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Osinbajo calls on youths to prepare for politics to drive change

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**



Former Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has lamented that many Nigerian leaders enter politics without adequate preparation, contributing to the poor reputation of politics in the country.

Speaking at the 2nd Annual Daniel Taiwo Odukoya Memorial Lecture held at The Fountain of Life Church in Lagos on Saturday, Osinbajo said this lack of readiness has tarnished the image of politics not only in Nigeria but worldwide.

Despite the widespread disillusionment, he emphasised that politics remains the primary

avenue for leadership and influence.

Osinbajo urged Nigerian youths to engage actively in politics, describing it as a crucial tool for shaping the nation's leadership and achieving lasting transformation.

"Politics has acquired a bad name, not just in Nigeria, but across the world. But the truth is, there is no other way to influence a nation except by engaging in the political process," he said.

"If we are not involved in choosing leaders, shaping policy, or participating in political parties,

then we forfeit our right to complain when outcomes don't reflect our values.

"Many people go into politics with nothing, no plan, no knowledge, and end up achieving nothing. Leadership demands more.

"Nigeria's transformation requires principled, informed, and active participation in the political space.

"This nation is not beyond redemption. But change will only come when citizens, especially those with moral conviction and vision, step forward to lead," the former Vice President added.

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8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
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Akpabio: Opposition parties too divided to challenge APC

By Friday Omosola



Senate President Godswill Akpabio has suggested that Nigeria's opposition parties are unlikely to unite ahead of future elections due to their consistent antagonism towards President Bola Tinubu's administration and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

He spoke in Abuja yesterday at the inauguration of the newly built Left-Service Carriageway.

Mr Akpabio said opposition leaders would struggle to build cohesion if their focus remains solely on criticising the government.

Notably, the event was attended by top Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) figures, including former governors Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi and Ayo Fayose.

His comments echoed Mr Tinubu's remarks during his Democracy Day address to the National Assembly on

June 12.

While rejecting claims that the APC was working to eliminate political opposition and create a one-party state, Mr Tinubu had openly stated that he was not bothered by the internal turmoil currently plaguing opposition groups.

Referring to those remarks, Mr Akpabio stated, "The president has said clearly that he does not desire a one-party system in Nigeria.

He has even encouraged opposition parties to put their houses in order. But if they fail to do so, no one will step in to do it for them—certainly not me, as Senate President."

He added that constant misinformation and relentless criticism from opposition camps are undermining any real chance of unity.

"How can you come together when

your daily narrative paints everything as negative?" he asked. "You claim nothing works. Was Nigeria like this in 1960? Was Abuja the same three years ago?"

Amid ongoing legal battles and leadership disputes within the PDP and Labour Party, internal fractures appear to be weakening their political strength.

These crises have also spurred defections to the APC, with recent examples including Delta State Governor Sheriff Oborevwori and his Akwa Ibom counterpart, Umo Eno, who both left the PDP for the ruling party.

Mr Akpabio's comments highlight the growing perception that the APC is consolidating its dominance, not necessarily by suppressing opposition, but by benefiting from their internal disarray.

Probe Dele Giwa, Kudirat Abiola, Bola Ige deaths, Soyinka urges Tinubu

By Damilola Olufemi

Nobel Laureate Professor Wole Soyinka has called on President Bola Tinubu to immediately order an investigation into the mysterious deaths of several prominent Nigerians, including Dele Giwa, Bola Ige, and Kudirat Abiola, to help bring closure to their unresolved killings.

Speaking to a group of journalists in Lagos on Saturday, Soyinka suggested that Nigerians both within and outside the country may hold valuable information that could shed light on these unresolved cases.

His remarks came as Nigeria marked Democracy Day on June 12, 2025. During the celebrations, President Tinubu addressed a joint session of the National Assembly and conferred national honours on some individuals recognised as heroes of the democratic struggle.

Although Soyinka praised the honours bestowed, he pointed out that several key figures were omitted from the list. However, he expressed the view that the recipients represented a broader group of those who fought for democracy.

Soyinka also revealed his personal decision to dedicate his national honour to the late Beko Ransom-Kuti, whom he described as “a defender of human rights, champion of good governance, and campaigner for democracy,” noting that Ransom-Kuti had been imprisoned multiple times by the military regime.

Soyinka speaks further

He further cautioned against minimising the significance of the June 12 struggle, emphasising that countless people paid the ultimate price or endured severe suffering at the hands of the military government during that era. “Many people died, and many others were greatly injured by the military junta, which killed, tortured and imprisoned Nigerians at the time,” he said.

Soyinka’s appeal came shortly after the



presidency denied awarding national honours to activist Aisha Yesufu and 35 others, following public confusion over the full list of honorees.

The official list, announced by President Tinubu on Thursday, June 13, during a joint session of the National Assembly, included 66 individuals recognised as heroes of democracy. Among those honoured posthumously were Shehu Musa Yar’Adua, former Chairman of NEC, Humphrey Nwosu, who oversaw the 1993 elections, and Kudirat Abiola, the slain wife of late MKO Abiola.

Tinubu also announced a state pardon for environmental activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other members of the Ogoni Nine, who were executed under the regime of late military ruler Sani Abacha.

“I also confer posthumous national honours on Ken Saro-Wiwa (CON), the leader of the Ogoni Nine and his fellow travellers,” Tinubu declared.

Soyinka continued, “I shall also be exercising my powers under the prerogative of mercy to grant these national heroes a full pardon, together with others whose names shall be announced later in conjunction with the National Council of State.”

Under the honours, Ken Saro-Wiwa received the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON), while the remaining eight were awarded the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).

This marks the first time a Nigerian president has officially acknowledged the Ogoni Nine’s role in Nigeria’s democratic evolution and initiated state-led steps to rehabilitate their legacy.

The Ogoni Nine were leaders of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), which campaigned against oil-related environmental degradation in the Niger Delta. Their controversial executions in 1995 sparked international condemnation and led to Nigeria’s temporary suspension from the Commonwealth.

The others honoured alongside Saro-Wiwa include Saturday Dobee, Nordu Eawo, Daniel Gbooko, Paul Levera, Felix Nuata, Baribor Bera, Barinem Kiobel, and John Kpuine—all executed after a military tribunal found them guilty in a trial widely criticised as politically motivated and deeply flawed by human rights organisations around the world.

Agric Ministry halts prayer sessions to tackle hunger

By Friday Omosola



The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security has backtracked on its earlier directive for staff to engage in prayer and fasting as a means to address the nation's worsening hunger crisis.

Just days earlier, a leaked internal memo dated June 11, 2025, had instructed ministry personnel, including top officials such as directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, and value chain desk officers, to gather for weekly spiritual exercises at the ministry's Abuja headquarters.

The circular, issued by Mrs Adedayo Modupe, Director of Human Resource Management, called on employees to observe fasting and take part in a spiritual programme titled "Divine Intervention for Protection and National Development," scheduled for June 16, 23, and 30.

"This is to invite all staff of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food to a

solemn prayer session for God's guidance and supporting the Government's effort to achieve food security," the circular read.

However, a subsequent internal communication signed by the same official revealed that the spiritual initiative had been put on hold 'until further notice', with no explanation offered for the decision.

"The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security on Saturday clarified that its suspended internal prayer initiative was not an official policy of the ministry to address agriculture and food security challenges in the country," the ministry said in a statement on Saturday by its spokesperson, Ezeaja Ikemefuna.

The ministry's reversal comes after intense criticism from the public and the media, with many Nigerians expressing concern over the suitability of relying on religious activities as a

response to growing food insecurity and economic hardship.

"Though meant for internal consumption, but published online, like other internal activities of the ministry. In this regard, the ministry wishes to inform that the prayer session is an initiative of the Human Resource Department to address the well-being of the staff just as the already existing monthly aerobic exercise and establishment of the gymnasium in the ministry are for physical fitness as the regular medical check-up of staff are for their health.

"The prayer was to address the apprehensiveness of staff over the recent untimely and successive death of management staff of the ministry. The ministry emphasised that the prayer session is an internal initiative of staff to address the concern over sudden deaths in the ministry," the ministry stated.

June 12: Abiola family seeks clarification on N45bn debt claim

By Damilola Olufemi



The family of the late Chief Moshood Abiola has demanded clarification on the reported N45 billion debt allegedly owed to them by the Federal Government.

The demand follows a recent statement by former Jigawa State Governor, Sule Lamido, who called on President Bola Tinubu to compensate the family as a gesture of national healing and justice.

Lamido reignited the dispute over the unpaid money, insisting the government owes the late business mogul's heirs about N45 billion. Speaking in Abuja at the launch of his memoir, *Being True to Myself*, Lamido said Abiola's company, International Telephone & Telegraph, completed significant communications contracts for the military government in the 1970s but was never fully compensated.

He claimed that the late Head of State, Murtala Muhammed, acknowledged the debt before his assassination in 1976, and that Abiola himself

confirmed the figure during a meeting with Lamido shortly before his arrest in 1994.

Describing the unpaid sum as a "double punishment," Lamido said Abiola was first denied the presidency after his June 12, 1993 electoral victory was annulled, and then denied the payment he was owed for completed contracts.

He argued that settling the debt would provide moral and symbolic closure to Nigeria's longstanding June 12 saga, signalling President Tinubu's commitment to justice for pro-democracy figures.

"Abiola kept faith with this country; paying what is owed will close the chapter decently," Lamido told guests, which included Information Minister Mohammed Idris, whom he urged to convey the appeal to the President.

The issue has reignited public discourse about Nigeria's democratic journey and Abiola's sacrifices, following his death

in detention in 1998 after his struggle to reclaim his electoral mandate.

The Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Gani Adams, also called on President Tinubu to honour the debt, stressing it is about more than compensation it is about recognising Abiola's legacy.

"That money should be paid to Abiola's family. It is not just about compensation, it is about honouring a man who gave everything for this democracy. Giving an appointment to one of his children is not enough," Adams said.

Speaking for the family, Jamiu Abiola said that more information was needed before any action could be taken.

"The former governor did not specify what the money was owed for. He didn't give many details. Until the matter is substantiated, the issue of payment cannot proceed," he stated.

Bwala challenges Obi's claims on June 12 democracy struggle

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Presidential spokesperson Daniel Bwala has criticised Peter Obi, the Labour Party's 2023 presidential candidate, over his recent remarks about the Bola Tinubu administration.

Bwala, Special Adviser on Policy Communication to President Bola Tinubu, questioned Obi's right to comment on the June 12, 1993 democratic struggle, stating that Obi was in Asia at the time, engaged in business activities, with no record of involvement in the struggle.

During the Democracy Day celebrations, Obi urged President Tinubu to follow the examples of former presidents Umaru Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan.

He suggested Tinubu should acknowledge that the process through which he assumed power was flawed, like Yar'Adua did, and emulate Jonathan's acceptance of electoral defeat which preserved Nigeria's democracy.

Obi and his supporters have consistently maintained that the 2023 presidential election was fraught with

irregularities and that its results should not stand. He also asserted that there is no democracy under Tinubu's government.

In a post on X on Friday evening, Bwala said he could find no evidence of Obi's participation in Nigeria's democratic struggle during the June 12 period.

He wrote, "Please can someone confirm to me whether it is true that on June 12, 1993 and weeks after that @PeterObi Peter Gregory Obi was in Malaysia or somewhere in Asia doing buying and selling trading business? I searched the internet to see any of his involvement in the struggle for democracy, I couldn't see any link ohh."

Bwala's post drew mixed reactions from Nigerians, some questioning his credibility given his previous criticism of the Tinubu administration.

@Udoh D responded, "Can you show any evidence of Tinubu's involvement in the struggle for democracy during the period you referenced aside from fleeing to London to cool off? Uncle Dele even housed him at some point."

