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European Union	39%
Vietnam	90%
Taiwan	64%
Japan	46%
India	52%
South Korea	50%
South Korea	72%
Thailand	61%
Switzerland	64%
Indonesia	47%
Malaysia	97%
Malaysia	10%



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# RIVERS: Tinubu acted to stop Fubara's impeachment, quell tensions - Uzodimma

By Dave Oludare Oso

Governor Hope Uzodimma of Imo State, has said that President Bola Tinubu imposed the emergency rule on Rivers State to safeguard vital national economic assets and quell the intractable political and legal tensions in the state.

He also said the president acted to stop the impeachment of the state governor, Siminalayi Fubara.

The governor spoke at the Vanguard Annual Awards, where he won the on Infrastructure Governor of the year award in Lagos on Sunday.

Fielding questions pertaining to the legality of the emergency rule in the oil-rich state, the governor said, "Maybe you are not vigilant because I have spoken about. In fact, I was one of the earliest speakers the moment it happened. I anchored my reasoning and logic on protection of our economic assets.

"When pipelines were bombed, we had to prioritise safeguarding production. As chairman of the National Economic Council's subcommittee on crude oil theft, our efforts have been on how to boost output and any actions threatening our quotas must be condemned.

"The president, as Chief Security Officer, acted to quell tensions in River.

"By the time I heard that the pipeline was burnt at a time we were crying and



making efforts geared towards boosting production. So, anything that would lead to further leakage or reduce the production quota we have, should not be encouraged.

"Mr President, who is the Chief Security Officer of the country, called some of us, and said he was worried about the growing tension in Rivers State. Of course we were all here and we saw it. What would have happened if those boys in the House Assembly were allowed to impeach my colleague, Governor Siminalayi Fubara? It may be one person today, another person tomorrow.

"Power belongs to God, I am a Christian and my faith is strong. If you will be a governor, you can only be if God approves and when it is your turn, God will defend and protect you. I am one of the most abused and blackmailed governors when I came in.

"Many of our people didn't give me a chance, they wanted to subdue the decision of our people. When I contested for election, it was clear that

I won. Now, the number of votes after cancellation, the ones excluded outside the cancelled one were more than what was announced. The declared one didn't make a simple two-third which is the required majority before anybody can be pronounced governor.

" However, because they have access to media and blackmail, he became the Saint and I became the sinner. When the matter was tabled before the court, it saw what was clear and asked the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), why it didn't include the result, INEC didn't answer.

" When it was included, number four became number one, yet people kept talking about it. For my second term, I won 27 local governments, is that also the Supreme Court? I am a realist, I don't discuss things that have no meaning to me. I am very objective and practical. And that is why what interests me are results. At the end of the day, what has happened? Imo is better under me as a governor, and it is clear."

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9X3	112,875.00
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8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
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7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
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5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
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# FG begins legal defence as PDP govts challenge Rivers emergency rule

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), has commenced preparations of President Bola Tinubu's legal response to a suit filed by eleven governors of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at the Supreme Court.

The suit contests the President's declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State and the suspension of the state's elected officials.

The PDP governors have assembled a formidable legal team, comprising seven Senior Advocates of Nigeria (SANs) and six other lawyers.

Among the SANs are Bolaji Ayorinde, Eytayo Jegede, Kamaldeen Ajibade, J.A. Mumuni, Musibau Adetunbi, Samuel Atung, and Yunus Abdulsalam. Other lawyers involved include M.S. Atolagbe, Ezenwa Ibegbunam, Chiamaka Anagu, Olakunle Lawal, Abduljalil Musa, and H.A. Adeleke.

The governors are opposing the appointment of Vice Admiral Ibok Ete Ibas (ret'd.) as sole administrator of Rivers State, following the suspension of Governor Siminalayi Fubara, his deputy Ngozi Odu, and the entire Rivers State House of Assembly.

President Tinubu made the proclamation on 18 March 2025, citing a political crisis, and secured support from both chambers of the National Assembly via voice vote.

In the suit marked SC/CV/329/2025, the governors of Adamawa, Enugu, Osun, Oyo, Bauchi, Akwa Ibom, Plateau, Delta, Taraba, Zamfara, and Bayelsa are asking the Supreme Court to determine the constitutional validity of the President's actions.

They argue that Sections 1(2), 5(2), 176, 180, 188, and 305 of the 1999 Constitution do not permit the President to suspend duly elected state officials or replace them with unelected appointees.

A source from the Attorney General's office confirmed on Sunday that legal teams are actively working on a formal response.

"As we speak, my colleagues are in the office working on the processes," the source disclosed.

Meanwhile, a related case filed at the Federal



High Court in Port Harcourt by former House of Representatives member, Farah Dagogo, is scheduled for substantive hearing on 12 May 2025.

The case also challenges the legality of the emergency declaration and subsequent suspensions. Justice Adamu Turaki Mohammed granted permission for substituted service of court documents via courier, citing difficulties in serving the defendants personally.

The named defendants include President Tinubu, Senate President Godswill Akpabio, the National Assembly, Speaker Tajudeen Abbas, and Vice Admiral Ibas (ret'd.).

House forms Ad-Hoc committee to monitor Rivers governance

In a separate development, the House of Representatives will inaugurate an ad-hoc committee on Tuesday to oversee legislative functions in Rivers State during the emergency period.

The committee, chaired by House Leader Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, was formed in line with Section 11(4) of the Constitution and aims to ensure governance remains constitutionally grounded.

House spokesman Akin Rotimi stated that the National Assembly had made key amendments to the emergency proclamation to uphold checks and balances, including vesting oversight powers in the legislature rather than the Federal Executive Council.

Other members of the committee include Idris Wase, Muktar Betara, Sada Soli, Abiodun Faleke, and Iduma Igariwey, among others. The secretariat will be led by Prof. Jake Dan-Azumi.

Political leaders weigh in

Former Bayelsa Governor and current Senator, Seriake Dickson, visited suspended Governor Fubara in Port Harcourt, commending his calm demeanour amid political upheaval.

In a Facebook post, Dickson urged Rivers people to remain peaceful and warned against any actions that could destabilise the Niger Delta or damage critical oil infrastructure.

Meanwhile, ex-militant leader and head of Tantita Security Services, Government Ekpemupolo (popularly known as Tompolo), broke his silence during his 54th birthday celebrations.

He expressed confidence that Fubara would return to office and confirmed that dialogue between Fubara and Wike was underway. He emphasised unity among the Ijaw people and called for peace and restraint.

"We are already discussing. Both he and Wike are like father and son... Wike is angry, but he has to bring his temper down for the good of all," Tompolo said.

# Tinubu condemns Plateau killings

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has condemned the latest outbreak of violence in Plateau State, which has left over 40 people dead, describing the incident as a tragic and unacceptable loss of life.

Tinubu in a statement by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, expressed his condolences to Governor Caleb Mutfwang, the state government, and the affected communities.

He charged the governor with summoning the political will to address the root causes of the prolonged crisis and work towards lasting peace.

“The ongoing violence between communities in Plateau State, rooted in misunderstandings between different ethnic and religious groups, must cease,” Tinubu stated.

He said he had directed security agencies to thoroughly investigate the recent attacks and bring those responsible to justice.



“We cannot allow this devastation and the tit-for-tat attacks to continue. Enough is enough,” he declared.

While expressing deep concern over the persistent cycle of violence, the President stressed the need for unity across ethnic and religious divides.

He called on community, spiritual, and political leaders within and beyond Plateau State to collaborate in ending the retaliatory killings that have plagued the region for years.

“Beyond dealing with the criminal elements of these incessant killings, the political leadership in Plateau State, led by Governor Caleb Mutfwang, must address the root cause of this age-long problem,” Tinubu said.

“These problems have been with us for more than two decades. We can no longer ignore the underlying issues.”

President Tinubu revealed that he had previously discussed possible solutions with Mutfwang and reiterated the Federal Government’s commitment to supporting the state’s peacebuilding efforts.

“The Federal Government remains committed to supporting Governor Mutfwang and the Plateau State government in promoting dialogue, fostering social cohesion, and ensuring accountability—crucial steps towards permanently resolving the conflict in Plateau,” he said.

## ‘No more Fubara’ – Pro-emergency rule protest breaks out in Rivers

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

A large number of women in Rivers State, on Monday, staged a rally in Port Harcourt, the state capital, to express support for the declaration of a state of emergency in the state.

This comes barely four days after supporters of the suspended governor staged a protest demanding the reinstatement of the state leader.

According to the pro-emergency rule protesters, the state is in need of peace and not the embattled governor, countering the previous rally.



The women carried placards that read: “State of Emergency Is Constitutional,” “No Tribal War in Rivers State, No More Fubara,” “We Need Peace, Not Fubara,” among others.

