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Peter Obi urges Tinubu to return from France amid rising insecurity

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Former presidential candidate of the Labour Party, Peter Obi, has called on President Bola Tinubu to immediately suspend his ongoing retreat in France and return to Nigeria to confront the escalating insecurity across the country.

In a strongly worded post shared on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday, April 16, Obi highlighted the deteriorating security situation, claiming that more than 150 Nigerians have been killed in the two weeks since President Tinubu left the country.

“Mr. President, domestic problems beacons, I am compelled at this time in our lives as a nation to call on our retreating President’s attention to the security challenges at home,” Obi wrote.

While the President has been abroad, gunmen have reportedly launched deadly attacks in several communities, particularly in Plateau and Borno States.

Obi also referenced continued insecurity in Zamfara State, as well as a resurgence of insurgent violence in the North East and increased cases of abductions in the South East.



“The repeated pipeline explosions in the Niger Delta further reflect a nation in distress,” he said, expressing concern over what he described as an “apparent absence of governance.”

Obi criticised the President’s decision to remain overseas during what he called a national emergency.

“Amid all these, the CEO of the troubling company called Nigeria is retreating to a far away land in France from the Company’s headquarters,” he stated, stressing that leadership requires physical presence and accountability, especially during crises.

“The primary duty of any government is securing the lives and property of its citizens... one wonders the type of retreat going on in another country where peace has been secured by their leaders while blood continues to flow in our country.”

Calling for urgent action, Obi urged Tinubu to “suspend whatever he is doing in France and rush home to take responsibility.”

He concluded his post with a message of hope: “The fight for a better Nigeria is not about individuals... A New Nigeria is Possible.”

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
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4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
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9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
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8X3	98,500.00
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6X3	78,500.00
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9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
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Tinubu inaugurates committee for technology-driven National census

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has inaugurated a high-level presidential committee to oversee preparations for Nigeria's forthcoming National Population and Housing Census.

The initiative marks a critical step toward modernising national data collection, almost two decades after the country's last census in 2006.

The inauguration was announced via a statement by Tinubu's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga.

Represented by his Chief of Staff, Femi Gbajabiamila, at the State House in Abuja, President Tinubu emphasised the importance of a credible and technology-driven enumeration process for effective national planning across key sectors such as healthcare, education, security, and the economy.

"This census must be technology-driven, incorporating biometrics and full digitalisation," Gbajabiamila stated.

"It is essential for planning and development. We cannot budget effectively if we do not know how many people we are planning for."

The President urged the newly inaugurated committee to explore both domestic and international funding sources and to collaborate with relevant government agencies, especially the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

Senator Atiku Bagudu, Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, chairs the eight-member committee and pledged to submit an interim report within three weeks.

He assured the President that the committee would deliver practical solutions, including innovative strategies for financing the census despite economic constraints.



"The President has urged us to think creatively and make use of available resources," Bagudu said.

He cited Nigeria's economic strides under Tinubu's administration, including exchange rate stabilisation and improving growth trends, as evidence of resilience amid global challenges.

Minister of Information, Muhammed Idris, also a committee member, highlighted that accurate data is foundational for sector-wide development and policy-making.

"A credible census is essential to informed governance," he noted.

Nasir Kwarra, Chairman of the National Population Commission and Secretary of the committee, confirmed that preparations are already underway.

The Commission is working closely with the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to identify key requirements and infrastructure needed to execute a successful census.

He reassured Nigerians of the Commission's

commitment to delivering a transparent and technology-enabled census.

"We are laying the groundwork for the President to make an informed decision on the timeline for the census," he said.

The last national census, conducted in 2006, recorded a population of over 140 million. With Nigeria's population projected to have grown significantly since then, the upcoming census is expected to provide essential insights for national development strategies.

The eight-member committee comprises:

Minister of Budget and Economic Planning (Chair)

Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy

Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service
Director-General, National Identity Management Commission

Principal Secretary to the President

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Administration and Operations (Office of the Chief of Staff)

Minister of Information

Chairman, National Population Commission (Secretary)

Interpol, EFCC probe \$847m CBEX ponzi scheme

By Damilola Olufemi

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has launched a full-scale investigation into the collapse of CryptoBank Exchange (CBEX), a digital investment platform accused of defrauding investors of up to ₦1.3 trillion (approximately \$847 million).

The platform, operated by a network of foreign nationals and Nigerian collaborators, reportedly crashed on Monday, locking thousands of users out of their accounts and demanding fresh deposits before access could be restored.

Confirming the investigation, EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale said the commission had already been monitoring CBEX before its collapse.

“We had our intelligence before the incident. We were already working on it, but now that the scheme has collapsed, the major actors and their collaborators will be brought in.

“We will ensure that we save Nigerians from all these troubles associated with Ponzi schemes. Don’t forget that we already issued an advisory—the 58 companies we alerted the public about. There are many more we are currently investigating,” The PUNCH reports.

He added that the EFCC is partnering with INTERPOL to track down the foreign elements of the scheme.

“We are actively working to handle the CBEX situation. We will collaborate with other regulatory agencies to ensure that Nigerians are protected from this kind of scheme. We will do our job—where recovery is possible, we will recover; where prosecution is possible, we will prosecute,” Oyewale said.

“Additionally, there are similar frauds across the country that people are unaware of, and we are working to uncover them. We are on the local collaborators while we are partnering with INTERPOL to trace the foreign operators.”

Platform collapse sparks outrage

Cbex, a digital trading asset platform that promised investors a 100 per cent return on investment in 30 days with a structure similar to that of MMM, has left many Nigerians in shock, as users were restricted from accessing their wallets and making withdrawals on Monday.

Cbex, which aimed to create a secure, transparent environment for transactions, has reportedly eloped with over ₦1.3 trillion from various investors’ accounts.

New Daily Prime learned that the Telegram channels have been locked, with postponed withdrawal notifications, as investors were given a lifeline of \$2,000 for \$200 verification and \$1,000 for \$100 verification.



Following the collapse, aggrieved investors in cities like Ibadan and Abuja stormed CBEX offices. In Oke Ado, Ibadan, angry users looted furniture and equipment. Security agents, including the police and Amotekun, were deployed to prevent further violence.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) described Cbex as a Ponzi scheme.

Meanwhile, recall that the Investment and Securities Act (ISA) 2025, signed recently by President Bola Tinubu, highlights that penalties await any entity operating as an online forex trading platform without registration with the Commission.

“Under this Act, it is an offence in Nigeria for any entity that is not registered by the Commission to carry out the business of online foreign exchange trading platforms or related services.

“Any business entity with the plan of setting up a business in any of these areas is advised to visit the HOD DRM Department of the Commission for further direction on how to register with the Commission to avoid sanctions,” it added.

Personal losses mount

Victims across Nigeria are beginning to share their stories. One investor, speaking anonymously, said:

“I invested over \$10,000 in the scheme. It has been a tough time for me. I was introduced by a friend and was convinced after I was shown evidence of the amount she made.”

Another investor said he introduced three friends who lost a combined \$8,000:

“I feel bad that the people I introduced to the scheme might have lost their investment. I don’t know how to broach the issue with them.”

Instagram user #the_real_aduke posted:

“I lost \$1,000. That was my bridal savings. I don’t even know how to tell my fiancé. I feel numb.”

Chinenye Nduka shared on Facebook:

“My brother invested his school fees and now he can’t even face my parents. God, this

country, keeps dealing with us.”

Government reacts

The SEC has recently warned Nigerians against unregistered trading platforms, stating that under the Investment and Securities Act 2025, operating online forex or digital investment services without registration is now a criminal offence.

Dr. Emomotimi Agama, SEC’s Director-General, said:

“The ISA 2025 has given the Commission the legal backing to provide clarity, ensure investor protection, and enhance market confidence... It is an offence in Nigeria for any entity that is not registered by the commission to carry out the business of online foreign exchange trading platforms or related services.”

Lere Olayinka, spokesperson to the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, weighed in but drew criticism after appearing to blame victims.

“As for victims of CBEX, police and EFCC should be on the lookout. I don’t have sympathy for greed and foolishness,” he posted on X.

In March, the EFCC released a list of 58 fraudulent companies, some of which have already been prosecuted or are awaiting trial. The commission said these companies lured investors with promises of unrealistic profits from ventures in agriculture, real estate, and forex.

“They operated without proper licenses, deceiving the public with false investment opportunities. Many investors suffered heavy financial losses after these companies disappeared with their money. The EFCC has intensified efforts to recover stolen funds from these fraudulent companies,” the anti-graft agency stated.

Oyewale urged Nigerians to exercise caution before committing funds to any financial entity not duly registered with regulatory bodies.

“We urge the public to verify any investment opportunity with the CBN and SEC before engaging. The EFCC remains committed to safeguarding the public from predatory operators and ensuring a corruption-free economic environment,” he said.

He also encouraged victims to come forward with complaints and assured them that recovery efforts were ongoing.

Atiku hits PDP govs over stance on coalition against Tinubu

By Friday Omosola

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has lashed out at state governors elected on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, over their stance on forming a coalition to tackle President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 presidential election.

Atiku alleged that the PDP governors are acting as spoilers in the move to get Tinubu out of office come 2027.

The former VP is leading a coalition of opposition figures against Tinubu, while the PDP governors, at their meeting in Ibadan, Oyo State on Monday, dissociated their party from any coalition of that kind.

However, coalition spokesman, Salihu Lukman in the statement, on Wednesday, said the coalition is a viable option to not only defeating the All Progressives Congress, APC, and President Tinubu, but also to rescue Nigeria's democracy from imminent collapse.

