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China to establish electric vehicle factories in Nigeria

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Yu Dunhai, says plans are underway to establish electric vehicle factories and other manufacturing ventures in the country, reaffirming China's commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation with Nigeria, particularly in the solid minerals sector.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, at the weekend, Ambassador Dunhai emphasised the strategic importance of Nigeria in China's foreign policy.

"Nigeria is a great country blessed with tremendous natural resources. Chinese companies are already deeply involved in Nigeria's mining sector, from exploration to processing.

"We aim to deepen this collaboration, especially in line with President Tinubu's eight priority areas, notably economic diversification through solid minerals," he said.

Ambassador Dunhai recalled the recent high-level engagement between President Bola Tinubu and President Xi Jinping during the Nigerian leader's state visit to China.

He noted that both presidents agreed to elevate bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership, unlocking new avenues for cooperation.

Highlighting the Chinese government's stance on responsible investment, the ambassador stated that the embassy consistently advises Chinese firms operating in Nigeria to respect local laws, fulfil corporate social



responsibility (CSR), and uphold environmental and safety standards.

"We have zero tolerance for illegal mining. The Chinese government is ready to cooperate with Nigerian authorities to bring any culprits to justice," he stressed.

In response, Alake acknowledged China's longstanding support for Nigeria's economic development, noting that most Chinese companies comply with legal and regulatory frameworks.

However, he expressed concern over the activities of a few operators tarnishing China's image, referencing a recent viral video involving a Chinese national allegedly bribing local security officials.

"We've taken action against illegal operators, including some Chinese nationals. While isolated, such incidents undermine the good work of many compliant Chinese firms. We need your cooperation in ensuring that such culprits are brought to justice," the minister stated.

Alake also highlighted the

government's recent efforts to curb illegal mining through the deployment of Mining Marshals, noting that the initiative has significantly improved compliance and sent a strong message to both local and foreign operators.

The minister reiterated Nigeria's openness to serious investors, adding that the current focus is on local value addition rather than the export of raw materials.

"For years, our minerals have been exported raw to fuel foreign industrialisation. That must change. We now prioritise local processing to drive Nigeria's development.

"For instance, with the abundance of lithium, we want to see local manufacturing of electric vehicles and batteries," he explained.

Alake called on Ambassador Dunhai to encourage Chinese investors to adopt a full-cycle investment approach—from mineral extraction to processing—within Nigeria. He emphasised that such a shift would help harness Nigeria's large market and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
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
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
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
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
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4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
1X1	2,795.50

SPECIAL POSITIONS

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5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
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CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
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10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
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(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
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10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

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CONTACT US

Correspondent Address:
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos
Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
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SERAP demands probe into unremitted N500bn oil funds, presses NNPC for transparency

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has called on the head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Bayo Ojulari, to clarify the fate of N500 billion reportedly missing from national oil revenues between October and December 2024.

In a statement signed by its Deputy Director, Kolawole Oluwadare, SERAP urged NNPCL's leadership to take decisive action by cooperating with anti-graft agencies.

The group asked Mr Ojulari to name all individuals potentially linked to the shortfall and hand them over to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for full investigation and prosecution.

According to SERAP, the call follows revelations by the World Bank, which recently stated that the NNPCL generated N1.1 trillion in oil-related income in 2024 but transferred only N600 billion to the Federation Account—leaving a gap of N500 billion unexplained.

The organisation insisted that the NNPCL must work with the EFCC and ICPC to trace the missing funds, recover them in full, and ensure they are promptly paid into the Federation Account.

Citing a serious breach of constitutional responsibility, SERAP stressed that the situation raises urgent concerns about transparency in Nigeria's oil sector.

The group maintained that the public has a right to know how national resources are



managed, especially in light of growing economic hardship.

SERAP also noted that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently advised the Nigerian government to redirect proceeds from the removal of fuel subsidies into the national budget for improved fiscal balance.

“There is a strong public interest in uncovering what happened to this substantial sum of money,” the organisation said.

SERAP added that such financial discrepancies undermine public trust and the spirit of constitutional accountability.

SERAP maintained that Nigeria's oil resources must be managed in the interest of its citizens, both now and in the years to come.

The organisation argued that Nigerians deserve full disclosure on why the NNPCL withheld subsidy savings from the Federation Account and why such actions have prevented state and local governments from receiving constitutionally mandated funds.

The letter read in part: “Nigerians continue to bear the brunt of these missing public funds from the NNPCL meant for the economic development of the country. We would be grateful if the recommended measures are taken within 7 days of the receipt and/or publication of this letter. If we have not heard from you by then, SERAP shall consider appropriate legal actions to compel the NNPCL to comply with our requests in the public interest.”

“The missing oil revenue reflects a failure of NNPCL accountability more generally and is directly linked to the institution's continuing failure to uphold the principles of transparency and accountability.

“The Nigerian Constitution, Freedom of Information Act, and the country's anti-corruption and human rights obligations rest on the principle that citizens should have access to information regarding the spending of their commonwealth.

Continue reading
on next page

Cont from page 4

“SERAP notes that the Supreme Court, in a groundbreaking judgment, recently declared that the Freedom of Information Act ‘is applicable and applies to the public records in the Federation’, including those kept by the NNPCCL.

“SERAP is concerned that the Auditor-General of the Federation and Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) have for many years documented reports of the disappearance of oil money from the NNPCCL.

“The allegations have undermined the economic development of the country, trapped the majority of Nigerians in poverty, and deprived them of opportunities.