Speaking to journalists, one of the organisers of the rally and former Vice Chairman of Etche Local Government Area of the state, Hon. Gladys Nweke, said:

“What we are doing here is a solidarity march in support of the state of emergency in Rivers State.

“Since the declaration of the state of emergency in Rivers State, there has been peace. We no longer hear about killings and cult activities in the state.”

# Atiku will abandon opposition for power deal, Wike's aide claims

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

**L**ere Olayinka, spokesperson to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has ridiculed any opposition movement spearheaded by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, suggesting that such efforts are doomed to fail due to Atiku's alleged political inconsistency.

In a post shared via Facebook, Olayinka claimed that Atiku would readily defect to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) if President Bola Tinubu promised to hand over power to him in 2027.

"Those of us who have sense know that any opposition being led by Atiku is a failure from the beginning," Olayinka wrote.

"Reason is, if tomorrow President Tinubu calls Atiku and tells him, 'Don't worry, I will hand over to you in 2027, just join APC,' he (Atiku) will be in the APC



Governor Gabriel Suswam.

Atiku said the visit was to pay Sallah homage to the former president. However, critics and observers have speculated that the visit was part of ongoing political manoeuvres aimed at uniting opposition forces ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Mocking Atiku's explanation, Olayinka quipped that the former PDP presidential candidate should consider visiting former President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abeokuta for Lisabi Day celebrations if he is truly on a goodwill tour.

"I am still waiting for Atiku to carry body and go to Abeokuta to pay Lisabi Day homage to OBJ sha," he wrote.

He added sarcastically, "Also, we are doing Egungun Festival in my hometown next month. Let him not forget to pay Egungun Festival homage to us in Okemesi Ekiti."

immediately."

The remarks come in the wake of Atiku's recent visit to former President Muhammadu Buhari in Kaduna, accompanied by notable political figures including former Kaduna State Governor Nasir el-Rufai, ex-Sokoto Governor Aminu Tambuwal, and former Benue

# Tinubu's trip to France not for medical reasons, says presidential aide

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

**T**he Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Policy and Communications, Daniel Bwala, has dismissed claims that the President is in France for medical treatment, affirming instead that the trip is purely for official purposes.

Bwala made the clarification during an appearance on Sunday Politics, a current affairs programme aired by Channels Television.

He criticised individuals spreading misinformation on social media, describing them as faceless and unverified sources who often share



baseless claims.

"Sometimes on social media, somebody will be tweeting — you don't even know who the person is; it can be somebody

who has mental health issues somewhere, You just see that information is coming out," Bwala said.

The presidential aide emphasised that President Tinubu's presence in France is part of a scheduled working visit.

"The President did not go to France to see a doctor; he's on a working visit and we have been publishing his activities," he added.

President Tinubu departed Nigeria for Paris on 2 April 2025 and is expected to return on Wednesday, 16 April.

# Obi, Mutfwang call for national action to end Plateau killings

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

**P**eter Obi, the 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party (LP), and Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, have condemned the wave of violence sweeping through Bokkos Local Government Area and other parts of the state.

In a statement issued by Gyang Bere, Director of Press and Public Affairs to the Governor, both leaders called for immediate and decisive national action to bring an end to the bloodshed.

Describing the ongoing attacks as a “deliberate and orchestrated genocide” against indigenous communities, they issued a powerful appeal for urgent intervention at the national level.

The call came during Mr Obi’s condolence visit to Jos yesterday, during which he decried the displacement of innocent citizens from their ancestral homes, even thoughts not at war.

“There is absolutely no justification for this tragedy in a country that is not at war,” Obi said.

“People must be able to live in peace, cultivate their lands, and feel secure. These are the most fundamental responsibilities of any government.”

Governor Mutfwang commended Mr Obi for his compassion and personal sacrifice in travelling to Plateau State to commiserate with the bereaved communities.

“His visit is not merely symbolic,”



the governor noted, “it is a profound statement of solidarity in a time of sorrow. Obi’s compassion for the vulnerable has always been evident, and his presence here is deeply appreciated.”

Governor Mutfwang was unsparing in his assessment of the crisis: “What is happening in Bokkos is nothing short of genocide. This is not about political correctness—it is a calculated and brutal attempt to displace our people.

“Entire communities have been overrun, homes seized, and building materials stolen and repurposed to construct settlements for the aggressors. This must not be allowed to continue.”

Both leaders emphasised the urgent need for a unified national response to halt the carnage and uphold the sanctity of human life in Nigeria.

They warned that the ongoing normalisation of such violence poses a significant threat to the country’s unity and long-term stability.

Governor Mutfwang disclosed that Mr Obi donated a borehole to the people of Bokkos—an act of kindness quietly carried out but deeply appreciated by the community.

After signing the condolence register, Mr Obi urged Nigerians to resist any attempt to normalise terror and displacement.

“This must end. We must speak for the voiceless and stand fearlessly for justice,” he declared.

Demonstrating his commitment beyond words, Mr Obi donated ₦10 million to the OLA Hospital School of Nursing in Jos, encouraging the institution to continue producing professionals who contribute meaningfully to national development.

He also visited and extended support to internally displaced persons from the Bokkos attacks, currently taking refuge at St Thomas Apostle Catholic Church in Bokkos.

# Bwala alleges Ndume has defected in spirit, warns APC of brewing political shift

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Policy Communication, Daniel Bwala, has accused Senator Ali Ndume of Borno South of covertly aligning with the opposition, warning the All Progressives Congress (APC) to be vigilant as the 2027 elections draw closer.

Speaking on Sunday during Politics Today, a current affairs programme aired on Channels Television, Bwala claimed that while Ndume may still physically belong to the APC, his political allegiance now lies elsewhere.

“Let me tell you today, and I want everybody to hear — especially the chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Abdullahi Ganduje — Senator Ali Ndume’s spirit and soul are with the coalition; it is his body that is in APC. He is already going,” Bwala said.

He went further to liken Ndume’s stance to that of former Kaduna State Governor, Nasir el-Rufai, who has reportedly left the APC to join the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

“It is better the way el-Rufai did: just say ‘I am leaving’. You’d give more honour and credit to el-Rufai that he didn’t feel he could stay and be a snitch,” Bwala added.

Bwala’s remarks come on the heels of Ndume’s recent criticism of President Tinubu’s leadership.

On Friday, the senator condemned the President’s declaration of



emergency rule in Rivers State, urging instead that emergency rule be declared on issues of security and the economy.

Ndume also cautioned that Tinubu should be concerned if former President Muhammadu Buhari is no longer in his corner.

His comments coincided with a visit by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and other opposition figures — including Peter Obi and el-Rufai — to Buhari in Kaduna, fuelling speculation of a rising political realignment.

Opposition figures have intensified efforts to form a broad coalition ahead of the 2027 general elections, with talks culminating on 20 March 2025 when key players including Atiku, Obi, and el-Rufai announced plans to unseat Tinubu’s administration, which has come under fire over economic hardship,

surging inflation, and high cost of living.

In the 2023 general election, Atiku of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Labour Party’s Obi secured a combined total of over 12 million votes — roughly four million more than Tinubu’s declared tally by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

As both the PDP and LP continue to grapple with internal crises and leadership tussles, the SDP is reportedly becoming a haven for disgruntled politicians from across the spectrum.

El-Rufai and several of his loyalists have already joined the party, with unconfirmed reports suggesting Atiku and Obi may follow suit, though neither has publicly declared such intentions.



# Army dismantles 11 illegal bunkering sites in 4 states

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Troops of the Nigerian Army has uncovered 11 new bunkering facilities, made some seizures and arrested seven suspects during a six-day operation conducted in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers.

Lt.-Col. Danjuma Danjuma, spokesman for the Nigerian Army 6 Division, Port Harcourt, made this known in a statement on Monday in Port Harcourt.

He said that seven suspects were arrested during the operations.

"Troops seized 13,600 litres of stolen crude oil, 4,890 litres of adulterated diesel, and 37,700 litres of various other unspecified petroleum products during the raids.

"Soldiers in Rivers raided the Imo River area, where they discovered six illegal refineries and recovered about 11,000 litres of stolen petroleum products.

"Troops deactivated 41 drum pots, 18 drum receivers, and 540 sack bags filled with over 11,000 litres of stolen products.

"They also thwarted attempts by oil thieves to reconstruct other illegal refining sites in the Imo River area," he stated.

In a separate operation in Ahoada West, Danjuma said that soldiers intercepted two Toyota Camry



vehicles transporting over 1,300 litres of illegally refined diesel.

"Furthermore, at Krakrama Wellhead 12 in Bille, Degema, seven suspects were arrested while attempting to vandalise the facility.

"Troops, after combing the area, recovered three wooden boats laden with over 1,500 litres of stolen crude," Dunjuma added.

In Delta, he reported the interception of 25,200 litres of an unspecified petroleum product and 10,000 litres of stolen crude oil from two tankers, a truck, and a bus on the Koko-Obitigbo Road.

