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Obi blames Tinubu's govt for Labour Party leadership crisis

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Former presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Mr Peter Obi, has blamed President Bola Tinubu's administration for the ongoing leadership crisis plaguing the party.

Obi was the erstwhile presidential candidate of the Labour Party in 2023 general election.

Speaking on Arise Television's Morning Show on Monday, the former Anambra State governor alleged that the internal turmoil within the Labour Party was not organic, but rather instigated and maintained by the current federal government.

Obi specifically stated that the leadership crisis in the Labor Party was instigated and sustained by the government of today.

"This is what you always get in Nigeria – a country now run on propaganda and lies, The problem we have in the Labour Party is a problem instigated and sustained by the government of today,"

"You speak the truth and they call you names,"

"They are trying to create problems everywhere." Obi said.

Obi expressed concern over what he described as a growing culture of dishonesty and manipulation within Nigerian politics, suggesting that efforts were being made to sow division not only within political parties but also among citizens and even families.

Citing an example, he criticised a recent incident involving the party chairman making disparaging remarks about a sitting state governor, questioning the sincerity of such leadership.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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PRODUCT COLOUR

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Nigeria launches training programme for mining professionals in Australia

By Friday Omosola



Nigeria has launched a specialised training programme for mining professionals at Murdoch University, Australia, as part of a broader effort to close the technical skills gap in the country's mining sector.

Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, announced the launch on his X page yesterday.

He described the partnership with one of the world's leading mining nations as "a major step forward" for Nigeria's extractive industry.

The initiative, which began development less than two years ago, is being implemented with the support of the Australian

Government and the Australian High Commission in Nigeria.

Eleven Nigerian professionals are currently undergoing intensive training in areas such as extractive metallurgy and sustainable geochemistry.

The programme also includes direct engagement with industry experts, aimed at equipping participants with cutting-edge knowledge and global best practices.

"I'm grateful to President Bola Tinubu for his unwavering support, and to the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria, H.E. Leilani Bin-Juda, for her tireless commitment," Mr Alake said.

"Murdoch University has also welcomed us warmly, and we are grateful."

He encouraged the participants to be worthy ambassadors of Nigeria, urging them to make the most of the opportunity to enhance their expertise and contribute meaningfully to the development of a mining sector that benefits all Nigerians.

"This is only the beginning," he added.

The training programme marks a key milestone in Nigeria's ongoing push to diversify its economy through sustainable development of its solid minerals sector.

Shettima launches asset restoration to boost Nigeria's agriculture, industry

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has launched the Federal Government's Asset Restoration Programme, spearheaded by the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), aimed at reviving Nigeria's industrial and agricultural machinery.

The initiative is a key part of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda to strengthen local innovation and optimise the country's existing resources.

The programme focuses on restoring over 26,000 heavy-duty machines currently out of service but repairable, alongside repurposing nearly 500,000 component scraps nationwide.

Speaking at the launch event held at the Borno State Agricultural Mechanization Farm Center in Maiduguri, Mr Shettima emphasised the government's commitment to reducing waste, cutting unnecessary costs, and accelerating national development through sustainable asset management.

"For too we have been known as a nation lacking maintenance culture in both public and private sectors. It is time to change this narrative," he said.

Following the launch, Mr Shettima proceeded to Borno State University to commission a power infrastructure project executed by the Niger Delta Power Holding Company Limited (NDPHC).

The facility includes a 7.5MVA injection substation, associated power lines, and distribution



transformers aimed at improving the electricity supply for the university and surrounding communities.

Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State praised the initiative, highlighting the state's history of agricultural mechanisation under Mr Shettima's previous governorship.

He recalled the procurement of significant farming equipment including tractors, planters, and harvesters, describing the current programme as a vital step to restore machinery damaged by recent floods and sustain the region's farming capacity.

"Borno's mechanisation efforts were severely hit by the 2024 floods, and this national restoration programme comes at the perfect time to revive our agricultural productivity," Mr Zulum said.

Executive Vice Chairman of NASENI, Khalil Halilu, noted that a national survey revealed over 47,000 agricultural and law enforcement

machines were broken but repairable, with replacement costs exceeding N14 trillion.

The restoration project aims to recover these assets at just 15 to 25% of replacement costs, saving over N10 trillion and preserving jobs.

"This programme demonstrates how Nigerian engineering can provide home-grown solutions to our problems," Halilu stated.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Abubakar Kyari, described the project as transformative for public service delivery, stressing the importance of reviving under-utilised assets across sectors to unlock Nigeria's growth potential.

The event was attended by senior government officials, including representatives from NDPHC, the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria, Borno State Executive Council members, and various dignitaries.

Obi has shallow understanding of governance – Presidency

By Friday Omosola



The Presidency on Monday reacted to remarks made by the Labour Party's 2023 presidential candidate, Peter Obi, during his appearance on Arise TV.

In a post on his X handle, Daniel Bwala, Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Policy Communication, stated that Mr Obi only has a superficial grasp of economics and governance.

Mr Bwala expressed astonishment that Obi would align himself with Mr Tinubu's economic decisions—particularly the removal of fuel subsidy and the merger of exchange rates.

He argued that this revealed the

true intent of the former Anambra governor and other opposition leaders: a desire for power, rather than a commitment to alternative policies.

His statement read, "Is anybody watching Peter Obi on Arise TV? He agreed with our policy of removal of subsidy and unifications of the foreign exchange; he claimed he would have done it better than us in an "organized manner"

"He was asked what is the "organized manner" He played with words yet to arrive at agreeing with us. Anybody with a rational mind knows these guys are just looking to grab power; but they don't have any

alternative agenda.

"Remember this is even an interview anchored by a member of his Obidient movement ohhh that's why you don't hear "I put it to you" no barking like a Rottweiler; Yet 'if it didn't Dey it didn't Dey'."

The New Daily Prime reported that Mr Obi during the interview reiterated his opposition to any form of illegality or violence linked to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) or similar groups.

He maintained that engagement through dialogue remains the most effective path to lasting peace.

Senator Ndume rejects Tinubu's 2027 endorsement

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Former Chief Whip of the Senate, Senator Ali Ndume, who represents Borno South in the Nigerian Senate, has publicly distanced himself from recent moves within the All Progressives Congress (APC) to endorse President Bola Tinubu for a second term in the upcoming 2027 general elections.

Ndume stated this on Sunday, while speaking on Channels Television's Sunday Politics programme.

He also issued a cautionary reminder to the President, citing the 2015 electoral defeat of former President Goodluck Jonathan despite similar backing from his party's governors.

"Jonathan had 22 governors then endorsing him, like was done now. And what happened? Jonathan lost woefully. A lot of money was spent. Even the election was shifted, but we are not learning our lessons. I pity Mr President," Ndume warned.

In 2015, Jonathan ran on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party but was

defeated by the All Progressives Congress candidate, Muhammadu Buhari, in the presidential election.

Buhari polled 15,424,921 votes to defeat the ex-president who garnered 12,853,162 votes.

Last month, 22 APC governors reportedly endorsed President Tinubu as the party's candidate for the 2027 election during a gathering at the Banquet Hall of the Presidential Villa in Abuja. However, Ndume said he walked out of the meeting once it became apparent that the event was being used as a platform for the endorsement.

Ndume explained, "I was there, but that was not why I was there, I was there for a summit, and when I realised that it was not a summit and a voice vote was being conducted about the endorsement of Mr President, I just left."

The senator advised against any sense of complacency, especially considering recent reports suggesting that certain APC leaders are advocating for

automatic candidacies for incumbent lawmakers.

He cautioned that such actions risk alienating the party's grassroots supporters and loyal campaigners essential figures without whom any electoral pursuit would be destined to fail.

"When speculation arose that members of the National Assembly might be granted automatic tickets, the party issued a denial.

"So, who will serve as the foot soldiers? You cannot depend solely on the governors," he remarked.

Drawing parallels with previous political miscalculations, Ndume criticised what he described as repeated failures by politicians to learn from history.

"Politicians are decamping, but the people who are the voters are not decamping," he said.

Abacha did not loot, he saved money for Nigeria – Wife

By Damilola Olufemi



Maryam Abacha, wife of the late Nigerian military ruler General Sani Abacha, has strongly denied allegations that her husband looted the nation's wealth, insisting instead that he saved money for Nigeria—funds she says vanished after his death.

In an interview with TVC, the former first lady challenged the longstanding narrative surrounding Abacha's financial dealings while in power from 1993 until his death in 1998.

"Who is the witness of the monies that were being stashed?" she asked. "Did you see the signature or the evidence of any monies stashed abroad? And the money that my husband kept for Nigeria, in a few months, the money vanished. People are not talking about that."

Over the years, successive governments have announced the recovery of large sums allegedly stashed abroad by Abacha and his associates. By 2020, the recovered funds were estimated to exceed \$3.6 billion. More recently, the UK

returned \$23 million in May 2022, the US followed with \$20 million a few months later, and in 2023, France repatriated another \$150 million.

However, Maryam insists her husband's name is unfairly dragged through the mud. "Why are you blaming somebody? Is that tribalism or a religious problem, or what is the problem with Nigerians?" she asked. "We should stop telling lies and blaming people."

Maryam Abacha criticises media

She also criticised the media, urging journalists to focus on educating and informing the public rather than demonising individuals. "You are here to help the country. You are not here to bastardise people. People are not that bad. 27 years ago, and you are still talking about Abacha. He must be very powerful and loved by Nigerians. We thank God for that."

Referencing views that Nigeria's economy was more stable during Abacha's regime, with higher foreign

reserves and lower external debt, she questioned the basis of corruption allegations. "So, where did he steal the money from?" she asked rhetorically.

