE, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. LOVETH OMOYEMIRE UKATO. All documents bearing former names remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should please take note.	In my BVN in details, my name was wrongly captured as CHUKWUMA SIMEON instead of AZIKE CHUKWUMA SIMEON , my true and correct name is AZIKE CHUKWUMA SIMEON, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
IYASELE	ADEOLA	FAITH	NKECHI
This is to confirm that IYASELE EDUIJE and IYASELE MILLICENT EDUIJE is the same person, henceforth i wish to be addressed as IYASELE MILLICENT EDUIJE. All former documents remain valid, the general public should please take note	I, Formerly known and addressed as AINA OLUWAGBEMISOLA ADEOLA. Now wish to be known and addressed as AKINOLA OLUWAGBEMISOLA ADEOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.	I formerly known, called and addressed as PETER FAITH SAVIOUR, now wish to be known , called and addressed as USORO FAITH PETER. All documents bearing my former name remains valid. General public should please take note.	I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS NWIGWE NKECHI , I now wish to be known called and address as MRS. ATANE NKECHI , all former documents remain valid general public please take note.
ABAYOMI	ADENIKE	LAMUEL	MONDAY
I formerly known and addressed as OLUWATIMEYIN ABAYOMI now wish to be known and addressed as OLUWATIMILEYIN ABAYOMI. All former documents remain valid, Authorities Concerned and general public take note.	I, formally known and called Adekamimo Adenike Grace now wish to be known and addressed as Ayaba Ayeniko Adenike Grace. All documents bearing Adekamimo or oluwatayo remain mine and valid, OGSCOFED and General public should take note.	I formerly known and addressed as MOSES LAMUEL ONORIODE OGBORIAVHIEN now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES LAMUEL AYANRU. All former documents remain valid Authorities concern and the general public please take note.	I formerly known as MICHAEL OGHENESUVWE, now wish to be known as MODAY OGHENESUVWE BLESSING. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
EKWE	LOVETH	PETER	AGBOWU
I, formerly known and addressed as DAVID EKWE, now wish to be known and addressed as EKWE NGENE. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.	I, formerly known as EYETAN NYERHOVWO LOVETH, now wish to be known as EYETAN LOVETH OGHENENYERHOVWO. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MISS PETER ANULIKA NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS MBERU JOY ANULIKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	I, formerly known and addressed as Agbowu Winnifred Igbo, Now wish to be known and addressed as Agbowu Ego Ogbenyeananwu. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.
BENARD	UZOMA	ADAEZE	HAPPINESS
I, formerly known and addressed as OMOGO BERNARD, now wish to be known and addressed as OMOGOR BENARD. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note	I, formerly known and addressed as Uzoma Diamond Grace, now wish to be known and addressed as Uzoma Onyiyechukwu Loveth. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as AWUJO MARYANNE ADAEZE NNEOMA, now wish to be known and addressed as GODSON MARYANNE ADAEZE NNEOMA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.	I formerly known and addressed as, Miss Udawele Happiness, now wish to be known and addressed as, Mrs Oboh Happiness, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.
ANTHONY	JENNIFER	AGAGA	ABU
I, formerly known as ANTHONY EMOTAN, now wish to be known, called and addressed as ANTHONY EMOTAN STELLA. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as NWADIKÉ, CHINASA JENNIFER now wish to be known, called and addressed as OKEKE, IJEOMA JENNIFER All former documents remain valid, General Public notice.	Formerly known and addressed as AGAGA COLLINS BUGGI, Now wish to be known and addressed as AGAGA COLLINS. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	I formerly known and addressed as, Ugbodaga Abu Favour, now wish to be known and addressed as, Gbodaga Abu Favour, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.
CHINAZA	FLORENCE	OLUMOR	FRANCES
I, formerly known as UCHENNA ADACHUKWU CHINAZA, now wish to be known as ONWUKA ADACHUKWU CHINAZA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note	I, formerly known and addressed as IBREDE FLORENCE now wish to be known, called and addressed as GODFREY, FLORENCE ATATE All former documents remain valid, General Public notice.	I, formerly known as OLUMOR DESMOND ONYEMAECHE now wish to be known and addressed as OLUMOR DESMOND ABEL. All former documents remain valid. Banks, general public and concerned authority take note.	I, formerly called Miss Nkenchor Frances Ogochukwu now wish to be called Mrs Eseoghene-Obule Frances Ogochukwu. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.
PETER	FLOURISH	MOPELOLA	MASSI