He said; "For more than 10 years that the PDP had been out of power, Nigerians had waited for the party to dust itself up and provide the viable opposition that Nigeria needs. Instead, the party went into suspended animation until the rampaging Tinubu-led APC found a willing undertaker to finally put it to rest.

"The governors know that the virus that afflicts the PDP has no cure. They are only grandstanding. They know that Nigerians cannot accept this PDP as the alternative because it is clear to all discerning Nigerians that the ruling party has hijacked its soul.

"Nyesom Wike is the untouchable super minister in Asiwaju's government not because of the sterling job he is doing in the FCT, but because he has done a great job of ensuring that the PDP is not able to present a presidential candidate to challenge Tinubu for power in 2027. However, with the growing coalition, that mandate has been adjusted in recent weeks. The new agenda is to revive the PDP to stand as counterforce to the coalition, and present a candidate that would split the vote in 2027. This PDP Governors' Forum is wittingly or unwittingly, playing Asiwaju's spoiler game and they expect Nigerians to take them serious".

Lukman said rescuing Nigerian democracy, which is about rebuilding trust between citizens and politicians is the main objective of the coalition.



According to him, the coalition has also become necessary if the integrity of political institutions, especially political parties in upholding and promoting political competitions in the country is to be restored.

He said nothing represents the sad reality of the destruction of Nigeria's democracy than the party that ruled Nigeria for 16 years and arrogantly boasted of ruling for 60 years, the PDP.

"The mere fact that the NEC meeting of the party has not held for two years and no Nigerian can confidently tell who is really in charge of the party is evidence of this collapse. This should be the concern of leaders of the party, including its Governors.

"Unfortunately, all we have seen of the PDP Governors is the flagrant usurpation of the powers assigned to the organs of the party. This is wrong. It is also a clear demonstration that if left alone, the PDP Governors will only continue the path of destroying democratic institutions in the country.

"As it is, all patriotic Nigerians who are committed to rescuing Nigerian democracy should recognize that the challenge facing us as a nation is beyond the romantic affiliation to so-called political parties such as the PDP, with many of its leaders operating as trojan horses to the APC and President Tinubu's government. It makes no sense to invest energy and resources in a party whose leaders are either appointees of APC Government or undercover supporters. Otherwise, how can anyone justify the way PDP and its leaders are mismanaging themselves and practically

putting themselves on the path of self-destruction and political irrelevance?

"For the avoidance of doubt, the coalition, is fundamentally about rebuilding Nigerian democracy. Leaders of the coalition recognize this and more importantly recognise all the challenges ahead. Resolving these challenges and building the confidence of Nigerians is about restoring the value of political negotiations as critical and fundamental to guaranteeing the survival of democracy. Over the years, both the PDP and APC have demonstrated contempt for political negotiations and to that extend disrespected agreements in various ways.

"The survival of Nigeria and the future of democracy largely depends on how political actors seek to reverse this ugly reality. This is what leaders of the coalition have been painstakingly working on. The coalition is working hard to finalise negotiations towards unveiling the coalition, along with its structure, and programme of action for rescuing Nigeria.

"The expectation is that all political actors, including leaders of PDP would recognise the danger facing the country and join the coalition as a necessary and perhaps strongest response towards rebuilding Nigerian democracy. This has not happened. However, even as the PDP Governors and some leaders of PDP express opposition to joining the coalition, we extend hands of fellowship to all political actors in the country to join us to rescue Nigerian democracy", the coalition added.

Ganduje declares NNPP 'dead', says Kwankwaso wants to return to APC

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Dr Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, has claimed that the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) is no longer functional and will soon cease to exist.

Ganduje, who is also the immediate past Governor of Kano State, made the remarks on Tuesday while receiving a delegation from the Tinubu Support Group (TSG) at the APC national secretariat in Abuja.

According to him, the NNPP which fielded Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso as its presidential candidate in the 2023 general election has lost relevance on the political scene.

"The NNPP is dead. And it will soon be buried very, very soon, I'm looking at where we will bury the body; the coffin has already been constructed. What remains now is to dig



the grave, and already they are digging the grave very, very soon," Ganduje said.

He further alleged that Kwankwaso, who was once a member of the APC, is seeking to return to the ruling party.

"Even like that, the so-called NNPP national leader, he too, he says after losing everyone, he wants to come back to us. We will

welcome him, because he's coming back home," he added.

However, the NNPP has repeatedly dismissed such claims as unfounded. Speaking recently at the party's National Executive Council meeting in Abuja, Kwankwaso refuted suggestions that he was planning to rejoin the APC, stating instead that it was Ganduje who would eventually join the NNPP.

Additionally, in an interview, the NNPP's National Publicity Secretary, Ladipo Johnson, maintained that while the party remained open to discussions on potential alliances, no formal negotiations were currently taking place.

Assembly crisis: Court nullifies Obasa's removal as Speaker

By Friday Omosola

Justice Yetunde Pinheiro of the Lagos State High Court has declared the removal of the reinstated Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, illegal and unconstitutional.

In a judgment delivered on Wednesday, the court nullified the proceedings and resolutions of the House held on January 13, 2025, during which Obasa was removed from office.

Obasa had filed a suit against the House of Assembly and the newly appointed Speaker, Mojisola Meranda, challenging the legality of his removal.



The suit, filed on February 12, 2025, by his counsel, Chief Afolabi Fashanu (SAN), argued that his removal by 36

lawmakers took place while the Assembly was on recess and while he was out of the country.

He urged the court to declare the process unlawful, contending that the sitting was invalid as it was convened without the Speaker's authority or any formal delegation of power.

His legal challenge was based on nine grounds, drawing on interpretations of various provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), as well as the Rules and Standing Orders governing the Lagos State House of Assembly.

2027 election will be Nigerians vs APC, not PDP – Governor Makinde

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has predicted that the 2027 presidential election will be a contest between the Nigerian people and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), rather than a traditional face-off between the APC and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Speaking on Politics Today, a programme aired on Channels Television on Tuesday, April 15, Governor Makinde declared: “The 2027 election won’t be PDP versus APC; it would be Nigerians versus APC. Mark my word on that.”

He criticised the APC-led administration under President Bola Tinubu for the country’s worsening economic conditions and deteriorating security, saying the next election would serve as a referendum on the government’s performance.

“It will be judgment time,” Makinde said, expressing confidence that the PDP remains “the hope of the common man.”

Reflecting on the 2023 general elections, Makinde admitted the PDP had made strategic missteps, particularly in its handling of



zoning arrangements.

He criticised the party’s decision to allocate its presidential ticket, national chairmanship, and campaign leadership roles exclusively to members from northern Nigeria.

“In the last election, the three main influential positions to take us to the election were occupied by the North East, the North Central, and the North West. How do we sell that position all around the country?” Makinde asked.

He pointed to the imbalance as a “self-inflicted blow” that significantly weakened the party’s national appeal during the polls.

Governor Makinde also suggested that the PDP’s presidential ticket would have been stronger had former Vice President Atiku Abubakar chosen then Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, as his running mate.

The fallout from that decision caused major internal divisions within the party in the lead-up to the 2023 vote.

In contrast, Makinde indicated that the PDP has learned from its past mistakes and is already repositioning to mount a more inclusive and strategic campaign for 2027.

FAAC disburses N1.578 trillion to FG, states and Lgs for March allocation

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) has disbursed a total of ₦1.578 trillion among the three tiers of government for the month of March 2025. This was disclosed in a communiqué released by the Director of Press and Public Relations, Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation, Bawa Mokwa, on Saturday.

According to the communiqué, the total distributable revenue comprised ₦931.325 billion in statutory revenue and ₦593.750 billion from Value Added Tax (VAT). Also included were revenues from the Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL) and exchange rate gains.

Breakdown of the allocation shows that the Federal Government received ₦528.69 billion, states received ₦530.44 billion, and local government councils got ₦387.002 billion. Oil-producing states received an additional ₦132.611 billion as derivation—representing 13% of mineral revenue.

A total of ₦85.37 billion was earmarked for the cost of collection, while ₦747.180 billion was allocated for transfers, interventions, and refunds.

The communiqué highlighted a drop in VAT revenue for March. Gross VAT stood at ₦637.618 billion, a decrease of ₦16.838 billion or 2.57% from the ₦654.456 billion recorded in February.

After deducting ₦25.505 billion for collection costs and ₦18.363 billion for transfers and refunds, ₦593.750



billion was distributed as follows: ₦89.063 billion to the Federal Government, ₦296.875 billion to states, and ₦207.813 billion to local governments.

Gross statutory revenue saw a modest increase, rising to ₦1.718 trillion from ₦1.653 trillion in the previous month—an uptick of ₦65.422 billion or 3.93%. Of this, ₦58.831 billion went to the cost of collection, and ₦728.817 billion was allocated for transfers and refunds. The remaining ₦931.325 billion was shared among the federal (₦422.485 billion), state (₦214.290 billion), and local governments (₦165.209 billion), while ₦129.341 billion was paid out as derivation to oil-producing states.

Additionally, ₦26.011 billion from EMTL was distributed, with the Federal Government receiving ₦3.746 billion, states ₦12.485 billion, and local governments ₦8.740 billion. A separate ₦1.040 billion was spent on collection costs.

From the exchange difference, ₦28.71 billion was also shared: ₦13.40 billion to the federal government, ₦6.79

billion to states, ₦5.241 billion to local governments, and ₦3.270 billion to oil-producing states.

The communiqué also noted increases in Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) and Companies Income Tax (CIT), while oil and gas royalties, VAT, EMTL, excise duties, import duties, and Common External Tariff (CET) levies recorded declines.

