



**Tinubu rescued Nigeria at critical juncture - NSA Ribadu** **Pg 2**

**Wike slams Amaechi: 'You've no political compass'** **Pg 4**



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## South-South APC endorses Tinubu for 2027, backs zonal govs for re-election **Pg 6**



**Trump evokes Russia sanctions after largest drone assault on Ukraine** **Pg 22**

**WORLD**

**Pg 23**

**Starmer set to reject calls for wealth taxes**



**WORLD**

**Nine-player PSG defeat Bayern in Club World Cup clash** **Pg 30**



# Tinubu rescued Nigeria at critical juncture – NSA Ribadu

By Gbenga Olaleye



Nigeria's National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, has declared that President Bola Tinubu "rescued the nation" at a perilous moment in its history, when Nigeria was beset by numerous security and political crises threatening its unity and survival.

Ribadu made the remarks in Abuja during the 50th anniversary celebration of the Nigerian Defence Academy's 18 Regular Course. Addressing attendees, including senior military officials and government dignitaries, he described the national security landscape as dire when President Tinubu assumed office.

"The country was at a dangerous crossroad, there were multiple, overlapping crises cutting across every region from insurgency and terrorism in the North East, to banditry in the North West, oil-related militancy in the Niger Delta, and separatist movements in the South East," Ribadu stated.

Ribadu, a former chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC), said the Tinubu administration inherited what he termed "intractable security challenges", but has since taken bold and determined steps to restore national security and rebuild public confidence.

The NSA reported that over 13,500 terrorists and criminal elements have been neutralised under the current government's counterinsurgency operations. In addition, more than 124,000 Boko Haram and Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) fighters, along with their families, have surrendered to authorities a development Ribadu cited as a major breakthrough in national security efforts.

"These achievements reflect the administration's commitment to restoring peace and ensuring the safety of all Nigerians," he said.

Ribadu also underscored the importance of leveraging the experience of military veterans in the ongoing battle against insecurity. He

advocated for the active engagement of retired service personnel in intelligence, training, and advisory roles, citing their institutional memory and tactical knowledge as invaluable assets.

While praising the courage and sacrifices of the armed forces, he called for continued national unity and civilian support in order to consolidate recent security gains and move the country forward.

The NSA's comments come amid broader efforts by the Tinubu-led government to address Nigeria's complex security environment and restore stability to a nation that, for years, has grappled with terrorism, inter-communal violence, and economic dislocation.

As the anniversary event drew to a close, Ribadu urged Nigerians to remain hopeful and resolute, assuring them that the administration remains focused on delivering a safer, more secure future.

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## EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
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9X5	206,000.00
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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
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5X4	61,500.00
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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
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5X2	32,916.50
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4X3	39,499.50
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10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
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5X6	71,378.00
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# Wike slams Amaechi: 'You've no political compass'

By Friday Omosola

**F**CT Minister Nyesom Wike, has fiercely responded to remarks made by his predecessor, Rotimi Amaechi, accusing him of lacking political focus and credibility.

During an appearance on Politics Today on Channels Television, the former Rivers State governor, dismissed Mr Amaechi's claim of mentoring him, arguing that the former Minister of Transportation has no real understanding of political strategy.

"Amaechi is completely lost when it comes to politics. How can someone who doesn't even grasp the basics claim he made me? It's simply not right," Mr Wike said.

Mr Wike's rebuttal followed Mr Amaechi's earlier comments on the same programme, where the former minister expressed confusion over Mr Wike's perceived disrespect despite their political history and age difference.

He challenged the Minister to a face-to-face walk through Port Harcourt without security, claiming that Mr Wike owed him respect as his senior and political benefactor.

"Let him come; let's walk together, no police, no escorts, just the two of us. I really don't understand why he doesn't respect me. I'm older. I introduced him to politics. Who is he compared to me?" Mr Amaechi had said.

## Wike fires back

But Mr Wike rejected the notion that age or former titles automatically command respect.

"Respect is not handed out based on how old you are or the offices you've held. It comes from the kind of person you are, your integrity and your values. Being 200 years old doesn't entitle you to respect," he retorted.

The Minister also dismissed any idea that Mr Amaechi played a crucial role in shaping his political career.



He maintained that he had already established his own influence in Rivers politics long before Amaechi gained ground.

"He can't call himself my senior in politics. I contested and won the chairmanship of Obio-Akpor, one of Nigeria's most prominent local councils, back in 1998."

Mr Wike further recalled that Mr Amaechi was once struggling to find political footing and needed support to be appointed as a lawyer within the Rivers State system.

He also criticised Mr Amaechi for constantly relying on his previous positions to claim relevance, arguing that past offices do not automatically make one politically significant today.

Mr Wike particularly took issue with Mr Amaechi's public stance against material wealth, calling it hypocritical.

"When people say things like, 'I'm not interested in money,' it's usually a lie. Amaechi spent eight years as Speaker, eight years as governor, and another eight years as a Minister. Nigerians should really examine the

kind of people feeding them these narratives."

Their renewed public clash comes as both remain significant figures in Nigeria's evolving political scene, especially with the 2027 elections on the horizon.

Mr Amaechi, who is now a prominent leader in a fresh coalition under the African Democratic Congress (ADC), recently pledged to honour power rotation principles, vowing to serve only a single term if elected president.

The ADC alliance also features key politicians like former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, ex-Labour Party presidential candidate Peter Obi, former Kaduna Governor Nasir El-Rufai, and Rauf Aregbesola, former Governor of Osun State.

Mr Wike and Mr Amaechi's rivalry spans decades. Although Mr Wike once served as Mr Amaechi's Chief of Staff and was widely seen as his political apprentice, their relationship soured in the lead-up to the 2015 elections, igniting a long-standing battle for dominance in Rivers State politics.

Their ongoing feud is the latest chapter in this bitter political saga.



# Aregbesola urges ADC supporters to avoid attacking APC backers

By Gbenga Olaleye

**T**he National Secretary of the newly formed African Democratic Congress (ADC), Rauf Aregbesola, has appealed to his supporters to refrain from insulting or attacking members of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Speaking on Friday in Lagos, shortly after the ADC's official launch aimed at unseating President Bola Tinubu's administration, Aregbesola, who served as Commissioner for Works and Infrastructure in Lagos State under Tinubu, called for a respectful and fact-based approach in political discourse.

Taking to social media, the former Ogun State Governor expressed gratitude to supporters who welcomed him at the Lagos airport.

However, he warned against any form of hostility or confrontation, urging followers to focus on the significant challenges facing Nigeria instead.

"The task before us is immense, and I reminded everyone that we do not need to fight, insult, or attack anyone,"



Aregbesola said in his statement.

He advised ADC members to respond calmly when confronted by ruling party supporters, encouraging them to use facts to highlight the country's ongoing struggles with food inflation, economic hardship, rising living costs, and widespread poverty.

"When others resort to abuse or name-calling, we must rise above it. Instead, ask them one simple question: Are

Nigerians better off today than they were before? Challenge them with facts on food inflation, the economy, the rising cost of living, and the deepening poverty affecting millions," the statement added.

Aregbesola's call comes as the ADC positions itself as a serious opposition force ahead of the 2027 elections, advocating for a civil and issue-focused political engagement across Nigeria.