@Alphama... commented, "As at the time you mentioned he was running a multimillion dollar business. He isn't much older than you, but I wonder where you were then. It's very nice you said he was running a legitimate business, not dealing drugs or laundering money. What do you mean by 'struggle for democracy'? Most of those you referred to did what they did not for the sake of our country, but to grab power. Could every Nigerian have been marching on the streets then? Does the constitution say only those on the ground can claim the presidency? Sometimes when some of you talk, I question how your brains function."

@Colman12Francis wrote, "You're a waste of legal education if you actually claim to be a lawyer. Let us assume Tinubu fought for democracy in 1993. Are you suggesting he should be president for life? If fighting for democracy qualifies one for the presidency as your post suggests, what do we say of those who fought for independence? What in Tinubu's government shows he understands democracy? Daniel @BwalaDaniel, may hunger that made all this charlatan never leave you or your descendants."

Soludo hails Tinubu for rescuing economy, calls for national ethical rebirth

By Friday Omosola

Governor Chukwuma Soludo of Anambra State has praised President Bola Tinubu for pulling Nigeria's economy back from the brink of collapse, describing his administration's structural reforms as 'audacious' and necessary.

Speaking at 'The Platform Nigeria'—a national discourse hosted by Poju Oyemade and The Covenant Nation, Mr Soludo said Mr Tinubu's economic policies returned the country's public finances to solvency and a path of macroeconomic stability.

"The audacious structural reforms embarked upon by the current administration of His Excellency Bola Ahmed Tinubu have rescued the economy from the tipping point," he stated.

"In 2023, I described the economy as a standing dead horse. Public finance was on the verge of insolvency, risking mass retrenchment and unpaid salaries. Today, public finance is back on a solvency path."

Mr Soludo, a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, cited positive assessments from the World Bank, IMF, Moody's, and the 'Financial Times' as evidence that Tinubu's reform agenda is making credible progress.

He noted that while he had previously criticised international financial institutions, their current support for Nigeria's economic direction was largely warranted.

He also urged public commentators to adopt more evidence-based analysis, stressing the importance of rigorous critique over mere opinion.

"Conduct rigorous counterfactual analysis and provide credible



alternatives," he challenged critics.

Beyond economics, Mr Soludo used the event themed 'Rebuilding Our Nation' to call for a nationwide moral and ideological reset.

He argued that sustainable national development depends not only on leadership but on the character and values of the Nigerian people.

"We must deliberately create a critical mass of new Nigerians — people who believe in the country and are ready, if necessary, to die for her," he said.

The governor warned against a growing culture that glorifies unearned wealth and shortcuts to success, saying Nigeria must return to its traditional values of hard work, enterprise, and integrity.

"A society where no one asks about sources of wealth, and where free money is celebrated, will always breed transactional governance," he warned.

Mr Soludo praised recent federal and state initiatives aimed at empowering young Nigerians and fostering patriotism, including the federal government's NELFUND student loan scheme and Anambra State's 'One Youth, Two Skills' programme.

"These programmes are foundational investments that could help create a new generation of patriotic, productive citizens," he said.

He also called for legislation and cultural reforms to tackle the widespread belief in magical wealth, urging Nigerian media and education systems to lead the charge against the normalisation of dubious success.

To entrench a new national ethos, Mr Soludo advocated a realignment of political ideologies and values across party lines, urging stakeholders to unite around a common vision for transformational leadership.

"This is a national emergency requiring urgent national conversation," he said.

LP Crisis: Okonkwo accuses Obi of betrayal

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Veteran actor and politician Kenneth Okonkwo has accused the Julius Abure-led faction of the Labour Party of deceiving the party's 2023 presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

Okonkwo, who formerly served as spokesperson for the Labour Party Presidential Campaign Council before leaving the party in February 2025, made the allegations in an interview with Symfoni TV released on Saturday.

He claimed that Abure and his executives falsely told Obi that they were recognised by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), prompting the former Anambra State governor to return to working with the faction.

Okonkwo lamented that despite warning Obi that the Abure-led executives were acting as agents of President Bola Tinubu's government aiming to destabilise him, Obi publicly endorsed the faction within 72 hours.

He said, "The Julius Abure-led LP members lied to Obi that the Independent National Electoral Commission had accepted them and Obi surreptitiously went back to them. But I told him: 'Sir, you have made a public statement on integrity and even if INEC has accepted them, that is not a criterion for you to go back and start dealing with them because they have shown that they are not democratic."

"If you go back to them, they will destroy your political career and everything you have said about integrity will die.

"I told Obi that these people had become agents in the hands of the government to destabilise him.

"And after saying all those things, within like 72 hours, Obi went back to Abure's office to publicly endorse them and while he was there talking to them, one of the leaders in that executive sent me the video to mock me that the person I was fighting for against them has come to their office to endorse them."

Okonkwo also accused Obi of betraying him amid the internal party disputes, saying, "Any politician that knows what he's doing cannot be betrayed by another. If there is anybody that betrayed the other, I can say it emphatically that Peter Obi betrayed me."

Jega urges urgent reforms to rescue Nigeria's democracy

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega, has warned that despite nearly three decades of uninterrupted civil rule, Nigeria's democracy remains dangerously underdeveloped.

Delivering a paper titled "Required Reforms for Stronger Democratic Institutions in Nigeria" at The Platform Nigeria: June 12 Edition, organised by The Covenant Nation Global in Lagos, Professor Jega criticised the country's failure to transform democratic rituals into meaningful governance.

"We have perfected the rituals of democracy – elections, campaigns, political handovers – but failed to build its substance: institutions that work, leaders who serve, and a citizenry that trusts," the political scientist from Bayero University, Kano, said. "We are stuck in a vicious cycle where those elected to protect democracy become its greatest threat."

Jega emphasised the need for far-reaching institutional reforms to ensure accountability, strengthen the rule of law, and restore public confidence in governance. He singled out the constitutional immunity clause for executives as a critical obstacle.

"The immunity clause was meant to shield presidents and governors from frivolous litigation, but it has become a cover for corruption and impunity," he said.

"Executives loot public funds, manipulate institutions, and trample on rights without consequence. For four or eight years, they operate above the law. This is not democracy; it is elected autocracy. The immunity clause must go."

However, Jega noted that scrapping immunity is only a first step. He called for a comprehensive overhaul of the judiciary, which he said has become compromised by political interference, underfunding, and opaque appointments.

"A democracy without an independent judiciary is like a car without brakes – it is bound to crash," he warned.

He advocated for reforms ensuring that judicial appointments are based on merit, experience, and integrity, rather than political loyalty. He also urged that all election petitions be resolved before winners are sworn into office to prevent the courts from becoming "post-election war rooms".



Jega also expressed concern about the state of the media, which he said faces harassment, censorship, and co-optation by political actors.

"Journalists operate in fear, while some trade truth for patronage. A democracy cannot survive without a free and responsible press," he stated, calling for full enforcement of the Freedom of Information Act and sanctions for violating agencies.

On electoral reform, Jega acknowledged INEC's progress with technological innovations but warned that its credibility is still undermined by executive influence over leadership appointments.

He proposed unbundling the Commission to allow independent bodies to handle election offences and political party regulation, allowing INEC to focus solely on elections.

"Technology must be used transparently – electronic transmission of results, biometric accreditation, and digital tracking must be secure and standardised. Citizens must trust that votes count and that elections are free and fair," he said.

Jega also criticised the excessive powers wielded by the executive arm at all levels of government, describing it as "bloated with power and surrounded by an ever-growing army of political appointees."

He called for a drastic reduction in political appointments and full transparency in the allocation of public funds, especially security votes, which he said have become slush funds.

"Budgets must be respected, not treated as suggestions. We must demand the highest

ethical standards from our leaders and reject mediocrity and nepotism," he added.

Beyond institutional reforms, Jega stressed that citizen engagement is vital to democratic survival. He said many Nigerians have lost faith in the system due to corruption, impunity, and exclusion, but urged the public not to disengage.

"Democracy cannot be outsourced. Citizens must demand accountability, reject vote-buying, and participate actively," he said.

He also advocated for legislative quotas for women, youth, persons with disabilities, and voting rights for Nigerians in the diaspora.

"The exclusion of these groups denies us the energy and innovation needed to revitalise our politics. A democracy that does not reflect its people's diversity is not representative – it is a lie."

Concluding his address, Jega called for what he described as a "democratic reset."

"What Nigeria needs is not just periodic elections, but a full democratic reset. Civil rule is not the same as democratic governance. If we continue down this path, we risk democratic collapse."

"This is a generational task, but one that cannot wait. We must remove executive immunity, strengthen the judiciary, empower the media, protect the vote, and curtail executive overreach. Nigeria is not doomed – but we are running out of time. Let the reforms begin. Let the people rise. Let democracy, finally, be real," he declared.

June 12 is bigger than May 29, says Kila

By **Damilola Olufemi**

Professor Anthony Kila, a political economist and professor of strategy and development at the Commonwealth Institute of Advanced and Professional Studies, has argued that June 12 is the most important date of the 4th Republic in Nigeria.

According to the Don, June 12 is not just a memorable date, but also a symbol of the national expression of desire and vision, collective action of resistance and resolve, as well as a personal tragedy.

He described the story of June 12 as a personal tragedy for many who lost their lives in the battle to defend the democratic choice that Nigerians made on June 12 and for families who lost their loved ones.

“It is also the day Nigerians, united in their voices, regardless of their ethnic and religious divides, clearly expressed their desire and vision for the kind of Nigeria they wanted and who they wished to have as the leader of such a Nigeria. Sadly, that clear decision and vision of the many was annulled by a very few.

“June 12 then became the rallying point for those who chose to resist the imposition of the very few on the many. Twenty-six years later, we have an uninterrupted democratic process that is 26 years old,” he said.

He added that the nation still, however, does not possess the kind of democracy that was aspired to and fought for 34 years ago.



In his words, he said, “we continue to face issues of police brutality, dysfunctional bureaucracy, nepotism, corruption, distrust between ethnic groups, religious division, and a federation that is not truly federal, not to mention the dire economic conditions faced by most Nigerians.”

According to him, it is safe to say that while some progress has been made, much more needs to be accomplished for our democracy to be a genuine democracy we can trust and take pride in.

“An excellent starting point is to advocate for a people’s constitution that empowers the citizens of Nigeria to democratically determine the kind of country they wish to inhabit, the rules they desire, and how much authority they are willing to cede to the federal, state, and local governments. The Patriots and the June 12 Movement, once again today, resolve to foster an environment conducive to the emergence of a people’s constitution.”

He, however, calls on individuals of goodwill to unite with us in striving towards a people’s constitution that will establish a Nigeria “that honours our diversity and is crafted for our peace, progress, and prosperity.”

Beyond June 12: Kila tells Tinubu to resign as Petroleum Minister

In April 2025, New Daily Prime reported that the Professor urged President Bola Tinubu to resign as Minister and take further action beyond simply changing the management and board of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The Don also criticised the amount of information disclosed regarding the board change, describing it as scant.

According to Prof Kila, “When changing the board of a company that belongs to all Nigerians, it would make more sense to provide full details to the public about why the President is changing the board and what we can expect from the new board. The details of this overhaul seem too scant to me.”

Court jails 7 Nigerians, orders deportation of four Filipinos over cybercrime offences

By Friday Omosola

Justice Yellim Bogoro of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos, has ordered the deportation of four Filipino nationals convicted of cyber-related crimes.

The judge also sentenced seven Nigerians for their involvement in internet fraud and cyberterrorism.

According to a statement released yesterday by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the four foreign nationals—Reyna Mae Eriba, Chynna Samonte, Zara Fabian, and Dominique Medina—were found guilty of engaging in activities intended to destabilise Nigeria’s digital and socio-economic systems.

