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# Vanguard

...towards a better life for the people

VOL. 41: NO. 10,690

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

**N250**

## Accommodation crisis hits varsities, students; parents wail **SEE PAGE 13**

●105,000 battle for 13,000 bed spaces at UI, UNILAG, LASU ●We're suffering, under pressure – NANS ●Agents make life unbearable for students, parents ●Stress of commuting from home affecting our studies – Students ●We're pursuing PPP approach to solve problem – FG

**RUSSIAN ENVOY VISITS SENATE...**



From left, Senate Committee Chairman on Employment, Labour & Productivity, Senator Diket Plang; Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on Science & Technology, Senator Kelvin Chukwu; Senate Committee Chairman on NDDC, Asuquo Ekpeyong; Senate Deputy Whip, Onyekachi Nwaebonyi; Russian Ambassador to Nigeria, Andrey Podelyshev; Vladimir Netoyanov; Senate President, Godswill Akpabio; Deputy Senate Leader, Lola Ashiru; Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations, Olamilekan Solomon Adeola; Chairman, Senate Committee on Reparation and Repatriation, Senator Ned Nwoko and Chairman, Senate Committee on North Central Development Commission, Senator Titus Zam after a courtesy visit of the Russian Envoy to the Senate President on Wednesday.

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WCQ: We must beat Lesotho, Benin — *NDIDI*



**Mr & Mrs**

HE TOLD YOU HE'S LIKELY TO DIVORCE HIS WIFE BECAUSE SHE "ASSAULTS" HIS FOOD EVERYTIME. HOW?

SHE FOND OF ADDING TOO MUCH SALT TO HIS FOOD!

*dadadekola@yahoo.com*  
**08052201913**

**COLUMNISTS** FALANA **16** OWEI **17** ADEKOYA **18** AZU **27**



**Delta State Government**

**PRESENTS**

Formal unveiling/Launch of

**Delta State Security Trust Fund**

**Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

**Venue: Banquet Hall, Government House, Asaba.**

**Time: 11am**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION**



**Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, CFR**  
Group Chairman, Access Holdings Plc

**CHIEF LAUNCHER**



**High Chief Government  
Owezide Ekpomupolo**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**



**DIG Marvel Akpoyibo  
Esq. OON (Rtd)**

**Enhanced Peace and Security in Delta State  
is a task that must be accomplished.**

**Rt. Hon. (Elder) Sheriff F.O. Oborewori**  
Governor, Delta State

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*The Vice-Chancellor*  
**Professor E. Smaranda Olarinde, FCI Arb, FCAI**  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Governing Council,  
Senate, Congregation, and Students of the University

*Cordially invites you to the*



**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR THE 13TH  
CONVOCAATION CEREMONY  
CLASS OF 2025: Victorious Together**

**TUESDAY, October 14, 2025**

- i. 2025 Pre-Convocation Press Conference  
**Speaker:** The Vice Chancellor, Prof. E. Smaranda Olarinde, FCI Arb, FCAI  
**Venue:** The White Rock, Senate Chamber. **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. Decoration of Yeye Aare Modupe Babalola, FSM, FNIMN, FPPA, with the Nigeria Union of Journalists' National Award of Excellence and Matron by the Ekiti State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists.  
**Venue:** The White Rock, Senate Chamber. **Time:** 12:00 noon

**WEDNESDAY, October 15, 2025**

- i. Induction Ceremony of ABUAD Graduating Economics Students into the Nigerian Economics Society (NES)  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. CPN Induction/Oath-taking Ceremony for ABUAD Computer Science Graduating Students.  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 1:00 pm

**THURSDAY, October 16, 2025**

- i. Induction of ABUAD Graduating Medical Laboratory Science Students  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 9:00 am
- ii. NSE Induction/Oath-taking Ceremony for ABUAD Engineering Graduating Students  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 1:00 pm

**FRIDAY, October 17, 2025**

- i. **International Leadership Conference 2025 (2.0)**  
**Theme: Shaping Transformational Leaders for a Changing World: Tackling Insecurity, Governance and Development**  
**Venue:** Alfa Belgore Hall **Time:** 9:00 am
- ii. Jumat Service  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 1:00 pm
- iii. Investiture of ABUAD Graduating Law Students as Associate Members of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators.  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 3:00 pm

**SATURDAY, October 18, 2025**

- i. Afe Babalola Day Celebration  
**Venue:** Ewi's Palace, Ado-Ekiti. **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. Sporting Activities  
**Venue:** Sports Pavilion **Time:** 4:00 pm

**SUNDAY, October 19, 2025**

- i. Convocation Thanksgiving Service  
**Venue:** Alfa Belgore Hall **Time:** 10:00 am  
Preacher: Bishop Felix F. Ajakaiye, The Catholic Bishop of Ekiti Diocese
- ii. Convocation Play:  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall **Time:** 7:00 pm

**MONDAY, October 20, 2025**

- i. Convocation Lecture:  
**Speaker:** Chief Wole Olanipekun, CFR, OFR, SAN, LL. D, D. Lit, FCI. Arb, FNIALS,  
**Topic: Nigeria- Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: The Imperative of a Sober and Definitive Recalibration**  
**Venue:** Alfa Belgore Hall, ABUAD **Time:** 10:00 am
- ii. Oath-Taking Induction of Graduating Students into the Alumni Association of Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti
- iii. Founder's Address to the Alumni  
**Venue:** Owolabi Hall, ABUAD **Time:** 05:00 pm

**TUESDAY, October 21, 2025**

- Convocation Grand Finale & Awards
- i. Awards of Bachelors, PGD, Master's and Ph.D. Degrees
  - ii. Conferment of Honorary Degrees on:
    - Chief Wole Olanipekun, CFR, OFR, SAN, LL. D, D. Lit, FCI. Arb, FNIALS,
    - Dr. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, and
    - Princess (Dr.) Mrs. Rosemary Osula Mku-Atu
- Venue:** Alfa Belgore Hall, ABUAD **Time:** 10:00 am

**Courtesy:**  
Lady Christie Oluborode (MNIM)  
Registrar & Secretary to Council

# News

## INEC CHAIR: Nigerians, parties set agenda for Amupitan

● Council of State approves appointment ● ADC to Amupitan: Be loyal to Nigerians, not ruling party ● What we expect from new INEC boss – Obidients ● His appointment'll strengthen democracy – Northern group

By Clifford Ndujihe, Johnbosco Agbakwuru, Omeiza Ajayi, John Alechenu, Marie-Therese Nanlong & Luminous Jannamike

**A**HEAD of the submission of his name and clearance by the National Assembly, Nigerians, political parties and groups, yesterday, set targets for in-coming National Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, Prof. Joash Amupitan, SAN.

As exclusively reported by Vanguard, on Thursday, President Bola Tinubu presented Prof. Amupitan to the Council of State, yesterday, as his choice for the election top job, and the council approved his nomination.

With the council's approval, Tinubu is expected to forward Amupitan's name to the Senate for screening and confirmation, next Tuesday.

If confirmed by the National Assembly, Amupitan, who hails from Kogi, North-Central, will be the six professor to head the electoral body in Nigeria after Eme Awa, Humphrey Nwosu, Maurice Iwu, Attahiru Jega and Mahmood Yakubu, who stepped down on October 7, after serving for 10 years.

Those who saddled Amupitan with tasks and targets to ensure credible polls in the country include the African Democratic Congress, ADC, Obidients Movement, Coalition of United Political Parties, CUPP, Northern Ethnic Nationalities, NENF, and Governor Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State

A statement by the Presidential Spokesman, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, said

President Tinubu presented Amupitan as the nominee to fill the vacant position, following the exit of Professor Yakubu, who served from 2015 till October 2025.

According to the statement, President Tinubu told the council that Amupitan is the first person from Kogi, North-Central State, nominated to occupy the position and is apolitical.

"Council members unanimously supported the nomination, with Governor Ahmed Ododo describing Amupitan as a man of integrity.

"In compliance with the constitution, President Tinubu will now send Amupitan's name to the Senate for screening," it stated.

Amupitan, 58, from Ayetoro Gbede, Ijumu LGA in Kogi State, is a Professor of Law at the University of Jos, Plateau. He is also an alumnus of the university.

He specialises in Company Law, Law of Evidence, Corporate Governance and Privatisation Law. He became a Senior Advocate of Nigeria in September 2014.

Amupitan was born on April 25, 1967.

After completing primary and secondary education, he attended Kwara State Polytechnic, Ilorin, from 1982 to 1984, and the University of Jos from 1984 to 1987. He was called to the bar in 1988.

He earned an LLM at UNIJOS in 1993 and a PhD in 2007, amid an academic career that began in 1989,

following his National Youth Service at the Bauchi State Publishing Corporation in Bauchi from 1988 to 1989.

Currently, he serves as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration) at the University of Jos, a position he holds in conjunction with being the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of Joseph Ayo Babalola University in Osun State. He is married and has four children.

**Be loyal to Nigerians – ADC**

Reacting to the issue, the ADC urged Amupitan to demonstrate loyalty to the Nigerian people rather than the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC.

The party said Amupitan's appointment offers him a unique opportunity to write his name in history as the INEC Chairman, who delivered free, fair, and credible elections, and not as a tool in the hands of those in power.

In a chat with Vanguard, the ADC National Publicity Secretary, Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, said the party was adopting a cautious approach to the development, as not much is yet known about the new electoral chief.

"We still don't know much about him, so, there's a limit to how seriously we can react at this time," Abdullahi said.

He, however, expressed hope that Amupitan would prove his independence by aligning with the interests of ordinary Nigerians rather than the government that nominated him.

"We hope he proves loyal

to the Nigerian people and not to the government. His nomination and appointment present an opportunity for him to make a name for himself as the INEC Chairman who gave Nigerians free, fair, and credible elections, not as a stooge of the ruling party. That is our preliminary comment," Abdullahi added.

**Mutfwang lauds appointment of Amupitan**

Governor Mutfwang described Amupitan as a towering intellectual, a patriotic Nigerian, and a detribalised leader whose contributions have significantly shaped good governance and democratic growth across the country.

The governor, in a statement by his Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere, expressed appreciation to President Tinubu for finding Amupitan worthy of the crucial national assignment and for recognising the North-Central geo-political zone with the appointment.

He noted that with divine guidance and the wealth of experience Prof. Amupitan brings, he is confident the new INEC Chairman will discharge his duties with integrity and excellence.

He emphasised that Amupitan's enduring commitment to scholarship, democracy, and the rule of law has left an indelible imprint on the nation's political evolution.

**His appointment will strengthen democracy – NENF**

The Northern Ethnic Nationalities Forum, NENF while



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congratulating Amupitan, described the move as a historic step toward strengthening Nigeria's democracy.

In a statement by its Chairman, Dr. Dominic Alancha, the Forum commended the President and the National Council of State for endorsing the appointment, which it described as a reflection of meritocracy, inclusiveness, and a commitment to electoral reform.

The Forum said: "Prof. Amupitan brings with him a sterling record of service, integrity and intellectual depth. We believe he will steer the Commission with independence, transparency and excellence."

**What we expect from new INEC boss – Obidients**

On its part, The Obidient Movement felicitated with Prof. Amupitan and listed what it expects of the new Chairman and the INEC.

In a statement by the National Coordinator and Director of Strategic Communications and Media, Dr. Yunusa Tanko and Nana Kazaure, the movement said: "As we reflect on the experiences of past INEC chairmen, we are hopeful that your tenure will mark a significant milestone in the electoral history of Nigeria.

"We look forward to

seeing a new Electoral Act that will enhance the credibility, freedom, and fairness of our elections, particularly as we approach the 2027 general elections.

"We wish you a successful tenure and pray for God's guidance and protection as you navigate the challenges of this critical office. We look forward to a new era of electoral excellence under your leadership."

**His immediate task's rebuilding public confidence – CUPP**

To the Coalition of United Political Parties, CUPP, the immediate task before Amupitan is to rebuild public trust in the electoral body.

National Secretary of CUPP, Chief Peter Ameh, in a statement in Abuja, said: "Amupitan's elevation carries a heavier mantle: the urgent imperative to rebuild public trust in INEC, an institution whose credibility has been severely eroded by the shadows of past electoral malfeasance.

"His record positions him as an apolitical figure of integrity. His nomination, now awaiting Senate confirmation, underscores a deliberate push for regional balance in federal appointments, a gesture that resonates deeply with a state often overshadowed in Nigeria's power corridors.



**W**hy should the tinted glass permit be an annual renewal document? The move by the Police to begin enforcement despite ongoing litigation challenging its validity, raises significant legal and governance concerns. When a matter is actively before a competent court, all parties are expected to maintain the *status quo* until a determination is made. Proceeding with enforcement despite pending lawsuits sends a dangerous message: that state institutions can disregard the judiciary and impose policies on citizens. This is not just disrespectful. The Police should focus on policing than chasing after money.

**Etege K. Daniel,**  
Manager, Media Services



**T**he new policy is a great idea, and every permit must remain valid for citizens to take ownership of the activities for which their cars are used. This is a great initiative and a welcome development. However, to what end is the permit? Other considerations should be put in place to ensure that there is no ulterior motive behind obtaining a tinted permit as a citizen, so as not to enable corruption or crimes such as armed robbery.

**Kehinde Oladimeji,**  
Entrepreneur



**W**hy are people being compelled to obtain permits before using tinted windows? Is this simply another means of extorting money from motorists? If there is credible data indicating that tinted windows are linked to an increase in crime across the country?

Last time I checked, those terrorists and kidnapers aren't even afraid to show their faces. Any initiative aimed at exploiting Nigerians should be firmly rejected. No form of oppression should be permitted or tolerated.

**—Hammed Ajibesin,**  
Public Relations expert



**I** find it awkward that instead of the Nigeria Police Force doing their job effectively, they are chasing shadows with this tinted glass permit in the country. The enforcement of tinted glass permit by the NPF is like putting square pegs in round holes. They should look for better things to do with taxpayers' money rather than use this as a ploy to harass and extort money from innocent Nigerians.

**—Patrick Chilaka,**  
Media Expert/ PR specialist



**I**n the face of rising insecurity, law enforcement agencies seek proactive measures to enhance visibility and accountability on our roads. However, proceeding with enforcement while suits challenging the policy are still pending, raises questions about institutional respect for judicial processes. The Police must uphold legal due process, ensuring that any policy implementation aligns with constitutional safeguards and respects the rights of all Nigerians.

**Abiodun Yakubu,**  
Brand/Comm. strategist



**T**he Nigeria Police Force's tinted glass permit policy, effective from October 2, 2025, requires annual permit for tinted vehicles to address security concerns like kidnapping. Critics, including the NBA, argue it violates constitutional rights and revives a military-era decree, with pending lawsuits challenging its legality. I would advise a call for dialogue to refine the policy, ensuring it balances security and citizens' rights while upholding the rule of law.

**—Michael Ediri,**  
Entrepreneur

## People Talk

### On Police new tinted glass permit policy, enforcement

BY ESTHER ONYEBGULA



## World Sight Day: 18,000 benefit from Loveworld MEDICAID

By Henry Ojelu & Deborah Oladeji

LAGOS—AT least 18,000 Nigerians have received free eye surgeries, medications, and other medical interventions through the Loveworld MEDICAID initiative, the humanitarian healthcare arm of the Chris Oyakhilome Foundation International (COFI).

Assistant Director of Loveworld MEDICAID, Dr. Jumoke Ola-Akisanya, disclosed this on Thursday during a press conference at the Marriott Hotel, Ikeja, held to commemorate World Sight Day and mark one year of the organisation's flagship programme, Vision 10,000, aimed at eliminating preventable blindness.

Ola-Akisanya said the initiative has provided 8,507 prescription glasses, 8,609 eye medications, and 725 corrective surgeries — all free of charge.

## Tension in Uzere community over alleged sale of transformers

By Akpokona Omafuair

TENSION has gripped Uzere community in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State following allegations that community leaders sold a 2.5MVA step-down transformer and another 300/11KVA distribution transformer belonging to the community.

The community leadership, led by Raphael Oderewhu, denied the allegations, insisting that the transformers were only removed for repairs after a general meeting approved the decision.

Trouble started when police officers from Oleh Division, during a covert operation, intercepted a truck conveying the transformers and arrested five men suspected of involvement. According to police sources, the suspects

## Fire guts Oba market as council chairman explains cause

By Ozioruva Aliu

BENIN CITY—A late-night fire on Wednesday gutted part of the Oba Market in Benin City, even as reconstruction work on the facility is still ongoing. The Chairman of Oredo Local Government Area, Engr. Gabriel Iduseri, attributed the incident to a solar panel malfunction.

This is the second time in five years that the popular market has been affected by fire.

Eyewitnesses said they were in their shops opposite the market when they noticed smoke coming from a section where reconstruction work was ongoing. They immediately mobilized, along with local vigilantes, while the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Oba Market Police Station led his men to the scene. The DPO reportedly alerted the

fire service, which joined civilians in battling the flames for about three hours before the fire was contained.

Speaking to journalists after inspecting the scene, Engr. Iduseri confirmed that only one shop was affected. He praised the swift response of firefighters and security personnel, which prevented the fire from spreading.

He said, "We learnt that a solar panel caused the fire. We will suspend further installation of solar panels and conduct a thorough inspection of all electrical connections in the market to prevent future incidents."

"I also want to assure the affected trader that we will support them to return to business. Thankfully, no lives were lost, and the damage was minimal. The Oredo Local Government was fully on ground to prevent any case of looting."

claimed they had purchased the transformers, prompting an invitation of the community leaders for questioning. The Oredo Local Government Chairman, Engr. Gabriel Iduseri, who visited the scene, said only one shop was affected and that security agencies and fire service personnel responded swiftly, preventing the fire from spreading.

At the state level, Vanguard gathered that the case has been transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Asaba, where Oderewhu has been granted administrative bail pending further investigation.

Tension reportedly escalated after the community leadership allegedly imposed a ₦1 million fine and threatened to banish those who exposed the alleged sale. As a result, several residents have fled the community for fear of reprisal attacks.

longing to Alusha Services through another subpoenaed witness, Msheila Arhvel B, arguing that the document did not meet the admissibility requirements of the Evidence Act. However, Justice Maryann Anenih overruled the objection and

admitted the document as Exhibit P1. The witness further testified that several ₦10 million withdrawals were made from the account and confirmed other transactions totaling ₦707 million and multiple dollar transfers.

The foreigner insisted that ₦290,000 had disappeared from his bag, prompting a search of the suspect's hand luggage. Nothing was found at first, but tension grew when another passenger suggested a body search.

Witnesses said the suspect became visibly nervous, leading to a more thorough search that uncovered the missing money hidden in his socks and under his seat. Airport security was promptly alerted, and the suspect was escorted off the aircraft and handed over to airport authorities for further investigation. The incident sparked reactions of shock and disappointment among passengers. The flight later departed for Abuja after the situation was resolved. As of press time, Ibom Air had yet to issue an official statement.



● Bad Portion at Adeoyo Road, Ibadan, yesterday

## Tinubu pardons Ogoni 9, Herbert Macaulay, Vatsa, Lawan

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

ABUJA—PRESIDENT Bola Ahmed Tinubu has granted a posthumous pardon to several historic and contemporary figures, including Nigerian nationalist Herbert Macaulay, Major-General Mamman Vatsa, and the Ogoni Nine, who were executed in 1995 under the military regime of late General Sani Abacha.

The President also extended clemency to 82 inmates across the country and approved national honours for 959 Nigerians and foreigners in recognition of their contributions

## Money Laundering: Court adjourns ex-Gov Bello's trial to Nov 12

By Ikechukwu Nnochiri

ABUJA—THE Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Maitama, on Thursday, adjourned further hearing in the ₦110 billion money laundering case against former Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, to November 12, 2025.

The adjournment followed the testimony of the sixth prosecution witness, Ms. Victoria Oluwafemi, a Compliance Officer with Polaris Bank, who told the court that as of November 2021, the Kogi State Government House Account had a credit balance of ₦450 million, with multiple withdrawals of ₦10 million each made by different persons.

Under cross-examination by Bello's lawyer, J.B. Daudu (SAN), the witness admitted she was neither the account officer nor the relationship manager for the accounts in question and could not explain the transactions. She also confirmed that the name of Bello's co-defendant, Abdulsalam Hudu, did not appear in the bank documents.

Bello's legal team objected to the EFCC's attempt to tender a 218-page statement of account be-

longing to national development.

Herbert Macaulay, co-founder of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, NCNC, alongside Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, was unjustly convicted by British colonial authorities in 1913 and banned from public service. Although he died in 1946, his conviction remained on record until now.

Similarly, Major-General Vatsa, a poet and military officer executed in 1986 over an alleged coup plot, was among 17 individuals granted presidential pardons following the endorsement of the Nation-

al Council of State, which met in Abuja on Thursday. Others pardoned include Farouk Lawan, a former member of the House of Representatives; Mrs. Anastasia Daniel Nwaobia; Hussaini Umar; and Ayinla Saadu Alanamu. Presidential spokesman Bayo Onanuga, in a statement issued late Thursday, said the gesture was based on recommendations from the Presidential Advisory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy, PACPM, chaired by Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi (SAN).

## Passenger arrested for stealing N290,000 on Ibom Air flight

By Nnasom David

A mild drama unfolded aboard an Ibom Air flight from Uyo to Abuja on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, when a passenger was arrested for allegedly stealing ₦290,000 from a foreign traveller moments before takeoff.

The incident occurred around 7:00 a.m., shortly after boarding was completed. Eyewitnesses said the foreign passenger raised an alarm after discovering that the cash he had kept in his bag, stored in the overhead compartment, was missing.

Cabin crew immediately launched an investigation, during which another passenger reportedly claimed to have seen the suspect tampering with the victim's bag. When confronted, the suspect denied

the statement explained that the clemency was granted "to enable the beneficiaries reintegrate into society, having demonstrated sufficient remorse." Among those pardoned were Nweke Francis Chibueze, serving a life sentence for drug trafficking, and Dr. Nwogu Peters, who had served 12 of a 17-year term for fraud.

The Ogoni Nine — Ken Saro-Wiwa, Saturday Do-  
bee, Nordu Eawo, Daniel Gbooko, Paul Levera, Felix Nuate, Baribor Bera, Barinem Kiobel, and John Kpuine — were formally pardoned, while the Ogoni Four — Chief Albert Badey, Chief Edward Kobani, Chief Samuel Orage, and Theophilus Orage — received posthumous national honours.

According to the statement: "In exercising his constitutional power of mercy, President Tinubu granted clemency to 82 inmates and reduced the prison terms of 65 others. He commuted the death sentences of seven inmates to life imprisonment."

The PACPM, inaugurated on January 15, 2025, by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume, reviewed 294 applications and interviewed 175 inmates across correctional centres.

Its recommendations were based on factors such as old age, terminal illness, good conduct, and rehabilitation efforts.

The Council's report concluded that: "Eighty-two inmates were recommended for clemency; two for pardon; 65 for reduction of prison terms; seven on death row for commutation to life imprisonment; and 15 ex-convicts — including the Ogoni 9 — for presidential pardon."

President Tinubu's gesture, coming amid national reforms in the justice sector, was described as a significant step toward promoting reconciliation, rehabilitation, and restorative justice in Nigeria.



By Kingsley Omonobi

## SOMTOCHUKWU: Police arrest 12 suspects

- 'I tried to stop her from jumping but couldn't
- We shared N200,000 each —Suspect

FEDERAL Capital Territory, FCT, Police Command has confirmed the arrest of 12 suspected armed robbers linked to the attack that led to the death of *Arise News* staff member, Somtochukwu Christella Maduagwu, and a security guard, Barnabas Danlami, at Unique Apartments, Gishiri Village, Katampe District, Abuja.

The suspects were arrested by operatives of the Scorpion Squad, led by ACP Victor Godfrey, following actionable digital and reconstructive intelligence provided by Giga Forensics, a subsidiary of EIB Stratoc.

Those arrested include Shamsudeen Hassan (Malumfashi LGA, Katsina State), Hassan Isah, 22 (Zaria, Kaduna State), Abubakar Alkamu alias Abba, 27 (Musawa LGA, Katsina State), Sani Sirajo alias Dan Borume, 20 (Malumfashi LGA, Katsina State), Mashkur Jamilu alias Abba, 28 (Igabi LGA, Kaduna State), and Suleiman Badamasi alias Dan-Sule, 21 (Malumfashi LGA, Katsina State).

Others are Abdul Salam Saleh alias Na-durudu (Katsina LGA, Katsina State), Zaharadeen Muhammad alias Gwaska, 23 (Chikun LGA, Kaduna State), Musa Adamu alias Musa Hassan, 30 (Malumfashi LGA, Katsina State), Sumayya Mohammed alias Baby, 27 (Saminaka LGA, Kaduna



•Late Somtochukwu

State), Isah Abdulrahman alias Abbati, 25 (Zaria LGA, Kaduna State), and Musa Umar alias Small, 31 (Maiduguri LGA, Borno State).

Police said the robbery

occurred on September 29, 2025, around 3:30 a.m., when the gang invaded the apartment.

During interrogation, Shamsudeen Hassan confessed to shooting the security guard, Barnabas Danlami, when he

attempted to stop them from gaining entry.

Another suspect, Sani Sirajo, claimed he tried to hold Somtochukwu from falling off the three-storey building but failed, saying, "I tried to stop her from jumping, but I couldn't because she was too heavy."

Hassan also admitted that he drove away the victim's white Honda CR-V after the operation.

The suspects said they shared ₦200,000 each from the proceeds of the robbery.

Recovered items included one fabricated AK-47 rifle, 36 rounds of live ammunition, one pump-action gun, one locally made pistol, two live cartridges, four mobile phones belonging to the victims, two knives, a cutlass, and nine torchlights used during the operation.

Police said four suspects — including Hassan, Alkamu, and Sirajo — were first arrested after investigators tracked the victims' stolen phones.

Further digital intelligence led to the arrest of the remaining gang members on October 8, 2025, while they were reportedly on their way to another robbery operation in Maitama, Abuja.

All the suspects have allegedly confessed to their involvement in the crimes, while efforts are ongoing to apprehend other fleeing members of the gang.

## Tinubu mourns as ex-UK envoy, Christopher Kolade, dies at 92

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has expressed deep sorrow over the death of former Nigerian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and one of the nation's most revered elder statesmen, Dr. Christopher Kolade, who passed away at the age of 92.

His family announced his death in a statement, saying: "We are thankful for his incredible life of faith and service, and are grateful for God's abundant blessings."

Born on December 28, 1932, in Erin-Oke, Osun State, Dr. Kolade lived a life defined by integrity, leadership, and excellence across broadcasting, diplomacy, academia, and the corporate world.

A son of an Anglican missionary, he attended Government College, Ibadan, before proceeding to Fourah Bay College in Freetown, Sierra Leone. His distinguished career earned him honorary doctorates from the University of Sierra Leone (1976) and McPherson University (2016).

Dr. Kolade began his professional journey in broadcasting and rose to become Director-General of the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC). He later joined the corporate sector, where he served as Chief Executive and Chairman of Cadbury Nigeria Plc, earning widespread respect for his ethical leadership.

His reputation for excellence led to his appointment as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, a role he discharged with distinction.

After his diplomatic service, Dr. Kolade joined the Lagos Business

School (LBS) as a lecturer in Corporate Governance and Human Resource Management, and later taught Leadership and Conflict Management at the School of Media and Communication, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, where he also served as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council.

Beyond academia, he held leadership positions in professional bodies such as the Nigerian Institute of Management, Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria, International Institute for Communications, and the World Association for Christian Communication.

In recognition of his lifetime of service, Dr. Kolade received numerous awards, including the Order of St. Augustine Medal from the Archbishop of Canterbury. In 2012, he was appointed by former President Goodluck Jonathan as Chairman of the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) Board.

A lifelong advocate of ethics and transparency, he also chaired Integrity Organisation Ltd GTE and The Convention on Business Integrity Ltd GTE.

### Tinubu mourns

Reacting to his death, President Tinubu described Dr. Kolade as "one of Nigeria's intellectual treasures" whose life embodied integrity, discipline, and selfless service.

In a statement personally signed by him, the President said he received the news "with profound sadness," noting that the late diplomat's contributions to national development spanned education, corporate governance, diplomacy, and



•Late Kolade

humanitarian service.

"Dr. Kolade, 92, was a custodian of our enterprise history, especially in corporate governance and human resource management. He was a principal figure in reputable institutions like the Lagos Business School," Tinubu stated.

He hailed Kolade as "among the finest of men — exceptionally brilliant, statesmanly, diligent, and with unimpeachable integrity."

The President added that beyond his corporate and diplomatic achievements, Kolade was "a patriot and an uncompromising advocate of transparency and accountability in governance."

"He served Nigeria dutifully, with honesty and great dedication. From his days as a

colonial-era education officer to his service as Nigeria's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and as Director-General of the NBC, Dr. Kolade left an indelible mark of distinction in every sphere — whether in the boardroom, public office, or academia," Tinubu said.

He also recalled Kolade's humanitarian work through the Christopher Kolade Foundation, particularly his support for sickle cell patients, to which he donated a significant portion of his personal income.

## SOFTCUTS

Social Media Conversation

Stop repeating "Clothes" You want us to think Today was Yesterday



Help to 'change' his wardrobe naaa!

Una go just fine for Dp But for real life Una go come resemble principalities and powers Why?

Na their 'original' be dat!

Quarreling with someone who speaks good English is really tough I just stood there saying "You too, You too"

You accepted defeat gracefully!



**COUNCIL OF STATE MEETING:** Right to left: President Bola Tinubu; Vice President Kashim Shettima, and Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, during the hybrid Council of State meeting at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday. PHOTO: STATE HOUSE.

## Fashola, Bonuola, media veterans, scholars celebrate Hakeem Bello @ 60

**I**MMEDIATE past Minister of Works and Housing, Mr Babatunde Fashola, SAN, and media veterans, Lade Bonuola, Eniola Bello, Taiwo Obe as well as prominent scholars, such as Prof. Tunde Akanni, Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, Wumi Raji, and Akin Adesokan were among the personalities, who celebrated former Editor of the *Daily Times* and Fellow of the Nigerian Guild of Editors, NGE, Mr Hakeem Bello, who turned 60 yesterday.