# Osun gov Adeleke debunks leaving PDP for APC

By Damilola Olufemi

**T**he Governor of Osun State, Ademola Adeleke, has debunked speculations of him exiting Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

There were rumours in some quarters of the media that Adeleke was planning to leave the PDP, and all prepare had almost been completed.

Clarifying this, governor Adeleke, on his X page, on Saturday, described such as false.

I remain in PDP—Adeleke



He added that no cause for alarm, stating that he remains in the PDP.

He posted "Over the last few hours, I have been inundated with calls regarding rumors of a possible defection. I want to assure the good people of Osun State and Nigerians at large; I remain a loyal member, and the leader of the People's Democratic Party (@OfficialPDPNig) in Osun State," he said.

The governor added that his focus remains on delivering good governance and fulfilling our 5-point agenda for Osun people.

He urged Nigerians to "disregard the fake news and continue to support our mission for a better Osun state."

# South-South APC endorses Tinubu for 2027, backs zonal govs for re-election

By **Damilola Olufemi**



**A**t a stakeholders' meeting held in Benin City, Edo State, on Saturday, South-South leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) unanimously endorsed President Bola Tinubu as the party's sole candidate for the 2027 presidential election.

In addition, the APC stakeholders threw their weight behind the governors of Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Delta, and Edo states as the party's unopposed candidates for their respective upcoming governorship elections.

The motion to adopt the communique was moved by the Leader of the House of Representatives, Prof. Julius Ihonvbere, and seconded by former Edo State governor and Senator, Adams Oshiomhole.

Reading the communiqué, APC National Vice Chairman (South-South), Victor Giadom, said the decision to back President Tinubu was in recognition of his "transformational leadership" and developmental agenda. He also commended the president for initiating the South-South

Development Commission and pushing forward the construction of the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway.

Giadom further praised the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, for what he described as "making the zone proud" through his strong support for President Tinubu and visible infrastructural projects in the FCT. He also called on the governors of Bayelsa and Rivers States to align with the APC, hinting at possible realignments ahead of 2027.

'Tinubu has no intention of a one-party system in Nigeria'

In his address, APC Acting National Chairman, Alhaji Ali Dalori, hailed the zone's leadership for organizing the meeting and officially welcomed Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom into the party fold. Dalori dismissed concerns about the APC aiming to dominate the political landscape unchallenged, saying, "President Tinubu's administration has no intention of turning Nigeria into a one-

party state."

Senate President Godswill Akpabio, also in attendance, expressed optimism that the entire South-South zone would soon be under the APC's control. He suggested that Governors Siminialayi Fubara (Rivers) and Duoye Diri (Bayelsa) could be on the verge of defecting to the ruling party.

In his welcome remarks, Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo said the region was beginning to experience more stable and responsive governance, attributing the gains to President Tinubu's support and leadership.

Those in attendance included Senate President Akpabio, Governors Umo Eno (Akwa Ibom), Bassey Otu (Cross River), and Monday Okpebholo (Edo), with Delta State Governor Sheriff Oborevwori represented by his deputy, Monday Onyeme. Also present were federal and state lawmakers, ministers from the region, and other top political appointees within the APC.



# OSGOF boss urges security agencies to adopt mapping in security plans

By Friday Omosola



**T**he Surveyor General of the Federation (SGOF), Abduganiyu Adebomehin, has emphasised the critical role of mapping in Nigeria's fight against insecurity.

He advised security agencies and military operatives to consistently engage the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) when formulating security strategies.

Adebomehin gave this counsel during the week while receiving the Group Managing Director of Nembe Exploration and Production Company Limited, Ike Okoronkwo, and his management team at his office in Abuja.

He warned that tackling insecurity without adequate mapping support would hinder the country's efforts, stressing that Nigeria cannot afford to ignore mapping as an essential part of security architecture.

"I don't understand how they discuss

security without considering the use of maps. If security agencies subscribe to our services, we can provide them with the necessary maps because we have now fully digitalised our operations," he said.

Adebomehin lamented that when OSGOF previously organised a paper presentation on mapping, only a few security stakeholders attended, while many failed to show up, citing various excuses.

However, he noted that those who participated later acknowledged the importance of the service.

"We have successfully digitised each state and built a connected database, except for areas where we are still gathering sufficient data," he added.

Earlier, Okoronkwo, a University of Lagos graduate in Surveying and a former General Manager at Shell Group, highlighted the often-overlooked role of surveying in national security.

"The Office of the Surveyor General is vital when it comes to spatial data mapping and management. In some countries, surveying originally served defence purposes. When GPS technology was first developed, it was intentionally restricted for military use to prevent criminal misuse of satellite imaging," he explained.

Okoronkwo, who described his visit as a reconnection with the OSGOF, recounted his early involvement in digital mapping and its evolution into widely accessible tools like Google Maps.

"We have returned to collaborate with OSGOF, and this reconnection is significant for us at Nembe Exploration and Production Company.

"I am pleased to present our company's conference bag and identity materials as a gesture of this renewed partnership. I now appreciate the immense value that surveying brings," he said.



# ADC legal team meets Malami to plan for 2027 elections

By Gbenga Olaleye



In a significant development within Nigeria's political landscape, the National Legal Support Team of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) visited former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, at his private office in Abuja on Friday.

The visit comes shortly after Malami's high-profile defection from the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to the ADC, marking a key moment in the opposition party's growing momentum.

The delegation, led by prominent ADC legal strategists M.E. Sheriff, Dr Al'amin Muhammad, A.I. Garba, I.R. Abdullahi, and Saidu Yusuf, engaged in extensive discussions with Malami.

The talks focused on reinforcing the party's internal legal frameworks, enhancing governance structures, and crafting a robust strategy in preparation for the 2027 general elections.

A central theme of the meeting was the urgent need to strengthen Nigeria's legal institutions and promote political inclusion, with the group emphasising that a fair and just legal system is critical to achieving sustainable national development. The ADC team underscored the importance of leveraging legal expertise to safeguard democratic processes and ensure the rule of law remains paramount.

**READ ALSO:** Coalition: Ex-ADC national chair steps down, hands over party leadership to Mark, Aregbesola

Expressing his appreciation for the visit, Malami reaffirmed his commitment to justice, transparency, and national progress. His defection from the APC, officially announced on 3 July, was attributed to growing dissatisfaction with the government's management of national security, the faltering economy, and broader governance challenges.

The former AGF lamented the state of affairs under the current administration and highlighted his resolve to contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's transformation through his new political platform.

Political analysts view the meeting as part of the ADC's wider strategy to consolidate recent gains from a wave of defections by influential figures from the ruling party. The opposition is seeking to position itself as a credible alternative ahead of the crucial 2027 elections, and the inclusion of a seasoned legal mind like Malami is expected to bolster the party's appeal.

As Nigeria gears up for the next electoral cycle, the ADC's focus on legal reform and institutional strengthening signals a more organised and strategic approach to national politics, one that may reshape the country's democratic trajectory in the years to come.

# Oyebanji commissions Ekiti Builders' Market, reaffirms commitment to business growth

By Friday Omosola

Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti State has commissioned the newly completed ultra-modern Ekiti Builders' Market in Ado Ekiti, describing the project as a major step towards boosting the state's economy and improving infrastructure.