Maryam didn't hide her frustration over what she described as blind public acceptance of the looting narrative. "And because Nigerians are fools, they listen to everything," she said, lamenting the tendency to blame former leaders. "Abacha does not make Nigeria alone. Abiola and everybody, nobody is big enough for Nigeria. Even the single man on the street is very important. We are all human beings, for goodness' sake."

Addressing claims around the annulment of the historic June 12, 1993, presidential election—an issue that continues to evoke debate—she denied that her husband played any role. "All I know is that the annulment was not done by my husband," she said. "If it was him, that means he was very powerful... even more powerful than the president. If the president was there and somebody else is calling the shots, that means Abacha was the greatest."

Otti: Discussing 2027 elections now is premature, presumptuous

By Friday Omosola

Governor Alex Otti of Abia State has condemned the ongoing discussion and coalition ahead of the 2027 election.

Despite the current democratic tenure being less than two years old, certain politicians have already begun early talks and subtle campaigns.

Mr Otti argued that those discussing the 2027 elections in 2025 are ‘overstepping’ because nobody can be certain of their future beyond the immediate present.

He made these remarks yesterday during a meeting with former Abia State Governor and current Senator for Abia North, Orji Kalu, alongside Chris Adighije, who previously represented Abia Central.

According to a statement from the governor’s Chief Press Secretary, Ukoha Ukoha, the senators visited Mr Otti in a friendly capacity to praise his achievements in the state and to engage in discussions about governance.

Mr Otti stated, “People are already talking about 2027 in 2025, yet there’s no guarantee any of us will be here beyond this year. Who are they to be discussing 2027 already?”

He questioned the boldness of those prematurely focusing on the future, likening it to ‘playing God.’

He added, “Today is certain; tomorrow is hopeful. The day after tomorrow is a gamble. Let’s focus on the present. When tomorrow arrives, if we’re fortunate to see it, then we can begin those conversations.”

He stressed that no one should speak for the future except at their own peril.

On the economy, the governor reaffirmed his unwavering support for President Bola Tinubu’s tough but necessary economic reforms.

He specifically applauded the removal of the fuel subsidy, describing it as a long-overdue and courageous decision.



“Supporting President Tinubu is straightforward for me. Our friendship predates political affiliations, and while we don’t agree on everything, on economic matters, I have always aligned with his stance,” the governor explained.

He urged people to revisit his past writings, particularly those published during the Covid-19 pandemic in ‘ThisDay’ newspaper, where he advocated for the removal of fuel subsidies amid declining crude demand from off-takers.

“It takes courage to remove a subsidy, and I fully back it. We’ve acted irresponsibly for too long, and correcting that behaviour is inevitably tough and painful. This is the adjustment we’re undergoing now. If we maintain faith, we will succeed eventually.”

Mr Otti expressed gratitude to the former governor for his past contributions to Abia but emphasised that his administration is focused on moving forward rather than dwelling on previous challenges.

“Governance is a continuous process. It can be disrupted, but you must restore it,” he said, recalling how his late mother was a strong supporter of Orji Kalu due to the positive road projects delivered during his tenure, particularly in Aba.

“I am following that same model—fix revenue-generating areas first, then use

those resources to develop other regions.”

Mr Kalu described Mr Otti as a lifelong friend beyond politics. He praised the improvement of the road from Igberere to Umuahia, which has reduced travel time from three hours to less than one hour thanks to Otti’s infrastructure projects in the region.

“You’re my brother for life. Whether you contest elections or not, our bond remains. You’ve done well for Abia State, and the state will continue to progress under your leadership,” Mr Kalu said.

He also commended the State Commissioner for Works for the road rehabilitation in Igberere, describing the road as “a smooth ride, unlike before.”

Mr Kalu added, “Abians know what benefits them, and only they can decide who leads. When the people are content, you don’t settle for the best—you choose your best.”

He urged the governor to maintain close ties with Mr Tinubu rather than abandoning his political party, expressing his intention to continue visiting the governor whenever he is in Abia.

Mr Adighije, speaking next, expressed pride in being from Abia and reiterated his support for Mr Otti, emphasising that his backing is based on the progress of the state rather than partisan politics.

PDP youth coalition backs Wike, endorses Tinubu for 2027

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



A coalition of youth-focused organisations operating under the platform of the PDP Youth Vanguard for Renewed Hope has called on the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to stop vilifying the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike. The coalition warned that continued attacks on Wike could further alienate the youth from the party.

In a statement issued on Monday and signed by the coalition's National President, Hon. Charles Onoja, the group urged the PDP to instead listen to Wike, whom they described as having "his finger on the pulse of the people, especially young Nigerians".

The statement comes after Wike publicly declared, during a live television appearance, his intention to lead President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's 2027 re-election campaign in Rivers State — despite being a prominent PDP member.

Onoja noted that while Wike may be misunderstood by some within the PDP,

many young Nigerians view him as a pragmatic and patriotic leader whose boldness and sincerity resonate with the younger generation.

"Rather than vilify Wike, the PDP should listen to him. He understands the mood of the nation and speaks the truth as it is. His support for Tinubu reflects the aspirations of millions who yearn for progress and are weary of the politics of old," said Onoja.

He continued: "We want to be on the side of truth, performance, and stability. Wike has shown that one can stay true to their values while supporting a government that delivers. Tinubu has earned our respect. Come 2027, we will speak with our PVCs [Permanent Voter Cards]."

Onoja stressed that their support does not signify a defection to the All Progressives Congress (APC), but rather a move towards honesty and national interest.

"This is not about crossing over to the

APC. It is about crossing over to the truth," he declared.

"President Tinubu has outperformed expectations. Young people across the country are beginning to recognise and appreciate that. What matters now is competence, not party lines," he said.

The coalition described Wike's continued support for Tinubu — while remaining in the PDP — as a sign of maturity and a commitment to national unity over partisanship.

According to Onoja, grassroots mobilisation has already begun across the six geopolitical zones, with active structures in all 774 local government areas. He said the coalition is engaging in town halls, campus outreach, digital campaigns, and community events, including mosque and church engagements.

"Our message is clear: Nigeria's youth are results-oriented. We support Tinubu because he delivers," he concluded.

Obi faults govt use of force on IPOB, calls for dialogue

By Friday Omosola



The 2023 Labour Party, LP, presidential candidate, Peter Obi, has reiterated his opposition to any form of illegality or violence linked to the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) or similar groups.

However, he maintained that engagement through dialogue remains the most effective path to lasting peace.

Speaking during an interview on ARISE NEWS on Monday, the 63-year-old clarified that he condemns wrongdoing wherever it occurs in the country—be it in the East, West, or South.

Mr Obi argued that agitations are a normal expression within any democratic society.

According to him, the proper way to address such unrest is through open and honest conversation, not repression.

Responding to criticism that he appears

soft on IPOB, Mr Obi rejected the claim, saying his consistent position has been to seek unity and stability through peaceful engagement.

He warned that treating dissent as a crime or responding with brute force only exacerbates national disunity.

“I apply the same standards across the board. Throughout the campaign and even now, I have insisted that I am willing to engage any group—be it a regional or ideological movement. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with agitation.

“In fact, we experience it in our homes. My children sometimes object to decisions, and we talk it through. That’s how it should be in a society—dialogue first, always”, he said.

“What we’ve done, unfortunately, is embrace extremism and mistake aggression for strength. But that approach only damages the system. Today, exhibiting good values is seen

as a weakness, and acting violently is mistaken for courage. That’s not leadership.”

The former governor of Anambra State also commented on the recent political tensions in Rivers State.

He said Nigeria continues to show signs of democratic regression and criticised the federal government’s response, especially the consideration of a state of emergency, as a fundamental violation of democratic norms.

“You can’t claim to operate within a democracy while abandoning the rule of law. There are procedures that must be followed. No issue, however complex, should be resolved through unconstitutional means,” he stated.

Mr Obi emphasised that political disagreements, no matter how intense, must be managed through legal and democratic institutions, not through force or authoritarian intervention.

Mass defection hits Lagos PDP as leaders join APC

By New Daily Prime

On Monday, a major political shake-up struck the Lagos chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The party's spokesperson, Hakeem Amode, and several prominent party leaders defected to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Mr Amode and other which cited disillusionment with the PDP's leadership and direction, joined a wave of defectors who made their switch public at a press briefing held in Ikeja.

Mr Amode noted that the decision was influenced by the leadership qualities demonstrated by Abdul-Azeez 'Jandor' Adediran, the PDP's 2023 governorship candidate, who previously joined the APC.

He stated that he and his colleagues had been inspired to follow Adediran's lead.

"In announcing this move, we are making a significant and strategic choice, not just for ourselves but also for the many dedicated political allies who have stood by us through various phases of our journey," Mr Amode said.

He went on to declare the dissolution of the PDP's organisational structure in Lagos, from the grassroots to the state level, as supporters aligned with Jandor to defect en masse to the APC.

"The PDP has veered off course both nationally and within Lagos State. The founding principles that once gave the party strength and respect across Africa have been abandoned. Its future now hangs in the balance," he said.

Reflecting on their time in the PDP, Mr Amode described it as long and eventful, marked by both progress and difficulties.

He noted that many of those leaving had held various roles within the party and contributed their best efforts.

"However, after considerable reflection and wide consultations, we have chosen to pursue a new path. This step is not taken



lightly — it is a move to regain control of our political futures and better serve our constituents and loyal supporters," he added.

He criticised the current state leadership of the PDP, led by Philip Aivoji, for fostering division and exhibiting poor leadership, which he said had cost the party dearly.

"Today, along with former candidates, local and ward-level leaders, and key stakeholders across Lagos, we officially resign from the PDP and declare our allegiance to the APC. Letters of resignation have been submitted to the appropriate PDP leaders at ward, local government, and state levels," Mr Amode said.