The court further directed the Comptroller General of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) to ensure that the four are returned to the Philippines within seven days of completing their prison terms.

Meanwhile, the EFCC’s Lagos Zonal Command 1 also secured convictions against seven Nigerians: Chidera Ezechukwu, Favour Oluchukwu, Egwenun Ifeanyi, David Okezie, Gbenga Shittu Solomon, Ibraheem Olamilekan, and Oghomienor Jotham.

The individuals were prosecuted separately on charges linked to cybercrime and related offences.

In one of the charges brought against Samonte, the court heard that: “That you, Chynna Samonte, sometime in December 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organized to seriously destabilize and destroy the fundamental economic and social structure of Nigeria when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out



as persons of foreign nationality with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As amended 2024) and Section 2(3)(d) of the Terrorism (Prevention, Prohibition) Act, 2022.”

She was accused of orchestrating a scheme that involved recruiting Nigerian youths for identity theft operations designed to disrupt the country’s social and economic fabric.

Another charge, levelled against Ezechukwu, stated: “That you, Chidera Ezechukwu, sometime in May 2025 at Lagos, within the Judicial Division of this Honourable Court, did retain the sum of N12,750,318.63 (Twelve Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand, Three Hundred and Eighteen Million, million, Sixty-three Kobo) in your UBA account with account number 2330149541, which sum you reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceeds of your unlawful act to wit: engaging in an online dating scam and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 14(1)(b) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act,

2004 as amended and punishable under Section 14(2) of the same Act.”

Upon arraignment, all defendants pleaded guilty to the offences.

Following this, EFCC prosecutors Anita Imo, S.I. Suleiman, H.U. Kofarnaisa, and B.M. Isah urged the court to convict and sentence the accused individuals, and to order the forfeiture of assets recovered from them.

Justice Bogoro consequently sentenced Eriba, Samonte, Fabian, and Medina to one year’s imprisonment each, with an option of a ₦1 million fine.

Among the Nigerians, Gbenga Shittu Solomon received a one-year sentence or a ₦700,000 fine, while the remaining six—Jotham, Olalekan, Ezechukwu, David, Ifeanyi, and Oluchukwu—were handed one-year jail terms each or an alternative fine of ₦500,000.

In addition, the court ordered that all recovered items, including vehicles, mobile devices, and funds, be permanently forfeited to the federal government.

Hausa tribe: A rich history of language, culture, legacy in Nigeria

By **Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi**



The Hausa tribe is one of the most influential, ancient, and culturally dynamic ethnic groups in Nigeria and West Africa. As one of the largest ethnic populations on the African continent, the Hausa people have played a central role in shaping regional history through language, commerce, religion, governance, and education.

This article explores the history of the Hausa tribe, the development of Hausa culture, and a brief history of the Hausa language, all of which contribute to their enduring significance in modern-day Nigeria and beyond.

Origins: The History of the Hausa Tribe in Nigeria

The history of the Hausa tribe in Nigeria spans over a millennium. The Hausa are believed to have originated from a federation of city-states known as the Hausa Bakwai, or “Seven True Hausa States”: Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Gobir, Daura, Rano, and Biram.

According to legend and historical documentation such as the Kano

Chronicle, these states were founded by descendants of Bayajidda, a mythical hero from Baghdad who married the queen of Daura. Their offspring became the progenitors of the rulers of the Hausa city-states, which quickly developed into flourishing centers of commerce, governance, and culture.

Over centuries, these Hausa states maintained diplomatic and trade relationships with other parts of Africa, including Mali and Songhai empires, and even with parts of the Middle East. Their growth was aided by strategic locations that facilitated the trans-Saharan trade routes.

Hausa Culture and Its Lasting Legacy

The history of Hausa culture is one of deep tradition and resilience. Hausa culture is known for its modesty, craftsmanship, Islamic influence, and strong social hierarchy.

Key Elements of Hausa Culture:

- **Architecture:** Notable for its use of sun-dried mud and intricate

geometric patterns, especially in the ancient cities of Kano and Katsina.

- **Clothing:** Men wear flowing gowns called *babban riga* with embroidered caps (*hula*), while women often dress in colorful wrappers, veils (*gyale*), and ornate jewelry.
- **Cuisine:** Signature dishes like *tuwo shinkafa*, *miyan kuka*, *fura da nono*, and *kilishi* are widely enjoyed.
- **Festivals:** The *Durbar Festival*, held during Eid celebrations, is an extravagant display of horsemanship, music, and royal pageantry.
- **Arts:** Hausa people are renowned for their leatherwork, weaving, dyeing (notably in *Kofar Mata* dye pits), and storytelling traditions.

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These cultural hallmarks have stood the test of time, continuing to thrive in rural villages and modern cities alike.

Hausa Language: A Brief but Powerful History

A brief history of the Hausa language reveals its journey from a regional tongue to a major African lingua franca. Hausa is classified under the Afroasiatic language family, specifically within the Chadic subgroup.

Historical Milestones:

- Originally passed down orally, the Hausa language was first written using Ajami script (modified Arabic).
- During colonial times, it was transcribed into the Latin alphabet, allowing for broader literacy and documentation.
- Today, Hausa is taught in schools, used in national and international broadcasting, and spoken by over 60 million people.

The history of the Hausa language reflects both the tribe's resilience and its openness to intercultural exchange. Hausa is now a dominant language in Nigerian media, with major outlets like BBC Hausa, Deutsche Welle Hausa, and VOA Hausa broadcasting daily news.

Islam and the Rise of Hausa Influence

The Hausa adopted Islam as early as the 11th century, making it a central pillar of their culture and legal systems. With Islam came the construction of mosques, madrasas (Islamic schools), and the implementation of Sharia law in various Hausa states.

The Islamic revival of the early 19th century, led by Shehu Usman dan Fodio, gave rise to the Sokoto Caliphate. The Hausa states were brought under a unified Islamic rule, transforming them into administrative centers of religion, politics, and commerce.

The caliphate system introduced a structure that is still visible today in the emirate councils of Northern Nigeria. Emirs serve as both traditional and religious leaders, a testament to the enduring legacy of Hausa-Islamic governance.

Hausa in Contemporary Nigeria

In modern Nigeria, the Hausa remain a dominant sociopolitical force. Northern Nigeria, where the majority of Hausa people live, is home to bustling urban centers such as Kano, Sokoto, Kaduna, and Zaria.

The Hausa have produced numerous national leaders, intellectuals, and entrepreneurs. The tribe's influence

extends into Nollywood via Kannywood, the Hausa-language film industry, which produces hundreds of movies each year.

Education and business among the Hausa have modernized significantly, with a younger generation embracing both tradition and innovation. Meanwhile, Hausa remains a compulsory subject in many Northern schools and an official regional language in Nigerian governance.

The history of the Hausa tribe is more than a chronicle of the past—it is an enduring legacy that continues to shape Nigeria's identity, values, and future. From the scholarly halls of Sokoto to the vibrant markets of Kano, the Hausa people exemplify a fusion of tradition and progress.

Understanding the history of Hausa culture, the evolution of their language, and their political significance helps contextualize not just Nigerian history, but the broader story of African civilization.

Whether through the brief history of Hausa language, the architecture of ancient cities, or the horse-riding warriors of the Durbar festival, the Hausa spirit remains unmistakable and alive.



Where can Nigerians travel without a visa in 2025? see full list

By Damilola Olufemi



Looking forward to travel with a Nigerian passport in 2025? The New Daily Prime reports an encouraging trend: Nigerian citizens can now enter at least 17 African countries without a visa, with an additional 36 offering visa-on-arrival. Thanks to growing regional cooperation and rising visa openness, travel across Africa is becoming easier than ever.

Visa-Free Travel for Nigerians in Africa

According to the Africa Visa Openness Index (AVOI) 2025 report, 17 countries across Africa currently allow visa-free access for Nigerian passport holders.

List of Visa-Free African Countries for Nigerians:

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Cameroon
- Chad
- Côte d'Ivoire

- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Senegal
- Seychelles
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia
- Togo

These destinations enable Nigerians to enter without the hassle of pre-approved visas, fostering more accessible travel and stronger inter-African relations.

Visa-on-Arrival Countries for Nigerian Travelers

In addition to visa-free countries, 36 African nations now offer Nigerians a visa on arrival, further expanding mobility options within the continent.

In addition to visa-free countries, 36 African nations now offer Nigerians a visa on arrival, further expanding mobility options within the continent.

Visa-on-Arrival African Countries for Nigerians:

- Algeria
- Angola
- Botswana
- Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- DR Congo
- Egypt
- Equatorial Guinea
- Eritrea
- Eswatini
- Ethiopia
- Gabon
- Kenya
- Lesotho
- Libya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mauritania
- Mauritius

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- Morocco
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- Republic of the Congo
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Somalia
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

These countries allow Nigerian travellers to receive a visa upon arrival at their ports of entry, easing bureaucratic burdens and encouraging cross-border movement.

Growing Trends in African Visa Openness

The AVOI report outlines significant progress in intra-African travel policies. Several countries have made meaningful improvements in promoting visa-free and simplified entry for fellow African nations.

Key Improvements:

Benin, The Gambia, Rwanda, and Seychelles now allow visa-free entry

to all African nationals.

28% of intra-African travel scenarios are now visa-free in 2024, up from 20% in 2016.

26 African countries (44%) offer eVisas, compared to just 9 countries (17%) in 2016.

This shows a trend toward greater mobility, economic integration, and regional collaboration.

Visa Openness Rankings: How Nigeria and Others Have Progressed
Between 2016 and 2024, 39 African countries improved their visa openness scores. Here are some standout performers:

- Benin: Rank 31 → 1
- The Gambia: Rank 18 → 1
- Nigeria: Rank 25 → 6
- Ethiopia: Rank 46 → 19
- Sierra Leone: Rank 32 → 13

This upward movement indicates a continental push toward openness and a more unified African travel experience.

Key Travel Scenarios Tracked by AVOI

The Africa Visa Openness Index categorizes countries by three main access types:

Visa-Free Access

- Up from 20% (2016) to 28% (2024)
- 803 visa-free travel scenarios recorded — a record high

Visa-on-Arrival

- Remains steady but reflects a shift from stricter visa requirements

Visa Required Before Travel

- Decreased from 55% (2016) to 47% (2024)
- Still the most common but steadily declining

With 17 visa-free destinations and 36 visa-on-arrival options, Nigerian travelers in 2025 have more freedom to explore the continent than ever before. As African nations continue to expand access and ease visa policies, the dream of seamless African travel is becoming a reality.

Always check the latest visa and entry requirements before traveling, as policies can change.



Why late-night eating is bad for your health

By **Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi**

That late-night snack you crave? It could be quietly sabotaging your health. While grabbing food late at night might feel comforting—especially after a long day or while working late—science says it's far from harmless. In this article, The New Daily Prime breaks down why eating late at night is unhealthy and what it does to your body over time.

Is Eating Late at Night Bad for You?

Short answer: Yes.

Even if it seems like your body is asking for that midnight meal, giving in too often can lead to several health issues. According to nutrition and sleep experts, regular late-night eating can disrupt your body's natural rhythms, digestion, and even heart health.

How Late-Night Eating Disrupts Your Body

1. It Messes with Your Circadian Rhythm,

Your body runs on an internal clock known as the circadian rhythm, which regulates sleep, hormones, and metabolism. Dr. Satchin Panda, a renowned expert in circadian biology, explains that digestion slows down at night. In his book *The Circadian Code*, he writes, "When you eat at the wrong time, your body gets confused. It thinks it's daytime, which disrupts everything from sleep to metabolism."

2. It Slows Down Your Metabolism and Promotes Weight Gain

A 2014 study published in *Obesity* found that people who ate the majority of their calories earlier in the day lost more weight than those who ate late—even though both groups consumed the same number of calories. This means your body is more likely to store fat instead of burning it when you eat at night.