Bello, who also served as Special Adviser, Media and Communications to Fashola both as Governor of Lagos State and Minister of Works and Housing, was the toast of the personalities as well as colleagues, family and friends who voiced their tribute to him in "The Atàndá Anthology," a rich compendium of tributes, reflections, and essays published in his honour.

In his Foreword to the book, Fashola, who described Bello as a "selfless patriot and a man, whose sacrifices defined loyalty and service," explained, "He resigned his own job to help me start what was then an

uncertain political career. Since then, he has made my career his own for two decades and more. This work will explain what sacrifice looks like to those who still lack a definition."

The former governor, who has worked with Bello for two decades, extolled his humility and deep faith, describing him as a man "of modest needs and content," and one who "takes parenting and family responsibilities as seriously as he takes his profession."

Indeed, for a man who has spent decades shaping Nigeria's public communication space with quiet diligence and integrity, Hakeem Babatunde Bello's 60th birthday is not just a milestone, it's a celebration of legacy.

That legacy finds its voice in "The Atàndá Anthology: Words, Reflections, Images, Essays on Media and the Arts," a newly published collection of tributes, reflections, and academic essays dedicated to the journalist, public communicator, and family man.

Published by Kraft Books Limited, the 324-page

same surname, Bello, we both studied English at the Department of Modern European Languages, University of Ilorin, graduating the same year, 1988."

Also in his affectionate tribute, Veteran journalist and mentor, Taiwo Obe, founder of The Journalism Clinic, recalled Bello's consistency as "a human being of exceptional goodness and patience." Prof. Tunde Olusunle, poet, scholar, and Fellow of the Association of Nigerian Authors, reminisced about their early creative years in the University of Ilorin's Creative Writers' Club and Ajon Players Drama Troupe.

"Hakeem was a superb and brilliant mind, respected for his sharp intellect, high morality, and quiet confidence," he wrote. Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, immediate past Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja, described Bello as "a distinguished scholar even in his undergraduate days."

"He wrote his final thesis on Wole Soyinka and earned the top grade from Prof. Niyi Osundare," Na'Allah recalled.

"He was a friend to everyone, kind, calm, and intellectually gifted."

He explained that she obtained an undefended divorce judgment in England in which she was awarded £18 million (about N36 billion), but the judgment was later annulled by a Nigerian court since their marriage was conducted under Nigerian law.

The former presidential candidate added that his ex-wife had denied his family access to their children, describing her as "a professional blackmailer and social climber who has made plenty of money from that trade."

He maintained that the revival of her story was politically motivated, asserting that "now that the 2027 campaign has started, the same APC team has picked her up again, pushing her story in the media."

Olawepo-Hashim dismissed reports of a new court order directing one of his companies to pay N300 million, calling it "an invention of an APC night court," as he claimed no such process was ever served on his legal team.

Concluding, he said, "Tales like this did not stop President Trump in America, they won't stop us here either, by the grace of God."

## Olawepo-Hashim alleges APC behind old plot of ex-wife's smear campaign • Rues smear campaign ahead of 2027 race

**F**ORMER presidential candidate, Dr. Gbenga Olawepo-Hashim, has alleged elements within the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, are sponsoring renewed allegations against him through his estranged wife, describing it as part of a smear campaign to discredit him ahead of the 2027 general elections.

In a statement, Olawepo-Hashim alleged that his ex-wife's recent claims in the media were orchestrated by remnants of the same political handlers, who, he said, plotted to stop his 2019

presidential bid.

According to him, "She allegedly had been recruited by elements around Buhari in the UK High Commission and the Nigerian Intelligence Agency, NIA. Apart from other sinister things they did, they tried to frame me for funding terrorism. I was questioned in the UK and released when no evidence was found. She was the one who gave the information to the UK authorities."

He alleged that the same group seized two of his oil assets during the period, forcing him into a

prolonged legal battle. He recalled that in November 2020, the Federal High Court, Abuja, presided over by Justice Taiwo Taiwo, restored the Hely Creek and Abigborodo marginal oil fields to his company, Transnational Energy Limited, TEL, after ruling that the government's revocation of the fields was illegal. The court also awarded \$20 million in damages against the federal institutions involved.

Olawepo-Hashim claimed that his ex-wife's legal battle in the UK was part of that broader scheme.

## Tinubu chairs Police Council meeting at Aso Villa

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

**A**BUJA — PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has chaired the Nigeria Police Council meeting at the Council Chamber, Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The meeting, commenced immediately after the hybrid meeting of the National Council of State.

It brought together key stakeholders in the nation's security and justice sectors

to review the state of policing and assess strategies for improving law enforcement nationwide.

Ddeliberations are expected to focus on internal security challenges and institutional reforms within the police architecture.

In attendance were the Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Chairman of the Police

Service Commission, PSC, retired Deputy Inspector-General of Police Hashimu Argungu, among other top government and security officials.

The outcome of the meeting is expected to shape future policy directions and operational strategies of the police force as the Tinubu administration pushes for more effective policing nationwide.

## All parties sign phase one of Gaza deal — ISRAEL

**I**SRAEL said, yesterday that all parties have signed the first phase of a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal, adding that the release of the captives would "bring the end to this war."

The agreement in Egypt follows a 20-point peace plan for Gaza announced last month by United States President, Donald Trump, after more than two years of war between Hamas and Israel.

US envoy, Steve Witkoff, said the American leader would travel to Egypt next week for an event celebrating the conclusion of the agreement, with Trump himself saying: "I'm going to try and make a trip over. We're working on the timing, the exact timing."

Despite celebrations in Israel and Gaza and a flood

of messages from world leaders hailing the deal, numerous issues remain unsettled in the negotiations, including the plan's call for Hamas to disarm and a proposed interim "Board of Peace" led by Trump himself to oversee Gaza's administration.

Senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, said the Palestinian movement rejected the planned transitional authority.

"No Palestinian would accept this. All the factions, including the Palestinian Authority, reject this," Hamdan told Qatar-based broadcaster Al Araby.

Trump said the issue of Hamas surrendering its weapons would be addressed in the second phase of the peace plan.

## W'Bank report shatters

### Tinubu's econ claims — ADC

By Luminous Jannamike

**A**BUJA — The African Democratic Congress, ADC, has said the World Bank's October 2025 report, which revealed that 139 million Nigerians were now living below the poverty line, confirms that the Federal Government's economic policies have deepened poverty and worsened hardship across the country.

ADC in a statement, yesterday by its National Publicity Secretary, Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, said the World Bank's findings were an 'unbiased verdict' on the failure of the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, to deliver real economic relief to Nigerians.

The statement said: "The World Bank numbers tell a simple but painful story: under the APC and President Bola Tinubu's government, more Nigerians have fallen into poverty than at any other

time in our history. In 2019, four out of 10 Nigerians were poor. Today, it is, at least, six out of 10."

The party noted that the report's figure of 139 million people living below the poverty line, up from 81 million in 2019, represents 61 percent of Nigeria's population, an alarming increase that contradicts official claims of progress.

"We recall that President Tinubu, in his recent Independence Day address, declared triumphantly that 'the worst is over' while brandishing statistics which have now been proven to be a calculated whitewash to serve the government's narrative of progress."

"Behind the shiny statistics are grim realities of historic human suffering, families skipping meals, children dropping out of school, and households selling assets just to buy food and basic drugs."

## Defections can't break us, PDP fires back at APC

By Luminous Jannamike

**A**BUJA — The Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, has said that it remains strong and united despite reports of planned defections by some of its governors, insisting that the party's foundation is rooted in the people and not in individual ambitions.

Speaking during an interactive session with journalists in Abuja, yesterday, the PDP National Publicity Secretary and Secretary of the Media and Publicity Sub-Committee for the party's 2025 National Convention, Debo Ologunagba, said the party would not be distracted by what he described as 'orchestrated defections'

allegedly engineered by the ruling All Progressives Congress, APC

Ologunagba said: "Let me say this; the stories of defection or possible defection that are catching Nigerians' attention show that we have a political master. Because of the foundation of the PDP that is strong, solid, and based on the people, we remain the only truly democratic party in this country, one built on ideas, convictions, and policies."

"It's on record that vice-presidents and presidents have left this party before, but the PDP remains. That's the message to Nigerians, that this is an institution built on ideals rooted in the people," Ologunagba said.

## SSANU, NASU protest nationwide over unmet demands

By Johnbosco Agbakwuru

**A**BUJA — THE Joint Action Committee, JAC of the Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities, SSANU, and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions, NASU, yesterday, held protest to highlight unresolved issues affecting non-teaching university staff.

The unions said that the

protest was aimed at addressing decades of neglected demands and the government's failure to prioritise workers' welfare in universities and inter-university centres.

Speaking to journalists, during the protest at Yakubu Gowon University in Abuja, Nurudeen Yusuf, SSANU Chairman and JAC leader, emphasised that the protest marked a renewed push for justice and fairness in the university system after years of stalled negotiations.

LEISURE

SAYINGS OF OUR ELDERS

When a mother goat eats its jaw, the kid will always watch and learn

TAKE HEART — ELLA RANDLE

"Little by little fills the measure." — African Proverb  
Persistence is courage in motion. Steady progress, with reflection, ensures goals remain aligned with our values.—Ella Randle

From left, Senator Mao Oluwabunwa; former Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose; FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike; Alphonso Baba; PDP National Secretary, Senator Samuel Anyanwu; Senator George Sekibo and former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Chibudom Nwuche, at the flag off of the construction of the road from Yemi Osinbajo Way to Wole Soyinka Way within Katampe District, Abuja, yesterday.



Tinted glass: Why police halted permit enforcement — IGP  
●Receives NBA leadership

By: Kingsley Omonobi

THE Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, has explained that implementation of enforcement of Tinted Glass Permit was done out of consideration for the interest of Nigerians, and regard for the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA.

He spoke when he received a delegation of the NBA led by its President, Afam Osigwe, SAN, at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, yesterday.

He said: "We temporarily suspended the enforcement of the Act, pending the outcome of the hearing of the Motion on Notice slated for October 16, 2025, at the Federal High Court, Warri, Delta State."

Force Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin in a statement said: "The visit, which centred on issues surrounding the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act, 1991, by the Force, provided an opportunity for robust deliberations on issues of mutual concern.

"This includes the need for synergy between the Police and the Bar in upholding the rule of law and promoting public confidence.

"The Nigeria Police Force, while noting that there is no clear court order stopping the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act, 1991, has, out of consideration for the interest of Nigerians, and regard for the NBA, temporarily suspended the enforcement of the Act, pending the outcome of the hearing of the motion on notice slated for October 16, 2025, at the Federal High Court, Warri, Delta State."

## Failed rehabilitation: Reps order probe into \$18bn spent on refineries

By Gift ChapiOdekina

ABUJA-The House of Representatives, yesterday resolved to investigate the continued non-functionality of Nigeria's three state-owned refineries, Port Harcourt, Warri, and Kaduna despite over \$18 billion spent on their rehabilitation over the past two decades.

This followed the adoption of a motion on the "Non-functionality of State-

owned Refineries," moved by Sesu Whingan during plenary in Abuja.

Whingan expressed concern that despite repeated promises and massive investments in turnaround maintenance, the refineries remain comatose, forcing Nigeria to rely heavily on imported petroleum products.

He recalled that in 2007, under former President Olusegun Obasanjo's administration, Alhaji Aliko

Dangote and other private investors had acquired the refineries, but the transaction was later reversed by the late President Umaru Yar'Adua, who opted for government-led rehabilitation, a decision that has yielded no tangible results.

Whingan noted that both Dangote and Obasanjo had recently described the refineries as unviable, saying the billions sunk into their repairs were wasted.

Their statements, he said, have renewed public outrage over possible

mismanagement of public funds.

The lawmaker cited comments by the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Limited, Engr. Bayo Ojulari, who in an interview, distanced the current administration from the alleged mismanagement of the refineries and hinted at the possible sale of the assets.

"The revelation by the NNPC CEO confirms that despite huge budgetary allocations over the years, the refineries remain non-functional," Whingan

lamented, describing the situation as a gross misuse of public funds and a betrayal of public trust.

He warned that Nigeria's energy security and economic stability were at risk, especially following the removal of petrol subsidy, stressing that the absence of functional refineries aggravates inflation and public hardship.

The House referred the motion to Committees on Gas Resources, Public Assets, Petroleum Upstream, Midstream and Downstream to "Investigate all funds appropriated and disbursed for the rehabilitation of the Port Harcourt, Warri, and Kaduna refineries between 2010 and 2024.

"And ascertain the current operational status of the refineries, examine how public funds were utilised and identify agencies or individuals responsible for infractions or mismanagement."

The committees are expected to report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action.

## Economic stability at risk as labour relations collapse, NECA

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

THE Nigeria Employers' Consultative Association, NECA, has warned that Nigeria's economic stability and national productivity were under serious threat due to the steady collapse of the country's industrial relations system, citing institutional decay, weak law enforcement, and

persistent disregard for due process by both employers and labour actors.

In a detailed policy paper, the Director-General of NECA and member of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, ILO, Mr Adewale-Smatt Oyerinde, painted a grim picture of the state of industrial relations in Nigeria, describing it as "complex, crisis-prone, and

dangerously fragile."

Oyerinde said: "Nigeria's industrial relations system stands at a critical crossroads. Though the framework for managing employer-employee relations has evolved through legislation, collective bargaining, and tripartite dialogue, persistent challenges, weak enforcement of labour laws, politicisation of union activities, and ineffective dispute resolution—continue to threaten industrial harmony and productivity."

Tracing the historical evolution of the system, he explained that Nigeria's industrial relations structure was modeled after the British tripartite system involving government, employers, and labour, with a mix of voluntarism and state intervention.

However, he noted that decades of poor governance, economic instability, and policy inconsistency have eroded its foundation.

According to him,

"Institutions like the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Industrial Arbitration Panel, and the National Industrial Court of Nigeria are the backbone of our industrial relations system, yet their authority is waning. Frequent, non-compliance with judgments and the bypassing of due process erode judicial authority and foster impunity, turning manageable disagreements into national crises."

## 2027: INEC should properly vet all candidates' certificates

— PETER OBI

LABOUR Party Presidential candidate in the 2023 election, Peter Obi, has urged the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, and other relevant authorities to verify and authenticate the academic and professional certificates of all political candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections.

In a statement posted on X, yesterday, Obi stressed that the credibility of Nigeria's democracy hinges on truth, transparency, and integrity in the leadership selection process.

He also commended the resignation of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Uche Nnaji, amid controversies surrounding discrepancies in his academic records.

The former Anambra State governor described the move by the former minister as "a decent and honourable step."

He also recalled that former Minister of Finance, Kemi Adeosun, resigned under similar circumstances during the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.

"These instances remind us that such matters are not trivial, they constitute serious criminal offences," Obi said.

He urged INEC to immediately begin verifying the certificates submitted by all political candidates, from the presidency to local government councillors, to uphold integrity in the 2027 general elections.

"It is appalling that our electoral body carries out little or no due diligence in confirming certificates submitted by candidates. Continuous discrepancies, false declarations, and forged credentials undermine the credibility of our democracy," he stated.

He said that if Nigeria truly desire a free, fair, and credible 2027 election, the process of integrity must begin now.

"INEC has enough time to investigate past complaints about various forms of forgery and false claims. Every incumbent and aspiring candidate must submit all academic certificates immediately for verification and public accessibility, clearly detailing schools attended from primary to university level.

## Reps move to regulate private intelligence sector, strengthen national security

By Gift ChapiOdekina

ABUJA-The House of Representatives has moved to regulate private intelligence and investigation services in Nigeria to enhance national security and professional standards in the sector.

During a public hearing on the Private Intelligence and Investigation Council Bill, 2024, in Abuja, yesterday, the House Committee on National Security and Intelligence, chaired by Ahmed Satomi, Speaker Tajudeen Abbas

said the Bill represents another important stride in Nigeria's ongoing effort to reform its security architecture and institutionalise professionalism and accountability in private intelligence operations.

"The 10th House of Representatives remains firmly committed to transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in all legislative engagements.

"We believe that the quality of governance

executive session to deliberate on growing international discussions portraying Nigeria as a country that persecutes Christians.

Both the President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio and the Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele (APC, Ekiti Central) said that terrorism was not driven by

## Insecurity, terrorism in Nigeria not religion driven — SENATE

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA- THE Senate has said that insecurity and terrorism in Nigeria with wanton killings and massive destruction of property was not driven by religion, but by geography and circumstance.

The senate has, however, resolved to hold an

religion during discussions on a motion on the need to correct misconceptions regarding the purported "Christian Genocide" narrative in Nigeria and in the international community.

It was sponsored by Senator Ali Ndume (APC, Borno South) and co-sponsored by 20 others.

Ndume in the motion urged the Senate to engage the US congress and others to clarify the misconception, insisting that Nigeria's security challenges were multi-dimensional and not religion-driven.

After contributions supporting the motion, the Senate noted that because of the complex and sensitive nature of the motion, further discussion would not be taken, and decided to step down the motion.

Prior to the stepping down of the motion, Akpabio said: "If terrorism occurs in a Christian-dominated area, Christians will be the victims, if it happens in a Muslim-dominated area, Muslims will be the victims."



## Lagos AG orders fresh probe into Lekki land saga

By Innocent Anaba

THE Lagos State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Pedro Lawal has asked the police to conduct further investigations into allegations of forgery and willful property damage made against a real estate developer, Alex Ochonogor, and his lawyer, Ademola Owolabi.

The request comes on the heels of a second police report, signed by Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Dahiru, which exonerated Ochonogor and Owolabi of any wrongdoing.

In a letter dated August 22, 2025, by the Director, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Adeshola Adekunle-Bello, the Ministry of Justice asked the police to reopen the case by interrogating more

witnesses and reevaluating key documents.

The letter addressed to the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Force Criminal Investigation Department, FCID, Annexe, Ikoyi, Lagos, specifically requested that the investigation team interrogate key witnesses, including; Dr. Obidigwe Eze and Major Hamza Al-Mustapha, based on new developments in the case.

The real estate developer was arraigned last week before a Lagos State High Court in Tafawa Balewa Square, alongside two lawyers, Ademola Owolabi and Adebayo Akeju, over their alleged involvement in forging land documents and demolishing property in the Lekki area.

The defendants had pleaded not guilty to the charge, and were granted bail by the trial judge.

## Sanwo-Olu, minister, others for Nigeria digital PR summit

GOVERNOR of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani and Executive Vice Chairman, Globacom Limited, Bella Disu, are billed to deliver the keynote papers The 10th Nigeria Digital PR Summit.

The summit is with theme 'Digital PR in Action: Owing Your Narrative, Telling Your Story', is scheduled for October 15-16, 2025, at Victoria Island, Lagos.

Co-convener and Chairman, Lagos NIPR, Samuel Ayetutu, remarked that "The 10th Nigeria Digital PR Summit represents a decade of driving innovation in the profession. This year's focus on narrative ownership reinforces the need for authenticity and purpose-driven communication, especially as artificial intelligence continues to redefine how stories are told and trusted."

President, Upticomm Marketing Company, and

## 65yrs after Independence, Nigeria still not free —Adekoya

AS Nigeria marked 65 years since gaining independence, Ade Adekoya, Patron of the International Friendship League, IFL, Ikorodu, Lagos, has warned that the country's freedom remains incomplete without financial, spiritual and national liberation.

Speaking at the "Beyond Independence: Living in True Freedom" programme at Ikorodu, Adekoya challenged Nigerians to rethink the meaning of independence beyond the colonial breakaway of 1960.

"Nigeria has the resources to thrive, but the political will of the

Convener of the Summit, Segun McMedal, stated that "At its core, the Summit is about empowerment—equipping professionals and brands to shape their stories in ways that inspire confidence and drive impact. Our tenth edition is not just a celebration of progress, but a call to action for communicators to lead with creativity, credibility, and digital intelligence."

"Designed for public relations professionals, brand communicators, content creators, academics, and the media, the Summit will equip participants with practical strategies and tools to shape narratives, influence public perception, and strengthen stakeholder trust."

"Delegates will also gain insights into emerging PR trends, artificial intelligence in communication, crisis and reputation management, and digital storytelling, while networking with the industry's finest minds."

ruling class is suppressing progress. Independence without financial discipline, moral uprightness, and visionary leadership cannot sustain true freedom," he declared.

On financial freedom, Adekoya urged Nigerians to embrace savings and investments over reckless spending, describing true financial independence as the ability to build passive income that guarantees stability beyond active work.

"Money can be wasted, spent, or invested. True freedom comes from investing wisely, especially in people," he added.

## Tayo hails BU High School at 30th graduation

By Niyi Okiri

PRESIDENT and Vice Chancellor of Babcock University, BU, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Prof. Ademola Tayo, has commended the university's high school for the great impact made since its inception.

The VC gave the commendation at the 30th graduation ceremony of the school, held at the varsity's Amphitheatre, recently.

"May God be with you and bless you as you receive awards and presentations, as members of faculty and staff and management of Babcock University High School, as these graduating students march out with great hope, and as you pursue further endeavours," he said.

Speaking during the occasion, the Principal of Babcock University High School, Dr. Bolanle Adebawojo, said the graduating class, tagged; 'Graduating Vanguard Class of 2025', said from the very first day you walked into this school, you have carried yourselves with determination, passion and unmistakable spark that set you apart. You have made us deeply proud."

Delivering his paper, titled "Unlocking Your Potential and Imbibing Values that will assure a better future legacy", Dr. Audu noted that "it is now time for you to move on to higher level."

He said that the graduands could unlock their potential by continuing to learn always, setting clear goals they aim to achieve, identifying who their role models are and killing complacency.



**VISIT**—From left: Mr. Kenneth Ehigiator, News Editor, Vanguard Newspapers; Pius Kuyambana, Media Officer, CCECC Nigeria Ltd; Mr. Adekunle Adekoya, Dep. Editor, Vanguard Newspapers; Zane Peng, Director, Corporate Culture, CCECC Nigeria Ltd; Mr. Eze Anaba, Editor, Vanguard Newspapers, and Evelyn Usman, Assistant Crime Editor, Vanguard Newspapers, during a courtesy visit by CCECC team to Vanguard's Head Office, in Apapa, Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Akeem Salau.

## APC clears Oyebanji, disqualifies Ojo, one other guber aspirant

By Omeiza Ajayi & Rotimi Ojomoyela

THE ruling All Progressives Congress, APC, yesterday, disqualified two governorship aspirants in Ekiti State from participating in the scheduled October 27 party's primary election and gubernatorial race in the State.

The party's National Working Committee, NWC, at its 179 Meeting in Abuja, however,

cleared Ekiti State Governor, Abiodun Oyebanji to contest the governorship primary, while disqualifying his strongest challenger, Engr. Kayode Ojo, and another aspirant, Mrs. Abimbola Olajumoke Olawunmi.

Recall that Ojo, was accompanied by thousands of supporters across the 16 local government areas of the state and shut down Ado-Ekiti ahead of the party's primary election scheduled for October 27.

By disqualifying Ojo, the APC has effectively cleared the path for Oyebanji to clinch the ticket without a bruising internal contest.

Party sources said Ojo's removal was "a political decision masked as a technical disqualification," with the leadership keen to avoid factional strife that could weaken APC's hold on Ekiti.

Only Oyebanji and Mrs. Atinuke Omolayo will now face delegates at the primary, giving the

incumbent a commanding advantage.

Shortly after the announcement, Ojo, who visited the party's secretariat in Ado-Ekiti, was granted no reception by the Party's Executives.

The NWC also resolved to inaugurate the Bisi Akande-led National Reconciliation Committee, release the timetable for congresses at all levels, and kick-start public hearings on long-awaited constitutional amendments this October.

## COWLSO@25: Remi Tinubu, Uzodimma, Aliyu to storm 2025 Nat'l women confab

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

WIFE of the President, Oluremi Tinubu, the Imo State Governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma and his counterpart from Sokoto State, Ahmad Aliyu are expected to address participants at the 2025 National Women Conference, NWC in Lagos.

Over 5,000 eminent Nigerians are billed to grace the silver jubilee event in Victoria Island.

NWC is an annual event organized by the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials, COWLSO, which has been a convergence for women across all walks of life to brainstorm and chart a new and better ways of life for womenfolk.

Speaking during the pre-event press briefing at Alausa, Ikeja, yesterday, wife of the state governor, who is the Chairman of COWLSO, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, said the 25th NWC will be a milestone edition in the life of the committee and a celebration of visionary impact and service to humanity.

According to Mrs. Sanwo-Olu, Nigeria's First lady, Remi Tinubu, will deliver the special 25th anniversary message, Uzodimma is the Special Guest of Honour, while Governor Aliyu will address the occasion at the closing ceremony of the conference.

This year's Conference is themed: "25 Years of Visionary Legacy: Inspiring the Next Generation."

The conference will commence from Monday, 28 to Wednesday, October 30, 2025, at Eko Hotels and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.

As part of activities marking the Conference, COWLSO will on Saturday, October 11, 2025, storm Ikorodu for the annual Pre-Conference Awareness Walk with the theme; "Step Up, Show Up, Never Give Up."

## ....As Sanwo-Olu advocates sustainable transport solutions to drive Africa's growth

The chairperson of the 2025 Conference, Dr. Olayemi Oke-Osanyintolu, said: "Over the years, our National Women's Conferences have continued to receive outstanding feedback for their impact, organization, and inspiration."

**Sanwo-Olu advocates sustainable transport solutions**

## Osun LG funds' case stalls as court extends order freezing council's accounts

By Adeola Badru

THE ongoing legal dispute over the withheld funds of the 30 local government councils in Osun State has suffered another delay, as an Oyo State High Court sitting in Ibadan adjourned the matter for further hearing and extended its interim order freezing the affected accounts.

Presiding judge, Justice Ladiran Akintola, yesterday, renewed the earlier order restraining the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc

Meanwhile, State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has urged African stakeholders to harness sustainable clean urban transport innovation and investment not as abstract ideals, but as instruments of continental renaissance.

This comes as Lagos State Government announced plans to launch pilot cycling scheme aimed to encourage non motorised transport and

reduction of traffic gridlock in the State.

Speaking at the 2025 Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority, LAMATA, International Conference on Sustainable Urban Mobility, SUMConference25, themed; "Harnessing Clean Urban Transport Innovation and Investment in Africa," held at Ikeja, Sanwo-Olu stressed the need for Africans to build a continent that moves efficiently, inclusively, and sustainably.

## ....PDP, APC seek to join as parties

from paying, releasing, or tampering with funds belonging to the 30 local governments.

The order will remain in force until Friday, October 10, 2025, when the case resumes for further hearing.

Justice Akintola explained that the extension was necessary to ensure all parties were granted the opportunity for fair hearing, in line with Section 36 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended).

He stated that the interim injunction would continue to

subsist until the next adjourned date.

During the proceedings, counsel to the plaintiffs, Musibau Adetunmbi (SAN), informed the court that the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, had filed an application seeking to be joined in the case.

He, however, said his legal team would oppose the application, maintaining that although the PDP had a constitutional right to fair hearing under Section 36, the matter was straightforward and did not require multiple parties.

## Glo promotes broadband investment, infrastructure security at NCC forum

GLOBACOM has expressed support for the Nigerian Communications Commission's NCC's business roundtable on Broadband Investment and Protection of Critical Information Infrastructure, which opened on Wednesday in Abuja, reaffirming its role not only as a telecoms provider, but also as a trusted partner in the country's journey towards a fully digitized and economically empowered nation.

The two-day gathering with the theme: "Right of Way and Protection of Broadband Infrastructure - The Road to Success in Broadband Investment and Connectivity," involved various stakeholders from federal and state governments, the private sector, telecom operators, and regulatory bodies deliberating to agree on practical strategies for expanding Nigeria's broadband

footprint and strengthening infrastructure security nationwide.

Industry analysts view the roundtable as an essential platform for bringing the public and commercial sectors together to promote and meet Nigeria's broadband goals, enhance policy coordination, and bridge current digital inequalities, particularly in rural and underserved areas.



REPORT—From left: Rasheed Salahudeen, MD, Iclass Logistics; Richmond Otu, Chief Supply Chain Officer, Jumia Nigeria; CEO, Jumia Nigeria, Temidayo Ojo; Chidi Jude, CEO, ACOA, Courier, and Charles Ibegbu, CEO, Winner Cargo Logistics, during the 2nd edition of Jumia's e-Commerce in Rural Areas Report, in Lagos, yesterday.

## Kanu's matter should be sorted outside courtroom —Falana

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

**UMUAHIA** — RENOWNED lawyer, Chief Femi Falana, has said that the trial of the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, Mazi Nnamdi Kanu, is a political matter that should be sorted out of the courtroom.

The Lagos based lawyer,

who stated this in an interview with journalists during a courtesy call on Governor Alex Otti, at his country home, Umuehim Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South council area, Abia State, insisted that there is no basis for not having Kanu's matter resolved politically.

He said, "I cannot comment on pending proceedings. You understand me? Like you

said, the case was in court today (Wednesday), but I believe that it is a matter that should be sorted out outside the courtroom.

"For me, it's a political case. And if you have a situation where some governments are negotiating with bandits or other criminal elements, there can be no basis for not having that matter resolved politically."

On the ongoing judicial reforms, the human rights lawyer decried the lack of access to justice for the common man and advocated for the promotion of alternative dispute resolution, stressing that justice is only accessible to politicians and the elites in Nigeria.

"Right now, we have a lot of access to justice by the politicians. Only their cases move in court because political cases are time-bound.

"Other cases for me must be time-bound. People make the mistake of saying that the judiciary is the last hope of the common man. The common man has no means to go to court. The judiciary is the last hope of the elite.

"So, if you want the ordinary people to benefit from the judicial system, you must promote alternative dispute resolution. The majority of our people do not go to the western courts. They patronise traditional rulers and community leaders to resolve problems.