He clarified that their decision to leave was not motivated by personal ambition but rather a desire to serve the public more effectively under a new political platform.

Safurat Abdulkareem, a two-time deputy governorship candidate of the PDP, also addressed the media, expressing readiness to contribute to Lagos State's development under the progressives' banner.

Similarly, former PDP Deputy Chairman in the state, Ola Apena, dismissed the party's relevance, declaring, "The PDP no longer exists in any meaningful form. The structure is broken, and there's no indication of revival."

Speaking for the PDP's 2023 state House of Assembly candidates, Ibrahim Balogun, who contested in Kosofe, expressed regret over staying in the party for 18 years.

"We are moving together into the APC and will support Mr Tinubu's re-election bid in 2027. Jandor is a leader worth following—he represents the people," Balogun said.

Jandor welcomed the new members. He stated, "We have effectively integrated the PDP's entire structure into the APC. There's no reason to remain in a party that lacks strategic intent and electoral ambition. For years, the PDP in Lagos has functioned more like a social group than a competitive political party."

He accused the PDP leadership of deliberately preventing the party from winning elections, thereby wasting the efforts of its members.

"The PDP is sinking. In today's political landscape, the APC remains the only viable platform," Jandor said.

Other notable defectors included Prince Rufus Adeniyi, a former Assistant State Organising Secretary (Lagos West); Mr Jerry Afemikhe, a former House of Representatives candidate for Surulere Constituency I; and several 2023 PDP state House of Assembly candidates: Keshinro Abiodun (Epe 1), Akeem Jinadu (Eti-Osa 1), Ibrahim Balogun (Kosofe 2), Taofeek Obanikoro (Lagos Island 1), Tunde Pratt (Lagos Mainland 2), Saheed Aregbesola (Oshodi-Isolo 2), Sulaimon Thompson (Surulere 1), and Taofeek Kuye (Ajeromi-Ifelodun 1).

Arewa to Tinubu: Focus on governance, not re-election

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has criticised the All Progressives Congress (APC) and President Bola Tinubu's administration for prioritising early political manoeuvring ahead of the 2027 elections, while failing to address Nigeria's worsening insecurity and economic hardship.

This was contained in a statement signed by its National Publicity Secretary, Professor Tukur Muhammad-Baba.

In a strongly worded statement, Professor Tukur Muhammad-Baba said the ACF expressed disappointment at what it described as the ruling party's obsession with political campaigns, defections, and re-election strategies.

"The ruling party seems more obsessed with early campaigns than with tackling the real problems facing the country," the group said.

The ACF noted with concern that insecurity, especially in the northern region, has continued to escalate, while government efforts and policies have done little to provide lasting solutions.

The forum also condemned what it termed "reckless public spending," citing revelations about budget insertions of over ₦260 million each for streetlights in the 2025 federal budget.

"That there has to date been no official denial of such crassly reckless and

surreal insertions attests to the insensitivity of public officials and political representatives to the plight of ordinary Nigerians," it stated.

The ACF warned that continued neglect of citizens' needs could lead to mass discontent and despair.

It criticized security officials for making head-in-the-sand statements, ignoring the reality that many state governors and communities are under serious threats.

"Delusional hubris and head-in-the-sand claims continue to characterise pronouncements by officials charged with responsibilities for security," it stated.

Plateau agency sets up drug centre to track adverse reactions

By Helen Okechukwu

The Plateau State Drugs and Medical Commodities Management Agency (PS-DMCMA) has established a Drug Information Centre (DIC) to monitor adverse drug reactions reported by hospitals and individuals.

PS-DMCMA is a Nigerian government agency responsible for managing and distributing essential drugs and medical supplies across the state's public health facilities.

Executive Secretary of the agency, Mr Kim Bot, made this known during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Monday in Jos.

Mr Bot, a pharmacist, said the centre was part of efforts to improve healthcare outcomes and ensure the safe use of medicines across the state.

He added that a toll-free line — 081299924 — has been provided for the public to report any drug reactions.

According to him, the agency uses these



reports to determine whether a reaction is caused by a drug's chemical composition or by the individual's genetic makeup.

Plateau agency develops PLASUPPLY

In addition to the centre, the agency has developed a new inventory system called PLASUPPLY to enhance drug and medical supply management. The system, built locally, helps track stock, manage orders, and notify staff when drugs are nearing expiry.

"The PLASUPPLY tool informs us of drugs in the warehouse that will be

expiring in the next six months and where such drugs are needed in our healthcare facilities."

"This system, aside from boosting efficiency, also helps in saving costs, as we do not have cases of expired drugs in the warehouse," Mr Bot said.

He further stated that the agency had signed several agreements with both local and international pharmaceutical firms to ensure a steady supply of essential medicines in the state.

US FDA approves merck's RSV antibody to protect infants

By Fatimah Idera

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Merck's new preventive antibody treatment, Enflonsia (clesrovimab), to protect infants up to 12 months old from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) during their first RSV season, Merck announced on Monday.

Enflonsia is a monoclonal antibody designed to offer protection against mild to severe RSV infections. It can be administered as a single dose to healthy pre-term, full-term, and at-risk infants, regardless of their birth weight.

Until now, the only RSV preventive antibody available for infants and toddlers in the U.S. has been Beyfortus, developed by Sanofi and AstraZeneca. However, limited supply of Beyfortus has



created unmet demand during RSV seasons.

RSV is a highly contagious respiratory virus that circulates seasonally and can lead to serious illness, particularly in young children and older adults.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), between 58,000 and 80,000 children under the age of five are hospitalized annually in the U.S. due to RSV-related complications.

Currently, the CDC recommends two ways to protect infants from severe RSV: an RSV vaccine given to pregnant mothers or a preventive antibody administered directly to the baby.

Merck anticipates that shipments of Enflonsia will be available in time for the 2025–2026 RSV season. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) is expected to meet later this month to review the data and provide guidance on the use of Enflonsia in infants.

Oxford scientists fast-track Nipah virus vaccine with EMA backing

By Helen Okechukwu



Nipah virus vaccine developed by researchers at the University of Oxford has received a major boost with the backing of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) under its PRIME scheme—a move set to speed up its journey to patients.

The vaccine, which is currently undergoing phase 1 clinical trials, is the first from a United Kingdom (UK) academic institution to be admitted into the EMA's Priority Medicines initiative.

This scheme offers early and enhanced scientific and regulatory support to treatments deemed crucial for addressing serious public health threats.

Nipah virus, regarded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a disease with pandemic potential, has a mortality rate of up to 85%.

Initial symptoms include fever, headaches, and sore throat, but the condition can quickly progress to

severe neurological complications, including brain inflammation.

Transmissible from animals such as fruit bats and pigs, through contaminated food, or via close contact between people, Nipah has caused repeated outbreaks in South and Southeast Asia.

First detected in Malaysia in 1999, the virus has since led to annual flare-ups in Bangladesh and parts of eastern India. Its presence has also been recorded in bat populations across several countries, including Thailand, Madagascar, and Ghana.

According to the EMA, the decision to support Oxford's vaccine effort was based on encouraging results from early laboratory and clinical studies.

Nipah virus Vaccine

According to the Independent report, it underscored a statement to the research team, the agency highlighted the increasing

likelihood of human exposure to infected animals, noting that this raises the risk of widespread transmission in densely populated areas.

Prof. Brian Angus, who leads the vaccine project at Oxford's Vaccine Group, welcomed the EMA's endorsement. "This targeted regulatory support for our vaccine programme is a huge boost to the search for a solution to Nipah virus outbreaks," he said.

However, he further shared optimism that their vaccine could help protect high-risk communities and potentially prevent the next global health crisis.

With international concern mounting over emerging infectious diseases, Oxford's advancement in Nipah vaccine research marks a crucial step toward preparedness and rapid response, especially in a world still grappling with the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic.

‘Without you, I wouldn’t exist today’, Rema tells D’banj

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music star Divine Ikubor, known to millions as Rema, has paid glowing tribute to Afrobeats legend D’banj for helping to bring the genre into the international spotlight, especially in the United Kingdom.

The young star delivered the heartfelt praise on Sunday night during his sold-out concert at London’s O2 Arena. In a powerful moment that stirred the crowd, Rema brought D’banj on stage and publicly acknowledged his influence on the global rise of Afrobeats.

“You opened the door for us”

Rema told the cheering audience that his success, and that of many others in his generation, would not have been possible without D’banj’s early international breakthroughs.

“First of all, I want to appreciate you for opening the doors,” Rema said to D’banj as the crowd roared with applause. “We, the new generation of artists, did not do this alone. You were one of the first to bring Afrobeats to the UK. You and Don Jazzy held it down. You opened that door.”

Rema continued, “I appreciate you for life. I love you from the bottom of my heart. If you never existed, I would have never existed.”

A breakthrough that changed the game

D’banj made music history in 2012 when his infectious hit single *Oliver Twist* cracked the UK Official Singles Chart. The song reached the Top 10, becoming the first Nigerian Afrobeats track to achieve such a feat.

At the time, Afrobeats was just starting to gain attention beyond Africa. D’banj’s success marked a turning point. His crossover appeal not only brought Afrobeats to a wider audience but also opened the doors for future artists to



break into the global music scene.

His UK chart success helped shift perceptions of African music abroad, laying the foundation for the international wave of Afrobeats we see today.

D’banj and Don Jazzy: Early pioneers

D’banj didn’t walk the path alone. Alongside producer Don Jazzy, the duo shaped the sound of early 2000s Nigerian pop music. Their work under the Mo’ Hits Records label helped define the early style of Afrobeats that would later gain popularity across the world.