In my BVN my name were written as AROBOINONSEN PETER I wish to Add my Middlename AYEMERE to my name. My complete name is AROBOINONSEN PETER AYEMERE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note	Formerly known called and addressed as AKPOBOME FLOURISH now wish to be known called and addressed as ADEGOR FLOURISH all former documents remain valid, general public take note.	I, formerly known as Tairu Marry Mopelola now wish to be known and addressed as Gbadebo-Solomon Jedidah Oluseun Mopelola. All former documents remain valid. General public and concerned authority take note.	That I formally known called and addressed MASSI MATHEW NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN CALLED AND ADDRESSED MASSI MATTHEW. All former documents remain valid general public take note.
FLORENCE	BENEDICT	AGHOGHO	MOSES
I, formerly known as MISS FLORENCE UCHE OPARA now wish to be known as MRS NDUKWE FLORENCE UCHE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and general public should please take note.	My BVN/bank details was enormously captured as KAINE BENEDICT instead of KAINE BENEDICT TOBORE in NIN. All former documents remain valid, Authorities concerned and general public to take note.	I, formerly known as JOHNY AGHOGHO, now wish to be known and addressed as ORHOMRE AGHOGHO LYDIA. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	Formerly EKHATOR MOSES Now wish to be known called and addressed as SUNDAY MOSES. All former documents remain valid general public take note.
JULIUS	PRECIOUS	UKO	OLUKUNLE
I, wish to confirm that my correct names are. EMOMOTI JULIUS TUEDON which was captured in my account as JULIUS. E. TUEDON instead of my correct names EMOMOTIMI JULIUS TUEDON. General public and relevant authorities concern please take note	I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS. OMOROGBE PRECIOUS USUNOBUN AND DUE TO MARRIAGE NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESSED AS MRS. OGIE PRECIOUS USUNOBUN. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. CONCERNED AUTHORITIES, GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.	That during my account opening/ BVN registration, my name was wrongly captured as UKO UKO DANIEL instead of UKO CLEMENT EYO being my correct name. All former documents remain valid. Banks, the general public take note.	I, OLUKUNLE OLUWAFUNMI PRAISE, declare that i am the same person bearing OLUKUNLE FIFUNMI PRAISE and OLUKUNLE OLUWAFUNMI PRAISE. That I now want to be known as OLUKUNLE OLUWAFUNMI PRAISE. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.
BRUME	OSAGIE	UCHENNA	IFONU
I, formerly known, called and addressed as BRUME FEDRICK but now wish to be known, called and address as BRUME FEDRICK CHAIRMAN all documents bearing my former names remain valid, relevant authorities concern and General public please take note	I, Formerly Known And Addressed As Obamwonyi Osagie Ivan Now Wish To Do Away With My Grandfather's Name Obamwonyi And Be Addressing My Biological Father's Name Osazee Now Wish To Be Addressed As Osazee Osagie Ivan. All Former Documents Remain Valid. Public Take Note.	This is to certify that the names: COMRADE UCHENNA EGWU; and UCHENNA EGWU, for which I am variously known, refer to one and same person. All documents bearing any of the names remain valid. Banks and general public take note.	I, formerly known as IFOUNU FAVOUR EWOMAZINO, now wish to be known and addressed as IFOUNU FAVOUR EFEZINO. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.
JEREMIAH	JOY	FELIX	NWANNA
I was formerly known called and addressed as. JEREMIAH .A. IBE. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. JEREMIAH OWEIZIDE. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as JOSEPH JOY AGHOGHO, now wish to be known and addressed as EDEWOR JOY AGHOGHO. All former documents remain valid general public take note.	I, AKPEMI FELIX APALES LABO, wish to officially include APALES LABO as my middle name to reflect on my BVN/Bank records. My name should now be correctly stated as AKPEMI FELIX APALES LABO. All variations of the name refer to the same person, and all documents bearing them remain valid. General public is hereby notified.	That I was formerly known, called and addressed as Miss Nwanna Onyinye Augusta, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Mrs. Dekil Augusta Onyinye, as it appears on my NIN, general public and authorities concerned should please take note.
RAYMOND	HILLARY	NONRE	EKANEM
I was formerly known called and addressed as. RAYMOND-AGHOMI ORUONA. Now wish to be known called and addressed as. RAYMOND ORUONA AGHOMI. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.	The name OGHENERUNOR was wrongly added to my name during account opening and BVN registration. My correct name is ETAGHENE HILLARY. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.	I formerly known and addressed as AWALA ALERO CONSTANCE Now wish to be known and addressed as OKPIKABE NONRE PATRICIA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.	I, formerly known and addressed as EKANEM TABITHA DORCAS, now wish to be known and addressed as EKANEM TABITHA ENAGA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.