On the currency front, the naira showed mixed signals. It appreciated slightly in the parallel market, trading at ₦1,618 per dollar on Tuesday compared to ₦1,620 on Monday. However, in the Nigerian Foreign Exchange Market (NFEM), the naira depreciated to ₦1,604 per dollar from ₦1,599 the previous day—reflecting a ₦5 drop.

As a result, the gap between the parallel market and NFEM exchange rates narrowed from ₦21 to ₦14 per dollar.

Despite ongoing fluctuations, analysts say the narrowing gap signals efforts by monetary authorities to harmonize exchange rates and stabilize the naira.

EFCC assures CBEX victims of recovering funds lost to Ponzi scheme

By Damilola Olufemi

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has assured Nigerians that efforts are ongoing to recover funds lost to CryptoBank Exchange (CBEX), a now-collapsed digital investment platform accused of defrauding investors of approximately N1.3 trillion.

Speaking on Channels Television's *The Morning Brief*, EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale emphasized that the agency had previously warned the public about the risks of Ponzi schemes.

"You'll recall that on March 11 this year, the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, had cause to instruct us to alert Nigerians about 58 Ponzi scheme companies; we came out with a list—that shows that we're proactive and we have our hands on what is happening," he said.

"So, concerning this CBEX thing, we're on it; it's not that we didn't know, and you know we've been alerting Nigerians about ways and means to separate themselves from this type of shenanigans. So, before the calls came, we were working; while the calls were coming, we were working, and even after the calls, we're still working."

Oyewale also clarified that CBEX is a foreign company operating entirely online and without legal standing in Nigeria.

"All the area offices that people are



saying are in Ibadan and in some other locations are not functional offices. The entire thing is online," he explained.

He went on to caution Nigerians against falling for investment platforms promising unrealistic returns.

"If somebody says, 'Bring your money; I'm going to give you a return in 30 days,' you know that is not realistic... Even we know that the prevailing interest rate in Nigeria is 27.5."

He stressed the need for financial operators to comply with regulations such as the Money Laundering Act, Proceeds of Crime Act, and Terrorism Financing Act, noting that non-compliance is a red flag.

Oyewale added that the EFCC is collaborating with international

partners to ensure justice is served.

"Investors are going to get their money back and we're already working on that. All I'm saying is that this kind of thing could have been averted, but we're not going to throw our hands up helplessly to say that there's nothing the EFCC can do about it. No, we're more responsible; we are more professional than that."

"So, we've spread our wings; we're talking to Interpol, we're talking to all the necessary agencies across the world to be able to bring all the actors to book and the investors are going to have their money back. It might not be in the short term, but I can assure you that the commission, as the leading anti-corruption agency in Nigeria, is not going to allow investors to just lose their money like that because they are not compliant. No. Escapism is not a solution to any problem," he said.

Seven killed as suspected herdsmen attack Benue community

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Tragedy struck once again in Benue State on Tuesday evening as suspected herdsmen launched a deadly attack on Otobi community in Akpa district, Otukpo Local Government Area. The attack, which began around 5:30 p.m., left at least seven people dead, several others wounded, and many homes razed.

According to eyewitness accounts from members of a local security response team, the attackers stormed the village without warning, targeting residents and setting homes ablaze. The team, still combing the area for survivors and injured persons, confirmed the death toll and reported that many residents had fled into surrounding bushes for safety.

“This is the third attack on Otobi this April alone,” said Kennedy Angbo, the lawmaker representing Otukpo-Akpa Constituency in the Benue State House of Assembly. “Right now, many people are feared dead, and hundreds have fled the community. The scale of this violence is deeply alarming.”

Local Government Chairman of Otukpo, Maxwell Ogiri, who is currently in Abuja attending to post-election matters, also confirmed the incident during a phone

interview. He described the attack as “devastating” and called on security agencies to act swiftly.

At the time of this report, the Benue State Police Command had yet to state the incident.

This latest violence in Otukpo adds to a growing list of attacks in Nigeria’s North Central region. In neighbouring Plateau State, over 100 lives have been lost in the past two weeks alone following a wave of brutal assaults on communities in Bokkos and Bassa Local Government Areas.

As tension continues to mount and communities remain under siege, calls for decisive security intervention are growing louder. Residents in Otobi and surrounding villages are now living in fear, unsure of when the violence will end.

In March 2025, a 14-year-old secondary school student, Nicknes Ayo, reportedly died by suicide in Egba, Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State, after facing pressure from her mother to disclose the identity of the man responsible for her pregnancy.

Sources say Ayo, who had been schooling in

Otukpo, returned home on Thursday, where her mother noticed signs of pregnancy. When questioned, Ayo initially refused to reveal any details but was met with increased pressure and threats of being taken to a clinic for confirmation.

According to a neighbour, Mama Enyi, the young girl fled after a heated exchange with her mother. “Unable to bear the pressure, she ran away and was later found unconscious in her room after ingesting a substance suspected to be Gammalin,” she said.

Ayo was rushed to a nearby health facility, known as ‘Ghana Clinic,’ where the medical director, Dr. Oyaje Sule, confirmed her critical condition. “She was brought to my clinic on Saturday morning after allegedly ingesting Gammalin due to pregnancy-related pressure. I referred her to a hospital in Obagaji, but sadly, she died on the way,” Dr. Sule explained.

The teenager, who had lost her father a few years ago, has since been buried by her family. Efforts to reach local government chairman Melvin James and state police spokesperson Catherine Anene were unsuccessful at the time of filing this report.

Orbih declares Wike not PDP's problem, donates secretariat to Edo chapter

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

National Vice Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the South-South, Chief Dan Orbih, has stated that FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, is not the root of the party's internal challenges.

According to Orbih, the real issues stem from individuals who repeatedly vie for presidential tickets without adhering to the constitutional provisions of the party.

Speaking during the official handover of a new PDP state secretariat—which he personally donated—Orbih emphasised that rebuilding the party must involve new, sincere leadership and unity among members.

“Wike is not the party's problem,” Orbih said.

“The real issue is those who want to run every time without following the party's constitutional guidelines. We must put our differences aside and work with genuine party members to rebuild and reposition the PDP.”

Orbih, also the leader of the PDP Legacy Group in Edo, made the remarks at the commissioning of the new state secretariat in Benin City. The new office comes after the party was evicted from its former location



in January 2025, a move he said left members homeless and disillusioned.

“From January until today, Edo PDP has had no state secretariat. The party has operated without a physical office or a known central location. Today marks a new chapter,” he said.

He called on the Acting National Chairman, Ambassador Iliya Damagun, to organise congresses aimed at ushering in leaders capable of restoring the party's credibility and strength.

In a strongly worded statement, Orbih also discredited the Edo PDP Caretaker Committee, asserting that they lack constitutional legitimacy.

“From this day forward, we will not acknowledge any statements unless

they come from those who will be managing PDP in Edo,” he said.

Reflecting on the party's decline in Edo State, Orbih lamented the loss of influence.

“Today, PDP has no senator, only one House of Representatives member, and we have lost the governorship to the APC,” he said.

Despite the internal rifts, Orbih commended Governor Monday Okpebholo of the APC for his humility and respectful approach to governance.

“Today, we are seeing a different act of governance. We appreciate what you are doing and we urge you to continue,” he said.

MMM to Chex: Ponzi schemes that have duped Nigerians since 2016

By Damilola Olufemi

Despite numerous warnings from financial authorities and experts, Nigerians continue to fall prey to Ponzi schemes promising unrealistic returns. From the infamous MMM to the recent collapse of CBEX, here's a look at some of the most notable scams that have drained billions from citizens over the past decade:

1. MMM Nigeria (2016)

Arguably the most notorious Ponzi scheme in Nigerian history, MMM promised 30% returns within 30 days. It attracted millions of participants and collapsed in December 2016, leaving a trail of financial devastation.

2. Ultimate Cyler, Get Help Worldwide, Twinkas, iCharity Club, Loopers Club, Givers Forum (2016)

Riding on MMM's popularity, these copycat schemes used referral networks and cycling payment models to draw in thousands. Most disappeared within months, taking investor funds with them.

3. NNN Nigeria, MMM Cooperation, GCCH, RevoMoney (2017)

In the aftermath of MMM's crash, these platforms emerged with similar structures, often reusing the same tactics and even the MMM name to lure in former participants.

4. Bitclub Advantage, Million Money, Helping Hands International (2018)

Masquerading as crypto-based or charitable initiatives, these schemes tapped into the rising interest in digital currencies but ended with familiar losses.

5. Loom and Crowd1 (2019)

Loom spread virally on WhatsApp and Facebook, promising fast returns with small contributions. Crowd1 posed as a tech investment platform but was widely condemned as a pyramid scheme.

6. InksNation, Lion's Share, Baraza Multipurpose Cooperative (2020)

InksNation claimed it would eliminate poverty through a blockchain project but



was shut down by regulators. Baraza posed as a cooperative but operated like a Ponzi, while Lion's Share mimicked multi-level marketing (MLM) models.

7. Racksterli, Eagle Cooperative, 86FB (2020–2021)

These schemes used influencer endorsements and sports betting narratives to gain traction. 86FB was one of the most high-profile collapses, wiping out millions in investments.

8. FINAFRICA, Royal Q (Nigeria version), Ovaioza (2022)

FINAFRICA capitalized on the forex trading trend, Royal Q posed as an automated crypto bot, and Ovaioza claimed to be an agricultural storage business. All three failed to deliver the promised profits.

9. CALA Finance, 6Dollars Investment, Sidra Investment, WealthBuddy, Compoundly (2023–2024)

These digitally-savvy platforms used sleek websites and social media marketing to gain trust. Sidra turned out to be a cloned scam, while others mimicked decentralized finance (DeFi) trends to attract new users.