"So, the governments of our country, including that of Abia State, must also reform the customary courts, palaces of traditional rulers, where our people have daily access to resolve their disputes.

"So, if people have confidence in their community leaders to dispense justice, we must promote such fora.

"So, I would call on the governments of Nigeria to pay more attention to the traditional judicial system."

## Soludo to combat gully erosion in Ogidi, other areas

By Vincent Ujumadu

**GOVERNOR** Chukwuma Soludo has assured the people of Ogidi in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State that the government has a plan to intervene in the flood issue that has plagued many parts of the community.

The governor, who was received by the community's leaders, led by the traditional ruler, Igwe Alex Onyido, during his visit to the flooded areas of the community, gave the assurance that the flood

issue remains top on the agenda of his administration.

He attributed the severe flooding to the improper termination of the drainage channel, stating that previous administrations had left much to be desired.

"Because government is a continuum, we will take it up to solve the issue," he remarked, emphasising the need for a collaborative approach to governance.

Governor Soludo highlighted the progress made in erosion control in nearby communities, mentioning that the work

in Owelle Aja, Obosi, is currently 70 to 80 percent completed, as well as similar efforts in Nkpor.

Assuring of his commitment to tackling environmental issues across the state, the governor noted that flooding is one of the greatest existential threats the state faces, expressing satisfaction with the Ogidi community's initiative to enforce the establishment of catchment pits in their compounds as a necessary remedial measure.

He, however, observed the shortcomings of the contractor who was previously responsible for the drainage work in the area.

## ... Inaugurates 5-member Anambra Electricity Commission

By Vincent Ujumadu

**AWKA**—IN a bold move aimed at improving power supply management across the state, Governor Chukwuma Soludo has inaugurated a five-member Anambra State Electricity Regulatory Commission, ASERC.

The commission is headed by Professor Frank Nwoye Okafor, who will serve as both Chairman and Chief Executive Commissioner. Other members are Engr. Geoffrey Okwuchukwu Nwokoye, Dr. Nnaemeka O. Ewelukwa, Engr. Nosike Emmanuel, and Barr. Chijioke Nnaemeka Obi.

The bill for the establishment of the commission was passed by the House of Assembly, which provided the necessary context for the establishment of the

commission and its responsibilities for regulating the state's electricity sector.

The governor said the appointees would oversee the operations of the commission and ensure effective regulation of electricity supply to meet the demands of Anambra's growing population and economy.

He expressed gratitude to the members for accepting their roles and encouraged them to facilitate the transition into the new electricity market.

Soludo noted that they represent the best talent available and thanked the House of Assembly for the swift passage of the enabling legislation that outlines the terms and conditions governing their operations.

In his speech, the Commissioner for Power and Water Resources, Engr. Julius Chukwuemeka, stated that the

2023 Nigeria Electricity Act is being domesticated for Anambra, emphasising that over the years, the state had been strategic in laying a solid foundation for this initiative.

The chairman of the Commission, Okafor, assured that the expectations of the people of Anambra will be respected and taken seriously.

## Anambra Airport: Onyema didn't lie over N100m facility land —Air Peace

**AIR** Peace management, yesterday, said that contrary to the recent publication credited to the traditional ruler of Umueri community, Igwe Emeka, the Chairman of Air Peace, Dr. Allen Onyema, did not, at any point, make false claims or misrepresentations regarding the payment for land intended for the airline's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul, MRO,

in Anambra State.

Air Peace, in the statement, yesterday, said: "To begin with, the Umueri Community was never accused of any wrongdoing by Dr. Onyema or by Air Peace. At no time was any statement issued suggesting that the community refused land allocation, received money, or was in dispute with Air Peace over the MRO project. The

## Uzodimma unveils MyImoApp tomorrow

By Anayo Okoli

**GOVERNOR** Hope Uzodimma of Imo State will, tomorrow, unveil a novel digital device known as 'MyImoApp', which will enable citizens and other Nigerians to track developments in the state real-time.

He will also present startup kits to 10,000 Imo youths who have completed their digital training under Cohort 3 of SkillUp Imo project.

Imo State Commissioner for Information, Public Orientation and Strategy, Declan Emelumba described the event to be held at the newly commissioned Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu International Conference Centre, Owerri as part of the state's renewed commitment to digital technology.

He said the 10, 000 youths will add to the already trained and equipped 40,000 Imo youths who are either gainfully employed in digital technology or are self-employed.

According to him, "In empowering our youths through the SkillUp Imo project, Governor Hope Uzodimma wants to equip young Imolites with the digital skills that drive the world today"

He disclosed that the youths have received training across various tech fields, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, mobile app development, software engineering, blockchain, fintech, entrepreneurship, and digital marketing.

On the other hand, the Commissioner said the MyImoApp was designed as "a monument of innovation, a masterpiece of collaboration and a milestone in governance transformation.

## Constituent challenges Dep Speaker on verification of claimed projects

By Steve Oko

**DEPUTY** Speaker, House of Representatives, Benjamin Kalu, may have stirred the hornet's nest, following his recent release of a list of projects he attracted to his constituency, as one of his constituents, Chief Iheanyi Chinasa, has challenged him on an independent media verification of the said projects.

This is coming barely 24 hours after the Abia Labour Party caucus in the House of Representatives accused the Deputy Speaker of inciting the federal government against the Abia State Government for his selfish political interest.

Chief Chinasa, who currently serves as the Abia State Liaison Officer at the National Assembly, also challenged the Deputy Speaker to account for "tens of billions of naira for constituency projects captured in the budget."

Chinasa expressed doubts on the authenticity and level of completion of the projects, saying only an independent media verification would put the records clear.

The Labour Party chieftain who threw the challenge while addressing newsmen yesterday in Umuahia, volunteered to sponsor the media tour of the project sites to unravel the truth.

He also demanded explanations from the Deputy Speaker on the latest about the N7 billion Amewu and Methodist gully erosion

projects for the constituency in the budget.

He said: "Just looking at the submissions that were made online as projects attracted and executed by the Deputy Speaker, and just on a cursory exploration, I find them very spurious.

"So, my demand as a citizen and a constituent of Bende federal constituency is to have an independent media verification audit of all the projects."

## Nnoromele for burial today

**THE** remains of Lolo Mary Nnoromele, aged 85, will be committed to mother earth today, at her husband's compound in Umuokere Lagwa Okwuato, Aboh Mbaise Local Government Area of Imo State, after a service of songs.

Lolo Nnoromele was a devoted mother, grandmother and community matriarch, whose life of faith and service touched many.

She is survived by her children and grandchildren.



Late Lolo Nnoromele

## Anambra Airport: Onyema didn't lie over N100m maintenance

facility land —Air Peace

Igwe's media release, therefore, is unprovoked, baseless, and entirely misplaced.

"For the avoidance of doubt, Air Peace's dealings on the MRO project were solely with the then Anambra State Government, not with any community or group. "Payment for the designated land was made directly to the state government, and an official receipt for the sum of N100 million paid by Air Peace

for the land was issued on August 26, 2021.

"Onyema and Air Peace did not lie, as the publications suggested.

"In addition, a Certificate of Occupancy, C of O, covering the same parcel of land, was issued on the September 14, 2021, thereby completing the legitimate process of allocation and ownership of the land.

"It must be clearly stated that Dr. Allen Onyema does not lie about anything."



SCREENING—From left, Mr. Louis Odion; Senator Jimoh Ibrahim and Senator Adams Oshiomhole at the National Assembly, Abuja after Odion's screening as Executive Commissioner (Operations) of Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, FCCPC, by the Senate Committee on Industry and Trade, yesterday.

## Delta approves N10bn to settle pension arrears

By Ochuko Akuopha

ASABA—THE Delta State Government has approved the disbursement of ₦10 billion to offset outstanding pension arrears and ease the hardship faced by retirees in the state.

The state also endorsed key fiscal documents paving the way for the preparation of the 2026 Appropriation Bill.

The approvals were granted during Thursday's State Executive Council (EXCO) meeting, presided over by the Deputy Governor,

Sir Monday Onyeme, at Government House, Asaba.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, the Commissioner for Works (Rural Roads) and Public Information, Mr Charles Aniagwu, said the move fulfills Governor Sheriff Oborewori's promise to address inherited pension liabilities.

Aniagwu, who was flanked by the Commissioners for Economic Planning, Mr Sonny Ekedayen; Housing, Hon. Godknows Angele; and the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Sir Festus Ahon,

disclosed that a committee has been set up to ensure transparent and equitable disbursement of the funds.

"At today's meeting, we approved the disbursement of ₦10 billion to begin the process of defraying pension arrears. A committee has been set up to ensure the funds get to deserving beneficiaries without bias or interference," Aniagwu said.

Speaking on the fiscal framework, the Commissioner for Economic Planning, Mr Sonny Ekedayen, said the approval marks the beginning of a new budget season for Delta State.

He explained that the

Council considered and approved the Economic Fiscal Update, Fiscal Policy Strategy, Budget Policy Statement, and other documents required by law for the preparation of the 2026 budget.

According to him, the assumptions for the 2026 fiscal year are in line with national parameters agreed upon by the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) to ensure uniformity across states.

"This uniform basis will make it easier to integrate sub-national budgets into the national framework," he said.

## Gov Eno signs N695bn 2025 A'ibom supplementary budget

By Egufe Yafugborhi

GOVERNOR Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom State has signed into law the ₦695 billion 2025 Supplementary Budget recently passed by the State House of

## NDDC staff tasked on ethics, innovation for effective service

By Olayinka Latona

STAFF of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), have been urged to uphold ethics, accountability, and innovation to enhance service delivery and fulfil the Commission's mandate in the Niger Delta region.

This call was made at a three-day capacity-building retreat and masterclass for staff of the Office of the Executive Director, Corporate Services, and the Corporate Governance and Due Process Department, held in Lagos with the theme: "Regulatory and Compliance Trends, Ethics and Risk in Public Service." Executive Director, Corporate Services, Hon. Ifedayo Abegunde, said the programme was designed to strengthen human capital development.

Assembly. The governor assented to the budget on Wednesday during the State's October Project Delivery Meeting held at the Government House, Uyo.

Appreciating the State Legislature for the speedy

passage of the bill, Governor Eno assured Akwa Ibom people that his administration remains committed to transparency and effective service delivery.

"All hands are on deck, and we will continue to carry out our duties with probity and dedication for the benefit of all," he said. "With the sup-

plementary budget signed today, we are further motivated to ensure full implementation of government programmes and projects as contained in the budget."

Governor Eno also announced the immediate release of ₦60 billion to contractors with verified Interim Payment Certificates.

## 2027: Ughelli South political colonels pledge 100% support for APC

THE Chairman of the Ughelli South Political Colonels, Olorogun John Ewwenode, has reaffirmed his group's unwavering commitment to the All Progressives Congress (APC), pledging to deliver total victory for the party in Ughelli South during the 2027 general elections.

Ewwenode made the declaration when he led members of the Political Colonels on a familiarisation visit to the Delta State APC Chairman, Elder Omeni Sobotie, at the

party's state secretariat in Asaba.

He explained that the visit was to formally introduce the group to the state leadership and demonstrate their readiness to work in harmony with the party's structures at all levels.

"We are here today to identify with the state leadership of our great party and to assure you of our total loyalty," Ewwenode said. "The Ughelli South Political Colonels are committed to the growth, unity, and victory of the APC at all levels."

According to him, the group has commenced grassroots

mobilisation to ensure a landslide victory for the APC in Ughelli South. "We have resolved to go back to our local government and strengthen our grassroots structure in line with your directive, sir. Our mission is simple—to deliver Ughelli South 100 percent for the APC come 2027," he added.

Responding, Elder Omeni Sobotie commended the group for their dedication and urged them to remain united and open to new members, describing unity as the party's greatest asset ahead of the next elections. "I want to encourage you not to keep your doors shut. Open your doors, receive people, and register as a

## World Mental Health Day: Psychologist decries neglect of victims

By Mirabel Okeke

AGBOR—AS Nigeria joins the rest of the world to commemorate the 2025 World Mental Health Day, a leading psychologist, Dr. Teslim Oladejo, has lamented the persistent neglect of trauma victims during emergencies, calling for a multi-sector collaboration to achieve universal access

to mental health services across the country.

Dr. Oladejo, who is the Head of the Department of African Health at the African Foundation for Mental Health Advocacy, Agbor, Delta State, made the appeal in an advisory message ahead of this year's World Mental Health Day, which holds today.

He is also a Senior Clinical Psychologist at the Fed-

eral Teaching Hospital, Lokoja.

According to him, government at all levels must integrate mental health into emergency response frameworks, including disaster relief, health interventions, and community rebuilding efforts, noting that "every emergency shelter should have trained psychosocial support personnel."

He stressed the need for healthcare workers to be

## 2027: A'ibom LG chairmen back Tinubu, Akpabio, Gov Eno for re-election

By Egufe Yafugborhi

UYO—LOCAL government chairmen in Akwa Ibom State have declared their support for the reelection of President Bola Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, and Governor Umo Eno ahead of the 2027 general elections.

At a breakfast meeting with the governor in Uyo to mark their first year in office, all 31 council chairmen unanimously affirmed that their decision to back the trio was informed by the bold reforms of the Tinubuled Federal Government and the transformative *Arise Agenda* of Governor Eno at the state level.

Uyo Local Government Chairman and Chairman of the State Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Dr. Uwemedimo Udo, who led his colleagues

to the anniversary gathering, said:

"President Tinubu has taken bold and decisive steps to rebuild the Nigerian economy. The removal of fuel subsidy, though tough, has significantly increased accruals to local governments, enabling us to channel more funds into meaningful developmental projects that directly impact the lives of our people."

Passing a vote of confidence on Governor Eno, Dr. Udo added: "We have seen visible development across all sectors. Your leadership has been people-centered, inclusive, and development-driven."

"We have just marked our first anniversary in office under your leadership, and this milestone gave us the opportunity to review the support and cooperation we have received from the state government in the past year".

## Oba of Benin's pronouncement restores peace in Okuoromi community

THE Okuoromi community in Edo State has expressed deep gratitude to His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II, for restoring peace and unity through his royal pronouncement affirming *Pa Oghagbon Edosomwan* as the *Odionwere* and administrative head of the community.

The community made the appreciation known after an enlarged meeting held at the Odionwere's residence on October 4, 2025.

Speaking at the gathering, the *Okaighele* of Okuoromi, Hon. Oduwa Igbinosun, and the Women Leader, Madam Janet Igbinovia, thanked the Oba for his fatherly intervention and recognition of *Pa Edosomwan* as the rightful *Odionwere* of the community. In his remarks, *Pa*

Oghagbon Edosomwan expressed profound gratitude to the Oba for the recognition and pledged to uphold peace, unity, and the rich cultural heritage of Okuoromi under the guidance of the Benin Kingdom.

The pronouncement, according to community members, has brought long-awaited harmony, uniting all residents under the authority of the Benin Palace.

Hon. Igbinosun further called on security agencies and members of the public to respect the royal directive and ensure that all administrative dealings with the community are conducted through the *Odionwere*.

Residents noted that the Oba's declaration has strengthened their faith in the Benin traditional institution as a true custodian of justice, order, and peace.

## Kanu Heart Foundation partners Razzl to celebrate World Heart Day

By Kingsley Adegboye

THE Kanu Heart Foundation with the support of Razzl, soft drink from Ultimium Limited, commemorated this year's World Heart Day with a Walk held in Owerri, Imo State.

The annual walk, led by Nigerian football legend and Founder of the Kanu Heart Foundation, Kanu Nwankwo, who also serves as Brand Ambassador for Razzl, covered a six-km route beginning and

ending at the Kanu Sports Centre. Along the way, participants were refreshed with Razzl Cola, Lemon, and Orange flavours at rest points strategically placed along the route, making the journey more enjoyable and refreshing for all who took part.

Speaking about the Walk, Toyin Nnodi, Marketing Director of Ultimium Limited, said "At Ultimium Limited, we are intentional about the communities we serve. Our recently concluded trade launches allowed us to engage directly with our trade partners in Aba, Port Harcourt, Asaba, and Enugu, creating strong foundations for Razzl's growth across the region."

"Stepping into the World Heart Day Walk with the Kanu Heart Foundation is another way we demonstrate that we mean business when we say we're here to Razzl your world. Beyond our trade partners, we are here for every Nigerian in search of quality refreshment they can trust."

# News Extra

By Adesina Wahab,  
Head, Education  
Desk

## Accommodation crisis hits varsities, students, parents wail

- 105,000 battle for 13,000 bed spaces at UI, UNILAG, LASU
- We're suffering, under pressure – NANS
- Agents make life unbearable for students, parents
- Stress of commuting from home affecting our studies – Students
- We're pursuing PPP to solve problem – FG

**H**OMELESSNESS is gradually creeping into university campuses in the country as a result of inadequate accommodation for students, with some having to roam about looking for where to lay their heads after the day's academic work.

Though some private investors built hostels on campuses, high rent is making such facilities out of the reach of most students. The situation is also compounded by shy-lock landlords in communities where higher institutions are located, who jack up rent in connivance with estate agents.

The situation is acute in big cities like Lagos, Abuja, Ibadan and others.

### Parents' lamentation

"If I had considered the cost of accommodation and the stress associated with getting one for my child, I would not have allowed my son to apply to any university in Lagos."

That was the lamentation of a senior journalist with a Lagos-based newspaper, whose son was recently offered admission by a university in the city. The boy's elder brother had attended a university in Osun State and the process of getting accommodation for him was not that stressful.

The journalist, simply identified as Bamidele, had tried for weeks to get accommodation for his child to no avail, as he scouted nearby residential areas to see if he could get accommodation for his son.

Another parent, Victor, recalled what he went through trying to find where his daughter will reside.

"I have only one day off at work and for weeks now, I have been spending that day looking for accommodation for my daughter at a place that will not be far from her school. I was taken aback when one of the agents we contacted sent a voice note, saying that a bed space he found in a private hostel is N400,000 per annum. It is



●Jaja Hall, UNiversity of Lagos.

a bed space and three persons are going to share the room. Haba, how do I raise such money when there are other commitments to attend to?" he queried.

### Situation at UNILAG

At the University of Lagos, UNILAG, hostel fees vary significantly between official on-campus hostels and private hostels in surrounding areas and even within the campus. In the just-ended 2024/2025 session, rates for official hostels were between N80,000 to N100,000 in Akoka and Idi Araba campuses. But the about 8,000 bed spaces available for over 40,000 students, have naturally led to many students living off campus,

squatting with colleagues or opting for private hostels.

The last academic session witnessed many students spending the first semester commuting to school from home because of the lateness of the contractors given the job of renovating the school's official hostels. Balloting for official hostels for 2025/2026 session has not begun as of the time of filing this report. However, the increase in the number of new intakes, it is likely going to be a war securing an official apartment.

In contrast, fees for private hostels skyrocketed in mid-2025 with single rooms reaching up to N950,000 and four-person rooms costing over N710,000 for the academic session, triggering protests from students due to the

drastic increase.

Now, in some private hostels, a one-room apartment has gone for as high as N1.2 million, while a four-bed space room has gone to about N900,000.

### At LASU

Lagos State University, LASU, started as non-residential and with time, the owners and the management saw the need to allow for private persons and groups to come in and build hostels for the use of students. However, the number of hostels so provided has been inadequate for the teeming student population.

The hostel fees vary by facility. The new hostels charge approximately | 350,000 per bed space for a session, while the older hostels are significantly cheaper at around | 150,000 per bed space. The cost depends on the hostel's age and room type, with newer facilities offering more amenities at a higher price.

Students' burden in Plateau universities The challenge of securing affordable accommodation has become a tough struggle for students of the University of Jos, UNIJOS, and Plateau State University, PLASU, Bokkos.

With rising rent in surrounding communities and limited hostel facilities on campus, many students are left grappling with both financial and academic pressures.

At UNIJOS, official hostel

fees as obtained from the Directorate of Students Affairs, range from N23,000 to N100,000.

The figures revealed, "Abuja Hostel is | 23,350, Bank Road Hostel is | 28,350, MBBS Hostel JUTH is | 111,850, Naraguta Hostel is | 46,850, PG Hostel is | 96,850, Richard Road Hostel is | 28,350, Village Hostel is | 23,350, Zion Hostel is | 46,850."

Many of the students resort to shared apartments in the Naraguta, Student Village, Bauchi Road, Risau village, Angwan Rukuba, Gondola, Yan-Trailer, Eto-Baba, Tina, and other areas where rents have also continued to climb steeply.

A recently advertised one bedroom apartment goes for | 225,000 per year at the Angwan Rukuba area. At the Angwan Jarawa area of Faringada, one room is pegged at between N300,000 and N350,000, at the ECWA Staff area, a similar apartment costs between N275,000 and N350,000 depending on the neatness of the house.

These prices, Precious Usman, a 200L student said, "is well above what most students can afford."

However, a staff of the Directorate who refused to be named explained, "Accommodation is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so early application is key. The University has streamlined hostel applications through its student portal, making

it easier to secure accommodation remotely, and the process is seamless."

At Plateau State University, Bokkos, accommodation fees are relatively lower, ranging from | 30,000 to | 60,000. Hostel space is compulsory for fresh students, who have the highest share, while returning students share what is left.

Although, the university has not published its total bed capacity, expansion efforts are visible. In November 2024, TETFund handed over a 192-bed female hostel, while management pledged to provide comprehensive hostel accommodation for all students as new blocks are completed.

For now, however, returning students often rent apartments in Bokkos town or endure daily travel from surrounding villages, facing the same mix of cost, transport strain and safety concerns as their counterparts in Jos.

A staff, who also declined to be named said the bed spaces are about 700 and "the hostels are in three categories. There is that of N30,000 and it accommodates eight students per room, then there is that of N40,000 and N50,000 that contain six students in each room. Off Campus accommodations range from N40,000 to N250,000 depending on the quality of the house."

### At Federal University, Otuoke, NDU, others

Inadequate hostel accommodation has been a major concern in some of the universities in Bayelsa State due to growing population making it difficult for students to get spaces in the hostels. Most students are forced to seek alternative accommodation outside their campuses.

At Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State, where the bulk of the student population stay off campus, accommodation has remained a big challenge not only for students but also staff members of the institution.

The official accommodation fee is N55,000. However, some students pay more, as others, particularly fresh and final year students, sell off their bed spaces for as high as N100,000.

Findings show that hostel accommodation is grossly inadequate as only about a quarter of the students can be accommodated on campus. Accommodation off campus is high, same as the cost of living. What is particularly worrisome is the high cost of rents at Otuoke and other adjoining communities.

For instance, a single room apartment goes for as high as between N350,000 and N450,000 per annum depending on the location, while a self-contained apartment is between N500,000 to N700,000 per

**Continues on page 14**

SCHOOL	BED SPACES	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
UNILAG	8,000	40,000
UNI JOS	5,150	35,000
PLASU	700	15,000
UI	9,859	35,000
AE-FUNAI	2,000	20,000
EBSU.	NIL	25,000
LASU	3,000	30,000
UNIABUJA	7,000	50,000

SCHOOL	OFFICIAL HOSTEL FEE	PRIVATE HOSTEL FEE
UNILAG	N80 - 100,000	N710 - 950,000
UNI JOS	N23-100,000	N225 - 350,000
PLASU	N30 - 60,000	N250,000+
UI	N30- 80,000	N350,000+
OTUOKE	N55,000	N450-700,000
LASU	N150 - 350,000	N800 - 900,000

# News Extra

Continues from page 13

annum depending on the location.

Hostel accommodation fees at Niger Delta University, NDU, are between N40,000 and N50,000 (each attracts N5,000 as online transaction charges), with priority accorded first and final year students.

However, the difference in fees is determined by the location of the hostel, old site and new site with distance of about three minutes drive. Campus shuttle between the old and new sites costs N150.

It was learned that a new 500-bed hostel is being spearheaded at the university's new site by a Foundation.

At the relatively new University of Africa, Toru-Orua, hostel accommodation fee is N50,000, and its facilities are in good shape.

Bayelsa Medical University, Yenagoa, which was established in 2019, has a relatively small student population and the hostel fee is N100,000 with functional facilities in a conducive environment.

At Bayelsa State-owned Niger Delta University, Amassoma, in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area, most of the no fewer than 16,000 students live off campus at Amassoma and Ogobiri, the host communities of the university. Rents for students' hostel go for between N200,000 and N600,000 depending on amenities provided.

## I pay N120,000 per annum as a squatter

A 100 level student of the Federal University, Otuoke, Prince Ommena, who hails from the East told Vanguard that he is paying N120,000 to squat with four others in a self-contained apartment.

"As a school located outside the state capital, we had thought that the accommodation would be affordable. It was when I finished my clearance that the reality dawned on us. I am paying N120,000 just to squat with four other students in a self-contained apartment. It has not been easy but as a student, I have no choice than to cope," he said.

Most students whose parents live in Yenagoa and its environs spend between N2,400 and N3000, daily, on transportation to and from Otuoke.

Some time ago, some civil society groups and students protested over the high cost of accommodation in Otuoke, calling for government's intervention to regulate the rents but nothing has been done.

## What obtains in Ilorin

The University of Ilorin, Kwara State has well over 50,000 students. Despite continuous construction of private hostels in the university environment, students accommodation crisis has remained a big challenge.

A room for four students within the university environment is N197,000. Still within the school environment, there are options of two students in a room and one student in a room which cost as high as N300,000 and N380,000 per session respectively.

## Accommodation is a challenge in UNIBEN – Parents, students

Securing hostel accommodation at the University of Benin has always been a headache majorly because the available hostel

# Accommodation crisis hits varsities, students, parents wail

accommodation on campus is always insufficient for the number of students flocking into the two campuses of the university in Ugbowo, which is the permanent site and Ekheuan, the original starting point of the school.

Several organisations and individuals like the NDDC, TY Danjuma Foundation, private companies and others have built hostels and donated them to the university. Those hostels are hotcakes and people pay as much as N300,000 per session to get a space in them.

Another source of accommodation for students is the boys quarters (BQ) attached to official quarters of both academic and non-academic staff in the university.

## What parents, students do to secure accommodation

A parent of a student at UNIBEN, who does not want his name mentioned, said two his children have been in the school for the past five years and that he once paid as much as N300,000 to get accommodation for one of them in one of the new

**Private developers have built hostels around the campus, offering better amenities such as generators and study rooms, often at rates beyond the reach of many students**



●Kuti Hall, University of Ibadan.

hostels, while his second child currently stays in a BQ where he paid N150,000 and carried out repairs.

"Though officially the amount is always stated but we pay more and "sort" before one can get it. My children have been inside the campus but you must "sort", even though they are qualified to get accommodation. The last one that my children paid, was one of the best inside the campus but this session, I made arrangement for a BQ. The BQs are in bad shape and at times we have to carry out some repairs to make them a bit comfortable."

## UI students groan

The University of Ibadan is facing a deepening accommodation crisis that continues to weigh heavily on its students, those living in the halls of residence and those forced to secure housing off campus in nearby Agbowo, Sango, Eleyele and Ojoo.

Despite the prestige of being Nigeria's premier university, the institution has struggled to provide adequate bed spaces for its fast-growing student population, and the consequences have been far-reaching for learning, welfare and student wellbeing.

The official accommodation fees at the University of Ibadan remain relatively low with many undergraduate halls charging N30,000 per session and some special or premium halls charging up to N80,000. Postgraduate halls are more expensive, with one-room hostels going for between N150,000 and N175,000.

However, the affordability of these halls is overshadowed by the fact that the university simply does not have enough spaces to meet demand.

The university's Lodgings Unit disclosed

that there are about 9,859 bed spaces across its halls of residence, while the student population is between 30,000 and 33,000. This means that only around one-third of students, at best, can be accommodated on campus.

## 'Our experiences'

Some students of the University of Ibadan have expressed frustration at having to pay for facilities that do not meet basic standards, and many say the conditions make it difficult to focus on their studies.

"I live in one of the older halls and sometimes we go days without water. The bathrooms are overcrowded and it is a daily struggle. We pay fees every session, but what we get in return is far below expectation," said Bola Ajibade, a 300-level student in the Faculty of Arts.

Those forced to live outside the university face even greater challenges. The surrounding areas of Agbowo, Sango, Eleyele and Ojoo have long served as student enclaves, but the housing market there has become increasingly unaffordable.

A single self-contained apartment now ranges from N150,000 to as much as N600,000 a year, depending on the quality and location. Agents have worsened the situation by charging exorbitant commissions, demanding multiple months of rent upfront and inflating prices at every opportunity. Many students complained of exploitation, with some left stranded after paying for apartments that are either substandard or already occupied.

"I paid N250,000 for a self-contained apartment in Agbowo and the agent still collected N50,000 as commission. The room is small and we experience constant power outage but there is nothing I can do

because getting campus accommodation is almost impossible," lamented Chinedu Okeke, a postgraduate student.

To cope with these challenges, students have resorted to a variety of measures. Some choose to share overcrowded rooms to split the cost, while others commute long distances from relatives' homes in Ibadan.

Those who can afford it opt for privately built hostels or "hubs" that provide more reliable amenities. Others juggle part-time work alongside their studies to make ends meet while some end up in unsafe or makeshift accommodation.

## Varsity's effort

In response, the university has made attempts to partner with philanthropists and private developers to expand its accommodation capacity.

Private developers have built hostels around the campus, offering better amenities such as generators and study rooms, often at rates beyond the reach of many students. While these initiatives help, they remain insufficient to bridge the gap between supply and demand.

Speaking on the situation, Mr. Omotoso, a senior officer at the university's Lodgings Unit, admitted the challenge, saying: "The number of students far outweighs available bed spaces, and we are doing our best within limited resources. That is why the university has been encouraging private partnerships to build more hostels. However, affordability remains a key concern."

According to Comrade Sulaiman, a representative of the Students' Union, "The government and the university management must act fast. Students are suffering, both on campus and outside. Agents are exploiting us, and our

hostels are falling apart. Education cannot thrive under these conditions."

