



Tinubu budgeting for transformation, not survival — Shettima **Pg 2**

Adelabu says \$10bn yearly 'll ensure stable electricity in Nigeria

Pg 5



The New Daily Prime

f @new daily prime **x** @prime_dai11149 **@** @new_daily_prime

...your prime source for excellence in journalism

Nigeria's economy shows strong growth despite high inflation, says world bank **Pg 4**



Trump meets Syrian president, urges ties with Isreal **Pg 20**

WORLD

Pg 21

Macron buries Ukraine's hope of joining NATO



WORLD

Mali Junta dissolves parties, bans gatherings in democracy crackdown **Pg 22**



Tinubu budgeting for transformation, not survival — Shettima

By Oluwatosin Ologun



The Vice President, Senator Kashim Shettima, on Wednesday, said budgeting under President Bola Tinubu's administration is not for survival but for economic transformation and reality.

Shettima guarantees that the current administration is building systems that speak to productivity, sustainable growth and progress.

He stated this at the 15th Mechanical Engineering Distinguished Lecture organised by the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers in Abuja.

The Vice President, who noted that there was a nexus between engineering and governance, said budgeting could not be approached haphazardly or based on emotions but must be carefully handled in a way that guarantees results.

According to him, just like engineering, where every bolt and nuts are accounted for, every dime has to be accounted for in every budget.

"What if we approach the national budget the way an engineer approaches a machine, each bolt and each beam aligns, each weight and measures accounted for, each output

carefully tested against the blueprint?

"What if the budget planning wasn't just a routine exercise but a technical operation in nation-building, driven by strategy, logic, and long-term calibration? This is the thinking we are institutionalising in the current administration," he stated.

"We are not just budgeting for survival. We are budgeting for reality. We are budgeting for reality. We are budgeting for transformation. We are building systems that speak to productivity to sustainability, and progress."

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

| SIZE | TOTAL RATE |
|--------------|------------|
| FULL PAGE | 372,500.00 |
| HALF PAGE | 213,000.00 |
| QUARTER PAGE | 106,500.00 |
| 14X2 | 118,000.00 |
| 10X6 | 261,585.50 |
| 10X5 | 255,238.00 |
| 10X4 | 206,890.50 |
| 10X3 | 179,608.00 |
| 9X6 | 254,977.00 |
| 9X5 | 225,738.00 |
| 9X4 | 193,500.00 |
| 9X3 | 166,223.50 |
| 8X6 | 225,368.50 |
| 8X3 | 106,934.50 |
| 7X4 | 180,173.50 |
| 6X4 | 100,434.50 |
| 6X3 | 82,750.00 |
| 6X2 | 52,499.50 |
| 5X6 | 123,749.50 |
| 5X5 | 110,000.00 |
| 5X4 | 76,833.00 |
| 5X3 | 66,875.00 |
| 5X2 | 42,916.50 |
| 4X4 | 60,166.50 |
| 4X3 | 36,499.50 |
| 4X2 | 29,333.50 |
| 3X3 | 28,000.00 |
| 3X2 | 17,400.00 |
| 2X2 | 13,000.00 |
| 2X1 | 8,600.00 |
| 1X1 | 4,400.00 |

| SIZE | TOTAL RATE |
|--------------|------------|
| FULL PAGE | 329,868.50 |
| HALF PAGE | 192,500.00 |
| QUARTER PAGE | 100,000.00 |
| 14X2 | 109,500.00 |
| 10X6 | 242,500.00 |
| 10X5 | 237,500.00 |
| 10X4 | 192,500.00 |
| 10X3 | 171,000.00 |
| 9X6 | 232,500.00 |
| 9X5 | 206,000.00 |
| 9X4 | 177,500.00 |
| 9X3 | 150,000.00 |
| 8X6 | 216,000.00 |
| 8X3 | 98,500.00 |
| 7X4 | 164,002.00 |
| 6X4 | 94,010.50 |
| 6X3 | 78,500.00 |
| 6X2 | 47,500.00 |
| 5X5 | 100,000.00 |
| 5X4 | 61,500.00 |
| 5X3 | 57,819.00 |
| 5X2 | 40,379.50 |
| 4X4 | 55,000.00 |
| 4X3 | 31,000.00 |
| 4X2 | 22,003.50 |
| 3X2 | 17,260.00 |
| 2X2 | 12,945.00 |
| 2X1 | 8,630.00 |
| 1X1 | 4,315.00 |

POLITICAL COLOUR

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

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

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

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

| SIZE | TOTAL RATE |
|--------------|------------|
| FULL PAGE | 254,533.50 |
| HALF PAGE | 142,787.50 |
| QUARTER PAGE | 80,706.50 |
| 14X2 | 78,222.50 |
| 10X6 | 217,830.00 |
| 10X5 | 192,305.50 |
| 10X4 | 142,787.50 |
| 10X3 | 121,355.50 |
| 9X6 | 192,305.50 |
| 9X3 | 107,757.50 |
| 8X6 | 170,725.00 |
| 8X3 | 70,390.00 |
| 7X4 | 58,666.50 |
| 6X4 | 67,048.00 |
| 6X3 | 53,361.50 |
| 6X2 | 37,694.00 |
| 5X6 | 83,850.00 |
| 5X4 | 55,900.00 |
| 5X3 | 43,705.00 |
| 5X2 | 27,938.00 |
| 4X4 | 44,493.00 |
| 4X3 | 33,524.00 |
| 4X2 | 22,350.00 |
| 3X2 | 16,763.00 |
| 2X2 | 10,877.00 |
| 2X1 | 5,588.50 |
| 1X1 | 2,795.50 |

SPECIAL POSITIONS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2X6 FRONT PAGE | 700,000.00 |
| 2X6 BACK PAGE | 300,000.00 |
| 2X6 INSIDE PAGE | 155,000.00 |
| 3X6 FRONT PAGE | 1,200,000.00 |
| 4X6 FRONT PAGE | 2,250,000.00 |
| 5X6 FRONT PAGE | 3,350,000.00 |
| 10X6 FRONT PAGE | 8,250,000.00 |
| EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2) | 246,500.00 |
| EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2) | 117,875.00 |
| EARPIECE BACK PAGE | 236,796.50 |
| CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE) | 1,027,000.00 |
| CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT) | 929,000.00 |
| CENTRESPREAD B&W | 800,000.00 |
| CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR | 575,000.00 |
| CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR | 191,668.50 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR | 721,500.00 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR | 432,881.00 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR | 144,294.00 |
| CENTRE SPREAD B&W | 835,000.00 |
| CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B &W | 550,000.00 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD B &W | 725,000.00 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B &W | 425,000.00 |
| FULL WRAP AROUND | 15,000,000.00 |
| HALF WRAP AROUND | 8,500,000.00 |
| HALF PAGE FRONT | 5,500,000.00 |

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

| SIZE | TOTAL RATE |
|--------------|-------------|
| FULL PAGE | 210,795.50 |
| HALF PAGE | 124,236.00 |
| QUARTER PAGE | 70,950.00 |
| 14X2 | 76,128.35 |
| 10X6 | 194,961.00 |
| 10X5 | 162,222.445 |
| 10X4 | 103,963.00 |
| 10X3 | N/A |
| 9X6 | 162,222.445 |
| 9X5 | 168,191.50 |
| 9X4 | N/A |
| 8X6 | N/A |
| 8X3 | N/A |
| 7X4 | 72,676.00 |
| 6X4 | 65,000.00 |
| 6X3 | 41,124.50 |
| 6X2 | 29,858.00 |
| 5X6 | 71,378.00 |
| 5X4 | 42,825.00 |
| 5X3 | 29,858.00 |
| 5X2 | 22,841.00 |
| 4x4 | N/A |
| 4X3 | N/A |
| 4X2 | 17,737.50 |
| 3x3 | 23,458.00 |
| 3X2 | 14,923.00 |
| 2X2 | 10,200.00 |
| 2X1 | 5,439.50 |
| 1X1 | 2,700.00 |

ALLURE RATE

| SIZE | RATE | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------|------------|
| CENTRESPREAD | | 967,500.00 |
| DOUBLE SPREAD | | 806,250.00 |
| ALLURE COVER | | 750,000.00 |
| (IBC) Inside Back Cover | | 376,250.00 |
| (IFC) Inside Front Cover | | 430,000.00 |
| (BC) Back Cover | | 483,750.00 |
| Full Page | | 430,000.00 |
| 10X5 | | 295,625.00 |
| Half Page | | 225,000.00 |
| EVENT | | 250,000.00 |

PICTURE & CAPTION

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

SERIES DISCOUNT
5 PAGES 2.5%
10 PAGES 5%
15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%

SURCHARGE
PAGE 3 (100%)
PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%)
PAGE 2 (75%)

LOOSE INSERT
LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) COPIES
SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES
HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES

CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES
CHANGE OF NAME
GUIDE BLACK & WHITE
GUIDE COLOUR

25,000.00
45,000.00
30,000.00
75,000.00
100,000.00

2,000.00
3,750.00
4,250.00

CONTACT US

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

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
Terms and Conditions apply

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

Nigeria's economy shows strong growth despite high inflation, says world bank

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



Nigeria's economy grew by 4.6% in the last quarter of 2024, showing signs of strong recovery. The World Bank's Lead Economist for Nigeria, Alex Sienaert, says the country's business sector is bouncing back, and the growth is expected to continue into early 2025.