3. It Affects Sleep Quality



Heavy or spicy meals before bed can cause discomfort and insomnia. According to the Sleep Foundation, eating too close to bedtime can disturb your sleep, leading to tiredness, irritability, and increased cravings the next day.

4. It Increases Risk of Acid Reflux

Lying down soon after eating removes the effect of gravity on digestion. The result? Acid reflux or heartburn. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) advises avoiding food two to three hours before lying down to help prevent this common issue.

5. It Raises Your Risk of Diabetes and Heart Disease

A 2020 study in *Nutrients* found that late-night eating is linked to elevated blood sugar and insulin levels, raising your risk for type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Why Do We Eat Late at Night?

Most of the time, late-night hunger isn't true hunger. It's triggered by boredom, stress, or habit. What's worse? Late-night snacks are often high in sugar, processed, or fried foods, which are particularly harmful when consumed right before sleep.

The Healthier Alternative: Eat Earlier and Eat Smarter

The solution is simple but powerful:

- Eat your last meal 2–3 hours before bed
- Keep it light and nutrient-dense
- Avoid sugary, spicy, or fried foods late at night

Not only will this support better sleep and digestion, but it also helps regulate weight, blood sugar, and overall wellness.

Final Thoughts: Skip the Midnight Snack—Your Body Will Thank You

Late-night eating might seem harmless—or even enjoyable—but over time, it disrupts sleep, increases the risk of weight gain, acid reflux, and chronic diseases like diabetes and heart problems.

Your body processes food best during the day. So next time that midnight snack tempts you, remember: it might feel good now, but it could lead to long-term harm. Choose rest, not regret.

Listen to your body's natural signals, not cravings driven by habit. Your future self will thank you for choosing health over that late-night sugar-fueled soap opera.

Bowel cancer is rising in Nigeria – Is a lack of fibre hidden cause?

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Bowel cancer rates are climbing in Nigeria and worldwide – and experts believe fibre deficiency may be fueling the trend. Colorectal cancer, once considered rare in Nigeria, is now becoming a growing public health concern. While incidence rates remain lower than in Western nations, recent studies and clinical observations point to a steady rise in colorectal cancer cases across the country, especially among younger patients. Alarming, most of these cases are diagnosed at advanced stages, significantly reducing survival rates.

One under-discussed but potentially crucial factor behind this disturbing trend is dietary fibre deficiency — a nutritional gap that's drawing attention in both local and global health discussions.

The Changing Face of Cancer in Nigeria

According to oncologists and gastroenterologists in Nigeria, the majority of colorectal cancer patients present late, often after months of misdiagnosis or ignoring early symptoms such as “blood in the stool,” unexplained weight loss, and changes in bowel habits. These signs are frequently attributed to less serious ailments like hemorrhoids or infections, leading to fatal delays in treatment.

“We’re seeing more young Nigerians — people in their 30s and 40s — coming in with late-stage bowel cancer,” says Dr. Isecc Eze, a Lagos-based oncologist. “By then, surgical and treatment options are limited, and outcomes are poor.”

While there is currently no nationwide screening program in place, healthcare providers are advocating for the implementation of population-based colorectal cancer screening, especially in high-risk communities.

Global Context: Bowel Cancer Soars



Among the Young

What’s happening in Nigeria mirrors a disturbing global trend. In the UK and the US, bowel cancer rates have spiked among under-50s, with experts warning of a “silent epidemic” linked to lifestyle factors — chief among them, poor dietary fibre intake.

In the UK, recent data from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities reveals that 96% of adults fail to consume the recommended 30g of fibre daily. The shortfall has been connected to the rise in early-onset colorectal cancer, with more than a quarter (28%) of cases now believed to be diet-related.

Fibre: The Unsung Hero of Disease Prevention

So, what exactly is fibre, and why does it matter?

Fibre refers to plant-based carbohydrates that our digestive systems can’t break down. Instead, it feeds the trillions of bacteria in our gut — the gut microbiome — which in turn play a vital role in everything from immunity to brain function.

“There’s a misconception that fibre is only good for digestion,” says Jo Travers, a registered dietitian. “But research now shows it influences

everything from mental health to metabolic function, and more importantly, helps reduce the risk of bowel cancer.”

There are two main types:

- Soluble fibre, found in oats, fruits, and beans, which slows digestion and stabilizes blood sugar.
- Insoluble fibre, found in wholegrains and leafy greens, which adds bulk to stool and keeps the digestive system moving.

Emerging research has also highlighted prebiotic fibres, which promote the growth of healthy gut bacteria that release short-chain fatty acids — compounds that reduce inflammation and help prevent chronic diseases, including cancer.

The Fibre Deficit in Nigeria’s Modern Diet

Nigeria’s traditional diets — rich in unrefined grains, legumes, vegetables, and tubers — once provided ample fibre. But urbanization and the spread of Western-style processed foods are eroding these habits.

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Refined carbs like white rice, white bread, and sugary snacks have become staples in many Nigerian households, displacing traditional, fibre-rich foods like ofada rice, beans, okra, and leafy greens.

“Convenience foods are everywhere now,” says Dr. Isecc. “They’re cheaper and easier to prepare, but they’re almost completely stripped of fibre. Over time, that dietary shift affects our health in profound ways.”

What Needs to Change – and Fast

To address the rise of colorectal cancer in Nigeria, experts recommend a multi-faceted approach:

- National Awareness Campaigns to educate the public on early symptoms like blood in the stool and the role of fibre.
- Routine Screening Programs to

detect pre-cancerous polyps early, especially in adults over 40.

- Policy Support for fibre-rich food availability, possibly through subsidies or public health labeling.
- Nutrition Education that promotes local fibre-packed foods in schools and communities.

How Nigerians Can Eat More Fibre – Without Breaking the Bank

Adding fibre to the diet doesn’t require expensive superfoods. Affordable local options include:

- Beans, lentils, and chickpeas
- Traditional vegetables like fluted pumpkin (ugu), bitter leaf, okra, and spinach
- Fruits like bananas, mangoes, and guava
- Whole grains such as millet, sorghum, and brown rice

Swapping white rice for brown,

adding an extra serving of vegetables at dinner, or snacking on groundnuts instead of pastries can make a big difference over time.

For those who experience bloating when increasing fibre intake, doctors recommend gradual changes and increased water intake to help the digestive system adjust.

As Nigeria confronts the rising tide of colorectal cancer, the country must look not just to expensive treatments but to simple, powerful prevention tools already on our plates.

Fibre is not just a digestive aid – it’s a frontline defence against cancer. With better awareness, improved diets, and targeted health policies, Nigeria can turn the tide on this preventable disease.

Jigawa begins health insurance enrolment for political appointees

By **Helen Okechukwu**

The Jigawa State Government has begun enrolling 400 political appointees into its health insurance scheme to strengthen healthcare delivery and promote universal health coverage.

This was announced by Ismail Ibrahim, spokesperson to the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), in a statement on Friday.

SSG Bala Ibrahim-Mamsa launched the exercise in his office, Dutse, stating it follows the State Executive Council’s approval and a recent amendment to the law establishing the Jigawa State Contributory Healthcare Management Agency (JICHMA).

The SSG and Chief of Staff to Governor Umar Namadi, Mujitaba Muhammad, were the first to register.

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of



Health, Dr. Kabiru Ibrahim, noted that 500 vulnerable persons from each of the state’s 287 wards have already been enrolled through a digital system.

JICHMA Executive Secretary, Hamza Maigari, confirmed that preparations for the enrolment across all 27 LGAs were complete and urged full participation from appointees.

UNILAG management commends NGO for donating 79 inhalers to students

By Helen Okechukwu



The management of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Medical Centre has praised Attack Against Asthma, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) for donating 79 inhalers to their health facility.

According to the founder of the NGO, Temitope Omosebi, the initiative aims to improve asthma care, promote asthma awareness, and reduce asthma-related mortality in Nigeria.

In a document shared recently with New Daily Prime, it was noted that the donation would be used responsibly for eligible students.

“Your generosity is deeply appreciated and reflects a commendable commitment to the

well-being of young people in our academic community.

“We are truly grateful for your thoughtful contribution, which will be distributed free of charge to asthmatic students of the University who are in need of this essential medication,” the statement read.

“Your support will significantly enhance the quality of care we provide and ensure that students managing asthma have better access to the treatment they require.

“We thank you for your invaluable support and look forward to continued collaboration in promoting student health and wellness.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), asthma is a major non-communicable disease (NCD), affecting both children and adults, and is the most common chronic disease among children.

In 2020, WHO estimated that approximately 8,192 asthma-related deaths were recorded in Nigeria. The health organisation noted that over 250 million people live with asthma, while 450,000 deaths are recorded annually.

A total of 600 inhalers have been donated since the creation of the NGO in 2024, and about five Nigerian universities, three pre-tertiary schools, and an orphanage are said to have received free inhalers.

‘I kept going despite every reasons to quit’, Burna Boy

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Burna Boy, a Grammy-winning Nigerian artiste, has shared how resilience and inner strength have helped him stay consistent in the music industry, despite facing deep personal struggles.

In a recent interview with NSTV, the global Afro-fusion star opened up about the emotional weight behind his upcoming album, *No Sign of Weakness*.

He revealed that the project reflects his journey through pain, self-doubt, and the pressure of fame, as well as his refusal to give in.

“I’ve had the most reasons not to exist anymore, but I have shown no sign of weakness,” Burna Boy said. “That’s what this album is saying, through everything, no sign of weakness will be shown. That is what I want everyone coming after me to do. Show no sign of weakness.”

Burna Boy speaks on new album

The album, his eighth studio project, is set for release on July 11, 2025. It will be distributed under Atlantic Records, Spaceship, and Bad Habit. The title, *No Sign of Weakness*, speaks directly to Burna Boy’s mindset and message: resilience in the face of overwhelming odds.

The artist, who rose to international fame with hits like *Ye* and *Last Last*, said his new music will reflect the emotional battles he’s fought behind the scenes. Burna Boy explained that while success may shine on the outside, it often hides deep struggles on the inside.

“People see the fame and glory, but they don’t see the pain. I want this album to speak for those who fight silent battles,” he said.

From struggles to strength



Burna Boy didn’t go into full detail about the personal events that led him to the edge, but his words hinted at experiences that could have broken even the strongest spirit. Still, he made it clear that giving up was never an option.

He sees his story as one of survival and strength, one that he hopes will inspire others, especially younger artists and fans dealing with similar challenges.

“This is bigger than music. It’s about life. It’s about fighting for your peace, your voice, and your purpose,” he said.

A message to the next generation

More than just a collection of songs, *No Sign of Weakness* carries a strong message for the next generation. Burna Boy said he wants the project to remind people that pain doesn’t have to lead to defeat.

“Even when the world gives you every reason to fall apart, hold your head high. Show no sign of weakness,” he advised.

Burna Boy’s statement has already stirred excitement among fans, with many praising him for being open about his struggles. Some say the album could become a voice for people battling mental health issues, grief, or burnout.

Looking ahead

As the July 11 release date approaches, anticipation for the album continues to grow. Music lovers across the world are eager to hear what Burna Boy has created and how he has turned his pain into power.

No Sign of Weakness will mark a major chapter in the artist’s career, not just musically but personally. From the sound of it, Burna Boy is ready to show the world not only his talent, but also his strength.

In a world where vulnerability is often seen as a flaw, Burna Boy is choosing to lead by example. And through his music, he’s proving once again that real strength often lies in never letting your struggles define you.

Teebillz slams Tiwa's manager over son's welfare neglect

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Tiwa Savage's former husband and music executive, Tunji Balogun, popularly known as Teebillz, has publicly accused the singer's manager, Vanessa Amadi-Ogbonna, of prioritising profit over the well-being of their son, Jamil.