10. BitFinance Global and CBEX (2025)

The latest in the long line of Ponzi-style

collapses, BitFinance and CBEX have already caused financial pain in 2025. Both followed the same formula: bold claims, flashy platforms, and eventual disappearance—leaving thousands of Nigerians counting their losses once again.

From old-school pyramid schemes to high-tech crypto scams, the cycle continues. Without stronger financial education and enforcement, these patterns are likely to persist.

Other Ponzi schemes that have made away with Nigerians' money include:

Claritta—2016

Money Riot—2017

SwissGolden (Nigeria version)—2017

NNU (Nigeria News Update)—2017

Peer2Peer

**Continue reading
On next page**

Cont from page 13

Donation Hub – 2017

MyBonus – 2017

ZarFund – 2017

DGSOUK – 2018

Pennywise – 2018

Poyoyo Investment Limited – 2021

QNet (Nigeria) – 2022

Afriq Arbitrage System (AAS) – 2022

MBA Forex – 2022

Chinmark Group – 2022

Inksledger – 2022

Axim Exchange – 2022

The Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had on March 11, 2025, alerted Nigerians on the operations of 58 companies posturing as investing entities and defrauding innocent Nigerians of their hard-earned money.

Find below the names of the illegally operating companies:

Wales Kingdom Capital, Bethseida Group of Companies, AQM Capital Limited, Titan Multibusiness Investment Limited, Brickwall Global Investment Limited, Farmforte Limited & Agro Partnership Tech, Green Eagles Agricbusiness Solution Limited, Richfield Multiconcepts Limited, Forte Asset Management Limited, (Biss Networks Nigeria Limited, S Mobile Netzone Limited, Pristine Mobile Network), Letsfarm Integrated Services, Bara Finance & Investment Limited, Vicampro Farms Limited, Brooks Network Limited, Gas Station Supply Services Limited, Brass & Books Limited, (Annexation Biz Concept & Maitanbuwal Global Venturescrowdyvest Limited,) and Crowdyvest Limited,

Others are : Jadek Agro Connect Limited, Adeeva Capital Limited, Oxford International Group and Oxford Gold Integrated, Skapomah Global Limited, MBA Trading & Capital Investment Limited, TRJ Company Limited, Farm4Me Agriculture Limited, Quintessential Investment Company, Adeprinz Global Enterprises, Rockstar Establishment Limited, SU.Global Investment, Citi Trust Funding PLC, Farm Buddy, Eatrich 369 Farms & Food, Globertrot Farmsponsors Nigeria Limited, Farm Sponsors

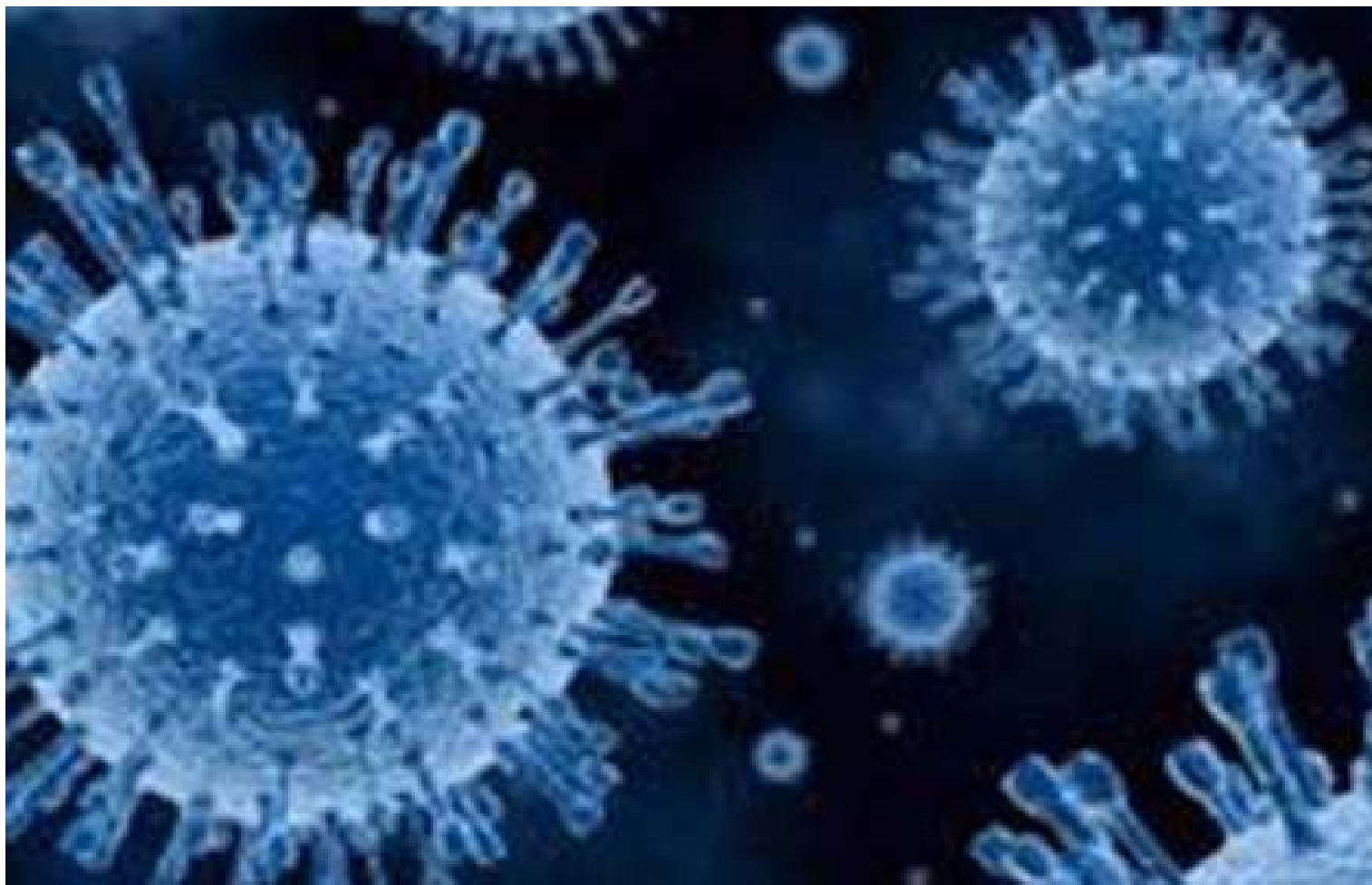
Limited, Cititrust Credit Limited, Farmfunded Agroservices Limited, Adamakin Investment & Works Limited.

The rest include: Cititrust Holding PLC, Green Eagles Agribusiness Solutions Limited, Chinmark Homes & Shelters Limited, Emerald Farms & Consultant Limited, Ovaioza Farm Produce Storage Limited, Farm 360 & Agriculture Company, Requid Technologies Limited, West Agro Agriculture & Food Processing Limited, NISL Ventures Limited & Estate of Laolu Martins, XY Connect Investment Limited, River Branch Unique Investment Limited, Hallmark Capital Limited, CJC Markets Limited, Crowd One Investment, Farmkart Foods Limited, KD Likemind Stakeholders Limited, Holibiz Finance Limited, Ifeanyi Okpe Oil & Gas Services, Servapps Nigeria Limited, Barrick Gold Mining Company and 360 Agric Partners Limited.

New Daily Prime reported that the EFCC and INTERPOL have launched a full-scale investigation into the collapse of the CryptoBank Exchange (CBEX), a Ponzi scheme defrauding investors of up to ₦1.3 trillion (approximately \$847 million).

3m children to be immunize against polio in Kastina

By Helen Okechukwu



About 3 million children are said to receive the polio immunization vaccine during the campaign period scheduled to take place between April 26 and 29.

According to Katsina State Primary Healthcare Development Agency (SPHCA) Executive Secretary, Dr. Shamsudeen Yahaya, this was revealed in Katsina while speaking with newsmen, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), government officials along with other partners in an interview.

To commemorate World Immunisation Day, he said the

exercise aims to create awareness and save children from preventable death, while urging parents to engage.

Also he also encouraged media to propagate the gospel to sensitize parent about the importance of children being vaccinated.

Also, approximately 3,700 independent monitors will spearhead the exercise to enable a wide range of service.

Yahaya stated that about 1,336 primary healthcare facilities, including 158 revitalized facilities, have been provided with ambulances across the state.

The Officer-in-Charge (OIC) and the Nutrition Manager, UNICEF Kano Field Office, Dr. Karanveer Singh, highlighted the importance of immunization and the effect of the deadly disease on children.

"Once a child is infected with the virus, he or she is permanently paralysed," Singh noted.

Singh, while reiterating the commitment of the health organization in collaborating with the state government, urged stakeholders, including parents, to intensify efforts for children to get immunized, especially children below age 5.

Health Canada approves NanoSpeed's rapid vitamin D test

By Helen Okechukwu

Health Canada has officially approved NanoSpeed Diagnostics' Test4D Serum, a rapid point-of-care test designed to detect vitamin D levels from blood serum, marking a significant milestone for the Alberta-based biotech company.

It was made known on Tuesday following its announcement of obtaining approval.

The approval follows last year's ISO 13485 Medical Device Single Audit Program (MDSAP) certification of NanoSpeed's manufacturing facility in Alberta — a crucial step in meeting regulatory standards and securing domestic clearance.

Test4D Serum uses NanoSpeed's proprietary technology to assess 25-hydroxycholecalciferol (25-OH vitamin D), offering both qualitative and quantitative results.