“The failure by the NNPCCL to remit the money to the Federation Account is a grave violation of the public trust and the provisions of the Nigerian Constitution, national anticorruption laws, and the country’s obligations under the UN Convention against Corruption.

“Despite the country’s enormous oil wealth, ordinary Nigerians have derived very little benefit from oil money primarily because of widespread grand corruption, and the entrenched culture of impunity of perpetrators.

“Combating the corruption epidemic in the oil sector would alleviate poverty, improve access of Nigerians to basic public goods and services, and enhance the ability of the government to meet its human rights and anti-corruption obligations.

“According to our information, the World Bank recently disclosed that out of the N1.1tn revenue from crude sales and other income in 2024, the NNPCCL only remitted N600bn, leaving a deficit of N500bn unaccounted for.

“The revenue and other income were expected to be paid into the Federation

Account and shared by all levels of government but the NNPCCL reportedly failed to do so. SERAP notes that Section 15(5) of the Nigerian Constitution 1999 (as amended) requires public institutions to abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power.

“Section 13 of the Nigerian Constitution imposes clear responsibility on the NNPCCL to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of Chapter 2 of the constitution.

“Nigeria has made legally binding commitments under the UN Convention against Corruption to ensure accountability in the management of public resources. Articles 5 and 9 of the UN Convention against Corruption also impose legal obligations on the NNPCCL to ensure proper management of public affairs and public funds.”

“These commitments ought to be fully upheld and respected. Explaining the spending details and whereabouts of the missing N500 billion public funds, identifying those suspected to be responsible and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice and the full recovery of any missing public funds would serve the public interest and end the impunity of perpetrators.”

“The missing oil revenue has also impeded Nigerians’ ability to enjoy their economic and social rights, and denied them access to essential public goods and services, especially at the time of cost of living crisis in the country.

“The missing oil revenue has further damaged the already precarious economy and contributed to very high levels of deficit spending by the government.”

“Had the NNPCCL accounted for and remitted the alleged missing N500 billion to the Federation Account, it is likely that more funds would have been allocated to the fulfilment of economic and social rights, such as increased spending on public goods and services.

“Without the full recovery and remittance of the missing N500 billion of oil revenue, the dire economic situation may worsen and Nigerians will continue to be denied access to basic public goods and services.

“The Freedom of Information Act, Section 39 of the Nigerian Constitution, article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee to everyone the right to information on the whereabouts of the missing N500 billion of oil revenue.”



Pope Leo XIV's Inauguration: 'Harness our diversity for prosperity' — Tinubu

By Oluwatosin Ologun

President Bola Tinubu has called on Nigerian leaders and citizens to harness the country's diversity to foster national stability and rapid development.

Speaking in Rome on Sunday during a meeting with members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria, Tinubu said, "If we use our diversity not for adversity but for prosperity, the country's hope is stability and progress."

The meeting took place shortly after the President attended the installation mass of Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican, where he joined other world leaders for the historic occasion.

In a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, the President described it as a "historic" moment to witness the inauguration of a new Pope while serving as Nigeria's leader.

The Catholic bishops were part of the Nigerian delegation to Rome, attending both the burial of the late Pope Francis and the inauguration of his successor, Pope Leo XIV.

Archbishop Lucius Ugorji, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Nigeria and Archbishop of Owerri, expressed gratitude to President Tinubu for facilitating their visit to the Vatican.

"You are always there for us. Now that you have come to the Vatican, whenever we have our conference in Nigeria, we will also invite you. We



look forward to interfacing with you, just as you were able to do with the Holy Father," Archbishop Ugorji was quoted as saying.

The meeting was also attended by prominent Nigerian Catholic leaders, including Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Abuja, Archbishop Alfred Martins of Lagos, and Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah of Sokoto Diocese.

Meeting With Obi, Fayemi and Pope Leo

The New Daily Prime reported that President Tinubu, earlier on Sunday, met with the Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate in the 2023 election, Peter Obi, and a former governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, during Pope Leo's installation service.

He also met briefly with the 69-year-old Pope following the installation mass in St. Peter's Square. In a video

on the president's X account, he shook hands and exchanged a few words with the new pontiff before moving along.

Other world leaders present included United States Vice President J.D. Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, both of whom also greeted the Pope after the mass.

Pope Leo XIV, formerly Cardinal Robert Prevost, was elected on 8 May as the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church following a secret conclave of cardinals.

The American-born pontiff had begun his papacy with a strong call for global peace, environmental stewardship, and the protection of marginalised communities.

At the installation, Pope Leo urged the world to stop exploiting nature and marginalising the poor.

Insurgence: Don't allow Marte fall to Boko Haram, Zulum begs FG, Army

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Borno State Governor, Prof. Babagana Zulum, has raised the alarm that only one town out of 300 remains under government control in Marte Local Government Area, warning that Boko Haram terrorists are on the brink of taking over the entire LGA.

The governor issued the warning on Sunday following his visit to the area, where he appealed to the Federal Government to urgently deploy decisive strategies to prevent Marte town from falling completely into the hands of Boko Haram/ISWAP insurgents.

Zulum, who visited Marte on Saturday, assessed the situation on the ground and explored sustainable solutions to restore stability to the region.

Speaking to journalists on Sunday, the governor said his visit was aimed at fostering community cooperation, resilience, and continuous support for security agencies.