Together, they crafted hit songs that resonate across Africa and eventually caught the attention of fans in Europe, the Americas, and beyond. When *Oliver Twist* hit the UK charts, it wasn’t just a win for D’banj, it was a win for the entire genre.

Rema’s rise and respect for legend

Rema, who has become one of the leading voices of the new generation of Afrobeats stars, has often spoken about the importance of honouring those who came before him.

His music blends traditional Afrobeats with modern global sounds, and he has

played a key role in pushing the genre forward. Yet on Sunday night, he made it clear that none of this would be possible without the early efforts of artists like D’banj.

By inviting D’banj to share the stage at the O2 Arena, a venue that represents the peak of success for many global artists, Rema symbolically passed the torch while also paying homage to the past.

Afrobeats: From Lagos to the world

The journey of Afrobeats from Lagos street corners to global stages is a story of persistence, creativity, and unity. Artists like D’banj took the first bold steps. Today, stars like Rema continue to walk the path they cleared.

With each hit song and every sold-out concert, Afrobeats cements its place on the world stage. And as Sunday’s moment at the O2 Arena showed, the new generation hasn’t forgotten who helped build the foundation.

Rema’s tribute was not just a personal thank-you. It was a reminder that behind every success story is a history of sacrifices and firsts, made by those brave enough to dream big when no one was watching.

If I weren't a musician, I'd be a preacher

Bella Shmurda

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats singer Bella Shmurda has opened up about what he believes to be his true calling.

In a recent interview, the singer revealed that if he hadn't pursued a music career, he would have chosen a different path, one that involved inspiring others through words.

The "Vision 2020" hitmaker shared these thoughts during an episode of the Afrobeats Intelligence podcast, hosted by music journalist Joey Akan.

Bella Shmurda, whose real name is Akinbiyi Abiola Ahmed, said he strongly believes that his life's purpose is tied to spirituality. He explained that his connection to deeper meaning and inspiration is something he cannot separate from his music.

"Everybody has spirituality," he said. "You just have to discover it. I feel like if I weren't an artist, I might be a preacher or motivational speaker. I feel like that is my purpose."

For Bella, music is not just entertainment. It is a tool for lifting others and sending powerful messages. He explained that every song he makes carries a message that connects with people on a personal level.

Bella Shmurda born to inspire

The singer went on to describe how he often finds himself encouraging others. Whether in conversation or his lyrics, he said he naturally connects with people and motivates them.

"If I weren't doing music, I would have been a motivational speaker," he said. "I easily cheer people up. I easily get to people's deep parts. And I feel like that's my purpose."



He added that this desire to inspire others is not something he can hide or ignore. It is part of who he is, and it shows in everything he does.

"That's why I am here," he continued. "And it should also reflect in my music. You can't take that away from my music."

Bella Shmurda believes that spirituality isn't just something he talks about — it lives in his music. He explained that when he writes songs, he feels a spiritual connection that guides his lyrics and performance.

"I can't do without it," he said. "When I'm writing, spirituality has to be there. Even in my voice, you can feel it."

According to Bella, this spiritual energy is part of what gives his music its unique sound and emotional depth. He believes that listeners can feel it too, and that's what draws many fans to his work.

While Bella Shmurda has made a name for himself as a rising star in Nigeria's Afrobeats scene, he wants people to see more than just a performer. For him, music is only one part of a bigger

picture.

His comments on the podcast show that he sees himself as a voice for something greater, someone who wants to help others find meaning, strength, and hope.

"I've been trying to implement in every one of my songs," he said. "It's more than just sound."

A different kind of platform

Bella's story offers a fresh view of what it means to be a modern musician. For him, fame is not the end goal. Instead, he wants to use his platform to bring something positive to the world, whether through beats, lyrics, or words of encouragement.

While he may not be in a church or on a stage giving motivational talks, Bella believes he's still doing the same kind of work: reaching hearts, changing minds, and sharing his truth.

And with each song, he continues to blend art with purpose, staying true to the spiritual path he believes he was born to follow.

Nollywood actress Jumoke George receives duplex, land, SUV gifts

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerians have rallied around veteran Nollywood actress Jumoke George, showering her with overwhelming support just weeks after she opened up about her struggles with homelessness and illness.

The actress, once a familiar face in many Yoruba and English-language films, had faded from the spotlight in recent years.

Her story came to light in a heartfelt interview with fellow actress Biola Bayo. In the interview, Jumoke George revealed that she had been battling health issues and living without a stable home for over six years.

Her emotional story quickly captured the public's attention.

Six years of silence and struggles

Jumoke George's recent interview marked a rare appearance. Speaking with visible emotion, she told Biola Bayo that she had suffered in silence for years. She explained how she faced both physical illness and the harsh realities of homelessness, with little help and no steady income.

Her situation shocked many Nigerians, especially her fans, who remembered her performances from decades past. Social media platforms were soon flooded with reactions. People expressed both sorrow and anger that someone who had brought joy to many could be left to suffer in silence.

Calls for support began to circulate, with fans and fellow entertainers urging the public to step in.

A generous turnaround

On Sunday evening, a heartwarming update emerged. Biola Bayo took to Instagram to share the good news. Thanks to donations and support from kind-hearted Nigerians, Jumoke George now has a place to call home again.



Bayo announced that the veteran actress had been gifted a four-bedroom duplex, a plot of land, and a brand-new SUV.

"Today, we present a four-bedroom duplex, SUV, and a plot of land to Jumoke George," Bayo wrote on her Instagram page. "Thanks to everyone who made this dream a reality."

She also shared photos of Jumoke George standing beside her new home and sitting proudly in her new car.

Nigerians celebrate the moment

The post quickly went viral, with thousands of Nigerians celebrating the good news. Comments poured in, thanking those who donated and applauding Bayo for helping bring attention to Jumoke's situation.

One user wrote, "This is what humanity is about. Thank you to everyone who contributed."

Another commenter said, "So happy to see her smile again. May she never know hardship again."

The public's response highlighted how social media, often used for gossip and outrage, can also be a powerful tool for real change.

A reminder of hidden struggles



Jumoke George's story is not just one of personal recovery. It also shines a light on the often-ignored struggles of many retired entertainers. While they once lived in the spotlight, some now face poverty, illness, and loneliness without the support they need.

For many Nigerians, this case serves as a wake-up call. It reminds the public and the entertainment industry that fame does not guarantee security. Many actors and actresses, especially from past generations, lack health insurance, pensions, or steady work.

Looking ahead with hope

As Jumoke George settles into her new home, she begins a fresh chapter filled with hope and support. Though she has endured years of hardship, the generosity shown to her offers a powerful message: people still care.

For Biola Bayo, the moment is also one of victory. Her efforts helped make Jumoke's story heard. And for the public, it's a reminder of the strength that comes when communities come together to help those in need.

Jumoke George may have been forgotten by the spotlight for some time, but now, thanks to the kindness of strangers and the power of shared stories, she has a new beginning.

Top Nigerian celebrities driving global influence, social change

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a world increasingly defined by digital power and cultural capital, a new wave of Nigerian influencers is not just participating in global conversations — they're leading them. From Grammy-winning musicians to viral comedians, and cross-border fashion icons, these Nigerian personalities are flipping the script on Africa's global image, building brands, and shifting narratives — all from their phones, stages, and creative studios.

This isn't mere celebrity. It's cultural diplomacy in real time. And this is happening in an environment where global headlines still wrestle with questions of migration, security, and identity. Many Nigerians are navigating and influencing the world. Their work spans industries, breaks down borders, and generates billions of impressions. And while some use comedy, others wield sound, style, or social justice. But they all share one thing in common: they are reshaping how the world sees Africa—and how Africa sees itself. Here are the top Nigeria influencers using their platforms to reshape global culture:

1. Davido — The Music Star Turned Movement Leader

29.6M Instagram Followers | Global Tour Icon | Afrobeats Ambassador

Born in Atlanta but rooted in Lagos, Davido (David Adeleke) has become one of the world's most powerful voices in the Afrobeats movement. His album *Timeless* and global tour cemented his international stardom, but it's his fearless civic engagement that sets him apart.

Davido was among the few artists who marched shoulder-to-shoulder with Nigerian youth during the #EndSARS protests, calling out police brutality and government silence. With nearly 30 million followers across platforms, his words echo beyond music into politics, philanthropy, and global youth activism.

On his birthday in 2021, he crowdsourced nearly \$600,000 from fans and celebrity friends—and then shocked everyone by donating it all to orphanages across Nigeria.

He's also helped redefine what it means to



be a global African superstar: one who is loud, proud, generous, and deeply rooted in homegrown values. From sold-out arenas to political halls, Davido's influence underscores the power of celebrity when matched with conscience. This blend of artistry and advocacy is why Davido is not only a music star, but a cultural movement.

2. Tiwa Savage — The Queen of Afrobeats and Feminist Firepower

18.8M Instagram Followers | UN Performer | Cultural Icon

Globally adored for her sultry vocals and magnetic stage presence, Tiwa Savage is more than a hitmaker — she is a bold advocate for women's rights, identity, and equality.

Breaking barriers in a male-dominated industry, she became the first African woman signed to Jay-Z's Roc Nation and frequently uses her platform to highlight issues from gender violence to female economic empowerment. Her activism during the pandemic, and her outspoken role during #EndSARS, demonstrated how a pop star can embody both glamour and grit.

"Being a superstar means nothing if you can't lift your people with you," she said recently.

Tiwa regularly donates to health and education initiatives and uses her brand to

mentor young African women. Her music, filled with powerful feminist anthems, reflects a modern African woman's journey: empowered, self-aware, and unwilling to be silenced.

