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FG urges Nigerians to pray for peace, unity as Friday, Monday declared public holiday

By Helen Okechukwu

To mark the Easter Day celebration for Christian believers, the Federal Government (FG), while urging Nigerians to pray for peace and unity, declared Friday and Monday as public holidays.

This information was shared on Tuesday by the Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, who noted the significance of the celebration, highlighting the sacrifice and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Easter is usually celebrated to commemorate the resurrection of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, after his death.

Among the requested prayers, the statement signed by Dr. Magdalene Ajani, the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, urged Nigerians to pray for the stability of the nation.



While reassuring Nigerians of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, the minister said, "Furthermore, he encouraged Nigerians to extend love and goodwill to their neighbours through acts

of kindness and generosity.

"The minister wished all Christians a blissful Easter celebration and extended warm holiday greetings to all Nigerians," the statement added.

Arewa youths slam Onanuga over comments on 2027 campaign support

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Arewa Coalition of Youths has criticised presidential media aide Bayo Onanuga over his recent remarks distancing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu from early 2027 campaign activities, calling the statement "unnecessary" and "politically backward."

In a statement issued by the coalition's Director General, Abubakar Aliyu Galadiman Takai, the group condemned Onanuga's position, arguing that it disregards the genuine enthusiasm and loyalty shown by grassroots supporters.

"Rather than acknowledging the enthusiasm and loyalty of grassroots supporters across the country, the statement undermines the very spirit of democratic engagement," Takai said.

The group expressed disappointment that, instead of leveraging the growing momentum of Tinubu's support base,



Onanuga had chosen to issue what they called a "restrictive declaration" that only serves to dampen morale.

Takai further argued that Onanuga's interpretation of electoral law was overly rigid and failed to distinguish between unlawful campaigning and legitimate

political expression by citizens.

"The support for President Tinubu is organic and nationwide. It cannot and should not be silenced by bureaucratic misinterpretation. Political visibility is not a crime," he asserted.

The coalition called for Onanuga's immediate replacement, suggesting a more politically attuned and grassroots-sensitive adviser should take his place — someone better equipped to understand and engage with the mood of the people.

"To all loyal Tinubu supporters, do not be discouraged. Your efforts are noticed, and your passion is the fuel of the 2027 vision. Keep the fire burning, door to door, billboard to billboard, we remain resolute in our support of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu," the statement concluded.

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
5X2	42,916.50
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9X6	232,500.00
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9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
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
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8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X3	41,124.50
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FG moves to clear over N4trn debt owed Gencos

By Michael Damilola



The Federal Government has revealed that it is taking concrete steps to settle over N4 trillion owed to Power Generation Companies (GenCos) for electricity generated and fed into the national grid.

Mr. Bola Tunji, Special Adviser on Strategic Communications and Media Relations to the Minister of Power, disclosed this during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday in Abuja.

Tunji was reacting to a public plea issued by the Association of Power Generation Companies (APGC), which had called for urgent intervention from the government and key stakeholders to clear the debt backlog, warning that the situation is crippling operations in the sector.

“We expect a response from the Ministry of Finance very soon. We are

not unaware of this debt arising from the Federal Government’s commitment to subsidy. Part of the debts are legacy debts, which were on the ground before the minister of power assumed office,” Tunji said.

He emphasized that the outstanding debt poses a major threat to the stability and efficiency of the power sector and that addressing it remains a top priority for the ministry.

“The minister has repeatedly harped on this, knowing the implication of such debts to the operations of the various power sector stakeholders, especially the GenCos,” he added.

GenCos decried FG’s debt
New Daily Prime earlier reported that GenCos had sounded the alarm over a looming shutdown of power plants across the country, citing a staggering N4 trillion debt owed by the Federal

Government as the primary cause.

The GenCos, operating 40 power-generating plants connected to the national grid alongside independent power providers and the Niger Delta Holding Company, issued a statement on Monday under the APGC. The statement was signed by APGC Board of Trustees Chairman, Colonel Sani Bello (ret’d).

According to the statement, the Federal Government owes GenCos N2 trillion for power supply in 2024, in addition to N1.9 trillion in legacy debts accumulated over the years.

The GenCos revealed that they currently receive less than 30 per cent of their monthly invoices for power delivered to the national grid, financing as additional burdens threatening the viability of the power generation companies.

Lack of MIL exposes public officials to fake news – Idris

By Friday Omosola

The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, has cautioned that the absence of media and information literacy among public officials leaves them highly susceptible to fake news, misinformation, and disinformation.

Speaking at the opening of the second Spokespersons Summit on Tuesday in Abuja, the Minister stressed that the ability to critically assess media content is no longer optional in today's information-driven society.

The summit, organised by the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, brought together public communicators and information managers across government and private sectors.

"In a world where everyone is a spokesperson – whether a PR practitioner or a chief executive – media literacy is essential," Idris said.

"It equips individuals with the tools to decipher, analyse, and evaluate messages conveyed through various channels, enabling informed decision-making and responsible engagement with media content."

READ ALSO: Ramadan: Sanwo-Olu calls for unity, sacrifice, compassion

The Minister explained that media literacy combines the competencies of information literacy and media literacy, as adopted by UNESCO in 2008.

He warned that the inability to contextualize and verify media content had made public officials and the general populace increasingly vulnerable to the "cancerworm" of misinformation.

To address this challenge, Idris announced that plans were at an advanced stage for the launch of the UNESCO



Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Institute—the first of its kind globally.

The institute, to be located within the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) in Abuja, aims to equip public officials with the skills to critically evaluate news articles, detect bias, assess source credibility, and implement fact-checking methods.

"I have just returned from Paris where I met with senior UNESCO officials to finalize discussions on the Institute's imminent take-off," he revealed.

In further efforts to professionalize public communication, Idris highlighted the successful caderisation of Public Relations in the Federal Civil Service.

Effective from December 2023, the erstwhile Information Officer Cadre has been re-designated as the "Information and Public Relations Officer Cadre," acknowledging the vital role of PR professionals.

He credited NIPR for being a key advocate in achieving this milestone.

The Minister also reiterated the Tinubu Administration's commitment to free speech and creative expression.

"We will continue to broaden our nation's vibrant media ecosystem and grow the economic and investment opportunities within it," he assured.

Commending NIPR President, Dr. Ike Neliaku, Idris praised the introduction of the Information Ministerial Clinic, a new feature of this year's summit.

The clinic hosted former Ministers of Information who shared their experiences navigating complex communication challenges while in office.

Participants included Prof. Jerry Gana, Chief John Nwodo, Mr. Frank Nweke Jr., Labaran Maku, and Lai Mohammed.

The summit continues with sessions aimed at enhancing public communication and advancing media literacy among spokespersons nationwide.

Tinubu declares national emergency on food security

By Michael Damilola

President Bola Tinubu on Monday declared a national emergency on food security, urging expanded irrigation infrastructure and participatory water resource management nationwide.

Tinubu made the declaration while opening the 6th African Regional Conference on Irrigation and Drainage in Abuja.

He was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume.

He urged African nations to adopt innovative strategies in addressing the continent's irrigation and water management challenges.

He described the conference theme, "Tackling Irrigation Development and Water Management Crisis in Africa", as a clarion call to action for sustainable agriculture and economic resilience.

"Africa continues to face major challenges in unlocking its irrigation potential due to inadequate infrastructure, financial constraints, climate change, and governance issues.

"This conference offers a vital platform for us to collectively chart a path forward," he said.

Tinubu stated that the country had more than 3.1 million hectares of irrigable land located around key river basins such as the Niger and Benue.

In his remarks, the Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Prof. Joseph Utsev, said the government had completed several landmark initiatives under the Transforming Irrigation Management in Nigeria project.

He announced that its successor, the Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria project, would address outstanding gaps while optimising the economic value of water resources to support food security.

"With the TRIMING project winding down, Nigeria is poised to begin implementation of the SPIN project in partnership with the World Bank.



"This initiative will consolidate on the successes of TRIMING and expand our irrigation potential," Utsev said.

According to the minister, the TRIMING project, which spanned more than seven years, delivered notable achievements, including the completion of the Dadin-Kowa and Bakolori irrigation schemes and 90 per cent completion of the Middle Rima Valley irrigation project.

It also supported ongoing interventions in Ondo, Kwara, Benue, Kebbi, Edo, Adamawa, and Oyo states.

He also noted that the project established Water Users Associations, and farmer management centres, and supported market linkages for key value chains such as rice and tomato.

The minister further revealed that River Basin Development Authorities had developed more than 153,000 hectares of irrigable land and were being partially commercialised to attract private sector investment.

He also referenced the 2025 Flood Outlook and Risk Management Strategy, aimed at minimising flood-related impacts on agriculture.

"This conference is a platform for knowledge exchange, innovation, and collective commitment to resolving Africa's pressing irrigation and water management issues," he added.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Dr Didi Wilson-Jack, called for renewed commitment across all tiers of government to ensure national food security.