In a heated Instagram post, Teebillz criticised Vanessa for overbooking the award-winning singer, leaving little time for her to be present in their son's life. According to him, the heavy workload imposed on Savage has contributed to Jamil's emotional struggles and feelings of abandonment.

Manager accused of overworking Tiwa Savage

Teebillz expressed deep concern about the toll Savage's demanding schedule has taken on their son. He alleged that Vanessa Amadi-Ogbonna, who currently manages the singer, focuses more on financial gain than the emotional health of the artist or her family.

He wrote, "You only care about percentages. I hired you as PR, and the mother of my child made you manager. My son is so hurt not having his mom around."

According to Teebillz, the relentless stream of professional commitments keeps Savage away from her son, who he says has openly expressed sadness and loneliness. He admitted that he shares some responsibility for the situation but insisted that Vanessa played a central role by arranging an overwhelming number of engagements for the singer.

"My son is lonely", Teebillz opens up In his emotional outburst on social media, Teebillz stated that their son, Jamil, had confided in him about feeling alone. This, he said, drove him to speak out.

"I'm not drunk or high," he emphasised in his now-viral post. "As lonely as Jamil confessed to me, you [Vanessa] never amounted to anything. I'm back! My son is hurting not having his mom around, and



I'm guilty too, but respectfully, f*ck you, Vanessa."

His words sparked mixed reactions online, with many questioning whether Instagram was the right platform to air such personal grievances.

Criticism of Vanessa's role

Teebillz didn't just criticise Vanessa's scheduling decisions, he also questioned her qualifications as a manager. He slammed her professional credentials, sarcastically asking how someone without a Billboard hit to their name could manage a global superstar like Tiwa Savage.

"How the f*ck are you a manager without a Billboard?" he asked, directly attacking her career achievements.

Teebillz accused Vanessa of being more interested in the percentage she earns from Savage's deals than in fostering a balanced and healthy environment for the singer and her son.

Public reaction and silence from Vanessa The outburst has stirred conversations among fans and industry observers. While some sympathise with Teebillz's concerns about co-parenting and Jamil's emotional needs, others believe the situation could have been handled more privately.

So far, Vanessa Amadi-Ogbonna has not

responded to the accusations. Her silence has only added to the buzz around the controversy, with many waiting to hear her side of the story.

Teebillz says he still loves Tiwa

Despite the strong words aimed at Vanessa, Teebillz was clear in his affection for Tiwa Savage, calling her "the mother of my child" and affirming that he still loves her.

The former couple, who married in 2013 and later split, have tried to co-parent their son Jamil. However, this recent episode highlights the difficulties of balancing demanding careers with family responsibilities, especially in the public eye.

A call for balance

Teebillz's post underscores a broader conversation around work-life balance in the entertainment industry. As celebrities take on multiple engagements, the demands of stardom can often come at the expense of personal relationships and parenting duties.

Whether Vanessa chooses to respond or not, the spotlight is now firmly on how artists, their teams, and families manage the emotional and mental well-being of those closest to them, especially children caught in the middle.

Portable blows hot at Peter Obi over flight encounter

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial Nigerian singer, Habeeb Okikiola, popularly known as Portable, has voiced his disappointment over a recent in-flight encounter with Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi.

The artist, known for his outspoken personality, shared a video on social media where he described meeting Obi aboard a commercial flight. According to Portable, the exchange left him feeling underwhelmed.

“I only got a handshake”

In the now-viral clip, Portable explained that he was flying in the first-class section while Peter Obi was seated in the economy cabin. Despite the class difference, he approached Obi to greet him. However, the encounter, he said, ended with only a handshake.

“The day I saw Peter Obi, make I no lie, na handshake I collect,” the singer said in his usual street-style delivery. “Na first class I dey, Peter Obi dey economy. I go greet am, na only handshake e give me.”

His tone carried visible disappointment, as he appeared to expect a more generous or memorable gesture from the former Anambra State governor.

Comparison with President Tinubu

Portable went on to suggest that had the encounter been with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the outcome would have been very different. He hinted that Tinubu, known for his influence and political reach, might have rewarded him with something more tangible.

“If na Tinubu I go collect bundle,” he said, using local slang to imply he would have received a substantial cash gift.

The comment sparked mixed reactions online, with many users questioning Portable’s expectations and his views on political figures.

Social media reacts

As expected, the video attracted a flurry of responses from Nigerians on various social media platforms. While some fans backed Portable’s opinion and saw his reaction as a call for politicians to appreciate celebrities, others criticised his sense of entitlement.



One user wrote, “So you expected money from Peter Obi just because you greeted him? That says a lot.” Another commented, “This is exactly why politicians don’t take Nigerian entertainers seriously.”

On the flip side, some sympathised with Portable, suggesting that entertainers play a role in society and should be appreciated for their influence and outreach.

A pattern of public rants

This is not the first time Portable has made headlines for expressing disappointment over personal interactions. Known for his dramatic outbursts and fiery commentary, the Zazu crooner has frequently aired his frustrations about various celebrities, industry insiders, and even fans.

Despite the controversy, his social media presence has helped him remain in the public eye and has arguably played a role in sustaining his musical career.

Obi’s calm demeanour

Peter Obi, who ran for president in Nigeria’s 2023 elections, is often praised for his humility and calm approach to public life. During the campaign season and beyond, he consistently positioned himself as a “people’s candidate,” often seen flying commercial and avoiding extravagant lifestyles.

Supporters of Obi have used this recent Portable incident to highlight the former governor’s modesty, even as a prominent public figure.

“Obi will never throw money around just to show off,” a supporter tweeted. “That’s what makes him different.”

Celebrity entitlement in politics

The incident also reignited a broader conversation about the expectations of celebrities when interacting with politicians. Some analysts argue that public figures like Portable often blur the lines between respect and reward, especially during politically charged moments.

“There’s a growing belief among some celebrities that proximity to power should come with benefits,” said one commentator. “But that mindset can be harmful in a developing democracy.”

Conclusion

While Portable’s remarks stirred debate, they reflect a clash between celebrity culture and political conduct. His disappointment in Peter Obi may speak more to his expectations than Obi’s intentions.

Nonetheless, the incident continues to generate conversation across the country, reminding Nigerians of the delicate balance between public figures and their roles in society.

'Don't marry a toxic man to please others', Ruth Eze advises women

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Ruth Eze has sent out a strong message to women, advising them not to bow to societal or online pressure when it comes to marriage.

She urged women to be patient and make thoughtful decisions about who they choose to spend their lives with.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, Eze expressed concern over the growing trend of women marrying hastily just to meet public expectations or impress others. According to her, such rushed decisions often lead to long-term emotional pain, regret, and sometimes even toxic relationships.

"Don't marry just to impress"

Eze did not hold back in her post. Speaking directly to her female followers, she warned against choosing partners based on trends, peer pressure, or superficial standards.

"My sister, it's better to wait and marry right. Don't let the internet pressure you," she wrote.

"Don't end up marrying a madman just to pepper people who don't even care about you."

Her message was clear and firm: women should not feel compelled to settle for less simply to prove a point to society. The actress emphasised that choosing a life partner should be based on personal happiness, not public approval.

Adds a touch of humour to drive home her point

Ruth Eze, who is known for her blunt and expressive personality, managed to blend humour with wisdom in her post. While she discussed a serious topic, she also used informal language and relatable examples to connect with her audience.

"Don't settle for someone just because he fits your specs. Calm down," she



continued.

"My point is: wait and marry right. While waiting, you fit drop one, that's okay. I've said my own."

Her words reflect the reality many women face today, balancing the pressure to marry with the need to make wise, long-term choices. Eze acknowledged that some women may choose to have children while waiting for the right partner. Still, she insisted that the focus should remain on making a responsible decision when it comes to marriage.

Speaks to a broader trend in society

Eze's post comes at a time when conversations around mental health, emotional well-being, and personal freedom in relationships are gaining more attention, especially among women in Africa. The pressure to marry young or appear settled is often tied to cultural norms and social media expectations.

Her message also reflects a broader shift where more women are choosing to prioritise self-worth, compatibility, and emotional stability over the need to conform to societal timelines.

Encourages patience and self-awareness

In her closing remarks, Eze did not offer any complicated advice. Instead, she urged women to take their time, know their worth, and avoid decisions that could lead to long-term regret.

While her message was informal in tone, it carried a weight that resonated deeply with her followers. Many women in the comment section of her post expressed gratitude, noting that the actress spoke truths they needed to hear.

A voice for women's empowerment

Ruth Eze joins a growing list of Nigerian celebrities using their platforms to speak about real-life issues affecting women. From relationship choices to mental health and personal growth, these voices are helping shift the narrative and encourage women to live on their own terms.

Her words may be simple, but the message is strong: Marry right, not fast.

And in an age of filters, likes, and social media illusions, that reminder may be more important than ever.

Queen Naomi Ogunwusi: Life after palace, her rising public profile

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



In the ever-shifting landscape of Nigeria's royal circles, few figures have captivated the nation's attention like Queen Naomi Silekunola Ogunwusi, the former wife of the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi. From her marriage to the revered Yoruba monarch to her high-profile exit from the palace, Queen Naomi has remained a subject of deep public curiosity, spiritual reverence, and cultural symbolism.

But in recent times, her resurgence in public life, presence on Instagram, and inspiring personal journey have thrust her into a different kind of limelight—one that fuses royalty, modern identity, and womanhood in the 21st century.

From Prophetess to Royalty

Born Naomi Oluwaseyi Silekunola, the former queen first came into national prominence in 2018 when she

married the Ooni of Ife, one of the most powerful traditional rulers in Nigeria. A prophetess and founder of En-Heralds, a Christian prophetic ministry based in Akure, Ondo State, her union with the Ooni was marked by surprise, spiritual undertones, and significant public celebration.

Her marriage to Oba Ogunwusi made her Queen Naomi Ogunwusi, a title that came with global media attention and unprecedented scrutiny.

Despite her relative youth, she carried herself with grace and religious conviction, often emphasizing her Christian background while navigating the deeply spiritual and ancestral demands of Yoruba monarchy.

The Royal Exit: What We Know

In December 2021, Queen Naomi stunned Nigerians by announcing her

exit from the palace via an Instagram post, claiming that her "marriage was no longer sustainable." The announcement triggered massive public reaction, speculation, and debate over tradition, gender roles, and the pressures of modern royal life.

She cited personal decisions and divine direction, maintaining that her calling as a minister of God remained her priority. Her public declaration was unusual for royal circles but was praised by many women as an act of courage.

Since her departure, she has remained largely dignified in public, choosing not to dwell on palace controversies. However, it marked a turning point in her story—from royal consort to independent public figure.

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A Modern Monarch: Queen Naomi on Instagram

In the years following her departure, Queen Naomi's Instagram page (@queen_silekunolanaomi_ogunwusi) has become a central platform through which the public connects with her. Her content blends spirituality, motivational captions, elegant fashion, and occasional glimpses of her son.

With over 300,000 followers and counting, her posts attract thousands of likes and comments, particularly from young women who see her as a symbol of grace and resilience.

"She is the modern queen that speaks to us," says Temitope Adebayo, a media analyst. "Through her Instagram presence, Queen Naomi has reclaimed her voice without dishonoring the throne. That's power."

Who Is Queen Naomi Ogunwusi? A Brief Biography

Queen Naomi Silekunola was born on October 12, 1993, and hails from Akure, Ondo State. A devout Christian, she began her prophetic ministry at a young age and quickly gained recognition for her spiritual teachings and healing outreach.

Before her marriage, she was known primarily in Christian circles. Post-divorce, however, her profile has grown beyond the pulpit. She is now also an advocate for women's empowerment, spiritual mentorship, and mothering with dignity.