Sienaert attributed the economic momentum in part to the country's foreign exchange reforms, which have created a more unified, market-reflective, and stable exchange rate. As a result, the Central Bank of Nigeria has been able to rebuild its official reserves, now exceeding \$37 billion.

"That's significant because this is the cushion the economy has against external volatility," Sienaert noted.

He also highlighted a sharp

improvement in government revenue, which rose by 4.5% of GDP in 2024. This, he said, was a "remarkable achievement" fueled by the removal of foreign exchange subsidies, enhanced tax administration, and increased remittance flows.

The fiscal gains helped reduce Nigeria's budget deficit to an estimated 3% of GDP in 2024, down from 5.4% in 2023. However, Sienaert cautioned that the full revenue benefit from the removal of fuel subsidies has yet to be fully realized.

Despite the positive growth trajectory, Nigeria continues to face persistent high inflation. Sienaert emphasized the need for continued tight monetary policy and disciplined fiscal management to keep inflation under control.

The World Bank's report comes on the

heels of Nigeria's full repayment of the \$3.4 billion emergency loan secured from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in April 2020. The loan, obtained under the IMF's Rapid Financing Instrument, was aimed at mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and falling oil prices.

Nigeria completed its final repayment on April 30, 2025—well ahead of schedule—marking a major milestone in the country's debt management. With this, Nigeria has been removed from the IMF's list of debtor countries.

However, the country is still obligated to make annual payments of approximately \$30 million in Special Drawing Rights (SDR) charges, covering service and administrative fees, through 2029.

Adelabu says \$10bn yearly 'll ensure stable electricity in Nigeria

By Friday Omosola



Nigeria's Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, has said the country must invest at least \$10 billion annually over the next 20 years to achieve a dependable electricity supply.

He made this known yesterday during the commissioning of a 2.5MW solar hybrid power plant at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA) in Kaduna State.

Adelabu attributed Nigeria's longstanding electricity crisis to decades of underinvestment, poor infrastructure maintenance, and failure to modernise the national transmission network.

He said the current administration, led by President Bola Tinubu, was

taking critical steps to overhaul the sector and end erratic power supply nationwide.

"We're addressing deep-rooted issues that have hindered progress in the power sector," the minister noted.

"However, for any significant investment to make an impact, the foundational problems of the past must first be resolved."

Highlighting recent reforms, Adelabu pointed to the enactment of the new Electricity Act as a game-changer.

He said the law allows greater participation by state and local governments, giving them the legal

backing to engage in electricity generation, transmission, and distribution.

"Over 11 states have already taken advantage of the autonomy granted by the Act, with more expected to follow," he explained.

"This decentralisation is essential to expanding access to power at the grassroots."

Adelabu stressed that the accumulated infrastructure gap in the sector, built up over six decades, cannot be fixed overnight—but sustained investment and regulatory reforms will pave the way for long-term solutions.

Mass failure in UTME: ASUU threatens to sue JAMB

By By Alade Adisa

Following the mass failure in this year's Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination UTME conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, JAMB, the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, has threatened legal action against the examination body.

This is just as JAMB admitted that technical error on its part accounted for 387,997 candidates in 157 centres not doing well in the exam.

The Chairman of ASUU-UNN, Comrade Oyibo Eze, while briefing newsmen in Nsukka on Wednesday, said the union would not hesitate to drag the Board to court over the mass failure of candidates in the exam.

Oyibo said the massive failure, which mostly affected candidates from the South East, was a deliberate attempt by JAMB to stop children from the zone from getting admission into tertiary education.

"My office has been inundated with protests, calls and visits by parents and the general public on this deliberate massive failure in the 2025 JAMB examination.

"ASUU will challenge this result in court if JAMB fails to review the result and give candidates their merited scores.

"JAMB knows that children from South East must score higher before they can get admission whereas their counterparts in some parts of the country will use 120 JAMB score to get admission to read medicine in universities in their areas.

"In the JAMB recently released result, out of 1,955,069 candidates who sat for the 2025 examination, over 1.5 million candidates scored less than 200 and majority of these are from the South East and Lagos State where many Igbos reside," he said.

He called on governors from the South East to rise up and challenge this injustice targeted towards preventing children from the zone from gaining admission into higher institutions in the country.

"The governors in the zone should not sit



and watch JAMB toy with the academic future of our children.

"I am not against the board punishing those found guilty of exam malpractice, but JAMB should not, because of these few candidates, fail the whole candidates in an exam centre," he said.

The ASUU boss said that it was unbelievable and unacceptable that in the whole University Secondary School, Nsukka, no candidate that sat for the exam scored up to 200 in the UTME.

"This school has superlative students who have excelled in academics both inside and outside the school, how come all of them scored less than 200 in the exam.

"Even if JAMB discovered one or two candidates for exam malpractice, is that enough reason to fail all others who have prepared very hard for that exam," he said.

Oyibo advised JAMB to act fast to do the needful by reviewing the result as that massive failure had become a national issue which might attract national protest if nothing urgent was done.

This is as JAMB, on Wednesday admitted responsibility for the mass failure that characterised the just-concluded 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination, UTME.

The Registrar, Prof Ishaq Oloyede, who addressed a press conference in response to public outcry that followed the development, tendered an unreserved apology to candidates affected.

"I understand that there are three powerful expressions which contain one word, two words and three words respectively. They are please, thank you and I am sorry. So, I appeal to the candidates and those affected by the error of our system to accept this explanation as the truth of the matter without embellishment. Please, I apologise and take full responsibility not just in words," he said.

To this end, he announced that a total of 379,997 candidates, cutting across six states of the federation, would retake the examination from Friday May 16 to 18.

The affected states, according to Oloyede are five in the South East zone and Lagos in the South West. Specifically, they are Lagos, Imo, Anambra, Oyo, Abia and Ebonyi.

Oloyede, who held back tears while admitting responsibility for the ugly development, blamed the negligence of some JAMB staff, adding that candidates in 65 centres in Lagos and 92 in Owerri Zone, covering the five states in the South East, would rewrite the exam.

He appreciated public concerns over the mass failure, saying the Board would learn from its mistakes.

He said: "I appreciate all those who lent their voices to the strident complaints on the results we released because you all did so out of concern. I appreciate our critics immensely because they could have chosen to be indifferent.

Tinubu proposes N1.78tn FCT budget, seeks Senate's approval

By Guest Writer

President Bola Tinubu has forwarded a ₦1.78 trillion budget proposal for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to the Senate, requesting prompt legislative action ahead of the 2025 fiscal year.

In a letter read on the Senate floor on Wednesday, Tinubu called for swift passage of the appropriation bill to facilitate efficient governance and improved service delivery in the FCT.

Acting on the president's request, the Senate invoked Order 78 to allow the bill to progress to a second reading on the same day it was introduced.

However, the fast-tracked process drew objections from Senator Abdul Ningi of the opposition, who cited Order 77 (3 and 4), arguing that lawmakers had not received the bill's documentation before the debate.

Despite the procedural concerns, the Senate proceeded to deliberate on the general principles of the FCT statutory budget for the coming year.



Leading the discussion, Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele explained that the budget aims to draw ₦1.78 trillion from the FCT Administration's Statutory Revenue Fund to cover expenditures from January to December 2025.

According to Bamidele, the spending plan allocates ₦150.35 billion to personnel, ₦343.78 billion to overheads, and ₦1.29 trillion to capital

development.

He noted that the capital allocation is geared towards completing critical infrastructure projects and sustaining essential public services in Abuja.

The proposed budget, he added, focuses on finishing ongoing projects while launching new ones considered vital to the FCT's growth and service delivery goals.