The market, delivered through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the state government, via its investment arm Fountain Holdings Limited, and New Frontier Development Limited, features 191 lock-up shops, a security post, cafeteria, clinic, warehouse, car parks, and other essential facilities.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Mr Oyebanji said the initiative aligns with his administration's commitment to creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

He noted that the market would not only ease access to building materials but also support local commerce, create jobs, and strengthen the state's internally generated revenue.

Before the establishment of the market, traders in building materials operated in scattered, unregulated spaces across the city, making it difficult for customers to source their needs in one location.

The governor explained that the new centralised market would address this challenge by bringing together all categories of building materials dealers under one roof, promoting order, convenience, and safety in business transactions.

"The building materials sector plays a vital role in the growth of our construction industry. By providing a central, well-organised marketplace, we are not only improving access to quality materials but also creating a business-friendly environment for small and medium enterprises to



thrive," Mr Oyebanji stated.

He commended New Frontier Development Limited for completing the project within record time and urged traders to maintain the facilities, comply with environmental regulations, and work together to make the market a model for other commercial centres in the state.

The governor also highlighted his administration's broader efforts to decongest the Ado Ekiti metropolis by relocating traders from high-traffic areas to purpose-built markets. He cited the relocation of traders from the Atikankan Market to the new Shasha Market as a successful example.

Addressing youths, women, and artisans, Mr Oyebanji said, "Let this market serve as a reminder that there is dignity in enterprise and hope for a better future. Our administration will continue to support you through skill acquisition programmes, access to finance, and infrastructure development."

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer of

Fountain Holdings Limited, Adetunji Tolani, described the market as a product of strategic partnership designed to meet the growing demand for a well-structured hub for building materials in the state.

He said the market was carefully planned to include key amenities such as power supply, security, and convenience facilities to ensure a seamless business experience.

On behalf of New Frontier Development Limited, the Executive Director, Salma Muhamed, expressed pride in the timely completion of the project, calling it a demonstration of the positive outcomes achievable through public-private collaboration.

She reaffirmed the company's commitment to contributing to the state's development through impactful infrastructure.

The Builders' Market was reportedly abandoned by previous administrations until Mr Oyebanji ordered the revival of the project last year.



# Niger govt disburses N38m to fire victims in Minna

By Friday Omosola



**T**he Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA) has provided financial assistance exceeding ₦38 million to 28 individuals affected by various fire outbreaks in Minna, the state capital, this year.

NSEMA's Director General, Abdullahi Baba-Arah, revealed this during a ceremonial cheque presentation held at the agency's headquarters.

He noted that while some beneficiaries received their cheques in person, others would receive payments directly into their bank accounts.

Mr Baba-Arah extended Governor Umaru Bago's condolences to the victims and urged the public to adopt strict fire safety practices, such as ensuring electrical

appliances are switched off when leaving homes or places of business.

He outlined that the incidents occurred at three separate sites within Minna. The first was at Tunga Locust on 9 February 2024, where several shops were destroyed.

The second fire ravaged a residential building in Maitumbi, leading to considerable property damage.

The third incident affected a single individual in the Chanchaga area.

The DG further explained that Governor Bago had approved a compensation rate of 25% of the estimated losses for both property owners and tenants—a marked increase compared to the lower

payouts of 10-15% under past governments.

Expressing his appreciation, Mahmoud Mohammed, a landlord from the Tunga Locust area, praised the governor for his compassion and swift response.

Another beneficiary, Juliet Nwabuze, said she was overcome with joy, sharing that she had nearly given up hope after recalling a friend who lost everything in a previous fire incident but received no government support.

NSEMA reiterated its ongoing commitment to supporting disaster victims and enhancing fire prevention efforts through continuous public education and proactive emergency measures



# “Leave Wike to me,” – Nigerian activist Deji Adeyanju

By Gbenga Olaleye



Outspoken Nigerian activist and legal practitioner, Deji Adeyanju, has vowed to intensify his verbal onslaughts against the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Nyesom Wike, amidst a growing political rift involving former Rivers State governor, Rotimi Amaechi.

In a pointed statement posted to his Facebook page on Saturday, Adeyanju made it clear that he considers Wike a political “lightweight” unworthy of attention from the more prominent figures in Nigeria’s opposition movement. Instead, he volunteered himself to “handle” the Minister.

“Coalition people should leave Wike and his dead PDP for me. Amaechi is too big to be responding to Wike. Please, leave him for me. They should face other important and relevant issues,” Adeyanju wrote.

His remarks come on the heels of a renewed verbal tussle between

Wike and Amaechi a long-standing rivalry that has defined Rivers State politics for nearly a decade. The tension has reignited after Amaechi reportedly joined a coalition of opposition leaders aiming to challenge President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 general elections.

New Daily Prime reports that the ongoing exchange between the two former governors has created a storm within political circles, with Wike, now Minister of the FCT under Tinubu’s administration, taking swipes at his predecessor and political nemesis.

Adeyanju’s comments reflect a broader sentiment among some political observers who see Wike’s posturing as a distraction from more pressing national concerns. A fierce critic of the current administration, Adeyanju has built a reputation for unfiltered commentary, frequently taking aim at both government officials and political opposition figures alike.

His intervention is seen as an

attempt to draw attention away from the personality clash and refocus the opposition’s energy on challenging the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in 2027.

While Wike has yet to respond to Adeyanju’s comments, sources close to the Minister suggest he remains undeterred, continuing to champion what he describes as his “transformation agenda” for the Federal Capital Territory.

With over 20 years of political enmity between Amaechi and Wike once allies under the umbrella of the People’s Democratic Party (PDP) the recent escalation underscores the deep fractures that continue to plague opposition unity in Nigeria.

Observers now watch keenly to see whether Adeyanju’s pledge to take on Wike will resonate with the broader coalition movement, or simply add fuel to an already combustible rivalry.

# CHRICED calls for end to two-chamber legislature

By Gbenga Olaleye



**T**he Resource Centre for Human Rights and Civic Education (CHRICED) has called for the scrapping of Nigeria's current bicameral National Assembly, describing it as inefficient, wasteful, and riddled with internal conflicts.

In a strongly worded statement issued on Saturday and signed by its Executive Director, Dr Ibrahim Zikirullahi, CHRICED said the recent standoff between the Senate and the House of Representatives underscores a legislative system in urgent need of reform.

The House of Representatives had earlier announced its decision to halt all consideration of Senate-sponsored bills, citing the Senate's failure to act on 146 bills already passed by the lower chamber. CHRICED condemned the impasse, describing it as "a grave dereliction of legislative responsibility", particularly at a time when Nigeria is facing major socio-economic and security challenges.

"It is particularly troubling that both chambers routinely expedite executive-sponsored bills with minimal scrutiny, while bills from citizens and civil society

groups languish without action," the group said.

CHRICED listed key people-centred bills that have suffered years of neglect, including the Employee Remuneration Protection and Unpaid Wages Bill, the Gender Representation Bill, the Whistleblower Protection Bill, and the Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions Prohibition Bill.

"These are critical legislative proposals that directly affect ordinary Nigerians. Yet, they remain sidelined, while lawmakers prioritise constituency projects and personal benefits," the statement added.

To address the persistent dysfunction, CHRICED renewed its call for Nigeria to adopt a unicameral legislature — a single-chamber lawmaking body which it says would reduce the cost of governance, eliminate inter-chamber rivalry, and enhance legislative efficiency.