During further operations, the army spokesman noted the discovery of 3,350 litres of adulterated diesel stored in 100 cellophane bags at Oton-Urakpa, Sapele.

Other items discovered included three empty drums, two ovens, a metallic storage tank, as well as hoses and pipes believed to be used in siphoning products from pipelines.

"In Bayelsa, troops dismantled four illegal refining sites and recovered about 2,100 litres of stolen crude oil and an additional 1,500 litres of stolen products Biseni and Okordia communities in Yenagoa.

"In Akwa Ibom, soldiers intercepted 240 litres of illegally refined diesel stored in eight jerrycans during an operation along the Okobo-Uyo Road," he remarked.

Danjuma concluded by stating that the suspects have been handed over to the appropriate security agencies for further investigation and possible prosecution.

# Uromi Killings: Expert lists ways to avert future tragedies

By Friday Omosola

Last month, tragedy struck, leaving sorrow and anger across Northern Nigeria after 16 men from the region were killed in Uromi, Edo State.

This incident left communities, states, and the nation in grief and mourning.

The victims, believed to be hunters, were reportedly lynched and set ablaze by a mob of community members and local vigilantes.

In response, Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, suspended the Commander of the Edo State Security Corps, Friday Ibadin, and banned all unregistered vigilante groups in the state.

Furthermore, Okpebholo, alongside Abba Kabir Yusuf, visited Torankawa village in Bunkure Local Government Area of Kano State, the home of most of the murdered 16 hunters, where they paid a condolence visit to their village and families.

More so, the state government, alongside the federal government, set up a formation of a joint fact-finding committee to investigate the killing.

Since then, there have been numerous calls for the perpetrators of this heinous act to be brought to justice.

Speaking in an interview with The New Daily Prime, Adams Abuh, Assistant Director of Internal Security (ADis/SSS) Retired, suggested a way forward to address the issue and prevent further occurrences.

Abuh, a Fellow of the International Institute of Professional Security



(FIIPS), stated that opinion leaders within those societies must call their people to order.

He cautioned that if one group takes drastic action, the other group will react, and this could lead to a national calamity for the country.

He further emphasised that both stakeholders and opinion leaders in those communities need to interface with their people.

He also stressed that governments at various levels, need concerted efforts to ensure that these threats do not materialise.

The Managing Director/CEO of Otiyeke Universal Security noted, "But, be that as it may, our security agencies and various communities must be proactive to forestall any future revenge or retaliatory action by the threatening groups.

He added: "I think we should not just go to bed and sleep and have our eyes closed."

"We should be operating both

physically and by way of adequate management, counter-security to management strategy, we call it propaganda.

On how security agencies can distinguish between criminal activities and ethnic-based conflicts in their investigations, Abuh emphasised that security agencies, due to their training, should certainly be equipped to recognise the nature of various criminal activities and security threats.

"I'll give you a typical example. Like these people, this unfortunate incident in Nurumi, where they claimed that they came from Botswana's side, that they were hunters."

He further stated that a competent investigator would certainly ascertain from that region whether they had been there, whether they had been hunting, they had been engaged in other activities, among other details.

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on next page

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“And then the only thing is that people should, in the course of investigation get the real facts in the case. Whether it has an ethnic or religious correlation is not what is important at this point.”

He added: “What is important to you, first and foremost, is for you to know the facts and know the truth and get to the bottom of the incident. If it is a threat to security, you will find out what is causing the threat and how can that threat be neutralized. If it is ethnic-based, whether you need to engage the leaders in that particular ethnic group and see how you can talk them out, or use a government agency, it depends.

“And that is why, you see, the intelligence organization, how they handle threats, is different from the police who directly investigate the criminal activity and persecute. In most cases, the intelligence organization tries to find out the cause and try to neutralize it so that the event does not take place. If

the crime is committed, that does not mean they will not find out the truth and try to persecute their will.

“But the most important thing is to try to neutralize the threat to any security. So that there will be no breach of peace in that society.”

He added that another key action the government should take is to reduce the volume of arms in circulation.

Furthermore, he stated that the Ministry of Livestock Development represents another step forward, noting that it is the first of its kind in the country.

“On the issue of ranching, and certainly, we have talked about it so much. We have not experimented with it anywhere yet to see how effective it can be. But all I know is that most of the herders themselves will not like this ranching, because they would want to be moving from one place to the other, which is not

beneficial to the farmers.

“And because it’s this nomadism that creates the kind of crisis that they have all over the country. One thing I want to also make people understand is that the herders/ farmers’ crisis is not peculiar to the Southwest, South-south, Southeast, or North-central, it’s in every part of the country.

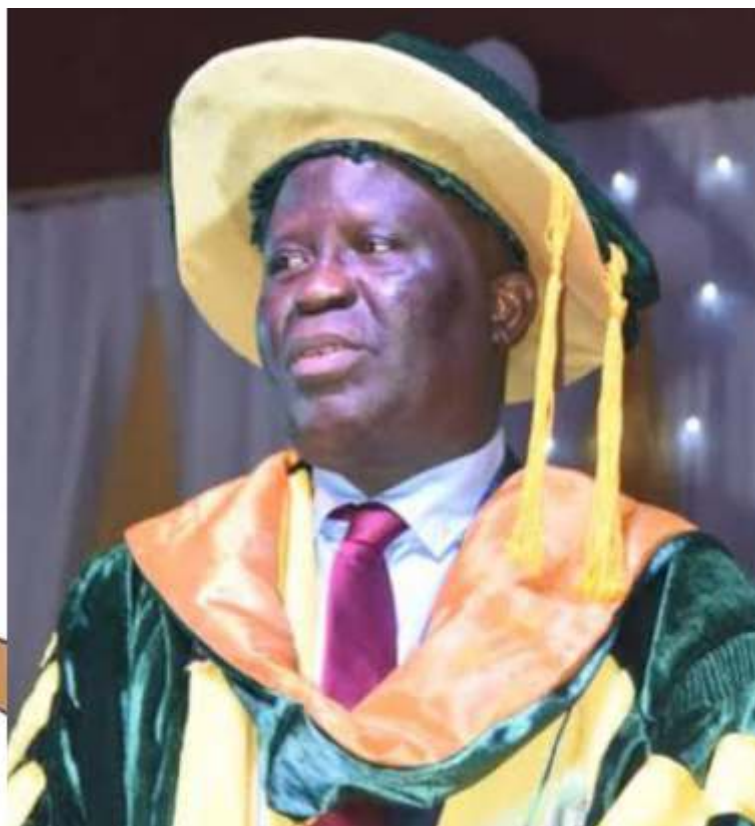
“Even in Sokoto, they have the same issue; in Borno, too, they have the same insecurity problem. So it is a nationwide crisis.

“But I think that the measure by the government in establishing the Livestock Development Agency, and that organization, certainly now is working out this strategy. I’m sure in the next year, they will have come out with their programmes, and it might lead us somewhere.”



# FUOYE VC suspended over sexual harassment allegations

By Alade Adisa



The Governing Council of the Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE) has suspended its Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abayomi Sunday Fasina, following allegations of sexual harassment made by a senior university official, Engineer Folasade Adebayo.

The suspension was confirmed in a statement on Monday by the university's Registrar and Secretary to the Governing Council, Mr. Mufutau A. Ibrahim.

The statement reads in part:

“The Governing Council of the Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE), at its 7th Emergency Meeting held online on Monday, April 14, 2025, considered the request of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Abayomi Sunday Fasina, to proceed on his accumulated Annual and Research Leave. The Council approved a six-month leave, amounting to 126

working days from his total entitlement of 228 days, effective from April 14, 2025.”

The Council also announced the appointment of Professor Olubunmi S. Shittu, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics) and most senior among the three Deputy Vice-Chancellors, as Acting Vice-Chancellor for the duration of the leave.

This development follows strong dissatisfaction expressed by the Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, over the Council's initial handling of the sexual harassment allegation.

According to a source, the Minister was “very angry” that the Council allegedly downplayed the complaint and requested the complainant to apologise to the Vice-Chancellor.

“He was unhappy that the Council attempted to dismiss the complaint and

instead instructed the complainant to apologise. He contacted the Council Chairman, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (SAN), to express his displeasure,” the source said.

Following the Minister's intervention, Senator Ndoma-Egba convened an emergency online meeting of the Governing Council at 2:00 p.m. on Monday. During the meeting, members resolved to suspend Professor Fasina. However, the Vice-Chancellor reportedly appealed to be allowed to proceed on leave rather than face a formal suspension.

The Council subsequently approved the request and confirmed the appointment of Professor Samuel Olubunmi Shittu, a Professor of Soil Science and the current Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics), as Acting Vice-Chancellor for six months.