Lagos to design monthly rent payment system for residents

By Damilola Olufemi

The Lagos State Government is set to roll out monthly and quarterly rent payment plans to ease the strain of annual rent obligations, particularly for low-income earners.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Housing, Moruf Akinderu-Fatai, during the 2025 Ministerial Press Briefing held to mark the second anniversary of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's second term.

Akinderu-Fatai explained that the initiative aligns with the state's broader strategy to make housing more affordable and accessible. Building on the earlier rent-to-own scheme, which allowed beneficiaries to pay just five per cent upfront and spread the



rest over a decade, the government is now looking to give tenants more flexible payment options.

He noted that the high cost of lump-sum yearly rents has been a long-standing challenge for many Lagosians. "Monthly and quarterly rent options will reduce the

financial pressure on residents and make housing more sustainable," he said.

Lagos engages house owners, others To make the initiative viable, the state is engaging with landlords, property developers, and other stakeholders to address implementation challenges such as payment systems and compliance mechanisms. A pilot rollout is already being prepared in selected communities as part of the phased approach.

"We're not just talking—we're acting. This initiative is rooted in our understanding of how hard it is for many families to meet yearly rent demands, and we're committed to changing that reality," Akinderu-Fatai emphasised.

Lamido urges Tinubu to compensate Abiola's family over annulled 1993 election

By Friday Omosola



Former Jigawa State Governor, Sule Lamido, has appealed to President Bola Tinubu to provide financial compensation of ₦45 billion to the family of the late MKO Abiola as reparation for the cancellation of the 1993 presidential election.

Lamido, who made this plea yesterday in Abuja during the official unveiling of his autobiography, *Being True to Myself* argued that such compensation would serve as both symbolic justice.

He added that the compensation will also serve as a long-overdue moral resolution to a pivotal moment in Nigeria's democratic history.

"Let us finally bring closure to the June 12 episode," Lamido said.

"President Tinubu should consider settling this outstanding issue."

Citing General Ibrahim Babangida's recently released memoir, *'A Journey in Service'*, Lamido noted that Babangida

not only admitted that Abiola won the election but also disclosed that the late politician was owed ₦45 billion.

According to Lamido, Babangida told him privately that he would have paid the debt if he were president.

"Abiola has suffered enough — he lost both his mandate and the money he was entitled to. The least Nigeria can do is pay that money to his family. Once that is done, we can all move on," Lamido added.

Babangida's memoir, published earlier this year, reignited national discourse around the June 12 election, regarded as Nigeria's most credible democratic exercise.

In it, the former military ruler confirmed for the first time that Abiola, the candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), won the election, securing over 8 million votes compared to the National Republican Convention's Bashir Tofa, who garnered about 5.8 million votes.

Babangida described annulling the election as the most agonising decision of his tenure, driven by concerns over possible military insurrection and threats to national unity.

He claimed the decision was influenced by internal forces and suggested the announcement was made without his direct instruction.

The revelations stirred widespread reactions.

While some, including Tinubu, welcomed the long-awaited admission, many Nigerians and civil society groups criticised Babangida's attempt to shift responsibility.

Lamido's call for financial restitution is the latest in ongoing efforts to seek justice for the late business mogul and politician, whose victory and subsequent death in detention remain a defining moment in Nigeria's democratic journey.

JAMB blames technical glitch for poor UTME performance

By Friday Omosola

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has attributed the poor performance of many candidates at this year's Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) to technical difficulties experienced across several exam centres.

JAMB Registrar Professor Ishaq Oloyede disclosed this during a press conference held in Abuja on Wednesday.

Oloyede became visibly emotional while offering an apology for the shortcomings that marred the examination process.

He said, "We take full responsibility for the setbacks. Despite our best efforts, we are human and not infallible."

He reaffirmed the Board's commitment to transparency, fairness, and continuous improvement.

Following the issues, JAMB announced that 379,997 candidates will be required to retake the UTME starting from 16 May 2025.

This decision came after widespread complaints about malfunctioning systems, inconsistent scoring, and allegations of flawed question formats at various centres.

In a post shared on its official X (formerly Twitter) account on Wednesday, JAMB revealed that a system error disrupted the exam process in 157 out of the 887 centres used for the 2025 exercise.

The board described the incident as an act of fate, stating, "Man proposes, God disposes."

"Man Proposes, God Disposes! It has been established that a technical glitch affected 157 centres out of the 887 centres in the 2025 UTME. This was basically responsible for the general low performance of the candidates scheduled to sit the examination in those centres.

"As such, all the affected candidates will be contacted to reprint their examination slips towards retaking their examinations starting from 16th May, 2025", JAMB wrote on X.

JAMB also released a detailed analysis of the



2025 results.

Out of the 1,955,069 candidates who sat for the UTME, only 12,414 scored 300 or above—less than one percent of the total.

Specifically, 4,756 candidates achieved scores of 320 and above, while 7,658 scored between 300 and 319.

A large majority—over 78 percent—scored below 200, with the highest concentration of candidates, 983,187, falling within the 160–199 range.

Another 488,197 scored between 140 and 159, and only 334,560 reached the 200–249 bracket. At the lower end, 2,031 candidates recorded scores below 100.

JAMB further disclosed that 40,247 underage candidates were allowed to sit for the UTME on the basis of "exceptional ability."

However, just 467 of them (1.16 percent) met the board's benchmark for such distinction.

In comparison, the 2024 UTME saw 1.94 million registered candidates, with 1.9 million eventually taking the test across 118 towns and more than 700 centres.

That year, only 0.4 percent of candidates scored 300 or above, and 24 percent managed 200 or more.

Regarding examination conduct, 97 candidates were caught engaging in malpractice in 2025, while over 2,100 others

remain under investigation.

JAMB said biometric issues also affected some candidates, and those cleared after verification will be scheduled for makeup exams.

Some results, including those for visually impaired candidates and those in the JEOG category, are still being processed and will be released upon completion.

In response to the overwhelming criticism that followed the release of the 2025 UTME results, JAMB launched an immediate post-examination review—typically conducted months later.

Fabian Benjamin, the Board's Public Communication Advisor, confirmed this in a statement, citing "an unusual volume of complaints from certain regions."

Benjamin noted that if systemic flaws were uncovered, corrective measures would be taken.

To ensure objectivity, JAMB has enlisted support from various experts, including members of the Computer Professionals Association of Nigeria, heads of tertiary institutions, and assessment specialists.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, commented on the mass failure during a television interview last week, attributing it to the enhanced integrity of JAMB's computer-based testing, which he claimed made cheating nearly impossible.

Lagos police arrest ex-convict for attempted robbery

By Helen Okechukwu

The Lagos State Police Command has announced the arrest of a 28-year-old male ex-convict, Olayinka Oluwaseyi, for an alleged attempted robbery in the state.

Oluwaseyi had been released from prison just three months ago for a similar offence.

According to a statement shared on X on Wednesday by the state police spokesperson, Benjamin Hundeyin, the suspect, armed with a knife, was apprehended by patrol officers from the Ketu Division on May 13 at around 1:30 a.m.

“His swift arrest was made possible by the timely intervention of the patrol team,” Hundeyin said in the



statement.

Hundeyin also revealed that the command is currently searching for another suspect, whose name is being withheld, in connection with the incident.

Olayinka is currently in custody, and investigations are ongoing. He will be arraigned in court upon the conclusion of the investigation.

Commissioner of Police (CP) Olohundare Jimoh praised the Ketu Division officers for their professionalism and dedication in apprehending the suspect.

He urged residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.

“He reiterates the Command’s firm stance against all forms of criminality, especially traffic robbery, and reassures Lagosians of the its readiness to clamp down on those who threaten the safety of residents,” Hundeyin added.

4 dead, 2 hospitalized in Rivers road accident

By Helen Okechukwu

After a car lost control and hit six persons along G.U. Ake Road of Rivers State, four have been confirmed dead while two are said to be receiving treatment at Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH).

The State Police Command spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed this in a document shared with journalists, stating that the incident occurred on 12 May at approximately 11:42 p.m.

Iringe-Koko said the bodies of the four persons who lost their lives at the accident scene have been deposited at



the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) Mortuary.

The force spokesperson said the accident occurred when a 36-year-old male driver, Benson Michael, ran into the six persons with his Toyota Camry with registration number ABJ 10 EM.

“Tragically, four of the pedestrians were confirmed dead at the scene, while two others sustained injuries and were immediately rushed to BMH Hospital for medical attention,” she added.

RSUTH was formerly known as BMH.