"Marte was resettled about four years ago, but unfortunately, over the last three days, it was ransacked and was displaced again," he lamented.

"About 20,000 people left Marte for Dikwa; this huge number is a threat as allowing them to stay in the camp may make most of the younger ones become vulnerable to



recruitment by the insurgents," Zulum warned.

"Hitherto, Marte Local Government comprises over 300 towns and villages. Now we have only one standing. If we cannot maintain this one, then we will lose the whole local government to the insurgents, which will be very obnoxious, and I think we will not allow this to happen.

"Therefore, I am calling on the Federal Government and the Nigerian Army so that we can put our heads together and hold our ground for this single town in this LGA to remain," he added.

Zulum, however, expressed optimism, noting that many displaced residents had started returning following his visit and the efforts of security agencies and civilian volunteers.

"Alhamdulillah, we returned to Marte yesterday and spent the night with the support of the Nigerian Army and our volunteers. The community is now resettled for the second time. Still, my prayers to the Federal Government of Nigeria and the Nigerian Army are that we do everything possible to keep this town on the ground," he said.

The governor reiterated his commitment to supporting security forces in their quest to restore peace in the state.

"On my part as the Governor of Borno State, I would do everything within my power to support our gallant military in their efforts towards lasting peace in our beloved state," he stated.

Tinubu, Obi, Fayemi meet at Pope Leo XIV's inauguration By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu, 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi, and former Ekiti State governor, Kayode Fayemi met and exchanged pleasantries on Sunday during the installation Mass of Pope Leo XIV at the Vatican in Rome.

The unexpected encounter occurred during the high-profile ceremony attended by global leaders and dignitaries.

Fayemi, upon spotting Tinubu seated among other world leaders, invited Obi to join him

in paying respects to the Nigerian leader. Obi obliged.

On getting to the President, Fayemi broke the ice between Obi and Tinubu, saying, “Mr President, welcome to our church, and thank you for honouring the Pope with your presence.”

Tinubu, known for his sharp wit, replied humorously, “I should be the one welcoming you and Peter. I’m the Head of the Nigerian Delegation.”

The President’s remark

reportedly amused Obi, who smiled and responded, “Yes, indeed. We are members of your delegation.”

Obi and Fayemi, both devout Catholics and Papal Knights, were in attendance as part of the Nigerian contingent to the Vatican.

The light-hearted exchange between the political figures highlighted a moment of unity amid Nigeria’s often tense political climate.

Abducted Ondo APC ward chairman killed despite N5m ransom payment

By Friday Omosola



Kidnappers who abducted Nelson Adepoiyi, the Ward 5 Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ifon, Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State, have killed him despite collecting a ₦5 million ransom.

The assailants abducted Adepoiyi from his home in Ifon a few days prior and initially demanded ₦100 million for his release.

After negotiations, the kidnappers lowered the demand to ₦5 million and requested food items alongside the payment.

Two individuals who delivered the ransom became hostages themselves.

The kidnappers then demanded a fresh ₦30 million to secure the release of all three captives.

While the two ransom bearers eventually regained their freedom, the

abductors allegedly killed Adepoiyi.

Clement Ojo, Chairman of Ose Local Government Area, confirmed the development in a statement released by his media aide, Oluwaseun Oggunniyi yesterday.

“While we are grateful that the two volunteers have now regained their freedom, it is deeply saddening and utterly painful that the life of Nelson Adepoiyi was brutally cut short by his captors.

“The entire leadership and people of Ose Local Government mourn this tragic loss. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and political associates of the deceased.

“We are now at a critical juncture where security challenges have become a serious threat to the safety and freedom of our people. Only a few days before this incident, another

resident narrowly escaped being kidnapped while parking his motorcycle.

“This pattern of brazen abductions, even at the very gates of people’s homes, confirms that insecurity has taken a dangerous and intolerable dimension.

“We urge our people to remain vigilant, promptly report suspicious activities to the nearest security post, and stand united as we work together to overcome this threat,” the statement read.

As of the time of this report, the Ondo State Police Command hasn’t confirmed the killing.

However, Commissioner of Police Wilfred Afolabi stated that a team of detectives had been deployed to the area to investigate the matter.

NDLEA uncovers drug syndicate led by 82 year old woman, massive seizures made across Nigeria

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a series of dramatic drug enforcement operations across the country, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested an 82 year old woman, her daughter, a convicted 80 year old trafficker, and a polytechnic student, while intercepting drugs worth over N3.2 billion at major seaports.

NDLEA spokesperson Femi Babafemi disclosed the arrests and seizures in a statement released on Sunday, May 18, 2025, highlighting what he described as a “multi-generational drug trafficking operation.”

On Saturday, May 17, NDLEA operatives raided the residence of 82 year old Mrs. Uloma Uchechi Sunday in Umuaguma Ntigha Uzor village, Abia State, where they discovered quantities of methamphetamine, tramadol, and skunk (a potent strain of cannabis), along with N130,600 in cash. Her 32 year old daughter, Chisom Uchechi, was also arrested.

In a startling confession, Mrs. Uchechi admitted that she and her daughter inherited the illicit trade from her son, who died two years ago. According to officials, the syndicate attempted to smuggle cocaine concealed in traditional Nigerian male and female headwear, fila and gele, a tactic authorities say is becoming increasingly common.

In a separate incident, NDLEA re-arrested 80 year old Ashiru Ayuba in Kaduna State. Ayuba, a known drug dealer who previously served a 10 year sentence between 2014 and 2024, was apprehended on Wednesday, May 14,



in the Barazana Street, Dogarawa area of Sabon Gari Local Government Area.