It was originally launched in 2013 as the world's first point-of-care test for vitamin D deficiency and has since been used widely outside Canada, including in Europe, where it received CE Mark certification in 2014.

Read Also: healthy habits for the brain



"We are so pleased to achieve this significant milestone in Canada" said Dr. Seema Gupta, CEO of NanoSpeed. "As a company based in Alberta that has sold millions of our test globally, we are so happy to finally obtain approval to sell our test at home to patients and healthcare practitioners who increasingly recognize the importance that Vitamin D sufficiency plays in our everyday health."

Vitamin D deficiency remains a widespread public health concern in Canada, with estimates indicating that around 60% of adults have suboptimal levels of 25-OH vitamin D.

This condition has been associated with numerous health issues, including poor bone health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, certain types of cancer, linked to increased risk of depression,

anxiety, and fatigue.

Traditionally, vitamin D levels are assessed through laboratory testing — a method that has grown in demand and cost over the last decade, putting added pressure on publicly funded healthcare systems.

POCT devices, such as Test4D Serum, offer the advantages of faster diagnosis, reduced laboratory errors, and lower healthcare expenditures, making them an attractive option for both practitioners and patients.

With Health Canada's green light, NanoSpeed is now poised to distribute the test across the country, empowering healthcare providers to quickly identify vitamin D deficiency and initiate timely treatment interventions.

Scientists discover widely used drug could weaken aggression of blood cancer

By Helen Okechukwu

A recent study has suggested that a widely used diabetes drug, taken by millions of people, may reduce the aggressiveness of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), a type of blood cancer.

Researchers from the University of Cambridge discovered that metformin, an inexpensive and commonly prescribed treatment for type 2 diabetes, may help prevent AML, based on studies conducted on mice.

The study highlighted that individuals who take metformin often share a common genetic mutation linked to AML. The research team focused on a genetic change in a gene called DNMT3A, which is responsible for about one in six cases of AML.

Metformin may help impede the growth of cancer cells in people with a faulty DNMT3A gene. In lab tests on mice and human tissue, the drug was shown to slow the growth of abnormal blood cells.

Additionally, by examining the health records of over 400,000 individuals, the researchers found that those taking metformin were less likely to show mutations in the DNMT3A gene.

Around 3,100 people are diagnosed with AML each year. Sadly, only about one in five patients survive longer than five years after diagnosis. Although genetic testing can identify those at higher risk, there is currently no approved method to prevent the disease from developing.

Researchers now hope that metformin could be used as a preventive measure for individuals at high risk of AML.

Professor George Vassiliou, one of the study's authors, explained that blood cancers like AML are more difficult to treat than solid tumors (such as breast or



prostate cancer) because they don't form lumps that can be surgically removed. This makes early identification and preventive treatment critical.

Dr. Rubina Ahmed from Blood Cancer UK noted that repurposing existing drugs like metformin is promising, as they are already proven to be safe and widely available.

Tanya Hollands from Cancer Research UK described the results as exciting but emphasized the need for further testing. She said proper clinical trials involving real patients are essential to confirm metformin's effectiveness in preventing AML.

Researchers are now planning to conduct clinical trials on individuals with DNMT3A gene mutations.

AML symptoms can be difficult to detect, as they often resemble general signs of illness. According to the NHS, symptoms of AML may include pale or washed-out skin, fatigue,

breathlessness, unexplained weight loss, frequent infections, night sweats, bleeding gums or nosebleeds, and easy bruising. Other symptoms can include flat red or purple spots on the skin, fever, bone and joint pain, abdominal discomfort, and swollen lymph nodes in the neck, armpits, or groin.

Currently, the primary treatment for AML is chemotherapy.

According to NHS data, about 3.6 million people were prescribed antidiabetic drugs like metformin between 2023 and 2024. Metformin remains affordable, costing around 35p per tablet. It is available in two forms: regular tablets taken multiple times daily, and slow-release tablets taken less frequently.

Besides controlling high blood sugar, metformin helps the body use insulin more effectively—an ability that may now be key to fighting cancer too.

Early menopause linked to increased risk of cognitive decline, study finds

By Helen Okechukwu

Women who experience early menopause—before the age of 40—face a significantly higher risk of cognitive decline compared to those who undergo menopause later in life, according to a new study led by a team of researchers.

The study, published on Tuesday in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*, was conducted by researchers from Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine and the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Medical Science.

It aims to help clinicians better understand patients' risks of developing dementia.

The researchers launched the study to investigate the underlying factors contributing to the global rise in dementia cases among women.

Using data from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing, the team analyzed 4,726 women and 4,286 men, assessing cognitive



functions such as orientation, memory recall, and verbal fluency.

Read Also: 12 Steps to Protect Your Brain and Prevent Dementia

After adjusting for modifiable dementia risk factors—such as depression, which is more prevalent among women who experience early menopause—the study found that those who entered menopause before age 40 demonstrated significantly poorer cognitive performance two years later, compared to those who began menopause at age 50 or older.

Interestingly, women who experienced menopause at 50 or

later outperformed men in cognitive assessments. The study also found no association between hormone replacement therapy and improved brain function.

The findings suggest that early menopause may be an independent risk factor for cognitive impairment, emphasizing the need for more research into how fluctuations in female hormone levels impact brain health.

“Understanding this relationship in-depth could potentially help us design treatments that delay the onset of dementia in at-risk patients,” says Nakanishi.

Peller, Jadrolita spark breakup rumours

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian TikTok star Peller may be on the verge of ending his relationship with fellow content creator Jadrolita after viral video sparked controversy.

Trouble began after a video surfaced showing Peller getting close to another woman during a recent trip to Ghana. The video quickly went viral, sparking widespread reactions from fans and followers on social media.

Jadrolita responds with emotion

Following the online buzz, Jadrolita took to TikTok Live to share her side of the story. Visibly emotional, she said the incident had deeply hurt her and that she could no longer continue the relationship.

"I'm done," she said during the live session. "This relationship can't continue. I have feelings too, and I won't pretend everything is fine."

Peller defends his actions

In response, Peller, 19, claimed the video was taken out of context. He insisted he was only doing a paid job and that there was nothing romantic between him and the other girl. According to him, the interaction was staged for content creation.

"It's not my fault," he said. "I was paid to be in the video to help her grow her page. It was just business. They paid for it."

Jadrolita rejects his explanation

Jadrolita, 23, wasn't convinced. She expressed her disappointment and frustration in another livestream, where she questioned the reasoning behind his actions and the lack of respect in their relationship.

"People have been saying I'm older than you," she said. "I didn't mind. I followed my heart. And now you're telling me you did all this because someone paid you? That doesn't make sense to me."

She made it clear she could no longer accept the situation and decided to walk away from the relationship.



"I can't be with you," she added. "Go ahead with your streaming. Do whatever you like. Find someone else who will tolerate this kind of nonsense. I won't hate you, but this is where I draw the line."

A calm goodbye turns into anger

Though Jadrolita tried to end things on a mature note, wishing him well and even suggesting they could still work together professionally, Peller reacted strongly. In another video, he expressed anger and frustration, threatening to cut all ties.

"I will block you everywhere," he said. "I don't want this anymore. You are mad."

His harsh words came as a surprise to fans who had followed their seemingly sweet relationship online.

A relationship built online

Peller and Jadrolita first gained attention as a couple in late 2024. Peller had proposed to Jadrolita in December, and since then, they had become one of TikTok's favorite Nigerian couples. Their chemistry, funny videos, and open affection drew in thousands of fans.

Their content often featured romantic skits, dance challenges, and behind-the-scenes clips of their life together. They were

known for their energy and the way they supported each other's content.

The sudden fallout has left many fans shocked. Hashtags like #PellerAndJadrolita and #TikTokBreakup have trended on platforms like TikTok and X (formerly Twitter), with many people taking sides or asking both creators to speak more openly about what went wrong.

For now, neither Peller nor Jadrolita has officially confirmed a breakup, but the signs are clear. Both appear to be moving in different directions.

What's next for Peller and Jadrolita?

As the dust settles, fans are watching closely to see what happens next. Will the two find a way to make peace, or will they go their separate ways for good? While it's still unclear, one thing is certain: their online drama has become the talk of the internet.

Whether they continue as solo creators or business partners, the digital world is keeping tabs on every update and this story is far from over.

I make about N20m weekly on TikTok – Peller

After public spat, Eniola Badmus responds to Laide Bakare

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Eniola Badmus has spoken out for the first time following her heated altercation with fellow actress Laide Bakare.

The two stars clashed at a high-profile event in Lagos on Sunday, drawing widespread attention both online and within the Nigerian film industry.

The incident took place during the premiere of *Owanbe Thieves*, a movie by filmmaker Eniola Ajao. What was meant to be a glamorous night of celebration turned into a dramatic confrontation between the two celebrities. Videos of the event quickly circulated on social media, fueling public debate and reactions from fans and industry insiders alike.

The Source of the Feud

According to New Daily Prime, the conflict began after Badmus allegedly referred to Bakare as an “animal,” a remark that clearly didn’t sit well with her colleague. Bakare, in response, expressed outrage and vowed to confront Badmus. She also claimed that she had played a crucial role in launching Badmus’ career, saying she gave her the breakthrough that helped make her a household name.

Badmus Chooses Peace Over Drama

Since the event, many had waited to hear from Eniola Badmus. Now, she has finally responded not with more insults or accusations, but with a message calling for peace and unity in the Nollywood industry.

On Tuesday, Badmus took to her Instagram page to share her thoughts. Her post focused on the need for collaboration, mutual respect, and personal growth. She made it clear that she prefers to rise above the drama and instead promote peace.