Whether performing at King Charles III's coronation or headlining festivals across Europe, Tiwa Savage embodies a pan-African feminist movement with global reach.

3. Wizkid — The Silent Revolutionary with Global Stage Power

17.7M Instagram Followers | Grammy Winner | Cultural Architect

Wizkid (Ayodeji Balogun) may be soft-spoken, but his influence is thunderous. His hit "Essence" became the first Nigerian song to crack the U.S. Billboard Hot 100 Top 10, redefining Afrobeats' global impact.

Wizkid rarely engages in public controversy, but when he speaks — it resonates. During the 2020 protests in Nigeria, his tweet calling out the president over police killings went viral worldwide, shaking political circles and giving youth activists a powerful ally.

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on next page**

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"I'm just here to make good music and represent where I'm from," he says — but in doing so, he's shaping global perceptions of African excellence, one performance at a time.

Wizkid's brand is one of effortless cool and cultural pride. He's worked with everyone from Drake to Dior, fusing street style with luxury, Lagos slang with Grammy-worthy lyrics. And behind the scenes, he nurtures rising stars through his Starboy label.

In an era of loud opinions, Wizkid proves that quiet confidence, when backed by impact, can change the world.

4. Burna Boy — The Afro-Fusion Revolutionary Reshaping Global Culture

15.6M Instagram Followers | Grammy Winner | Global Cultural Provocateur

If there is one name synonymous with unapologetic black consciousness, global rebellion, and sonic genius, it is Burna Boy. Born Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Burna boy has taken Afro-fusion, beats, reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop—to Grammy-winning heights.

His 2019 album *African Giant* wasn't just a musical achievement; it was a manifesto. With lyrics that denounce colonialism, criticize western media narratives, and celebrate Pan-African strength, Burna's voice became a clarion call for a generation searching for pride and power.

In 2021, Burna Boy won the Grammy Award for Best Global Music Album with *Twice as Tall*—a groundbreaking project executive produced by Sean "Diddy" Combs. During his acceptance speech, he delivered a powerful message to Africans worldwide, declaring:

He has performed on the biggest global stages, including Madison Square Garden, Coachella, Glastonbury, and the BET Awards. Burna is also the first African artist to sell out arenas in the UK and headline international festivals not as an opener, but a main act. His London Stadium concert made headlines across Europe, marking a turning point in how African music is programmed on global stages.

Yet Burna Boy is more than a performer—he is a political thinker. He was vocal during the #EndSARS movement, calling out governmental failures and urging global media to pay attention. His songs like "Monsters You Made," "Another Story," and "Dangote" tackle neocolonialism, corruption, class disparity, and the long shadow of exploitation. In doing so, he introduces African political education to Western pop audiences.

Fashion, too, is part of his arsenal. He uses fashion not just to stand out, but to stand

firm.

5. Funke Akindele: Using Stardom to Inspire Social Change

To millions, Funke Akindele is best known as "Jenifa," the iconic character from Nigeria's beloved sitcom *Jenifa's Diary*. But beyond the screen, Akindele is a dynamic force — a filmmaker, philanthropist, political advocate, and cultural influencer using her platform to drive meaningful change.

With over 16.4 million Instagram followers and a global digital presence, Akindele has evolved from actress to one of Nigeria's most powerful voices. Her breakout 2009 film *Jenifa* gave birth to a hit series that used comedy to explore issues like education, peer pressure, and sexual health, making her work both entertaining and socially impactful.

Her storytelling has gained international reach, with several of her films streaming on Netflix. She brings Nigerian narratives to a global audience, highlighting the complexity of African womanhood in a patriarchal society. Her characters often depict single mothers, businesswomen, and survivors of abuse — bold, flawed, and inspiring.

In 2023, Akindele entered politics as a deputy governorship candidate in Lagos, advocating for education reform and digital access for youth. Though her party didn't win, she energized young voters and women.

Beyond film and politics, she's a committed philanthropist. Through the Funke Akindele Foundation and mentorship programs like the Scene One School of Drama, she empowers youth, women, and families with resources and skills.

Using her social media to promote wellness, civic awareness, and public health — especially during the pandemic — Akindele is a shining example of how celebrity influence can be used to uplift society.

6. Yemi Alade — The "Woman of Steel" Championing Pan-African Pride

17.5M Instagram Followers | UNDP Ambassador | Cultural Unifier

Known as "Mama Africa", Yemi Alade sings in multiple languages and performs across continents — from Dakar to Dubai. But her music is just one arm of her impact.

As a UNDP Goodwill Ambassador, she advocates for education, gender equality, and climate justice. Her campaigns have empowered women-owned businesses, pushed for rural girls' education, and sparked unity across linguistic and ethnic borders.

"We can't wait for the west to tell us we're great. We must believe in ourselves," she declared in a viral speech.

Yemi's music is unapologetically African, and her visuals embrace heritage, power, and pride. From headwraps to high notes, she crafts an image of African womanhood that's strong, joyful, and politically aware.

She's also one of the few Nigerian stars to focus heavily on intra-African connectivity, performing in over 30 African countries and consistently promoting cross-border collaborations.

7. Mark Angel — The Comedy Mogul Making the World Laugh at Africa's Truths

9.44M YouTube Subscribers | Viral Skit Producer | Youth Mentor

In a media landscape often dominated by music and fashion, Mark Angel is building a global movement — through comedy. His YouTube channel, Mark Angel Comedy, was the first African comedy channel to surpass 1 million subscribers.

Featuring everyday Nigerian life, and child stars like Emmanuella, his skits have racked up billions of views from Lagos to London to Los Angeles. But more than humour, his platform serves as a springboard for youth empowerment and social commentary.

From school fees to family dynamics, Mark Angel delivers laughter steeped in realism — and it's striking a global chord. His digital empire has influenced how global audiences see Africa: not through pity, but through joy and creativity.

Behind the gags is a commitment to portraying authentic Nigerian experiences, and a belief in comedy as a tool for education, empowerment, and global understanding.

The truth of the matter is that what makes Nigerian influencers truly remarkable is not just their numbers — but their reach. They are cultural ambassadors, business moguls, and voices of a generation. Multinational brands across the globe are aligning with Nigerian stars to tap into Africa's vibrant youth market. Hollywood is listening too — as evidenced by soundtrack deals, Netflix specials, and Grammy nods. From Afrobeats to viral skits, streetwear to civil disobedience, Nigerian influencers are shaping how the world talks, dresses, dances, and dreams. As the world scrolls, watches, and listens, one thing is clear: Nigeria is not just participating in global culture — it's leading it.

Teyana Taylor confirms relationship with actor Aaron Pierre

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

American singer, actress, and model Teyana Taylor has officially confirmed her relationship with British actor Aaron Pierre.

The pair had been the subject of growing speculation in recent months, following multiple public appearances together. On Sunday, the model put the rumour to rest with a heartfelt Instagram post celebrating Pierre's birthday.

She shared a series of affectionate photos featuring herself and the actor. The pictures, which quickly gained attention on social media, show the couple enjoying each other's company in what appears to be a private celebration. One image captures a smiling Taylor with her arm around Pierre. Another shows them laughing together in a cosy setting.

Sweet words and a viral moment

But it was a short video clip that truly stole the spotlight. In the now-viral footage, the duo were seen sharing a passionate kiss during what turned out to be a surprise birthday party thrown by the singer.

Alongside the post, the singer wrote a playful and loving birthday message: "Cheers to thirty-WON and many more wins around the sun."

The phrase "thirty-WON" cleverly referenced Pierre's new age, 31 and celebrated his personal and professional milestones.

Pierre, known for his role in the upcoming film *Mufasa: The Lion King*, replied with a brief but heartfelt comment: "Now and always, thank you Tey."

The message added fuel to fans' excitement, further confirming what many had already suspected: that the two are indeed romantically involved.

Rumours confirmed after months of speculation

Relationship rumours between the entertainers began earlier this year after they were seen attending multiple high-profile events together. They walked red carpets side by side, posed for photos, and appeared comfortable in each other's presence.



Fans and gossip blogs picked up on the chemistry, but neither Taylor nor Pierre addressed the rumours until now.

Sunday's Instagram post marks the first time either of them has publicly acknowledged their relationship.

A new chapter for Teyana Taylor after divorce

This public declaration comes just months after Taylor finalised her divorce from former NBA player Iman Shumpert. The couple had been married for several years before announcing their split in 2023. The divorce was finalised in early 2024.

Taylor, 34, shares two daughters with Shumpert. Despite the end of their marriage, both have spoken publicly about remaining committed to co-parenting and maintaining a positive relationship for the sake of their children.

Taylor's fans have praised her for handling the breakup with grace and maturity. Her focus on healing, family, and personal growth has earned her even more respect in the entertainment world.

Aaron Pierre: Rising star in Hollywood

Pierre, who hails from London, is quickly rising in Hollywood. He gained critical acclaim for his performance in Barry Jenkins' *The Underground Railroad* and will appear as a young Mufasa in Disney's upcoming prequel film.

His talent and charisma have made him one to watch, both on-screen and off. His relationship with Taylor has only added to the public's curiosity about his life and career.

Fans show support for the couple

Following Taylor's post, social media was flooded with supportive comments from fans and celebrities. Many expressed happiness at seeing Taylor in a new relationship and praised the couple for their apparent love and chemistry.

"I love this for you, Tey," one fan wrote. "You deserve happiness."

Others noted how natural and joyful the two seemed together. The warm public response suggests the couple has won the approval of fans across both music and film communities.

Looking ahead

While neither Taylor nor Pierre has revealed details about how or when their romance began, it's clear they're enjoying this new chapter of their lives.

For now, the couple seems content to let their love speak through moments of genuine affection, shared celebrations, and sweet words online.