Officers recovered 2.3 kilograms of skunk, neatly packaged in retail sizes. The octogenarian reportedly told investigators he had been involved in drug trafficking for over 46 years.

Meanwhile, in Kwara State, 26 year old Ibrahim Oladimeji Abdulateef, a Higher National Diploma (HND) level one student of Laboratory Science Technology at Kwara State Polytechnic, was caught with 650 grams of “Loud,” a high-grade strain of cannabis. The substance had been measured out into 149 cups, allegedly for distribution to fellow students.

The crackdown extended to Nigeria’s port infrastructure, where two massive seizures were made. At the Port Harcourt Ports Complex in Onne, Rivers State, NDLEA agents working alongside customs officials and other security agencies intercepted a container carrying three million pills of tapentadol and carisoprodol royal

225mg. The drugs, with an estimated street value of N2.1 billion, were confiscated on Wednesday, May 14.

Similarly, at the Apapa Seaport in Lagos, on Tuesday, May 13, NDLEA officers uncovered a watch-listed container falsely declared to contain car parts from India. Upon joint inspection, 169,800 bottles of codeine syrup, with a street value exceeding N1.1 billion, were discovered hidden within the shipment.

The NDLEA reiterated its commitment to dismantling drug networks across Nigeria, regardless of age or status. “From teenagers to octogenarians, the drug trade cuts across generations,” Babafemi said. “We will not relent in tracking, exposing, and prosecuting those who endanger the health and safety of our society.”

Authorities have confirmed that investigations are ongoing, and all suspects will face charges in accordance with Nigerian drug laws.

Yellow fever cases rise sharply in South America, WHO reports

By Helen Okechukwu



The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported a sharp rise in yellow fever cases in South America.

According to the report from 29 December 2024 to 26 April 2025 (with Ecuador's data updated to 2 May), 212 confirmed cases of yellow fever have been recorded in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Sadly, 85 people have died, giving a high fatality rate of 40%.

This year's number is three times higher than the 61 confirmed cases reported in 2024, raising serious concern among health officials.

Yellow fever is a serious viral disease spread by mosquitoes. It can cause fever, chills, vomiting, liver

damage, and even death.

Read Also: WHO declares Georgia malaria-free

The current spread is being driven by increased infections in jungle areas where the virus lives in animals like monkeys and is passed to humans through mosquito bites.

What is worrying is that some of these cases have happened outside the usual Amazon region, where yellow fever is more common.

WHO says the risk is high, especially because not everyone is vaccinated, and there is a limited supply of yellow fever vaccines.

To fight the spread, WHO is working with affected countries to; improve disease tracking, strengthen hospitals and care, help

inform communities and increase vaccinations.

Vaccination remains the best way to protect people from yellow fever. WHO is supporting mass vaccination campaigns and routine immunizations to stop the disease from spreading further.

Health experts stress the need for cross-border cooperation, timely testing, and fast response to stop future outbreaks.

People living in or traveling to affected areas are advised to get vaccinated, use mosquito protection, and report any symptoms like high fever or yellowing of the skin (jaundice) to health workers immediately.

Elton John slams UK government AI copyright plans as criminal

By **Fatimah Idera**



Elton John has strongly condemned the UK government's proposal to relax copyright laws, allowing tech firms to train artificial intelligence models on the country's music and creative output without ensuring proper compensation.

This move aims to make Britain an AI superpower under Prime Minister Keir Starmer's leadership. However, prominent industry figures, including John, Paul McCartney, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and Ed Sheeran, are urging the government to reconsider, citing the potential harm to young artists' livelihoods.

The proposed law would require

creators to opt out if they don't want their work used, rather than obtaining permission or receiving payment. John expressed his concerns to the BBC, stating that this could lead to exploitation, particularly for young artists who lack the resources to monitor and challenge big tech companies.

"A machine doesn't have a soul, doesn't have a heart, it doesn't have human feeling, it doesn't have passion. Human beings, when they create something, are doing it to bring pleasure to lots of people," John said. With over 300 million records sold in his six-decade career.

John emphasized his commitment

to supporting young artists and fighting against these changes.

The UK government claims it seeks a balance between fostering AI growth and protecting creators' rights. They are consulting on the measures, will assess the economic impact, and assure that any decisions will prioritize creators' interests.

Britain's creative industries, encompassing sectors like theater, film, advertising, publishing, and music, employ thousands and have long been a significant contributor to the country's success.

Pope Leo XIV inaugurated at St Peter's Basilica as 10,000 gather

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



In a ceremony rich with tradition and symbolism, Pope Leo XIV was formally inaugurated today as the 266th leader of the Roman Catholic Church, presiding over a congregation of tens of thousands gathered in St Peter's Square beneath a crisp Roman sky.

The Pope, born Robert Francis Prevost in Chicago, became the spiritual head of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics on 8 May, following the resignation of his predecessor. His election marks a new chapter for a Church facing complex global challenges—from declining participation in Europe to growing tensions in regions of conflict. This morning's inauguration began with a moment of solemnity at the tomb of Saint Peter, the Church's first pontiff, with bishops from across the Catholic world in attendance. The presence of both Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches, alongside senior Latin Rite bishops, served as a powerful gesture of unity across ancient Christian traditions.