Nnadozie keeps cleansheet as Brighton win

Super Falcons goalkeeper Chiamaka Nnadozie kept her third cleansheet of the season and made five saves to help Brighton secure a hard-fought 1-0 victory over London City Lionesses in the Women's Super League yesterday. Brighton, buoyed by last weekend's 4-1 win over Leicester, made a perfect start when Kiko Seike fired them ahead in the sixth minute. The visitors had a golden opportunity to stretch their lead in the 19th minute after Wassa Sangare conceded a penalty, but Elene Lete kept London City Lionesses in the game, saving Madison Haley's spot-kick.



North Africa favours Eagles – Ohaneze

As Super Eagles prepare for their eighth African Nations Cup adventure in North Africa, there is cheery news from the elite Igbo socio-cultural organisation, Ohaneze Ndigbo, pointing to a medal around the corner. In a statement personally signed by the President General of the body, Senator John Azuta-Mbata, the Eagles remain favourites to grab a medal at the Morocco 2025 edition of the championships. "There is nothing to fear. North Africa is a favourable ground. The Eagles finished as silver medalists the last time Morocco hosted, in 1988. They bagged another silver, two years later at Algeria 1990. The big one came at Tunisia 1994 when Nigeria lifted the trophy, for the second time. Bronze came at Tunisia 2004, two more bronze medals followed at Egypt 2006 and Egypt 2019, respectively," Azuta-Mbata explained. The Ohaneze leader reeled out more. "The first time the Eagles qualified for the World Cup, their ticket was confirmed in Algeria.

World Cup: Ghana, Croatia 'll make it difficult for England – Rio

Former Manchester United defender, Rio Ferdinand has predicted that Ghana and Croatia will make it difficult for England in Group L of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Ferdinand, however, backed the Three Lions to win the group and also beat Panama. Speaking to GOAL, the retired footballer admitted he wasn't happy with England's group. "I was not happy with England's group, you know," Ferdinand said. "You want a group where

you go, 'Listen, we can just sneak through there. Not too many hard games'. But we've got Croatia, Modric-inspired Croatia, Ghana, and Panama. "Now, Panama, I think, will be a team that we should win against, but Ghana, Croatia, I think, they are going to make it difficult. "I still back us [England] to win the group and get out of the group, but I would like to have seen a little bit easier, an easier runway in that group."



Udinese head coach Kosta Runjaic has confirmed Maduka Okoye will be released for the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations on Saturday, 14 December. FIFA announced this week that clubs can release players by December 15, one week before the start of the competition. Clubs were earlier expected to release

players on December 8. Okoye is expected to be named in Nigeria's squad for the AFCON 2025 finals by head coach Eric Chelle. The goalkeeper will leave for international duty after Udinese's Serie A clash with Napoli on December 14. "We're considering this issue. After Napoli, we'll probably no longer have Rui Modesto, Okoye, Bayo,

and Zemura, but we've known about it for some time," Runjaic was quoted by the club's official website. "Kamara won't be available against Genoa, perhaps he'll return against Napoli. We're evaluating who to play on the wings, but it's something that will become a reality after the Napoli match. For the Genoa match, everyone except Atta and Kamara is available."