# OAU student electrocuted while retrieving ball, school mourns

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**A**n unnamed student at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife Distant Learning Centre, has reportedly died after being electrocuted while retrieving a ball from a compound in Moro, Osun State.

According to eyewitnesses, the incident happened on Saturday evening in a private hostel located along the Moro/Ife route.

The deceased had reportedly gone to the compound next to the one where he lived to retrieve a ball and after retrieving the ball, he was said to have thrown it to his colleagues and was about to jump over the fence when, unknowingly, he had contact with a high-tension wire, which immediately electrocuted him.

According to a resident of Moro close to the scene of the incident, “The incident happened on Saturday. The deceased was playing football in his hostel with other boys.

“The ball strayed across the fence to the next compound. The deceased volunteered to jump across the fence to retrieve the ball, but he accidentally came into contact with a dangling high-tension wire on the fence. The wire was brought down on Friday by the rainstorm.

“He was immediately electrocuted. When his colleagues observed he was not moving, they used a stick to separate



him from the wire, and he was rushed down to a private hospital in Ipetumodu. He was confirmed dead at the facility.”

When contacted, the OAU Public Relations Officer, Mr Abiodun Olanrewaju, confirmed the incident and condoled with the family of the deceased.

Olanrewaju said, “It is unfortunate that we recorded an incident that was not palatable yesterday (Saturday) where we lost a prominent youngster.”

One of our CDL students was aspiring to come to the university after the completion of his programme.

“Report had it that they were playing football in the evening and the ball fell into a compound that was fenced and unknown to the young man, he jumped into the fence because he was the one that played the ball into the compound and it was a rule that anybody who played the ball into the compound will go to retrieve it.

“In compliance with the rule, the boy went in there, and we were told that that was the first time the boy would play with them. So, he went in there, retrieved the ball, and threw it out to his colleagues, but when he wanted to come out, he climbed the fence but unknowingly put his hand on a high-tension wire and got electrocuted.

“It was when his colleagues felt he should have come back that they went to check and saw that he was there shivering. They rushed to him, and one of them picked a stick and removed the life wire from his hand. He was rushed to the facility at the Centre for Distance Learning at the university.

“They said he was brought in dead, and they took him to another hospital where they said the boy was already dead. The Director of the CDL, Professor Femi Koya, had already contacted the parents to relate the unfortunate incident to them.”

# RSF, paramilitaries kill over 200 civilians in Sudan

By Dave Oludare Oso

Over 200 civilians have been killed by paramilitaries in a wave of attacks in displacement camps and around the city of El Fasher, the last big city still in the hands of the Sudanese army in the Darfur region.

The casualties include at least 56 civilians killed by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) over two days of attacks in Um Kadadah, a town they seized on the road to El Fasher.

The violence is some of the worst in the Darfur region since the civil war between the army and the paramilitary forces began almost exactly two years ago.

The UN said killings were continuing at two large displacement camps, including of the entire medical staff of Relief International, which was operating the only remaining clinic inside Zamzam camp.

RSF forces were said to be burning buildings throughout Zamzam on Sunday, claiming they were seeking Sudanese government fighters hiding in the camps.

The US has condemned both sides in the war, saying the RSF has committed genocide in Darfur and that the army has attacked civilians.

The conflict has essentially divided Sudan in two, with the army holding sway in the north and east while the RSF controls most of Darfur and parts of the south.

The war has killed tens of thousands, uprooted more than 12 million and created what the International Rescue Committee described as “the biggest humanitarian crisis ever recorded”.

The deaths at the weekend put extra pressure on the UK foreign secretary, David Lammy, to deliver a decisive response on the issue of civilian protection when he convenes a ministerial



conference on Sudan in London on Tuesday.

The conference of 20 countries and organisations will inevitably shine a spotlight on the United Arab Emirates, past backers of the RSF, to issue an unambiguous statement of condemnation.

The attacks on Um Kadadah, about 180km (112 miles) east of El Fasher, came one day after RSF fighters said they had taken the town from army forces. The victims appeared to be targeted because of their ethnicity.

Lammy tweeted: “Shocking reports are emerging from El Fasher, Darfur, where indiscriminate RSF attacks have killed civilians, including aid workers. This gives added urgency to Tuesday’s Sudan conference in London with international partners. All sides must commit to protection of civilians.”

The UN’s resident and humanitarian coordinator in Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, said she was “appalled and gravely alarmed by reports emerging from Zamzam and Abu Shouk displacement camps as well as El Fasher town in North Darfur”. The two camps protect as many as 700,000 civilians displaced by previous violence and famine.

The Yale School of Public Health’s Humanitarian Research Lab said it had observed that “arson attacks have burned multiple structures and significant areas of the Zamzam camp in the centre, south and south-east portions of the camp”.

The UN reported that the RSF had launched coordinated ground and air attacks on the camps and El Fasher from multiple directions on 11 April, triggering intense clashes and resulting in catastrophic consequences for civilians.

The UN said more than 100 people, including more than 20 children, were feared dead, including nine Relief International personnel. The Sudanese army said more than 70 people had been killed in El Fasher alone. The precise death toll was unverifiable due to deliberate internet shutdowns implemented by the RSF.

Last month the army recaptured the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, about 1,000km (600 miles) to the east.

Adam Regal, a spokesperson for the General Coordination for Refugees and Displaced in Darfur, said Zamzam and Abou Shouk remained under artillery shelling and an assault by RSF armed vehicles on Sunday.

# Kwara court grants N1M bail to singer Portable in Saheed Osupa defamation case

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial Nigerian singer, Habeeb Okikiola Badmus, popularly known as Portable, has been granted bail by an Upper Area Court in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The bail, set at ₦1 million, came after his arraignment on several serious charges, including criminal defamation, intimidation, inciting public disturbance, and cyberstalking.

Strict bail conditions set by court

The court attached clear conditions to the bail. Portable must provide two sureties. One must be either the Chairman or Secretary of the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN). The second must be a landowner in a Government Reserved Area (GRA) and show proof with a valid Certificate of Occupancy (C of O).

Until these conditions are met, the singer remains in custody.

Case origin: Feud with fellow artist

The case stems from a complaint filed by fellow musician Okunola Saheed Osupa, popularly known as Osupa. The petition was submitted to the police on March 21, 2025, following a live Instagram broadcast by Portable on March 19.

Allegations from viral instagram video

In the broadcast, Portable reportedly launched an attack on Osupa's character. He accused Osupa of being jealous of his success and attempting to harm his career. He alleged that Osupa caused his songs to be taken down from major streaming platforms right before he was due to be paid.

The singer was quoted saying:

“This man dey try bring down my shine!



He be like person wey dey chop snail with shell—him no get sense. Osupa na tortoise. When Apple Music and Spotify wan drop money for me, na him remove my song from platform make I no see money.”

The statement quickly gained attention online, sparking debate and backlash.

Complainant claims malicious intent

According to Osupa, the statements were false, defamatory, and designed to provoke public outrage. He maintained that the video was posted with the intention to damage his name and reputation. He also alleged that it could incite fans and trigger public unrest.

Police interrogation and charges

Following the petition, Portable was invited to the State Intelligence Department (SID) in Ilorin, where he was interrogated. According to the police, he confessed to making the statements.

He now faces multiple charges under both the Penal Code and Cybercrimes Act. These include:

Section 392: Criminal Defamation

Section 114: Inciting Public Disturbance

Section 397: Criminal Intimidation

Section 24(1)(b) and 24(2)(c) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015

Sections 10 and 13 of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law, 2020  
Police confirm legal directive

The Investigating Police Officer, ASP Adeniyi James, confirmed that Portable was charged following instructions from higher authorities. The police reviewed the Instagram video and said it matched the details given in the complaint.

Ongoing controversy

This incident adds to Portable's growing list of controversies. Known for his bold personality and street-style music, he often draws attention both on and off social media. With serious legal challenges now ahead, fans and observers are closely watching what comes next.

# Men flood Toke Makinwa's IG page with marriage proposals after talk on remarrying

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



**F**ew days after publicly voicing out that she would not mind remarrying as a second, third, fourth or even fifth wife, social media influencer, Toke Makinwa has disclosed that she's been flooded with marriage proposals.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that the svelte lady expressed her frustration at the loneliness and lack of spousal support she was going through because of her single state and declared her readiness to remarry regardless of the set-up.

During a recent episode of her podcast, Toke Moments, she spoke

candidly about how her perspective on marriage has shifted over the years. In the viral clip, she said, "In all honesty, at this point in my life, if I have the opportunity to be the second, third, fourth, or fifth wife, I will take it."

The mediapreneur further explained that being a high-achieving woman can feel exhausting at times, saying, "I am the boss everywhere and that could be tiring. You feel like you need someone to lean on—someone that could decide what's for dinner. Must it be me?"

Following the episode's release, Makinwa took to social media to

share a screenshot of her inbox, showing multiple messages from men expressing their desire to marry her.