Former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Water Resources, Mr Godknows Igali, underscored the urgency of strategic planning, particularly in the face of Nigeria's growing population.

He stressed the importance of professional staffing and proper management of river basins, adding that sub-national governments must play an active role in water governance and food systems.

Gov. Babagana Zulum of Borno State raised concerns over the shrinking farming seasons caused by climate change, warning that unpredictable rainfall patterns were creating uncertainty among farmers.

"Our fertile lands are turning to dust. Irrigation is now a necessity, not a luxury.

"Innovation must not be seen as a privilege of the few; we must empower women and youth who are at the frontline of agriculture," Zulum said

He appealed to development partners to show greater responsiveness to the challenges of water access and rural farming in Africa.

Nigeria inflation rises to 24.23% in March – NBS

By Michael Damilola

The National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday announced Nigeria's headline inflation rate edged up to 24.23 per cent in March 2025 while stating the increase in its consumer price index (CPI) for March.

The new rate indicates an increased move from the 23.18 per cent reported in February.

It also signals a return to levels (24.48 per cent) recorded at the beginning of the year following the CPI rebasing.

"In March 2025, the Headline inflation rate rose to 24.23% relative to the February 2025 headline inflation rate of 23.18%," the bureau said.

"Looking at the movement, the March 2025 headline inflation rate showed an increase of 1.05% compared to the February 2025 Headline inflation rate," the NBS said.

New Daily Prime had reported that the World Bank Group had advised the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to sustain efforts to tackle inflation, as Nigeria's inflation rose to 34.8 per cent in December — up from 33.6 per cent in November.

Senior economist for Nigeria at World Bank Group, Sameer Matta, said this at the launch of the 2025 macroeconomic outlook of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) weekend.

Matta said during a panel session at the event that the CBN must focus on taming inflation.

The economist said, "I think what is critical in terms of inflation is to stay the



course. I think that the central bank needs to continue to be focused on making sure that inflation is under control.

"Part of it is related to the supply side. What can be done to improve the yield on the agriculture side? What can be done to improve the link between rural and urban areas?"

"There is the question of what can be done on the trade policy side. One would be to increase production locally, but that would take time.

"One of the things that can be done on the trade policy side is to think through which sectors could be targeted to allow some tariffs to be adjusted."

Matta said the cost of not doing reforms is 2 per cent of Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) for fuel subsidy and 2 per cent of GDP for foreign exchange (FX) subsidy.

"That's five per cent of GDP, and that is extremely high," he said.

"I would liken these reforms to someone with a hard medical condition who had to make tough choices.

"Let's not forget that at some point in Nigeria, the debt service to revenue was 100 per cent; now, the good news is that we are around 50 per cent, and that is a big decline.

"The cost of reforms comes mainly from high inflation, and in the case of Nigeria specifically, food inflation is impacted by FX and the fact that lots of agricultural products are impacted by the price of petrol.

"That means the impact of these reforms is being felt by the most vulnerable.

"It is very important that the government continues on the reforms on social protection but also accelerates the roll-out of these cash transfers. It is more important to finance them over the future.

"It will be very important to continue to encourage the authorities to scale up and accelerate these interventions, which are time-bound and targeted at those who are really impacted and done through a digital way to avoid any potential misuse in the future."

Rivers: Reps unveils 21-member committee to oversee emergency rule

By Michael Damilola

The House of Representatives has inaugurated a 21-member ad hoc committee to supervise the implementation of the state of emergency declared in Rivers State.

Speaking during the inauguration on Tuesday, Speaker Tajudeen Abbas emphasized that the move reflects the House's commitment to "transparent governance and the rule of law in our country."

President Bola Tinubu declared a state of emergency in Rivers on March 18, citing a political crisis. In the wake of the announcement, Governor Siminalayi Fubara, his deputy Ngozi Odu, and all members of the Rivers State Assembly were suspended for six months.

The president appointed Ibok-Ete Ibas, a retired naval chief, as the sole administrator of the state. Following his appointment, Ibas immediately suspended all political appointees of the Fubara administration.

During the event, Speaker Abbas expressed full support for the emergency rule, noting that similar measures had been taken under previous administrations, such as that of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who suspended sitting governors during his tenure.

"This decisive action was taken out of genuine patriotism and a deep concern for the security and welfare of both the people of Rivers State and our country as a whole," Abbas said.

"The President's extraordinary actions were not taken lightly. They reflect a profound sense of duty and responsibility and a recognition that when democratic institutions falter, decisive action is necessary to protect the interests of the nation. This same sense of duty underpins our proceedings today."

Abbas pointed to Section 11(4) of the 1999 Constitution, which allows the National Assembly to legislate on behalf of a state legislature that is unable to perform its statutory responsibilities.



"It is paramount to note that the current administration in Rivers state is inherently temporary," he stated.

He explained that Ibas' role as administrator is "strictly circumscribed", focused solely on maintaining law and order and ensuring the continuity of governance until democracy is restored.

"The administrator is required to operate with the highest levels of transparency and accountability, reporting directly to the national assembly on all matters that pertain to the peace, order and good government of the State as prescribed by the constitution," Abbas added.

He described the committee's mandate as crucial, tasking members with monitoring federal directives and policies, ensuring compliance with the law, and protecting the public interest, all while facilitating the re-establishment of democratic governance.

"The members of this committee have been selected with meticulous care by the house leadership based on their integrity, experience, and steadfast dedication to the national interest," he said.

The Speaker urged committee members to uphold "the highest standards of professionalism, impartiality, and diligence."

"In fulfilling your mandate, you must conduct your oversight in strict accordance with the constitution and

avoid all forms of partisanship or bias," he cautioned.

"It is imperative that you monitor every aspect of the caretaker administration's conduct, scrutinise public expenditures, and ensure that all federal directives and policies are implemented as intended."

"Moreover, it is expected that you will regularly report your findings to this house in a transparent manner, enabling us to continuously assess the impact of the emergency measures and to take further legislative action if necessary."

Abbas also urged the committee to contribute actively to restoring peace and democracy in Rivers State.

"Beyond mere oversight, your work must actively support efforts to restore lasting peace and re-establish a fully functioning democratic system in Rivers state," he said.

"You are called upon to interface with federal agencies, security institutions, and any reconciliation initiatives that may be established, fostering trust among all stakeholders in the process."

He charged members to approach their duties with integrity and vigilance.

"You must be conscientious, forthright, and astute in the assignment," Abbas added.

Atiku insists on coalition as only path to defeat Tinubu in 2027

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Former Vice President and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain, Atiku Abubakar, has maintained that forming a coalition remains the most viable strategy to unseat President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 general elections.

Atiku's position comes in direct contrast to that of 11 PDP governors, who, at a meeting in Ibadan on Monday, April 14, ruled out any coalition or merger.

Chaired by Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed, the PDP Governors' Forum insisted the party would instead welcome individuals or groups to join the PDP, rather than merge with others.

"Noting the nationwide speculations about possible merger of political parties, groups and/or associations, the Forum resolved that the PDP will not join any coalition or merger,"

Mohammed said, adding that the party remains open to new entrants.

Atiku, however, stressed that the coalition initiative already enjoys grassroots support and transcends party lines.

Through his media aide, Paul Ibe, the former vice president said that the movement is a "pan-Nigerian project" driven by ordinary citizens and aimed at rescuing the country.

"This is not a setback. It calls for dialogue, but it is not a setback at all. The project continues," Atiku affirmed.

The coalition effort, which includes political figures such as former Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi and ex-Kaduna governor Nasir El-Rufai, was publicly announced in March and has since sparked widespread political debate.

PDP leadership crisis lingers

Meanwhile, the governors addressed the lingering controversy over the party's national secretary position. They reaffirmed support for Sunday Ude-Okoye, but noted that, in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling, Deputy National Secretary Setonji Koshedo would serve in an acting capacity until a replacement is nominated from the South-East and ratified by the National Executive Committee (NEC).

The Supreme Court had earlier ruled that Senator Samuel Anyanwu's removal was an internal party matter, effectively nullifying the lower court's decision that recognised Ude-Okoye.

The ruling has added to existing tensions within the PDP following its disappointing performance in the 2023 elections.

No starvation in prisons – NCoS

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Nigerian Correctional Service (NCoS) has strongly refuted recent media reports suggesting that inmates in custodial centres across the country are being poorly fed and dying of hunger, dismissing the claims as “misleading, sensational, and grossly inaccurate.”

Speaking in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Tuesday, April 15, the Service’s Public Relations Officer, Abubakar Umar, stated that the reports did not reflect the true conditions within correctional facilities nationwide.

“The Federal Government allocates funds specifically for the feeding of inmates, and the process is strictly monitored to ensure compliance with established standards,” Umar said, adding that each inmate is entitled to three meals daily in line with operational guidelines.

Umar described as “completely false” the suggestion that inmates are being starved or dying from hunger.