"In light of these developments, CHRICED reiterates its longstanding call for a transition to a unicameral legislature. The current system of 469

federal lawmakers is not only bloated but prone to gridlock and waste," Zikirullahi stated.

He noted that over 100 countries, including Ghana, Finland, and Zambia, operate effectively with unicameral legislatures and urged Nigeria to follow suit. CHRICED also called for the issue to be prioritised at the upcoming National Constitution Summit scheduled for July 2025.

In the meantime, the organisation called on Senate President Godswill Akpabio and House Speaker Tajudeen Abbas to end the standoff and refocus attention on bills that matter to citizens.

"If they cannot provide responsible leadership and prioritise people-oriented legislation, they must consider stepping aside in the interest of national progress and democratic integrity," the statement concluded.

CHRICED further encouraged Nigerians to hold their representatives accountable through civic engagement, advocacy, and the ballot box, warning that failure to act will only perpetuate poor governance and public disillusionment.



# 2027 Polls: Will Peter Obi factor help coalition?

By Alade Adisa

**P**eter Obi, a former governor of Anambra State, is one of the leading figures in the coalition hoping to unseat President Bola Tinubu in the upcoming 2027 general elections. The group has adopted the African Democratic Congress (ADC) as its platform.

However, questions are being raised about the long-term impact of Obi's involvement in the coalition. Recall that in 2019, he was the vice presidential candidate to Atiku Abubakar on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). But his political relevance soared in 2023 when he contested the presidential election under the Labour Party (LP). He became the favourite of many young Nigerians, as well as some older citizens disillusioned with the PDP and the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Obi's performance in 2023 election

With what became known as the Obidient Movement, Obi came third in the 2023 poll, winning in 11 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

According to the results announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Bola Tinubu of the APC won the election with 8,794,726 votes and victories in 12 states. Atiku of the PDP followed with 6,984,520 votes and also won in 12 states. Obi scored 6,101,533 votes to place third.

Is Obi like Buhari of the ANPP and CPC era? Before Muhammadu Buhari eventually won the 2015 presidential election through a coalition with Tinubu and others, he had contested three times — under the defunct All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) — largely relying on his popularity and political credibility.

In 2011, Buhari chose Lagos-based cleric Pastor Tunde Bakare as his running mate. Eventually, Goodluck Jonathan of the PDP won with 22,495,187 votes, winning 22 states and the FCT. Buhari came second with 12,214,853 votes and victories in 13 states, while current National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu, came third.

When Tinubu and his allies were negotiating to bring Buhari into their new coalition in 2014, he repeatedly emphasized that Buhari's consistent 12 million votes were already "in the bag" for the alliance to benefit from. Tinubu's optimism was based on the loyalty of Buhari's supporters, who had voted for him repeatedly, even without the backing of major political players. That belief proved true in 2015.



Can Obi now be compared to Buhari?

Speaking on the matter, political commentator Jonah Timpres highlighted reasons Obi could still play a significant role within the ADC: "Tinubu won the last election by a stroke of luck. If the opposition had united, there wouldn't have been the vote-splitting we saw. The combined votes of Atiku and Obi were far more than Tinubu's."

"Several factors now work against Tinubu's government — both economic and political. On the economic front, the administration has virtually squeezed the life out of ordinary Nigerians through levies, taxes, and the removal of fuel subsidies. What's most painful is that the funds collected are going to political officeholders. Monthly allocations to all tiers of government are huge, yet there's little evidence of that money being used to improve people's lives."

"In developed countries, such revenue gains are invested in healthcare, education, and social welfare. Here, nothing is done, and people are angry. More youths will be registered for the upcoming elections. While some may be discouraged by Obi's 2023 loss, don't forget that there have already been several youth-led protests against poor living conditions under Tinubu. So, assuming they're tired and won't vote may be wrong."

"Politically, the President's handling of issues like the Rivers State crisis, his alleged interference in opposition parties, and his resistance to new political parties are troubling. This is a democracy; he shouldn't act like he wants to be the only candidate in

2027. Such actions create more enemies than friends. Obi's supporters may still back him — but only if he runs as the main candidate, not as a deputy."

Dr. Ajani Adekunle's perspective

Dr. Ajani Adekunle believes there is still a long way to go before the next election, and many developments could shape the political landscape: "Obi has said he'll be on the ballot in 2027, but he didn't specify the position. That's wise. The coalition's adoption of a platform is timely. Any internal issues regarding their use of ADC should be resolved well before the polls."

"The Obi factor may be overrated — but it must not be underestimated. Even within the APC, some individuals may defect. If Wike, allegedly working for Tinubu to destabilise the PDP, had acted more discreetly, things might be different."

"Public sympathy for the PDP as the opposition party is limited because of their past governance failures. That same sympathy helped Obi in 2023, as many believed he represented a fresh start. That sentiment may still linger."

"The real problem I foresee in the ADC is whether Atiku will agree not to be its candidate, and whether Nasir El-Rufai will step aside for Obi. Obi's recent comment that he wouldn't mind serving only one term could be a double-edged sword. While that may appeal to the North, it could be a liability in the Southeast, where people might question why their turn comes with conditions."



# 'Greed, economic hardship turning more students into Internet fraudsters'

By Alade Adisa



Even before the nation's economy deteriorated to its current state, fraudulent activities were not new. People have always tended to cut corners, but the system is expected to deal with such individuals. That is why courts exist to deliver justice and correctional centres to keep criminals out of circulation.

However, the alarming rate at which students in higher institutions are now involved in get-rich-quick schemes has become a growing concern. When the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was established, it was not anticipated that the agency would face such a surge in youth involvement in what is popularly called "Yahoo Business" — internet fraud involving scams that defraud people of their hard-earned money. Victims include both Nigerians and foreigners.

The EFCC was established on December 12, 2002, by an Act of the Nigerian National Assembly. However, the agency officially began operations on April 13, 2003, following the appointment and confirmation of its first Executive Chairman, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu.

Cases of students' involvement in scams Operatives of the EFCC's Ilorin Zonal Command recently arrested 48 students

of Kwara State University (KWASU) and two others for alleged internet fraud. They were apprehended at their various hideouts after days of surveillance and intelligence gathering. Recovered items included nine exotic cars, 24 laptops, and multiple mobile phones.

Similarly, EFCC agents carried out a midnight raid on the private hostels of Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (UDUS), leading to the arrest of several students. The raid took place in the Kwakwalawa and Gidan Yaro communities, predominantly student areas in Sokoto. According to eyewitness accounts, EFCC operatives stormed the hostels around 4 a.m.

This incident mirrored a similar midnight operation at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), in Ondo State. There, EFCC agents raided off-campus hostels in Orita Obele and Road Block areas at around 2 a.m., breaking into rooms and arresting students.

Another comparable raid occurred at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Osun State, where over 70 students were arrested and taken to Ibadan, Oyo State, for interrogation.

Training Schools for Fraudsters?

Investigations by New Daily Prime reveal that fraudulent practices among youths have extended even to secondary schools. There are both formal and informal methods through which young people are introduced to cybercrime.

Informally, individuals already involved in internet fraud — often those living lavishly in their communities — lure others into the practice.