One email stood out with the subject line: "GOAL: Can we get married?" The sender introduced himself as a senior data analyst based in Ibadan.

Her openness has sparked widespread reactions online, ranging from amusement to admiration. While some were surprised by the speed of the proposals, others applauded her honesty about the complexities of independence and relationships in today's world.



# 'I didn't attack Seyi Tinubu, I just responded', says Eedris

## Abdulkareem

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**E**edris Abdulkareem denies targeting Seyi Tinubu in his new song, "Tell Your Papa," stating that it responds to public comments rather than a personal attack.

Speaking on *Rubbin' Minds*, a Sunday programme aired on Channels Television, Abdulkareem clarified the message behind the track. He said the song was not a personal attack on Seyi Tinubu but a response to the younger Tinubu's public statement.

Seyi Tinubu had earlier declared that his father, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, is the "best president Nigeria has ever had." He made the comment in March 2025 while speaking in Yola, the capital of Adamawa State.

"Tell your papa" is not personal Abdulkareem said this statement prompted him to record *Tell Your Papa*. According to him, the song is a wake-up call—not just for Seyi Tinubu—but for the Nigerian government to address the country's growing economic and security problems.

"I didn't attack Seyi Tinubu," Abdulkareem stated clearly. "I only responded to what he said publicly. If he hadn't made that video, I wouldn't have released the song. It was his comment that inspired me."

He stressed that the song reflects the voices of Nigerian youths who are tired of suffering and want real change.

Call for real change, not palliatives

"Nigerians are not asking for too much," he said. "They just want steady electricity, better security, jobs, and a



working economy. We don't need handouts or palliatives. We need real solutions."

The rapper, known for his socially conscious music, added that he has always used music to speak truth to power. He said his message has always been about justice and accountability—not personal attacks.

NBC bans the song, sparks outrage

However, his new song quickly sparked controversy. Shortly after its release, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) labeled it "inappropriate" and placed a ban on its broadcast across Nigerian radio and television stations.

This decision has triggered a wave of criticism from the public, including notable figures in the arts and civil society.

Wole Soyinka condemns censorship

Among the critics is Nobel Laureate, Professor Wole Soyinka. Soyinka condemned the ban, calling it an "attack on free speech" and a dangerous step toward censorship. He warned that silencing artists and musicians could lead to a culture of fear and suppression.

"This is not just about Eedris," Soyinka said in a statement. "It's about the right of

every Nigerian to speak up through music, art, and opinion."

24 years later, same message

Abdulkareem also addressed this issue during the TV interview. He expressed disappointment that more than two decades after his hit song *Nigeria Jaga Jaga*, the country is still battling the same problems.

"It's been 24 years since *Nigeria Jaga Jaga* came out," he said. "Sadly, nothing has changed. The same issues are still here—bad roads, poor electricity, insecurity, and unemployment. The song is still relevant because Nigeria is still in the same mess."

"Music is my weapon"

He added that censorship cannot silence the truth. "No matter how many times they ban my songs, I'll keep speaking the truth," he said. "Music is my weapon. I'll keep using it to fight for the people."

A song that sparked a national debate

Abdulkareem's statement has sparked conversations across social media and news platforms, with many Nigerians supporting his stance. They argue that music is a powerful tool for change and should not be stifled by government agencies.

# Nollywood stars Eniola Badmus, Laide Bakare involve in public spat

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

A heated clash between two Nollywood stars, Eniola Badmus and Laide Bakare, shocked guests at the premiere of *Owanbe Thieves* on Sunday night in Lagos.

A glamorous night turns sour

The event, hosted by actress and producer Eniola Ajao, was meant to be a celebration of her new film. The red carpet was rolled out, celebrities arrived in style, and the atmosphere was festive.

But what began as a night of glitz and glamour quickly took a dramatic turn. A disagreement on the dance floor between two prominent actresses stole the spotlight from the movie itself.

The moment of conflict

According to eyewitnesses, the incident began when Laide Bakare attempted to film herself while dancing with Eniola Badmus. The casual recording turned sour when Badmus abruptly stopped her.

“Must I be in your video?” Badmus snapped. “Don’t film us together. We are not friends.”

The remark stunned those nearby. Some froze, while others began filming the tension as it unfolded. Before long, the quiet protest turned into a fiery exchange.

Heated words and physical contact

Laide Bakare did not take the comment lightly. In response, she pushed Eniola Badmus and shouted at her in Yoruba. The now-viral clip captured her saying, “Se o ya werey? Ki lo de to fi n ba mi se bayi? Se o binu ni?” which translates to:



“Are you mad? What kind of embarrassment is this? Are you insane?”

Security and close associates rushed in quickly to break up the situation before it could escalate further. The actresses were separated and taken to opposite sides of the venue.

Social media erupts

It didn’t take long for videos of the altercation to flood social media. Within hours, platforms like Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok were buzzing with reactions.

The hashtag #OwanbeThievesDrama began trending as fans, bloggers, and online users shared their takes. Some supported Badmus, saying she had every right to refuse being filmed. Others criticized her tone, calling the reaction harsh and unnecessary.

A history of tension?

Sources close to both stars suggest that this confrontation may not have come out of nowhere. “This has been building for a while,” one insider claimed. “There’s been tension between them behind the scenes. This just made it public.”

While neither actress has released an official statement, fans and fellow actors are urging them to address the incident.

The premiere carries on

Despite the tension, the premiere of *Owanbe Thieves* went ahead as planned. Guests returned to their seats for the screening, although the mood had clearly shifted.

Many say the night, intended to showcase Nollywood talent, instead highlighted the personal drama that sometimes follows its stars.

What comes next?

As the dust settles, many are watching to see what happens next. Will the actresses release public statements? Will they resolve their differences, or will this feud continue to play out in public?

One thing is certain — the *Owanbe Thieves* premiere will be remembered not just for the film, but for the unexpected drama that unfolded on the dance floor.

# Portable remanded after bail conditions not met

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian singer Okikiola Badmus, better known by his stage name Portable, has been remanded at the Oke Kura Correctional Centre in Ilorin.

The decision followed his failure to meet the bail conditions imposed by an Upper Area Court in Kwara State.

Legal trouble for the Zazoo Zeh star Portable appeared in court on Monday to face charges of defamation. The case was filed against him by Fuji music legend, Akorede Saheed, widely known as Saheed Osupa. According to the court, Portable made public statements that damaged the reputation of the respected musician.

The controversial singer, who gained fame for his viral hit Zazoo Zeh, has been in the public eye for his unpredictable behavior and outspoken nature. This latest legal issue adds to a growing list of incidents that have drawn public and legal scrutiny.

## Bail set with tough conditions

During Monday's court session, the judge granted Portable bail but with strict requirements. The court set the bail amount at ₦1 million. However, it was not just the money that stood in his way.

He was required to present two sureties. One must be an official of the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), either the Chairman or Secretary. The second surety must be a property owner living in a Government Reserved Area (GRA) within Ilorin. This person must also show a valid Certificate of Occupancy as proof of ownership.

These conditions proved too difficult for



the singer to meet on short notice. With no qualified sureties available immediately, the judge ordered that Portable be taken into custody until further notice.

## From online feud to courtroom drama

The legal troubles stem from a recent feud between Portable and Saheed Osupa. The disagreement played out on social media, where Portable was seen in multiple videos making bold and insulting claims about the Fuji star.

These videos quickly went viral, sparking strong reactions from fans and fellow musicians. Many viewed Portable's comments as disrespectful and harmful to the reputation of an elder in the music industry.

Saheed Osupa's legal team responded by filing a defamation suit. The court found sufficient grounds to proceed with the charges and summon Portable for a hearing.

## Public reaction and industry response

The remand order has sparked a wave of reactions online. Supporters of Portable argue that he is simply exercising his right to free speech. Others, however, believe he crossed a line and should be held

accountable.

The Nigerian music industry remains divided. Some artists have called for calm and encouraged conflict resolution outside the courtroom. Others see the case as a warning to entertainers who often use social media to air grievances without thinking about legal consequences.

Observers say the court's strict bail terms may be intended to send a message. Public figures, especially those with large followings, are being reminded that their words carry weight—and legal consequences.

## What happens next?

Portable's legal team has not released an official statement. However, a source close to the defense revealed they are actively working to meet the bail requirements. They are also considering applying for a review of the conditions in hopes of securing his release.

Until then, Portable will remain at the Oke Kura Correctional Centre. The next hearing is expected in the coming days, though no date has been officially confirmed.

# UN urges Trump to exempt poorest countries from 'reciprocal' tariffs

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The UN's trade and development arm, Unctad, is calling on Donald Trump to exempt the world's poorest and smallest countries from "reciprocal" tariffs, or risk "serious economic harm".