With Taylor continuing her work in music, fashion, and film, and Pierre on the rise in Hollywood, this new power couple is one to watch.

Adefarasin: Tacha fumes at behaviour of some pastors in Nigeria

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

UK-based Nigerian reality TV star Natasha Akide, popularly known as Tacha, has publicly criticised the behaviour of some Nigerian Christian pastors.

In a strongly worded video message, Tacha claimed that many religious leaders in Nigeria act in ways that would never be tolerated outside the country.

She alleged that “90% of Nigerian pastors” engage in misconduct that would result in serious consequences abroad. According to her, such religious figures benefit from a system that often overlooks their wrongdoings simply because they hold spiritual authority.

Adefarasin’s controversial encounter goes viral

Tacha’s comments follow a viral video involving Paul Adefarasin, Senior Pastor of the House on the Rock Church. In the clip, Adefarasin is seen confronting a young man, identified as a car spotter, who was filming his luxury car.

The pastor, holding what appeared to be a pistol-like object, told the young man, “Don’t do that, don’t do that.” The video quickly spread across social media, drawing public outrage and debate over the pastor’s conduct.

Many viewers questioned whether a religious leader should be carrying what seemed to be a weapon and whether his reaction to the car spotter was justified.

Pastor denies holding a gun

In response to the backlash, Pastor Adefarasin issued a public statement. He denied holding a firearm in the video and said the object in question was not a weapon. He also claimed that the car spotter had been aggressive toward him, which prompted his reaction.

However, Tacha disagrees with this explanation.

Tacha accuses pastor of gaslighting

Reacting to the incident in a video shared on her X (formerly Twitter) account, Tacha accused the pastor of gaslighting the public. She said the video clearly showed who the aggressor was, and it



wasn’t the young man with the phone.

“I didn’t want to speak on the church drama until I saw clips from today’s service,” she said. “Because there’s nothing I hate more than gaslighting.”

She continued, “Everybody saw the video. From the video, we can tell who the aggressor was. This pastor stopped his car, wound down the window, and held something that looked like a firearm.”

No signs of aggression from spotter, says Tacha

Tacha argued that the car spotter was not aggressive and was only filming and praising the pastor. She pointed out that car spotting, taking videos of luxury vehicles, is a common and harmless practice worldwide.

“There are car spotters everywhere. What did this boy do wrong? He wasn’t threatening anyone,” she said.

She also expressed frustration with the pastor’s church members who applauded him during the service after the incident.

“Nothing pains me more than the gullible congregation that was clapping and cheering. What exactly are you cheering for?” she asked. “Didn’t you all see the same video?”

Double standards and religious privilege

Tacha went on to highlight what she sees

as double standards in how Nigerians react to such incidents.

“If it was someone like Seyi Tinubu or Wike’s son that did this, Twitter would be on fire for days,” she said. “But because he’s a pastor, people are making excuses.”

She also recalled another incident involving Adefarasin. According to her, the pastor had once smashed the windshield of a bus that hit his car, endangering passengers.

“This same man now wants to call a content creator ‘aggressive’ just for holding a phone,” Tacha said.

A call for accountability

Tacha’s message ended with a call for Nigerians to hold their pastors accountable. She said religious leaders should not be above criticism, especially when their actions are questionable.

“We must stop being hypocrites,” she said. “If these same pastors tried the kind of Christianity they practice here anywhere else, their churches would shut down in a year.”

Her comments have sparked renewed debate on social media about the role of religious leaders, the boundaries of public respect, and the need for consistent standards of behaviour, regardless of one’s title.

Singer Simi urges artists to take mentorship seriously

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer and songwriter, Simisola Kosoko, widely known as Simi, has expressed her concerns over a growing trend in the music industry of established artists launching record labels simply to sign up-and-coming talents as a form of personal achievement.

In a recent interview with media personality VJ Adams, the mother of one shared her views on what she believes is a troubling practice. She stated that while she is open to mentoring rising stars, signing an artist should be done with clear intention, deep passion, and a long-term commitment, not as a side project or a vanity milestone.

Not just a milestone

She pointed out that many successful musicians now see signing new artists as a badge of honour rather than a business responsibility.

“I can sign an artist,” she said. “But I think it’s not fair when an artist signs another artist just to tick a box. For them, it might just be something they do for the sake of it, not necessarily to build something meaningful.”

She stressed that such actions, though common, could be harmful to young artists who put their dreams and trust into someone they look up to. According to Simi, those dreams deserve more than just part-time attention.

The business side of music

The singer believes that the work of running a record label is best left to people who have a strong passion for the business side of music.

“The only people who should sign artists are those who really care about the music business,” she explained. “Because whether or not the artist is doing well at the moment, they will still believe in them.”



She emphasised that signing a new act comes with long-term responsibilities. A true label head must be ready to stick around even when things get tough. “Whether or not the song you thought would blow doesn’t blow, are you willing to keep going?” she asked.

A life, not just a project

The “Duduke” hitmaker went on to highlight how deeply personal the artist-label relationship can be.

“This is someone’s life,” she said. “This is someone’s dream. That’s how I felt when I was getting signed. I used to think about how this person see me? Am I just a project to them? Or do they really care about my future the same way I do?”

Simi, the “Joromi” crooner who has built a solid reputation in the Nigerian music scene, knows firsthand how much trust young talents place in those they sign with. She said that artists deserve more than temporary excitement or half-hearted efforts.

A demanding role

When asked if she would ever sign another artist under her label, Simi admitted she’s not entirely sure.

“Yes, I could do it,” she said, “but I don’t know if I have the kind of drive it takes to see someone else through. I don’t know if I have the constant energy. Because it takes a lot.”

She acknowledged that while the idea of helping another artist grow sounds appealing, the work involved is heavy. It’s not just about releasing songs or attending shows. It’s about constant support, financial investment, emotional backing, and long-term planning.

Final thoughts

In an industry where quick success often overshadows long-term vision, Simi’s words serve as a reminder that the role of a label boss is not for everyone.

She calls on her peers to think twice before starting record labels or signing artists for the wrong reasons. True mentorship, she insists, goes far beyond recognition or clout; it’s about guiding a real human being toward their dreams.

For Simi, unless that kind of dedication is present, it’s better to mentor from afar than to promise more than you can give.

Why passport strength is important

By New Daily Prime

In this report, the New Daily Prime shares the advantages and disadvantages of international travel passport. In the global world today, the strength of a passport is an essential basis of an individual's travel freedom and global opportunities. According to the Henley Passport Index (HPI), which rates passports based on their travel freedom, some countries have passports that offer their citizens visa-free or Visa-on-arrival access to a large number of countries. As the HPI reports, "The Henley Passport Index is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa" (Henley & Partners, 2023).

Japan tops the list, with its citizens able to travel to 193 countries without a visa or with a visa on arrival. The HPI reports, "Japanese passport holders can visit 193 destinations without a visa" (Henley Passport Index, 2023). Singapore is the second on the list with its citizens having visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 192 countries. South Korea and Germany are also among the countries, with their citizens able to travel to 191 countries without a visa or with a visa on arrival.

The European Union's visa-free travel policy among its member states has offered significantly to the strength of European passports. Countries like Italy and Finland offer their citizens visa-free access to 190 countries, while Luxembourg, Spain, and Sweden have visa-free access to 189 countries. As the Passport Index noted, "The European Union's visa-free travel policy has made European passports some of the most powerful in the world" (Passport Index, 2023).

Having a strong passport can immensely impact an individual's quality of life and opportunities. According to VisaGuide.World, "A strong passport can open doors to new business opportunities, education and cultural exchange" (VisaGuide.World, 2023). The International Air Transport Association



(IATA) also affirmed the importance of visa requirements, stating, "Visa requirements can be a significant obstacle to travel and trade" (IATA, 2023).

Conclusively, the strength of a passport is a pressing factor in determining an individual's travel freedom and global opportunities. Governments can work to enhance their citizens' travel experiences by negotiating visa-free agreements and maintaining good diplomatic relations. As the Henley Passport Index notes, "The power of a passport is not just a reflection of a country's global influence, but also a tool for building relationships and fostering international cooperation" (Henley & Partners, 2023).

Having a strong passport offers a lot of advantages to individuals, businesses and economies. One of the most significant benefits is increased travel freedom, allowing citizens to explore new destinations, experience different cultures and build international relationships. This can lead to enhanced business opportunities, as individuals can attend global conferences, meet with international clients and explore new markets without the hassle of visa applications. Moreover, a strong passport can also facilitate access to education and research opportunities, enabling individuals to study and work abroad, and collaborate with global experts in their field.

A strong passport can also have a positive

impact on a country's economy and global reputation. By offering its citizens visa-free access to numerous countries, a government can attract foreign investment, boost tourism and increase trade opportunities. This can lead to economic growth, job creation and increased competitiveness.

Furthermore, a strong passport can enhance a country's diplomatic relations and global influence, as it demonstrates a country's commitment to international cooperation, security and stability. As a result, countries with strong passports can play a more significant role in shaping global policies and addressing global challenges.

A major disadvantage of having a strong passport is that it can also increase the risk of security threats, such as terrorism and illegal immigration, as citizens of countries with visa-free access may be subject to less stringent screening processes. Additionally, countries with strong passports may also face challenges in maintaining diplomatic relations with countries that have stricter visa requirements, potentially leading to reciprocal visa restrictions.

In sum, the increased mobility afforded by a strong passport can also lead to brain drain, as highly skilled citizens may choose to emigrate to other countries with better economic opportunities.

Trump's travel ban restricting citizens from 12 nations begins

By **Damilola Olufemi**

A new travel ban imposed by the United States of America's President Donald Trump took effect at midnight on Monday, barring entry into the United States for citizens from 12 countries.