The driver and his damaged vehicle are in police custody as the case will be transferred to the State Traffic Department for further investigation.

“The Command deeply regrets the unfortunate incident and assures the public that justice will be served,” she concluded.

Working more than 52 hours weekly may alter brain

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A new study has found that regularly working more than 52 hours a week could alter the structure of your brain, potentially impairing areas responsible for memory, problem-solving, and emotional regulation.

Published in the journal *Occupational and Environmental Medicine*, the research highlights serious concerns about the neurological and psychological effects of overwork, particularly among healthcare professionals. The study was conducted by researchers, including experts from Yonsei University in South Korea, and focused on how prolonged working hours affect brain structure and mental health.

Using MRI scans and other data, researchers examined the brains of 110 workers. Among them, 32 regularly worked over 52 hours a week, while 78 maintained standard working hours. The findings revealed that those in the overworked group exhibited significant changes in brain regions linked to executive function, planning, decision-making, and emotional control.

“Overworked individuals exhibited significant changes in brain regions associated with executive function and emotional regulation,” the study reported. These areas are essential for performing complex cognitive tasks, managing stress, and maintaining mental clarity—functions often heavily taxed in high-demand professions like healthcare.

Interestingly, the study noted that the group working longer hours tended to be younger, more highly educated, and had less job tenure than those with standard hours. This suggests that early-career professionals might be especially vulnerable to the pressures of overwork,



potentially placing them at greater long-term risk for cognitive and mental health challenges.

The researchers emphasized the need for urgent attention to the risks associated with excessive working hours, particularly in demanding sectors such as healthcare. “The results underscore the importance of addressing overwork as an occupational health concern and highlight the need for workplace policies that mitigate excessive working hours,” they wrote.

The findings have sparked renewed calls for action from occupational health experts. Ruth Wilkinson, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), warned of a growing crisis of long working hours. “A long hours culture can be experienced in what we’ve identified as the ‘small print’ of working life today,” she said. “This captures those hidden or unspoken expectations placed on top of workers’ contracts, including always having to be available or on duty in this digital age, stripped of the right to disconnect from work outside of normal working hours.”

A recent YouGov survey conducted by IOSH supports these concerns. It found that nearly a quarter of UK workers regularly exceed the legal maximum of 48 working hours per week. Additionally, more than half of respondents reported checking emails and work-related messages outside of their regular working hours, indicating a persistent erosion of work-life boundaries.

Experts are urging employers and policymakers to re-evaluate work expectations, create healthier boundaries, and implement regulations that protect employees from the long-term cognitive and psychological consequences of overwork.

As the modern workplace continues to evolve, particularly in an always-connected digital environment, these findings serve as a stark reminder of the human cost of constant availability and excessive workloads. Protecting brain health, researchers argue, starts with respecting working limits and fostering a culture that values mental well-being as much as productivity.

Health firms partner to boost West Africa's Lassa fever vaccine access

By Helen Okechukwu

In efforts to tackle the recurring Lassa fever outbreak in West Africa, the West African Health Organisation (WAHO) has revealed that three regional health organizations have been welcomed into the Lassa fever Coalition partnership to support vaccine access.

The announcement was made during the recent Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Assembly of Health Ministers Meeting, with support from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).

The newly welcomed partners to aid in boosting efforts towards epidemic preparedness across West Africa include Corona Management Systems, Nigeria Health Watch, and Bloom Public Health.

The new partners will assist the WAHO in coordinating a regional push to develop and ensure fair access to Lassa fever vaccines.

Health Ministers from Benin, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone—countries most affected by the disease—are core members of the Coalition.

Nigeria's Coordinating Minister of Health and Chair of the ECOWAS Health Ministers Assembly, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, described the Coalition's growth as a step toward health sovereignty.

"We are deliberately building resilient systems to anticipate and prevent outbreaks. This is more than a Coalition, it is a blueprint for future epidemic



preparedness and a model of how solidarity can deliver health security across West Africa and beyond," he said.

WAHO Director General Dr. Melchior Aissi stressed the importance of joint action, stating, "No single country can address Lassa fever alone. Our new partners bring critical expertise that will accelerate outbreak responses and enhance access to life-saving tools."

Dr. Chijioke Kaduru, Managing Director of Corona Management Systems and spokesperson for the Coalition Secretariat, added, "By focusing on coordination, capacity-building and preparedness, we can lay the groundwork for equitable access to Lassa fever vaccines."

Lassa fever, first discovered over 50 years ago, affects hundreds of thousands yearly. Severe symptoms occur in about 20% of cases, and climate change is expected to increase the population at risk to 600 million by 2050.

The WHO lists Lassa fever as a top

priority for urgent R&D. CEPI CEO Dr. Richard Hatchett said the expanded Secretariat will be key in advancing vaccine research and access.

Headquartered in Nigeria, the new Secretariat will also operate in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Benin. It will support vaccine trials, liaise with funders, and develop regional access strategies.

According to the Deputy Director of Press & Public Relations, Alaba Balogun, this development follows the first Governing Entity meeting in Abuja in January 2025.

WAHO will host the 2nd Lassa Fever International Conference from September 22–26, 2025, in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Themed "Beyond Borders," the event will bring together scientists, policymakers, and civil society groups to strengthen regional health cooperation.

LASEPA, UNIDO, Japan partner to curb spread of cholera

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA), in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and the Government of Japan, has launched an emergency training initiative aimed at curbing the spread of cholera in flood-prone areas of Lagos State.

The two-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop, which commenced on Tuesday at NECA House, Alausa, Ikeja, is part of project 240236 titled “Emergency Capacity Building of Informal Food and Water Vendors and Waste Workers in Flood-Affected Lagos”, sponsored by the Japanese Government.

LASEPA General Manager, Babatunde Ajayi, described the training as a crucial emergency response to the recent cholera outbreak, particularly affecting the Badagry and Ikorodu areas.

“This is not just training — it is an emergency intervention. We are already applying the knowledge in real-time.

“These affected communities lack basic sanitary infrastructure, which makes proactive prevention even more critical. Prevention is not only better but also cheaper than cure,” he said.

Ajayi commended the Japanese Government for its timely support and thanked UNIDO for facilitating the programme.

He urged participants to fully engage, noting that the knowledge gained



would be deployed immediately to contain the outbreak.

UNIDO National Programme Coordinator, Oluyomi Banjo, said the initiative goes beyond health protection to restoring dignity and building resilience among vulnerable groups.

“This project is not only about preventing cholera; it’s about empowering informal food and water vendors, as well as waste workers, who are often underserved despite playing vital roles in our urban ecosystem,” Banjo said.

He also called for practical, inclusive, and gender-sensitive knowledge dissemination to reach at-risk populations.

LASEPA’s Director of Environmental Sustainability, Adebayo Adedayo, explained that the ToT aims to equip LASEPA personnel with the tools to drive sustainable cholera prevention education.

She noted that the ultimate goal is to inspire behavioural change among vendors and reduce the risk of disease

transmission.

The workshop featured technical sessions led by public health experts.

Su Zar Chi Lwin from the Food Hygiene Chemistry Laboratory at Kyushu University, Japan, provided insights on global best practices for cholera prevention.

Meanwhile, Adedayo Aderibigbe, a Consultant Public Health Physician, focused on the local context and conducted practical training on safe food handling, water hygiene, and personal sanitation.

Participants also took part in role-play and scenario-based learning to simulate field conditions and improve their outreach capabilities.

The training initiative reflects a multi-agency commitment to strengthening public health preparedness in response to climate-induced health risks and urban sanitation challenges.

Trained LASEPA officers will now cascade the knowledge to frontline vendors and waste handlers across flood-affected communities in Lagos.

9 MERS-Cov cases reported in Saudi Arabia, 2 dead

By **Helen Okechukwu**



The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged the people of Saudi Arabia to remain vigilant over the recent outbreak of Middle East respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-Cov) in the country.

WHO report noted that between 1 March and 21 April 2025, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health confirmed nine new cases of MERS-Cov, including two deaths.

The MERS-Cov cases were reported in one region in Hail and 8 regions located in Riyadh.

A concerning cluster of seven cases was identified in Riyadh. Six of these were health and care workers who got infected while treating one MERS patient.

Four of them showed no symptoms, while two had mild signs such as fatigue and nausea.

Read Also: Scientists unveil new AI pilot to predict disease, prevent outbreak

Only one of the nine patients had indirect contact with camels. The rest had no known exposure to camels or camel products, which are known carriers of the virus.

Lab tests confirmed the cases using RT-PCR between 1 March and 16 April. MERS has a fatality rate of about 36%, although this figure may be high as mild cases often go unreported.