"They bait newcomers with flashy items like phones, clothes, and hotel outings. I've seen a mother ask her son to go and learn the 'trade' from some boys in their neighbourhood. She knew the implications, but she wanted her son to 'belong.' Most of these boys don't have real jobs either," said Akerele Olamide.

Formally, some individuals — including foreigners — establish "training schools" that teach youths how to hack into bank accounts and commit other online crimes.

**Continue reading  
on next page**

# Cont from page 14

Recently, the EFCC issued a statement confirming the uncovering of such a fraudulent training centre. Dele Oyawale, EFCC's Head of Media and Publicity, said: "Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, March 24, 2025, busted a Ponzi Scheme Academy and arrested 133 suspects in Abuja.

"They were arrested at the Compensation Layout in the Gwagwalada area of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, following actionable intelligence on the Academy's activities.

"The Academy, named Q University (a.k.a Q-Net), was involved in recruiting gullible young Nigerians and training them to recruit others, promising unrealistic profit returns.

"The suspects were enrolled in a program titled 'Special Training for New Generation Billionaires' and brainwashed into believing they would become billionaires. Admission required a form titled 'Independent Representative Application Form,' promoted with slogans like: 'I'm a Champion,' 'I'm Unstoppable,' and 'I'm Infinity.'

"The EFCC carried out the operation in collaboration with the 176 Guards Battalion of the Nigerian Army. Items recovered included phones, computers, and other electronic devices. The suspects will be prosecuted once investigations are concluded."

## Consequences for the nation's future

Commenting on the trend, social commentator Idowu Faleye wrote: "Today, a troubling shift has emerged among Nigerian youth, especially those in universities. This shift threatens the moral fabric of the nation and has dangerous implications for future leadership.

"Let me introduce you to Segun, a 19-year-old second-year student at a well-known university in Southwestern Nigeria. Segun came from a devout Christian home. His father is a Pentecostal pastor, and his mother a senior civil servant. After excelling in secondary school, he was admitted to university at 17.

"But campus life changed him. He joined a group involved in internet fraud. Soon, Segun was worth over ₦70 million. He bought a ₦14 million car and acquired 12 two-bedroom flats. Despite his wealth, he still collected money from his unsuspecting parents and continued attending church with them.

"Segun's friend, Tolu, also took to internet fraud but wasn't as successful. Driven by envy, he resorted to rituals — commonly referred to as 'Yahoo Plus.' Tragically, his girlfriend Bimbo, also from a Christian background, became a victim. Tolu used her for a ritual sacrifice. Her death came to light when neighbours noticed the stench of her decomposing body."

Such stories, once rare and shocking, have become disturbingly common. Internet fraud and ritual killings have crept into Nigeria's campuses, turning bright futures into cautionary tales.

While youths in other countries focus on innovation, skill development, and leadership preparation, many Nigerian youths are chasing wealth through criminal paths. What does this mean for the future of Nigeria?

## A lecturer's view

In response to an inquiry by New Daily Prime, Dr. Niyi Sunmonu, National President of the Congress of University Academics (CONUA), said: "This is a deeply troubling reality and reflects the moral decay in our society. We live in a culture where money is worshipped regardless of its source, where 'the end justifies the means' has replaced values like integrity and hard work.

"Our political leaders often set poor examples by mismanaging public resources with no accountability. This creates a perception that financial crimes are acceptable.

"Bad parenting also plays a role. Many parents today weren't raised with solid

moral values, and now raise children without instilling honesty or responsibility.

"Students engaging in cybercrime suffer lasting character damage. For the nation, it entrenches corruption and undermines our global credibility.

"We also have an education system that prioritises certificates over character, rising youth unemployment, and an economy that doesn't reward honest labour.

"We must urgently rebuild our values, education system, family units, and accountability structures—or risk raising a generation without moral boundaries."

## Some Parents Are Responsible – NAPTAN President

The National President of the National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN), Alhaji Haruna Danjuma, also said, "Some parents have failed in their duty to raise upright children. You can't give what you don't have. A parent lacking in morals cannot teach honesty.

"Peer pressure also plays a role. Students sometimes deviate due to the influence of their peers, even if they were raised properly.

"Yes, the economy is tough, but that's no justification for defrauding others. Would you praise someone who defrauded you just because they claimed to be hungry?

"We must guide our youth along a godly path if we want a better future for our society."





# MDCAN calls for health insurance for medical practitioners

By Helen Okechukwu



**T**he Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN) has called on the Federal Government (FG) to urgently introduce comprehensive health insurance coverage for all medical and dental practitioners across the country.

This appeal comes amid growing concerns over unresolved welfare issues affecting healthcare professionals.

MDCAN, in a statement jointly signed by its President, Prof. Mohammad Aminu, and Secretary, Prof. Daiyabu Alhaji, also urged the government to address demands raised by the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), warning of possible disruptions in health services.

The group backed the NMA's 21-day ultimatum for the withdrawal of a circular issued by the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission, which it described as a breach of previous agreements.

MDCAN further demanded the payment of outstanding allowances, implementation of specialist and excess workload allowances, and the reversal of non-medical professionals' appointments as consultants in hospitals.

The association also called for improved welfare packages, immediate release of the 2025 Medical Residency Training Fund, and the constitution of boards for federal hospitals to improve governance and service delivery.

"We also call for the correction of the relativity between CONMESS and CONHESS and strict adherence to professional allowances as agreed in the 2001 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), particularly in relation to call duty allowances and the payment of all accrued backlogs," We urge the Federal Government to settle all outstanding arrears of the 25/35% CONMESS, clinical duty, and accoutrement allowances owed to medical and dental practitioners and also demand the payment of the 2025 Medical Residency Training Fund (MRTF), alongside a review of the fund to reflect the current economic realities". The statement read.

The association further called for the release of the circular on Clinical Duty and other allowances for honorary consultants, as agreed in January 2024. They demanded the implementation of the scarce skills allowance for medical consultants, and the approval of specialist and excess workload

allowances for all doctors.

MDCAN reiterated the need to adopt relativity in all professional allowances in accordance with the 2001 CBA, particularly for call duty allowances, and demanded full compliance with the 2021 CBA on hazard allowance and the revised CONMESS for house officers and called for the reversal of the appointment of non-medical professionals as consultants in hospitals to uphold standards of care and ensure patient safety.

The statement further emphasized the need for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all medical and dental practitioners, and the urgent constitution of management boards for federal hospitals, in accordance with the Acts establishing Federal Tertiary Institutions, to enhance governance and operational efficiency.

MDCAN also demanded the issuance of a circular to implement the reviewed retirement age for medical and dental practitioners, as well as the provision of robust welfare and well-being packages — including comprehensive health and social support for healthcare workers. ernance and service delivery.



# Falz: Tinubu's name reminds me of hardship

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian rapper and social activist, Folarin Falana, widely known as Falz, has once again expressed his disappointment with the current state of the nation under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

In a recent interview with Soundcity, the award-winning artiste did not hold back when asked about his thoughts on the president's performance.

The interviewer posed a direct question:

"President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. What comes to your mind when you hear his name?"

Falz gave a blunt response: "Hardship. No elaboration."

His response was brief, but the message was loud and clear. For Falz, the name of Nigeria's leader has become a symbol of the country's worsening economic and social conditions.

## A history of criticism

This is not the first time the Wehdone Sir crooner has criticised the Tinubuled administration. Just last month, Falz voiced similar concerns during an appearance on Arise Television.