He also questioned the credibility of the reports, pointing out the restricted access and strict security protocols in place at correctional centres.

“I wonder how a journalist could claim to have interviewed inmates inside a custodial facility. These are high-security zones where you can’t just walk in, let alone carry recording



devices, The report defies logic and is clearly a fabrication,” he noted.

He emphasised that the NCoS has robust accountability systems in place to ensure that all resources allocated for inmate welfare are used appropriately, and warned that any staff found negligent would face disciplinary action.

“We have zero tolerance for mismanagement. Any officer found wanting is held accountable in accordance with the law,” he said.

While acknowledging the economic challenges currently facing the country, Umar maintained that these have not affected the feeding arrangements for inmates.

“When this government came in, they increased the allocation for inmate feeding by 50 per cent. That was a major step toward improving

welfare,” he added, praising President Bola Tinubu’s administration for its increased support.

Umar also called on the media and civil society groups to verify facts before publication, stressing the importance of responsible journalism.

“We operate transparently and welcome constructive engagement. Journalism thrives on accuracy and responsibility,” he said.

The NCoS reaffirmed its commitment to upholding humane standards and rehabilitative efforts in line with international best practices.

“Our mandate goes beyond incarceration; it includes reforming and rehabilitating inmates so that they can return to society as better individuals,” Umar concluded.

Lagos deputy gov decries 'excessive' electricity bill of N29m he pays monthly

By Michael Damilola

The Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, has raised alarm over excessive estimated billing by electricity distribution companies, revealing that Eko Electricity Distribution Company (Eko Disco) billed his residence at the State House N29 million for electricity in April.

Speaking during a Roundtable Meeting and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Lagos State Government and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Hamzat shared his personal experience to highlight the urgency of expanding access to affordable and reliable electricity across Lagos.

"Last month, in my house, the State House, the bill was N2.7 million. This month, the Eko Disco sent us a bill of N29 million," he said.

"It's crazy. So, we have actually procured a meter. I bought a meter to say, look, don't give me a crazy bill. I bought the meter, but to convert it, what happened?" he added.

Hamzat further recounted another troubling case in Surulere, where a resident received a bill that surpassed their annual rent.

"In some areas in Lagos — I'm sure a lot of you know Lagos — there's a place called Oke Aguda in Surulere.

The people came to me, and I was asking them to calm down. The rent in a year is about N2 million, but EKEDC gave him a fee of N2.8 million in electricity.

Those are the challenges that we have. So, our people are suffering because of these meter bills," he said.

The deputy governor emphasized the significance of the MoU with REA, which aims to extend electricity projects to rural and underserved communities in Lagos, including Epe, Badagry, Ojo, and Amuwo-Odofin.

"What we are doing today looks very small. When the commissioner said we'll be



signing these, we'll come tomorrow, I said why are you keeping us for three days? But I understand what he's trying to do. It's important. This is the need of the people," Hamzat remarked.

The rural electrification initiative will be jointly funded by the Federal Government, Lagos State Government, and private sector partners in a 60:30:10 ratio, respectively.

Speaking at the event, REA Managing Director, Abba Aliyu, revealed that over N200 billion had been spent nationwide on importing photovoltaic (PV) panels. He said the agency is working to reverse this trend by domesticating the production of renewable energy equipment.

"While there is a need for that importation, one of the key things our agency is striving for is domesticating the manufacturing of this renewable equipment. Your Excellency, Lagos, being the centre of excellence, is going to lead a total war in that domestication," Aliyu said.

He disclosed that a 100-megawatt PV panel manufacturing plant has already begun operations in Lagos, building on the progress of an earlier 10-megawatt facility in Ikotun, which has since been expanded.

Aliyu also revealed plans to enter a joint

development agreement with Green World, a lithium battery assembly company, representing a \$150 million investment in the state.

Looking ahead, REA is exploring innovative solutions tailored to Lagos's unique urban challenges.

"We want to seek the approval of Lagos State to pioneer the first floating solar power plant in Lagos. With the unique challenge of limited land availability in Lagos State, we want to deploy an 80-megawatt plant at the University of Lagos.

But we want to seek the approval of the state to give us that approval to make it a floating solar panel, which will be the first of its kind in Nigeria. And we hope that that approval will be granted to us," he said.

He also confirmed that Lagos is the first and only state currently qualified to benefit from a rooftop solar program for public institutions.

REA has already identified several target communities across the state for intervention as it works to expand energy access and reduce dependence on traditional electricity sources.

Okpebholo hosts APC leaders, vows more infrastructure

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to accelerating infrastructural development across the state, following the recent affirmation of his election victory by the tribunal.

Speaking at a victory dinner yesterday night at the New Festival Hall, Government House, Benin City, Okpebholo expressed gratitude to party leaders, supporters, and the electorate for their steadfastness during the election and legal battle that followed.

The dinner was organised to celebrate the tribunal's ruling, which upheld his election as governor in the September 21, 2024 polls.

"With this affirmation, Edo people will witness more positive developments," the governor said.

"My duty is simple — to work for the Edo people and secure our land. Edo is marching forward, and we will continue to uplift the well-being of our people."

Governor Okpebholo also lauded President Bola Tinubu for his



loyalty to the party, describing him as a "true party man" who resisted pressure to engage in anti-party actions.

"The President stood by us," he said. "I appreciate his support and commitment."

Addressing leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the governor pledged that their contributions would not be forgotten and assured them of his administration's dedication to inclusive development and party unity.

Also present at the dinner was Adams Oshiomhole, who represents Edo North and is a former governor of the state.

He praised the tribunal's verdict,

calling it a divine confirmation of the will of the people.

"When non-believers went to court to challenge God's proclamation, the court reaffirmed the decision of the Edo people," Oshiomhole said.

"God has chosen you, a man with few words, to lead Edo on a path of transformation."

Chairman of the Edo State APC, Jaret Tenebe, described the dinner as a celebration of unity and victory, stating that Okpebholo had already begun fulfilling his campaign promises.

"This is our first major gathering since taking over governance, and it's worth celebrating," he said. "The governor is already delivering."

Fubara condemns police crackdown on protesters

By Michael Damilola

Suspended Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, has criticized the Nigeria Police over what he described as a high-handed crackdown on peaceful demonstrators across parts of the state. His remarks come amid mounting political unrest following the declaration of a state of emergency in the oil-rich South-South region.

Two separate protests on Monday marked the unrest. In Port Harcourt City Local Government Area, women under the banner of Rivers Women for Peace and Good Governance rallied in support of the emergency rule, while a different group in Ahoada East Local Government Area staged a protest calling for Fubara's reinstatement.

The Port Harcourt protest, led by former Commissioner for Social Welfare, Mrs. Inime Aguma, began early in the morning at Garrison Junction and moved along Aba Road to Isaac Park. Clad mostly in white, the women displayed placards with messages like "Emergency rule is Constitutional," "Investigate Fubara's bloated contracts award," and "Rivers women need peace in our state."

Speaking to journalists, Mrs. Aguma emphasized their support for the emergency rule and commended President Bola Tinubu for the decision.

"Gathered here are Rivers women who need peace in Rivers State. We are gathered here because of the anomalies in our system," Aguma said.

"We also thank the President for declaring a state of emergency in Rivers State. We are grateful and pleased with it and living well with it."

Aguma argued that the suspension of democratic structures, including the long-standing paralysis of the House of Assembly, necessitated federal



intervention.

"The House of Assembly was burnt down because of rumours of impeachment and while that was going on, the assembly complex was demolished... that is an aberration," she stated.

"Let us not be emotional and sentimental about facts. We have not had a government in Rivers State."

In contrast, the protest in Ahoada East, which included over 200 women from Elleye and Engine communities, ended in chaos. The women, advocating for Fubara's reinstatement and rejecting the sole administrator, were dispersed with teargas by security operatives.

The protesters held placards reading "Ibas leave us alone" and "Our democracy is threatened." Despite attempts by security forces to stop them, they persisted until tear gas was fired, leading to panic and distress.

One woman, emotionally addressing the crowd, said:

"We are here to tell President Bola Tinubu that since he declared a state of emergency in Rivers State, it has not been easy. We, the women, are hungry; we are suffering and dying.

"Sim is our hope. We say bring back our Governor. We love him. We say no to emergency rule in Rivers State. We voted for Sim, not sole administrator. We don't want a caretaker."

Reacting to the events, Jerry Omatsogunwa, Special Adviser on Electronic Media to Governor Fubara, condemned the unequal treatment of the two protests.

"First and foremost, I want to thank the women in Ahoada for standing and fighting for democracy. And it is like the police have two standards for the same activity right now," Omatsogunwa stated.

"You can see old women who came out in Ahoada... the police teargassed them to the extent that one of them, an old woman, fainted.

"While the ones in Port Harcourt here... were guarded, protected and directed by the police."

He hailed the Ahoada women as "heroes of democracy" while criticizing the pro-emergency protesters in Port Harcourt.