In a report published on Monday, Unctad identifies 28 nations the US president singled out for a higher tariff rate than the 10% baseline – despite each accounting for less than 0.1% of the US trade deficit.

These include Laos, which is expected to face a 48% tariff; Mauritius, on 40%; and Myanmar, to be hit with 45%, despite trying to recover from a devastating earthquake.

The White House last week put the higher tariff rates on pause for 90 days, after unleashing chaos on world financial markets, leaving a 10% levy in place across the board.

But the administration's formal position remains that the "reciprocal" tariff rates will come into force, subject to negotiations.

"The current 90-day pause presents an opportunity to reassess how small and vulnerable economies – including the least developed countries – are treated," Unctad said.

"This is a critical moment to consider exempting them from tariffs that offer little to no advantage for US trade policy but risk causing serious economic harm."

Unctad's analysis said many of these economies were so small that they were likely to generate little demand for US exports, even if they lowered tariffs, as the White House appears to be demanding.

Malawi, facing 18% tariffs, bought just \$27m of US exports last year; Mozambique, which faces 16% tariffs, \$150m; Cambodia, set for 49% tariffs,



\$322m.

Unctad's experts added that 36 of these small and poor countries were likely to generate less than 1% of total US tariff revenue, even if the US did not cut imports from them as the tariffs took effect.

Part of the logic of the tariff policy is meant to be to bring manufacturing jobs back to the US. But for several tiny countries, their key exports are agricultural commodities, for which the US is unlikely to be able to find substitutes elsewhere – let alone develop a domestic industry.

Unctad highlighted the \$150m in vanilla imported from Madagascar, close to \$800m in cocoa from Ivory Coast and \$200m in cocoa from Ghana.

With Madagascar set to face 47% tariffs, for example, the report said the main impact on the US was likely to be higher prices for consumers.

Some of the countries hit by the 10% tariffs – and due to face higher rates when

the pause is over – were previously beneficiaries of a US policy called the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

The scheme had been in place since 2000 and gave sub-Saharan African countries tariff-free access to US markets in order to encourage economic development. As many as 32 countries were eligible, before Trump's announcement appeared to tear up the scheme.

Financial markets and manufacturers in developing countries are continuing to wrestle with the changeable nature of US trade policy.

Trump sowed fresh confusion over the weekend by appearing to revisit an announcement made on Friday, that some hi-tech goods, including laptops, would be exempt from tariffs.

In a post on his social media site Truth Social on Sunday, the president said no one was getting "off the hook", and the administration would be investigating the "whole electronics supply chain".

# Meta faces landmark trial over Instagram, WhatsApp acquisitions

By Fatimah Idera

Facebook parent Meta Platforms faces a high-stakes trial in Washington starting on Monday following claims it built an illegal social media monopoly by spending billions of dollars to acquire Instagram and WhatsApp, in a case where U.S. antitrust enforcers seek to unwind the deals.

The acquisitions more than a decade ago aimed to eliminate nascent competitors who could threaten Facebook's status as the go-to social media platform for users to connect with friends and family, the U.S. Federal Trade Commission claims. It filed the case in 2020 during President Donald Trump's first term.

The FTC seeks to force Meta to restructure or sell parts of its business, including Instagram and WhatsApp.

Meta Chief Legal Officer Jennifer Newstead called the case weak and a deterrent to tech investment in a blog post on Sunday.

"It's absurd that the FTC is trying to break up a great American company at the same time the Administration is trying to save Chinese-owned TikTok," she wrote.

The case poses an existential threat to Meta, which by some estimates earns about half of its U.S. advertising revenue from Instagram, while also giving the public its first real measure of how strongly the new Trump administration will follow up on its promises to take on Big Tech.

Meta has been making regular overtures to Trump since his election, nixing content moderation policies republican said to amount to censorship and



donating \$1 million to Trump's inauguration. Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has also visited the White House multiple times in recent weeks.

"The Trump-Vance FTC could not be more ready for this trial," said FTC spokesperson Joe Simonson, adding, "We are blessed with some of the most hardworking and intelligent lawyers in the country who are working around the clock."

## ZUCKERBERG EXPECTED TO TESTIFY

Zuckerberg is expected to testify at the trial, where he will face questioning about emails in which he proposed acquiring photo-sharing app Instagram as a way to neutralize a potential Facebook competitor and expressed worry that encrypted messaging service WhatsApp could grow into a social network.

Meta has argued in court papers that its purchases of Instagram in 2012 and

WhatsApp in 2014 have benefited users, and that Zuckerberg's past statements are no longer relevant amid fierce competition from ByteDance's TikTok, Google's YouTube and Apple's messaging app.

How users spend time on social media and whether they consider the services interchangeable will be core to the case. Meta will point to an increase in traffic to Instagram and Facebook during TikTok's brief shutdown in the United States in January as evidence of competition, according to court records.

The FTC claims Meta holds a monopoly on platforms used to share with friends and family, where its main competitors in the United States are Snap's Snapchat and MeWe, a tiny privacy-focused social media app launched in 2016. Platforms where users broadcast content to strangers based on shared interests, such as X, TikTok, YouTube, and Reddit, are not interchangeable, the FTC has argued

# Trump wants CBS, '60 Minutes' to 'pay a big price' for attacking him

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Donald Trump has blasted "60 Minutes" shortly after the CBS newsmagazine broadcast stories on Ukraine and Greenland on Sunday, saying the network was out of control and should "pay a big price" for going after him.

"Almost every week, 60 Minutes ... mentions the name 'TRUMP' in a derogatory and defamatory way, but this Weekend's 'BROADCAST' tops them all," the president said on his Truth Social platform.

He called on Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr to impose maximum fines and punishment "for their unlawful and illegal behavior."

The network had no immediate comment.

Trump has an ongoing \$20 billion lawsuit against "60 Minutes" for how it edited an interview with Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris last fall.

The president claims it was edited in a way to make Harris look good, something the

newscast denies. But there are ongoing reports that Trump's lawyers and CBS' parent company are involved in settlement talks.

Carr and the FCC have launched a parallel investigation of CBS News about the same case, one of several that it has undergone that also involve ABC News, NBC, PBS, NPR and the Walt Disney Co.

Despite the legal battle, "60 Minutes" has been unstinting in its coverage of Trump's administration since he took office for a second term, particularly correspondent Scott Pelley.

He traveled to Ukraine to conduct an interview with that country's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, on the site of a Russian attack where nine children were killed earlier this month.

In the interview broadcast on Sunday, Zelenskyy said he has "100%" hatred for Russian President Vladimir Putin for the invasion of Ukraine, and invited Trump to his



visit his country to see what has been done.

Also Sunday, correspondent Jon Wertheim reported from Greenland on what some people in that nation are saying about Trump's desire to take control.

In his social media message, Trump said "60 Minutes" was no longer a news show but "a dishonest Political Operative simply disguised as 'News,' and must be responsible for what they have done, and are doing."

# South Korea sees Trump starting tariff talks with Seoul, others

By Fatimah Idera

South Korea's acting President Han Duck-soo said on Monday U.S. President Donald Trump appeared to have directed talks on tariffs to begin immediately with South Korea, Japan, and India.

Han also said he expected there to be a video meeting between the U.S. and South Korean officials on the proposed Alaska LNG project soon, Yonhap news said.

The acting president had explained in detail South Korea's stance on tariff negotiations to Trump and the U.S. president had been satisfied, Han was quoted as saying during a meeting of the economic security strategy task force.

He also vowed to talk directly with Trump again if necessary as part of efforts to find common ground in cooperation between



the countries over liquefied natural gas (LNG) and shipbuilding, Yonhap reported.

Last week, South Korea's trade and industry minister said potential cooperation with Washington in the shipbuilding sector was a "very important card" in negotiating over tariffs.

South Korea has shown interest in the

Alaska LNG project, which is part of Trump's bid to boost the U.S. gas exports, but any participation would hinge on discussions with Washington, the minister said, noting the project might struggle to achieve profitability.

Kim Hong-kyun, Seoul's first vice foreign minister, told parliament on Monday that the Trump administration has yet to propose talks to negotiate defence costs related to the U.S. troops stationed in the country.

South Korea was, however, preparing for various scenarios, he said.

Trump has said he talked to Han last week about South Korea's payment for "big time" U.S. military protection, signalling that defence costs could be part of a broader deal not only about tariffs and trade.

# UK property prices surge to new record high

By Dave Oludare Oso

House prices have surged to a new record high, defying expectations amidst shifts in the property market.

According to Rightmove, the average asking price for a home in Britain reached £377,182 in April, a substantial £5,312 increase from March. This 1.4% leap surpasses the typical 1.2% April uptick, marking a significant jump in property values.

This record comes despite recent changes to stamp duty regulations, which became less generous for some buyers in England and Northern Ireland starting April 1st.