Speaking candidly on the program, he stated that Nigeria had regressed since Tinubu took office. He argued that little to no progress had been made across key sectors, including the economy, education, healthcare, and security.

"In the past year, we've seen more suffering than improvement," Falz said. "Things are harder now. The hardship is real, and it's affecting everyday Nigerians."

## Frustration over the state of the nation

Falz has become one of the most vocal celebrities speaking out about governance in Nigeria. He consistently uses his platform to address issues affecting the average citizen.



The rapper, who is also a trained lawyer and son of renowned human rights lawyer Femi Falana (SAN), has never shied away from social and political commentary.

Many Nigerians, particularly the youth, resonate with his outspoken stance. On social media, his words quickly sparked reactions, with many users agreeing that the country's cost of living has soared and basic services have deteriorated.

Fuel prices have more than doubled. Inflation has pushed food prices to record highs. And despite campaign promises, many citizens say their lives have become more difficult since Tinubu assumed office in May 2023.

## Falz calls for accountability

While Falz acknowledged that Tinubu still has two years left in his term, he stressed that time is running out to make meaningful change.

"He still has two years to prove himself," Falz said in the Arise TV interview. "But at this point, things have not moved forward. In fact, they've gone backwards."

According to Falz, it is not enough for leaders to make promises. They must also be held accountable for their actions, or inaction.

He urged Nigerians to continue asking tough questions and demanding better governance from those in power.

## From protest to performance

Falz's criticism of the government is not new. In 2020, he was one of the leading voices during the #EndSARS protests, which called for an end to police brutality in Nigeria. His music, particularly songs like "Johnny" and "This Is Nigeria," reflects the frustrations of a generation seeking real change.

For many young Nigerians, Falz represents a rare blend of talent and courage, someone who is willing to use his fame to speak truth to power.

## What comes next?

As the country navigates rising costs and public dissatisfaction, voices like Falz's continue to echo through the halls of media, music, and activism. Whether or not President Tinubu will respond to these criticisms remains to be seen.

But for now, Falz's one-word answer, "Hardship", sums up how many citizens feel about life under this administration.

# DJ Cuppy hints at suitors, says, 'May the best man win'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian disc jockey and music star, Florence Otedola, popularly known as DJ Cuppy, has revealed that she is currently single but open to love.

The entertainer made this known in a viral video circulating on social media.

In the clip, DJ Cuppy is seen enjoying herself at a private family gathering with her sisters, Tolani and Temi Otedola. Dressed casually and visibly in high spirits, the billionaire heiress candidly addressed her current romantic status.

"I'm not dating," she said, "but I'm talking to people. May the best man win."

Her comment sparked online conversations, as fans and followers speculated about the identity and seriousness of the men currently vying for her attention.

## Love life in the spotlight

Cuppy's relationships have often made headlines, with her last known romance ending in disappointment. She was previously engaged to British boxer Ryan Taylor. The couple had announced their engagement in 2022, just weeks after they reportedly met.

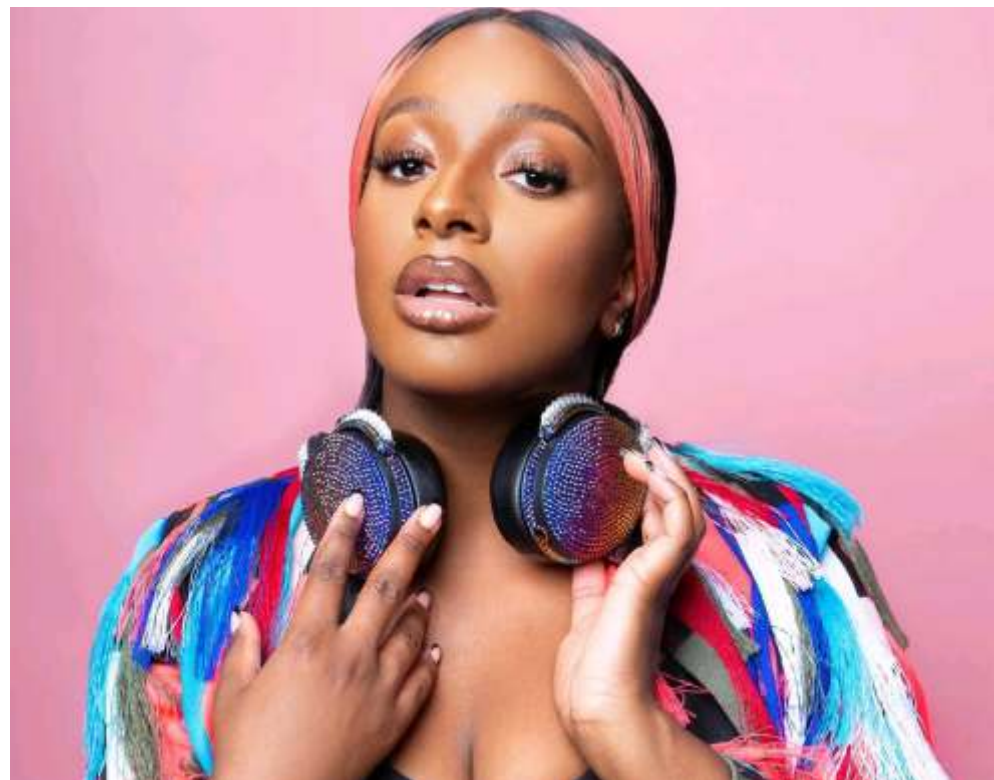
At the time, their whirlwind romance captured the attention of both Nigerian and international media. Videos of their engagement and public displays of affection flooded social media. However, by mid-2023, reports confirmed that the engagement had been called off. Neither Cuppy nor Taylor provided details, but the split appeared amicable.

Since then, DJ Cuppy has remained relatively quiet about her personal life. This recent revelation marks her first public comment on her romantic status in over a year.

## "May the best man win"

Her playful phrase "May the best man win" has since gone viral, prompting reactions from fans, celebrities, and online bloggers.

Many have interpreted her words as a light-hearted challenge to potential



suitors. Others have praised her honesty, describing it as a refreshing take on modern dating.

Social media users also pointed out that her statement shows a new level of confidence and control. Rather than rushing into a new relationship, Cuppy appears to be taking her time, weighing her options, and prioritising her happiness.

## Cuppy's perspective on relationships

In previous interviews, DJ Cuppy has spoken openly about the challenges she faces when it comes to love and dating. In a 2021 podcast appearance, she admitted that being a successful, independent woman sometimes made it hard for men to approach her without insecurities.

"I've realized that many men find me intimidating," she said. "It's tough, but I'd rather be alone than with someone who can't handle me at my full strength."

Her recent comments seem to echo that same sentiment. Though she remains optimistic about love, she's not willing to settle. Only the "best man", someone capable of matching her energy, ambition, and values, will earn her affection.

## Focused on career and growth

While fans speculate about her love life, Cuppy continues to grow her brand as one of Africa's most recognisable music and fashion personalities. Apart from her work as a DJ and artist, she is also an active philanthropist and a graduate of Oxford University.

Over the years, she has used her platform to promote education, mental health, and gender equality. Through the Cuppy Foundation, she has supported initiatives that aim to improve the lives of young Nigerians, especially girls.