Moulay Abdellah Stadium nominated for World's Best Stadium Award

The iconic Moulay Abdellah Stadium in Rabat, Morocco, has been officially nominated for the prestigious Best Stadium in the World 2025 award, marking a major milestone for African sports infrastructure. The nomination has been widely celebrated as a source of pride not only for the city of Rabat but also for Morocco and the entire African continent, highlighting the country's growing reputation for hosting world-class sporting facilities and events. Moulay Abdellah Stadium has undergone significant upgrades in recent years, bringing it in line with international standards. The venue has hosted several major football matches and high-profile sporting competitions, further strengthening its global profile. This recognition places the stadium among the world's elite sporting arenas and reflects Africa's rising influence in global sports development. The final winner of the award is expected to be announced later in 2025.



Liverpool have thrown me under the bus — Salah fumes over

Mohamed Salah has expressed disappointment at being benched in consecutive English Premier League (EPL) matches following Liverpool's 3-3 draw at Leeds United. In an interview with journalists after Saturday's game, the forward disclosed his bench role means he is being blamed for the struggling EPL champions' poor season. Liverpool have failed to win eight of 15 EPL matches, claiming maximum points just twice in the past 10 games, a far cry from their all-conquering form last season. Salah had started all league



games in the poor run until recently. He has been benched in the last three matches, and did not feature in two of them, a situation 33-year-old Salah find surprising after scoring 188 league goals since joining the club in 2017.

Be quiet, Owen tells Salah after harsh comments

Mohamed Salah made headlines with public criticism of Liverpool following a 3-3 draw with Leeds, triggering a response from former Reds striker Michael Owen. Salah sat on the bench for the third consecutive game under Arne Slot. After the match, he told reporters he felt "thrown under the bus" by the club and said his relationship with Slot had suddenly broken down. Michael Owen, reacting on X, said Salah should've stayed silent. I can imagine how you feel. You've carried this team for a long time and won everything there is to win.

But this is a team game and you simply can't publicly say what you've said. You're going to AFCON in a week. Surely you bite your lip, enjoy representing your country, and see how the land lies when you get back? Owen's response adds fuel to an already tense situation. Arne Slot now faces even more pressure as Liverpool prepare for their Champions League match against Inter Milan. Salah has scored four goals in 13 league matches this season. He racked up 29 goals last year as Liverpool clinched the Premier League title in Slot's debut season. The 33-year-old forward has started just once since November. He also claimed the club broke promises made to him over the summer. However, criticism from Michael Owen is notable. He scored 158 goals for Liverpool and won the Ballon d'Or during his time at the Merseyside, before his controversial move to Real Madrid in 2004, a switch that soured many fans. Salah signed a new deal in April, keeping him at Anfield until 2027. But the Saudi Pro League, particularly Al-Hilal, seems to have signaled interest in the star forward.



Shoday to perform at GOTv Boxing Night Jam festival on Dec 26

Shoday Segun, the fast-rising Nigerian singer known as Shoday, is set to perform at the GOTv Boxing Night Jam festival slated for December 26. The festival, scheduled to hold at the Tafawa Balewa Square, is known for fusing high-energy musical performances with top-level boxing bouts. Jenkins Alumona, chief executive officer (CEO) of Flykite Productions, the festival's organisers, said Shoday's addition is part of plans to deliver a hypercharged end-of-year experience. He also added that the rollout of artists scheduled to perform would continue in the weeks leading up to the event. "We are happy to confirm that an artiste like Shoday will be performing. In the coming days, we will also announce more artistes. Sports and music provide entertainment and fun is what people need at the end of the year," he said. "We want the Tafawa Balewa Square transformed into a full-blown party venue."