"Those women who protested in Port Harcourt, I think they don't mean well for the state... I say kudos [to the Ahoada protesters]. They are the heroes of democracy."

US tariff war may wipe out Nigeria's N2trn annual agric exports – MAN warns

By Alade Adisa

The Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) in a statement on Tuesday warned that the imposition of tariff hike by the United States on Nigerian products threatens the execution of the country's 2025 budget; and the achievement of the potential benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

In the statement by the Director General of MAN, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, the groups said the tariff hike would also hinder the competitiveness of Nigerian products in the US market and could potentially wipe out up to N2 trillion of the country's agricultural exports.

His words: "The imposition of a 14 percent tariff on Nigerian exports significantly undermines the competitiveness of locally manufactured goods in the U.S. market.

"MAN members who are exporters in agro-processing, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, basic metal, iron & steel, non-metallic mineral products and other light industrial manufacturing rely heavily on the U.S. for market access. With increased costs for American buyers due to the tariffs, demand for Nigerian products is expected to decline.

"For instance, processed agricultural goods such as cocoa derivatives, sesame seeds, and ginger, which have gained modest penetration in U.S. markets, are likely to witness a drop in



export volume.

Ajayi-Kadir cited data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), which stated that agricultural exports accounted for over N4.42 trillion in 2024, with the U.S. being one of the top destinations.

"The tariff could potentially wipe out N1 to N2 trillion of that figure annually," he added.

In addition to revenue losses, MAN noted that the new tariffs pose a significant disincentive to firms investing in value-added manufacturing.

"Over the past decade, manufacturers have made concerted and strategic efforts to support the country's transition from exporting raw commodities to semi-processed and finished goods.



"However, higher market-entry costs because of higher tariff on Nigerian products reduce the profitability of such investments, making it more attractive for firms to revert to exporting raw materials.

"This is counterproductive to Nigeria's industrialisation agenda and compromises the long-term goal of achieving export diversification under platforms such as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

"MAN is deeply concerned about both the substance and the implications of the new U.S. tariff policy. Our foremost concern lies in the asymmetry of the trade action which undermines the spirit of international cooperation and disregards the developmental needs of emerging economies," the MAN DG stated.

After MMM, others, Nigerians fall again for crashed Cbex

By Helen Okechukwu

Following the fall of MMM in December 2016 after it was introduced in Nigeria in 2015, among other Ponzi schemes, Nigerians have again fallen for another allegedly fraudulent scheme known as Cbex, a digital trading asset platform.

Cbex, a digital trading asset platform that promised investors a 100 percent 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 N1.3 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.

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.

“By virtue of 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.



The SEC, while warning Ponzi scheme patrons, underscored that under the newly enacted legislation, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is now empowered to regulate a broader scope of market activities, as Section 3(3)(b) of the Act explicitly mandates the Commission to register and regulate securities exchanges, commodity exchanges, virtual and digital asset exchanges, and other market venues.

Meanwhile, Dr. Emomotimi Agama, the Director General of the Commission, reemphasized the commitment of the SEC, highlighting it as a key step to position Nigeria's capital market to be more inclusive, robust, and in tune with global best practices.

He stated, “The ISA 2025 has given the Commission the legal backing to provide clarity, ensure investor protection, and enhance market confidence, especially in new and previously unregulated segments such as digital asset exchanges and online foreign exchange platforms.”

Netizens React

The recent development has sparked mixed reactions among netizens as they took to various social platforms, lamenting the

collapsed scheme, while others recalled Nigeria's history with multiple scams, urging people to learn and avoid being victims of fraudsters in the future.

While listing other Ponzi schemes, Prestigious, an X user, recalled Nigerians' involvement in previous scams. The X user said, “Nigerians never Learn. This is the list of Ponzi schemes that have made away with Nigerians hard-earned money yet they still fall mugu... How many of them duped you?”

Oraro, another user, noted, “Omg! Always Do Your Own Research(DYOR) Before investing in anything like this. Sadly it's mostly those newbies who always fall victims.”

Kieran Ironclad, another netizen, reacted, “Losing money to CBex after all other Ponzi schemes of the past is just a microcosm of the greed of Nigerians. Always looking for the easiest way out.”

Flying Scholar noted, “Hian ! People are always quiet when they're benefiting from these schemes, but the moment they lose their money, the news spreads like wildfire. I really hope Nigerians learn from this one. Just imagine the huge sums of money stolen from Nigerians—it's just too sad.”

Plateau killings: How my sister was killed – Survivor narrates

By Friday Omosola

Eric Danlami, a survivor of Sunday night's attack in the Zike hamlet, Kwall District, Irigwe Chiefdom of Bassa Local Government Area, Plateau State, has narrated how his sister was killed.

Danlami revealed that the attackers invaded the hamlet at midnight while they were fast asleep.

He said the sound of gunfire and the ensuing pandemonium woke them.

He further disclosed how his elder brother, along with some of his children, was slaughtered in his apartment.

Narrating his experience, Danlami noted, "We had retired to bed in the night without any form of suspicion of any kind of problems. At the time we heard the sporadic gunshots and movement of the people, we found a place to hide in one of the rooms, not knowing that the attackers had already entered our elder brother's apartment at the boy's quarter and slaughtered them, a family of five.

"His wife and first son survived and are currently in the hospital, but my sister, whom we were hiding together in a room, was afraid that they would enter the house. As she left the place we were hiding to go to another hiding place, she was sighted. They shot at her and she didn't survive it."

Governor pledges support

Meanwhile, the state governor, Caleb Mutfwang, during his visit to the affected areas and victims, reassured them of his administration's unwavering support during these difficult times.

Mutfwang, who visited and commiserated with the grieving community on Tuesday, stated that his administration is re-evaluating and reengineering the state's security architecture.



He expressed confidence that these measures would help prevent further attacks and ensure lasting peace and stability across the state.

Accompanied by the State's Heads of Security agencies, the governor said, "The entire nation is grieving with you, and so is the international community. I have wept since yesterday because we believed that all necessary measures were in place to prevent a recurrence of such tragedies."

The governor described the incident as a painful setback for the state, particularly in light of its recent strides towards sustaining peace.

He emphasised that no one has the right to take the law into their own hands.

"Despite the provocation, we must not allow ourselves to be dragged into the abyss of lawlessness," he warned.

Meanwhile, the Brra Nggwe Irigwe (Paramount Ruler of the Irigwe Nation), Ronku Aka, expressed appreciation to Mutfwang for his prompt response and compassion.

He urged security agencies to intensify their efforts in safeguarding rural communities and commended the Governor's developmental initiatives, especially the construction of roads in the region.

Additionally, the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice.

He condemned the violence and said it has a devastating impact on local farmers.

He added that in response, police have deployed more security personnel and resources to the affected areas and are working closely with other security agencies.

Egbetokun added that Intelligence gathering efforts have also been intensified to identify and bring the masterminds behind these attacks to justice.

"We will work tirelessly until these issues are resolved. I assure you that these criminal elements will soon be outnumbered. I appeal to the people of Plateau to remain calm and peaceful."

Meanwhile, at a press conference on Tuesday, Amb. Nanpon Sheni, the President of the Plateau Initiative for the Development and Advancement of the Natives (PIDAN)—the umbrella body representing the 56 indigenous groups from Plateau State—called for justice for the victims. He demanded the swift arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators.

Uyo man dies by suicide after N2.5M fraud

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Grief and shock have gripped the residents of Akpakoruk Street, Atan Ofot, in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, following the tragic suicide of a young man, Utibe Eteffia, reportedly defrauded by internet fraudsters.

Eteffia, said to be in his early 30s and a native of Ini Local Government Area, allegedly took his own life after losing N2.5 million to suspected Yahoo Boys. He was the operator of a Point of Sale (PoS) business situated opposite the State Council Secretariat of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), and was well known in the community.

According to multiple sources, Eteffia ingested a poisonous substance after days of emotional turmoil and withdrawal. Disturbing social media posts, including one featuring a lit candle and the caption “Do you believe in reincarnation?”, hinted at his declining mental state. He also implored his followers to “be their brother’s keeper.”

Neighbourhood sources, including one Eka Baby, confirmed the deceased had become visibly withdrawn in the days leading up to his death. Another resident, Aniefiok Isang, recalled seeing him cry frequently and engage in long, late-night phone calls, sometimes until 4:00 a.m.

“A week before his death, he came to my house asking if I had rat poison,” Isang said. “He claimed it was to get rid of rodents, but something didn’t feel right.”



Ubong Idem, another local, confirmed that Eteffia eventually purchased a poisonous substance from a nearby chemist before traveling to his village in Ini LGA, where he ended his life.

Raised by an aunt after losing both parents at a young age, Eteffia was described as a resilient young man who fought hard to build a life. Family and friends had contributed financially to help him start his PoS business. However, it was gathered that he became entangled in an online cyber deal after being introduced to a cult-like Yahoo-Plus operation, which ultimately duped him and destabilized his mental health.