How MERS-Cov spreads

MERS-Cov spreads through close contact, particularly in healthcare settings. It is mostly contracted from camels but can spread from person to person in hospitals and among families.

Saudi authorities have strengthened infection control in hospitals, isolated patients, traced contacts, and added MERS to their routine virus testing since 2023.

WHO says the global risk remains moderate but warns that more cases may emerge, especially in areas where camels carry the virus. Travellers could also spread the virus internationally.

People with chronic illnesses like diabetes or kidney disease are urged to avoid close contact with camels or their products, including raw milk or undercooked meat.

Health workers are advised to follow strict hygiene and safety rules, use personal protective gear, and improve hospital ventilation to prevent further spread. Although there is no approved vaccine or cure for MERS.

WHO calls on countries to boost surveillance, identify cases early, isolate infected individuals, and raise public awareness.

Critics hate me because I'm rich, my dad is wealthy, Davido says

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Afrobeats singer David Adeleke, better known as Davido, has claimed he is the most criticised celebrity in Nigeria.

He says much of the criticism stems from one simple fact: he comes from a wealthy family.

Davido made these remarks during a recent appearance on the Culture Knock Out podcast. Speaking openly, the award-winning artist reflected on how his family's riches shaped public perception of his career, and how he had to work even harder to earn respect.

"People didn't know my dad was rich"

Davido revealed that in the early days of his music journey, most fans had no idea that he came from a rich background. By the time the truth surfaced, he already had several hit songs under his belt.

"In the beginning, they didn't know that my dad was rich," Davido said. "So the stigma of being a rich kid doing music didn't hit me as hard as it could have. People didn't find out until I had already dropped three hit songs."

Davido's father, Adedeji Adeleke, is a well-known Nigerian billionaire businessman. Despite this, the singer said he didn't rely on his family's wealth to break into the music industry.

"I just wanted to do music," Davido said. "I didn't care if I had to be homeless. That was all I wanted to do. Nothing else mattered. Nothing was going to stop me."

Fame came with more scrutiny

Davido's success grew quickly. But as he climbed higher, so did the criticism. The moment people discovered he was from a rich home, attitudes started to change.

"Over time, people started hating me because my dad is rich," he said. "But I kept dropping good music, and it kept working."



The singer noted that while some viewed his success as a result of privilege, he always let his work speak for itself. According to him, talent and hard work kept him on top, not his father's money.

"I'm on fire, and I've been on fire for a while," he added. "Even though I get criticised a lot, I still deliver. People can say whatever they want, but the music connects."

Criticism comes with success

Davido also pointed out a larger truth about fame and public life. He said anyone who rises to the top in any field, not just music, will eventually face backlash.

"It happens to everyone," he explained. "Once you become the biggest in anything, you'll get criticised. It's like when you're running for election. People love you, and they vote for you. But once you become president, people start to hate you."

Despite the challenges, Davido said he remains focused on his craft. For him, the love from fans and the ability to keep creating good music are what matter most.

A journey driven by passion

Davido's journey into music began with a passion so strong that he was ready to risk everything. His commitment, he said, was never about money or fame.

"I didn't care about anything else," he said. "Even if I lost it all, I still would have done music."

Over the years, Davido has grown into one of the biggest names in Afrobeats, earning both local and international recognition. His story is one of persistence and a reminder that success, even for those with privilege, often comes with a price.

As he continues to break new ground, Davido remains a polarising figure in Nigerian entertainment. Loved by many, criticised by others, he says he has learned to live with both.

Conclusion

Davido's comments shine a light on the pressures that come with fame, especially in a country where success is often viewed through the lens of struggle. While his wealthy background may have opened some doors, he insists that his passion, hard work, and talent have kept him at the top.

Golden Jubilee: Adewumi Adisa celebrates 50 with royal flair

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Fifty years of life, laughter, and achievement! New Daily Prime is thrilled to be part of this momentous occasion as we celebrate the 50th birthday of the incredible journey of Adewumi Adisa.

Adewumi Adisa, a man whose presence radiates both strength and gentle grace. His life, a tapestry woven with threads of kindness and cultural pride, has touched countless hearts. He carries himself with a quiet dignity, a testament to his inner strength and unwavering spirit. His warm smile, a beacon of his generous heart, invites connection and fosters trust. Adewumi, a man of elegance and deep-rooted values.

Happy 50th Birthday, Ade Wumi Adisa! Your presence is a gift, radiating strength and a gentle spirit. May your special day be as bright and welcoming as your warm smile. Here's to a year filled with joy and all the wonderful things you deserve.

Wishing a very happy 50th birthday to the wonderful Ade Wumi Adisa. Your strength is admirable, your grace inspiring, and your smile truly lights up a room. May this special day be filled with immense joy, surrounded by those you cherish, and may the year ahead be your best yet. Your best years are yet to come. Wishing you more success and happiness.



you are.

Wishing a very happy 50th birthday to the wonderful Adewumi Adisa. Your strength is admirable, your grace inspiring, and your smile truly lights up a room. May this special day be filled with immense joy, surrounded by those you cherish, and may the year ahead be your best yet Adewumi Adisa

Adewumi "Omo oba," "Omo owa," "Omo ekun," may you grow old and live a full life, and be a blessing to this generation. We wish you fifty years of distinction, warmth, and unwavering spirit. May your day be as exceptional as



Don't quit acting for marriage, Tina Mbah urges colleagues

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran Nollywood actress Tina Mbah has advised her fellow actors, especially women, who struggle to balance their careers with the demands of marriage.

In a recent interview, Mbah spoke openly about the challenges some entertainers face when their spouses do not support their careers.

She urged her colleagues to remain observant before committing to marriage. According to her, there are always early warning signs when a partner may not be willing to support one's professional journey.

"He married you as an actor"

Speaking on the show *Lights, Camera – It's My Turn*, the mother of two drew from her personal experience to emphasize the importance of self-awareness and choice.

"He met you an actor. He married you as an actor. There was no conversation about leaving your job because of insecurity or family pressure. So, why should that change after marriage?" she said.

Mbah expressed concern over situations where women in the entertainment industry give up their dreams because of their husbands. She noted that many go into marriage expecting to thrive in both family life and career. However, reality often tells a different story.

"Some women get married and think they'll soar even higher. But then the man turns around and says, 'No, you're going to stay home.' That's not fair," she added.

Don't ignore the signs

Mbah stressed the importance of paying attention to a partner's attitude before marriage. "The signs are always there," she said. "Don't ignore them. Watch him. Watch her. See how they react to your work and dreams."



She advised her colleagues to have deep conversations with their partners early on. If needed, she suggested that couples should put their agreements in writing to avoid future misunderstandings.

"If it gets to that point, sign an undertaking. Something that makes it clear that your career is not on the table. Because ask yourself, did he leave his job for you?" she questioned.

Marriage shouldn't mean sacrifice of dreams

Mbah made it clear that she values marriage. But she also believes no one should sacrifice their life's passion for it. "Marriage is important," she said, "but nobody forced you or me into it. You have a choice."

She encouraged women in Nollywood and beyond not to settle for less. "There are so many people in the world. If this one doesn't work out, maybe another one will. You will meet someone who truly supports you."

Be true to yourself

Mbah's words carried a strong message of

self-respect and authenticity. "Just be true to yourself," she said. "Don't go after the glitter or the spotlight. Be like me, an antique babe."

She explained that while being in love is important, staying true to one's values and dreams is even more vital. "There's no shame in wanting both love and success. You can have both, but not with someone who wants to dim your light."

A message for younger actors

Tina Mbah's message is especially timely as more women in Nollywood are speaking up about the pressures of balancing family and career. Her advice is grounded in experience and speaks to the reality many actresses face in the industry.

Her appeal is simple but powerful: choose a partner who supports your dreams, not one who silences them.

As she continues to inspire through her performances, Mbah is also using her voice to uplift others behind the scenes. Her message is a call for women to protect their ambitions and never give up on themselves for the sake of acceptance.

Homeless, sick for six years, actress Jumoke George seeks financial aid

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Jumoke George has publicly asked for financial help after revealing she has been homeless and battling serious health issues for six years.

The veteran actress made the emotional plea in a Tuesday video interview with her colleague, Biola Bayo. In the video, George broke down in tears as she opened up about the hardships she has faced in recent years.

Living in a church, battling illness

George revealed that she currently lives in a church building. She said she depends on the kindness of the church members, especially the pastor's wife, who often provides her with food.