A Call for Unity and Growth

“Life has a way of teaching us that true strength lies not in conflict, but in unity,” she wrote. “Though we may have walked different paths and faced moments of tension, I believe it’s time to let love lead.”



Badmus emphasized that jealousy has no place among colleagues who are all striving for success. She reminded her followers and possibly her critics that one person’s success should not be seen as a threat to another’s.

“There is no need for jealousy when we can all succeed,” she wrote. “Your success doesn’t diminish mine, just as mine does not take away from yours.”

Encouraging Collaboration in Nollywood

Her message continued with a call for support within the industry. She encouraged her peers to uplift one another instead of tearing each other down.

“Let us continue to collaborate, to lift each other, and to build something greater than what we could ever achieve alone,” she added. “There’s strength in unity and a future brighter than any victory we’ve pursued alone.”

Badmus ended her statement with a note on wisdom and maturity.

“Let us avoid conflict, not because we are weak, but because we are wise,” she concluded. “Peace is the path to progress, and love is the light that shows us the way.”

Reactions and What Comes Next

Her words appear to be a clear effort to turn the conversation away from gossip and toward healing. Whether her message will ease the tension with Laide Bakare remains to be seen. However, her decision to respond calmly and not with further confrontation has already sparked praise from many fans who are calling for peace in the Nollywood community.

As the dust settles, it’s unclear whether the two actresses will reconcile or whether this clash will leave a lasting mark on their relationship. What is clear, though, is that Eniola Badmus has chosen to take the high road and in doing so, she has reminded many of the value of unity in an often competitive industry.

Read Also: Nollywood stars Eniola Badmus, Laide Bakare involve in public spat
Laide Bakare promises payback over Eniola Badmus’ harsh words

Nana Lawal, a participant who is also an oncology nurse educator at the National Hospital, Abuja, expressed her excitement, aiming to improve nursing care through preventive research and symptom management.

Phyno denies selling N10bn estate

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Phyno denies claims of selling his Lagos estate due to tribal bias, dismissing reports of anti-Igbo sentiment in Yoruba areas as false and baseless.

Viral tweet sparks controversy

The drama began when a Twitter user and self-proclaimed journalist, operating under the handle @JustSociety4All, posted a now-deleted tweet. The tweet alleged that Phyno had sold his ₦10 billion estate in Lagos to an Arab businessman from Libya.

The post claimed the rapper regretted investing in Yoruba land, supposedly stating that Igbos are not welcomed there. The message attributed emotional and divisive comments to Phyno, referencing Nigeria's last general election as the moment he realized the depth of anti-Igbo sentiment.

Alleged quote draws strong reactions

The viral post quoted Phyno as saying:

"The last election opened my eyes. The hatred towards Igbos is something that seems like it will last forever. Instead of building in Yoruba land, I'm relocating my

estate to Enugu, where my people will make good use of it and it will remain safe for generations."

This statement quickly spread online, causing confusion and sparking debates about ethnic unity, investment decisions, and celebrity responsibility in Nigeria.

Phyno breaks silence

In response, Phyno issued a strong denial. Taking to social media, the rapper called the report "a lie" and slammed the person behind it.

"You are a fool for cooking up this type of lie!!! Where are you heading with this? Anwu nta," Phyno fired back.

He dismissed the entire story as false and



warned against spreading divisive content without facts.

Fans and supporters rally behind him

Many of Phyno's fans flooded the comments section in support of the rapper. They praised him for responding quickly and called out the journalist for spreading unverified information.

Phyno, who is respected for promoting Igbo culture through his music, has also built strong working relationships with artists from other regions, including the Yoruba-speaking southwest. His music regularly reflects unity and cultural pride without tribal bias.

The dangers of misinformation

This incident shines a light on the growing danger of fake news in Nigeria, especially when it touches on sensitive topics like ethnicity and land ownership.

Observers have warned that social media can be a powerful tool for connection—but also for misinformation. They urged the public to verify stories before sharing and encouraged journalists and influencers to follow ethical reporting

practices.

Calls for accountability

Several voices in the public space have called for action against those who post false claims online. Some believe the matter could be taken to court if necessary, to serve as an example and protect public figures from slander.

So far, he has not confirmed if he plans to pursue legal action. However, his public denial has already helped dispel much of the tension caused by the rumor.

Phyno moves on

Despite the controversy, he appears to be staying focused on his music and business ventures. His team has not released an official statement, but sources close to the artist confirm that his estate in Lagos remains untouched and that there is no relocation planned.

For now, the rapper is choosing to rise above the drama while the public is left with an important reminder: always check the facts before spreading the story.

Trump adds new threat after Harvard rejects demands

By **Fatimah Idera**

The United States of America President Donald Trump has threatened to strip Harvard of its tax-exempt status on Tuesday.

He said the university should apologize, a day after it rejected what it called unlawful demands to overhaul academic programs or lose federal grants.

Beginning with Columbia University, the Trump administration has rebuked universities across the country over their handling of the pro-Palestinian student protest movement that roiled campuses last year following the 2023 Hamas-led attack inside Israel and the subsequent Israeli attacks on Gaza.

Trump has called the protests anti-American and anti-Semitic, accused universities of peddling Marxism and radical left ideology, and promised to end federal grants and contracts to universities that do not agree with his administration's demands.

In a social media post on Tuesday, Trump said he was mulling whether to seek to end Harvard's tax-exempt status if it continued pushing what he called political, ideology, and terrorist-inspired/supporting sickness but did not say how he would do this.

However, under the U.S. tax code, most universities are exempt from federal income tax because they are deemed to be operated exclusively for public educational purposes.

White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters that Trump wanted to see Harvard apologize for what she called "antisemitism that took place on their college campus against Jewish American students."

She accused Harvard and other schools of violating Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination by recipients of federal funding based on race or national origin.



Under Title VI, federal funds can be terminated only after a lengthy investigation and hearings as well as a 30-day notice to Congress, which has not happened at Columbia or Harvard.

Some professors and students have said the protests are being unfairly conflated with antisemitism as a pretext for an unconstitutional attack on academic freedoms.

Columbia, a private school in New York City, agreed to negotiations over demands to tighten its protest rules after the Trump administration said last month it had terminated grants and contracts worth \$400 million, mostly for medical and other scientific research.

Harvard President Alan Garber in a letter on Monday said demands the Trump administration made of the Massachusetts university, including an audit to ensure the "viewpoint diversity" of its students and faculty and an end to diversity, equity and inclusion programs, were unprecedented "assertions of power, unmoored from the law" that violated constitutional free speech and the Civil Rights Act.

Like Columbia, he said Harvard had worked to fight antisemitism and other prejudice on its

campus while preserving academic freedoms and the right to protest.

Hours after Garber's letter, the Trump administration's Joint Task Force to Combat Anti-Semitism said it was freezing more than \$2 billion in contracts and grants to Harvard, the country's oldest and richest university. The administration did not respond to questions about which grants and contracts had been cut, and Harvard did not respond to a request for comment.

Some Columbia professors have sued the Trump administration, saying the grant terminations violated Title VI and their constitutional speech and due process rights. A federal judge in New York ordered the Trump administration to reply by May 1.

After reading the Harvard president's letter, Columbia's interim president, Claire Shipman, said in a statement on Monday night that Columbia will continue "good faith discussions" and "constructive dialog" with the U.S. Justice Department's antisemitism task force.

"We would reject any agreement in which the government dictates what we teach, research, or who we hire," she wrote

UK Supreme court defines 'woman' as biological female under equality act

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

U.K. Supreme Court Rules Trans Women Not Legally Women Under Equality Act: A Landmark Decision Reverberates Across Gender Rights Debate.

In a landmark decision that's already rippling across both sides of the gender rights debate, the United Kingdom's Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that the term "woman" under the country's Equality Act of 2010 refers exclusively to biological sex, not gender identity. The ruling delivers a substantial blow to transgender rights activists and rekindles long-standing tensions between advocates for cisgender women and the trans community.

At the heart of the ruling is a legal challenge brought by For Women Scotland, a group advocating for sex-based rights, which contested the inclusion of transgender women in a gender parity law enacted by the Scottish government in 2018. The legislation had sought to ensure equal representation of women on public boards, counting trans women—those assigned male at birth who identify as women—toward the 50% target.

Marion Calder and Susan Smith from "For Women Scotland" celebrating outside of the Supreme Court in London on Wednesday. Credit: Kin Cheung/Associated Press

But the court unanimously concluded that the Equality Act's language on "sex" and "woman" refers to biological females only. Announcing the decision, Lord Hodge, deputy president of the court, emphasized that the ruling did not diminish legal protections for trans individuals, who remain safeguarded under the Act's "gender reassignment" category. Still, the implications for access to women-only spaces—such as shelters, prisons, and sports—could be profound.

"This is not a triumph of one group over another," Lord Hodge stated. "We counsel against reading this judgment as a defeat for the trans community. Rather, this is a clarification of legislative language—not a comment on gender identity or a person's lived experience."

The decision underscores a deepening divide in both British and international feminist circles: What does it mean to be a woman?

Cisgender women—whose gender identity matches their birth sex—have increasingly voiced concerns about preserving female-



only spaces in contexts such as domestic violence shelters, bathrooms, competitive sports, and prisons. Many argue that sex-based protections exist to address the material realities of female biology and the social disadvantages women face.

On the other hand, transgender women and their allies argue that gender identity, not birth sex, should determine access to such spaces and rights. They see sex-based exclusions as discriminatory and dehumanizing, particularly in societies where trans people already face disproportionate violence and marginalization.

"We'd urge people not to panic," said Scottish Trans, a leading advocacy group. "There will be a lot of commentary that overstates the impact of this ruling. Trans people still have legal protections."