“He became disoriented. The whole situation warped his thinking. He started talking about the afterlife and reincarnation,” a close family source revealed.

On the day of the incident, Eteffia reportedly asked his uncle for a loan. When the uncle replied he only had N10,000, Utibe murmured, “How much can N10,000 do?” Later that

evening, he went to a local church and returned home quietly. After everyone had retired to bed, he consumed the poison.

His lifeless body was discovered the next morning on the veranda of the family home, sending shockwaves through the community.

Currently, the family has put burial arrangements on hold, demanding clarity on the full circumstances surrounding his death. “We will not bury him now until we know why he took the difficult decision to end his life,” a family member stated.

The tragic loss has reignited concerns around cyber fraud, mental health, and the vulnerability of young Nigerians trying to navigate harsh economic realities. Community leaders are calling for increased mental health awareness and stronger safeguards against cybercrime.

Authorities have yet to issue an official statement on the incident.

Former LG Administrator, three others killed in Zamfara

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Tragedy struck Morai town in Talata Mafara Local Government Area of Zamfara State on Monday night, April 14, 2025, as armed bandits launched a deadly attack that claimed the lives of at least four residents, including a former local government sole administrator, Saminu Morai. Several other residents were reportedly abducted during the raid.

According to community sources, the assailants stormed the town late in the night, shooting sporadically and causing widespread panic. The coordinated assault, described by locals as “brutal and shocking,” left the town in a state of chaos.

“Bandits attacked Morai town in Talata Mafara, killed the former local government sole administrator and three others. Many people were kidnapped,” a resident told SaharaReporters under anonymity, citing fears for personal safety.

The victims were laid to rest on Tuesday morning in accordance with Islamic rites. The Emir of Talata Mafara and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of the area were both present at the funeral, signifying the gravity of the incident.

As of the time of filing this report, the Zamfara State Police Command has not issued an official statement on the attack. The exact number of

kidnapped victims and the identity or strength of the armed group involved remain unknown.

Zamfara State has been plagued by persistent violence, with rural communities frequently targeted by criminal gangs referred to as bandits. These groups engage in killings, mass kidnappings, and looting, often with limited intervention from security forces.

Monday night’s attack is the latest in a series of violent incidents that underscore the deteriorating security situation in Zamfara. Residents continue to live in fear as authorities grapple with the growing menace of armed insurgency in Nigeria’s northwest.

Study reveals excessive salt in food may increase risk of depression, anxiety by 40%

By Helen Okechukwu

A study conducted by China's Xinjiang Medical University has revealed that individuals who frequently consume salt are by 40% more likely to develop anxiety and depression.

In contrast, those who occasionally add salt to their food have a lower risk—between 5% to 8%.

The study, which examined data from more than half a million British adults, also found that excessive salt intake could accelerate biological aging, potentially leading to mental health issues.

Read Also: Daily egg consumption



increase diabetes risk, study finds

One theory proposed by the researchers is that high salt consumption may disrupt

mood-related hormones such as serotonin and dopamine, contributing to emotional instability.

The research institute described their work as “the first large-scale prospective cohort study with the longest follow-up duration to highlight the relationship between the frequency of adding salt to foods and the onset of depression and anxiety.”

According to data published in the Journal of Affective Disorders, out of 439,412 Britons surveyed, 9,516 individuals were diagnosed with depression and 11,796 with anxiety.

Lassa fever: 127 death record in Nigeria, Taraba, Ondo takes lead

By Helen Okechukwu

Amid the ongoing fight against Lassa fever in the country, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (NCDC) has revealed that the death toll has risen to 127, with Taraba and Ondo States recording the highest numbers.

The health organization noted that between January and April 6, 2025, approximately 674 cases were confirmed out of 4,025 suspected cases across 18 states and 93 local government areas.

According to the Nigerian health organization on Tuesday, the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) was recorded at 18.8 per cent.

However, there has been a decline in the number of suspected cases compared to last year, with no health worker contracting the disease.

The states with reported deaths include Taraba (31), Ondo (26), Bauchi (12), Edo (17), Ebonyi (11), Kogi (4), and Plateau (5).

Others are Gombe (7), Benue (4), Nasarawa (4), Kaduna (2), Enugu (1),



Delta (1), Cross River (1), and Ogun (1).

Lassa fever, also known as Lassa hemorrhagic fever, is caused by the Lassa virus and spread primarily by rodents, especially the African rat.

The document read, “In week 14, the number of new confirmed cases increased from 14 in epi week 13, of 2025 to 15. These were reported in Ondo, Bauchi, Edo, Taraba, Ebonyi, and Gombe States.

Cumulatively in week 14, 2025, 127 deaths have been reported with a CFR of 18.8 per cent, which is higher than the CFR for the same period in 2024 (18.5 per cent).

“In total for 2025, 18 States have recorded at least one confirmed case across 93 LGAs. 71 per cent of all confirmed Lassa fever cases were reported from these three states (Ondo, Bauchi and Edo) while 28 per cent were reported from 15 states with confirmed Lassa fever cases. Of the 71 per cent confirmed cases, Ondo reported 30 per cent, Bauchi 25 per cent, and Edo 16 per cent.

“The predominant age group affected is 21-30 years (Range: 1 to 94 years, Median Age: 30 years). The male-to-female ratio for confirmed cases is 1:0.8.”

Symptoms include fever, weakness, headaches, vomiting, and muscle pains.

However, the National Lassa Fever Multi-Partner group, including the multi-sectoral Incident Management System, has been activated to coordinate response activities at all levels.

Peter of P-Square testifies against brother, Jude in N1.38bn fraud case

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The long-running feud in the Okoye family, members of the famous Nigerian music group P-Square, has reached the courtroom.

Peter Okoye has taken legal action against his elder brother and former manager, Jude Okoye, accusing him of fraud. Justice A. Owoeye is hearing the matter at the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Through his lawyer, Afolabi I., Peter filed a petition to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), alleging that Jude, alongside his company Northside Music Limited, mismanaged funds totaling ₦1.38 billion.

EFCC charges Jude over money laundering

The EFCC confirmed that Jude Okoye is now standing trial on a seven-count charge. These charges relate to money laundering and fraud. Dele Oyewale, the agency's head of media and publicity, revealed that one of the charges involves the acquisition of a property worth ₦850 million in Parkview Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos. The EFCC claims the funds used were proceeds from illegal activities.

Jude has denied all allegations and pleaded not guilty when he was formally arraigned on February 26, 2025.

Peter tells his side of the story

In his testimony, Peter provided a timeline of P-Square's journey, starting from 1997. He mentioned that the group separated in 2017 and later reunited in November 2021. Over the years, the group worked with various managers, including Chioma Ugochi during their school days and Bayo Odusami, who managed them for five years.



Eventually, Jude took over as their manager through Northside Entertainment Limited. Peter said issues started when Jude became the sole signatory to all their bank accounts, including those at Ecobank, Zenith Bank, and FCMB. He claimed that he had no access to the accounts, which created tension.

Legal advice sparked financial questions

Peter said it wasn't until their former lawyer, Festus Keyamo (now Minister of Aviation), advised them to create a clear sharing formula that he realized the extent of the financial problems.

He also mentioned a disagreement that arose during the construction of their houses in Ikoyi. According to Peter, the group's company, Northside Entertainment, suddenly stopped financing his house project without explanation. When he asked Jude and Paul (his twin brother), he was told, "As you leave P-Square, you leave the money."

This response led Peter to seek legal advice again.

Discovery of a new company raises red flags

Peter later discovered another company, Northside Music Limited, which appeared to be a replica of their original business. He said he only found out about it in 2022 when buyers showed interest in purchasing their music catalogue. These buyers requested financial records, but Peter couldn't provide them due to lack of access.

When he asked Jude for backend access to the music sales and revenue reports, Jude refused. Peter said he also turned to Paul for help, but Paul brushed it off, saying, "You know Jude handles all that."

Music royalties and backend tampering

Eventually, Peter discovered that the aggregators—companies that track music streams and collect royalties—were also working with both his and Paul's solo music projects. He asked Paul to allow him to hand over P-Square's music catalogue to a new distributor, Mad Solutions. Within three months, Peter received over \$22,000 in royalties.

'My song was the President's ringtone', Davido claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeats superstar Davido has revealed a surprising and little-known detail about his 2012 breakthrough single, Dami Duro, which launched his career.

According to him, the 2012 hit was so widely loved that it reportedly became the ringtone of Nigeria's then-president, Goodluck Jonathan.

In a recent interview with Power 105.1 FM in the United States, Davido — born David Adeleke — spoke about how the success of Dami Duro changed the course of his life. More importantly, it helped mend his strained relationship with his father, who had been firmly against his music career.

A father's disapproval

Before the success of Dami Duro, Davido's father, Dr. Deji Adeleke, made every effort to stop him from performing. He believed music wasn't a worthy career choice for his son.