Before the liturgy commenced, the new Pope greeted pilgrims from around the world aboard the popemobile, smiling, waving, and blessing the cheering multitudes. Many waved national flags or held up rosaries and children for a papal blessing, as chants of "Viva il Papa!" echoed beneath the towering colonnades designed by Bernini.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were US Vice President JD Vance and Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, representing a diverse range of nations in symbolic affirmation of the Church's global presence.

At 9am, the inaugural Mass began. Pope Leo was presented with the Fisherman's Ring, a symbol of apostolic succession and authority dating back to Saint Peter. He then delivered his first homily as pontiff—an address many believe will shape the moral and pastoral tone of his papacy.

Read more:
Pope Leo XIV appeals for

more war; in first Sunday message

Robert Prevost becomes first American Pope

White smoke rises: Catholic church welcomes new pope

"Let our first steps be taken in humility, and let our first words be spoken with courage—not to preserve power, but to serve peace," the Pope declared from the steps of the basilica. Observers say Pope Leo's background as a missionary and his academic work in canon law position him as a bridge between tradition and reform. His address hinted at themes of inclusion, interfaith dialogue, and pastoral outreach, suggesting a pontificate focused on unity in diversity.

Today's ceremony reaffirmed not only the rituals of Catholic continuity, but also the expectations of a Church that must now navigate a world in flux. As the bells of St Peter's rang out, a new era began—rooted in the past, but undeniably looking forward.

Russia launches largest drone attack since start of war, killing 1 and wounding several in Ukraine

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Russia launched its largest drone assault on Ukraine since the war began in 2022, killing a 28 year old woman and wounding at least three others, including a four year old child, in the Kyiv region. The overnight attack on Sunday involved a staggering 273 drones, primarily targeting Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Donetsk.

The unprecedented strike came just one day before a scheduled phone call between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump, and two days after the first direct talks between Russia and Ukraine since 2022. While the scale of the attack appeared more symbolic than strategically destructive, officials in Kyiv say it was aimed at pressuring Ukraine ahead of delicate diplomatic moments.

Ukraine's air force reported that 128 of the drones vanished from radar, likely due to fuel exhaustion, malfunctions, or because they were non-explosive decoys. Another 88 were successfully intercepted and shot down.

"This was not just an air assault, it was psychological warfare," said Andriy Kovalenko, head of Ukraine's Centre for Countering Disinformation. "Russia has always used violence to manipulate the tone of negotiations."

Experts say Russia's use of decoy drones is increasing in sophistication. Many are fitted with Luneberg lenses, devices that amplify radar signatures to mimic more dangerous threats like cruise missiles. These decoys, often made of plywood and foam to resemble Shaheed-136 drones, are mass-produced in the Alabuga Special Economic Zone in Tatarstan, the same facility that manufactures real drones.



"Decoys force Ukrainian defenders to react, reveal their positions, and waste valuable munitions," said Serhii Kuzan, head of the Ukrainian Security and Cooperation Centre. "Once they do, Russia can target those defence systems in follow-up strikes."

Despite the vast number of drones deployed, the attack's physical damage was relatively limited. Still, the psychological and strategic implications are far-reaching.

The barrage comes at a politically charged moment. On Friday, Russian and Ukrainian officials met in Istanbul for their first face-to-face dialogue in three years. While the 100-minute meeting failed to achieve a temporary ceasefire, the sides agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners of war. Monday's call between Trump and Putin is expected to further stir international debate, as the U.S. president continues to demand an "end to the bloodshed."

Trump also confirmed he would speak

with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy after his conversation with Putin.

Overnight, air raid sirens blared for nine consecutive hours across Kyiv and Ukraine's east, keeping millions under siege from dusk until 9 a.m. Air defence units scrambled to repel the waves of incoming drones, many of which were deliberately launched to trigger and exhaust Ukraine's protective systems.

Just one day prior, a separate drone strike in Sumy killed nine civilians aboard a shuttle bus, prompting Zelenskyy to call the attack "deliberate" and renew calls for tougher sanctions on Moscow. Russia claimed it was targeting a military installation.

As Moscow ramps up its drone production, Ukraine and its allies now face a grim reality; the war is evolving into a full-blown drone arms race, with deadly consequences and high geopolitical stakes.

Canada to present budget in autumn, says PM Mark Carney

By **Fatimah Idera**



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced on Sunday that the federal government will present a budget in the autumn.

This announcement comes days after Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne indicated that the new Liberal government would have an economic update later in the year rather than an annual budget in the near term.

Carney's statement followed a press conference in Rome, where he attended Pope Leo XIV's inauguration at the Vatican. "There is not much value in trying to rush through a budget in a very narrow

window – three weeks – with a new cabinet," Carney said, explaining the delay. He emphasized that it would be premature to present a budget before the NATO summit in June and before advanced discussions with the United States about their economic partnership.

The government is also exploring areas to reduce costs and improve public sector productivity. "Defence spending, the economic outlook, including the tariff relationship with the United States, and the (government) efficiency... all of those coming together, we will have a much more comprehensive, effective, ambitious, prudent budget in the

fall," Carney said.

Champagne had previously mentioned that 70% of tariffs imposed in retaliation against US tariffs are still in place. This statement came in response to Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre's claim that Carney had "quietly dropped retaliatory tariffs to 'nearly zero' without telling anyone."

In Rome, Carney also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen ahead of the G7 summit in Canada in June.