The order marks a return to one of Trump's most polarising policies from his first term, the BBC reports.

The latest restrictions target nations such as Iran, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Libya—countries grappling with conflict or tense relations with Washington.

Others affected include Myanmar, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen.

In addition, the U.S. government has placed partial restrictions on travellers from six more countries: Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. While not entirely shut out, citizens of these countries will face limits on certain visa categories, including temporary work permits.

Trump tied the new measures to a recent attack in Colorado, where a man, identified as an Egyptian national who had overstayed his visa and sought asylum in 2022, allegedly assaulted protesters demonstrating in support of Gaza hostages. Although Egypt was not among the countries listed, Trump said the incident revealed flaws in the U.S. immigration system.

Trump expresses concerns

"This attack underscores the extreme



dangers posed to our country by the entry of foreign nationals who are not properly vetted," Trump said.

He also warned that the list could expand, stating, "New countries could be added as threats emerge around the world."

The proclamation pointed to several justifications for the restrictions, including poor passport control, terrorism concerns, and high rates of visa overstay. Trump suggested that countries could be removed from the list if they implement "material improvements" in security protocols.

Despite the wide scope of the ban, certain exceptions will apply. According to the White House, the policy will not affect athletes participating in the 2026 FIFA World Cup or the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. Diplomats are also exempt.

The policy has sparked international

outrage. UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk criticised the ban's sweeping scope, saying it raises "serious concerns under international law."

U.S. Representative Yassamin Ansari, an Iranian-American, condemned the move as "cruel and xenophobic," and pledged to challenge it.

There have also been diplomatic repercussions. Chad has suspended visa issuance for American citizens in response to the new restrictions. Meanwhile, protests have broken out in several U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, amid reports of intensified immigration raids.

Individuals directly affected have shared their anguish. Mehria, an Afghan asylum seeker, told AFP: "We gave up thousands of hopes and our entire lives on a promise from America."

Reporter Injured by rubber bullet in LA protests

By **Fatimah Idera**

Australian reporter was struck by a rubber bullet while covering protests against the U.S. immigration enforcement in Los Angeles (L.A), with the incident captured live on camera.

Lauren Tomasi, the U.S. correspondent for Nine News, was reporting from the scene on Sunday when law enforcement authorities, including the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and National Guard troops clashed with demonstrators protesting former President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown.

Just moments before she was shot, Tomasi was broadcasting live, describing an escalation in the situation: "After hours of standing off, this situation has now rapidly deteriorated, the LAPD moving in on horseback, firing rubber bullets at protesters, moving them on through the heart of LA." Seconds later, she was hit in the leg.

Footage shows an officer aiming and firing in the direction of Tomasi and her camera operator.

Tomasi can be seen crying out and grabbing her calf. A bystander is heard shouting at the officer, "You just fucking shot the reporter!"

Tomasi, while in visible pain, responded to bystanders' concern by saying, "I'm good."

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) responded to the incident, issuing a statement reaffirming Australia's support for press freedom and journalist safety. "All journalists should be able to do their work safely," the statement read.



"Australia supports media freedom and the protection of journalists."

Political reaction in Australia was swift. Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young called the shooting "simply shocking" and urged Prime Minister Anthony Albanese to seek an urgent explanation from U.S. officials. "The first thing he must tell the president is to stop shooting at our journalists," she said, calling the act "completely unacceptable."

Senator Nick McKim echoed those sentiments, saying the Australian government must express its displeasure at the highest possible level, urging either the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister to take immediate diplomatic action.

Nationals Senator Matt Canavan acknowledged the footage appeared to show deliberate targeting but urged caution. "It looks like there was a targeting there," he told the ABC, adding, "I'm loth to jump to conclusions when you just see part of the footage. A detailed investigation of all these matters should take place."

However, Nine News confirmed that Tomasi and her camera operator were safe and would continue their reporting. "This incident serves as a stark reminder of the inherent dangers journalists can face



while reporting from the frontlines of protests," the network said.

The protest was centered around the Metropolitan Detention Centre in downtown Los Angeles, near the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office, where detainees were being held following immigration raids earlier that day.

Geolocation data from the footage placed Tomasi at 257 E Temple Street within the declared unlawful assembly zone by the LAPD.

The LAPD has not yet released a statement regarding the incident, though it had earlier issued warnings for media to maintain a safe distance from active police operations.

On Saturday, a British news photographer based in Los Angeles was also injured during a separate standoff between police and anti-ICE protesters.

Nick Stern revealed that he was likely struck by a non-lethal round as police deployed rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

The incidents have reignited concerns over press safety and the conduct of law enforcement during public demonstrations.

Israel seizes Gaza-bound aid boat, detains activists

By **Fatimah Idera**

In the early hours of Monday morning, Israeli military forces seized control of a humanitarian aid boat attempting to reach Gaza, detaining a crew of 12 activists, including Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, and rerouting the vessel to an Israeli port.

The vessel, The Madleen, was part of a symbolic mission organised by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition aimed at breaking Israel's long-standing naval blockade of Gaza. The boat carried food, baby formula, and medical supplies, and departed amid mounting international concern over famine conditions in the besieged enclave.

Despite the mission's peaceful intent, Israeli forces intercepted the UK-flagged boat in international waters. The move sparked fierce condemnation from human rights organisations and legal experts, who argue the seizure violates international law and defies the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) binding orders mandating unimpeded humanitarian aid to Gaza.

"This seizure blatantly violates international law and defies the ICJ's binding orders requiring unimpeded humanitarian access to Gaza," said Huwaida Arraf, a human rights attorney and one of the flotilla's organisers. "These volunteers are not subject to Israeli jurisdiction. Their detention is arbitrary, unlawful, and must end immediately."

Among the final messages sent from The Madleen before communications were cut was a solemn image of the crew, hands raised in surrender, clad in lifejackets. In a pre-recorded video, Thunberg stated, "If you see this video, we have been intercepted and kidnapped in international waters," urging the Swedish government to intervene.

Israel's Foreign Ministry responds



Israel's Foreign Ministry responded by confirming the activists were being taken to Israel, stating that they were "expected to return to their home countries." The Ministry later posted an image of Thunberg being offered a sandwich, seemingly downplaying the seriousness of the operation.

Israel's Foreign Minister, Israel Katz, took to X (formerly Twitter), attacking the crew as "celebrities on a selfie yacht" and stating they would be shown footage of the Hamas attacks on 7 October 2023. Those attacks left approximately 1,200 Israelis dead and 250 taken hostage. Of those hostages, 55 are still believed to be in Gaza.

Since the start of the war, over 54,000 Palestinians have been killed, according to Gaza health authorities, figures historically deemed credible by international observers. The majority of casualties are women, children, and the elderly. Over 125,000 have been injured and 2.3 million displaced, many multiple times.

The attempted mission by The Madleen comes just weeks after another flotilla boat caught fire off the coast of Malta. Organizers alleged that Israeli drones

were responsible, though the Israeli military declined to comment.

In a striking show of global solidarity, the UN's Special Rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, called for the immediate release of the crew and urged nations to actively challenge the blockade.

"Every Mediterranean port should send boats with aid, solidarity, and humanity to Gaza," Albanese said. "Breaking the siege is a legal duty for states and a moral imperative for all of us."

On Sunday, prior to the incident, at least 12 Palestinians were reportedly killed by Israeli gunfire while attempting to reach food distribution centers. Israeli forces claim they fired warning shots as people approached.

As international scrutiny of Israel's blockade intensifies, the detention of The Madleen crew has reignited debate over the legality of the siege and the world's responsibility to act. For many, this latest incident underscores a deepening humanitarian crisis and the growing risks faced by those trying to intervene.

U.S. Judge approves deal allowing NCAA schools to pay athletes

By **Fatimah Idera**



A federal judge on Friday granted final approval to a landmark \$2.8 billion settlement with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), paving the way for colleges to pay student-athletes for the first time for the commercial use of their names, images, and likenesses.

The decision, issued by U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland, California, resolves a long-standing legal battle between the NCAA and current and former student-athletes. In her ruling, Wilken described the agreement as offering extraordinary relief and enabling compensation that had never been permitted in the history of college sports.

“This is a historic day for college sports and the rights of athletes,” said Steve Berman and Jeffrey Kessler, lead attorneys for the plaintiffs, in a joint statement.

NCAA President Charlie Baker also welcomed the ruling, saying it ensures student-athletes will continue to benefit from current opportunities while gaining access to more scholarships, significant financial benefits, and a more efficient NCAA structure.

The NCAA did not admit to any wrongdoing in the settlement, which resolves three separate lawsuits that challenged the organization’s longstanding ban on athlete compensation, arguing it violated U.S. antitrust laws. The agreement applies to hundreds of thousands of athletes dating back to 2016 and includes \$2.8 billion in payments for past damages.

Under the settlement, schools will be permitted to pay athletes directly using revenue from broadcasts and other commercial sources, something

previously prohibited under NCAA rules.

While the agreement faced objections from some athletes who argued it failed to provide adequate compensation or was otherwise unfair, those opponents can now appeal the decision to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Separately, in April, the NCAA successfully defended itself against another lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan, which sought compensation for athletes who played before 2016. That case is now under appeal.

Plaintiffs’ lawyers have projected the settlement could lead to tens of billions of dollars in benefits to student-athletes over the next decade.

ABC news suspends journalist for calling trump, adviser 'world-class haters'

By **Fatimah Idera**



ABC News has suspended senior national correspondent Terry Moran following a social media post in which he described former President Donald Trump and his top adviser, Stephen Miller, as “world-class haters”.

The post, which has since been deleted, characterised Miller as “richly endowed with the capacity for hatred,” and suggested that his political motivations stem from personal animosity rather than intellect.