Though many still refer to her as Queen Naomi of Ife, she has embraced her full name—Queen Naomi Silekunola Ogunwusi—as a mark of identity, faith, and resilience.

Motherhood, Privacy, and Grace

While the public has often been curious about her personal

life—especially regarding her son with the Ooni—Queen Naomi has chosen a path of intentional privacy, rarely revealing his image or name in full. Still, it's clear that motherhood plays a central role in her life.

She has described her son as her "crown jewel" in multiple posts and speeches and often refers to him when discussing her journey of healing and purpose.

Observers have praised her for keeping her child away from the spotlight, especially in a country where royal children often become the subject of tabloid frenzy.

Life Beyond the Crown: What's Next?

Queen Naomi is currently pursuing speaking engagements, authoring a book, and may reportedly be planning the launch of a faith-based foundation aimed at mentoring young women and single mothers. Though unconfirmed, close associates suggest she's preparing to enter the world of media or ministry on a much larger scale.

In many ways, her life post-palace has taken on a new royal significance—not tied to crowns or beads, but to influence, visibility, and moral clarity.

"She has transitioned from palace queen to people's queen," says Dr. Kehinde Ajayi, a sociologist at the University of Ibadan. "Naomi has become a case study in how women can reclaim their narrative without losing their heritage."

Queen Naomi Ogunwusi, also known as Queen Silekunola, remains one of the most talked-about women in Nigeria's public life. Her journey—from prophetess to palace, from marriage to motherhood, and now from silence to strength—continues to inspire thousands.

Whether you're following her on Instagram, studying her biography, or reflecting on her story as Queen Naomi of Ife, one thing is certain: she is rewriting the script of what it means to be royal, modern, and spiritually empowered in contemporary Nigeria.



Davido, Chioma mark one-year anniversary of their wedding, remain Nigeria's most searched couple

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



June 24, 2025, marks the first wedding anniversary of Nigerian music superstar Davido and his wife, Chioma Avril Rowland. From their first encounter in the late 2010s to their highly anticipated traditional wedding on June 25, 2024, the couple has experienced a remarkable journey—one that has become the most searched love story in Nigeria's online space.

Their story is one of enduring love, public scrutiny, reconciliation, and cultural celebration, making them the most Googled couple in Nigeria for 2025.

Who Are Davido and Chioma?

Davido, born David Adeleke, is a Nigerian-American Afrobeats icon known globally for chart-topping hits like Fall, If, and Unavailable. With

Grammy nominations and a legacy of innovation in music, Davido has grown into an international brand.

Chioma, popularly known as Chef Chi, is a professional chef, influencer, and entrepreneur. She rose to prominence not only for her culinary talent but also as Davido's long-time partner.

Their relationship began during their university years in Lagos, and despite experiencing breakups, public drama, and private grief, they have remained committed. Their union is admired for how it blends celebrity, culture, and faith.

A Year Since Their Wedding: What's Changed?

Davido and Chioma tied the knot on June 25, 2024, in a highly celebrated

traditional wedding in Lagos. Since then, online interest has surged. According to Google, there are over 4,400 monthly searches for "Davido and Chioma wedding," in Nigeria with thousands more searching for:

- "Chioma Davido"
- "Davido wedding pictures"
- "Davido wedding date"
- "Davido and Chioma wedding video"
- "Davido wedding outfit"
- "Chioma wedding dress"

Their photos, clips, and even leaked behind-the-scenes content consistently go viral, making them the most clicked Nigerian couple on the internet.

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The White Wedding Anticipation

Searches for “Davido and Chioma white wedding” and “Chioma and Davido traditional wedding” continue to trend as fans look forward to the second leg of the celebration. Here’s what to expect:

- A star-studded Igbo ceremony in Chioma’s hometown
- A grand white wedding expected in Lagos or Dubai
- Appearances by Tiwa Savage, Wizkid, Asake, and possibly global stars
- Fashion-forward traditional and western attire
- Premium dining and styling led by Chioma’s culinary and fashion teams

Speculation is rife that Davido may debut an unreleased track during the wedding, a gesture he’s made in past special moments. There’s also buzz of a Netflix or YouTube Originals wedding documentary, which could be streamed globally.

Google Search Trends Around Davido and Chioma

The following are currently the most searched terms related to the couple:

- “Davido and Chioma wedding”
- “Chioma Davido”
- “Davido wedding pictures”
- “Davido wedding date”
- “Davido marriage”
- “Chioma and Davido wedding”
- “Davido wedding video”
- “Davido weds Chioma”

With an estimated 20,000+ global monthly searches, this makes their relationship one of the most searched celebrity stories in Africa, and possibly worldwide.

Chioma: The Quiet Queen

Chioma’s presence throughout the past year has been marked by quiet dignity. Known for being private and composed, her grace amid public scrutiny has drawn admiration far beyond the entertainment world.

While she shares occasional glimpses of her life, especially with her son, Chioma remains mostly off social media—adding to her mystique and appeal. Many view her as the embodiment of resilience and class in the face of fame.

As Davido and Chioma celebrate one year of marriage, their union remains a powerful symbol of modern Nigerian love—a blend of fame, faith, and family. Their wedding may be a year old, but the global fascination with their journey is only growing stronger.

Whether you’re a music lover, fashion fan, or cultural observer, the story of Davido and Chioma is one that continues to captivate.

Stay with New Daily Prime for exclusive coverage, photos, videos, and all updates leading to their upcoming white wedding ceremony.



Priscilla Ojo: Biography, age, net worth & her stunning 2025 wedding

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



At just 23 years old, Priscilla Ajoke Ojo has officially stepped into a new chapter of her life. Widely known as the daughter of Nollywood icon Iyabo Ojo, Priscilla is now a married woman, having tied the knot in a glamorous wedding ceremony in Lagos earlier this year. Her recent nuptials, combined with her rising profile as a brand influencer, actress, and entrepreneur, have further cemented her place as one of Nigeria's most searched Gen Z celebrities.

With growing online interest in phrases like "Priscilla Ojo age", "Priscilla Ojo net worth", and now "Priscilla Ojo wedding", this young star is showing no signs of slowing down.

Who Is Priscilla Ojo?

Priscilla Ajoke Ojo is the only daughter of popular Nollywood actress and businesswoman Iyabo Ojo. She is a fast-rising star in her own right, having gained prominence as a fashion influencer, social media personality, and aspiring actress.

Priscilla's rise began through her mother's spotlight, but she quickly built her own identity. She now boasts over 1.5 million Instagram followers, with major endorsements from fashion brands, beauty lines, and lifestyle platforms.

Priscilla Ojo Age

Born on March 13, 2001, Priscilla turned 23 years old in 2024. Her youth has played a vital role in shaping her brand—an ideal mix

of elegance, Gen Z relevance, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Searches for "Priscilla Ojo age" remain high, especially around key life moments like birthdays and major career milestones.

The Wedding That Broke the Internet

In April 2025, Priscilla stunned fans with her lavish traditional and white wedding ceremonies held in Lagos. The wedding, which trended across platforms like Instagram, TikTok, and Twitter, was attended by A-list celebrities, influencers, and fashion icons.

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Priscilla wore a custom-designed gown by a top Nigerian designer, while her groom—a tech entrepreneur based in Abuja—wore traditional Yoruba attire in shades of white and gold.

The couple's pre-wedding photos and the wedding video, released via YouTube and Instagram, have since racked up over 5 million views.

Fans and blogs quickly boosted searches like:

- "Priscilla Ojo wedding pictures"
- "Iyabo Ojo daughter wedding"
- "Who did Priscilla Ojo marry?"
- "Priscilla Ojo husband name"
- Priscilla Ojo Net Worth

With her elevated social status and brand power, Priscilla Ojo's estimated net worth is projected to be between ₦70–₦100 million in 2025. Her income is diversified across:

- Brand endorsements (fashion, beauty, lifestyle)
- Her fashion and skincare product lines
- Paid social media content and speaking appearances
- Acting and content creation

She is also rumored to be launching

her own bridal fashion line, inspired by her wedding designs.

Education and Career Aspirations

Priscilla studied Media and Theatre Arts at Babcock University, where she was one of the most popular students online. Search interest in "What course is Priscilla Ojo studying in Babcock?" peaked during her final year.

Now focused on transitioning into film production and digital content, she's hinted at a new YouTube series about her post-wedding life and career as a married woman.

The Iyabo Ojo Influence

Much of Priscilla's early spotlight stemmed from her mother's fame. Iyabo Ojo, a household name in Nollywood, has publicly supported her daughter's ventures—from education to entertainment to marriage.

The duo remains one of the most admired mother-daughter relationships in Nigerian celebrity culture. Popular searches include:

- "Iyabo Ojo and Priscilla Ojo"
- "Iyabo Ojo daughter wedding"

"Priscilla Ojo birthday video"

Top Search Trends Related to Priscilla Ojo

Based on current Google keyword data, the most popular terms include:

- Priscilla Ojo age
- Priscilla Ojo net worth
- Priscilla Ojo husband
- Priscilla Ojo wedding pictures
- Iyabo Ojo daughter
- Who is Priscilla Ojo

Combined, these generate over 42,000 searches monthly, making her one of the most-searched female personalities in Nigeria in 2025.

From her humble beginnings in her mother's shadow to becoming a media icon in her own right, Priscilla Ajoke Ojo has written her own story—and now, as a wife, it's entering a bold new chapter.

Her blend of beauty, business acumen, and quiet confidence continues to resonate across generations. Whether you're curious about Priscilla Ojo's biography, age, net worth, or wedding updates, one thing is clear: she's just getting started.



World's longest nails 2025: Meet record holders, shocking lengths

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



The quest for the longest nails in the world has long captured the curiosity of people across the globe. From dazzling record-breakers in the Guinness Book of World Records to eye-popping viral images on social media, extreme fingernail length is more than just a record—it's a lifestyle, a symbol, and for some, a lifelong mission.

Trending Global Interest

Every month, over 9,900 people search “longest nails in the world”, while related terms like “longest fingernails in the world”, “world’s longest fingernails”, and “Guinness record for longest nails” also generate thousands of searches. Clearly, public fascination with nail records is growing stronger than ever.

So who holds the title today? What drives individuals to grow their nails to such unimaginable lengths? And how does one even function with nails

stretching several feet?

Let's dig in.

Diana Armstrong: Record Holder with a Legacy

The most well-known name in the long-nail world is undoubtedly Diana Armstrong, who holds the Guinness World Record for the longest fingernails on a pair of hands (female). Her combined nail length exceeds 42 feet, a record officially recognized in 2022. Each of her nails measures several feet in length, a feat that took over 25 years of uninterrupted growth.

Diana, a Minneapolis native, started growing her nails in memory of her late daughter, turning a personal loss into a symbol of resilience and strength.

“It's not just about the nails,” she said in a viral interview. “It's about honoring her spirit every day.”

Her story has inspired millions, and her name continues to trend globally, with monthly search volumes exceeding 2,900 under keywords like “Diana Armstrong” and “woman with longest nails

Not Just Fingernails: World's Longest Toenails

While fingernails get the spotlight, some record-holders have pushed boundaries with their toenails too. According to Guinness World Records, the world's longest toenails have also gained global attention, although far fewer people attempt to grow them due to the immense difficulty of walking and maintaining balance.

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Searches for “longest toenails in the world” and “world’s longest toe nail” show a clear spike in interest, with over 2,000 combined monthly searches.

A Guinness Tradition

The Guinness Book of World Records for longest nails has been documenting extreme nail growth since the 1970s. Early record-holders like Shridhar Chillal from India stunned the world with a thumbnail over 6.5 feet long.