Government Reactions

The British government swiftly welcomed the court's decision. In a statement, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's office said the ruling brought "clarity and confidence" around the provision of services in settings like hospitals, women's shelters, and sports clubs. The statement reaffirmed the government's commitment to protecting "single-sex spaces based on biological sex."

Outside the court, Susan Smith, co-director of For Women Scotland, said the group was "vindicated" by the ruling.

"This is not about bigotry or exclusion," Smith told reporters. "It's about

acknowledging biological differences and protecting spaces that were created specifically for women based on that reality."

J.K. Rowling, a vocal supporter of sex-based rights, praised the group on social media, saying the court's ruling helped "protect the rights of women and girls across the U.K."

But transgender rights organizations and human rights advocates have expressed unease.

"This ruling will be incredibly worrying for the trans community," said Simon Blake, CEO of Stonewall UK, the country's leading LGBTQ+ charity. "While it reaffirms certain legal protections, it may embolden efforts to exclude trans people from key areas of public life."

Sacha Deshmukh, chief executive of Amnesty International UK, urged for a measured response.

"There are potentially concerning consequences, but it's important to note that trans people remain protected under the Equality Act against discrimination and harassment," he said.

Legal Background

The case traces back to a 2018 Scottish law mandating gender balance on public boards. The government initially counted all trans women toward the female quota, but after legal challenges, it amended the rule to only include trans women who possessed a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC).

Obtaining a GRC requires a formal diagnosis of gender dysphoria, two years of living in one's identified gender, and a commitment to continue doing so. The process does not change under the new ruling, but what the Supreme Court has now done is assert that even those with a GRC are not considered women under the Equality Act's definition of sex.

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This interpretation overrules a 2022 decision by Lady Haldane, a Scottish judge who previously found that “sex” in the Equality Act was not limited to birth sex.

The Supreme Court’s ruling now firmly establishes biological sex

as the legal standard under this anti-discrimination law.

What Comes Next?

Though this case was adjudicated under U.K. law, its ripple effects could be felt far beyond. The ruling is likely to invigorate ongoing debates in the United States and other democracies grappling with how to define gender in law and policy.

At a time when battles over school sports, healthcare access, and bathroom policies dominate political discourse in states like Florida, Texas, and California, the British court’s emphasis on legal clarity over ideological adjudication may set a precedent—or at least fuel further legal challenges.

“It is not the task of this court to make policy on how the interests of these groups should be protected,” Lord Hodge concluded. “That is for Parliament.”

As the debate over gender, sex, and legal recognition continues to unfold globally, Britain’s Supreme Court has drawn a line—one that is likely to shape conversations, policies, and identities for years to come.

Australian politicians took \$147,000 of match tickets while weighing sports betting ban

By Fatimah Idera

Australian politicians received about a\$245,000 (\$147,000) in match tickets from major sporting leagues over two years by the country's most popular sporting leagues as part of a lobbying campaign against a proposed ban on advertising of online gambling, according to Reuters calculations based on government documents.

Lobbying by the gambling industry against the ban has been reported previously in the media but the calculation of the total value of tickets declared by politicians in the parliamentary gift register shows the role played by sporting bodies and provides a dollar amount for the first time.

Labour Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had promised a crackdown on gambling advertising following a 2023 parliamentary inquiry ordered by his government that recommended a "comprehensive ban on all forms of advertising for online gambling".

But he took the issue off the legislative agenda late last year and has left it to be considered by a new parliament to be formed following a May 3 general election that his party is tipped to win by a narrow margin. Polls show that three-quarters of Australians want a ban.

"We know vested interests have been lobbying hard to prevent a ban and the level of soft diplomacy revealed by this analysis of declared gifts to politicians is deeply concerning," said David Pocock, an independent senator.

"It is appalling that 18 months after the landmark report into online gambling harm, and after a full term of a Labor government, the prime minister has failed to take any meaningful action to ban gambling advertising."

Albanese and the AFL did not respond to Reuters requests for comment. The NRL



declined to comment.

Such lobbying is not illegal in Australia but individual gifts worth over A\$300 received by parliamentarians must be reported to the prime minister's office, which maintains the parliamentary gift register, a public database.

It shows that politicians from both Australia's main parties received 312 free tickets between June 28, 2023, when the government report recommended a ban on online gambling advertisements, and March 28 this year when parliament was dissolved.

There was no price ascribed to the tickets but calculations were done via value based on the cheapest corporate box seat. The calculations were verified by Hunter Fajak, senior lecturer in sports management at Deakin University, and Tim Harcourt, chief economist at the University of Technology, Sydney's Centre for Sport, Business and Society

"It's a reasonable estimate, probably on the conservative side," Harcourt said.

PM, OPPOSITION LEADER GIVEN TICKETS

Albanese received A\$29,000 worth of

tickets, mostly to grand finals and games played by his NRL home team, the South Sydney Rabbitohs, the gift register showed.

Peter Dutton, leader of the opposition conservative coalition, received A\$21,350 of tickets during the period, the register shows.

Dutton's office did not respond to a request for comment.

The gifted tickets over the 21-month period compared with tickets worth an estimated A\$234,000 given to politicians in the previous parliamentary term from 2019 to 2022, although sports attendance at that time was impacted by COVID-19 shutdowns. Data before 2019 was not available.

Australians lose the most on gambling in the world on a per capita basis, government data shows. Consultancy H2 Gambling Capital estimates gamblers in Australia will lose A\$34 billion in 2025. The country's sports bodies benefit because, unlike in many other countries, they take a percentage cut of money gambled on their games. They also earn revenues from sponsorship and broadcast rights

India offers cheap loans for arms, targeting Russia's traditional customers

By Fatimah Idera

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bid to transform India into a global factory floor has produced billions of dollars of low-cost iPhones and pharmaceuticals. Now he hopes to add missiles, helicopters and battleships to the shopping carts of foreign governments.

The world's largest importer of weapons after Ukraine is expanding the ability of the state-owned Export-Import Bank (EXIM) to offer long-term, low-cost loans to clients, including those whose political or credit risk profiles may limit their access to conventional financing, according to two Indian officials and three industry sources.

New Delhi will also sharply increase the number of defence attachés in its foreign missions as part of a new program that will see the government directly negotiate some arms deals, four Indian officials said. India is particularly targeting governments which have long relied on Russia for arms, two of the people said.

India's plans, which were detailed to Reuters by 15 people and have not been previously reported, mark an unprecedented effort by the government to inject itself into the recruitment and financing of foreign buyers as the world is rearming and longstanding geopolitical relationships are being recast.

Indian bureaucrats have long focused more on buying fighter aircraft from Russia's Sukhoi and howitzers from the United States to ward off China and Pakistan, Delhi's two nuclear-armed neighbours. While India has long had a small-arms production sector, its private firms have only recently started to make higher-end munitions and equipment.

The Indian defence and external affairs ministries, as well as Modi's office, did not respond to requests for comment. EXIM declined to comment.



"India is marching towards achieving the target of increasing defence exports," defence minister Rajnath Singh wrote on X this month.

One turning point was Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, according to an Indian official tasked with growing arms exports. Like most of the people interviewed by Reuters for this story, the official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive government matters.

Spare Western arsenals were shipped to Kyiv while Russia's factories churned out munitions almost exclusively for its war effort. That left other nations that had historically relied on Washington and Moscow – the world's two largest arms exporters – scrambling for alternatives.

With its history of buying and absorbing arms technology from both the West and Russia, Delhi started to get more inquiries, the official said.

In response to the questions, Russian state arms exporter Rosoboronexport referred to previously issued statements that said it was in talks with India about

jointly producing and promoting equipment to third-party states that are "friendly to Russia."

The Pentagon had no comment.

India produced \$14.8 billion of arms in the 2023-2024 fiscal year, up 62% since 2020, government data show. Some Indian-made artillery shells were found on the frontline in Ukraine in support of Kyiv's defence, Reuters previously reported.

Delhi has started brokering meetings between visiting delegations and domestic arms contractors, as well as demonstrating more sophisticated equipment like combat helicopters during military exercises, four officials said.

Viraj Solanki, a research fellow at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies think-tank, said India faced challenges selling its newer and more high-end wares.

"Unless it starts using its indigenous equipment more frequently and demonstrating its effectiveness, it is likely to struggle to convince potential buyers," he said.

Missile delivery to Ukraine in limbo over German coalition divide

By New Daily Prime

Berlin, Germany — Germany's plans to send long-range Taurus missiles to Ukraine are in limbo, with political divisions inside the country's incoming coalition government and the lack of a clear endorsement from Britain threatening to derail the controversial weapons transfer.

Senior Christian Democrat MP Roderich Kiesewetter has warned that unless the United Kingdom signals firm support soon, Germany may have to shelve the idea altogether. His remarks underscore the growing friction between the centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU) and their coalition partners, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), as Chancellor-in-waiting Friedrich Merz attempts to carve out a new, more assertive foreign policy direction.

"The Taurus delivery remains a point of contention," Kiesewetter said. "I do not see any consensus here, especially as the parties have not agreed on key security policy issues in the coalition agreement."

Kiesewetter suggested that diplomatic pressure from London could play a crucial role in breaking the deadlock in Berlin.

"Any influence by UK leadership to finally convince Germany to deliver Taurus might help and is highly welcomed," he added.

British and French Cooperation Key to Green Light

Mr. Merz, who is set to replace outgoing Chancellor Olaf Scholz, recently stated in an interview that Germany would only proceed with the delivery if its European allies were fully aligned.