In his remarks, Moran claimed Miller’s ability to turn Trump-era political impulses into policy was driven by “bile” rather than “brains,” and added: “You can see that his hatreds are his spiritual nourishment. He eats his hate.” Moran also called Trump “a world-class hater,” stating that the former president’s hatred serves only to fuel his self-glorification.

An ABC News spokesperson confirmed

Moran’s suspension, saying: “He has been suspended pending further evaluation. ABC News stands for objectivity and impartiality in its news coverage and does not condone subjective personal attacks on others. The post does not reflect the views of ABC News and violated our standards.”

Stephen Miller responded by accusing Moran of exposing what he described as deep-rooted media bias. “The most important fact about Terry’s full public meltdown is what it shows about the corporate press in America,” Miller said. “For decades, the privileged anchors and reporters narrating and gatekeeping our society have been radicals adopting a journalist’s pose. Terry pulled off his mask.”

White House slams ABC News journo
The White House also weighed in. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt condemned Moran’s remarks as “unacceptable and unhinged” during an appearance on Fox News, saying the incident reflects the

growing public distrust of legacy media. Vice President JD Vance called Moran’s comments a “vile smear.”

This incident comes amid heightened scrutiny of ABC News, following a recent \$15 million settlement the network agreed to pay to a Trump-affiliated foundation or museum. The settlement came after Trump filed a defamation claim over a statement made by anchor George Stephanopoulos, who said on-air that Trump had been found “liable for rape” in a civil case involving writer E. Jean Carroll. In reality, the jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse, not rape.

The controversy surrounding Moran is likely to intensify conservative criticism of mainstream media, with accusations of partisan bias becoming increasingly common. Nonetheless, ABC News has reiterated its commitment to impartiality in the wake of the incident.

Iran claims possession of Israeli nuclear secrets as UN sanctions loom

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Iran has announced that it will soon begin releasing what it claims is a trove of Israeli nuclear secrets, escalating already high tensions as European powers prepare to press for a renewed imposition of United Nations sanctions over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme.

In a televised address on Sunday, Iran's intelligence minister, Esmail Khatib, declared that Tehran had acquired a "vast collection of strategic and sensitive [Israeli] documents, including plans and data on the nuclear facilities." Khatib did not provide evidence but said proof would be released shortly. He implied that the materials were connected to the recent arrests of two Israeli nationals, Roi Mizrahi and Almog Attias, on charges of espionage for Iran.

The claims, which remain unverified, have been met with scepticism even within Iran, where doubts linger over the feasibility of such a major intelligence coup. Analysts suggest the announcement may be more of a strategic warning to deter Israel from acting on its repeated threats to strike Iranian nuclear facilities, a way of signalling that Tehran could retaliate with informed precision.

The timing of the claim coincides with growing international scrutiny of Iran's nuclear activities. France, Germany, and the United Kingdom are pushing for a vote this week at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) board meeting in Vienna that could lead to the reimposition of UN sanctions in October, when the 2015 Iran nuclear deal formally expires.

A 20-page IAEA report, commissioned by the agency's secretariat, details Iran's failure to comply with the nuclear agreement. According to the report, Iran has enriched 400kg of uranium to 60% purity, just below weapons-grade, and enough to potentially manufacture 10 nuclear bombs. The report also notes that Iran's uranium stockpile has surged



by 50% since March.

European leaders will cite the report to call for a formal motion declaring Iran in violation of its safeguards obligations. If passed, it would mark the first such ruling since 2005 and would trigger a mechanism to reinstate sanctions under the terms of the original 2015 deal. Importantly, Russia and China, often protective of Tehran, would be unable to veto the sanctions due to the agreement's structure.

Iran has already warned it will retaliate against any such decision. Potential countermeasures include further restricting access for IAEA inspectors and accelerating uranium enrichment. Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesperson for the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, stated that since the last IAEA censure, Iran has increased production of 60% enriched uranium sevenfold and activated 20 new cascades of advanced centrifuges.

Iran issues warning

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi issued a stark warning: "Falsely accusing Iran of violating safeguards, based on shoddy and politicised reporting, is designed to produce a crisis. Mark my words, as Europe ponders another major strategic mistake, Iran will react strongly. Blame



lies solely and fully with irresponsible actors who stop at nothing to gain relevance."

Meanwhile, the United States and Iran have yet to schedule a new round of bilateral talks on the future of Iran's nuclear programme, particularly over the contentious issue of domestic uranium enrichment. While Iran sees enrichment as a matter of sovereignty, the U.S. maintains it must be halted to prevent weaponisation.

Despite his administration's 2018 withdrawal from the Iran deal, former President Donald Trump has reportedly expressed interest in negotiating a new agreement. According to sources, he has set a 60-day deadline, expiring on June 11, for progress, though past deadlines have proven flexible.

Rafael Grossi, Director-General of the IAEA, remains cautiously optimistic. "Both sides appear sincere," he said, noting that diplomatic momentum is building. Russia has offered to mediate and could serve as a host country for Iran's enriched uranium stockpile if a deal is reached. One proposal on the table mirrors a prior agreement from 2004-05, under which Iran would temporarily suspend enrichment.

British travelers warned about Los Angeles protests

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



The UK Foreign Office has issued an urgent warning for anyone planning to visit Los Angeles, as protests continue to grow in the city. Officials are telling travelers to be extra careful and stay informed, as the police response has included the use of flash-bangs, tear gas, pepper balls, and rubber bullets.

The situation in Los Angeles became tense after President Donald Trump ordered hundreds of National Guard troops into the city. The move was meant to respond to protests against the government's crackdown on illegal immigration. However, California Governor Gavin Newsom criticized the decision, saying it would only make things worse. He said local authorities are capable of handling the situation

and warned that using federal troops could damage public trust.

On social media, the governor openly called President Trump a liar and urged people to remain peaceful and calm. He reminded Californians not to respond with violence and to respect law enforcement officers who are trying to keep the peace.

The unrest began on Friday when U.S. immigration agents carried out large-scale raids across Los Angeles. Many people were arrested, including dozens on Friday alone. The raids sparked outrage, with Governor Newsom describing them as cruel.

Protesters soon gathered outside the Federal Building in downtown LA after learning that some of

those arrested might be held inside. Protesters threw objects at police and painted graffiti on the building, leading police to declare the gathering an unlawful assembly.

Read Also: Reporter Injured by rubber bullet in LA protests

The protests spread further on Saturday, with another large crowd gathering in the city of Paramount following reports of more immigration raids. Authorities once again declared the gathering unlawful but said they aimed to disperse the crowd without violence.

As tensions remain high in Los Angeles, the UK Foreign Office is urging travelers to stay alert and be aware of the changing situation in the city.

NFF approves Okwaraji Memorial Championship 36 Years After His Death

By New Daily Prime



The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has approved the Sam Okwaraji Secondary Schools Soccer Championship across Nigeria.

The approval is sequel to the endorsement of the Senate Committee on Sports Developments led by Senator Abdul Ningi.

This initiative, which is billed to be an annual event, is an initiative of the Samuel Okwaraji Foundation to immortalise the late Nigerian international who slumped and died at National Stadium Surulere, Lagos in August 1989, during a crucial FIFA World Cup qualifying

match against Angola.

The NFF in a letter signed by Ruth David, Acting Director of Competitions noted that endorsement was in recognition of the objectives and goals of the championship which would not only impact positively on the youths who are the participants, but also the development of football in the country.

NFF also appreciated the foundation for its vision to contribute to the growth and development of grassroots football in Nigeria.

The federation appealed to the organisers to adhere to the extant rules of football as approved by the

Federation of International Football Associations (FIFA) during the nationwide competition set to kick off later this year.

Educated at an Italian University in Rome, late Okwaraji's commitment to the Nigeria national team symbolises a true spirit of patriotism on the part of a Nigerian youth who prioritised service to his country above personal gains.

His exemplary conduct and service to the Super Eagles (then known as the Green Eagles) will continue to remain a model for the Nigerian youth even in more decades to come.

Fan dies after fall during UEFA Nations League final

By Damilola Olufemi



A tragic incident occurred during the UEFA Nations League final between Portugal and Spain in Munich on Sunday, as a fan died after falling from the stands, UEFA has confirmed to AFP's German subsidiary, SID.

The incident happened during the first half of extra time, when the individual fell from the middle tier of the stadium down into the press area located below. Emergency responders, including paramedics and police, quickly arrived at the scene to assist.

UEFA later released a statement describing the incident as a "medical emergency," confirming that a spectator had "sadly" passed away during the match.

Following Portugal's 5-3 victory on penalties after a 2-2 draw in regular

time, both teams expressed their condolences.

At the post-match press conference, Spain's head coach, Luis de la Fuente, offered his sympathies: "I want to show my deepest condolences because a fan has died. It reminds us of what is important in life."

The Portuguese side also acknowledged the tragedy. A team representative remarked that the loss "casts a shadow on our victory today," while head coach Roberto Martinez called it "extremely sad news."

Authorities estimate that the fall was from a height of about eight metres. However, the exact cause or circumstances of the fall remain unclear.

Portugal clinch second UEFA Nations

League title

New Daily Prime reported that Portugal clinched their second UEFA Nations League title on Sunday night in Munich after a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout victory over Spain, following a 2-2 draw in regular and extra time.

Rúben Neves scored the decisive penalty, sealing the win after Spain's Álvaro Morata saw his effort saved by Diogo Costa. It was a historic moment, marking just Portugal's second competitive win over their Iberian rivals.

This triumph makes Portugal the first country to win the Nations League twice since the competition's inception in 2018. It also adds a third major trophy to their collection, following the Euro 2016 and the 2019 Nations League title.