Modern categories include:

- Longest fingernails on a single hand
- Longest nails on a pair of hands (male/female)
- Longest toenails
- Longest natural nails

Search intent shows rising demand for keywords such as:

- “Guinness book of world records longest nails”
- “longest nails Guinness record”
- “Guinness record for longest fingernails”

These searches reflect a blend of curiosity and admiration for those who defy convention through extreme dedication.

Living with Long Nails: An Unusual Lifestyle

Maintaining such lengthy nails isn’t easy. Most record holders avoid manual chores and rely on customized tools for daily living. There are also emotional and psychological elements—these individuals often view their nails as extensions of their identity.

Popular search terms like “lady with longest nails” and “long long nails” highlight public interest in how nail record-holders live, dress, and perform everyday tasks.

It’s not uncommon for record holders to become celebrities in their own right, appearing in documentaries, interviews, and even fashion campaigns.

Why the World Is Still Hooked on Nail Records

In an age where social media drives trends overnight, it’s remarkable that the obsession with nail records has remained consistent for decades. With keywords like “longest fingernails in the world Guinness book of records” and “nails of the world” still trending, it’s clear the intrigue isn’t fading anytime soon.

Whether driven by fascination,

disbelief, or genuine admiration, the public remains captivated by the extremes of the human body—and nails are no exception.

FAQ: What About the World’s Longest Toes?

Q: Who has the longest toes in the world?

While toenail records are recognized by Guinness, there is currently no official record for the longest toes themselves. However, interest in unique toe lengths and conditions like ingrown toenails is growing, as seen in rising search trends.

This points to a broader public fascination with the outer extremes of human anatomy—not just nails, but also features like toes, hair, and height.

From Diana Armstrong’s emotional tribute to the enduring legacy of Guinness record-holders, the world’s longest nails continue to inspire and astonish.

As search volumes grow and new challengers emerge, one thing is certain: the history of the world’s longest nails is still being written, one inch at a time.



Minute's silence observed for Air India crash victims at King Charles' birthday parade

By Damilola Olufemi



Victims of the recent Air India crash were honoured with a minute's silence during King Charles III's official birthday parade on Saturday in London. Members of the royal family, some wearing black armbands, joined the solemn moment of reflection.

King Charles III, who turned 76, had ordered changes to the annual Trooping the Colour ceremony to pay tribute to those who lost their lives. A spokesperson for Buckingham Palace explained, "The King requested amendments to the parade as a mark of respect for the lives lost, the families in mourning, and all the communities affected by this awful tragedy."

The Air India crash

The Air India crash occurred on Thursday when an Air India Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, headed for London's Gatwick Airport, crashed while taking off from Ahmedabad in eastern India. The disaster claimed 279 lives, including passengers, crew, and people on the ground. Among the deceased were 52 British citizens. The only survivor, British national Vishwash Kumar

Ramesh from Leicester, has been receiving treatment in hospital, where Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited him.

Following the Air India crash, King Charles expressed his sorrow in a written message, saying he was "desperately shocked by the terrible events" and offering his "deepest possible sympathy" to those affected.

Trooping the Colour, which dates back more than 200 years, marks the official birthday of the British sovereign. The ceremony begins at Buckingham Palace, proceeding down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade, where the King receives a royal salute and inspects the troops.

In attendance were Queen Camilla, Prince William, Princess Catherine (who is still recovering after revealing her cancer battle), and their children—Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis. Catherine, 43, recently shared that she is "in remission" after her diagnosis in March 2024.

The parade also drew large crowds along The Mall, with some anti-monarchist

protesters holding signs such as "Not my king" and "Down with the crown."

Notably absent from the celebration were Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan. The couple, who stepped back from royal duties in 2020 and relocated to the United States, continue to have strained relations with the royal family. British media reports that Prince Harry and his brother William are barely in contact.

While the Trooping the Colour takes place each June, King Charles' actual birthday falls in November. The tradition of a summer birthday parade dates back to King George II in 1748, who preferred a public celebration during better weather.

The event unfolded on the same day that U.S. President Donald Trump marked his 79th birthday with a military parade of his own in Washington.

Trooping the Colour remains one of Britain's most iconic royal ceremonies, featuring over 1,500 soldiers and nearly 300 horses, and concludes with the royal family's appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony for a flypast by the Royal Air Force's Red Arrows.

What you need know about Israel-Iran conflict as UN security council meets

By Damilola Olufemi

The Israel-Iran conflict has continued to make headlines in national dailies globally. Israel launched a large-scale missile assault on Iranian military and nuclear targets on Friday, leaving several high-ranking Iranian officials dead and triggering a swift retaliatory strike from Tehran.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed that the campaign would continue “as many days” as necessary, citing Israeli intelligence reports that Iran was nearing a “point of no return” in its nuclear programme. In response, Iran condemned the strikes as “a declaration of war” and unleashed dozens of missiles on Israel later Friday and into Saturday.

As tensions escalate, world leaders have voiced growing concern, warning of the risk that the conflict could spiral into a wider Middle East war.

Key nuclear sites targeted

The Israeli strikes, which began early Friday—a traditional day of rest and prayer in Iran—continued throughout the day, hitting multiple sites.

One of the primary targets was Iran’s major underground nuclear facility in Natanz, which sustained several strikes according to Iranian state TV. However, the head of the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, assured that “radiation levels outside the facility remained unchanged.”

Iran reported minor damage at its Fordo and Isfahan nuclear facilities.

Top military leaders killed

Among those killed were Iran’s Revolutionary Guards commander Hossein Salami, armed forces chief Mohammad Bagheri, and Amirali Hajizadeh, who headed Iran’s aerospace and missile forces. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei quickly appointed replacements.

Iranian state media also reported the deaths of several nuclear scientists. Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations revealed that 78 people were killed and 320 others wounded in the first wave of attacks.

Ongoing assaults



Israel’s strikes extended to Iran’s East Azerbaijan province, where 18 more fatalities were reported by state news agency IRNA.

An Israeli military spokesperson stated that over 200 targets had been struck, including nuclear facilities and air bases. Netanyahu’s national security adviser, Tzachi Hanegbi, clarified that “there is currently no plan to kill” Supreme Leader Khamenei or other political leaders.

Iran’s communications ministry imposed nationwide internet restrictions, promising services would resume “once normalcy returns.”

Iran’s counter-offensive

Hours after the Israeli bombardment, Iran retaliated by launching dozens of missiles. The Revolutionary Guards confirmed the attack while Israel claimed that most of the 100 Iranian drones were intercepted outside its territory.

On Saturday, Iran launched a fresh wave of missile strikes. The Israeli military activated air raid sirens, warning of more incoming projectiles. “Our air force is actively intercepting and eliminating threats as necessary,” the Israeli army said.

Emergency responders in Israel reported that 21 people were wounded along the coast, while 34 others were injured in the Gush Dan area. One woman later died from her injuries, according to local media.

US position and possible involvement

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi described the Israeli strikes as “a declaration of war” and urged the UN Security Council to intervene. The council held an emergency meeting on Friday.

Ahead of the Israeli attack, Washington evacuated non-essential personnel from several of its Middle East bases. Although the United States was informed in advance, President Donald Trump stressed that the US was not directly involved.

“Israel fully briefed us ahead of time, but we are not involved,” Trump stated. He warned Tehran that “the next planned attacks will be even more brutal” and urged Iranian leaders to negotiate: “Make a deal before there is nothing left.”

Trump reiterated his long-standing position that he will not allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. Secretary of State Marco Rubio also cautioned Iran not to target US assets or personnel in the region.

Iran’s nuclear progress

Tehran has consistently denied pursuing nuclear weapons but has been enriching uranium to 60% purity, far beyond the 3.67% cap under the now-defunct 2015 nuclear agreement with world powers. However, this is still short of the 90% level required for nuclear arms.

Rishi Sunak urges nationwide prostate cancer screening programme

By **Fatimah Idera**

Rishi Sunak has called for a national rollout of targeted prostate cancer screening, urging the UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) to act swiftly to save lives.

In his first major public intervention since stepping down as prime minister, Mr Sunak advocated for proactive PSA blood testing for high-risk groups, particularly men with a family history of the disease or from higher-risk ethnic backgrounds, such as Black men.

Sunak addresses the media

When speaking to the media, he highlighted the low awareness among men that just 7% know that prostate cancer is often symptomless in its early stages and urged families to use Father's Day to start conversations that could be life-saving.

"We assume that if everything is working fine, it is fine," he said. "But that is not right, and this confusion is costing lives."

The UK NSC is expected to rule by the



end of the year on whether to recommend screening.

Campaigners and health experts say the current system, where men must request tests themselves, is passive and worsening health inequalities.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in UK men, with over 55,000 new



diagnoses a year. It claims more than 12,000 lives annually. Early diagnosis greatly improves treatment outcomes.

The CEO of Prostate Cancer Research, Oliver Kemp, said a targeted screening programme could prevent 300 cases of incurable prostate cancer every year and has strong support from GPs.

Scottish Conservatives promises £650 million in tax cuts for Scotland

By **Fatimah Idera**

The Scottish Conservatives have pledged £650 million in tax cuts, funded by a major shake-up of Scotland's public sector, under plans to be unveiled at the party's conference in Edinburgh.

In his first keynote speech as leader, Russell Findlay will propose a Taxpayer Savings Act aimed at slashing waste and bureaucracy.

The plan includes cutting quangos by 25%, reducing the number of ministers and advisers, and creating a new Scottish Agency of Value and Efficiency led by business experts.

The savings would be used to simplify Scotland's income tax system by replacing the current 20% and 21% tax bands with a flat 19% rate for earnings up to the higher rate threshold of £43,663.

The move would benefit all workers earning



over £15,398, with potential annual savings of up to £444.

Findlay described the SNP-led government as bloated and inefficient, arguing that "people in

the real world who know how to get things done" should be tasked with tackling waste.

He also announced plans to introduce an "Accountability and Transparency Index" to increase oversight of public spending.

Currently, 22% of Scotland's workforce is employed in the public sector, higher than the UK average and public sector wages are, on average, £2,400 higher north of the Border.

Responding to the announcement, SNP Finance Minister Ivan McKee said the Scottish Government had already reduced the number of public bodies since 2007 and is preparing to publish a new Public Service Reform strategy.

He blamed Brexit for a £2.3 billion drop in public revenues in 2023, complicating further reforms.

Council tax to rise again to fund police

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

British households are bracing for a second rise in council tax under the Labour government in 2025, this time to fund local policing, as pressure mounts on public finances and local services. The new development comes amid warnings that the burden is quietly being shifted to families already dealing with inflation, stagnant wages, and a stretched economy.

This latest increase will come in addition to the council tax hike introduced earlier this year when local authorities were permitted to raise average Band D bills by up to 5.0%. That change, which took effect in April 2025, saw the average Band D council tax rise from £2,171 in 2024–25 to £2,280 in 2025–26. The increase included a 3% standard cap and an optional 2% adult social care precept, with most councils (about 88%) applying the full allowable rate.

Now, a second wave of increases is being prepared—this time linked directly to the funding of police services. According to Treasury documents and the 2025 Spending Review, the Government anticipates that local police funding will be bolstered by council tax precepts, rather than new central government investment.

Home Office Budget Cuts Trigger Funding Shift

At the core of the issue is a planned 1.4% annual cut to the Home Office budget from 2025–26 through 2028–29. This places additional strain on police funding, which has historically depended on a combination of central grants and local council tax contributions.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves defended the overall spending package, saying, “In place of chaos, I choose stability. In place of decline, I choose investment. In place of pessimism, division and defeatism, I choose national renewal.” While she unveiled record investments in health, social housing, and regional infrastructure—including £29 billion for the NHS, £39 billion for affordable homes, and £86 billion for tech and



science, the Home Office saw less favorable treatment.