US, EU, Japan, Taiwan hit by China's anti-dumping duties on engineering plastics

By **Fatimah Idera**



China has announced anti-dumping duties of up to 74.9% on imports of POM copolymers, a type of engineering plastic, from the United States, European Union, Japan, and Taiwan.

The commerce ministry's findings conclude a probe launched in May 2024, following the US's sharp increase in tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, computer chips, and other imports.

POM copolymers can partially

replace metals like copper and zinc and have various applications in auto parts, electronics, and medical equipment. In January, the ministry determined that dumping was taking place and implemented preliminary anti-dumping measures in the form of a deposit starting January 24.

The tariffs rate are the United States- 74.9%, European Union- 34.5%, Japan- 35.5% (24.5% for Asahi Kasei Corp) and Taiwan- 32.6% (4% for Formosa Plastics, 3.8% for

Polyplastics Taiwan).

The announcement comes amid rising hopes that the US-China trade war is easing after both sides agreed to slash reciprocal tariffs in a 90-day truce. The Global Times, a state mouthpiece, has suggested that this deal should be extended.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group of nations has warned of "fundamental challenges" facing the global trading system in a communique after a meeting in South Korea.

UK hackers linked to retail cyber-attacks as threat spreads to US

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A sophisticated hacking group known as Scattered Spider is actively facilitating cyber-attacks on major retailers in the UK and US, cybersecurity experts from Google have revealed. The group, made up of English-speaking hackers largely based in the UK, US, and Canada, has been linked to recent data breaches at top UK retailers including Marks & Spencer, the Co-op, and Harrods.

According to Charles Carmakal, Chief Technology Officer at Google's Mandiant cybersecurity division, the group has shifted its focus across the Atlantic, with US retail companies now squarely in its crosshairs. "They tend to focus on a particular industry sector and geography for a few weeks and then they move on," Carmakal said. "Right now, they're focused on retail organisations. They start in the UK, and now they've shifted to US organisations."

While Carmakal did not confirm the specific victims by name, he stated broadly that "Scattered Spider members in the UK are facilitating and contributing to intrusions." This comes as Marks & Spencer warns that both staff and customer data may have been compromised in a recent cyber-attack, with employee email addresses and full names believed to have been accessed by hackers.

The UK's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has issued an advisory urging businesses to review their IT help desk procedures. One of Scattered Spider's key tactics involves calling help desks while impersonating employees or contractors to gain access to internal



systems. "They're making telephone calls, calling up help desks, pretending to be employees and convincing help desks to reset passwords," Carmakal explained.

Younger members of the network, often active on platforms like Telegram and Discord, are reportedly responsible for these social engineering calls. Carmakal noted that these individuals are often paid a few hundred dollars to carry out the impersonation scams.

Scattered Spider stands out in the cybercrime world for its use of native English speakers and its dynamic approach to targeting, often locking on to one industry at a time for ransomware and extortion schemes. These attacks typically involve infecting a company's systems with malware that encrypts data, which is only released once a ransom is paid.

French luxury brand Dior also announced this week that it had suffered a data breach involving an

"unauthorised external party," though no payment data was stolen. It is unclear whether this attack is connected to Scattered Spider.

In light of the growing threat, Google's cybersecurity experts have warned US retailers to brace for impact. "The US retail sector is currently being targeted in ransomware and extortion operations that we suspect are linked to Scattered Spider," said John Hultquist, Chief Analyst at Google Threat Intelligence Group.

"With a pattern of focusing on one sector at a time, Scattered Spider's pivot to US retail is a warning shot. We expect the group to continue targeting the sector in the near term," Hultquist added.

Retailers on both sides of the Atlantic are now racing to tighten security protocols as the threat of cyber attacks looms larger than ever.

South Korea's presidential candidates spar over economic plans

By Fatimah Idera



South Korea's presidential candidates, Lee Jae-myung and Kim Moon-soo, faced off in their first TV debate on Sunday evening, ahead of a snap election on June 3 to choose a successor to former President Yoon Suk Yeol.

The debate, the first of three TV debates scheduled over the next two weeks, focused on revitalizing the struggling economy, a key election issue.

Lee Jae-myung, the main opposition Democratic Party's candidate and frontrunner, advocated for increased investment in artificial intelligence, protection for unionized workers, a 4.5-day working week, and prioritizing South Korea's interests in responding to US tariffs.

He emphasized the need for careful preparation in trade negotiations with Washington, stating, "I think we should prepare well for this situation delicately and competently." Lee also highlighted the importance of nurturing high-tech and renewable energy industries to overcome low economic growth and proposed developing sovereign AI to make tools like ChatGPT freely available to the public.

Kim Moon-soo, candidate for the conservative People Power Party, vowed to create jobs and deregulate to foster businesses. He pledged to establish a government agency dedicated to innovating regulations and invest over 5% of the national budget in research and development.

The economy has become a top election issue, with Asia's fourth-largest economy contracting in the first quarter due to stalled exports and consumption amid fears over the impact of Washington's aggressive tariffs and domestic political turmoil. South Korea has begun trade talks with the US and is seeking a waiver from the 25 per cent tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump in April.

According to the latest Gallup Korea poll, Lee holds a lead with 51 per cent support, while Kim trails at 29 per cent. The snap election was triggered by former President Yoon's impeachment over his short-lived imposition of martial law on December 3, which sparked political turmoil.