"Our European partners are already supplying cruise missiles," Merz said. "The British are doing it, the French are doing it, and the Americans are doing it anyway... This must be jointly agreed. And if it's agreed, then Germany should take part."

While the UK has already provided Ukraine with Storm Shadow cruise missiles and France has supplied SCALP missiles, Germany has resisted sending the Taurus — a longer-range, more powerful missile system capable of hitting targets deep inside Russian-held territory, including potentially the Kerch Bridge in



Crimea or even military infrastructure in Moscow.

SPD Resistance Threatens Momentum

Despite Merz's toughened rhetoric and apparent shift toward a more forceful European security posture, SPD officials have thrown cold water on the idea. The party's leadership continues to cite "confidential national security reasons" for withholding support, echoing the cautious stance taken by Scholz throughout his term.

"There are many good arguments against the delivery, as well as some in favor," the SPD said in a statement following Merz's announcement, seeking to temper public expectations.

Boris Pistorius, the current Defence Minister and a member of the SPD, is expected to remain in his role under the new government — further complicating Merz's push to deliver Taurus missiles to Kyiv.

A Taurus missile on display at a plant owned by missiles manufacturer MBDA in Schrobenhausen, southern Germany. Credit: Sebastian Pieknik/AFP via Getty Images

Strategic Implications and Putin's Advantage

Kiesewetter argues that the failure to act decisively has already cost Ukraine dearly

and has only emboldened Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"The delay and blockade of the delivery of this far-reaching system by Chancellor Scholz was a major mistake... It weakened European security and led to more victims in Ukraine," he said. "Taurus is and remains a very effective means of destroying Russian command structures and supply routes."

He added that it is imperative for Merz to act swiftly and without preconditions, describing the missiles as critical for enabling Ukraine to disrupt Russian advances and strengthen its defensive capabilities.

What Comes Next?

Whether Germany will move forward hinges not just on internal coalition negotiations but also on signals from its NATO allies — particularly the UK. So far, the British government has not publicly commented on Kiesewetter's remarks or Merz's request for allied consensus.

As Ukraine braces for a renewed Russian offensive and Western unity continues to be tested, Germany's stance on Taurus may prove to be a defining moment for the incoming government — and for Europe's broader security architecture.

FDIC lawsuit: Judge orders Bank of America to pay \$540m

By **Fatimah Idera**



A federal judge has ordered Bank of America to pay \$540.3 million in a long-running Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation lawsuit accusing the second-largest U.S. bank of underpaying what it owed for deposit insurance.

In a decision made public on Monday, U.S. District Judge Loren AliKhan in Washington, D.C., said the payment covers assessments from the second quarter of 2013 through the end of 2014, plus interest.

Recall that the FDIC sued Charlotte, North Carolina-based Bank of America for \$1.12 billion in 2017, accusing it of reducing its deposit insurance contributions by failing to honor a 2011 rule that changed how banks report risk exposure to counterparties.

That rule was one of many federal reforms designed to ensure the stability of the banking system and avert a repeat of the 2008 global financial crisis.

In a 59-page decision, AliKhan rejected Bank of America's claims that there was no reasonable basis for the rule and that the FDIC acted arbitrarily and capriciously.

AliKhan said the FDIC was not required to develop a "perfect measure" of predicting banks' potential exposure to losses, and Bank of America could claim it "lacked fair notice of what was required of it."

The judge said the FDIC waited too long to sue over claims predating the second quarter of 2013.

Bank of America strongly denied any intent to evade payments.

In a statement by the Bank of America spokesperson, Bill Halldin, said "We are pleased the judge has ruled and have reserves reflecting the decision."

However, as of the time of publishing this, the FDIC was yet to react to the verdict.

AliKhan issued her decision on March 31 and released it in partially-redacted form.

Bank of America is expected to report first-quarter results on Tuesday.

The case is FDIC v Bank of America NA, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia, No. 17-00036.

NUGA hosts successful 2025 tournament at Worsley park golf club, Manchester

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

The Nigeria-UK Golfing Association (NUGA) hosted its highly anticipated 2025 tournament over the weekend of April 12, 2025, at the scenic Worsley Park Golf Club in Manchester. The event brought together members from both the North and South of the UK and was well attended by friends and supporters — all united by a shared love for golf and a commitment to the association's core values of Friendship, Integrity, and Charity.

Captain Fred Adegeye

Captain Fred Adegeye

The tournament was chaired by Captain Fred Adegeye, who warmly welcomed both long-standing and newly inducted members to the event.

"It is my great pleasure to extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to each and every one of you. NUGA is more than just an association; it's a family of individuals who share a common bond — a love for the game of golf," he said.

Founded over two decades ago, NUGA has evolved into a vibrant and inclusive community that promotes golfing excellence while fostering friendship and philanthropy. The association maintains strong relationships with leading golf institutions in Nigeria, including Ikoyi Golf Club 1938 (Lagos), IBB Golf Club (Abuja), and BOM Golf Club.

Also in attendance was Dr. William Akpala, former NUGA President of over six years, who made his second visit to Worsley Park for the tournament.

Dr. William Akpala

Dr. William Akpala, former NUGA President "NUGA welcomes Nigerians and friends of Nigeria who share our values and meet our membership criteria," Dr. Akpala stated. "The club has become a beacon of unity, service, and continuous growth. I commend our Northern UK members for hosting such a successful event."



The competition was lively, engaging, and well-organized. Mr. Femi Ogunyemi, NUGA's Competition Secretary, praised the high level of coordination and sportsmanship displayed throughout the event and extended special thanks to Mr. Hakeem Balogun for graciously hosting the club.

Group photo of members taken after the dinner at the 2025 tournament in Manchester
Group photo of members taken after the dinner at the 2025 tournament in Manchester
The tournament concluded with a celebratory dinner and awards ceremony, where outstanding performers were honoured for their achievements on the course.

2025 NUGA Tournament Winners

Nearest the Pin: Isimeme Anthony Oboh

Longest Drive: Myke Edeke

Winner, Division 1: Myke Edeke (37 points)

Runner-Up, Division 1: Alex Oboh (36 points)

Winner, Division 2: Michael Nwachukwu (37 points)

Runner-Up, Division 2: Joe Anichebe (37 points)

Winner, Division 3: Dr. Willie Akpala (29 points)

Runner-Up, Division 3: Ekemini Umoh (23 points)

Lowest Gross Score: Alex Oboh (79)

In addition to the competition, the evening provided an opportunity to welcome new members and celebrate those who marked their birthdays in April. Birthday celebrants included Engr. Ekemini Umoh, Mr. Suleiman Shittu, Mr. Femi Adesanya, Mr. Demola Oguntunde, Mr. Musa Bello, Mr. Gbolahan Owolabi, Mr. Igba Ujege, and Mr. Lanre Falana.

While the weekend was filled with memorable moments and fellowship, NUGA also took the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to charitable causes. Proceeds from the tournament will go toward supporting youth development initiatives, in line with the association's mission to give back to society through sport and service.

Looking ahead, NUGA's next event — Captain's Day — will take place at Mannings Heath Golf Club in Kent in May, with continued emphasis on expanding its membership base, strengthening relationships, and supporting communities in both the UK and Nigeria.

As NUGA continues to grow in reach and relevance, the 2025 Manchester tournament stands as a testament to the association's resilience, leadership, and enduring spirit of unity.

UCL: After 16 years, Arsenal advance to Semi-finals

By Damilola Olufemi

Arsenal have reached the Champions League semi-finals for only the third time in the club's history, sealing the feat with a 2-1 win over Real Madrid at the Bernabeu and a dominant 5-1 aggregate scoreline.

After their 3-0 triumph in the first leg, the Gunners extended their lead in the 65th minute thanks to a delightful chipped finish from Bukayo Saka. But just two minutes later, Vinicius Junior capitalized on a lapse from William Saliba to pull one back for the hosts.

Gabriel Martinelli then made sure of the result with a stoppage-time goal to end any Madrid hopes of a late comeback.

Dramatic moments

The first half was full of drama: Saka had a Panenka penalty saved by Thibaut Courtois, while VAR denied Real Madrid a penalty at the other end.

Declan Rice once again delivered a commanding display, mirroring his standout performance in the first leg and earning the Player of the Match award.

Declan Rice reacts

Speaking after the match, Rice told TNT Sports:

"It's such a special night for this club, a historic night for this club. We have an objective in this competition, we want to play the best teams and win this competition.

"There was a lot of talk coming here



about them coming back because they have done it so many times before. But we had so much belief and confidence from that first leg that we had enough to come here and win the game.

"We knew we were going to suffer, but we knew we were going to win. We had it in our mind and we did it. What a night for the club."

New Daily Prime reported in the first leg that Declan Rice scored two excellent second-half free-kicks as Arsenal stunned Real Madrid in the Champions League quarter-finals at Emirates Stadium, taking a three-goal advantage into the second leg.

Mikel Arteta had asked the Arsenal fans to arrive early to create an impressive atmosphere inside the stadium, and the team responded by starting the game quickly with a number of dangerous crosses into the Madrid penalty area.

Highlights

The Gunners were the better side all evening and took the lead in the 58th minute when Rice curled the first of two excellent free-kicks round the Real Madrid wall into the corner of the net past Thibaut Courtois.

Rice scored his second of the night with a free-kick of equal quality 12 minutes later, bending another long-range effort into the top right-hand corner to leave Madrid stunned.

Mikel Merino Seals the Win Mikel Merino then made sure it was a memorable night for Arsenal when he curled a shot into the bottom corner from inside the area just five minutes later.

Things only got worse for Madrid when Eduardo Camavinga was sent off in stoppage time for picking up a second yellow card.