## Federal varsity hostels more expensive in Taraba

Hostel accommodation costs at Federal University, Wukari have been found to be more expensive than those at Taraba State University, Jalingo, according to Vanguard's checks. However, a shared problem for both institutions is inadequate hostel facilities.

Findings reveal that a hostel bed space at Federal University, Wukari, costs ₦35,000, while the same at the state university is ₦12,500.

A student from the Federal University, Wukari, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said her cousin, a fresher, had to buy a bed space from another student for ₦120,000.

In a clarion call to their school managements, students from both institutions urged them to provide more bed spaces to cater to all students. They agreed that this would make life easier and learning more enjoyable on campus.

## Students lack hostel accommodations in EBSU, AE-FUNAI

In Ebonyi State, there are three government-owned universities namely Ebonyi State University, EBSU, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu Alike Ikwo, AE-FUNAI, and David Umahi Federal University of Health Services, DUFUHS, Uburu. The universities are located in three senatorial zones of the state. Among the three universities EBSU is worst hit by lack of hostel where 97 percent of students live off the three

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# News Extra

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## Accommodation crisis hits varsities, students, parents wail

campuses of Permanent site, PRESCO and CAS campuses with no hostel built by the institution. The students resort to renting private apartments and hostels.

In AE-FUNAI (Ekwueme University) there are five hostels, two for female students and two for male students and one for male medical students. There are two hostels for clinical students at the teaching hospital in Abakaliki.

The hostel fee is N70,000 per student for an academic session. The private hostels outside the university take as much as N250,000 and N450,000 a year for a self-contained apartment.

Chief Public Relations Officer of the institution Mr. Ikechukwu Elom, stated that hostels were not enough because of the increasing number of students' population which is now 14,000.

Off campus accommodation rent skyrockets in ABSU, Abia Poly

Cost of accommodation at the Abia State University, ABSU, Uturu, in Isuikwuato council of the state is rising beyond what parents and guardians can afford for their children and wards.

An off campus accommodation goes for between N170,000 and N500,000 annually.

Sources at the University told Vanguard that the official hostel accommodation for first year undergraduates goes for N60,000. The hostel accommodation fee is paid on registration together with the tuition and other fees. However, it was gathered that despite the low charges for first year students, most of them prefer residing in off campus residences, especially due to the unhygienic nature of the school hostels.

Vanguard learned that Governor Alex Otti has pledged to build a 5,000 capacity hostel at ABSU.

### Same story in Kano

Kano State-owned tertiary institutions are heavily subsidized unlike what obtains in the federal university within the same environment.

At Aliko Dangote University, Wudil, hostel accommodation for a session is N15,000, while Bayero University, Kano, charges N60,000 for the same services.

Unlike Wudil, hostel accommodations are not readily available in BUK due largely to over population.

In some cases, students who can't afford hostel accommodation or off campuses, move to squat with their friends or relatives living nearby.

UniAbuja students lament

High cost of accommodation has become a major challenge for students of the



●M2 Hall, University of Uyo.

University of Abuja, UniAbuja, with many forced to live off-campus.

Official hostel fees at UniAbuja range between N15,000 and N25,000 per session but the university provides only about 7,000 bed spaces for a student population of over 50,000. This leaves more than 80 percent of the students without access to on-campus accommodation.

As a result, most students rent rooms in nearby communities such as Gwagwalada, Iddo, and Tunga Maje, where a single room costs between N80,000 and N150,000 per year. Those who commute from Abuja city centre spend up to N2,000 daily on transport, with many leaving home before dawn and returning late at night.

Students cope by squatting in hostels, sharing single rooms with multiple occupants or taking up part-time jobs to meet rent obligations. Some say the stress of commuting and financial pressure negatively affects their academic performance.

To tackle the problem, the University of Abuja has entered into public-private partnerships to build new hostels, while private developers around Gwagwalada continue to provide accommodation, though at high rates.

"Getting a hostel space here is like winning a lottery. I applied twice and never got one. Off-campus rent is just too expensive for most of us", Grace Ukem, a 200-level student of the university lamented while speaking with Vanguard.

On his part, Bello Abubakar, a 300-level student said: "I share a one-room apartment with three other guys in Gwagwalada. We split the N120,000 rent, but the place is cramped and uncomfortable."

Mary Johnson, a 100-level student, who also spoke, said: "I live with my elder brother in Kubwa and spend about N1,500 daily on transport. Sometimes I miss morning lectures because I can't leave home as early as 5 a.m. every day."

Another student having

access the portal. "Usually, most of these beginner students grab campus hostel spaces by buying from resellers. That could go up to N40,000 or N45,000. It's a pretty straight transaction, the challenge being the limited spaces.

"I bought a resell for N45,000. I came in though direct entry, so I couldn't secure the space formally at the official rate. But it's pretty convenient out here, especially with light from both public supply and power generator."

A source at the student affairs office said: "All I can tell you is campus hostel spaces are never enough, but even if enough, not every student wants to stay on campus. We try to be as transparent as much as possible."

Around the Permanent Site, Mkpa or Abak campuses, off campus accommodation varies according to the quality of amenities, proximity to school and reliability of power supply.

A student in the department of Mass Communication, Miss Dorothy Nworah, lamented: "We are finding it difficult to cope without hostel in the school. Most of the students live in the town where we are paying between N400,000 and N600,000 for self-contained apartment while some students rented three-bedroom apartments and shared the rooms at the cost of N800,000 and N1 million per year."

"New (fresh) students are usually disadvantaged as most of them would still be struggling to secure admission when the portal opens for hostel allocation. And without securing your Reg number, you can't

**Official hostel fees at UniAbuja range between N15,000 and N25,000 per session but the university provides only about 7,000 bed spaces for a student population of over 50,000. This leaves more than 80 percent of the students without access to on-campus accommodation**

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### ABSU students' experience

A first year student of the department of Statistics in Abia State University, ABSU, who spoke to Vanguard on the condition of anonymity said he paid for and was allocated a bed space at the hostel as a first-year student, but could not make use of it because of overcrowding and the unhygienic condition of the hostel.

He said: "A two room self-contained new building in an off campus lodge goes for between N300,000 to N500,000. Old buildings go for N170,000 to N200,000,

depending on the area. I was allocated a bed space as a first year student but I had to sell it off to secure an off campus accommodation because of the unhygienic condition of the hostels."

It is the same situation at the Ogonnaya Onu Polytechnic, Aba, formerly Abia State Polytechnic, which is non residential. A two room self-contained apartment goes for N250,000, while a two-bedroom apartment in a new building goes for between N400,000 and N700,000.

### NANS seeks government's intervention

Meanwhile, the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, Joint Campus Council, JCC, Ondo State Axis, has called for government's intervention in the matter. The student body is seeking the regulation of rent to save many students from being homeless.

In an open letter to the Ondo State governor by Comr. Adekanye Adeboye, Chairman, NANS JCC Ondo Axis, the student body said the high cost of rent had become unbearable for its members.

The letter was also copied to the Speaker of the Ondo State House of Assembly and the Commissioner for Education.

The students' leader wrote: "I write this letter not just as a student leader but also as a voice for thousands of students across our great state from Akungba to Ondo, Akure to Owo, Ikare to Okitipupa, and beyond. "Today, I appeal for practical intervention. An intervention that could save dreams, preserve dignity, and build a better future for Nigerian students in Ondo State.

"Every academic session, students in Ondo State face the painful burden of unbearably high housing costs. For example, in places like UNIMED, a single self-contained apartment goes for N500,000 to N600,000 per year. At AAUA, N350,000 to N450,000 is the standard for subpar rooms often without water, power or security. The same pattern repeats itself across other campuses like OAUSTECH, RUGIPO, CHTA, and Ondo state institutions.

"These rents are being demanded from young people who are not salary earners, entrepreneurs or civil servants. They are just students and children of market women, farmers, teachers, artisans, and civil servants who are already stretched thin by Nigeria's economic reality.

"However, I am not saying landlords should not earn from their property, but must that profit come at the expense of students' survival? Your Excellency, we are appealing for two core interventions:

Regulate Off-Campus Rent for Students.

"We urge the Ondo State Government and House of Assembly to consider a Student Rent Control Policy for student-dominated communities. This can be done by: Capping rent increases yearly within a controlled bracket and prohibiting demands for more than one year's rent upfront, just as it is done in Lagos State under the Tenancy Law of 2011."

### Public private partnership is the solution - NAPTAN

The Chairman, Board of Trustees of the National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria, NAPTAN, Chief Deolu Ogunbanjo, while commenting on the development, said only public private partnership is the solution.

"The number of students seeking admission and being admitted to our universities, whether public and private keeps increasing every year and the facilities are not increasing at the same rate. Regarding hostel accommodation, the only way out to make things better is to adopt the PPP approach. The government would just have to support the private investors one way or the other, so that what they are going to offer will be affordable," he said.

FG highlights efforts on students' hostel accommodation

Meanwhile, the federal government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving hostel accommodation for students across tertiary institutions in the country.

Responding to enquiries on measures being taken in this regard, the government, through the Federal Ministry of Education, explained that significant efforts have been made through the promotion of Public-Private Partnerships, PPP.

Director of Press and Public Relations of the ministry, Folasade Boriowo, who spoke, said: "The Federal Government has done a lot in the area of accommodation for students. The government has done this through encouraging Public Private Partnership. And the partnership is with schools. "According to her, the partnerships are being implemented in collaboration with various schools to expand and upgrade hostel facilities, ensuring that more students have access to safe, conducive, and affordable accommodation on campus.

She further noted that the PPP model allows for sustainable investment in student housing while reducing the burden on public funds, adding that this approach will continue to be strengthened as part of broader reforms in the education sector.

By FEMI FALANA

## How proscription of trade unions was fought under military and civilian regimes in Nigeria

A fortnight ago, a group asked me to recuse myself from defending the National Union of Petroleum and Gas Workers, NUPENG. Others called me names for pointing out that the Trade Union Act has imposed a duty on employers to accord recognition to all registered trade unions and respect the right of workers to unionise. I decided to ignore the anti-democratic forces as there was no point joining issues with them and their paymasters.

However, it is pertinent to state, without any fear of contradiction, that we have, for the past four decades, embarked on legal and political struggles in defence of the fundamental rights of workers, students, teachers, lawyers and doctors to freedom of association. Some of the legal and political campaigns waged by us are set out hereunder:

### Purported proscription of NANS

In 1984, the Muhammadu Buhari military junta proscribed the then vibrant National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS. We advised the leaders of NANS to ignore the proscription as it was not backed by any law. Hence, in defiance of the ban, the NANS President, at the material time, Comrade Lanre Arogundade, declared that "NANS shall continue to operate as it was not established by the Nigerian government".

Following the anti-SAP protests organised by the NANS in 1989, the military junta sponsored cultist groups to attack leaders of student unions in all tertiary institutions. The radical ones among the student leaders were either rusticated or dismissed for frivolous reasons. The late Comrade Alao Aka-

Bashorun and the late Chief Gani Fawehinmi SAN led us to challenge such authoritarian actions. It is on record that the majority of the cases were won in court. With the assistance of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, we ensured that the few student leaders who lost their cases in court completed their university education in other local and foreign universities.

### Proscription of NMA and NARD

In 1985, the Buhari military junta proscribed the Nigerian Medical Association, NMA, and the National Association of Resident Doctors, NARD, for going on strike to demand increase in the salaries of doctors and improvement in public hospitals. The harassment of the doctors exposed the utter hypocrisy of the junta, which had loudly claimed that Nigerian hospitals had become "consulting clinics" while justifying the coup d'état that illegally toppled the Shehu Shagari administration.

Dr. Emmanuel Akpabio and Dr. Beko Ransome-Kuti, the NMA President and the 1st Vice-President, respectively, were detained in the Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Centre under the State Security (Detention of Persons) Decree No 2 of 1984. The Alao Aka-Bashorun Chambers challenged their detention in the Lagos State High Court. It was when the case was pending that both detainees were released after they had been in prison custody for six months without trial. The leaders of the NARD fled the country when the junta wanted to arrest and detain them.

### Criminalisation of



\*Femi Falana

### strikes

On October 1988, the senior staff union of the defunct National Electric Power Authority, NEPA, went on a three-day strike to protest the perennial issues of inadequate funding of the organisation, lack of safety measures and poor service conditions. Eleven of the striking workers were later arrested

**We have, for the past four decades, embarked on legal and political struggles in defence of the fundamental rights of workers, students, teachers, lawyers and doctors to freedom of association**

and accused of sabotage. They were charged with economic sabotage before a special military tribunal that sat in Jos, Plateau State.

They pleaded not guilty to the monstrous charges. But

they were convicted and sentenced each to life imprisonment. The life sentence was later reduced by the military government to 10 years. As a result of local and international outrage against the criminalisation of the strike, the military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, pardoned the convicts before the end of their prison terms. They regained their freedom with their heads unbowed.

### Dissolution of NLC executive council

In 1988, the leadership of the Nigeria Labour Congress was factionalised in the build-up to its Triennial Conference held in Benin, Edo State along ideological lines. The progressive camp won the election while the faction sponsored by the Ibrahim Babangida military junta lost the election as they were rejected by Nigerian workers. Completely embarrassed, the junta deployed armed troops to occupy the National Secretariat of the NLC in Surulere, Lagos.

Furthermore, the junta imposed a sole administrator on the NLC. The purpose of the capture of the NLC was to pave way for the sale of public assets (otherwise called privatisation), mass retrenchment of workers and commercialisation of social services as part of the conditionalities attached to the Structural Adjustment Programme dictated by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Alao Aka-Bashorun Chambers dragged the junta to the Lagos High Court to justify the dissolution of the NLC. The case was struck out on the ground that the dissolution decree had ousted the jurisdiction of the

court. But to the utter dismay of the junta, the NLC mobilised Nigerians to reject the imperialist agenda of underdevelopment. The proscription was, however, lifted in December 1988 when the junta had failed woefully in its dubious objective of capturing the NLC.

### Imposition of caretaker committee to manage the NBA

In 1993, the junta took over the Nigerian Bar Association and handed it over to the Body of Benchers via Decree No 21 of 1993. Convinced that the illegality would be challenged by the progressive extraction of Nigerian lawyers, the Decree stipulated that "anything done or purported to be done" under it constituted an offence. The penalty for the offence was one-year imprisonment and/or payment of N10,000 fine.

The Ikeja branch of the Nigerian Bar Association resolved unanimously to challenge the obnoxious Decree. Our law firm was instructed to handle the case on behalf of all members of the branch. We dared the junta by instituting an action in the Lagos State High Court where we sought to protect the fundamental rights of Nigerian lawyers to freedom of association. The trial judge, Obadina J. (as he then was), granted our motion for interim injunction against the military dictator and his cohorts.

Dissatisfied with the ruling, the defendants rushed to the Court of Appeal, where they questioned the competence of the case and the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the case. Upon the request of Chief F.R.A. Williams SAN, who appeared for himself and

other appellants, a full panel of the Court of Appeal, was constituted to hear the appeal. In a historic judgement delivered by the Court, our submissions were upheld as the Decree was declared illegal and unconstitutional. See *Williams v Akintunde (1995) 3 NWLR (Pt 381) 101*.

In another development, the **Civil Liberties Organisation, CLO, vs Nigeria** (Suit No 101/93), petitioned the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights in Banjul, The Gambia concerning the legal validity of Legal Practitioners Amendment Decree No 21 of 1993. The Federal Government could not justify its interference in the internal affairs and management of the NBA. The Commission found that: "The Body of Benchers is dominated by representatives of the government and has wide discretionary powers. This interference with the free association of the Nigerian Bar Association is inconsistent with the preamble of the African Charter in conjunction with UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and thereby constitutes a violation of Article 10 of the African Charter."

For the above reasons, the African Commission held that there has been a violation of Articles 6, 7, and 10 and directed that the Decree be annulled. Shortly thereafter, the Sani Abacha military junta promulgated the Legal Practitioners Amendment Decree No 21 of 1994 and thereby withdrew from the affairs of the NBA. It was the only case that a Decree was successfully challenged during the military rule.

To be concluded

\*Falana, SAN, wrote from Lagos

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NEWS HOTLINES

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## Jumia Nigeria launches 2nd edition of 'E-Commerce in Rural Areas' report

By Etop Ekanem

Lagos—Jumia, Nigeria's leading e-commerce platform, has released the second edition of its flagship report, "E-Commerce in Rural Areas."

The launch event, held yesterday at Jumia's Lagos head office, brought together key stakeholders, including media representatives, government officials, vendors, logistics partners, and members of the Jumia community.

The event unveiled fresh insights into Nigeria's digital retail landscape and the growing influence of e-commerce in unlocking economic opportunities in underserved communities.

Building on the findings from the first edition, this year's report offers a deeper look at how rural consumers are embracing digital retail, the infrastructure

investments that have enabled access, and the critical role of initiatives like JForce and community-based logistics in bridging the digital divide.

As Nigeria's e-commerce ecosystem matures, secondary cities and rural areas are emerging as some of the most promising frontiers for growth. According to the report, rural regions now account for nearly half of all packages delivered on the Jumia platform. Consumer demand in these areas continues to rise, with categories such as Phones, Beauty & Perfumes, Home Essentials, Men's Clothing, and Men's Shoes topping the list of most purchased items.

In Q2 2025, Jumia's earnings results showed accelerated momentum in Nigeria, with orders up 25% and total GMV rising 36% year-over-year.

Jumia's expanded footprint now includes over 350 Pickup

Stations across hundreds of towns and communities. This physical infrastructure, combined with a network of 67 logistics partners, has made it possible to deliver goods to even the most remote parts of the country. Towns like Gaya in Kano State, Akpakpava and Ekpoma-Eguare in Edo State, Owerri in Imo State, and Wurukum in Benue State are showing strong growth in GMV.

Speaking at the occasion, Temidayo Ojo, CEO of Jumia

Nigeria, reaffirmed the company's commitment to inclusive growth.

He stated, "Our mission has always been to make everyday life easier for Nigerians, regardless of where they live. This report reaffirms the power of digital commerce to improve lives, support small businesses, and create economic opportunity in areas long underserved by traditional retail."

## Trinity varsity trains 600 students in digital literacy, others

By Adesina Wahab

TRINITY University, Yaba, Lagos, in conjunction with Global Wissen Consult, has trained 600 students in digital literacy and entrepreneurship skills acquisition programme.

Speaking during the presentation of certificates to

the students, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Clement Kolawole, said the students would now be able to speak digital language, a language that cuts across the globe.

Kolawole thanked Global Wissen Consult and the Embassy of Sweden for their support for the programme.

Oscar Nwokeji, the co-founder/CEO, Global Wissen

## USPC model to be replicated in other LG areas in Delta

—Sobotie

THE Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Delta State, Chief Omeni Sobotie, has stated that the Ughelli South Political Colonels (USPC) is a formidable organisation whose model of operations needed to be replicated in all local government areas of the state.

Consult, commended the staff and management of Trinity University for their support for the programme and expressed satisfaction about the performance of the students who took part in the training that spanned some months.

Nwokeji described Trinity University as a university that stands out in terms of quality teaching and learning resources and facilities.

Sobotie made this known when the leadership of the USPC, led by Chief John Ewenede, paid a familiarization visit to him at the party secretariat in Asaba.

He stated that the USPC, comprised of both old and new APC members, and we'll positioned to win all elections in 2027.

According to him, "With the coming together of the PDP and APC in Delta State, the 1999 PDP structure has resurfaced under a different name: the APC. We remain united in our pursuit to ensure that our president and governor return for a second term. I advise you to open your doors, register your group, and ensure that we win the 2027 election by a landslide."

"All the rights and privileges of the old party are the same as those of the new APC. When the merger on April 28 occurred, there was no dissenting voice; the old APC wholeheartedly welcomed the new APC, and it has remained so to date.



## CONVERSATION

# Owei Lakemfa

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## New York mayoral race: Gaza genocide may determine its outcome

As the Gaza War entered its third year on October 7, 2025, and multinational peace negotiators gathered in Egypt to panel-beat a peace agreement, Palestinian rallies rocked New York.

The rallies took on added importance as the city's November 4, 2025 elections may be determined by the voters position on the genocide. A few years ago, it would have been unthinkable that Americans, who used to believe that the world rotated round them, would hold local elections whose outcome may be determined by where candidates stand on a foreign issue. But no conscious humans can ignore the nightmare in Gaza, brought daily to all by the electronic media and the internet.

On this day, the three leading candidates had to declare where they stand on the Gaza War. The New York City elections may be a sort of referendum on the true position of majority Americans in the Gaza War. They may indicate the reaction of the populace to the flip-flop manner of the Trump administration, the chief supporter of Israel which now styles itself the chief peace maker. Also, they may indicate their position on other

contentious Trumpian policies, including immigration and healthcare.

There were a number of options on which rally to join. These included the 'Flood New York City for Gaza' at the News Corporation, the one at the Consulate General of Israel, and the 'Tell Google: Stop Retaliation'.

There were several attacks in the media against Zohran Kwame Mamdani, the Democratic candidate and front runner. Unperturbed, Mamdani, who has consistently stood against the genocide, went to the Union Square to hold a vigil. He sat amongst rows of people at night, holding a lit candle. He is the son of the famous intellectual, Mahmood Mamdani, a professor of anthropology, African studies and political science, specialising in colonialism and post-colonialism. The junior Mamdani, 33, was first elected a member of the New York State Assembly in 2020, defeating Aravella Simotas, a four-term incumbent. He was re-elected unopposed in 2022 and 2024.

This October 7, 2025, he issued a five-paragraph statement which seemed to have shaken the pro-Israeli camp. Mamdani said: "Two years ago today, Hamas carried out a horrific

67,000; with the Israeli military bombing homes, hospitals, and schools into rubble.

"Everyday Gaza has become a place where grief itself has run out of language. I mourn these lives and pray for the families that have been shattered.

"Peace must be pursued through diplomacy, not war crimes, and our government must act to end these atrocities and hold those responsible to account."

**Apart from his position on Gaza, Mamdani is campaigning on a pro-worker and anti-poverty programme; despite the massive national and international campaigns against him, Mamdani is the candidate to beat**

war crime, killing more than 1,100 Israelis and kidnapping 250 more. I mourn these lives and pray for the safe return of every hostage still held and for every family whose lives were torn apart by these atrocities.

"In the aftermath of that day, Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Israeli government launched a genocidal war: a death toll that now far exceeds

The Israeli government, used to being pampered, yelled at Mamdani: "By repeating Hamas's lies, he excuses terror and normalises anti-semitism. He stands with Jews only when they are dead. Shameful". While Mamdani condemned both Hamas and Israel for the war in Gaza and got bashings for it, Independent candidate and former Governor of New York State, Andrew Cuomo condemned Hamas alone, and has not received retributions. In his statement on the commemoration, Cuomo said: "Two years ago today, the world watched in horror as Hamas terrorists murdered, raped and kidnapped innocent men, women and children. Today on October 7th, I am remembering the hostages and all who were brutally taken from us at the hands of Hamas. To the Jewish people- I stand with you. I mourn with you and I will forever be by your side in the fight against evil and anti-semitism in all forms."

The Republican candidate, Curtis Sliwa, a radio talk show host and founder in 1979 of the Guardian Angels, a crime prevention organisation, also condemned Hamas alone.

His statement: "October 7th was a dark day, and the memory of the attacks and the innocent lives lost must never be forgotten. The death and destruction that has followed in the region is deeply disheartening, and my prayers are with all families here in New York and abroad who continue to feel this pain. What happens there also impacts us here at home, which is why my focus as mayor will be on ensuring that all forms of hate are confronted and that every New Yorker is kept safe."

Apart from his position on Gaza, Mamdani is campaigning on a pro-worker and anti-poverty programme under which he wants to introduce rent freeze and social housing that would build 200,000 subsidised houses in three years. He also promises to introduce city-owned grocery stores and universal childcare, abolish tuition fees in public schools and remove property tax exemptions for private universities. He equally promises to make the MTA, city bus fleet, fare-

free, and freeze subway fares. In order to fund these welfare schemes, he plans to increase corporate taxes and introduce a two per cent income tax for those earning above \$1 million.

Republican Curtis Silwa plans to ensure safe streets, city sanitation, restore the New York City Police Department, NYPD; shelter security and homeless outreach, and lower business-tax to six per cent; as-of-right job-creation credits. The Republican candidate says he wants to shrink the Department of Education, DOE; central office, return funding to classrooms and student enrichment, and end non-essential emergency contracting.

The Independent, Andrew Cuomo says the city is in crisis, adding: "New York City should be for everyone, not just the wealthy. With the right leadership we will restore affordability."

New York is considered a Democratic stronghold having voted Democratic in national elections since 1988. Cuomo told voters that they should vote for him because he is the true democrat as Mamdani is just "a socialist on the Democratic line, and I'm the Democrat, running on an independent line."

He added that: "Only 13 percent of New Yorkers voted in the June primary (in which Mamdani defeated him). The general election is in November, and I am in it to win it. My opponent, Mr. Mamdani, offers slick slogans, but no real solutions." Cuomo submitted: "We need a city with lower rent, safer streets, where buying your first home is once again possible, where child care won't bankrupt you. That's the New York City we know."

But Silwa dismissed Cuomo: "In the streets, the word about Andrew Cuomo is 'slapping fannies and killing grannies.' He must apologise, he must humble himself." Cuomo added that he is "the guy who can fight Zohran Mamdani".

Despite the massive national and international campaigns against him, Mamdani is the candidate to beat.

## Criticism of Bago on vetting of preachers: In whose interest?

By DEYEMISAKA

It was on a ride from Zuba to Minna in 2013 that I had a very profound encounter which I will cherish for as long as I live. I've been in Abuja for a while and it was customary for me to go to Minna to see a boss who is always quick to remind me I'm his friend, Alhaji Moh'd Nma Kolo.

I sat in front with the driver from Suleja. He started playing a recorded khutbah, and it was one which was just about the superiority of Islam and how Christianity validates the claims by citing Bible passages and giving it his (preacher's) interpretations. It got to a part and the driver skipped it. I asked him why he did that. He said he cannot allow it because what the preacher said about Jesus Christ is bad and he will not allow anyone to say that about Prophet Muhammed (S.A.W).

I was impressed. I commended him for his wisdom and demonstration of respect for the religious convictions and beliefs of others. We both agreed that is one thing lacking in our society and also stressed the danger of such bileful and inciting religious preachings.

Another instance is to look at what North-East, and the whole of the North has become. It's a killing field and this is largely because of the terror activities of Boko Haram built on religious radicalisation.

It was widely acknowledged that the founder of Boko Haram,

Muhammad Yusuf, was reportedly inspired by the controversial Islamic preacher Mohammed Marwa (Maitatsine), who condemned the reading of any books other than the Quran.

In one 2009 interview, Yusuf expressed his opposition not only to Western education, but to the theory of evolution, a spherical Earth, and to the idea that rain comes from "evaporation caused by the sun" rather than being created and sent down directly by God.

Boko Haram opposes the Westernisation of Nigerian society, which it blames for "Nigeria's culture of corruption", and demands the establishment of an Islamic state in Nigeria. It later evolved into a jihadist group in 2009. As Sunni Salafi Jihadis, the group strives to re-establish the Islamic caliphate and bring all peoples under its domain, doing away with modern states and patriotic feeling towards them. After Boko Haram declared its allegiance to the Islamic State, an IS statement proclaimed thus: "It was the rejection of nationalism that drove the mujahidin in Nigeria to give bay'ah (fealty) to the Islamic State and wage war against the Nigerian *murtaddin* (apostates) fighting for the Nigerian *taghut* (idolatrous tyrant)".

Members' beliefs tend to be centred on strict adherence to Wahhabism, which is an extremely strict form of Sunni Islam that sees many other forms of Islam as

idolatrous.

For a state which is confronting banditry in Kontagora, suspected terrorists activities around Suleja, and for a man who is enlightened enough to appreciate the havocs

**For a state which is confronting banditry in Kontagora, suspected terrorists activities around Suleja, and for a man who is enlightened enough to appreciate the havocs religious fundamentalism have caused in other states, I must say I agree with his directive that "everyone going to sermon on Friday, should bring his scriptures for review"**

religious fundamentalism have caused in other states, I must say I agree with his directive that "everyone going to sermon on Friday, should bring his scriptures for review." The directive also has it that clerics must obtain licenses within two months.

The Niger State Government must be given credit for its information management efforts as it made

clarification through the Director General of the Niger State Religious Affairs, Umar Farooq. He explained that the new directive on religious preaching is not a fresh policy but an existing law being revived as they said the law has been in place since 1985.

"We have a law in Niger State, there has been an edict law since 1985, so it's not a new policy. The preaching law has been in existence. What we are just trying to do now is to revive the law to make it useful, so that we can have peaceful environments and avoid creating tensions," he explained. He further explained this will avail the state government the much-needed database for identification, monitoring and sanctioning of erring clerics who preach hate and extremism. He also made it clear it is never an attempt to silence religious leaders.

I buy into the argument that this is needed to create order and to maintain harmony in the state. The good sign here is the understanding and the cooperation of the Christian Community, especially in the face of allegations of persecution of Christians in Northern Nigeria. The Niger State chapter of Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, has clarified its position on the Law.

Daniel Atori, media aide to Reverend Bulus Dauwa Yohanna, Chairman of CAN, said the government's move was misunderstood at first because the memo went viral on social media

without context, creating the impression that both pastors and imams were required to submit their sermons.

"When the news first broke, many thought it covered everyone: pastors, reverends, and imams. But upon review, it became clear that the directive was mainly for Islamic clerics under the Da'awa registration," Atori explained.

He noted that the state government introduced the regulation in response to reports of some preachers delivering inciting messages, particularly in certain parts of Niger State, where sermons were said to challenge democracy and stir up unrest.

"At the Christian Association, we discovered that the directive was not applicable to Christians. The form that is available is strictly for the Islamic community," he said.