Messi leads Inter Miami to first MLS Cup

Inter Miami won its first MLS Cup on Saturday, beating the Vancouver Whitecaps 3-1 in the 2025 final. Messi went up 1-0 after an own goal gave them the lead, but Vancouver pulled one back in the 60th

minute. From there, the game shifted. Messi set up Rodrigo De Paul in the 71st minute to put Miami back in front, then added another assist to Tadeo Allende in stoppage time to seal the result.

IN LOVING MEMORY

20TH YEAR REMEMBRANCE OF OUR BELOVED MOTHER

Sunrise: December 12, 1952

Sunset: December 8, 2005

Aunty Queen, as you were fondly called, though your passing came at a time we never expected, we can never question the will of God. It has been 20 years since you departed this world to be with the Lord, yet your memory remains as fresh as ever in our hearts.

You were a virtuous woman, a beacon of strength, an advocate for peace. You were always smiling, you prayed day and night, you were loyal to your family, soft-spoken, and kind to a fault. You treated everyone around you like family. You were quiet but friendly and was loved by all.

Your life was a testament to God's grace, filled with kindness, generosity, and unwavering faith. We are forever grateful for the beautiful memories we shared and the invaluable lessons you taught us. Your legacy of love and perseverance continues to guide and inspire us every day.

We miss your gentle touch, your comforting presence, and your warm smile. Though you are no longer physically with us, your spirit lives on in our hearts forever.

May your soul continue to rest in perfect peace. Amen.

Always remembered by your husband, children, siblings, the entire Dawodu's family, and all who had the privilege of knowing you:

- Chief Taros Okoturoh – (Husband)
- Mr. Mayomi Okoturoh – Warri, Nigeria
- Ms. Roli Okoturoh – Lagos, Nigeria
- Mrs. Irene Ojo – London, UK
- Ms. Mary Okoturoh – Maryland, USA
- Mrs. Rita Yusuf – London, UK
- Mr. Daniel Okoturoh – Lagos, Nigeria

Adieu, Sweet Mother. Until we meet to part no more.

**MRS. QUEEN STELLA
OMARE OKOTUROH
(NÉE DAWODU)**



Messi leads
Inter Miami to
first MLS Cup

WORLD CUP:
Ghana, Croatia
'll make it
difficult
for
England
- Rio
Ferdinand



AFCON 2025:

Super Eagles face
chaotic build-up

As team fight against Egypt friendly

There is always drama around the Super Eagles and now it has to do with their build-up to the 2025 AFCON, which kicks off later this month in Morocco.

Despite an already congested schedule no thanks to the FIFA order for teams to now release players on December 15, the NFF are pushing for the team to play a warm-up game against Egypt, which some officials and players have kicked

against.

The NFF and their Egyptian counterparts have now agreed for Tuesday, December 16 as new date for the high profile friendly, which would be just seven days before their opening AFCON group game against Tanzania.

However, several players and officials fear that such a high-profile friendly could be counter productive particularly as it would also be played in Cairo.

A source informed that "there is a fear of injuries and fatigue to play against Egypt in Cairo so close to the start of the AFCON and then having to fly out again to Morocco after the match."

"The team are generally opposed to this arrangement."

"They would rather prefer to go directly to Morocco and play a test game there before they play their first game against Tanzania on December 23."

TODAY'S MATCHES

NPFL			
Katsina Utd	v	Insurance	4pm
Nasarawa Utd	v	Shooting	4pm

LALIGA			
Osasuna	v	Levante	9pm

SERIE A			
Pisa	v	Parma	3pm
Udinese	v	Genoa	6pm
Torino	v	AC Milan	8:45pm

RESULTS

EPL			
Brighton	1	West Ham	1
Fulham	1	C/Palace	2

NPFL			
El Kanemi	0	Barau	0
Pillars	2	Kun Khalifat	1
Abia Warriors	1	Rivers Utd	1
Rangers	4	Bayelsa Utd	1
Kwara Utd	2	N/Tornadoes	0
Plateau Utd	1	Warri Wolves	0
Remo Stars	2	Enyimba	1
Wikki	0	Ikorodu City	0