"My dad was using the police and army to shut down my shows," Davido said. "He would have show promoters arrested. Sometimes, even the artists I worked with got into trouble."

The opposition was intense. At the time, Davido felt he had no choice but to fight for his dream in silence, despite the growing tension at home.

The turning point: Dami duro

Then came Dami Duro. The single exploded across Nigeria. It played everywhere — on the radio, at parties, and in the streets. It became more than just a song; it became a cultural moment.

According to Davido, the track even reached the highest office in the land.



"Someone told me it was the President's ringtone," he said with a smile. "That was the moment people started advising my dad to let me be. They told him, 'This boy is going places.'"

From critic to supporter

Faced with public praise for his son and the song's unstoppable success, Dr. Adeleke began to soften. He stopped sending people to interfere with Davido's shows. Soon after, he began supporting his son's career.

Davido recalled how they worked things out. "I told him I'd go back to school. I said, 'Look, I didn't have to run away. I should've just talked to you.' But I was scared. He was strict. At that time, I was just a kid."

A stronger bond today

Today, things couldn't be more different. Davido and his father are not just on good terms — they are close.

"We're best friends now," he said. "He

comes to all my shows. He's very involved in my business. We talk about everything."

Their relationship is now built on trust, understanding, and shared goals. What started as a point of conflict has turned into a bond of support and pride.

Music, family, and a bit of luck

Davido's journey with Dami Duro is more than a success story. It's about how music can bridge gaps, heal wounds, and bring people together. From being chased off stages to being backed by his father, Davido's rise shows the power of belief, passion, and persistence.

Today, he stands tall as one of Africa's biggest stars. And behind him is a father who once doubted him — now cheering the loudest.

And to think, it all started with a song that may have once played from the phone of a president.

Relief for Portable as charges by Saheed Osupa withdrawn

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Fuji star Osupa has officially withdrawn his legal case against controversial street-hop singer Portable after intervention from industry stakeholders.

The decision followed interventions from major stakeholders in the music industry and respected figures in society. Osupa's lawyer, Ahmed Opalekunde, confirmed to The PUNCH on Tuesday that a formal notice to withdraw the charges had been submitted to Upper Area Court 1 of the High Court in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Police arrest and court appearance

On Monday, the Kwara State Police Command arraigned Portable in court after Osupa filed a detailed petition. In the complaint, Osupa accused Portable of several offences, including:

Criminal defamation

Criminal intimidation

Cyberstalking

Inciting public disturbance

These alleged offences were in violation of the Penal Code, the Cybercrimes Act of 2015, and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Law of 2020.

After his appearance in court, Portable was granted bail. Chief Magistrate Sunday Adeniyi set bail at ₦1 million with two sureties—one of whom must be a chairman from the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), and the other a property owner within Ilorin's Government Reserved Area (GRA).

Allegations rooted in Instagram video

The controversy began after a live video Portable posted on Instagram on March 19, 2025. In the clip, Portable allegedly made a series of insulting remarks directed at Osupa.

He reportedly said:



"This man dey try to bring down my shine! He be like person wey dey chop snail with shell—him no get sense. Osupa na tortoise. When Apple Music and Spotify wan drop money for me, na him remove my song from platform make I no see money."

Osupa described these statements as defamatory, harmful, and inciting. He claimed that the public nature of the video caused serious damage to his reputation and could mislead fans and business associates.

False claims about music removal

One major point in Osupa's petition was the claim that Portable accused him of removing his songs from platforms like Apple Music and Spotify. According to Osupa, this accusation was false and designed to harm his reputation and business interests.

He stated that such claims not only hurt his image but also affected potential earnings from collaborations and music streaming.

Withdrawal for peaceful resolution

Despite the seriousness of the charges, Osupa opted to settle the matter outside of court. His lawyer, in the withdrawal letter, said the move came after respected voices

in the entertainment industry pleaded with Osupa to consider peace.

The letter read:

"It's our client's instruction that stakeholders in the music industry and other respected individuals in society have intervened and appealed for a peaceful resolution. As such, we hereby apply to withdraw the case against the defendant and terminate same accordingly."

Warning to Portable

Even though Osupa dropped the case, he issued a stern warning to Portable through the same letter. He urged the court to caution the singer against repeating such behaviour.

"Further, sir, we want to pray the court to admonish and warn the defendant to desist from any further publications, utterances, or acts aiming at disparaging the person and businesses of the nominal complainant."

A lesson for the music industry

Laide Bakare promises payback over Eniola Badmus' harsh words

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actress Laide Bakare has publicly vowed to retaliate against her fellow Nollywood star, Eniola Badmus, after being called an “animal” in a private message.

The heated exchange between the two popular actresses has sparked a wave of reactions from fans and industry insiders.

Drama unfolds during movie premiere
The tension began following the star-studded premiere of *Owanbe Thieves*, a film produced by Eniola Ajao, held on Sunday in Lagos. Both Bakare and Badmus were in attendance, and according to witnesses, the atmosphere between them was noticeably tense. Although the conflict didn't erupt fully at the event, things quickly took a turn online.

Instagram post exposes private insult

On Monday, Bakare posted a screenshot of a private message she received from Badmus. In the message, Badmus wrote, “Don't bring your terrible animalistic behaviour around me. Stay farrrrrrrr.” The harsh words drew instant attention and triggered a fiery response.

Bakare fires back with accusations

In her Instagram caption, Bakare did not hold back. She accused Badmus of being ungrateful and disrespectful, claiming she had played a key role in helping her rise in the industry. According to Bakare, she supported Badmus at a time when others wouldn't give her a chance.

“I gave you your first major role in life,” Bakare wrote. “Back then, no one wanted to associate with you because of your looks and weight. I spent my hard-earned money to support you. And this is how you repay me? By calling me an animal?”



She continued, “Almighty God will judge you. You've started something you cannot finish. I promise—you must collect.”

Mixed reactions from fans and followers

The post went viral within hours, prompting thousands of comments and shares. Fans were divided. While some supported Bakare for standing up for herself, others felt the issue should have been handled privately.

“I can't believe this is happening,” one user wrote. “They were once friends. How did it come to this?” Another added, “If someone called me an animal, I'd fight back too.”

Silence from Eniola Badmus

As of now, Eniola Badmus has not responded publicly to the accusations or addressed the leaked message. Her silence has only fueled curiosity, with fans closely watching her social media pages for a possible reply.

Tensions in Nollywood come to light

This public dispute has pulled back the curtain on some of the rivalries that exist behind the scenes in Nollywood. While the industry often projects unity and glamour, moments like these reveal a more complicated reality.

Though actors often support one another on social media and in interviews, personal grievances can quickly rise to the surface—and explode in public view.

Will there be peace?

At this point, it's unclear how the feud will end. Some fans and colleagues are calling for both women to settle their differences quietly and move on. However, Bakare's strong words suggest that the issue may not be resolved anytime soon.

For now, this remains one of the most talked-about celebrity clashes in recent Nollywood history. Whether it leads to reconciliation or escalates further, one thing is clear—both stars have the public's full attention.

Trump says he's prepping for 'war' with China as he angers Xi Jinping

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

President Donald Trump has issued an ominous new justification for his tariff hikes, saying more products need to be made in the United States so it is prepared in case of 'war.'

Trump has sparked fears of a recession with his crackdown on foreign imports which is part of a campaign to ramp up domestic manufacturing and have more goods made in America.

In his latest explanation of the tariff policy he suggested it was necessary to deal with any future war.

Trump made the comments on Air Force One while talking about possible pharmaceutical tariffs.

He said: 'We're going to have our drugs made in the United States so that in case of war, in case of whatever, we're not relying on China and various other countries, which is not a good idea.'

As Trump left open the possibility of more tariffs to come, Chinese President Xi Jinping had his own words of warning as he gave a statement in Vietnam during a tour of Southeast Asia tour.

'There are no winners in a trade war, or a tariff war,' Xi wrote in an editorial jointly published in Vietnamese and Chinese official media.

'Our two countries should resolutely safeguard the multilateral trading system, stable global industrial and supply chains, and open and cooperative international environment.'

He added: 'Trade war and tariff war will produce no winner, and protectionism will lead nowhere.'

Xi is making the trip to shore up alliances and find solutions for the trade war with Trump. After Vietnam, the Chinese president is expected to go to Malaysia and then Cambodia.

China has been a top target for the White



House.

Trump put a 90-day pause on many of his on-again, off-again reciprocal tariffs but left in place a 145 per cent import tax on goods from China.

In response, Beijing suspended exports of certain rare earth minerals and magnets that are crucial for the world's car, semiconductor and aerospace industries.

The move could impact American factories across the country, particularly in the auto industry. Many of the minerals make up components of a vehicle's motor.

Trump's top economic adviser said China's action was 'concerning.'

'They're concerning. And we're thinking about all the options right now,' Kevin Hassett said outside of the White House.