"I'm tired. I can't bear it any longer," George said, wiping tears from her face. "I have been without a home for six years. I live in the church now, and it is the mummy in the church that feeds me most of the time. I have nothing to call my own."

According to the actress, her situation has become more difficult due to ongoing health problems. She said her body is in constant pain, and she can no longer sleep well at night.

In urgent need of medical tests

George explained that she has undergone several medical tests in the past, but doctors now recommend that she take more advanced tests. She needs brain and heart scans, which will cost N400,000 a sum she cannot afford.

"I don't know where to get the money from," she said. "Everything is wrong with me. I'm always in pain. I can't sleep. I need to go for a brain and heart test, but the cost is N400,000. I don't have it."

Her words painted a clear picture of someone worn out by years of suffering, both physically and emotionally.

A known face in Nollywood



Jumoke George is no stranger to the Nigerian film industry. She gained fame in the 1990s for her roles in Yoruba-language films and television dramas. Her acting career spans decades, and she has been a familiar face to many Nigerian households.

Despite her long years in the entertainment industry, George now faces financial hardship, a situation not uncommon among older actors in Nollywood who lack formal support or retirement plans.

A cry for help

George's public plea has sparked reactions from fans, colleagues, and others in the entertainment world. Many have expressed shock and sadness, especially considering her once-thriving career in film.

Biola Bayo, who interviewed her, shared the video on social media with a caption urging people to support her struggling colleague. Bayo called on well-meaning Nigerians and the Nollywood community to come together to help George regain her health and dignity.

Reactions from fans and colleagues

Shortly after the video surfaced online, fans and fellow actors began sharing their thoughts and prayers. Some expressed their willingness to donate and support George through this difficult period.



Others used the moment to call attention to the need for better welfare and support systems within Nollywood.

"This is heartbreaking. Nobody deserves to go through this, especially not someone who gave so much to entertain us," one fan wrote on social media.

A growing concern in Nollywood

Jumoke George's case highlights a growing issue in the Nigerian film industry. Several Nollywood veterans have in recent years come forward with similar stories, illnesses, lack of housing, and financial distress after years of acting work.

Critics say the industry lacks proper structures to support aging actors or provide long-term financial security. Many artists, despite their fame, often struggle later in life due to poor savings, lack of pensions, or sudden health issues.

Looking ahead

For now, George is hoping that the public will hear her cry and respond with kindness. She remains in need of medical attention and a safe place to live.

"I need help. I'm tired," she said again during the interview, her voice shaking.

Her message is clear: she wants to live, but she cannot do it alone.

Nollywood actress Monalisa Stephen passes away

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Nigerian film industry is in mourning following the tragic death of Nollywood actress and body positivity advocate, Monalisa Stephen.

She passed away on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, in Lagos. Her death was caused by complications from low blood sugar and internal bleeding.

The news of her passing became public early Wednesday morning, sending shockwaves across the entertainment industry and beyond.

Death confirmed by family and industry leader

Monalisa's death was first confirmed by her immediate younger sister. Shortly afterward, Seun Oloketuyi, the Chief Executive Officer of Best of Nollywood (BON), shared the news in a statement on Instagram.

"Brand influencer Monalisa Ayobami Stephen is dead," he wrote. "She died yesterday in Lagos after losing the fight against low sugar and internal bleeding. Her immediate younger sister confirmed the death of this hardworking and beautiful soul."

Fans, friends, and fellow actors flooded social media with tributes, expressing shock and sadness at the sudden loss.

A voice for self-love and mental health

Monalisa Stephen was more than just a film actress. She became a well-known voice for self-love, mental health awareness, and body positivity in Nigeria and beyond.

She openly challenged the narrow beauty standards in society. Through interviews, social media posts, and public speaking, she called out fat shaming, online bullying, and unrealistic expectations placed on women's bodies. Her bold stance earned her a loyal following, even as she faced criticism and backlash.

She often shared personal experiences, using her platform to encourage others to embrace their bodies and care for their mental health. "I am not just doing this for



me," she once said in an interview. "I am doing this for every young girl who has ever felt unworthy because of her size."

Rising star in nollywood

Monalisa began her acting career with small roles in Nollywood films. Over time, her talent, charisma, and outspoken personality helped her rise to fame. She became known not only for her performances but also for the energy she brought to every project she worked on.

Her strong online presence also helped build her profile. She worked with several brands as an influencer and used her social media platforms to promote not just products, but also confidence and self-expression.

Despite the harsh criticism that often came her way, she stayed true to her message. She remained vocal, vulnerable, and unafraid to speak her truth.

A loss felt across the industry

News of her passing spread quickly, prompting an outpouring of grief from fans, celebrities, and advocacy groups.

"She was a warrior," one fan wrote. "She fought for every plus-size woman who ever felt invisible."

Several Nollywood colleagues shared memories of working with Monalisa, describing her as passionate, driven, and full of life. Many also praised her courage in speaking out about issues that others

were afraid to talk about.

Mental health advocates also honored her legacy, noting her efforts to bring attention to the emotional challenges faced by many young people in the entertainment industry.

Final days and public silence

In the weeks leading up to her death, Monalisa had been relatively quiet on social media. Close friends later revealed that she had been battling health issues but chose to keep them private.

One friend noted that Monalisa had always wanted to be remembered for her strength, not her struggles. "She didn't want pity," the friend said. "She wanted to inspire people to be brave, no matter what they were going through."

Remembering Monalisa

Monalisa Stephen leaves behind a legacy that goes beyond film. She was a fighter, a voice for the unheard, and a symbol of confidence in a world that often discourages self-acceptance.

As tributes continue to pour in, fans remember her not just as an actress, but as someone who dared to be herself in the face of judgment. Her life and message continue to inspire, even in her absence.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced by the family.

Trump meets Syrian president, urges ties with Israel

By Fatimah Idera

U.S. President Donald Trump met with interim Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday. This meeting marked a significant turn of events for Syria as it struggles to emerge from decades of international isolation. Trump urged Sharaa to normalise ties with longtime foe Israel.

The meeting was attended by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, with Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan joining virtually.

The meeting came after Trump's surprise announcement that the U.S. would lift all sanctions on Syria.

This decision was made despite deep Israeli suspicion of Sharaa's administration and concerns within sectors of the Trump administration over Syria's leaders' former ties to al Qaeda. Trump said the lifting of sanctions would give Syria a fresh start and a chance for greatness. The sanctions were crippling and very powerful, according to Trump.

Photos posted on Saudi State television showed Trump and Sharaa shaking hands in the presence of Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The White House press secretary posted that Trump urged Sharaa to join the Abraham Accords, a U.S.-brokered deal that normalized relations between Israel and several Arab countries. The United States hopes Saudi Arabia will also join the accords, but discussions have been put on hold due to the Gaza war and the kingdom's insistence on Palestinian statehood.



The lifting of sanctions is expected to clear the way for greater engagement by humanitarian organizations and ease foreign investment and trade as Syria rebuilds from its civil war. Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al-Saud said Riyadh will support Syria's economic recovery and that there are many investment opportunities in the country after sanctions are lifted.

This move is seen as a boost for Sharaa, who has been struggling to bring the country under the control of the Damascus government after toppling former President Bashar al-Assad in December.

Despite the positive developments, challenges persist for Syria's new government. U.S. ally Israel has opposed sanctions relief for Syria and has escalated its military operations since Assad was toppled.

Israel has seized ground in the southwest of the country and warned the Syrian government against deploying forces there. The challenges facing Syria's new government were laid bare in March when Assad

loyalists attacked government forces, prompting revenge attacks that killed hundreds of civilians from the Alawite minority and drew strong U.S. condemnation.

Sharaa has a complex past, having led al Qaeda's official wing in the Syrian conflict and spending five years in a U.S. prison in Iraq. The United States removed a \$10 million bounty on his head in December. Trump described Sharaa as "a real leader" with potential, deflecting a question about reports that the Syrian president wanted a Trump Tower in Damascus.

The Syrian foreign minister said the meeting between Trump and Sharaa included discussions about combating terrorism and cooperation in eliminating the influence of non-state actors and armed groups that threaten Syrian stability, including ISIS. This meeting will be followed by another between the Syrian foreign minister and his U.S. counterpart Marco Rubio.

The U.S. is exploring normalizing relations with Syria's government, beginning with Trump's meeting with Sharaa,

Macron buries Ukraine's hope of joining NATO

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

French President Emmanuel Macron has said that France and Kyiv's allies "cannot abandon Ukraine," even though the country will not be joining NATO.