EU faces rising tensions over Russian shadow fleet in Baltic Sea

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

European calls to crack down on Russia's shadow fleet of unflagged oil tankers surged this weekend, just ahead of a pivotal EU foreign ministers meeting set for Monday. The meeting is expected to impose sanctions on 180 additional vessels, bringing the EU's total to 350 ships, a decisive move in the ongoing economic pressure campaign against the Kremlin.

The shadow fleet, believed to consist of 500 to 700 ageing, poorly insured tankers, is accused of circumventing G7 sanctions imposed in 2022. These ships, many sailing under flags of convenience, are estimated to carry around 85% of Russia's oil exports, funding nearly a third of the country's war budget. Despite their central role in sustaining Moscow's economy, enforcement remains patchy and legally fraught.

Over the weekend, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy spoke with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney to discuss tougher actions against the fleet. Yet concerns over enforcement are mounting, particularly in the Baltic region. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Kęstutis Budrys warned that current efforts are ineffective and risk provoking military retaliation from Russia.

"About three loaded shadow tankers a day are moving through northern European waters," Budrys stated at the Lennart Meri Conference in Tallinn. "We're facing both legal ambiguity and the rising threat of confrontation."

The legal murkiness stems from the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which offers limited grounds for interdicting ships in international waters. While the EU bans sanctioned vessels from its ports, extending that restriction to its exclusive economic zones could violate maritime law.

The simmering standoff escalated last week when Estonia's navy intercepted a vessel named Jaguar, suspected of carrying Russian oil in violation of UK sanctions. Though Estonia refrained from



boarding the unflagged ship due to legal uncertainty and resistance from the crew, tensions spiked when a Russian Sukhoi Su-35 jet briefly violated Estonian airspace, marking the first such incursion in over three years.

Estonian authorities believe the Jaguar could have posed a threat to underwater infrastructure and opted to escort the vessel out of their waters. The aerial response from Russia is seen as the first show of military force in defense of its shadow fleet, further intensifying regional anxiety.

Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur has called for expanded restrictions, including barring sanctioned ships from EU economic waters altogether. "It would be a strong move," he admitted, "but one that might cross into illegal waters."

Meanwhile, critics argue that enforcement efforts remain fragmented. Benjamin Hilgenstock of the Kyiv School of Economics argues the G7's \$60-per-barrel price cap is essentially toothless, with no system in place to verify actual oil prices. Anna Wieslander, Director for Northern Europe at the Atlantic Council, underlined the fleet's importance to Russia's war machine: "This isn't a side hustle. The shadow fleet is the backbone of their wartime economy."

NATO's Baltic Sentry mission, launched in January to protect undersea infrastructure, has no jurisdiction over the fleet. Still, the alliance has taken steps, with Deputy Commander John Mead revealing that 1,800 vessels have been hailed to check their flag status. Drones are also being deployed to bolster surveillance.

"Russia can't keep this up forever," Mead said. "Escorting every shadow ship is an exhausting play."

Budrys, however, insisted on urgent action. "We need to expand Baltic Sentry's mission. Every passing day without a unified enforcement strategy increases the risk of military conflict in the Baltic Sea."

Despite the existence of a 14 nation task force on the shadow fleet, coordination remains weak. Calls are growing for standardized proof thresholds for sanctions and joint intelligence-sharing mechanisms.

As Europe sharpens its stance, the shadow fleet is no longer just a maritime workaround, it's becoming a flashpoint with far-reaching consequences.

Rice rocket fires Arsenal back into Europe's top tier

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**



A stunning second-half strike from Declan Rice ensured Arsenal booked their ticket for next season's UEFA Champions League with a narrow but vital 1-0 win over Newcastle United in front of a buzzing Emirates crowd.

With the pressure of recent lacklustre form looming, the Gunners were in desperate need of a spark. That moment arrived ten minutes into the second half when Rice, collecting a short pass from captain Martin Ødegaard, curled a superb 20-yard effort past Martin Dúbravka to lift Arsenal to 71 points — enough to guarantee a top-four finish.

It was a fitting finale to the home campaign, which had seen Arsenal fail to win at the Emirates since April 1. Despite failing to mount a serious title challenge in the closing weeks, the win solidified their claim to second place, pending Manchester City's remaining results.

Newcastle, meanwhile, were left to rue

missed opportunities. The visitors — without 23-goal striker Alexander Isak due to a groin injury — started like a side hungry to cement their own European credentials. In the opening 20 minutes alone, David Raya was called into action on multiple occasions, denying Bruno Guimarães, Dan Burn, Harvey Barnes, and Sven Botman.

However, Newcastle's early aggression waned, and they failed to register another shot on target after the 17th minute — a stat that ultimately underlined their fading threat.

Rice's 55th-minute goal, his ninth of the campaign, was enough to tip the contest. It marked his 19th goal involvement in all competitions — second only to Bukayo Saka's 25 this season — and was a deserved reward for a player who has emerged as Arsenal's engine room throughout the year.

The final whistle brought a mix of relief and reflection in north London. Mikel Arteta's men will now travel to relegated

Southampton next weekend with second place firmly within reach. Yet despite Champions League qualification, murmurs of discontent linger, with Ødegaard openly admitting post-match: "We have to admit we have not been good enough in the league."

The Gunners' players remained on the pitch to applaud fans in their traditional end-of-season gesture — but some seats were already empty, emblematic of a season that promised much yet yielded no silverware.

Newcastle return to St James' Park for a decisive final-day fixture against Everton. A win there would all but seal a top-five finish and cap off a remarkable season, already gilded by their historic League Cup triumph at Wembley.