We are all living witnesses to the Rwanda genocide of 1994 which led to deaths of estimated one million persons in four weeks. This happened because of a broadcast of hate speech on radio in response to the April 6, 1994 air mishap. On the said day, an airplane carrying both Juvénal Habyarimana, the President of Rwanda, and Cyprien Ntaryamira, the President of Burundi was shot down. Both presidents were Hutu and were killed.

Continues online:  
[www.vanguardngr.com](http://www.vanguardngr.com)

\*Saka, a public affairs analysts and PR consultant, wrote from Lagos.

## Niger's order on preachers

A couple of weeks ago, Governor Umaru Bago of Niger State said in an interview that a new law mandates religious preachers in Niger State to submit their sermons to his government for approval. Niger is one of the Northern states wracked by jihadist extremists and bandits. It has experienced painful episodes of school abductions and attacks on communities.

According to Bago: "I didn't ban evangelism. For everyone going to sermon on Friday, he should bring his scriptures for review, and it's normal. Even in Saudi Arabia, this is done. We cannot say because you have been given the opportunity to be a cleric, you will go out and preach the gospel that is anti-people, anti-government, and you think it is normal".

There is no doubt that the Governor means well in formulating this enactment. The situation in the North where religious extremism

sometimes result in sporadic armed attacks and "blasphemy"-driven violence, needs to be brought under control, and government must lead in this effort. However, we do not believe this manner of approach will achieve much.

In the first place, most preachers only select topics and speak off-the-cuff, "as the spirit moves them". That a preacher submits his topic is no assurance that he will abide by the outline or theme. In any case, what mechanism can the state government set up to be able to vet and approve hundreds, if not thousands, of sermons every week from the

Muslim, Christian and other religious groups? Won't bias come into the vetting exercise, leading to feelings of favouritism/alienation in some quarters?

Comparing Nigeria to Saudi Arabia is a total misnomer. Saudi Arabia is a totalitarian Muslim theocratic state that permits Sunni Islam only. Nigeria is a multi-religious/secular state, with freedom of faith and religious practice clearly defined in the 1999 Constitution. There are certainly better ways of controlling religious excesses than this strategy which smacks of a typical military reflex.

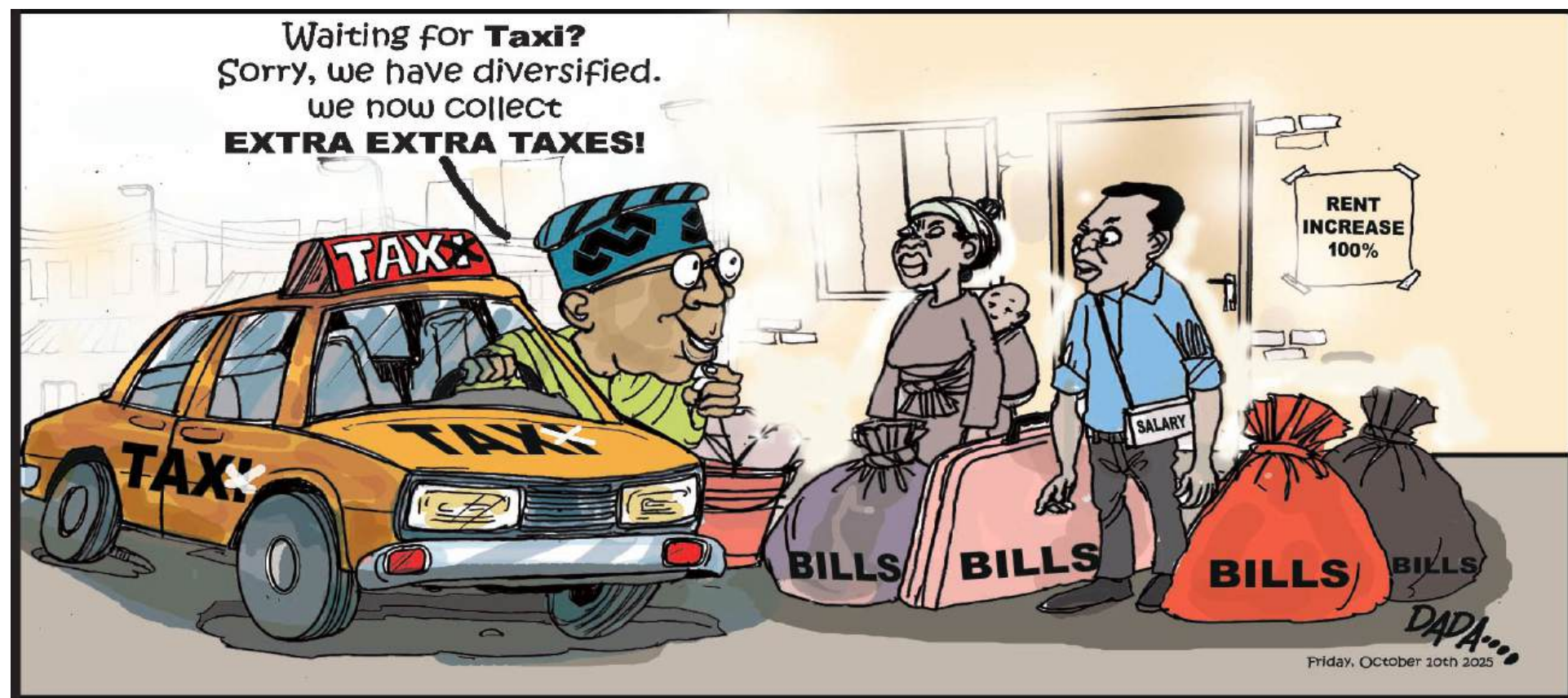
Unruly preachers and religious

leaders are not difficult to spot. By their fruit you will know them. The real issue is what government does when they come out openly to say things that are against our laws and threaten the peace and coexistence of Nigerians.

What did even the "almighty" Federal Government do when Islamic cleric, Idris Tenshi, "passed a death sentence" on First Lady Oluremi Tinubu, a Christian, for being married to President Bola Tinubu, a Muslim? Tenshi later "apologised" and it was all conveniently forgotten.

Instead of asking preachers to submit their sermons for vetting, the same security agencies that Governor Bago listed as partners in this assignment should monitor and deal with seditious preachers according to our laws. Is Bago really ready to act against violent preachers?

Courage and political will, not decree-like laws, are needed to deal with religious vermin.



LAST week, this issue was subject of discourse here. I am continuing with it because the issues raised are still live. You may recall that I said last week that *it is totally immoral for the Police to collect tinted permit fees from someone who bought and licensed a car just in March 2025, complete with eCMR, and ask him to get another permit just six months later, and then insist that he renews such permit every year. It is institutional perfidy. Worse than that, it is grand larceny on a large scale on the part of an institution charged with curbing such crimes.*

Well, earlier this week, reprieve, even if temporary, came the way of agitated and flustered motorists scrambling to get the permit as the Inspector-General of Police, Dr. Kayode Egbetokun, announced suspension of the tinted permit last Wednesday. This came after a meeting the IGP had with the leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association.

"We temporarily suspended the enforcement of the Act, pending the outcome of the hearing of the Motion on Notice slated for 16th October 2025, at the Federal High Court, Warri, Delta State," the IGP said.

Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Benjamin Hundeyin, spoke further on



### PICTURES & PATTERNS

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## Still on the tinted glass permit matter

the issue in a statement: "The visit, which centred on issues surrounding the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act, 1991, by the Force, provided an opportunity for robust deliberations on issues of mutual concern.

"This includes the need for synergy between the Police and the Bar in upholding the rule of law and promoting public confidence.

"The Nigeria Police Force, while noting that there is no clear court order stopping the enforcement of the Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act, 1991, has, out of consideration for the interest of Nigerians, and regard for the Nigerian Bar Association, temporarily suspended the enforcement of the Act, pending the outcome of the hearing of the Motion on Notice slated for 16th October 2025, at the Federal High

Court, Warri, Delta State.

"To further strengthen the relationship between the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Bar Association, a Police-NBA committee has been inaugurated to enhance collaboration between the police and the bar.

"In the meantime, all vehicle

***The Police has not given up on this matter, as some motorists are wont to believe, even if obduracy on the part of the Police is apparent here. We will know, perhaps by the middle of this month, whether we will prevail against the Police or it would turn otherwise***

owners and motorists are urged to take advantage of this window to regularise their documentation and ensure full compliance with all relevant laws regulating the use of motor vehicles with shaded or tinted glasses in Nigeria.

"IGP Egbetokun reiterates the resolve of the Force to enforce all extant laws with fairness, transparency, and respect for the rights of all citizens, while maintaining effective collaboration with critical stakeholders in the administration of justice."

I brought the foregoing paragraphs to you again, in case you missed it. The Police has not given up on this matter, as some motorists are wont to believe, even if obduracy on the part of the Police is apparent here. We will know, perhaps by the middle of this month, whether we will prevail against the Police or it would turn otherwise, as the matter is still before the courts to decide.

Personally, I thank the NBA for taking up this fight on behalf of the motoring public, and at great risk, wish to remind all, including the judge whose car was impounded on the first day of enforcement of a few things.

One, motorists with smoked/tinted glasses have obtained permits for them, mostly at the point of registering the car after purchase.

Two, what was wrong with

the previous permits we obtained? Why did we need new permits? The Police is yet to explain this, which is why the public feels incensed about it.

Three, the previous permits were for the lifetime of the car, as long as it is still on the road. The new tinted permit regulation requires renewal, annually. Is that not taxation by other means? Does the Police have the right to do this? It is my expectation that the court will decide rightly on this.

Four, how did racketeers latch on to this new permit so fast? We have been told that the permit, officially, costs N14,500, and will be renewed annually for the same sum. But till yesterday, I am yet to see anybody who obtained one for that amount. The permits get done for any amount ranging from N30,000-N50,000. A former colleague spent as much as N80,000 to obtain it.

And last but not least, the Police should do something about the portal, possap.gov.ng. A technical review should be done as it is obvious that the portal cannot accommodate the heavy traffic that hit it in the last few weeks. Nobody could get anything done there as the cursor just kept rolling. Meanwhile, the economy is still what it is: hard. I know we'll survive. TGIF.

# Business



**INAUGURATION** – From left: Vice President, Asia, South/West, East & Middle East, International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH), Mr. Ichio Motono; Vice President, Asia, South East & Oceania, Ms. Marika Calfas; Vice President for Europe, Mr. Jacques Vandermeiren; Vice President for Africa, Dr. Abubakar Dantsoho; Vice President for America, Central & South, Mr. Vinicius Patel; Vice President for America, North, Mr. Eugene Seroka; and IAPH President, Mr. Jens Meier, during the inauguration of IAPH's new executives at the just concluded World Ports Conference held in Kobe, Japan

## TAJBank's N20bn Sukuk Bond records 185.5% oversubscription

The N20 billion Mudarabah Sukuk Bond floated by TAJBank has recorded 185.15% oversubscription with the allotments N57.03 billion, demonstrating huge investor confidence. The investors' return is put at 20.5% per annum.

Speaking on the performance of the bond, TAJBank's Founder/Managing Director, Mr. Hamid Joda, described the bond's subscription

rate, which is the second tranche of the bank's N100 billion Sukuk bond programme, as impressive given the current adverse micro and macroeconomic factors which has continue to plague real income in the country.

He stated: "Let me say that this outstanding performance of the Sukuk bond is a clear demonstration that the bank is enjoying growing investor confidence and this can only be attributed to the quality of innovative products and services, as well as the value addition TAJBank is delivering in the non-interest banking subsector, especially when analyzed within the context of the current realities in the debt instrument market."

"I want to thank the board, management and staff of the bank, the regulatory authorities and the investors for their contributions to the success of the bond issuance. I also assure them that TAJBank shall continue to protect their interest to ensure a win-win experience for all stakeholders as we sustain our drive to sustain the bank as the leading player in the nation's non-interest subsector of the banking system", he added.

In his remarks, the bank's Co-Founder/Executive Director, Mr. Sherif Idi, said: "This investment feat is a clear demonstration that investors' trust in TAJBank and we will continue to do our best to surpass their expectations through world-class products and services. As we always, our interest in the customers and investors."

## POWER: Bilateral companies owe Nigeria \$8.5m—NERC

By Yinka Kolawole, with agency report

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has reported that some international bilateral companies owe Nigeria's electricity generation companies (GenCos) about \$8.5 million in unpaid power supply.

In its latest quarterly

report, the Commission said the companies made a payment of \$9.015 million from an invoice of \$17.54 million issued to them in the second quarter (Q2) of 2025, indicating a default of about \$8.5 million.

"In 2025/Q2, the six (6) international bilateral customers purchasing power from the grid-connected GenCos made a cumulative payment of

\$9.015 million against the \$17.54 million invoice issued to them by the MO for services rendered in 2025/Q2 (remittance rate – 51.33%).

"Similarly, the domestic bilateral customers made a cumulative payment of N1.401 billion against the N2.79 billion invoice issued to them by the MO for services rendered in 2025/Q26 (remittance rate – 50.10%)," NERC said

According to the report, the remittances are based on reconciled market settlement submitted to the

commission as at September 30.

"It is noteworthy that one domestic bilateral customer made payments during 2025/Q2 for outstanding MO invoices from previous quarters. The MO received N10.53m from Trans-Amadi (OAU/FMPI) towards outstanding invoices from previous quarters," the commission said.

NERC added that the Ajaokuta steel company limited and the host community did not make

any payment for the N1.27 billion invoice from Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) Plc.

The commission said the plant did not also pay N120 million MO invoices received in the reviewed quarter.

The NERC added that the debt continues a longstanding trend of non-payment by "this customer and the commission have communicated the need for intervention on this issue to the relevant FGN authorities".

## National Single Window project'll reduce cargo clearance costs—CRFFN

•It will spur compliance in Nigeria's external trade —Fakolade

By Godwin Oritse

The Registrar of the Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN), Mr. Kingsley Igwe, has said that the adoption of the National Single Window (NSW) project in the country's import and export processes will not only cut down the cost and time of cargo clearance at the ports but also lower production costs for manufacturing firms.

Speaking at a stakeholders meeting on the NSW project in Lagos, Igwe also said that despite Nigeria being strategically positioned as the gateway

to West and Central Africa, businesses in the country (large, multinational, small-scale importers, or local manufacturers) continue to struggle under the heavy burden of high logistic costs, fragmented processes, duplication of documentation, and delays in cargo clearance.

He stated that NSW represents a transformative solution that has been successfully implemented

in several countries, where trade facilitation reforms have delivered measurable improvements in efficiency, competitiveness, and attracted investment.

His words: "The reason for this urgency is that Nigeria is at a critical juncture in its economic journey. We are one of Africa's largest economies, strategically positioned as the gateway to West and

Central Africa. Yet, our business, whether large, multinational, small-scale importers, or local manufacturers, continue to struggle under the heavy burden of high logistic costs, fragmented processes, duplication of documentation, and delays in cargo clearance.

"NSW represents a transformative solution, one that has been successfully adopted in

countries like Singapore, South Korea, and Rwanda, where trade facilitation reforms have yielded measurable gains in efficiency, competitiveness, and investment attractiveness.

"It is a digital platform that allows traders, businesses, and regulatory agencies to submit and assess trade-related documents in single, unified interface."

## We're partnering top firms to deliver Nigeria's first floating LNG project—UTM

By Udeme Akpan, Energy Editor

The Group Managing Director/CEO of UTM Offshore Limited, Dr.

Julius Rone, has said that the company is working with top engineering companies and other partners to execute Nigeria's first Floating Liquefied Natural Gas (FLNG) project.

He stated that the project, located offshore Akwa Ibom State, has made significant progress because of partnering with reputable

companies like Japan Gas Corporation (JGC), Technip Energies NV, and Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR) to achieve this feat.

Speaking at the just-concluded African Energy Week in Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Rone highlighted the importance of collaboration and securing gas supply for the project's success.

Dr. Rone, said: "I believe that one of the things that we got right from the beginning is to have the best engineering companies in the world. We have been able to get a consortium - Open Sea Technologies - as the team that is developing the Nigeria's first FLNG project."

"We need to do a lot to cross the borders to get the

final investment decision, FID. First and foremost, we need to get hands together, be able to see the clear sign of gas for your project because supply is essential for the project."

"We need to make sure that we have all the segments in one piece, the upstream, the midstream, and the downstream. We need to identify the gas that will give us a project on the upstream side, on the

midstream, and on the downstream. So, we needed to partner with NNPC, who is in a joint venture with the international oil company.

"The asset identified where we are going to form is a 60-40 split between the NNPC and the SEPLAT Energy. One thing that is great is that the gas currently being re-injected, has been declared as a stranded gas."

## Bank unveils 24/7 digital experience centre in Kano varsity

By Bashir Bello

First Bank of Nigeria has inaugurated a Digital Experience Centre at the Bayero University Kano (BUK) to give the customers a seamless, smart and secured experience.

The centre, which is expected to operate round the clock, is equipped with automated banking facilities such as cash deposits, printing of

Automated Teller Machines, ATMs, opening of new accounts, dispute resolutions, among others.

Speaking at the inauguration, the Group Head of Branch Operations and Services, Mrs. Abimbola Kulle Ajayi, said the centre is the second of its kind in Northern Nigeria designed to showcase the bank's digital transformation and make banking more convenient and interactive for customers.

"Beyond traditional banking services, the Digital Experience Centre provides a friendly environment where customers can explore and perform transactions independently," she explained.

Ajayi added that customers can now deposit cash and complete other transactions seamlessly at the center, though support staff would be available to assist when needed.

Addressing concerns

about occasional network disruptions, Ajayi assured customers of improved connectivity, emphasizing that the BUK centre reflects First Bank's commitment to reliable digital service delivery.

According to her, the location of the centre within Bayero University was strategic, given the tech-savvy nature of the academic community, whose feedback will help the bank refine its digital services.

AGRIC COMMODITIES		
Coffee	377.45	-7.65
Cocoa	5,943.00	-57.00
Sugar	16.25	-0.04

ENERGY & OIL		
Brent Crude	65.05	-1.20
Light Crude	78.62	-2.30

CURRENCY	BUYING	SELLING
USD DOLLAR	1469.2614	1470.2614
POUNDS	1975.5689	1976.9135
EURO	1717.1258	1718.2945
SWISS	1841.8721	1843.1257
YEN	9.7931	9.7998
CFA	2.6010	2.6210
WAUA	2007.4215	2008.7878
RIYAL	391.7090	391.9756
RAND	81.6995	81.7526
Danish	229.9566	230.1131

CBN Exchange rate as at 09/10/2025

# THANK YOU ALL...

# E1 LAGOS GP

Thank you for a successful hosting of the E1 Lagos GP - Africa's first-ever Powerboat Race, which took place on the Lagos Lagoon, October 3 - 5, 2025.

- **Mr. President, His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**
- **Members of the National Assembly**
- **Members of the State Assembly**
- **Members of the State Executive Council**
- **Members of the Diplomatic Community**
- **Our Royal Fathers**
- **Foreign visitors**
- **Our Sponsors and Partners**
- **Security Agencies**
- **Creative Industry Stars**
- **All Lagosians**

Indeed, #A GREATER LAGOS RISING.

The success is another affirmation of our unity, our commitment to sustainability, the vast potential of our waterways, our resilience and the can-do Spirit of Lagos.



**Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu**  
Governor, Lagos State  
October 9, 2025

□□□□

# E1 LAGOS GP

at Race,





**OMADINO COMMUNITY**  
**OMADINO**  
 WARRI SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA  
 Omadino Town, Warri South Local Government Area, Delta State  
 08027485744, 08082544777, 09020826597

7th October, 2025

## THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Our attention was drawn to a recent press release by a group which styles itself as the Itsekiri Advancement Front on the 24th of September, 2025, to address issues which were of importance to them.

While we do not quarrel with their right to free expression, we take exception that the statements of one Prince Emiko Onuwaje, who purports to speak on behalf of the good people of Omadino Community.

We now take this opportunity to re-echo that the position of Omadino Community, as far as the surveillance job in the Niger Delta is concerned, has well been articulated and disseminated to the public and all relevant quarters, including Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, and that the said Emiko has no authority, and is in no place to articulate and present the position of Omadino community to the public in any shade or guise.

The mandate to act rests squarely with Mr Tuoyo Mogbeyiteren led Omadino Community Management Committee, that pilot the affairs of the community. We therefore urge the general public to completely disregard the misrepresentation by the said Emiko, same not being mandated to speak on behalf for our community.

Sign:

Pa. Godfrey Oruru Edemadiden  
 Olare Aja ti Omadino Community

Pa. Smart Erubore  
 Spokesman Omadino Community

Chief priest Temienor Asokansomi  
 The Ugbuedon TI Omadino Community

Chief Priest Roland Yomere  
 The Ashaka TI Omadino Community

## SPECIAL PROJECT UNIT PUBLICATION

### CELEBRATING WORLD EGG DAY: THE INCREDIBLE EGG'S ROLE IN NUTRITION & CULTURE



rural economies and livelihood. Innovation in production touch a sustainability theme important for future food system.

**E**ggs are more than just a breakfast staple; they are a nutritional powerhouse and culinary chameleon celebrated annually. This global observance highlights the egg's impressive profile of protein, vitamins and mineral alongside its starring roles in dishes across continent, from Nigeria egg sauce accompanying fluffy rice or yam, to Indian egg curries, Mexican huevos rancheros, and western omelets. Eggs pack high quality protein with all nine essential amino acids, plus vitamin B12, D, Riboflavin and choline vital for brain function. Selenium in eggs supports immunity for communities worldwide, including Nigeria diverse population, Egg offers accessible nutrition fitting dietary patterns.

It represents an affordable protein source contributing to food security. In many countries, poultry farming including egg production, support

In Nigeria, eggs feature in beloved dishes like egg sauce (often paired with carbohydrate like rice or boiled yam) and as protein additions in local soup, globally egg transform into quiches (France), Shakshuka (Middle East/North Africa), Scotch eggs (UK), and countless breakfast delight. Their binding, leavening and textural traits makes eggs kitchen essentials. Celebrating World Egg Day invites reflection on this humble food's outsized benefits, Chefs showcase egg-centric recipes; nutritionist spotlight their dietary value; consumers enjoy eggs' taste and versatility, it's a day acknowledging eggs' bridge role across cultures and cuisines.

In Nigeria and worldwide, the egg remains a remarkable ingredient marrying nutrition with gastronomic creativity. As we mark World Egg Day, let's savor the incredible contributions of this everyday super food.



## Happy World Egg Day



- ISA Brown is the world's top brown layer hen.
- Lays up to 375 eggs from 18 to 80 weeks.
- Thrives in tropical climates and diverse systems.
- Strong disease resistance and feed efficiency.
- Used by over 90% of Nigerian egg producers.
- The ISA Brown is ideal for profitable egg farming.

For orders, call Chi Farms at +234 803 728 7415





# Celebrating A RARE GEM

@ 70

## HONOURABLE JUSTICE DUPE ATOKI

On this momentous occasion of your 70th birthday, we, the alumni and beneficiaries of the great Gbenga Atoki & Co. Chambers of the 1980s and 1990s join family, friends and well wishers in honouring a woman of faith, integrity, and remarkable grace.

A God fearing and principled jurist, a responsible mother, a loving grandmother, and a pillar of strength; you have exemplified resilience, focus, empathy, and determination through every season of life.

Your legacy of excellence, discipline, and compassion continues to inspire us.

May this milestone year usher in renewed joy, peace and divine fulfillment.

*With deep admiration and affection.*

### ALUMNI OF GBENGA ATOKI & CO.

1. Dipo Onifade
2. H.E.Owanari Donald Duke
3. Olayinka Olafimihan
4. Funkazi Garth Crooks
5. Ayo Adebusoye
6. Omowale Christine Essien
7. Charles Agorom
8. Maryam Turi Muhammadu
9. Ama Etuwewe, SAN

10. Greg Okonkwo
11. Ugorji Eze
12. Adei Kotey
13. Hapsatu Sule Ahman
14. Efe Etomi
15. Violet Ogufere
16. Josephine Okunseri
17. Adewale Adedeji
18. Edida Akpan

19. Salmaa Abubakar
20. Laide Adewumi
21. Toyin Arokoyo
22. Saa'dat Mohammed
23. Bolaji Alabelewe
24. Toyin Uko
25. Woke Agunbiade, SAN.
25. Anne Usman- Ibinola

# A GOLDEN TRIBUTE TO HAJIA BOLA MUINAT SHAGAYA, MON

From the serene city of Ilorin, you rose with quiet determination, armed with knowledge from Ahmadu Bello University and Armstrong College, to conquer frontiers once thought unreachable.

A banker.  
An entrepreneur.  
A builder of dreams.  
You redefined enterprise - introducing Konica to Nigeria's photographic landscape, and birthing Bolmus Group International - a conglomerate of woven brilliance and courage.

You walked through boardrooms with poise, guided industries with wisdom, and turned opportunity into empowerment for countless others.

Through Practoil Limited, you fueled nations; through real estate, you built legacies; through your philanthropy, you nurtured hope. You are the matriarch of innovation, the quiet force behind prosperity, the patron of creativity and women's ambition.

Your story; Hajia Bola is not just of wealth; but worth. Not just of success; but of service. Not just of titles; but of timeless impact.

Knowing you personally has been a huge inspiration to me. As we celebrate your birthday, we honor a woman of dignity and devotion, one whose life is a pointer that greatness is gentle, and that influence, when guided by faith, becomes legacy.

May Allah (SWT) continue to crown your days with peace, your years with purpose, and your path with greater impact.

**Happy Birthday, Hajia Bola Muinat Shagaya, MON**

You are a gem, a true Nigerian icon, and blessing to our generation.



**HAJIA BOLA MUINAT SHAGAYA, MON**



**Asiwaju Engr. Dr. Prince Olatunji Olusoji**

Asiwaju of Ayere Kingdom  
Group CEO/Chairman, Grosvenor Group  
Founder, Prince Olatunji Olusoji Foundation (PROOF)

GOVERNMENT OF BAYELSA STATE, NIGERIA



OF

HIS EXCELLENCY,  
**CHIEF D.S.P.  
ALAMIEYESEIGHA**  
FIRST EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF BAYELSA STATE

The Government and people of Bayelsa state cordially invite the general public to the Chief DSP Alamiyeseigha, 10th Memorial Anniversary lecture.

TITLE

**IN THE NIGER DELTA VOICE, THROUGH NIGERIA'S SOUL:  
FEDERALISM, RESOURCE CONTROL, AND THE CONTEMPORARY  
NIGERIAN STATE IN THE DSP ALAMIEYESEIGHA LEGACIES**

By:

**Prof. Ibaba Samuel Ibaba**

Professor of Political Science, Niger Delta University

Signed:

**Hon. (Mrs.) Ebiuwou Koku-Obiyai**

Honorable Commissioner, Ministry of Information,  
Orientation and Strategy



9:00am prompt



10th October, 2025



Chief D.S.P Alamiyeseigha  
Memorial Banquet Hall,  
Government House, Yenagoa.



## What will they eat when they finish the money?

The grave is never satisfied, but other things compete with it for insatiability. I can't help feeling that some members of Nigeria's National Assembly will vie for the top place of never enough with the grave, water and fire. Enough is a stranger to them. What happens in these chambers in Abuja, in the name of the people, only God knows.

That's not to suggest that other arms of government are significantly better. But when we reach the point where we have to decide whose greed is eating us more, then we're in trouble.

Last week, the Senate Committee on the North-Central Development Commission, NCDC, said it had approved N140 billion for the commission in the 2025 fiscal year, which has three months remaining.

### Yielding to overcome

The commission, which couldn't wait to be born in February, obviously cannot also wait to get its own share of the national cake. Coming after the establishment of development commissions in the North-East and North-West, and well ahead of the promise of similar commissions in three other regions, the NCDC is enjoying the benefit of copying all the bad habits of the existing ones and setting a higher standard of crookedness for others to follow.

And in the "rub-my-back-I-rub-yours" politics of the National Assembly, the management of the NCDC can count on Abuja politicians for help. That explains why the Senate Committee approved N140 billion with the charm of a smitten lover.

"After a careful look at the issues contained

in the budget," the committee chairman, Titus Zam (from Benue State) said, "and the eloquent presentation by the MD and his team, the committee has approved the budget of N140 billion as presented by the commission."

### Devil in the detail

According to the press reports, the budget has now been forwarded to the House committee. Still, we do not have the details of the MD's "eloquent presentation." We are also not told of the extent of scrutiny by the Senate committee — only that the committee was so impressed it may well have approved the N140 billion for three months blindfolded.

But the details provided in the *LEADERSHIP* report of Friday, October 3, capture the elephant in the room. It gives details of the

**Coming after the establishment of development commissions in the North-East and North-West, the NCDC is enjoying the benefit of copying all the bad habits of the existing ones and setting a higher standard of crookedness for others to follow**

three-month budget, with an imprint all over of the type of concession typically made when parties are in an overwhelmingly delicate position behind closed doors.

According to *LEADERSHIP*'s report, the commission will receive N10 billion for cars, N9 billion for travels, and N1.2 billion for telephone calls, apart from its claim to spend N6 billion on unnamed "humanitarian projects."

The percentage of capital expenditure to the total budget is 41.6 percent, with recurrent spending accounting for 58.3 percent. Nearly eight percent of the total budget is for travel to the moon and back.

### Chasing shadows

It's possible to argue that the current executive of the NCDC did not prepare this scandalous budget; that it was part of the 2025 budget prepared by the Executive before the inauguration of the board, and passed by the National Assembly.

In other words, the Executive laid the foundation for this monstrosity by voting billions of naira in advance for a non-existent commission based on estimates. What the executive may have done was to remove N5.6 billion from the appropriation of the North West Development Commission (NWDC), which had a vote of N145.6 billion and assigned the balance to the NCDC, with little or zero presence of mind to size (there are seven states in the North-West compared with six in the North-Central), or population (the North-West, by some estimates is twice the population of the North Central). The jury is out on which of the two zones has been more badly impacted by insurgency.