LALIGA			
Elche	3	Girona	0
Valencia	1	Sevilla	1
Espanyol	1	R/Vallecano	0
R/Madrid	0	Celta Vigo	2

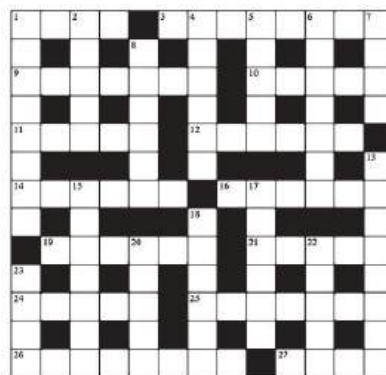
BUNDESLIGA			
Hamburger	3	W/Bremen	2
B/Dortmund	2	Hoffenheim	0

SERIE A			
Cremonese	2	Lecce	0
Cagliari	1	AS Roma	0
Lazio	1	Bologna	1
Napoli	2	Juventus	1

LIGUE 1			
Nice	0	Angers	1
Auxerre	3	Metz	1
Le Havre	0	Paris FC	0
Lorient	1	Lyon	0

QUICK CROSSWORD

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



FRIDAY'S SOLUTION



ACROSS

- Tolerable(2-2)
- Set free(8)
- Worried(7)
- Casual trousers(5)
- Regal(5)
- Gas essential for life(6)
- Star sign(6)
- Meryl __, film star(6)
- Chesty (anag.)(6)
- Broadcasting medium(5)
- Bind(3,2)
- Daydream(7)
- Helped(8)
- Prepare for publication(4)

DOWN

- National emblem of Ireland(8)
- Three score(5)
- London rail terminus(6)
- Take delight in(5)
- Breed of cat(7)
- Twilight(4)
- Long-haired sheepdog(6)
- Adversary(8)
- Core(7)
- Prosper(6)
- University qualification(6)
- Spanish savoury snacks(5)
- Ventured(5)
- Sicilian volcano(4)

Rangers 4 - 1 Bayelsa

NPFL: Rangers
humiliate Bayelsa Utd

Ikorodu City maintain top spot

Ikorodu City maintained their top position in the NPFL table on 28 points following a labourious encounter against hosts, Wikki Tourists in Bauchi yesterday. The match ended 0-0.

In Enugu, Chukwudi Nwodo scored twice, while Clement Igwilo and Augustine Agu Kenekwuwu added one each as Rangers International defeated Bayelsa United 4-1 at the Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium Enugu, yesterday. Bayelsa's lone

goal was scored by Isa Yusuf.

In other matches, Kano Pillars returned to winning ways as they sent back Kun Khalifat 2-1 in Kano. Abia Warriors and Rivers United encounter ended in a 1-1 stalemate, while Kwara United defeated Niger Tornadoes 2-0. Plateau United defeated Warri Wolves 1-0 while Enyimba of Aba lost 2-1 on the road the defending champions, Remo Stars.

SUDOKU

TODAY'S PUZZLE

	4			5	8		9
3				2	1		
		9	3	7			
	3						9
			5		6		
	1						4
				6	9	2	
		7	2				4
8		3	4				1

FRIDAY'S ANSWER

6	7	5	2	3	4	1	8	9
4	2	9	1	5	8	3	7	6
1	8	3	7	6	9	2	5	4
9	3	2	5	8	7	4	6	1
8	4	6	3	2	1	5	9	7
7	5	1	9	4	6	8	2	3
5	1	8	6	9	3	7	4	2
2	6	7	4	1	5	9	3	8
3	9	4	8	7	2	6	1	5

How to Play Sudoku

Place a number (1-9) in each blank cell. (No line can have two of the same number).

Each row (nine lines from left to right), column, (also nine lines from top to bottom) and 3 X 3 block within a bold block (nine blocks) contains number from 1 through 9. This means that no number can appear twice in any block, column or row.

No mathematics is involved - no adding, subtraction, division or multiplication, just plain logic and your imagination.

OKADIGBO

SACRED SCARF

021

Monak