Man of the Match: David Raya (Arsenal) — 7.88
Attendance: 60,160
Goal: Rice (55')
Assist: Ødegaard

Nigeria beat Egypt on penalties to claim U-20 AFCON bronze

By Oluwatosin Ologun



Nigeria claimed third place at the TotalEnergies CAF U-20 Africa Cup of Nations Egypt 2025 after a dramatic 4-1 penalty shootout victory over tournament hosts Egypt on Sunday.

The third-place playoff at the 30 June Stadium in Cairo ended 1-1 after 90 minutes, before Nigeria kept their nerve in the shootout to secure their fifth bronze medal in U-20 AFCON history.

It was a clash between two sides aiming to finish the tournament on a high after missing out on the final.

Osama Omar put Egypt ahead early in the third minute, but Nigeria equalised shortly after the restart through Bidemi Amole.

With no extra time played in the third-place match, penalties were required, and the Flying Eagles converted all four of their spot-kicks, while Egypt missed two.

Egypt made a dream start, silencing the Nigerian bench just three minutes into the contest. Osama Omar lashed in a clinical finish from close range after Mahmoud Labib's cut-back created chaos in the

Nigerian box.

Despite conceding early, Nigeria gradually settled, dominating possession and carving out numerous chances.

Clinton Jephtha and Precious Benjamin both tested Egyptian goalkeeper Abdel Monem Tamer, while Israel Ayuma's long-range efforts failed to find the target.

Just two minutes into the second half, Nigeria's pressure paid off. A precise through ball from Divine Oliseh found Amole, who kept his composure to slot home the equaliser.

The Flying Eagles pushed for a winner, with substitute Tahir Maigana and Kparobo Arierhi adding energy in attack. Egypt, however, nearly snatched victory in stoppage time as Mohamed El Sayed struck the bar and Mohamed Haitham hit the post in a frantic finale.

With the game tied 1-1 after 90 minutes, penalties followed. Nigeria were flawless from the spot, converting all four attempts through Emmanuel Chukwu, Ayuma, Arierhi and Maigana.

Egypt's Mohamed Atef and Ahmed Kabaka both saw their efforts saved by 15-year-old Nigerian goalkeeper Ebenezer Harcourt, who once again showed maturity beyond his years.

The win marked Nigeria's fifth bronze medal and 14th top-three finish in U-20 AFCON history. It also continued their impressive record against host nations, beating Egypt for the second straight tournament.

Egypt, meanwhile, failed to extend their perfect record in third-place matches and conceded for the first time at this stage.

Nigeria 1 (4)–1 (1) Egypt (FT – Nigeria win on pens)

Scorers:

Nigeria – Bidemi Amole (47')

Egypt – Osama Omar (3')

Penalties (Nigeria first):

Chukwu (scored), Ayuma (scored), Arierhi (scored), Maigana (scored) Khedr (scored), Kabaka (saved), Atef (saved)

‘I felt the love, I’m grateful to be here’, Awoniyi says after surgery

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Nottingham Forest striker Taiwo Awoniyi has broken his silence following emergency surgery for an abdominal injury that saw him placed in an induced coma earlier this month.

In an Instagram post shared on Sunday, the Nigerian international reflected on his ordeal, describing the 2024/25 season as one of the toughest periods of his football career.

“This season has been one of the most difficult of my career, but through it all, I have felt the love. With the grace of God, I am grateful to still be here, to still be fighting, to still be smiling, and to be in good spirits,” Awoniyi wrote.

He expressed gratitude to his teammates, coaches, club staff, and the entire Nottingham Forest community for their support during his recovery.

“To my teammates, coaches, staff, and the entire Forest family, thank you for your well wishes. Seeing you all on your visit to the hospital lifted my spirits more than words can say,” the Ilorin-born striker stated.

Awoniyi also shared his encouragement to the squad as they head into their final two Premier League matches, saying, “Wishing the boys the very best in these last two games. Keep believing and keep pushing. I’m with you all the way, and I can’t wait to be back out there with the boys doing what I love.”

The 27-year-old thanked his fans and his homeland for the care and support.

“To my family, friends, and football fans, thank you for the support. And to everyone back home in Nigeria who has checked in on me, prayed for



me, and left kind words, thank you,” he said.

“I see them. I feel them. And I carry them with me every day as I recover. Come on, you Reds. Still fighting, still smiling. #Godisthegreatest.”

Emergency Surgery And Coma

Awoniyi’s health scare began on 12 May, after he suffered an abdominal injury during Nottingham Forest’s 2-2 draw against Leicester City at the City Ground.

The striker had collided with a goalpost while attempting to convert a cross from Anthony Elanga and initially tried to continue playing after receiving medical attention.

It was only the following day that Forest’s medical staff discovered the severity of the injury. He was immediately taken in for urgent

surgery, which the club confirmed in a statement via their official X (formerly Twitter) handle.

“The Club can confirm Taiwo Awoniyi has undergone urgent surgery following an abdominal injury sustained during Sunday’s match against Leicester City. Everyone at Nottingham Forest sends their best wishes to Taiwo. The club will provide further updates when appropriate,” the club stated.

Reports later emerged that Awoniyi had been placed in a medically induced coma as part of the post-surgery process. Nottingham Forest manager Nuno Espírito Santo confirmed this in a press briefing held on 16 May, stating that the situation had deeply affected the team.

“We are concerned, but it is positive... The situation he went through has been hard on us.