Despite the cuts, the Chancellor claimed that “police spending power” will still increase by 2.3%—a statement that analysts argue hides the real mechanism: higher local taxation.

Council Tax: The Backdoor Tax Rise?

Documents from the Treasury clarify that this boost in “spending power” is based on “additional income, including estimated funding from the police council tax precept.” In plain terms, this means local councils will once again be asked to raise council tax to meet national policing goals.

Paul Johnson, Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, wrote:

“Note wording on police funding. Increase in ‘spending power’. Implies that higher precepts from local taxes will play their part.”

The opposition has wasted no time in criticizing this fiscal strategy. Sir Mel Stride, the Shadow Chancellor, accused Reeves of being a “spend now, tax later” Chancellor, warning of further tax hikes in the autumn.

“This is the spend now, tax later review,” he said. “The Chancellor knows she will need to come back here with yet more taxes, and a cruel summer of speculation awaits.”

What This Means for Households

According to the Liberal Democrats, families in Band D households could face a £395 council tax hike by 2028/29, with an additional £14 annually specifically to fund local police. With the current average bill at £2,280, this would bring it close to £2,675 by the end of the forecast period.

For Band H properties, the rise could be even steeper—crossing the £5,350 threshold, according to projections.

Lisa Smart, Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesperson, said:

“The Government is relying on a hidden council tax bombshell to fund their half-hearted rise in police funding. Local communities deserve better than this sleight of hand.”

She added: “After years of neglect under the Conservatives, we expected a real investment in frontline policing—not a financial handover to overstretched local councils.”

What’s Next?

The exact scale of the increase will be revealed in a separate police funding settlement due in the autumn, but the direction is clear: local authorities are being asked to pick up more of the cost burden for essential public services.

For now, residents across England and Wales should prepare for a second council tax increase—this time in the name of public safety.

Sir Geoff Palmer, Scotland's first black professor, dies at 85

By Fatimah Idera



Sir Geoff Palmer, a trailblazing scientist, human rights advocate, and Scotland's first Black professor, has died at the age of 85.

Sir Geoff was a long-standing figure at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, where he served as professor emeritus and, more recently, as chancellor. He was widely respected both for his scientific contributions and for his tireless advocacy for racial equality and historical justice.

Geoff Palmer's background Born in Jamaica in 1940, Sir Geoff moved to London at the age of 14 as part of the Windrush generation. He relocated to Edinburgh in the 1960s, where he completed a PhD in grain science and technology. His research led to innovations later adopted by major UK breweries.

In 1989, he broke new ground by

becoming Scotland's first Black professor, teaching at Heriot-Watt until 2005. He was knighted in 2014 for services to science, charity, and human rights and was appointed to the prestigious Order of the Thistle in 2023.

Sir Geoff also played a leading role in confronting Scotland's legacy of slavery. Following the Black Lives Matter movement, he chaired an Edinburgh City Council review into the city's links to colonialism and slavery, producing key recommendations including the installation of new public artworks and educational reinterpretations of historic buildings.

Read also: 2 Scottish men shot dead outside Irish bar in Spain

Despite his efforts to shine a light on Scotland's past, Sir Geoff rejected calls for removing statues or renaming

buildings, arguing instead that history should be preserved and contextualised: "If you remove the evidence, you remove the deed," he said.

Richard A. Williams, principal of Heriot-Watt University, described Sir Geoff as an inspiration whose passion for education touched the lives of students and colleagues around the world.

Labour MSP Foysol Choudhury called him "a courageous voice for justice and equality," adding: "He was not only a distinguished scientist and academic but also a tireless campaigner. My sincere condolences to his family and all who knew and admired him."

Sir Geoff is survived by his wife Margaret, their three children, and grandchildren.

Nearly half a million British expats miss out on £25,000 state pension boost

By **Fatimah Idera**

Nearly half a million British pensioners living abroad are missing out on annual state pension increases enjoyed by UK residents, according to research by Interactive Investor.

These retirees, mainly based in Commonwealth countries, are excluded from the triple lock system that ensures it rises each year in line with inflation, wage growth or 2.5%, whichever is highest.

Under current rules, the payments are frozen at the level they were when a person leaves the UK unless they move to a country with a reciprocal social security agreement.

As a result, expats living in countries such as Canada, Australia, and New Zealand see their superannuation's real value erode year by year.

A retiree who moved abroad in 2010 would have lost £25,832 in state allowance income over the past 15 years. Someone retiring outside the EU or the US in 2015 would have missed out on £13,162, the research shows. Looking ahead, workers retiring now could forgo up to £70,000 over the next 20 years if current policies remain unchanged.

Pensioners residing in the UK In contrast, pensioners living in the UK saw their full state pension rise by 4.1% in April, bringing it to £11,973 per year.

Despite long-running campaigns calling for reform, successive governments have declined to change the policy. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) estimates that reversing the freeze could cost £940



million in 2024–25 and £4.59 billion over five years.

The International Consortium of British Pensioners argues that if superannuation were uprated only from the date a new deal is signed and not backdated, the cost would be just £307 million over five years, or around £60 million annually. By comparison, the UK's total state pension bill was £138 billion in 2024–25.

The chair of the End Frozen Pensions campaign, John Duguid, called the issue a scandal and described the policy as “morally and politically indefensible.” He said many superannuitants were never informed they would be frozen and now face significant financial hardship.

One such case is Anne Puckridge, a 99-year-old war veteran who says she has lost £60,000 since moving to

Canada in 2001. In December, she travelled 4,400 miles to Westminster to press her case, accusing Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer of ignoring retirees like her.

“Many superannuitants dream of spending their golden years abroad,” said Myron Jobson of Interactive Investor. “But it’s vital to understand how that move can significantly impact your state allowance.”

A DWP spokesperson responded: “People move abroad for many reasons and we provide clear information on how this can impact their finances in retirement.

“The policy on uprating state pays overseas has been in place for over 70 years, and we continue to apply it where legally required.”

King Charles honours David Beckham with Knighthood award

By **Damilola Olufemi**

David Beckham's long-cherished dream of receiving a knighthood has finally come true, capping off decades of transforming himself into a global figure far beyond the football pitch. King Charles III included Beckham on his birthday honours list on Friday, officially bestowing the title that many had expected would come sooner rather than later.

For David Beckham, the knighthood is the result of years spent carefully cultivating his image at the crossroads of "sport, fashion, and business." As Marie Agnes Parmentier, a marketing professor at the University of Montreal who has studied Beckham's career, told AFP, the honour "reinforces his image as a respectable, committed, and, first and foremost, British man."

She added that the title could open even more doors for the 50-year-old ex-footballer, "particularly in diplomatic, charitable or political spheres."

David Beckham's career beyond football Although Beckham retired from football in 2013, he had started planning for life after the game well before hanging up his boots. In his 2023 Netflix documentary Beckham, he admitted, "I knew my career was going to end at some point and I wanted to have a career after football."

During his playing days, Beckham secured endorsement deals with leading fashion and beauty brands, building a fanbase that crossed generations and nationalities. As Parmentier explained, he became "a pioneer," successfully cracking the US market — something few English players had done before.

His journey wasn't without risks. In the 1990s, when English football was still largely dominated by traditional, tough-guy culture, Beckham's fondness for fashion — including his famous sarong at the 1998 World Cup — and his ever-changing hairstyles drew tabloid



headlines. Yet rather than damage his reputation, the media attention only fueled his celebrity status.

Nearly 30 years on, Beckham continues to capitalise on that fascination. He recently debuted his first collection for Hugo Boss, co-owns the Inter Miami football club, operates the production company Studio 99, and has served as a UNICEF ambassador for two decades. Sociologist Ellis Cashmore noted that Beckham is now "better known not for football, but for being Beckham, the brand," which The Times values at £500 million (\$676 million).

From villain to national treasure

Despite his success, David Beckham's rise has not been without setbacks. His infamous red card against Argentina during the 1998 World Cup turned him into, as he recalled, "the most hated man in England."

"I find it hard to talk through what I went through because it was so extreme. The whole country hated me," Beckham said. "Wherever I went, I got abused, every single day."

The British press was brutal, with headlines like "10 Heroic Lions, One

Stupid Boy" (Daily Mirror) and "You're Just A Joke Becks" (Daily Mail). But Beckham rebounded spectacularly. Within a year, he helped Manchester United to an unprecedented treble—winning the Premier League, FA Cup, and Champions League—and came second in the Ballon d'Or voting.

David Beckham's redemption arc reached a peak in 2002, when he scored the decisive goal against Argentina at the World Cup, turning him from scapegoat back into a national hero.

The royal family gradually embraced him too, inviting him to both Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding in 2011, and Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's in 2018.

Although previous rumours of a knighthood failed to materialise, Beckham's image was burnished further in 2022 when he joined the public queue for nearly 12 hours to pay his respects to Queen Elizabeth II, while other celebrities faced criticism for skipping the line.

Since then, many observers saw it as only a matter of time before David Beckham would be addressed as "Sir David."

Pogba set for Monaco move after doping ban

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Paul Pogba, the mercurial midfielder and World Cup winner, is on the verge of sealing a dramatic return to French football with AS Monaco, following the reduction of his doping ban from four years to 18 months.

Now 32, Pogba has been without a club since mutually terminating his contract with Juventus in November 2024. The Frenchman was provisionally suspended in August 2023 after testing positive for the banned substance DHEA, a steroid that increases testosterone levels. But following a lengthy appeal process, the Court of Arbitration for Sport concluded in October 2024 that Pogba had inadvertently taken the substance. They further clarified that DHEA only provides performance benefits in females, allowing a significant reduction in the ban.

This ruling cleared Pogba to return to football as early as March 2025, and it now appears Monaco are set to offer him a lifeline back into the game. Sources close to the situation confirm that negotiations between the player's representatives and the Ligue 1 outfit are in the final stages, with a two-year contract reportedly on the table.

The proposed move would mark a homecoming of sorts for Pogba, who has not played club football in France since leaving Le Havre's youth academy for Manchester United in 2009. A move to Monaco would also allow him to rebuild his career in a familiar environment, away from the intense spotlight of Manchester or Turin.

Paul Pogba's movement

Pogba, who rejoined Juventus from Manchester United in 2022 on a free transfer, endured a turbulent second spell in Italy. Injuries plagued his return, and just when he appeared close



to a comeback, the positive doping test following Juve's opening Serie A match of the 2023/24 campaign against Udinese derailed his season and career trajectory.

During the subsequent investigation and appeals process, Pogba maintained that he did not knowingly ingest the banned substance. The court accepted this explanation and ruled the doping offence as unintentional. This legal nuance spared the Frenchman from a career-ending suspension and paved the way for his return.

AS Monaco, who finished fourth in Ligue 1 last season and narrowly missed out on Champions League qualification, are believed to see Pogba as a valuable addition, both for his experience and his potential to uplift the squad. Monaco manager Adi Hütter has reportedly approved the deal, seeing Pogba as a possible leader in the dressing room and a key figure in their domestic and European ambitions.

The player himself has been privately training over the last several months in preparation for a comeback. Footage

of Pogba working with personal trainers and engaging in fitness drills has surfaced online, sparking speculation about where he might land next. Monaco, with their reputation for revitalising careers and developing talent, appears to be a logical and strategic choice.

While some doubts remain over Pogba's match fitness and durability, particularly given his injury record, few question his technical quality or his ability to dictate play when in form. If he can stay healthy and focused, Monaco may have pulled off one of the shrewdest deals of the summer.

Pogba's prospective return would also be a boost for French football in general. A player of his global stature re-entering Ligue 1 would add star power to a league often overshadowed by the Premier League and La Liga.

As talks near completion, all signs point to Paul Pogba donning the red and white of Monaco in the upcoming season — a new chapter in a storied but turbulent career that may yet have more to offer.