If it has taken the commission nine months after it was formed to get a board, and with only three months to the end of this year, why railroad the commission's budget when it would also be appropriated for in the 2026 budget?

### Just spend it!

If the Senate committee is genuinely interested in oversight and nothing else, why not review the budget, as it has only a few months left of its lifecycle, and let the new board make and defend its subsequent request in the 2026 budget?

This eloquent scandal was not a mistake. It was intentional, with some assistance from all the interested parties, including civil servants in the National Assembly, who may have even secured contracts for the supply of the N10 billion SUVs or awarded contracts for "humanitarian services" once the budget was approved.

The committee and the new board know that anything that subjects this oversized budget to scrutiny is not good for "rub-my-back-I-rub-yours." So, if money has been appropriated, why bother about the details? Just spend it!

It's the sort of reckless spending that dragged the North-East Development Commission, NEDC, into a needless controversy over whether or not a former Secretary to the Government of the Federation used N544 million for grass cutting.

Too much money and a lack of common sense are why various intervention agencies across the country have lost their way, serving politicians and their greed instead of the citizens in whose name they were established. Yet, it's never enough!

Is the leadership of either chamber seriously interested in curtailing this mess? Perhaps. And you only need to follow the money to know why.

### In the name of the constituency

Insiders informed me that while each Rep receives N1 billion for constituency projects and a senator gets N2 billion, the leaders each appropriate eloquent sums ranging from N19 billion to N120 billion. And once the leaders have helped themselves and secured their constituency allocation from the budget, they leave the rank and file to use so-called oversight functions as toll gates.

This nonsense cannot continue. There is more than enough to reward politicians genuinely interested in service, but not enough to feed their greed, after which we might be next on their menu list.

### Eyes on the House

The House committee for reviewing the budget cannot afford to be a rubber stamp. Committee members may be tempted to argue that the sum is already included in the 2025 budget and should therefore be approved as is. That is wrong and can only be a calculated move to serve members' interest, rather than those of the people of the North-Central, who are neither on the speed dial for the N1.2 billion set aside for phone calls nor the N10 billion for cars.

The National Assembly, through the House, is getting one more chance to redeem itself from the eloquent scandal charmingly expressed by the Senate committee chairman. Let's see what happens.

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

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NEWS HOTLINES

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## FirstBank launches digital experience centre in Abuja

ABUJA —FIRSTBANKhas launched another fully automated branch, the FirstBank Digital Xperience Centre, in Garki, Abuja, marking another milestone in its push for digital banking innovation.

Speaking at the launch, in Abuja, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank Group, Mr Olusegun Alebiosu, highlighted the bank's strategic goals and commitment to creating a digital-first experience for customers.

Alebiosu said: "With a focus on convenience, security and innovation, First Bank is poised to revolutionize the banking experience and expand access to financial services in underserved areas."

He emphasised that at FirstBank, the focus is firmly set on creating a digital-first experience for customers, aligning with the bank's transformation agenda.

Alebiosu stated that the future of banking is digital, saying that "the transition from reliance on paper-based transactions to a digital platform offers customers the convenience to manage their banking needs independently. Customers can perform various transactions directly from their phones without the necessity of visiting a physical bank location."

Also speaking, the Group Executive, Retail Banking (North) Division, First Bank, Idris Ado, said: "The core objective is to enhance the way

we provide services to our customers, aiming for the most effective and efficient delivery possible."

The Head, Strategy and Corporate Development, First

Bank, Chike Uzoma, emphasised the importance of enhancing customer efficiency and satisfaction.

## Accommodate, work in harmony with defectors in APC, Orovwuje tells APC members

ALL Progressives Congress (APC) Ward 4 leader in Ethiope East Local Government Area, Archbishop Philip Orovwuje, has advised members of the ruling party in the state to accommodate and work in harmony with those defected from PDP to APC.

Orovwuje stated this during an interview with newsmen when he spoke on several issues concerning the state and county.

According to him, with the defection of Governor Sheriff

Oborewori and all Peoples Democratic Party members, he (governor) remains the leader of APC in the state just as President Bola Tinubu remains the leader of APC in the country.

According to him, it is the governor that controls the affairs of the state as far as the party is concerned, adding that as tradition in the party, those of them who defected to APC have equal rights and privileges with those who had been in APC for

years. According to Orovwuje, who is also the Presiding Bishop and Founder of Garden of Life Assembly in Effurun, the President has promised that by the end of January 2026, all structures in APC would be collapsed as there would be a new congress and advised them to be patient and wait for the congress to streamline all the activities as far as the party is concerned.



From left Secretary-General of International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Arsenio Dominguez; Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola; Director-General, International Maritime Institute of Nigeria, Rear Admiral Thaddeus Udofia (ret'd) and Director-General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr Dayo Mobereola, when the IMO Secretary-General visited the institute as part of his visit to Nigeria,

## World Noodles Day: Indomie lovers celebrated across the country for 3 days

LAGOS—Indomie Instant Noodles, Nigeria's most loved noodle brand, brought different parts of the country to life from October 4 to 6 with the celebration of World Noodle Day.

This three-day nationwide experience united fans, families, customers in the markets and Indomie lovers in a grand tribute to the brand that has become a household name across generations.

Centred at the Ikeja City Mall in Lagos, the celebration transformed the venue into a vibrant carnival hub filled with music, dance, games, and endless servings of Indomie.

Speaking at the event, Tope

Sule, Brand Manager, Indomie Nigeria, expressed gratitude to consumers for their unwavering loyalty.

"World Indomie Day is more than a celebration of a brand; it's a celebration of the people who have made Indomie a part of their everyday lives. It represents family, friendship, and shared moments around a meal that bring comfort and joy to millions," Sule said.

Also speaking at the event, Rahmotallahi Adeniyi, Regional Brand Manager, South East, Indomie Nigeria, said: "World Indomie Day is our way of moving from a day about noodles to a day about people, our community, our family."

## Nigeria's drift driver conquers Kenya's drift championship

NIGERIAN motorsport sensation, Jamus Bashar Muhammad, popularly known as Jaybash, has made history by emerging as the overall winner at the East Africa Drift Championship held in Kenya, further cementing his reputation as one of Africa's leading drift drivers.

Jaybash clinched three major trophies at the prestigious competition, First Place (Pro Masters Category), First Place (East Africa Drift Championship), and the honorary title of "Nigerian Drift King."

His victory marks a defining moment not just for his career but also for Nigeria's growing motorsport scene.

Despite competing with a right-hand drive car for the first time, a major shift from the left-hand vehicles he uses in Nigeria, Jaybash adapted swiftly and delivered a dominant performance that won him admiration from fans and fellow competitors.

"This victory means a lot to me and to every Nigerian who believes in the power of passion, consistency, and hard work," he said after the event.



# PUBLIC NOTICE

ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



**ANAMBRA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (ASUBEB)**  
 Adjacent State House of Assembly by INEC Road Awka

## INVITATION TO BID

In furtherance of the commitment to provide a conducive learning environment in the Basic Education sector of Anambra State, Mr. Governor, Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo, CFR, in collaboration with the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Abuja, has approved the execution of the 2022, 2023, and 2024 FGN-UBEC/ANAMBRA-SUBEB Intervention Fund Projects. These projects are aimed at enhancing teaching and learning facilities in public basic schools across the State.

Accordingly, and in compliance with the Public Procurement Act, 2007, the Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB) hereby invites interested, competent, reputable, and duly qualified contractors to tender for the execution of the underlisted projects:

### 1. SCOPE OF WORKS

The projects cover, but are not limited to, the following:

- Construction, Rehabilitation and Renovation of Classroom blocks in public basic schools.
- Provision of wash facilities.
- Provision of furniture for pupils and teachers.
- Supply of instructional materials and equipment
- Procurement and installation of ICT facilities.

### LOTS DETAILS

2022, 2023 and 2024 UBEC/ASUBEB INTERVENTION PROJECTS

S/N	PROJECTS	LOT NO.
1	Construction of New 4 Classroom Block with office Apartment, Conference Room & Toilet (Upland Area)	LOT A
2	Construction of New 4 Classroom Block with office Apartment, Conference Room & Toilet (Riverine Area)	LOT B
3	Construction of 4 new classroom block with toilet facility, 6 compartment toilet and borehole/well with solar sumo and overhead tank	LOT C
4	Construction of teachers Quarters (Riverine Area)	LOT D
5	Construction of teachers Quarters (Upland Area)	LOT E
6	Construction of Skill Acquisition Center	LOT F
7	Construction of 6 – Compartment W/C pour Flush Toilet Facility	LOT G
8	Construction of Hostel	LOT H
9	Construction of perimeter fence with Gate and Security House	LOT I
10	Drilling of Borehole / Well with Solar Sumo and overhead tank	LOT J
11	Landscaping of School Compound.	LOT K
12	Procurement of Speed Boat.	LOT L
13	Procurement of Sport Equipment (See sample at the PRS /Procurement Unit)	LOT M
14	Procurement of a set of One Seater Primary Plastic Table and Chairs.(PTC)	LOT N
15	Procurement of a set of Iron frame Teachers Chair & Tables(IFC&T)	LOT O
16	Procurement of a set of ECCDE Plastic Round Table & 4 Chairs (ETC)	LOT P
17	Procurement of a set of One Seater JSS Plastic Table & Chair. (JTC)	LOT Q
18	Procurement of Magnetic White Board (MWB)	LOT R
19	Procurement of Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM)	LOT S
20	Procurement of ECDE TOYS	LOT T
21	Procurement of 4x4 Pick Up Vehicle	LOT U
22	Renovation of Marked Classroom Blocks in the Underlisted Schools (Indicate the name of School on your Envelope for the LOT No.	LOT V

### LIST OF SCHOOLS FOR THE RENOVATION.

S/N	PROJECTS CODE	NAME OF SCHOOL	LGA	LOT NO
1	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/01/2022	MBARAFOR SCH. UMUCHU	AGUATA	LOT V1
2	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/02/2022	OBINKPA MFS ACHINA	AGUATA	LOT V2
3	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/03/2022	MFS IGROUKWU	AGUATA	LOT V3
4	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/04/2022	PRIMARY SCHOOL, ISUOFA	AGUATA	LOT V4
5	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/05/2022	UNITY P/S ENUGU AGULERI	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V5
6	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/06/2022	UNITED P/S UMUEM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V6
7	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/07/2022	NDEZE MFS MMIATA-ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V7
8	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/08/2022	OTAKU MFS OMOR	AYAMELUM	LOT V8
9	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/09/2022	UMUEZEAGU P/S ANAKU	AYAMELUM	LOT V9
10	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/10/2022	OBINAGU MFS NAWGU	DUNUKOFA	LOT V10
11	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/11/2022	UNIVERSAL PRI. EDU. ABBA	NIJOKA	LOT V11
12	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/12/2022	UZOEGBO OBIUNO P/S NNEWI	NNEWI NORTH	LOT V12
13	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/13/2022	ISLAND P/S OBANWAGU	OGBARU	LOT V13
14	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/14/2022	TOWN SCH. ARONOTA NDIKELIONWU	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V14
15	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/15/2022	OKPOKO CPS XI	OGBARU	LOT V15
16	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/16/2022	NNAMDI AZIKIWE SEC. SCH. ABAGANA	NIJOKA	LOT V16
17	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/17/2022	COMMUNITY/DEV. NKWELLE - FARM	OYI	LOT V17
18	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/18/2022	PRIMARY SCHOOL, AKPU	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V18
19	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/19/2022	MFS OKOCHI OKPUNO	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V19
20	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/20/2022	UNION P/S IGROUKWU	AGUATA	LOT V20
21	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/21/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. UMUOH	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V21
22	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/22/2022	PRIMARY SCHOOL, EZIRA	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V22
23	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/23/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. NDIOWU	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V23
24	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/24/2022	AKPAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL, ONITSHA	ONITSHA NORTH	LOT V24
25	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/25/2022	NKWUJI MFS UMUEM ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V25

26	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/026/2022	IGWEBUIKE MFS UMONACHI	DUNUKOFA	LOT V26
27	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/027/2022	ADOGBE MFS OKJA	IHALA	LOT V27
28	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/028/2022	OKPOKO CPS X	OGBARU	LOT V28
29	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/029/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. EBENATOR	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V29
30	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/030/2022	AGULU - AWKA P/S AWKA	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V30
31	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/031/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AMANUKE	AWKA NORTH	LOT V31
32	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/032/2022	WALTER EZE SEC. SCH. UKPO	DUNUKOFA	LOT V32
33	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/033/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. UKWULU	DUNUKOFA	LOT V33
34	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/034/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. NDIUKWUENU	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V34
35	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/035/2022	AGUATA HIGH SCH. AGUATA	AGUATA	LOT V35
36	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/036/2022	PRINCE MEMO. SEC. SCH. ONITSHA	ONITSHA NORTH	LOT V36
37	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/037/2022	OKA COMMUNITY SCH. UGA	AGUATA	LOT V37
38	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/038/2022	COMMUNITY P/S AWBA - OFEMILI	AWKA NORTH	LOT V38
39	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/039/2022	AMAENYI COMMUNITY SCH. AWKA	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V39
40	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/040/2022	UNITY MODEL SCH. ICHI	EKWUSIGO	LOT V40
41	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/041/2022	OCHI P/S UMUOBA ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V41
42	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/042/2022	OKPOKO CPS XII	OGBARU	LOT V42
43	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/043/2022	OKPU P/S OWERE EZUKALA	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V43
44	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/044/2022	UNION P/S AMAMUKE	AWKA NORTH	LOT V44
45	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/045/2022	NWANNEKA AGULERI-OUT	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V45
46	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/046/2022	UGWU/CHI MFS AMICHI	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V46
47	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/047/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ADAZI-NNKWU	ANA OCHA	LOT V47
48	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/048/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. MGBAKWU	AWKA NORTH	LOT V48
49	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/049/2022	GTC ICHI	EKWUSIGO	LOT V49
50	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/050/2022	GTC ENUGWU - AGIDI	NIJOKA	LOT V50
51	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/051/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AGULUZIGBO	ANA OCHA	LOT V51
52	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/052/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ISUANIOCHA	AWKA NORTH	LOT V52
53	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/053/2022	MODEL COMPREH. SEC. SCH. NKWELLE-EZUNAKA	OYI	LOT V53
54	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/054/2022	COMMUNITY HIGH SCH. UGBENU	AWKA NORTH	LOT V54
55	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/055/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AKWAHEDI	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V55
56	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/056/2022	NIJOKA MFS EZI-AGULERI-OUT	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V56
57	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/057/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AMANUKE	AWKA NORTH	LOT V57
58	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/058/2022	ANTHONY OBAZE MEMO. SEC. SCH. OCHUCHE	OGBARU	LOT V58
59	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/059/2022	OKPOKO CPS X	OGBARU	LOT V59
60	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/060/2022	UMUOGBUEFI P/S EBENEBE	AWKA NORTH	LOT V60
61	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/061/2022	VIABLE MFS ODEKPE	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V61
62	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/062/2022	MODEL P/S IGBAKWU	AYAMELUM	LOT V62
63	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/063/2022	URBAN P/S OMOR	AYAMELUM	LOT V63
64	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/064/2022	COMMUNITY SCHOOL, ULI	IHALA	LOT V64
65	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/065/2022	UNITY P/S NDIKABA ULI	IHALA	LOT V65
66	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/066/2022	OKPOKO CPS II	OGBARU	LOT V66
67	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/067/2022	UGBADA MFS OROMA ETTI	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V67
68	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/068/2022	TWON SCHOOL, AMORKA IHALA	IHALA	LOT V68
69	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/069/2022	AKANATOR P/S OMOR	AYAMELUM	LOT V69
70	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/070/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. IYIOWA ODEKPE	OGBARU	LOT V70
71	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/071/2022	IDEKE GRAMMAR SCH. ODEKPE	OGBARU	LOT V71
72	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/072/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ABBA	NIJOKA	LOT V72
73	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/073/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. IFITE-OGWARI	AYAMELUM	LOT V73
74	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/074/2022	NEW BETHEL SEC. SCH. ISULO	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V74
75	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/075/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. IDEANI	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V75
76	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/076/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. EZINIFITE (BSS)	AGALTA	LOT V76
77	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/077/2022	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. UKPO	DUNUKOFA	LOT V77
78	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/078/2022	MFS UTU-OWOM	OGBARU	LOT V78
79	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/079/2022	OKUTALUKWE SEC. SCH. ENUGWU-UKWU	NIJOKA	LOT V79

80	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/080/2024	NTIOKWA MFS UMUMBO	AYAMELUM	LOT V80
81	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/081/2024	AMIKWE P/S OMOR	AYAMELUM	LOT V81
82	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/082/2024	MODEL SCHOOL, EZIOKA ISUOFA	AGUATA	LOT V82
83	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/083/2024	AMORJI P/S ISUOFA	AGUATA	LOT V83
84	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/084/2024	PRIMARY SCHOOL, AGULUEZCHUKWU	AGUATA	LOT V84
85	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/085/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ACHINA	AGUATA	LOT V85
86	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/086/2024	MFS OKPOLODUM	OGBARU	LOT V86
87	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/087/2024	MFS UMUENEM NNEWI	NNEWI NORTH	LOT V87
88	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/088/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. NAWGU	NIJOKA	LOT V88
89	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/089/2024	NIJOKA P/S UMUMBO	AYAMELUM	LOT V89
90	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/090/2024	NOMADIC SCH. URUM	AWKA NORTH	LOT V90
91	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/091/2024	OMAGU MFS UMUOBA ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V91
92	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/092/2024	COMMUNITY P/S IBOLO ORAIFITE	EKWUSIGO	LOT V92
93	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/093/2024	CENTRAL SCH. OZZU NDIUKWENU	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V93
94	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/094/2024	MFS AGWEE-EFI	OGBARU	LOT V94
95	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/095/2024	MFS OSE-OGWUGWU	OGBARU	LOT V95
96	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/096/2024	CENTRAL SCHOOL, ORA-ERI	AGUATA	LOT V96
97	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/097/2024	SPECIAL EDU. SCH. UMUCHU	AGUATA	LOT V97
98	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/098/2024	ODAH MFS P/S AGULERI OTU	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V98
99	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/099/2024	IGWEBUIKE P/S UMUERI	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V99
100	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/100/2024	MFS NENI	ANA OCHA	LOT V100
101	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/101/2024	COMMUNITY P/S ISUANIOCHA	AWKA NORTH	LOT V101
102	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/102/2024	UNITY P/S AWBA - OFEMILI	AWKA NORTH	LOT V102
103	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/103/2024	EGE MFS AWBA - OFEMILI	AWKA NORTH	LOT V103
104	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/104/2024	OTOKO P/S ISUANIOCHA	AWKA NORTH	LOT V104
105	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/105/2024	UMUENU COMMUNITY P/S UMUAWULU	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V105
106	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/106/2024	EZI-AWKA P/S AWKA	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V106
107	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/107/2024	OTUBE MFS IFITE - OGWARI	AYAMELUM	LOT V107
108	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/108/2024	OBUNAGU MFS UMONACHI	DUNUKOFA	LOT V108
109	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/109/2024	EZIAMA P/S ULJ	IHALA	LOT V109
110	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/110/2024	ODACHALA MFS UMUERI	ANAMBRA EAST	LOT V110
111	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/111/2024	PRIMARY SCHOOL, ONEH	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V111
112	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/112/2024	UKWUBIALI MFS ODEKPE	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V112
113	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/113/2024	AJAGU MFS IGBEDOR	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V113
114	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/114/2024	COMMUNITY P/S OGWU-ANIOCHA	OGBARU	LOT V114
115	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/115/2024	UNITY P/S OGWU - ANIOCHA	OGBARU	LOT V115
116	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/116/2024	UKWUNGWU COMMUNITY SCH. LILU	IHALA	LOT V116
117	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/117/2024	CENTRAL SCHOOL, AGBUDU	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V117
118	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/118/2024	AKPAKWU MFS NTEJE	OYI	LOT V118
119	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/119/2024	PREMIER P/S IL, OBOSI	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V119
120	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/120/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. NNObi	IDEMILI SOUTH	LOT V120
121	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/121/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. EZIOWELLE	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V121
122	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/122/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. UMUEZE ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V122
123	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/123/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. OGWU - ANIOCHA	OGBARU	LOT V123
124	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/124/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ABBA	NIJOKA	LOT V124
125	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/125/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. ATANI	OGBARU	LOT V125
126	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/126/2024	ATAKA MFS UMUERUM	AYAMELUM	LOT V126
127	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/127/2024	UDOKA P/S UMUOBA ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V127
128	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/128/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AWGBU	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V128
129	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/129/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AJALLI	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V129
130	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/130/2024	COMMUNITY HIGH SCH. OGOBOJI	ORUMBA SOUTH	LOT V130
131	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/131/2024	ARIBO MFS UMUIKWU ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V131
132	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/132/2024	UNITY P/S MMIATA ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V132
133	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/133/2024	UMUARABA COMM. SCH. UKPOR	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V133

# News

## Verdant Zeal's 2025 Innovention Series to ignite fintech conversation

**L**EADING Marketing Communications Group, Verdant Zeal Group Limited, is set to host the 13th edition of its flagship 'Innovention Series' with the theme, "Fintech & Inclusion: Pushing the Boundaries for Economic Growth in Nigeria."

Scheduled for October 28, 2025, the event, which will hold virtually, is billed to foster thought-provoking conversations that will help shape Africa's socio-economic development.

This year's edition, with the overarching theme of "Fintech and the Digital Economy," will spotlight the role of fintech and the digital economy in shaping Africa's future, bridging the gap between invention and innovation, fostering financial inclusion, and positioning the continent as a strong player in the global digital ecosystem.

Erudite scholar and boardroom technocrat, Dr. Segun Aina, who also is the President, Africa Fintech Network, will lead the conversation for this year's event, as the Keynote Speaker.

Renowned for his thought leadership in the digital finance sector, Aina will share insights on how fintech can serve as a transformative tool for deepening inclusion and driving sustainable growth.

The event will also feature a Fireside Chat session with Dr. Ogbo Okiti, CEO of ThinkBusiness Africa, and Mrs. Aderonke Shogbola, Senior Manager, Business Intelligence & Analytics at eTranzact. Both speakers will unpack key issues around policy frameworks, data-driven innovation, and scaling fintech solutions for impact.

Speaking about the event, Dr. Tunji Olugbodi, Executive Vice Chairman of Verdant Zeal Group and Convener of the Innovention Series, noted that, the 2025 edition comes at a defining moment in Africa's digital transformation journey.

"For over a decade, the Innovention Series has championed conversations that push boundaries and inspire action. As we explore fintech and the digital economy, our goal is to create a space for collaboration, where

### CLASSIFIED

#### CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

Formerly, known, called and addressed as RHODA ONOHUOMEN FRED, now wish to be known, called and addressed as RHODA ONOHUOMEN IMIENITAMA. My Correct date of birth is 17th February, 1980 not 17th March, 1976. The general public and to whom it may be concerned should please take note.



### Four Points by Sheraton Lagos

Address: Plot 9/10 Block 2 Oniru Chiefdom Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos. 021189, Lagos  
☎ 0905 382 2225



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### White Orchid Hotel/ Ebony Life Place

Address: 1637 Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos 106104, Lagos.  
☎ 0901 200 2206



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### Hotel 210

Address: 210 Muri Okunola, Victoria Island, Lagos



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### Ibis Hotel

Address: 23 Toyin St, Ikeja, Lagos 100282, Lagos  
☎ 0201 277 7888



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### Proof Hotel Lekki

8 Rafiat Ayinke Tinubu Close off T F Kuboye Street Oniru, Eti-Osa, Lekki, Lagos  
Phone: 0814 242 2888



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### Villa Park Hotel

Villa Park Hotels and Suites Ltd is located at Plot 76, Link Road, Amuwo-Odofin, Festac, Lagos, Nigeria.  
☎ 0808 344 7722



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### Lilygate Hotel

Address: No. 2, Olubunmi Owa Street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos Nigeria  
☎ 0817 033 2138



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### Lagos Continental Hotel

Address: 52a Kofo Abayomi St, Victoria Island, Lagos 101241, Lagos  
☎ 0201 330 5870



134	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/134/2024	COMMUNITY BOYS SEC. SCH. IGBOUKWU	AGUATA	LOT V134
135	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/135/2024	NWEJE MEMO. P/S II. ODOAKPU	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V135
136	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/136/2024	OMAGBA P/S II, ONITSHA	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V136
137	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/137/2024	IHALA COMM. P/S AMORKA	IHALA	LOT V137
138	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/138/2024	AGBAEDO MARKET SCH. NNEWI	NNEWI NORTH	LOT V138
139	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/139/2024	ARMY CHILDREN P/S II, ONITSHA	ONITSHA NORTH	LOT V139
140	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/140/2024	ENUAGU P/S ORAUKWU	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V140
141	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/141/2024	OKPOKO CPS XIII	OGBARU	LOT V141
142	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/142/2024	NWEJE MEMO. P/S I ODOAKPU	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V142
143	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/143/2024	EZEKWUABO P/S OTOLO NNEWI	NNEWI NORTH	LOT V143
144	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/144/2024	OGOLOMA P/S OMOR	AYAMELUM	LOT V144
145	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/145/2024	OGBODI C/S AMICHI	NNEWI NORTH	LOT V145
146	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/146/2024	PRIMARY SCHOOL, OMOGHO	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V146
147	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/147/2024	COMMUNITY P/S V, AWADA OBOSI	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V147
148	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/148/2024	OKPOKO CPS XIV	OGBARU	LOT V148
149	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/149/2024	AKALA CPS EZINIFITE	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V149
150	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/150/2024	CKC P/S OBELEDU	ANAOCHA	LOT V150
151	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/151/2024	UMUAWA P/S IFITE-OGWARI	AYAMELUM	LOT V151
152	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/152/2024	AGUOJI P/S IFITEDUNU	DUNUKOPIA	LOT V152
153	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/153/2024	UMUAGULUCHI P/S ULII	IHALA	LOT V153
154	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/154/2024	UNITY P/S EKWULUMILI	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V154
155	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/155/2024	UMUDIALA CPS EZINIFITE	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V155
156	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/156/2024	URUAGU COMMUNITY P/S AMICHI	NNEWI SOUTH	LOT V156
157	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/157/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. UMOONVIBA UFUMA	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V157
158	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/158/2024	PRIMARY SCHOOL, AMAOKPALA	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V158
159	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/159/2024	OMAGBA P/S II, ONITSHA	ONITSHA NORTH	LOT V159
160	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/160/2024	SECONDARY SCHOOL, OMOGHO	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V160
161	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/161/2024	RIVERSIDE SEC. SCH. UMUERUM	AYAMELUM	LOT V161
162	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/162/2024	OUR LADY'S HIGH SCH. ONITSHA	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V162
163	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/163/2024	OGBARU HIGH SCH. OGBAKUBA	OGBARU	LOT V163
164	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/164/2024	BASDEN NOMADIC P/S FEGGE	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V164
165	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/165/2024	AGAI P/S II, FEGGE	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V165
166	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/166/2024	OKPOKO CPS IV	OGBARU	LOT V166
167	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/167/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. NKPOLOGWU	AGUATA	LOT V167
168	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/168/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. OKO	AGUATA	LOT V168
169	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/169/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. AWADA	IDEMILI NORTH	LOT V169
170	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/170/2024	PRIMARY SCHOOL, AJALLI	ORUMBA NORTH	LOT V170
171	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/171/2024	COMMUNITY SEC. SCH. OKPUNO	AWKA SOUTH	LOT V171
172	UBEC/SUBEB/SS/RN/172/2024	METU MEMO. SEC. SCH. ONITSHA	ONITSHA SOUTH	LOT V172
173	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/173/2024	NOMADIC SCH. KARA CAMP	OGBARU	LOT V173
174	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/174/2024	UGWUNADEGBE MFS MMLATA ANAM	ANAMBRA WEST	LOT V174
175	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/175/2024	UNITY P/S IGBAKWU	AYAMELUM	LOT V175
176	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/176/2024	ARMY CHILDREN P/S I, ONITSHA	ONITSHA NORTH	LOT V176
177	UBEC/SUBEB/PR/RN/177/2024	OKPOKO CPS. III	OGBARU	LOT V177

### 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Interested contractors are to submit the following documents in their bids:

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC2 and CAC7.
- Evidence of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years (2022, 2023, and 2024).
- Evidence of current Pension Compliance Certificate (PENCOM).
- Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate.
- Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate.
- Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) or valid Certificate issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years (2022, 2023, and 2024).
- Evidence of financial capability and banking support.
- Company profile with Curriculum Vitae of key professional staff including copies of academic/professional qualifications.
- Verifiable documentary evidence of at least three (3) similar projects executed in the last five (5) years including Letters of Award, Job Completion Certificates and photographs of the projects.
- Sworn affidavit disclosing:
  - That the company is not in receivership, insolvent or bankrupt.
  - That none of the company's directors or officers has been convicted in any country for criminal offences relating to fraud, financial impropriety or misrepresentation.
  - That the company is not in default of tax or other statutory obligations.
  - That all information presented in its bid is true and correct in all particulars.

### 3. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

- Tender documents and additional information may be collected from the office of Head, Procurement Unit, Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board.
- Tenderers may tender for more than one LOT.
- Tendering shall be by open tendering.
- Registration of company with ASUBEB Ten thousand Naira (N10,000)
- Tendering Fee of Thirty thousand naira (N30,000) should be paid into ASUBEB Account Department, (Non-Refundable).

### 4. BID SUBMISSION

All bid documents must be submitted both electronically via email info@asubebanambra.com. (Excluding Financials) and physically (Including Financials) in a sealed envelope, addressed to the Executive Chairman, Anambra State Universal Basic Education Board (ASUBEB), Adjacent State House of Assembly by INEC Road Awka, Anambra State from Friday of 10th October to Friday 21st November 2025 (Not later than 12noon).

All bidders shall enclose their technical documents in a separate sealed envelope marked -TECHNICAL BID- and financial bids in another sealed envelope marked -FINANCIAL BID- With the name/description of project.