'Rare earths are a part of lots of the economy. It's a little bit of the value add to the US economy, but a crucial part of the value added.'

He said the administration was helping small businesses that relied on supplies out of China find alternative resources.

The officials understand 'their concerns and

are thinking about how best to address them, including by finding other suppliers that are not on the current list that China is on,' he said.

Until 2023, China produced 99 per cent of the world's supply of heavy rare earth metals.

China also produces 90 percent of the world's nearly 200,000 tons a year of rare earth magnets, which are far more powerful than conventional iron magnets.

'The White House is concerned about China. Period,' Hassett noted.

And there may be more tariffs to come.

Trump said on Sunday that semiconductor tariffs will 'take place in the very near future,' but expressed some 'flexibility' regarding tariffs on products such as iPhones and tablets.

'The tariffs will be in place in the not-too-distant future,' he said.

The U.S. markets opened slightly higher Monday off the news that smartphones, computers, memory chips and several other categories of products will be exempt from tariffs.

Trump, however, warned they might still be targeted although he said he will be 'flexible' on the matter.

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 Obob
Longest Drive: Myke Edeke
Winner, Division 1: Myke Edeke (37 points)
Runner-Up, Division 1: Alex Obob (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 Obob (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.

Britain secures fuel shipment to keep its last steel blast furnaces alight

By **Fatimah Idera**



Britain said on Tuesday it could keep the country's last steel blast furnaces burning for at least the next few weeks after securing a delivery of fuel – the latest step in a last-gasp government scramble to save domestic virgin steel production.

The government had been racing to secure enough coking coal and iron ore to keep the loss-making furnaces running after passing emergency laws on Saturday to take operational control of the site in northeastern England from Chinese owners Jingye Group.

The furnaces need to be constantly fuelled, can not easily be restarted if closed down, and are losing 700,000 pounds (\$922,950.00) per day.

Without them, Britain would be reliant on imports for its rail, construction, and automotive industries at a time of trade wars and

geopolitical instability.

The minister of business, Jonathan Reynolds, said British industries at the heart of the government's plans to revive the nation's ageing infrastructure relied on domestic steel.

Reynolds will travel to the east coast port of Immingham to watch the fuel be loaded for transit after the government said it has settled the payment for the shipment, which originally arrived from the United States and had been stored at the docks.

A separate ship from Australia carrying coking coal and iron ore was also bound for Britain after the resolution of a legal dispute and payment from the government.

Meanwhile, President Donald Trump has issued an ominous new justification for his tariff hikes, saying

more products need to be made in the United States so it is prepared in case of 'war.'

Trump has sparked fears of a recession with his crackdown on foreign imports which is part of a campaign to ramp up domestic manufacturing and have more goods made in America.

In his latest explanation of the tariff policy he suggested it was necessary to deal with any future war.

Trump made the comments on Air Force One while talking about possible pharmaceutical tariffs.

He said: 'We're going to have our drugs made in the United States so that in case of war, in case of whatever, we're not relying on China and various other countries, which is not a good idea.'

China researchers to access half a million UK GP's records

By Fatimah Idera

Despite Western intelligence agencies' fears about the authoritarian regime amassing health data, researchers from China are to be allowed access to half a million United Kingdom General Practitioners (GP) records.

Preparations are under way to transfer the records to UK Biobank, a research hub that holds detailed medical information donated by 500,000 volunteers.

One of the world's largest troves of health data, the facility makes its information available to universities, scientific institutes, and private companies. A Guardian analysis shows one in five successful applications for access come from China.

For the past year, health officials had been assessing whether extra safeguards were needed for patient records when added to the genomes, tissue samples, and questionnaire responses held by UK Biobank. Personal details such as names and dates of birth are stripped from UK Biobank data before it is shared, but experts say that in some cases, individuals can still be identified.

MI5, the UK Security Service, has warned that Chinese organisations and individuals granted access to UK data can be ordered by Chinese intelligence agencies "to carry out work on their behalf".

But UK Biobank said that the (National Health Services) NHS unit responsible for health data had in recent weeks cleared it to grant Chinese researchers access to GP records.

As Keir Starmer's ministers' court Beijing is in search of economic growth, the decision avoids crossing a rising superpower that has made biotech prowess a priority. UK-China relations already face tests over the fate of a Chinese-owned steel plant in Scunthorpe and plans for new rules on foreign



interference campaigns.

"Security and privacy considerations are always taken into account when UK health data is used to drive forward our understanding of diseases and advance scientific research," a government spokesperson said. Health data was "only shared with legitimate researchers", they added.

The Labour Members of the Parliament, Chi Onwurah, who chairs parliament's science and technology committee, said: "UK Biobank is an enormous success and global medical research is all the better for it.

She added that "We need a government-wide strategy that gives people confidence that they have control of their data, that their data is only ever shared securely and responsibly, and that reflects the realities of geopolitics and the potential for bad actors to use our data for ill."

Approving access to patient records

Out of 1,375 successful applications for access to UK Biobank data, 265 came from China, or almost 20%, second only

US, according to a Guardian analysis of its published records.

Chinese scientists have used UK Biobank data to understand the effects of air pollution and to spot biological markers that could predict dementia.

Last year, UK Biobank approved access for a research project on ageing by a unit of the Chinese genetics company BGI. The US, by contrast, has blacklisted BGI subsidiaries, barring Americans from exporting to them.

Joe Biden's government justified the restrictions in 2023, saying it had information indicating that BGI units' "collection and analysis of genetic data poses a significant risk of contributing to monitoring and surveillance by the government of China, which has been utilised in the repression of ethnic minorities in China". It also claimed, "the actions of these entities concerning the collection and analysis of genetic data present a significant risk of diversion to China's military programs."

Harvard rejects Trump demands, gets hit by \$2.3 billion funding freeze

By Fatimah Idera

Harvard had rejected numerous demands from the Trump administration that it said would cede control of the school to a conservative government that portrays universities as dangerously leftist.

Within hours of Harvard taking its stand, the administration of President Donald Trump announced it was freezing \$2.3 billion in federal funding to the school.

The funding freeze comes after the Trump administration said last month it was reviewing \$9 billion in federal contracts and grants to Harvard as part of a crackdown on what it says is antisemitism that erupted on college campuses during pro-Palestinian protests in the past 18 months.

On Monday, a Department of Education task force on combating antisemitism accused America's oldest university of having a "troubling entitlement mindset that is endemic in our nation's most prestigious universities and colleges – that federal investment does not come with the responsibility to uphold civil rights laws."

The exchange escalates the high-stakes dispute between the Trump administration and some of the world's richest universities that have raised concerns about speech and academic freedoms.

The administration has frozen hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding for numerous universities, pressing the institutions to make policy changes and citing what it says is a failure to fight antisemitism on campus.

Deportation proceedings have begun against some detained foreign students who took part in pro-Palestinian demonstrations, while visas for hundreds of other students have been cancelled.

Harvard President Alan Garber wrote in a public letter on Monday that demands made by the Department of Education last week would allow the federal government to control the Harvard community and threaten the school's values as a private institution devoted to the pursuit, production, and dissemination of knowledge.

"No government – regardless of which party is in power – should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue," Garber wrote.

The issue of antisemitism on campus erupted



before Trump took office for his second term, following pro-Palestinian student protests last year at several universities following the 2023 Hamas attack inside Israel and the subsequent Israeli attacks on Gaza

White House spokesman Harrison Fields said in a statement on Monday that Trump was "working to Make Higher Education Great Again by ending unchecked anti-Semitism and ensuring federal taxpayer dollars do not fund Harvard's support of dangerous racial discrimination or racially motivated violence."

A letter by the education department stated that Harvard had "failed to live up to both the intellectual and civil rights conditions that justify federal investment."

The department demanded that Harvard, work to reduce the influence of faculty, staff and students who are "more committed to activism than scholarship" and have an external panel audit the faculty and students of each department to ensure viewpoint diversity.

The letter also stated that Harvard, by this August, must only hire faculty and admit students based on merit and cease all preferences based on race, colour or national origin. The university must also screen international students "to prevent admitting students hostile to American values" and report to federal immigration authorities foreign students who violate conduct rules.

Last week, a group of Harvard professors sued to block the Trump administration's review of nearly \$9 billion in federal contracts and grants awarded to the school.

The Trump administration is reportedly considering forcing fellow Ivy League school Columbia into a consent decree that would legally bind the school to follow federal guidelines in how it combats antisemitism. Some Columbia professors, like those at Harvard, have sued the federal government in response. The government has suspended \$400 million in federal funding and grants to Columbia.

Harvard President Garber said the federal government's demands that it "audit" the viewpoints of its students, faculty and staff to ferret out left-wing thinkers generally opposed to the Trump administration violated the university's First Amendment rights to freedom of speech.

"The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights," Garber wrote.

He added that while Harvard is taking steps to address antisemitism on campus, "these ends will not be achieved by assertions of power, unmoored from the law, to control teaching and learning at Harvard and to dictate how we operate."