Though romance is on the table, Cuppy remains focused on her career and personal growth. In the same viral video, she laughed with her sisters and appeared relaxed, suggesting that she's in no rush and content with where she is right now.

## Final words

For DJ Cuppy, the future appears open and exciting. She's enjoying life, exploring new connections, and taking her time to find someone who truly deserves her heart.

As she puts it, "I'm talking to people. May the best man win."



# ‘Afrobeats has lost momentum’, Amaarae

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Ghanaian-American singer Amaarae has expressed concern over what she describes as the decline in the momentum of Afrobeats on the global stage.

In a candid interview with British-Nigerian media personality Madame Joyce, the Sad Girls Love Money hitmaker shared her views on the current state of the genre and called for innovation and boldness among African artists.

Afrobeats needs to evolve, says Amaarae

Amaarae, whose real name is Ama Serwah Genfi, stated that African music, especially Afrobeats, must evolve to remain relevant and exciting. According to her, the genre has hit a creative pause. She believes that some artists have grown too comfortable with a particular sound, mainly because it has brought them financial success.

“Afrobeats and African music need to evolve,” she said during the interview. “It needs to evolve in a direction that is fearless.”

She explained that many artists are now more focused on preserving their earnings than pushing creative limits. As a result, she believes this caution is stifling the growth of the genre.

“Right now, artists have made so much money from a certain type of sound that they are afraid to step out of the boundaries,” she said. “They’re probably more focused on the financial aspect of it. And because of that, I think Afrobeats has stalled.”

Praise for Rema’s ‘HEIS’ album

Despite her critique, Amaarae pointed out that there are still artists who are breaking new ground and helping to move the genre forward. She highlighted Nigerian superstar Rema as an example of someone embracing growth and experimentation.



“One of my favourite albums last year was Rema’s HEIS,” she revealed. “That’s what I consider the evolution of Afrobeats. You can see how it moved the genre and the culture forward. You can also see how it pushed his career forward.”

Rema’s bold blend of sounds, she noted, reflects the kind of fearless innovation that African music needs right now.

Stuck in a creative rut

Amaarae warned that while Afrobeats has gained international popularity, it risks losing that momentum if artists continue to play it safe. She noted that having hit songs isn’t enough if artists aren’t willing to challenge the status quo.

“There have been a lot of people that have big hits,” she said, “but they aren’t willing to push the boundaries of the music. And as a result, Afrobeats is in a bit of a rut.”

She urged African musicians to take bold steps and create music that excites audiences both at home and abroad. “Africans need to get it together, get on up, and start to experiment,” she declared.

Call for fearless creativity

Amaarae’s comments come at a time when Afrobeats continues to enjoy massive attention from global audiences. However, her warning serves as a reminder that sustaining that success requires continuous innovation.

“Music needs to evolve,” she concluded. “It needs to excite people again.”

As an artist known for blending genres and embracing experimentation, Amaarae’s message is clear: Afrobeats has the power to grow even bigger, but only if artists are bold enough to try something new.

Final thoughts

Amaarae’s critique has sparked conversation about the future of African music. While many celebrate the global rise of Afrobeats, others agree that the genre must keep evolving to remain fresh and relevant.

Her comments serve not just as a critique, but as a challenge to fellow musicians: to take risks, push creative boundaries, and keep the spirit of African music alive and moving forward.

# ‘Supporting Judy Austin ruined my marriage’, Linc Edochie’s ex-wife

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**Y**inka Theisan, the former wife of Nollywood actor Linc Edochie, has broken her silence on the events that led to the end of her marriage.

In a recent interview with actor and media personality Uche Maduagwu, Theisan spoke at length about her past relationship with Linc, her connection with May Edochie, and how social media backlash spiraled into a personal crisis.

## How it all began

According to Theisan, her relationship with May Edochie began on a positive note. She said the first time they connected was after she helped Linc Edochie recover his hacked Instagram account. Following that, Linc publicly acknowledged her support and shared a post thanking a “friend” who assisted him. That friend was Yinka.

After seeing the post, May Edochie reached out to Linc and asked for Yinka’s contact. Yinka said May was dealing with a similar issue involving online security, and she offered to help.

“I helped her the best way I could,” Yinka said in the interview. “She had hacking issues just like Linc did, and I was willing to assist.”

## The turning point

However, the friendship took a sharp turn over a seemingly simple social media action.

Yinka explained that trouble started when she liked a photo of Judy Austin’s child on social media. Judy Austin is the current wife of actor Yul Edochie, whose separation from May Edochie had already stirred up public interest and controversy.

Yinka said her action wasn’t meant to offend anyone. Rather, she was trying to remain neutral in what she called a family issue.

“I don’t want to take sides or get involved in that drama,” she explained.



“I have never even spoken to Yul or Judy in my life.”

## Backlash from ‘May Nation’

Despite her intentions, Yinka’s social media activity triggered harsh reactions from loyal supporters of May Edochie, often referred to online as “May Nation.” She said these online users began to harass and attack her over what they saw as a betrayal.

“Just because I liked a picture of a baby doesn’t mean I support Judy or anything,” Yinka said. “I was simply tired of choosing sides.”

As the online attacks intensified, Yinka admitted she reacted impulsively. She revealed that in frustration, she shared May Edochie’s phone number online, an action that drew even more backlash.

That move, Yinka said, sparked a wave of criticism and media attention that ultimately placed a strain on her marriage.

## Marriage ends under pressure

The media storm and public backlash became too much for Linc Edochie, who reportedly decided to end the marriage. According to Yinka, the controversy made things difficult at

home and left their relationship in tatters.

“Linc couldn’t take the pressure anymore,” she stated. “The situation had gone too far. People were dragging us both online, and it became overwhelming.”

## Final thoughts and regret

Despite everything, Yinka maintains she never meant harm. She insists she simply wanted to stay out of family matters and avoid taking sides.

“I didn’t support anyone,” she said. “I was just being human. I liked a picture of a child. That was all.”

She also emphasized that her support for Linc and May in the past was genuine, and her decision to step away was about maintaining her own peace.

“I tried to help where I could. But in the end, it cost me my marriage,” she concluded.

Theisan’s revelation adds another layer to the ongoing drama surrounding the Edochie family, showing how social media actions, no matter how small can sometimes spark real-life consequences.



# Young Noble of Tupac's Outlawz dies in suspected suicide

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The music world is mourning the death of American rapper Young Noble, a longtime member of the legendary rap group Outlawz, formed by the late Tupac Shakur.

The rapper, born Rufus Cooper III, reportedly died by suicide at the age of 47.

His death was announced by fellow Outlawz member and close friend, E.D.I. Mean, who shared the heartbreaking news on social media.

Heartfelt announcement from E.D.I. means

E.D.I. Mean broke the news in an emotional post on Instagram on Friday, confirming that Noble had taken his own life earlier that morning. In his message, he also highlighted the urgent need to address mental health, especially among men.