Both the TECHNICAL BID and FINANCIAL BID envelopes will thereafter be enclosed in a bigger outer envelope and properly sealed.

The outer envelope will be marked at the top left -hand corner with the project name and LOT number with the name of the company.

The Documents, that is the bigger outer envelope after being addressed should be deposited in the tender box.

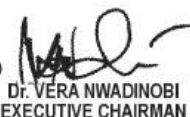
### 5. OPENING OF BIDS

Bids shall be opened publicly at the expiration of tender period on Friday 21st November, 2025 at 12noon at the Conference Hall of ASUBEB Headquarters, Awka, in the presence of bidders or their representatives, relevant professional bodies, Non-Governmental Organizations, and interested members of the public.

### 6. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bids must be in English language and signed by an authorized officer of the bidding company.
- Late submissions will be rejected.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of ASUBEB to award contracts to any bidder, nor shall it entitle any bidder to make claims or seek indemnity from ASUBEB.
- ASUBEB reserves the right to verify all claims submitted by bidders and to annul the procurement process at any time without incurring any liability.

SIGNED



DR. VERA NWADINOB  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN  
ANAMBRA STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (ASUBEB)



## FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OTUOKE Bayelsa State, Nigeria

Office of the Registrar  
(registrar@fuotuoke.edu.ng)

October 10, 2025

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

#### Background

The post of the Vice-Chancellor of the Federal University Otuoke, Nigeria, will become vacant soon. In accordance with the provisions of the Federal University Otuoke (Establishment) Act 2015; Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1993, (Amendment) Act 2003 and Act 2012, the Governing Council of the Federal University Otuoke wishes to commence the process of filling the vacancy. Interested candidates are requested to note the following information about the post.

#### The Job

The Vice-Chancellor is the Chief Executive and Academic Officer of the University, Chairman of the Senate and Member of the Governing Council of the University among others.

Consequently, the Vice-Chancellor is required to:

- Be competent at all times to advise the Council on any matter affecting the policy, finances, and administration of the University;
- Be generally responsible to the Council for maintaining the efficiency and good order of the University and for ensuring the proper enforcement of Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations;
- Be responsible for discipline in the University; and
- Regulate the admission of students in accordance with the guidelines and procedures approved by the Senate of the University.

#### The Candidate

The Candidate for the post of Vice-Chancellor is required to possess a good University degree including a PhD with professional fellowship and should be a proven manager of human and material resources. Specifically, the candidate shall be expected to:

- Be a highly distinguished scholar of the rank of Professor; with a minimum of six (6) years' experience on that level and demonstrate ability to provide academic and administrative leadership;
- Be a person of proven integrity;
- Command the respect of the national and international academic communities through his/her track record;
- Be a person who is Information and Communication Technology (ICT) proficient, committed to the mainstreaming of ICT into University wide programmes and activities;
- Strengthen the bridges between staff, students and other members of the University community;
- Have a good understanding of the vision and mission of the university in its pursuit of academic excellence;
- Enjoy excellent physical and mental health;
- Be not more than 65 years as at the date of possible assumption of duty.

#### Terms and Conditions of Service

- The Vice Chancellor shall hold office for a single term of five (5) years only on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment.
- The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the post of Vice-Chancellor in all Federal Universities in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Government/Governing Council as appropriate.

#### Method of Application

- i. Each application should be made in 25 copies and be accompanied by 25 copies of the candidate's curriculum vitae duly signed and dated. The curriculum vitae must contain the candidate's name in full, basic biodata, brief on educational/professional attainment (not exceeding 400 words), key high level academic appointments with stated achievements, post graduate supervisions completed, external postgraduate for scholarly publications, state/national/public/community services undertaken. Applicants are also required to attach their degrees, NYSC, and all claimed certificates.
- ii. Each application should include the names and addresses of three referees. Each referee should be contacted by the applicant to forward direct to the Registrar and Secretary to Council, a confidential report in a properly sealed envelope marked: Post of Vice-Chancellor: Referee's Report at the top left-hand corner of the envelope.
- iii. Each application must be accompanied by 25 copies of statement of the candidate's Vision for the University in the Twenty-First Century (maximum of 500 words).
- iv. In the case of candidates identified by the search team, the application shall conform to the requirements in (i) to (iii) above, in addition to a letter of consent duly signed by the candidate.

All applications shall be submitted under confidential cover and addressed to:

**The Registrar and Secretary to Council,  
Federal University Otuoke,  
Bayelsa State, Nigeria.**

The sealed envelope(s) containing the applications should be marked "Post of Vice-Chancellor" at the top left-hand corner and forwarded to reach the Registrar on or before six (6) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Signed:  
**ANDABI AMANGI-EDOMO**  
Registrar, Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State.

### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ENGR. SAMUEL DIDEN YALAJU AMAYE: A TRAILBLAZER IN ENGINEERING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In a world where determination, hard work, and resilience are the hallmarks of greatness, Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye stands tall as a shining example of what it means to live a life of purpose and achievement. Born on December 25, 1927, in Ewuse, an Itsekiri community near Amukpe in Ethiope West Local Government Area of Delta State, Engr. Amaye's life was a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence and his unrelenting passion for making a difference. He hailed from Okotomu-Origbo in Ode Itsekiri and Bateren Community, in Warri South and Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State respectively. He was named Didenwoma, due to his exceptional light complexion, which he took after his father, Pa. Oritsegbone Amaye. His mother's name was Olumare. Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju-Amaye was the youngest of four children.

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye's early life was marked by hardship and struggles. His father, Pa. Oritsesegbone Amaye, was a fisherman and trader who fell ill, prompting Engr. Amaye to take on the responsibility of caring for him, while his brothers went fishing to support the family. Despite these challenges, Engr. Amaye's determination to succeed drove him to attend Pamol Primary School, walking long distances to get his education. After completing his primary education, he pursued his secondary education in Sapele, obtaining his Higher School Certificate (HSC).

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye's determination to succeed was evident in his early career as a mathematics teacher in Ibadan. Later, he relocated to Okitipupa for a better-paying teaching position. In 1950, he left Nigeria for England, where he studied Civil Engineering at Cardiff University in Wales on a scholarship from the former Western Region Government. Despite working night shifts at a coal mine, Engr. Amaye excelled academically, earning a Master's degree, and a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Manchester (UMIST). He also obtained a membership certificate from the British Institute of Management, The Nigerian Society of Engineers, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria and The Nigerian Institute of Management.

On December 29, 1963, Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye returned to Nigeria, and his homecoming was nothing short of spectacular. He was welcomed majestically at the port of entry into Nigeria with the Itsekiri cultural band, a testament to his status as one of the first Itsekiri sons to have traveled and studied abroad. The cultural band, adorned in their traditional attire, played melodious tunes that echoed through the port, signaling the arrival of a hero. The warm reception was a fitting tribute to Engr. Amaye's achievement, and it marked the beginning of a new chapter in his life.

After his grand welcome, Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye was appointed by the Federal Government to work in Lokoja. He was later transferred to Benin city under the Mid-West Regional government, where he served as General Manager of the Water Corporation, overseeing the construction of major water reservoirs and roads in the defunct Mid-West Region and Bendel State. Notably, he constructed major roads in Warri, including Cemetery Road, Ginuwa Road, and Bowen Avenue.

I vividly recall his residence on Bello-Osagie Street, off Akpakpava Road in Benin City, during the mid-60s. That house was a haven for many of us. Myself, "Key Niger" Yalaju, Peter Fregene (the former Green Eagles goalkeeper), and other close relatives were all accommodated there. It was from his house that Peter Fregene embarked on his football career in Lagos, and "Key Niger" Yalaju began his journey in the Nigerian Army.

After retiring from public service in 1973, Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye established several companies, including Associated Registered Engineering Contractors, Nigerian Overseas Engineering Limited Sawmills, and Roli Hotels Limited. He also held shares in other prominent companies. His entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen were evident in the success of his ventures, which created jobs and contributed to the growth of the economy.

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye's legacy extends beyond his business and public service achievements. His court case, Amaye vs AREC Nigeria Limited, a seminal and groundbreaking legal precedent that has

been a reference point for law students, researchers, and practitioners alike, showcasing his unwavering courage, unshakeable determination, unrelenting commitment to justice, and an unyielding passion for fairness, all of which have been a beacon of hope and a testament to his enduring legacy in the pursuit of truth, fairness, and justice in the face of adversity.

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye's contributions to Nigeria's infrastructure development are truly impressive. As the Managing Director of Associated Registered Engineering Contractors, he played a key role in building military barracks across the country during General Olusegun Obasanjo's government.

In addition to building military barracks, Engr. Amaye's company also constructed major roads across Nigeria, further solidifying his legacy as a pioneering engineer and entrepreneur.

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye was a devoted family man with multiple wives, 24 children, at the time of his death. At the age of 70, he gave his life to Christ and was baptized at the First Baptist Church, Koko. His commitment to his family and community was evident in his life, and he will be remembered as a loving father, grand-father, husband, and community leader.

Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye was an active member of the Omateye family organization and a founder of the group. He also played a prominent role in the Ikeke family in Sapele Local Government. His contributions to the growth and development of his community were recognized and celebrated by his people.

As we reflect on the life and legacy of Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye, we are reminded of the profound impact he had on Nigeria's development. His contributions to engineering, entrepreneurship, and community service continue to inspire us today.

He was the beacon of his family and a pillar of his community, enlightening minds through education, empowering lives through job creation, and leveraging his influence to secure government employment opportunities for his community. As the pioneering General Manager of the Bendel State Water Corporation, he opened doors for many of us, providing employment opportunities and supporting our educational pursuits. His contributions significantly elevated our family's name and reputation.

Engr. Diden was more than a provider; he was a guardian who genuinely cared about our wellbeing. He instilled discipline and responsibility in us, ensuring we never stayed out past 7 pm. Although we occasionally sneaked out to the cinema, his love and guidance had a lasting impact on our lives.

Engr. Diden's life was a gift to his family and the wider community. His kindness, discipline, and generosity have left an indelible mark on us all. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to live on. His contributions to the growth and development of his community are still remembered today, and he remains a role model for young entrepreneurs and professionals.

I still vividly remember the poignant conversation we shared just days before his passing. With a gentle smile, he revealed to me that he was embarking on a final journey, one that would take him beyond this world. As he spoke, his eyes sparkled with a deep sense of love and trust, and he bestowed upon me a precious gift - the Akpuja called Adolor. My heart swells with emotion as I recall this moment, for I knew that I was being entrusted with a legacy. He was a man of many names - Adolor, Edemayogho, Olowojosor - but to me, he will forever be a guiding light, a shining star whose memory will continue to illuminate my path.

If they ever tell my story, let them say I walked alongside giants, men whose legacies will forever stand tall. I lived in the time of Engr. Samuel Diden Yalaju Amaye, a titan of engineering, a trailblazer who left an indelible mark on Nigeria's landscape. Let them say I witnessed greatness, that I saw a man who built bridges, roads, and barracks, connecting people and places. Let them say I knew a man who rose above the ordinary, who left a lasting legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come. Let them say I lived in the time of Engr. Amaye, a true Nigerian hero.

Tribute by:  
Chief (Sir) Patrick D. Yalaju (KSQ). The Kenekueyero of Warri Kingdom.  
Akpuja: Adolor writes from Warri.

.....  
*20th Year  
Remembrance*



**ENGR. SAMUEL DIDEN  
YALAJU- AMAYE**

December 25th, 1927 - October 10th, 2005

*Fondly remembered by The Children.*





## IMO STATE GOVERNMENT



# SPECIAL INVITATION TO THE UNVEILING OF MYIMOAPP AND GRADUATION OF 10,000 COHORT 3, SKILLUP IMO TRANEES

The Imo State Government most cordially invites Imo State stakeholders and the general public to the unveiling of MyImoApp and the graduation ceremony of 10,000 youths trained and equipped under the Cohort 3 SkillUp Imo Project.

MyImoApp is a one-stop platform designed to connect Imo people at home and abroad to developments in the state and enable them to be part of the governance process.

Come and witness the making of history and the fulfilment of a promise by the visionary government of Distinguished Senator Hope Uzodimma, CON, the transformative Governor of Imo State.

**Date:**  
Friday, October 10th, 2025

**Venue:**  
Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu International  
Conference Centre, Owerri

**Time:**  
11:00 AM

**Host:**  
His Excellency,  
**Governor Hope Uzodimma, CON,**  
Governor of Imo State

**Signed:**  
**Chief Cosmas Iwu**  
Secretary to the Government of Imo State



**NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
VERIFICATION OF RETIRED JUDICIAL OFFICERS AND JUDICIARY STAFF**

The Pensioners of the Federal and State Judiciary are hereby notified that the National Judicial Council will be conducting 2025 nationwide physical/online verification exercise of the pensioners on its Payroll in the six Geo-Political Zones of the Country to update its records.

The Officers to be verified are:-

- (I) All retired Federal Judicial Officers.
- (ii) All retired States Judicial Officers
- (iii) Retired staff of the federal judiciary under the defined benefits scheme whose pension is domiciled with the National Judicial Council.
- (iv) Retired staff of the States Judiciary with federal share of pension whose pension is domiciled with the National Judicial Council.

The physical verification exercise will be conducted at the States Judiciary headquarters (High Courts of Justice) from 6th to 28th of October, 2025.

See National Dailies for details, please.

For the online verification, please log on to <https://pensionverify.njcpension.com>

For further enquiries, Please Call: 08033020435, 08037868730 and 08035868498.

**2025 Physical Verification Exercise  
From the 6th to the 28th of October 2025**

<b>Group 1</b>		<b>Group 7</b>	
Rivers	06th & 07th October	Katsina	20th & 21st October
Akwa Ibom	09th & 10th October	Jigawa	23rd & 24th October
Cross River	13th & 14th October	Kano	27th & 28th October
<b>Group 2</b>		<b>Group 8</b>	
Bayelsa	06th & 07th October	Zamfara	20th & 21st October
Delta	09th & 10th October	Sokoto	23rd & 24th October
Edo	13th & 14th October	Kebbi	27th & 28th October
<b>Group 3</b>		<b>Group 9</b>	
Osun	06th & 07th October	Borno	20th & 21st October
Ondo	09th & 10th October	Yobe	23rd & 24th October
Ekiti	13th & 14th October	Bauchi	27th & 28th October
<b>Group 4</b>		<b>Group 10</b>	
Oyo	06th & 07th October	Adamawa	20th & 21st October
Ogun	09th & 10th October	Gombe	23rd & 24th October
Lagos	13th & 14th October	Plateau	27th & 28th October
<b>Group 5</b>		<b>Group 11</b>	
Anambra	07th & 08th October	Taraba	20th & 21st October
Enugu	10th & 11th October	Benue	23rd & 24th October
Kogi	13th & 14th October	Nasarawa	27th & 28th October
<b>Group 6</b>		<b>Group 12</b>	
Imo	07th & 08th October	Kwara	20th & 21st October
Abia	10th & 11th October	Niger	23rd & 24th October
Ebonyi	14th & 15th October	Kaduna	27th & 28th October

Signed

**Management**



PUBLIC NOTICE  
**ADVISORY ON  
ILLEGAL  
FINANCIAL  
OPERATORS**



The Financial Services Regulation Coordinating Committee (FSRCC), in collaboration with the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), wishes to draw the attention of the public to the worrisome increase in the activities of Illegal Financial Operators (IFOs) which portends grave risk to the public confidence and stability of the Nigerian Financial System.

The FSRCC and the NBC in their continuing efforts to end the scourge of IFOs in Nigeria, hereby issue the following advisory to the general public:

1. Refrain from dealing with unlicensed or illegal financial operators, who lure and defraud unsuspecting members of the public by offering extra-ordinary returns on investments as bait.

2. Verify the licensing status of such companies and schemes on the following websites before investing in them:

- a. CBN: <https://www.cbn.gov.ng>
- b. NAICOM: <https://naicom.gov.ng>
- c. PenCom: <https://www.pencom.gov.ng>
- d. SEC: <https://sec.gov.ng>
- e. FSRCC: <https://www.fsrcc.gov.ng>

Consequently, the Public is advised to report any individual or entities suspected to be involved in such nefarious activities to Law enforcement agencies.

**Call:**  
**CBN: 08176657060**  
**SEC: 02094621168, 09167723240**  
**Email: [fsrcco@cbn.gov.ng](mailto:fsrcco@cbn.gov.ng)**  
**[sec@sec.gov.ng](mailto:sec@sec.gov.ng)**

Member agencies will continue to engage in regular sensitization campaigns on the threats posed by the activities of Illegal Financial Operators.

Further enquiries may be addressed to:

- I. The Director, Financial Policy and Regulation Department / Secretary, FSRCC, Central Bank of Nigeria, and/or
- II. The Executive Commissioner, Legal, and Enforcement, Securities and Exchange Commission.

Let us work together to uphold the integrity of Nigeria's financial system.





## FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES, KWALE, DELTA STATE

# SCREENING OF UTME CANDIDATES FOR 2025/2026 ADMISSION EXERCISE

**T**he Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Kwale, Delta State hereby announces the screening of UTME candidates for admission into the institution for the 2025/2026 Academic Session.

Applications are only open to candidates that scored 200 and above at the 2025 UTME Examinations and have completed the procedures for change of their Universities of First Choice to the Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Kwale.

### Courses Available are;

#### **A Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry**

- i. Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.DS)
- ii. Bachelor of Medicine/Surgery (MBBS)

#### **B Faculty of Allied Health Sciences**

- i. Bachelor of Nursing Sciences (B.NSc)
- ii. Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science (B.MLS)
- iii. B.Sc. Human Nutrition and Dietetics
- iv. Doctor of Physiotherapy (D.PT)

#### **C Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences**

- i. B.Sc. Human Anatomy
- ii. B.Sc. Physiology

#### **D Faculty of Pharmacy**

- i. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)

#### **E Faculty of Science**

- i. B.Sc. Mathematics

- ii. B.Sc. Physics
- iii. B.Sc. Chemistry
- iv. B.Sc. Biology
- v. B.Sc. Biochemistry

### GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must possess Five (5) Credits passes in the relevant subjects in the WASSCE, NECO, SSCE or GCE O/L Examinations at not more than two (2) sittings as well as other matriculation requirements stipulated by JAMB.

### PROCEDURE FOR ONLINE APPLICATION

Candidates are to apply online at [www.fumsk.edu.ng](http://www.fumsk.edu.ng) and make payments of 2,000 Naira (Two Thousand Naira with their ATM Cards via Remitta as well as upload their Passport Photographs of RED BACKGROUNDS, Originals of all credentials including Birth Certificates, Testimonials and any other qualifying documents.

For further information call:

**08075633449 or 08032342456**

### CLOSE OF APPLICATIONS

Application closes at **12 Midnight 22nd of October, 2025.**

**SIGNED**

**MR. LUCKY MUSTAPHA OHWOJEROH  
REGISTRAR**

# CHANGE OF NAME

<p><b>OKUNZUWA</b></p> <p>In my BVN and other bank details my name was captured and wrongly spelt as Okunzuwa Reuben instead of Okunzuwa Rueben Godstime as correctly captured and spelt in my NIN and other documents. That now wish to be known as OKUNZUWA RUEBEN GODSTIME. All former documents remain valid, the public to take note.</p>	<p><b>MARGARET</b></p> <p>I hereby confirm that my name was written as German Margaret in my primary school certificate instead of Edanya Dupe Margaret as written in my NIN. All documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>JENNIFER</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as Ogheneruro Jennifer Akparorue, now wish to be known and addressed as Lady Edanya Dupe Margaret as written in my NIN. All documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b></p> <p>The names UGHOKAN FRIDAY OKEOGHENE, BENEDICTA and UGHOKAN FRIDAY OKEOGHENE refers to the same person but now bears UGHOKANFRIDAY OKEOGHENE. All former documents remain valid. Authorities concerned and general public to take note.</p>	<p><b>GLORY</b></p> <p>I formerly known, called and addressed as, INNOCENT GLORY, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, INNOCENT GLORY ANIEFIOK. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.</p>	<p><b>NWOSU</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as, MISS COMFORT NWOSU and MISS NWOSU COMFORT CHIOMA respectively, now wish to be known, called and addressed as, MRS. OKOH CHIOMA COMFORT. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.</p>
<p><b>EKENE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as, UGUWU EKENE FAITH but now wish to be known, called and address as, EKENE FAITH EGHAREVBA all documents bearing my former names remain valid, Banks and General public please take note.</p>	<p><b>BENEDICTA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. OBIEKWUGO BENEDICTA CHIMANKPAM now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. OKOLIE BENEDICTA CHIMANKPAM. All documents remain valid. General Public take note.</p>	<p><b>PROSPER</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as OGBONNA PROSPER, now which to be known as AIWORO PROSPER OGBONNA. All documents remain valid. General public, take note.</p>	<p><b>FAVOUR</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as OKONAMA FAVOUR Now wish to be known and addressed as OKONANA FAVOUR. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JUSTICE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as OTUTU JUSTICE CHINONSO, I now wish to be known, called and addressed as EJIKE JUSTICE CHINONSO, all former documents remain valid, general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>EKA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Eka Nta Wilson and also Eka Nta Wellington, now wish to be known and addressed as Eka Nta Wellington-Bazunu. All former document remain valid. General public note.</p>
<p><b>CHIOMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as, OZURUMBA CHIOMA CYNTHIA now wish to be known and address as, OKAFOR CHIOMA CYNTHIA all documents bearing my former names remain valid, General public take note.</p>	<p><b>HELEN</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as MISS AKITA HELEN ASABORO now wish to be known, addressed and called MRS UGBENU HELEN henceforth all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>FELICIA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as JOSEPH FELICIA O., now wish to be known and addressed as OMOKHOGIE FELICIA. All formal documents remain valid. Concerned Authorities and General Public take note.</p>	<p><b>RUTH</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as IFELUNWA RUTH Now wish to be known and addressed as OKWUDILI RUTH IFELUNWA. All former documents remain valid. Banks and the general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>AUDU</b></p> <p>In my BVN details, my name was captured as AUDU MIKE instead of AUDU OLUCHUKWU MIKE, my true and correct name is AUDU OLUCHUKWU MIKE all former documents remain valid general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JULIET</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as OGHWOGANOKWO JULIET, now wish to be known as JULIET ONYINYE OHWOGANOHWO. All former documents remain valid, general public, Zenith Bank PLC take note.</p>
<p><b>BLESSING</b></p> <p>I, formerly Blessing Omono Ogbue now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. Blessing Omono Oigbochie. All former documents remain valid and the British High Commission as well as the general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>TEBU</b></p> <p>I was formerly known and addressed as TEBU ORITSEGBUBEMI DENIS now wish to be known and address as TEBU DENNIS ORITSEGBUBEMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>APUTU</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as MISS PELETIRI AUGUSTINA IKPOEBIMO now wish to be known and addressed as MRS APUTU AUGUSTINA IKPOEBIMO. All former documents remain valid. General public, relevant authorities take note.</p>	<p><b>EBIDOU</b></p> <p>Formerly known and addressed as Miss EBIWONI EBIDOU, Now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs BINEBAI DESMOND EBIDOU. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>ELOHOR</b></p> <p>I, GODBLESS ONOVUHAKPOR, am the Biological Father of formerly known as OLISE OLUCHUKWU MIRACLE which is in her First School Leaving Certificate. I now wish to change her name to ONOVUHAKPOR ELOHOR MIRACLE. All her former documents remain valid. General Public Take Note.</p>	<p><b>HENRY</b></p> <p>In my account and NIN my name was as. BATETE OGHENEKPAROBO HENRY instead of ADJENUGHURE SEROMO JOACHIM B. as it appears in my voters card, I now wish to be known as. ADJENUGHURE SEROMO JOACHIM B. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>
<p><b>UCHE</b></p> <p>I FORMERLY KNOWN AS GODGIFT UCHE NNA. NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS NNAGOGO UCHE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE</p>	<p><b>FAVOUR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as MBANUGO FAVOUR CHIOMA and EGBODO FAVOUR CHIOMA, now wish to be known as ODEH FAVOUR CHIOMA. all former document remain valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>COUPLE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as BEKES COUPLE, now wish to be known as COUPLE BEKEAKPO EDUMUYEI. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>JAMILA</b></p> <p>That during my account opening/ BVN registration, my name was wrongly captured as JAMILA CHUBIYO HARUNA instead of JAMILA HARUNA being my correct name. All former documents remain valid. Banks, the general public take note.</p>	<p><b>FAVOUR</b></p> <p>Formerly known called and addressed as OMAGBEMI FAVOUR ORITSETIMIYIN now wish to be known called and addressed as OMAGBEMI FAVOUR TEMEYIN all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>CHIKA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as Miss ODIMGBE CHIKA DAISY, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs. EMEKA CHIKA DAISY. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.</p>
<p><b>GRACE</b></p> <p>That in my BVN/account details my name was wrongly captured as MAHAR GRACE instead of my correct name as MAHA GRACE. All former documents remain valid. Banks and General public Take Note</p>	<p><b>LAWRENCE</b></p> <p>I, AGHWARE LAWRENCE OVAUKPORAE, state that my name was wrongly recorded in my BVN as AGHWAREWAIRE OVAUKPORAE LAWRENCE instead of AGHWARE LAWRENCE OVAUKPORAE. My correct name is AGHWARE LAWRENCE OVAUKPORAE. The public is hereby notified.</p>	<p><b>SANDRA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as Miss ADUN SANDRA, now wish to be called and addressed as MRS BENSON SANDRA, as a result of my marital status. All formal documents remain valid, the General Public in Nigeria and Overseas please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABUOMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as NWOKIKE ABUOMA FAVOUR, now wish to be known and addressed as NWACHIDOBELU ABUOMA FAVOUR. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>EDET</b></p> <p>I was formerly known and address as RAPHAEL EDET now wish to be known and address as PETER EDET henceforth. General public take note</p>	<p><b>ABOGO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as NATHANIEL ABOGO and ABOGO F. OGHENEVO, now wish to be known and addressed as ABOGO OGHENEVO FRANCIS. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.</p>
<p><b>EBIKAWEI</b></p> <p>I wish to confirm that my correct names are EBIKAWEI CLETUS, but during BVN Registration and my account opening I used EBIKAWEI CLETUS AMAYERIN, but I now wish to remove AMAYERIN among my names. I now wish to be known and address as, EBIKAWEI CLETUS. General public please take note</p>	<p><b>PEACE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as OBI PEACE UDOKA but now wish to be known, called and addressed as, FELIX PEACE UDOKA all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please take note.</p>	<p><b>GRACE</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as EROMONSELE GRACE now wish to be known and addressed as EROMONSELE GRACE henceforth. All former documents remains valid. First Bank, general public to please take note.</p>	<p><b>IBAGUA</b></p> <p>That during my International Passport Enrolment, my name was wrongly written as IBAGUA LUCKY That my full and correct name is IBAGUA NATHANIEL LUCKY. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>EGUONOR</b></p> <p>Formerly known as ASOTANSOMI EGUONOR LOVE now wish to be known as KOGOR EGUONOR RACHEL all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>TINA</b></p> <p>The correct arrangement of my name is EFE TINA ORITSE, and not ORITSE TINA EFE as seen in my BVN and account details. EFE TINA ORITSE remains my correct name. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.</p>
<p><b>ABRAHAM</b></p> <p>This is to notify the general public that Sunday Abraham and Ogbinaka Abraham Orowo is one and the same person now wish to be known and addressed as Ogbinaka Abraham Orowo. All former documents remain valid. Local Government Education Authority, Oloh and (SUBEB). General public take note.</p>	<p><b>STANLEY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as, OGHENERO STANLEY but now wish to be known, called and addressed as, MONDAY OGHENERO STANLEY all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please take note.</p>	<p><b>VERA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as, Miss Izokun Vera, now wish to be known and addressed as, Mrs Okojie Vera, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>CHRISTABEL</b></p> <p>I formerly known and called as MISS OGBOMO. IKPONMWOSA CHRISTABEL now wish to be known and addressed as MRS IZEKOR. CHRISTABEL. IKPONMWOSA. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>ITIRO</b></p> <p>My BANK ACCOUNT/BVN details were wrongly captured as ITIRO PATIENCE UIJO but want them changed to ITIRO PATIENCE. Public notice</p>	<p><b>TOYIN</b></p> <p>I formerly known as MISS ALIU TOYIN IGE, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS TOYIN ALIU-OSAREMWINDA. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>
<p><b>EJINIWE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. PATRICIA EJINIWE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. PATRICIA OSAH. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.</p>	<p><b>CHINEYE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as, MISS ENEMUWE CHINEYE WENDY now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS CHUKWUMA CHINEYE WENDY all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please tak note.</p>	<p><b>OLUMESE</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as, Olumese Wisdom Osagie, now wish to be known and addressed as, Olumese Michael, all former documents remains valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>MICHEAL</b></p> <p>The names Nwadoju Michael Chinedu and Nwadoju Chinedu Micheal refer to one and same person, but I now wish to be known and addressed as Nwadoju Chinedu Micheal. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>EGWARE</b></p> <p>My BANK ACCOUNT/BVN details were wrongly captured as EGWARE UYOYOU but want them changed to EGWARE UYOYOU. Public notice</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL</b></p> <p>I formerly known as the EMESHANENA EMMANUEL, now wish to be known as EMESHANENA EMMANUEL EJOMAFUVWE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>
<p><b>ANTHONY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as MISS. ANTHONY MIRACLE now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MICHAEL MIRACLE. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.</p>	<p><b>THERESA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as OKPAKO THERESA UMUJEVOKE now wish to be known, called and addressed as AKPOMUDJE THERESA UMUJEVOKE all documents bearing my former names remain valid. General public please tak note.</p>	<p><b>JESSICA</b></p> <p>I FORMERLY KNOWN AS MISS CHIDUMEME JESSICA ONYEBUCHUKWU. DUE TO MARRIAGE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS BELLO-OSAGIE JESSICA ONYEBUCHUKWU. FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.</p>	<p><b>EDJEKETA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as EDJEKETA, KESTAR now wish to be known and addressed as EDJEKETA, KESTER ANTHONY. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>PAMELA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as Pamela Ifeoma Ogbuzuo, now wish to be known and addressed as Pamela Ifeoma PETERS. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>OZIOMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as LEMCHI OZIOMA STEPHNY, I now wish to be known called and address as MALO OZIOMA STEPHNY, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.</p>
<p><b>IJEOMA</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as OBI IJEOMA JENNIFER now wish to be known and addressed as OKAFOR IJEOMA JENNIFER. Former documents remain valid. General public, please take note.</p>	<p><b>PROGRESS</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as MRS. OKI PROGRESS CATHERINE. Now wish to be known and addressed as MISS. UKUTEMI PROGRESS CATHERINE. All former documents remain valid. General public banks and concerned institutions should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ROSE</b></p> <p>That I was formerly known, called and addressed as IREUKE ROSE and now wish to be known, called and addressed as EVIVIE ROSE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>AYOBAMI</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as Ayobami Emmanuel Oketunde, now wish to be known, called and addressed as Ayobami Emmanuel Oketade. All former documents remain valid, General public please take note.</p>	<p><b>PAUL</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as Paul Ufuoma Amagada, now wish to be known and addressed as Paul Adonis PETERS. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>	<p><b>MICHAEL</b></p> <p>In my BVN and Bank Account details my name was wrongly captured as NNENYAYA MICHAEL MICHAEL instead of MICHAEL NNENYAYA FELICITY, my true and correct name is MICHAEL NNENYAYA FELICITY, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.</p>
<p><b>GETRUDE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS IBE NONYELUM GETRUDE, now wish to be known as MRS IGWEBUIKE DAMIAN NONYELUM GETRUDE. all former documents remain valid, general public please take note</p>	<p><b>AGNES</b></p> <p>I, FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS ADADU AGNES IMANI NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS UGWOKE AGNES IMANI ALL DOCUMENTS BEARING FORMER NAMES REMAIN VALID. THE GENERAL PUBLIC SHOULD TAKE NOTE.</p>	<p><b>PURITY</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as MISS UKARA PURITY, now wish to be known, called and addressed as MRS. PURITY UDUMEBRAYE TOGBE FRIDAY. All documents bearing my former name remain valid. The general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>NKECHINYERE</b></p> <p>That the names ANORUO PERPETUAL NKECHINYERE and ANORUO PRECIOUS NKECHINYERE belongs to the same person, now wish to be known, called and addressed as DENNIS PERPETUAL NKECHINYERE. All former documents remain valid, General public take note.</p>	<p><b>CHINELO</b></p> <p>I formerly known as Miss Onuba Celine Chinelo now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs Chinelo Celine Onuba-Ugoji. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>ABUBAKAR</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as ALI BABA, I now wish to be known called and address as ABUBAKAR ALI-BABA, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.</p>
<p><b>TAIWO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as Taiwo Oluwayemisi Olowojesiku, now wish to be known as Taiwo Oluwayemisi Olatuja due to marriage reason. all former documents remain valid, general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>JOHNBULL</b></p> <p>My name was wrongly captured in my account as, ERHERHE JOHNBULL E. and ERHERHE JOHNBULL instead of ERHERHE EMUOGHOKESE JOHNBULL. Now wish to be known as ERHERHE EMUOGHOKESE JOHNBULL. All former documents remain valid, general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>RAYMOND</b></p> <p>Formerly known as AGI NDUBISI RAYMOND now wish to be known as IHEAKUAZOR RAYMOND AGI all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>NKECHINYERE</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as ANORUOH PERPETUAL NKECHINYERE and now wish to be known and addressed as DENNIS PERPETUAL NKECHINYERE. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>ODUFA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Miss Christian Odufa Okpetu Amodu, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Christiana Odufa Sadoh. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>WISDOM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known, called and addressed as OSAGIEDE WISDOM, I now wish to be known called and address as OGORCHUKWU WISDOM, all former documents remain valid general public please take note.</p>
<p><b>ROBERT</b></p> <p>That I was formerly known and addressed as ONWUKWE ROBERT CHUKS. That I now wish to be known, called and addressed as ANTHONY ROBERT OBINNA in every documentation of identification. That all documents bearing my former names remain valid, and for the authorities concerned and general public to take note.</p>	<p><b>UANKHOJE</b></p> <p>Formerly known called and addressed as, UANKHOJE FRIDAY. Now wish to be known called and addressed as, UANKHOJE FRIDAY OBA. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>MERCY</b></p> <p>Formerly known as IWHIWHI MERCY now wish to be known as IDOLOR MERCY all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>SOLOMON</b></p> <p>I formerly known, called and addressed as OKAFOR SOLOMON KANAYO, Now wish to be known, called and addressed as ORJI SOLOMON KANAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public and Authorities concern to please take note.</p>	<p><b>UCHENNA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Miss Jane-frances Uchenna Okeke, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Onwumba Jane-frances Uchenna. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>EMMANUEL</b></p> <p>That in my NIN DETAILS, my name was wrongly captured as, ODUACHUKWU EMMANUEL GOD'S TIMES instead of, UDOCHUKWU EMMANUEL GOD'S SEND. That my true and correct name is UDOCHUKWU EMMANUEL GOD'S SEND. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.</p>
<p><b>NWAORA</b></p> <p>My correct name is OKWUDIRI NWAORA. But my surname was wrongly captured in my BVN/account as NWAORI instead of my correct surname as NWAORA. All Former document remain valid General public Take Note.</p>	<p><b>JENNIFER</b></p> <p>Formerly known called and addressed as, Miss. Oghenekparobo Jennifer. I now wish to be known called and addressed as Mrs. Ebonu Jennifer. All former documents remain valid, general public and all concern authorities should please take note.</p>	<p><b>VERONICA</b></p> <p>Formerly known as MISS AJIE NWAKAEGO VERONICA now wish to be known as MRS OKORO VERONICA NWAKAEGO all former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>CHUKWUKA</b></p> <p>My name was wrongly written in my BVN as CHUKWUKA NICHOLAS. Now I wish to be known and addressed as CHUKWUKA NICHOLAS OGUGWA VALNECY as written in my NIN. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.</p>	<p><b>RABIETU</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Ahmed Rabetu, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Zuberu Rabetu. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>LUCY</b></p> <p>That in my NIN DETAILS, my name was wrongly captured as, IBE LUCY KOSUOCHUKWU instead of, IBE LUCY KOSUOCHUKWU KAREN. That my full and correct name is, IBE LUCY KOSUOCHUKWU KAREN. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.</p>
<p><b>ENAMIRORO</b></p> <p>This is to notify that in my bvn my name was wrongly captured as Omimi Enamiroro Eunice, instead of my correct name as Julius Enamiroro Eunice. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>My name was wrongly arranged on my Bvn/account platform as SUNDAY VINCENT WISDOM, instead of SUNDAY WISDOM VINCENT as it reflects on my NIN. I now wish to be known as, SUNDAY WISDOM VINCENT. All former documents remain valid, general public should please take note.</p>	<p><b>CHIOMA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as MISS CHIOMA SYLVIA EJIJOFFOR now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. CHIOMA EJIJOFFOR ENYICHUKWU. All other documents/credentials bearing my former name remain valid. Authorities concerned and the general public should take note.</p>	<p><b>CHINEMELUM</b></p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS NWOKOLO CHINEMELUM NWANNEAMAKA. Now wish to be known and addressed as MRS EMENIKE CHINEMELUM NWANNEAMAKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>MERCY</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Miss Mercy Monica Egbetabunor Ofuadarho, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Mercy Monica Egbetabunor Atigari. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>GEORGE</b></p> <p>That in my BVN and BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS, my name was wrongly arranged and spelt as, INFENAYI GEORGE instead of, GEORGE IFENAYI. That my true and correct arrangement of name is, GEORGE IFENAYI. All former documents remain valid, the general public and whom it may concern to please take note.</p>
<p><b>OTARIGHO</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as OSSAI OTARIGHO, now wish to be known and addressed as ADIDI OTARIGHO. All documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>ELIZABETH</b></p> <p>I, formerly known and addressed as Ajise Tosin Elizabeth, now wish to be known and addressed as Ehiawaguan Tosin Elizabeth. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.</p>	<p><b>OKUGBA</b></p> <p>In my Account details/BVN platform my name was wrongly spelt as OKUGBA GODDAY OGHAE instead of OKUGBA GODDEY OGHAE. The correct spelling of my name is OKUGBA GODDEY OGHAE. Authorities concerned and general public please take note.</p>	<p><b>GLORY</b></p> <p>I FORMERLY KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS GLORY UGOCHINYEREM SAMPSON NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS GLORY UGOCHINYEREM CHUKWUKA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.</p>	<p><b>CECILIA</b></p> <p>I formerly known and addressed as Miss Cecilia Okwoma, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Cecilia Odeseneka. All former documents remain valid general public take note.</p>	<p><b>SPACE FOR SALE</b></p>