However, potential homebuyers may find some relief in the recent dip in mortgage rates, with some lenders, including Barclays, cutting rates below 4%. This shift in the mortgage landscape could potentially offset the impact of the stamp duty changes and influence market activity in the coming months.

Global market volatility, after US President Donald Trump announced tariffs, has fuelled analysts' expectations that the Bank of England could make more base rate cuts in the months ahead.

April's average asking price figure surpassed a previous record of £375,131, set in May 2024.

Rightmove said that, when setting their asking price, new sellers still need to be cautious of the high competition for buyers.

April's average asking price figure surpassed a previous record of £375,131, set in May 2024 (PA Wire)

Colleen Babcock, a property expert at Rightmove said: "We've seen our first price record in nearly a year, despite the number of homes for sale being at a decade high.

"The increased choice seems to be bringing more movers into the market,



with both buyer and seller numbers up as the market remains resilient.

"Confidence from new sellers is a good sign for the overall health of the market, but they do need to be careful when setting their asking price.

"The high level of supply in the market right now means that buyers are likely to have plenty of homes in their area to choose from, and an overpriced home will stick out for the wrong reasons.

"Our research also shows that getting the price right the first time is key. Homes that don't need a reduction in price are more likely to find a buyer, and to find that buyer in less than half the time."

Since the stamp duty increase, the level of agreed sales falling through has remained steady, according to Rightmove.

The website said this indicates that there has been "no major pull-out" from agreed deals by first-time buyers and home-movers who were unable to complete before the tax rise.

The last-minute rush to complete sales from those who were able to beat the deadline also means that the queue of buyers waiting to complete their purchase eased during March, the website said – marking the first time the queue has shortened during the month of March since the coronavirus pandemic in 2020.

However, the queue of buyers has now started to tick up again, Rightmove said.

The website also said it is seeing a North/South divide in terms of trends.

The majority of the Midlands and northern England regions, as well as Wales and Scotland, are seeing above-average increases in demand versus last year.

By contrast, the higher-priced South West and South East are seeing smaller increases in buyer demand and prices, Rightmove said.

It said London appears to be an outlier. Despite being the only region with fewer buyer inquiries than a year ago, average asking prices in the capital have jumped to a new record high, driven by inner London, Rightmove said.

But it added that, with London typically being more exposed to the impact of global tensions, as well as currently seeing weaker demand trends, this price trend may fall back.

The average asking price in London in April is just shy of £700,000, at £699,200.

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Rightmove said the full impacts of tariffs will play out over the coming weeks and months, and if the Bank of England opts for further and faster rate cuts, starting in May, this could lead to mortgage rates reducing more quickly than anticipated.

Ms Babcock added: "It's important to remember that among records and national trends, Great Britain's housing market is made up of thousands of diverse local markets, each uniquely responding to market changes and world events.

"London, for example, is likely to see greater knock-on effects from US tariffs than the rest of Great Britain, while northern regions appear to be performing more strongly post-stamp duty rise.

"It's difficult to predict what the next few months will bring, but if mortgage rates reduce more quickly, it would be a helpful boost to buyer affordability."

April's average asking price figure surpassed a previous record of £375,131, set in May 2024 (PA Wire)

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# Another tariff bombshell: Trump says 'no country off the hook'

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

US President Donald Trump stated that no country will escape tariffs despite a 90-day pause. He emphasised that China will not receive special treatment and reaffirmed the need for America to manufacture products domestically, declaring an end to unfair trade practices.

US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that no country would be getting "off the hook" when it comes to tariffs, even though there's a 90-day pause on some of them.

The shocking statement comes days after the United States published a guidance saying smartphones, computers and other electronics were exempted from the 'reciprocal tariffs'.

In addition to the general reprieve for other countries, Trump on Friday issued exemptions for Chinese-made semiconductors and electronics, amid warnings that US consumers faced skyrocketing prices for products such as

smartphones and laptops.

On Sunday, however, in a long post on Truth Social, Trump asserted that there was 'no tariff exception'. He also played down any special treatment for Chinese tech products.

"NOBODY is getting "off the hook" for the unfair Trade Balances, and Non Monetary Tariff Barriers, that other Countries have used against us, especially not China which, by far, treats us the worst! There was no Tariff "exception" announced on Friday. These products are subject to the existing 20% Fentanyl Tariffs, and they are just moving to a different Tariff "bucket."

"The Fake News knows this, but refuses to report it. We are taking a look at Semiconductors and the WHOLE ELECTRONICS SUPPLY CHAIN in the upcoming National Security Tariff Investigations. What has been exposed is that we need to make products in the United States, and that we will not be held hostage by other countries, especially hostile trading Nations like China, which will do



everything within its power to disrespect the American People.

"We also cannot let them continue to abuse us on Trade, like they have for decades, THOSE DAYS ARE OVER! The Golden Age of America, which includes the upcoming Tax and Regulation Cuts, a substantial amount of which was just approved by the House and Senate, will mean more and better paying Jobs, making products in our Nation, and treating other countries, in particular China, the same way they have treated us."

# It's fine been called worse': Trump aide Peter Navarro reacts to Elon Musk calling him 'moron'

By **Fatimah Idera**

Donald Trump's trade adviser Peter Navarro has brushed off the insults from Elon Musk after a public spat over global tariffs, denying any dent in their relationship as the two officials in the US government.

"It's not an issue. Everything is fine, Elon Musk and I are great," said Peter Navarro. Elon Musk, the billionaire Tesla CEO and DOGE baron – appointed to slash federal jobs and downsize the workforce and close Trump ally, earlier this month had called Navarro a "moron" after the trade adviser dismissed Musk's push for "zero tariffs" between the U.S. and Europe. Navarro had called Musk a car assembler reliant on imported auto parts.

Asked about the tension on NBC's "Meet the Press," Navarro said, "It's not an issue." "Even though he called you a 'moron' and



'dumber than a sack of bricks?'" the NBC anchor pressed.

"I've been called worse," Navarro replied.

"Everything's fine with Elon. And look, Elon is doing a very good job with his team with waste, fraud and abuse," he said.

"That's a tremendous contribution to America, and no man doing that kind of thing should be subject to having his cars firebombed by crazies," referring to the vandalism against Tesla infrastructures and offices in response to Musk's right-wing activism.

Trump appointed Musk, the world's richest person, to slash U.S. government spending and downsize the federal workforce. There has been growing unease across the country over Musk's blunt approach to mass layoffs from the government workforce. Nearly 200,000 employees have been fired, earmarked for termination or have accepted buyouts.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt this week downplayed the public clash as a difference of opinion on tariffs, saying "Boys will be boys."

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“If they come to the table with solid proposals, I think we can end up with some good deals,” he said, “and part of the calculus of that may be that some part of the tariffs stay on.”

Last night, members of the administration discussed which countries to prioritize for trade talks, he added.

Dozens of countries set to see higher tariffs soon, too

Dozens of other countries as well as the European Union also face a midnight deadline for new tariff rates. Those rates, which Trump laid out last week, range from 11% to 50%.

Leavitt told reporters that despite several conversations with world leaders aiming to negotiate lower tariff rates, Trump has little appetite to delay his plans.

Having spoken with Trump earlier on Tuesday, Leavitt said, “He expects that these tariffs are going to go into effect.”

At the same time, she said Trump instructed his trade team to make “tailor-made” deals with countries that want to negotiate.

Pressed further on whether the president had any timeline or deadline for the trade deals, Leavitt again reiterated that they won’t be “off-the-rack deals.”

However, Beijing vowed to “fight to the end” after Trump threatened to hit Chinese exports with additional 50% tariffs if the country proceeds with plans to retaliate against his initial vow to impose tariffs of 34% on its products. That would come on top of the existing 20% levy and take the total tariff on Chinese imports to 104%.

The White House confirmed that the higher US tariffs on China would, indeed, be imposed from Wednesday. “President Trump has a spine of steel and he will not break,” press secretary Karoline Leavitt said. “And America will not break under

his leadership.”

Musk tells Trump to reverse tariffs

The billionaire Trump adviser Elon Musk has also reportedly asked the president to reverse course and the conservative businessmen Leonard Leo and Charles Koch have filed a lawsuit against the “illegal” tariffs.

The latest tariffs are higher than the 10% flat rate imposed on all global imports to the US on Friday last week and are tailored to specific countries based on a formula that has been criticised by economists that divides trade in goods deficit by twice the total value of imports.

After days of turmoil since they were first unveiled last week, global markets recovered some ground on Tuesday as senior US officials attempted to reassure investors that the new tariffs – including rates of 20% on the European Union, 26% on India and 49% on Cambodia – could be temporary.

The FTSE 100 rallied by 2.7% in London, recovering some of the losses it has endured since Trump’s announcement – on what was dubbed “liberation day” by his aides – last week. On Wall Street, the benchmark S&P 500 gained 2.8% as the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.9%.