Speaking during an interview on the French TV channel TF1, he addressed a wide range of topics, including Ukraine's future and ongoing peace negotiations.

"The first guarantee of Ukraine's security must be a strong Ukrainian army. We cannot abandon Ukraine, even if it will not join NATO. We must provide reassurance forces in areas far from the front line," the French president said.

Macron hails Kyiv

He also praised Kyiv's "clear-eyed" recognition of the limits of its military capabilities after three years of war, acknowledging that Ukraine is unlikely to



reclaim all the territories captured by Russian forces.

He went on to discuss the potential for new sanctions if Russian President Vladimir Putin refuses to implement a proposed one-month ceasefire.

"Russia wants the ceasefire to be discussed in Turkey. We want to apply sanctions against Russia in the next few days, in agreement with the United States," he explained.

Microsoft to retrench 6,000 workers globally

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Tech giant Microsoft announced Tuesday that it is laying off approximately three per cent of its global workforce, amounting to around 6,000 employees. The move, part of an ongoing effort to streamline operations and reduce management layers, will affect staff at all levels and across various regions.



In a statement, the company said the layoffs are designed "to best position the company for success in a dynamic marketplace," emphasising a focus on efficiency and cutting redundancy in processes and roles. The company began notifying affected employees on Tuesday.

While Microsoft did not specify the exact number of job cuts, The Associated Press reported the figure to be roughly 6,000. The company's total global workforce stood at 228,000 as of June 2024.

"We continue to implement organisational changes necessary to enhance our efficiency," Microsoft said, adding that it will "minimise redundancy by streamlining our processes, procedures and roles."

During an April earnings call, Chief Financial Officer Amy Hood acknowledged the company's intent to reduce managerial layers. She also noted that Microsoft's headcount in March 2025 was up 2% compared to the same time last year but

slightly lower than it was at the end of 2024.

This marks the tech giant's largest job reduction since 2023, when it slashed 11,000 positions globally.

The layoffs come despite the company's strong financial performance. In its latest earnings report for the quarter ending March 31, the company posted \$70.1 billion in revenue, a 13% increase from the same quarter the previous year.

Mali Junta dissolves parties, bans gatherings in democracy crackdown

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a sweeping move that further consolidates military control, Mali's transitional president, Colonel Assimi Goïta, signed a decree on Tuesday dissolving all political parties and banning any political gatherings across the country. The announcement was made by Minister Delegate Mamani Nassire in a televised address following an extraordinary cabinet meeting.

"Political parties and organizations of a political nature are dissolved throughout the national territory," Nassire declared, reading from the decree signed by Goïta, who seized power in the 2021 coup and has since led the West African nation under a transitional government.

The decree also prohibits former party members from holding any form of political meeting. The drastic decision comes amid escalating tensions in the capital, Bamako, where pro-democracy demonstrations have grown in recent



weeks. Activists and political leaders have reported an increase in arrests and kidnappings linked to the protests.

Despite opposition from civil society groups and political leaders, the National Transition Council—the country's interim legislative body—voted in favor of the decree on Monday, endorsing its earlier adoption by the Council of

Ministers.

"This decision deals a severe blow to the reconciliation process that began last year," wrote former Prime Minister Moussa Mara on social media platform X.

Critics have called the move unconstitutional and vowed to challenge it legally. Nouhoum Togo, leader of the now-defunct Union for the Safeguard of the Republic party, said his group plans to appeal to Mali's Constitutional Court.

"Political parties are recognized by the Malian constitution," Togo stated. "We will continue our struggle as citizens and as part of civil society to restore democratic governance."

Mali has remained under military rule since 2021, and the latest developments signal a deepening political crisis in a country already grappling with insecurity and instability.

UK lawmaker Lowe escapes charges over alleged threats

By Fatimah Idera

British prosecutors have decided not to bring any charges against former Reform UK party lawmaker Rupert Lowe over allegations that he made threats of physical violence against the party's chairman, Zia Yusuf.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) reviewed the allegations and concluded that there was insufficient evidence to secure a conviction. According to Malcolm McHaffie, Head of the CPS Special Crime Division, "Having considered several witness statements, we have concluded that there is insufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction."

Reform UK, led by Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage, has recently overtaken Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour Party in opinion polls as Britain's most popular political party, despite having only five members of parliament.

However, the party has faced divisions, with

the lawmaker questioning Farage's ability to lead the party, U.S. billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk even suggested that Lowe should replace Farage. This internal conflict has led to former Reform UK party lawmaker from the party.

Lowe transferred to police Reform UK referred Lowe to the police in March, alleging that he had made threats against its chairman, Zia Yusuf. Additionally, the party claimed to have received complaints against Lowe from two female employees in his parliamentary office, accusing him of serious bullying. He denied these allegations, stating they were untrue and false.

The CPS announced its decision not to pursue charges against him, citing a lack of evidence. The 67-year-old who remains in parliament as an independent lawmaker after being suspended by Reform responded to the CPS decision by stating that he had been targeted by a "brutal smear campaign". He further criticised Nigel Farage, saying, "Farage is no



leader – he is a coward and a viper". The ex-lawmaker believes the police process was used to silence him after he raised concerns about Farage's leadership.

He has expressed his determination to move forward, having instructed solicitors to begin defamation action over the claims. He maintains that his criticisms of Farage were constructive and aimed at improving the party.

UK Vice Chancellor suspended over financial misappropriation

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

The University of Greater Manchester, formerly known as the University of Bolton, has suspended its Vice Chancellor, Professor George Holmes, following a series of 'serious' allegations that have prompted an ongoing police investigation into suspected financial misconduct at the institution.

Professor Holmes—one of the UK's longest-serving university leaders—was suspended alongside the university's provost and a third senior academic staff member. The move comes in response to findings from an independent inquiry commissioned by the university, which followed a detailed exposé by The Mill, an external investigative outlet.

A spokesperson for Greater Manchester Police confirmed that an investigation had been launched into "allegations of financial irregularities at the University of Greater Manchester." The force said the probe was initiated after a review of whistle blower claims reported in The Mill and a subsequent report from the university's own Fraud Response Panel.

The university's statement, issued Tuesday, stressed that the suspensions are a "precautionary measure and do not imply any assumption of guilt." The institution added: "The university was made aware of the report's findings following its investigation into serious allegations raised in the media and subsequently in Parliament. This step was taken to ensure a fair and transparent process."

Professor Holmes, who has led the university since 2005, is a prominent figure in the UK's higher education



sector. Appointed at the age of 36, he became the youngest university vice chancellor in the country at the time. He is currently one of the longest-tenured in the role, having served for nearly two decades.

Until December 2023, the institution operated under the name University of Bolton before rebranding to the University of Greater Manchester, following approval from the Office for Students (OfS).

The ongoing investigation gained further momentum in March when Lucy Powell, Leader of the House of Commons, told MPs that both the police and the OfS were investigating "serious allegations" of racism, bullying, and financial misconduct at the university. Her comments followed a statement from Bolton West MP Phil Brickell, who said he had been approached by multiple whistle blowers with additional concerns about the university's internal practices.

Professor Holmes has a long and distinguished career in education and governance. Before joining the university, he held senior posts at

Doncaster College and the University of North London. He has been a policy adviser to the UK government, a Fellow of the Institute of Directors, and a Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester appointed by Queen Elizabeth II.

He has also served on numerous boards, including the Octagon Theatre, Bolton School, Bolton Lads and Girls Club, and the ESSA Academy Trust, among others.

With over 11,000 students enrolled, the University of Greater Manchester now faces serious scrutiny over its internal governance, leadership practices, and financial accountability.

Dr Greg Walker has been appointed acting vice chancellor and interim accountable officer while investigations proceed. The university has declined to comment further, citing the need to respect ongoing internal procedures.

New Daily Prime will continue to provide updates as the investigation unfolds.

Royal college of psychiatrists withdraws backing for assisted dying bill

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a significant development that casts a shadow over the future of the controversial Terminally Ill Adults Bill or dying bill, the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP) has announced its decision to withdraw its support. The move comes just ahead of the bill's highly anticipated return to the House of Commons this Friday, delivering a considerable blow to its proponents.

The RCP's stark declaration follows a week where similar legislation in Scotland cleared its initial parliamentary hurdle, highlighting the diverging paths being taken on this sensitive issue across the United Kingdom.

Dr Lade Smith, president of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, delivered a decisive statement, explaining the college's change of stance. "The RCP has reached the conclusion that we are not confident in the Terminally Ill Adults Bill in its current form, and we therefore cannot support the Bill as it stands," she asserted.