Harvard agreed in January to provide additional protections for Jewish students under a settlement resolving two lawsuits accusing the Ivy League school of becoming a hotbed of antisemitism.

Amorim's big call: Onana's Man Utd future in doubt

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Rúben Amorim has a big decision to make—and it could shape not just Manchester United's Europa League fate, but also the future of Andre Onana at Old Trafford.

As United prepare for a decisive quarter-final second leg clash against Lyon, all eyes are on the goalkeeping position. Onana, signed for £47.5 million in the summer of 2023, has endured a turbulent debut season, marred by high-profile errors and intense criticism—most recently from ex-United midfielder Nemanja Matic, who branded him one of the club's "worst-ever goalkeepers."

It's a claim that stings, but it also reflects a growing unease about Onana's form. With eight mistakes leading to goals in all competitions since his arrival, no Premier League goalkeeper has been more error-prone in that period. Two of those costly errors came just last week in Lyon, where Onana's blunders led to both goals in a 2-2 draw.

Yet statistics show a more complex picture. According to Opta, only Jordan

Pickford has prevented more goals (8.7) than Onana (7.5) in the Premier League this season, based on expected goals. Onana is far from United's only problem, but his struggles have been magnified in a campaign littered with defensive frailties and inconsistency.

Still, the pressure is mounting. Amorim already dropped Onana for the recent Premier League loss to Newcastle, citing mental rest as the reason. But a decision for Europe is not so straightforward—one goalkeeper will have to sit on the bench. Whoever it is could very well be on their way out of the club this summer.

That includes Onana's understudy, Altay Bayindir, whose brief audition against Newcastle was unconvincing. Signed from Fenerbahce for £4.3 million, the Turkish international looked rusty, and his distribution was poor. His chances have been few and far between, but when they've come, they've failed to inspire confidence.

Off the pitch, Onana remains a respected figure in the dressing room. He's vocal,

experienced, and regarded as a leader in a fragile squad. But that's not enough if his performances continue to raise doubts. His decision to clap back at Matic's criticism only added fuel to the fire, especially after gifting Lyon an early goal days later.

Now, Amorim must weigh leadership against liability.

United's long-term planning never accounted for a goalkeeper dilemma this soon into Onana's five-year contract, particularly one that continues to be paid off in instalments. Selling him this summer would almost certainly incur a financial loss—another burden on a club trying to restructure under Sir Jim Ratcliffe's partial ownership.

With Champions League qualification hanging in the balance and fans growing restless, Amorim's next move in goal is more than just a tactical choice. It's a test of trust, strategy, and long-term vision. And in a season already defined by chaos, it could be one of the most significant decisions yet.

Zirkzee injury: United striker could miss rest of the season

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester United's hopes of a strong finish to their season have taken a major hit with the news that forward Joshua Zirkzee could miss the rest of the campaign due to a hamstring injury.

The 23-year-old Dutch international limped off during the second half of Sunday's 3-1 defeat to Newcastle United and has since undergone tests to assess the damage. Early indications suggest the injury is severe enough to potentially sideline him for the remainder of the season.

United manager Ruben Amorim is expected to provide further clarity during Wednesday's press conference

ahead of the crucial Europa League quarter-final second leg against Lyon at Old Trafford.

Zirkzee has scored seven goals in all competitions since joining from Bologna in the summer, including a key strike in last week's 2-2 draw in the first leg against Lyon. He has also made 32 Premier League appearances, though only three goals have come in the league.

With six league games remaining — the final one scheduled for 25 May against Aston Villa — and the Europa League final set for 21 May in Bilbao, Zirkzee's injury leaves United short of attacking options at a pivotal point in



the season.

His absence could force Amorim to turn to youngsters or out-of-form forwards as United aim to secure European qualification and chase Europa League glory.

Concacaf opposes 64-Team World Cup plans for 2030

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Concacaf president Victor Montagliani has voiced strong opposition to proposals to expand the 2030 FIFA World Cup to 64 teams. The idea, put forward by South America's Conmebol, has already been met with criticism from multiple football authorities, including Uefa president Aleksander Ceferin and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

The 2030 World Cup will be hosted by Spain, Morocco, and Portugal, with the opening matches in Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay. While the 2026 World Cup will expand to 48 teams, Conmebol's proposal aims to mark the centennial anniversary of the tournament by further increasing the number of participating teams.

Montagliani argued against the expansion, stating that adding more teams would disrupt the broader football ecosystem, including national teams, clubs, leagues, and players. He noted that the 48-team format for 2026 has yet to be implemented, suggesting that increasing



the size of the tournament again would be premature.

The decision to increase the World Cup to 48 teams for 2026 was made in 2017 with unanimous support at a FIFA congress. However, the discussion about expanding to 64 teams for 2030 could be raised at FIFA's 75th congress in Paraguay on May 15, where Conmebol's proposal will likely be debated.

If approved, the 2030 World Cup would

feature 128 matches, double the 64-match format used in previous editions from 1998 to 2022. Both Ceferin and AFC president Sheikh Salman bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa have expressed concerns about the proposal, with Al-Khalifa warning that expanding beyond 64 teams could lead to "chaos."

As the debate heats up, it remains to be seen whether FIFA will approve the controversial proposal for the tournament's centennial edition.

Tyson Fury's gloves are off for good – Arum doubts return

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Legendary boxing promoter Bob Arum believes the curtain has finally closed on Tyson Fury's career, insisting the former heavyweight champion will not fight again following his latest retirement.

Fury, 36, announced his retirement in January, just weeks after suffering a second consecutive defeat to Ukrainian champion Oleksandr Usyk. Though the Briton has retired multiple times before, Arum is convinced this time it's for real.

"If I was a betting man I would say he will never fight again," Arum said on the 5 Live Boxing podcast with Steve Bunce. "Tyson doesn't need to do it anymore, and I don't think he wants to."

Quoting former middleweight legend Marvin Hagler, Arum added, "A rich guy who goes to bed wearing silk pyjamas doesn't get up in the morning to do road work." For Arum, Fury's wealth, comfort, and achievements have dimmed the hunger needed for another grueling training camp.

Fury, known as "The Gypsy King," walks away from the sport with a record of 34 wins, two losses, and one draw. Both defeats came at the hands of Usyk, who ended Fury's 15-year unbeaten run in May 2024 and repeated the feat in their rematch last December.

Despite the announcement, fans continue to speculate about a potential comeback after Fury was recently

spotted training in his private gym. Promoter Eddie Hearn even floated the idea of a long-awaited domestic clash with Anthony Joshua, suggesting the fight could still happen if Fury initiated contact.

Fury has previously retired in 2017 and again after defeating Dillian Whyte in 2022, only to return to the ring later each time. His last three fights took place in Saudi Arabia, with his final UK appearance coming in December 2022 when he stopped Derek Chisora at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Yet for Arum, this time feels different.

"He's done it all," Arum concluded. "And now, he finally seems content to walk away."

Villa's brave comeback falls short vs PSG in UCL thriller

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Aston Villa came within inches of a historic UEFA Champions League semi-final berth on Tuesday night, staging a breathtaking comeback against Paris St-Germain before bowing out 5-4 on aggregate in a pulsating quarter-final second leg at Villa Park.

Trailing 3-1 from the first leg in Paris, Villa's hopes took a hammer blow as Achraf Hakimi and Nuno Mendes put PSG 2-0 up within the opening 30 minutes, capitalizing on early defensive lapses. Emiliano Martinez's misjudged pass gifted Hakimi the opener, before Mendes doubled the visitors' lead with a clinical finish assisted by Ousmane Dembélé.

Villa, however, refused to lie down.

In front of a deafening home crowd, they clawed one back through Youri Tielemans' deflected strike in the 34th minute, reigniting belief. The second half delivered pure drama: John McGinn fired home from 20 yards in the 55th minute, followed almost immediately by Ezri Konsa's close-range finish after brilliant work from Marcus Rashford.



Suddenly, Villa were 3-2 up on the night, just one goal away from forcing extra time.

What followed was a siege on the PSG goal, with Gianluigi Donnarumma turning saviour for the Parisians. The Italian keeper produced a trio of world-class saves—first palming away Rashford's venomous shot, then acrobatically denying Tielemans' header, and finally smothering a low strike from substitute Marco Asensio.

Despite Villa's relentless pressure and PSG's growing unease, the equaliser never came. The final whistle saw PSG advance by the narrowest of margins and set up a semi-final clash with either Arsenal

or Real Madrid.

But for Villa, there was only pride.

Unai Emery's men were relentless, fearless, and at times magnificent—outplaying a star-studded PSG side in long stretches and showing grit that left the Villa Park faithful in full voice until the end. Their European campaign ends here, but they exit with heads held high and reputations greatly enhanced.

From underdogs to contenders, Aston Villa's Champions League adventure may be over, but the memories of this incredible night—and this remarkable run—will echo for seasons to come.