## 2026 WCQ: Chelle unleashes Osimhen, Lookman, Simon on Crocodiles in make or break clash

Nigeria are expected to field a strong attacking lineup led by Victor Osimhen and Ademola Lookman as the Super Eagles take on Lesotho in an important 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifier at the Peter Mokaba Stadium in Polokwane today.

With qualification hopes hanging in the balance, head coach Eric Chelle is set to go all out in search of victory, naming a star-studded side anchored by the returning Osimhen, who is fresh from a fine run of form with Galatasaray.

Osimhen, who has netted three times in the qualifiers so far, will spearhead Nigeria's frontline alongside Atalanta winger Ademola Lookman and Paris FC forward Moses Simon.

The trio will be supported by Alex Iwobi, who is expected to play a creative midfield role behind them.

The Fulham playmaker's ability to link midfield and attack could prove decisive as Nigeria look to break down a stubborn Lesotho side that held them to a 1-1 draw in the reverse fixture in Uyo last year.

In midfield, Wilfred Ndidi and Frank Onyeka are expected to anchor the central areas, offering defensive stability and transition play. Their task will be to control possession and protect the backline against Lesotho's counter-

attacks. Defensively, captain William Troost-Ekong will marshal the back four alongside Calvin Bassey, while Bright Osayi-Samuel's absence opens the door for Sodiq Fredrick to make his first competitive start.

Bruno Onyemaechi is likely to retain his place at left-back, with Stanley Nwabali set to start in goal after impressing in recent outings.

Despite their underdog status, Lesotho have shown impressive resilience in the qualifiers, with four different players, Motlomeo Mkwanaazi, Lehlohonolo Fothoane, Rethabile Rasethuntsa, and Jane Thabantso, contributing goals.



Goalkeeper Sekhoane Moerane, who plies his trade in South Africa, is expected to be kept busy by Nigeria's potent attack, while forward Sera Motebang will look to end his scoring drought against the Super Eagles.

For Nigeria, anything short of victory could spell disaster in their qualification campaign. With just two matches left to play, the Super Eagles must win in Polokwane today and again at home to the Benin Republic to keep their World Cup hopes alive.

## WCQ: Home games we failed to win put us in this mess — Adepaju

Former Super Eagles midfielder Mutiu Adepaju has attributed the Super Eagles' slim chances of qualifying for the 2026 FIFA World Cup ahead of their clash against Lesotho today on the home matches they failed to win.

The Super Eagles received a boost in qualification hopes last week when FIFA deducted three points from South Africa, effectively blowing Group C wide open.

However, Nigeria's progression

depends entirely on securing maximum points in their final two fixtures against Lesotho away and Benin Republic at home on Tuesday.

"With what I have found out recently, I think we are three points behind South Africa, with two matches to go. Benin are in



Adepaju

the picture too. "So it's a very tight situation for the Super Eagles, but nothing is impossible because mathematically we cannot say it's over for Nigeria. We got to this situation, and we just have to wait till the end.

"I just pray and hope that we will be able to win the two matches against Lesotho and Benin and see what will happen at the end.

"The games we failed to win at home also contributed to where we are right now. I mean, if we couldn't win our matches at home, those six points that we lost at home, if added to what we have right now, would put us ahead of South Africa and Benin," he stressed.

## Salah surpasses Ronaldo's international goal record

Liverpool star Salah has increased his international goals for Egypt, having scored two goals yesterday.

The 33-year-old has been on fire in World Cup qualifiers, racking up nine goals and three assists in just nine games.

According to reports on X, "Mo Salah (63) has now scored more international goals than Ronaldo (62) and Zlatan Ibrahimovic (62)."

The winger now has 63 goals for his country, with his goals beating Ronaldo and Ibrahimovic, who had 62 goals each for their respective countries. Salah is also Egypt's top scorer by a large margin, beating Mohamed Aboutreika, Hossam Hassan and others.

The Egyptian international will be looking to help his country in the FIFA World Cup and also extend his goal tally.



Salah

## Early goals killed Flying Eagles — Coach Zubair

Speaking at his post-match conference, Zubair explained that conceding two quick goals early in the encounter affected his players' composure and disrupted their tactical approach.

"I think the early goal was part of what destabilised us. We conceded very early, and even the second goal came not too long after the first. That brought about the destabilisation in our approach," he said.

Despite the setback, the coach praised his players for showing resilience and a positive attitude throughout the game. However, he pointed out that the team struggled to maintain intensity and re-

act quickly after losing possession. "The level of our fight off the ball was not enough. That's what gave the Argentinians a lot of opportunities and space to operate. Anytime we lost the ball, we weren't fighting back quickly," he added.

Zubair concluded by acknowledging that the defeat was part of the realities of football, noting that such experiences would serve as lessons for the young Nigerian side moving forward.

Conceding responsibility for the loss, the coach said: "It's football. I am part of it. I take the blame and responsibility. The day they win, they win, and as they lost today, I take responsibility."



Zubair

Flying Eagles Head Coach, Aliyu Zubair, has reacted to Nigeria's 4-0 defeat to Argentina in the Round of 16 of the FIFA U-20 World Cup.

## U17 Women's World Cup: Bankole picks Moshood, Joseph, 19 others to fly Nigeria's flag

Head Coach Bankole Olowookere has selected attacking midfielder Shakirat Moshood, goalkeeper Sylvia Echefu, defender Jumai Adebayo and forward Queen Joseph among a squad of 21 players to fly Nigeria's flag at this year's FIFA U17 Women's World Cup finals in Morocco.

The Flamingos arrived in Morocco's commercial and industrial capital, Casablanca, on Wednesday, for the final phase of preparations for the competition, which will take place 17th October – 8th November.

Bankole, who led Nigeria to a bronze medal-finish at the 2022 edition of the competition in India, is confident that the Class of 2025 have what it takes to go steps higher than his 2022 bronze win-

ners. Goalkeeper Elizabeth Boniface, defenders Azeezat Oduntan and Christiana Sunday, midfielders Muinat Rotimi and Zainab Raji, and forwards Chisom Nwachukwu and Mariam Yahaya are also included.

The Flamingos have been drawn in Group D, alongside Canada, France, and Samoa. Nigeria will kick off their campaign against Canada on Sunday, October 19, before facing France three days later — both



Flamingos

## Dutch expert blames Daga, Harcourt for Flying Eagles ouster

Some poor individual performances caused the Flying Eagles to fall to a heavy 4-0 defeat at the hands of Argentina, according to an expert.

Dutch coach Erik Stekelenburg has faulted the performances of midfielder Daniel Daga and goalkeeper Ebenezer Harcourt as the Flying Eagles were bundled out of the 2025 U20 World Cup.

"The Flying Eagles were poor for the first 25 minutes," remarked Stekelenburg, who watched the game from his base in Malaga, Spain. "The goalkeeper (Harcourt) was very weak and he caused much uncertainties.

"I saw Daga again, he is still doing the same mistakes he did two years ago (at the 2023 U20 World Cup in Argentina)."

He continued: "The second part



of the first half was way better, the team deserved at least to pull a goal back or even draw level, but their finishing was weak.

"And the referee refused to award them a penalty, which was a bad decision.

"Then when they conceded again seven minutes after the break, the game was over of course."

## CACL: Remo Stars can upset Sundowns — Amoo

Former Shooting Stars coach Fatai Amoo has expressed optimism that Remo Stars can stun Mamelodi Sundowns in the second round of the CAF Champions League.

Recall that Remo Stars defeated

Comoros side Union Sportive de Zilimadjou 5-0 over two legs to extend their run in the competition.

However, the team will face a stiff opponent in South Africa's Mamelodi Sundowns on October 19 in Abeokuta after their league fixture in Katsina.

Amoo stated that Remo Stars have experienced players capable of helping the team against Sundowns. "Considering that Sundowns have more experience in the CAF Champions League, Remo Stars will face a tough battle."

"However, football is a game of 11 players, and the team that utilizes their goal-scoring chances will definitely win the encounter. "The first leg will play a big factor in deciding who will win this game. If Remo Stars win with a two- or three-goal advantage, then Sundowns are in trouble."

With their depth, experience, and big-stage pedigree, Sundowns will be a giant test for a Remo Stars side that has never featured in the CAF Champions League group stages.

## Team Brazil emerge winners of maiden E1 Lagos GP

The maiden edition of the E1 Lagos GP came to a thrilling end over the weekend with Team Brazil emerging winner. Powered by First Bank of Nigeria Limited, the event is being seen in the sports circle as another first on the card of Nigeria's leading bank.

Confirming this, Olayinka Ijabiye, Acting Group Head, Marketing and Corporate Communications, described the bank's support for the electric power boat race as another testament of Bank's enduring investment in sports and sustainable initiatives.

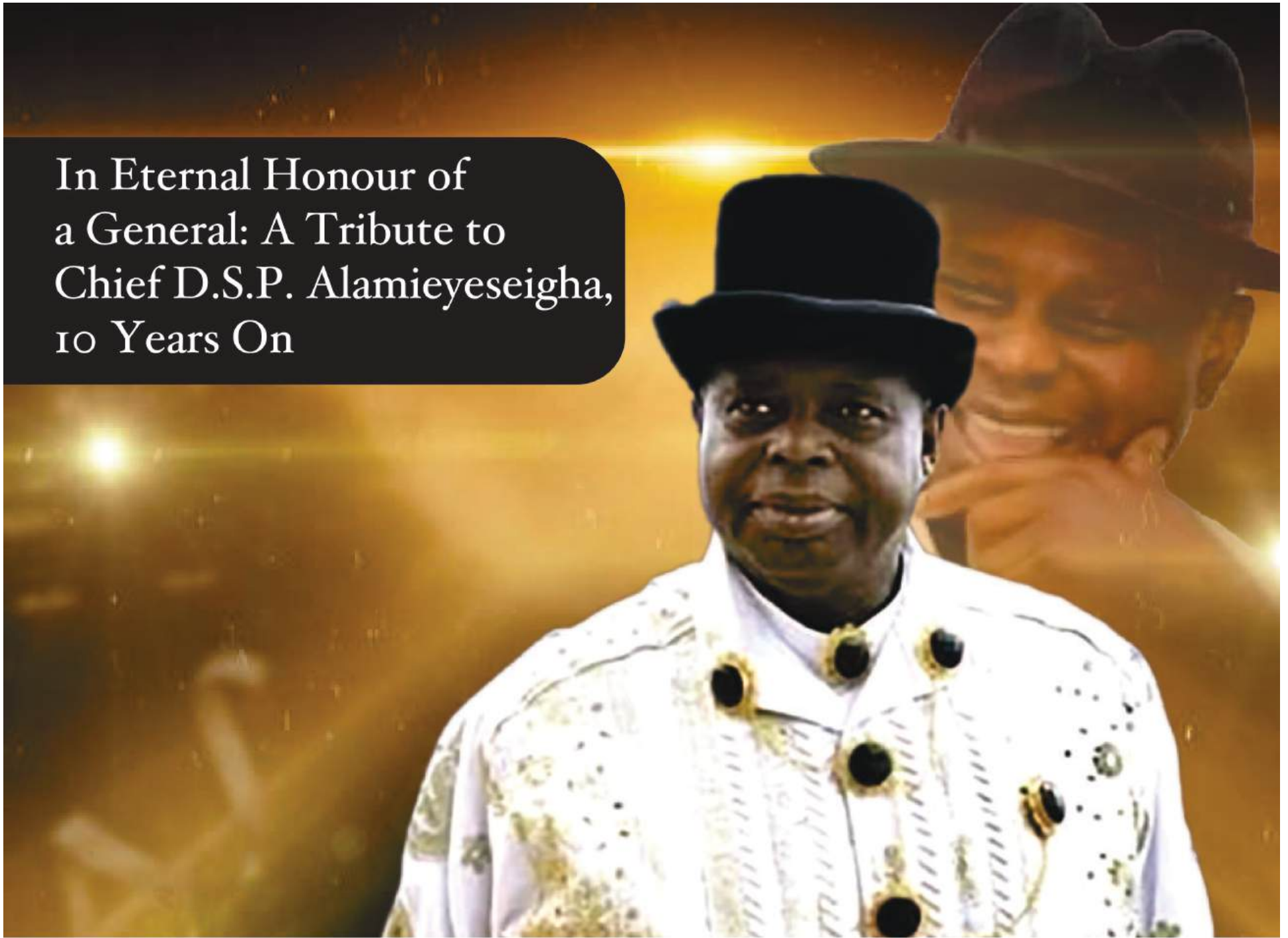
"A lot of people would ask why First Bank threw its weight behind the E1 Lagos GP, the first of its kind in Africa. The reason is rooted in ideals such as innovation, sustainability and excitement. We are a heritage bank and have been around for 131 years and for each year, we have constantly rebuilt ourselves and remain relevant. And who will bring the first electric motor power boat race to Lagos other than First Bank. It has to be First Bank."

With E1 Lagos GP we have presented Lagos to the world, presented Nigeria to the world and presented First Bank to the world", Ijabiye said. The race, attended by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, former Chelsea and Ivory Coast striker, Didier Drogba, among other dignitaries, was won by Team Brazil.

The Team garnered 38 points for their win. They beat Team Blue Rising to second place, while Team Drogba finished in the third position. Excited by the history making event, Ijabiye affirmed his Banks continuous support for sports.

When you take a look at legacy as well, we've supported some sporting events for over 100 years. There are others that we have supported for 64-years; we have a female basketball team, we have male football team and more.

## In Eternal Honour of a General: A Tribute to Chief D.S.P. Alamiyeseigha, 10 Years On



*My brother, Chief DSP Alamiyeseigha,*

*parody of justice.*

*representing your people.*

*A decade has passed, yet the memory of you is etched in our hearts with a mixture of profound pride and enduring sorrow. Today, we remember you.*

*Spurious charges were levied against you, charges you denied to your last breath. You pleaded guilty when emissaries including myself, seeing your broken state, urged you to end the torture. But it was too late. Denied even the most basic post surgery care, your body succumbed to infected wounds.*

*When you became Governor in 1999, you inherited a backwater state. I remember visiting you and we traveled everywhere by boat. But within two years, you had transformed the state capital and its environs through a fire of development. You gave Bayelsa a stable power supply, integrating it into the Nigerian state and the modern world. You built the foundation we stand on.*

*Even in mourning, we find solace in the unwavering veneration you receive from the people of Bayelsa, the Ijaw nation, and the entire South-South. This love stands in stark defiance of the political persecution and orchestrated disinformation that clouded your final years, culminating in a public hysteria that cost you your life.*

*I recount these travails to remind your family that you died in action. To the Ijaw people, I reaffirm, you were, and remain, our true Governor-General. You fell from injuries sustained in the battle for our dignity. You are our martyr.*

*You broke the waves ahead of us, paid with your life, and inspired unyielding devotion in the crew you left behind. Our people will surely find the shore, for your life will be our guiding compass.*

*On your triumphant return to Bayelsa from London in November 2005, our people rejoiced because they knew the truth, you suffered for championing their cause. Enraged, your traducers launched a vengeful assault, deploying troops and helicopters to Government House, Yenagoa, on a mission to kidnap or kill. Then they forced your impeachment, a grotesque*

*We know why you suffered. We know why you died. And we pledge to wipe the dust of unsubstantiated blame from your gravestone, to cleanse your name of the undeserved dirt thrown by mudslingers. The truth is already emerging, you made the supreme sacrifice, framed and hounded to death by a gang of enemies for the crime of*

*Ten years on, I declare to you, my friend, this is not the end. The prize we sought will still be won.*

*Continue to Rest in Peace, our "General."*

**Chief James Onanefe Ibori.**  
Governor Delta State 1999-2007

# Exit To Glory Eternal



**MADAM ROSE  
AMENAGHAWON  
ODIGIE-OYEGUN**

(1ST JULY 1936 - 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025)



It is with absolute submission to the will of God that the ODIGIE-OYEGUN Family announces the transition of their daughter, sister, and mother, MADAM ROSE AMENAGHAWON ODIGIE-OYEGUN at the age of 89 years. Our sister was a blessing to the family and whoever came across her during her lifetime. She was a massive pillar of strength and support. We will surely miss her, but thank God for giving her to us for 89 good years!

### FUNERAL RITES

**SERVICE OF SONGS**  
16TH OCT. 2025:  
ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKPAKPAVA ROAD, BENIN CITY | 4PM  
**FUNERAL SERVICE**  
17TH OCT. 2025 | 11AM PROMPT: ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKPAKPAVA ROAD, BENIN CITY.  
**RECEPTION:**  
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE.  
9, RESERVATION ROAD, G.R.A., BENIN CITY.  
**THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
19TH OCT. 2025 | 9AM:  
ST JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, AKPAKPAVA ROAD, BENIN CITY.

May her caring soul rest in perfect peace.

Signed:  
**JOHN E. K. ODIGIE-OYEGUN, CON.**  
First Executive Governor of Edo State.

# Vanguard Sports



## TODAY'S MATCHES

**UEFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

Germany	v	Luxembourg	7:45pm
Northern Island	v	Slovakia	7:45pm
Kosovo	v	Slovenia	7:45pm
Sweden	v	Switzerland	7:45pm
France	v	Azerbaijan	7:45pm
Iceland	v	Ukraine	7:45pm

**CAF WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

South Sudan	v	Senegal	1pm
Sudan	v	Mauritania	2pm
Togo	v	DR Congo	2pm
Lesotho	v	Nigeria	5pm
Rwanda	v	Benin	5pm
Zimbabwe	v	South Africa	5pm
Gambia	v	Carbon	2pm
Seychelles	v	Ivory Coast	2pm
Sao Tome/Principe	v	Tunisia	5pm



## 2026 WCQ:

# Chelle unleashes Osimhen, Lookman, Simon on Crocodiles in make or break clash

**DETAILS INSIDE**

## RESULTS

**UEFA WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

Belarus	0	Denmark	6
Scotland	3	Greece	1
Finland	2	Lithuania	1
Malta	0	Netherlands	4
Austria	10	San Marino	0
Cyprus	2	Bih/Bosnia	2
Czechia	0	Croatia	0
Faroe Island	4	Montenegro	0

**CAF WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS**

Burundi	0	Kenya	1
Bostwana	0	Uganda	1
Mozambique	1	Guinea	2
Somalia	0	Algeria	3
Liberia	3	Namibia	1

## WCQ: We must beat Lesotho, Benin — Ndidi

Besiktas midfielder Wilfred Ndidi has emphasized the absolute necessity for the Super Eagles to secure victories in their crucial 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Lesotho and Benin Republic.

The Super Eagles currently occupy third position in Group C with 11 points from eight games, sitting three points behind joint leaders Benin Republic and South Africa. The team's path to the World Cup requires them to win their final two matches and hope that both Benin and South Africa drop points.

Ndidi stressed that taking maximum points from these two fixtures is the

team's primary objective.

"We know where we are at the moment," he said in an interview with the Super Eagles media.

"These two games are very crucial." While the team must win both to even stand a chance, Ndidi insisted on a focused, one-game-at-a-time approach, starting with their first opponents today.

"First of all, we focus on the Lesotho one and then we look towards the Benin one, but the most important now is the Lesotho one."



## Early goals killed Flying Eagles — Coach Zubair



## WCQ: Home games we failed to win put us in this mess — Adepaju



## SUDOKU

**TODAY'S PUZZLE**

			9	4				
3	8					5		
				5	4		6	
		9		7				1
4			9		8			5
	2			4		9		
9		3	1					
		6					7	9
			7	8				

**YESTERDAY'S ANSWER**

3	7	6	8	5	4	2	1	9
5	9	4	7	2	1	3	8	6
8	1	2	6	9	3	5	4	7
2	4	1	9	3	6	8	7	5
6	5	3	4	7	8	1	9	2
9	8	7	2	1	5	4	6	3
1	6	5	3	8	7	9	2	4
7	3	9	1	4	2	6	5	8
4	2	8	5	6	9	7	3	1

## How to Play Sudoku

Place a number (1-9) in each blank cell. (No line can have two of the same number).

Each row (nine lines from left to right), column, (also nine lines from top to bottom) and 3 X 3 block within a bold block (nine blocks) contains number from 1 through 9. This means that no number can appear twice in any block, column or row.

No mathematics is involved – no adding, subtraction, division or multiplication, just plain logic and your imagination.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

**TODAY'S CROSSWORD**

**YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION**

- ACROSS**
- Skilled worker(7)
  - Abyss(5)
  - Disabled(5)
  - Wednesday or thereabouts-(7)
  - Recover from illness(3,4)
  - Less civil(5)
  - Embellished(6)
  - Masculine or feminine(6)
  - Abominable snowmen(5)
  - Reluctance to move(7)
  - Garbage(7)
  - Nick, incision(5)
  - Odour(5)
  - Fuel for a Christmas fire-(4,3)

- DOWN**
- Lively, in music(7)
  - Entice(5)
  - Most wretched(7)
  - Agile(6)
  - Tree with fragrant wood(5)
  - Rectified(7)
  - Manufacturer(5)
  - Eminent(7)
  - Everlasting(7)
  - Inconsiderate driver(4,3)
  - Fourscore(6)
  - Tales(5)
  - Motionless(5)
  - Aggregate(5)

## OKADIGBO THE MULE 26