This withdrawal of support carries particular weight due to the bill's current framework, which mandates the involvement of a panel including a psychiatrist to oversee assisted dying cases. The RCP has articulated several key concerns underpinning its decision. These include the bill's lack of provision for addressing unmet needs of patients, the fundamental question of whether assisted dying should be classified as a treatment, the ambiguous specific role envisioned for psychiatrists on the oversight panel, and the potential for an unsustainable surge in demand on psychiatric services.

The implications of the RCP's retracted endorsement remain uncertain should the bill ultimately pass through Parliament. Legal and ethical questions are likely to arise regarding the composition and authority of the oversight panel in the absence of the college's backing.

Kim Leadbeater MP, the driving force



behind the bill, has sought to address some concerns by confirming the inclusion of a clause ensuring that individuals who object to participating in the assisted dying process will not be obligated to do so.

Supporters of the legislation maintain that it offers a compassionate path to alleviate the suffering of individuals facing terminal illnesses. Conversely, opponents voice grave concerns about the potential erosion of safeguards for vulnerable members of society.

Key Questions Loom Over the Bill:

The prominent role designated for psychiatrists in the bill is a relatively recent development, emerging from a previous amendment during the legislative process.

Initially, the bill stipulated that after receiving approval from two independent medical practitioners, an assisted dying case would require further ratification by a High Court judge. However, in a significant move during March, MPs on the parliamentary committee scrutinising the bill voted to remove this judicial oversight clause.

In its place, Ms Leadbeater proposed the establishment of a voluntary assisted dying commissioner, supported by an expert panel that would include a psychiatrist. While Ms Leadbeater championed this revised structure as a "strength, not a weakness," opponents vehemently disagreed, arguing

that the removal of High Court judicial scrutiny "fundamentally weakens protections for the vulnerable."

Amidst the ongoing revisions and amendments to the original bill, there have been increasing anxieties surrounding the robustness of safeguarding measures and the proposed implementation timelines, as previously reported by Sky News' political correspondent Ali Fortescue.

Friday's crucial debate in the House of Commons was already subject to a delay from its initial date of April 25th, granted to allow MPs additional time to meticulously consider the various amendments tabled.

Should the bill successfully navigate Friday's vote, it will then proceed to the House of Lords, where it will undergo a similar rigorous legislative process. Even if it secures passage through the upper chamber, the bill is not anticipated to come into effect until at least 2029, following a previously announced delay in its implementation.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists' withdrawal of support injects a fresh layer of complexity and uncertainty into the already fraught debate surrounding assisted dying, setting the stage for a potentially contentious and closely watched session in the House of Commons this Friday.

Harvard broadens lawsuit against Trump for canceling \$450 million grants

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Harvard University has expanded its lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's moves to cut off billions of dollars in federal funding.

The Ivy League school filed an amended complaint in federal court in Boston after officials announced the termination of an additional \$450 million in grants. This decision comes on top of the \$2.2 billion in funding that President Donald Trump's administration had already terminated.

The Trump administration's moves to cut funding stem from allegations of antisemitism on Harvard's campus. A federal antisemitism task force, comprising representatives from agencies like the U.S. departments of Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice, accused Harvard of failing to confront "pervasive race discrimination and anti-Semitic harassment plaguing its campus" This task force announced that eight government agencies would cancel additional grants.

Read also: Trump vows to strip Harvard's tax-exempt status

In response to the funding cuts, Harvard expanded a lawsuit it filed on April 22 after the administration froze the initial \$2.2 billion. The revised complaint challenges a decision by the administration to freeze billions of dollars in future research grants and other aid until Harvard concedes to the



administration's demands. Harvard argues that these demands violate the free speech guarantees of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment.

The Trump administration has targeted Harvard, citing allegations of antisemitism on campus during pro-Palestinian protests sparked by Israel's war in Gaza. Trump alleges that pro-Palestinian protesters are antisemitic and sympathetic to Hamas. However, protesters, including some Jewish groups, say the government wrongly conflates criticism of Israel's actions with antisemitism and advocacy for Palestinian rights with support for extremism.

Harvard claims it is committed to combating antisemitism and has taken steps to ensure its campus is safe and welcoming to Jewish and Israeli students. The university argues that the administration's actions threaten academic freedom and are unlawful. Harvard's \$53 billion endowment, the largest of any

U.S. university, is often restricted and used for financial aid and scholarships.

Harvard's lawsuit argues that the massive funding freeze is overly broad and was instituted without following proper procedures. "The Government has not identified – and cannot identify – any rational connection between antisemitism concerns and the medical, scientific, technological, and other research it has frozen or terminated," the lawsuit states. Harvard is asking U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs to declare the administration's actions unlawful and block the grant terminations.

The federal court is scheduled to hold a hearing on the case on July 21. Harvard President Alan Garber has strongly defended the university's stance, rejecting accusations of political bias and warning that government interference in university affairs could set a dangerous precedent.

Electric vehicles sale to exceed over 20 million in 2025

By **Damilola Olufemi**

The sale of electric vehicles (EVs) across the globe is expected to exceed 20 million this year. This represents over 25 per cent of all vehicles sold, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday in a report.

The global EVS outlook report says that sales continue to grow despite uncertainties in the global economy and pressures on the automotive sector.

While global sales exceeded 17 million in 2024, the market share of these vehicles exceeded 20 per cent for the first time.

China maintained its leadership in the market, accounting for more than half of last year's sales.

The 11 million electric vehicles sold in China in 2024 equalled the total number of electric vehicles sold worldwide in 2022.

The EV sales in emerging markets in Asia and Latin America also climbed by 60 per cent last year.

In the U.S., the sales were up by 10 per cent year-on-year, while they remained stagnant in Europe as incentives and supportive policies weakened.

Read also: FG endorses indigenous innovation in Nigeria's electric vehicle sector

Two-thirds of electric vehicles sold in China in 2024 were priced below



conventional vehicles despite a lack of purchase incentives, but the gap between electric and conventional vehicle prices remained wide in many countries.

In the first three months of this year, electric vehicle sales rose by 35 per cent year-on-year.

It said that with continued growth, total electric vehicle sales are expected to exceed 20 million this year.

“EVs remain consistently cheaper to operate across many markets, based on current energy market prices.

“Even if oil prices were to fall as low as \$40 per barrel, running an electric car in Europe via home charging would still cost about half as much as running a conventional car at today's residential electricity prices,” the report said.

Global economic growth, others to affect electric vehicle sector outlook

However, Global economic growth, trade development, and industrial policies may affect the outlook for the electric vehicle sector, but sales are being supported by electric vehicle prices becoming more affordable.

“Our data shows that, despite significant uncertainties, electric cars remain on a strong growth trajectory globally.

Sales continue to set new records, with major implications for the international auto industry,” said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

“This year, we expect more than one in four cars sold worldwide to be electric, with growth accelerating in many emerging economies.

By the end of this decade, it is set to be more than two in five cars as EVs become increasingly affordable,” he added.

Qatar airways buys \$200 billion 160 Boeing jets

By **Fatimah Idera**



Qatar signed a significant deal with Boeing during President Donald Trump's visit to the Gulf Arab country.

According to Trump, the agreement is worth \$200 billion and includes the purchase of 160 jets for Qatar Airways. The deal was finalized in a ceremony witnessed by Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani in Doha.

This deal marks another milestone in Trump's Middle East tour, following a string of agreements with Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg signed the deal with Qatar Airways CEO Badr Mohammed Al-Meer in the

presence of Trump and the Qatari emir. Ortberg reportedly told Trump that this is the largest order of jets in Boeing's history, to which Trump responded enthusiastically, "It's over \$200 billion but 160 in terms of the jets, that's fantastic".

The specifics of the deal, including the aircraft models and whether the orders are firm or options, remain unclear. However, if the deal involves Boeing's 777X, its most expensive jet, a deal for 160 aircraft would be worth approximately \$70 billion based on catalogue prices. Aviation analysts note that airlines typically receive large discounts for bulk deals, which might affect the final value of the agreement.

Boeing and Qatar Airways were

not immediately available for comment to clarify the details of the deal. Nonetheless, this agreement highlights the strengthening economic ties between Qatar and the US, with Trump emphasizing the significance of the deal for Boeing.

Qatar signed a deal on Wednesday to purchase jets from U.S. manufacturer Boeing for Qatar Airways during President Donald Trump's visit to the Gulf Arab country.

Trump said the deal was worth \$200 billion and included 160 jets. Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani witnessed the signing ceremony in Doha.