They tracked Asian markets higher. The Nikkei 225 rallied 6% in Tokyo. The Hang Seng Index rose 1.5% in Hong Kong.

‘New tariffs are at ‘maximum’ levels’

Scott Bessent, the US treasury secretary, has insisted the new tariffs are at “maximum” levels, and expressed confidence that negotiations will bring them down.

“I think you are going to see some very large countries with large trade deficits [with the US] come forward very quickly,” he told CNBC, the financial news network, on Tuesday. “If they come

to the table with solid proposals, I think we can end up with some good deals.”

Trump was asked on Monday whether the tariffs set the stage for negotiations with countries, or were permanent. “Well, it can both be true,” he told reporters. “There can be permanent tariffs, and there can also be negotiations.”

But he again raised the prospect of agreements with countries on Tuesday, trailing a potential deal with South Korea.

“Their top TEAM is on a plane heading to the US, and things are looking good,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. “We are likewise dealing with many other countries, all of whom want to make a deal with the United States.”

The president added: “‘ONE STOP SHOPPING’ is a beautiful and efficient process!!! China also wants to make a deal, badly, but they don’t know how to get it started. We are waiting for their call. It will happen!”

“UK markets functioning effectively, banking system resilient”

Rachel Reeves, the UK chancellor, sought to ease concerns about market volatility, telling parliament she had spoken to Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, who confirmed “markets are functioning effectively and that our banking system is resilient”.

A trade war “is in nobody’s interest”, Reeves argued, confirming that the UK was seeking to negotiate a new deal with the US. Trump has imposed a 10% tariff on UK exports, in line with the minimum benchmark introduced at the weekend.

She declined to back Liberal Democrat calls for the government to launch a “buy British” campaign. “In terms of buying British, I think everyone will make their own decisions,” Reeves said. “What we don’t want to see is a trade war, with Britain becoming inward-looking.”

# US deports 10 more alleged gang members to El Salvador

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Another 10 alleged gang members have been deported to El Salvador, secretary of state Marco Rubio said on Sunday, a day before that country's president is due to visit the White House.

"Last night, another 10 criminals from the MS-13 and Tren de Aragua Foreign Terrorist Organizations arrived in El Salvador," Rubio said in an X/Twitter post.

The alliance between Donald Trump and El Salvador president Nayib Bukele "has become an example for security and prosperity in our hemisphere", Rubio added. The US president is due to meet Bukele at the White House on Monday.

It comes as US officials said in court filings on Sunday that they were not obliged to help a Maryland resident get out of prison in El Salvador after he was erroneously deported, despite a supreme court ruling directing the government to "facilitate" his return to the US.

Attorneys for the Trump administration said the high court's order to "facilitate" the return of Abrego García, 29, meant they should "remove any domestic obstacles that would otherwise impede the alien's ability to return here", not help extract him from El Salvador.



The Trump administration has acknowledged that García, a Salvadoran migrant who was living in Maryland and has had a work permit since 2019, was deported in March in violation of an immigration judge's order blocking his removal to El Salvador. Trump administration lawyers were able to confirm on Saturday that García remains confined in a notorious prison in El Salvador.

Trump said on Saturday he was looking forward to meeting Bukele and praised him for taking "enemy aliens" from the United States. He said the two countries were working closely to "eradicate terrorist organizations".

Administration officials have repeatedly made public statements alleging that detained immigrants are gang members that they have not backed up in court.

The Trump administration has deported hundreds of Venezuelans to a prison in El Salvador under the 1798 Alien Enemies Act.

Lawyers and relatives of the migrants held in El Salvador say they are not gang members and had no opportunity to contest the US government assertion that they were.

The Trump administration says it vetted migrants to ensure they belonged to Tren de Aragua, which it labels a terrorist organization.

The deportations have been challenged in federal court. The US supreme court said the US government must give sufficient notice to immigrant detainees to allow them to contest their deportations. It did not say how those already in El Salvador could seek judicial review of their removals.

# Malaysian PM to meet Myanmar junta in Bangkok

By **Fatimah Idera**



**M**alaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said he would meet the head of Myanmar's junta in Bangkok this week to push for the extension of a ceasefire between the military government and rebel groups to help earthquake relief.

As the chair of the regional the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc this year, Anwar said the meeting with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on Thursday was being held on humanitarian grounds, as they continued to be no formal engagements between Myanmar and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Recall that Myanmar was hit by a devastating earthquake last month that killed thousands and caused significant damage.

"I thank General Min Aung Hlaing for responding positively to our call... During my meeting with him on April 17, I will push for the ceasefire to be extended," Anwar said on Monday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since early 2021, when the military's overthrow of an elected civilian government sparked a civil war. The junta and rebel groups have announced unilateral ceasefires to support the quake relief but have accused each other of violating the

agreements.

ASEAN wants Myanmar to implement the bloc's five-point peace plan to halt the fighting and has barred the ruling generals from attending its meetings over their failure to comply.

Anwar said Malaysia will continue its humanitarian assistance for the earthquake-hit country through a temporary field hospital run by the Malaysian Armed Forces.

Min Aung Hlaing attended a summit in Bangkok earlier this month, a rare foreign trip for the leader who has been largely shunned internationally since the 2021 coup.

# Newcastle dedicate 4-1 win to Eddie Howe amid health issues

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



**N**ewcastle United delivered a commanding 4-1 victory over Manchester United on Sunday, with Harvey Barnes starring in the win by scoring twice, alongside goals from Sandro Tonali and Bruno Guimaraes. The result, marking their first league double over United since the 1930-31 season, was a significant boost in their push for a Champions League spot.

However, there was one notable absentee from the celebrations – manager Eddie Howe. Howe, who has been absent since Friday due to a health issue, was in hospital, leaving assistant managers Jason Tindall and Graeme Jones to lead the team. Despite his absence, the players were determined to deliver a performance that would lift Howe’s spirits.

“We had a job to do without him,”

Barnes said after the match. “We knew we had to put a smile on his face.”

Howe, 47, is still recovering in the hospital, but was able to watch the game and send a message of congratulations to the team. Tindall, who has worked closely with Howe for 17 years, emphasized the importance of delivering a performance Howe would be proud of.

“I’ve just seen a message from him congratulating us,” said Tindall. “He trusted the decisions we’d make, and we delivered a performance he’d be proud of.”

Newcastle’s remarkable form continued as they recorded their fourth consecutive win, with a strong push for the top four. Since December 14, only Liverpool has garnered more points than the Magpies,

who sit just behind them in the standings.

Barnes, who was awarded Man of the Match for his brace, echoed the sentiment of the team: “It’s been a weird week without the gaffer being in. We went into the game knowing exactly what we needed to do.”

Newcastle’s win over Manchester United puts them in a prime position to secure a Champions League spot, with their next game against Crystal Palace offering a chance to climb further up the table.

As the team looks ahead to the final stretch of the season, all eyes are on Howe’s recovery, with the players hoping to continue their impressive form and deliver a strong finish to what has been a historic season for the club.

# Salah's form and Van Dijk's future fuel Liverpool's title push

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Liverpool's march toward their second Premier League title of the Premier League era was propelled by Mohamed Salah's dazzling performance against West Ham on Sunday. Salah's goal and assist made history, setting a new record for the most goal involvements in a 38-game Premier League season with 45 (27 goals, 18 assists), surpassing Thierry Henry's 2002-03 record.

Salah's assist for Luis Diaz's opening goal demonstrated his extraordinary vision, with the Egyptian's pass with the outside of his boot leading to Diaz's strike in the 18th minute. Salah's contributions helped Liverpool secure a 2-1 win, bringing them within six points of a title. His influence was felt throughout the match, highlighting why Liverpool moved quickly to secure

his future amid interest from Saudi Arabia.

Sunday's win was also a testament to the importance of Alisson and Virgil van Dijk. Alisson made critical saves to ensure Liverpool's victory, while Van Dijk marked his 100th match as club captain with a crucial 89th-minute header, cementing the win. His leadership continues to be vital for Liverpool's success, and after the match, Salah expressed his desire to see Van Dijk stay. "I would love to see him here again next year," Salah said.

With Salah's future secured, attention now turns to Van Dijk's contract situation. Although Liverpool's focus remains on securing the Premier League title, Van Dijk hinted at a potential decision regarding his future.

"Everyone knows how much I love this club, so let's see what next week will bring," said Van Dijk.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot dismissed any speculation about Van Dijk's future, focusing on their immediate goals. "We need two more wins to finish the job," Slot said. If Liverpool win their next two games, they will be crowned Premier League champions, with the potential to clinch the title at Anfield against Spurs later this month.

Despite the ongoing contract talks, Liverpool's main focus remains on their title challenge. Should they achieve their goal, it will be the first time in 2024-25 that they claim the title in front of their home fans, adding another layer of excitement to what has already been a remarkable season.