He wrote:

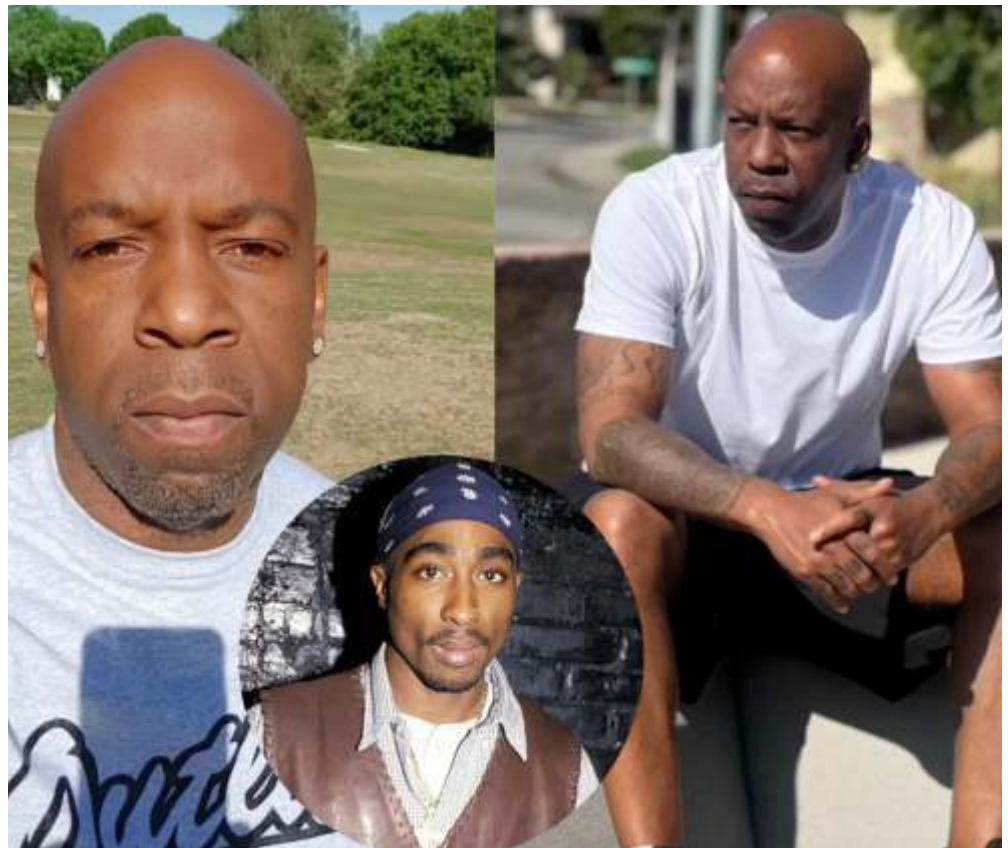
“My brother & partner of over 30 years took his life this morning. Rest in Power, Young Noble. Mental illness is real. CHECK ON YOUR FOLKS.”

The post quickly gained attention from fans, celebrities, and music lovers who expressed their shock and grief over the rapper's sudden death.

Tupac's legacy and the Outlawz bond  
Young Noble joined the Outlawz in the mid-1990s, shortly before Tupac's death in 1996. He became an active contributor to the group's music and was featured on several posthumous Tupac albums, including *Still I Rise*. Known for his deep voice and reflective lyrics, Noble earned respect in the hip-hop community for staying true to Tupac's message of struggle, resistance, and empowerment.

Over the years, he and E.D.I. Mean continued to keep the Outlawz legacy alive, releasing collaborative projects and participating in interviews and documentaries about Tupac and the group's history.

Fans, friends, and colleagues pay tribute to Young Noble  
Following the announcement, many fans flooded social media with tributes,



describing Young Noble as a loyal friend, passionate artist, and humble voice in the rap scene. His contributions to hip-hop, especially through the Outlawz, have left a lasting impact.

Tupac's official Instagram page also acknowledged the news, reposting E.D.I. Mean's statement adds to the wave of grief spreading across the music world.

Mental health conversation reignited  
Young Noble's death has once again brought the topic of mental health to the forefront, especially within the Black and hip-hop communities, where conversations around emotional well-being are often stigmatised or overlooked.

In his post, E.D.I. Mean pleaded with followers to take mental illness seriously and to reach out regularly to loved ones. His call to action has sparked new conversations online about the importance of checking in, listening, and offering support to those who may be silently struggling.

A career that spanned decades  
Young Noble was more than a rapper. Over the years, he took on roles as a

writer, producer, and entrepreneur. His solo projects, including *Son of God* and *Noble Justice*, reflected both personal pain and hope. He used his music to explore issues like poverty, crime, and healing topics, often drawn from his own life experiences.

Despite facing setbacks, including the loss of Tupac and other group members, Noble remained committed to telling authentic stories through his music.

Final words

As fans around the world remember Young Noble's legacy, his death serves as a painful reminder that mental health challenges do not discriminate even among those who appear strong and successful on the outside.

His passing leaves a gap in the world of conscious rap and a deep void among his longtime collaborators and fans. But it also presents an opportunity: to speak more openly about mental illness, to listen more closely to those around us, and to show up not just in celebration, but also in silence, sorrow, and struggle.

Rest in Power, Young Noble.

# Trump threatens Russia sanctions after largest drone assault on Ukraine

By New Daily Prime

US President Donald Trump said Russia just wanted to “keep killing people” and hinted at sanctions after Moscow launched its largest ever drone and missile attack on Ukraine in the three-year-old war.

Trump said Friday he was “very unhappy” about his telephone call with Russian leader Vladimir Putin, saying: “He wants to go all the way, just keep killing people, it’s no good”.

The US president said he and Putin talked about sanctions “a lot”, adding: “He understands that it may be coming”.

Hours-long Russian bombardments sent Ukrainians scurrying for shelters across the country and came after the call between Trump and Putin, which ended without a breakthrough.

AFP journalists in Kyiv heard drones buzzing over the capital and explosions ringing out throughout the night as Ukrainian air defence systems fended off the attack.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky also spoke to Trump Friday and said they agreed to work on bolstering Kyiv’s defences.

“We spoke about opportunities in air defence and agreed that we will work together to strengthen protection of our skies,” Zelensky said on social media after the call.

Tymur, a Kyiv resident who said he had experienced previous Russian attacks, told AFP that the assault in the early hours of Friday felt different from others.

– ‘Nothing like this happened’ –  
“Nothing like this attack had ever



happened before. There have never been so many explosions,” he said.

The Kremlin said Friday it was “preferable” to achieve the goals of its invasion through political and diplomatic means.

“But as long as that is not possible, we are continuing the special operation,” spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, referring to Russia’s invasion.

At least three people were wounded in Russian drone and artillery strikes on several parts of Eastern Ukraine overnight Friday to Saturday, regional governor Sergiy Lysak said on Telegram.

Zelensky said Friday air alerts began echoing out across the country as the Trump-Putin call was getting underway.

He urged the United States in particular to increase pressure on Moscow, which on Friday announced fresh territorial gains on the front line with the capture of a village in the Donetsk region.

Poland said its embassy building in Kyiv had been damaged in the attack but that staff were unharmed.

In Kyiv, one person was pulled from the rubble after the strikes, which also wounded at least 26 people, emergency services said.

The barrage, according to the air force, comprised 539 drones and 11 missiles.

A representative of Ukraine’s air force told Ukrainian media that the attack was the largest of the Russian invasion.

Talks, spearheaded by the United States to secure a ceasefire, have stalled.

Delegations from the two sides last met more than a month ago, when they agreed to exchange 1,000 prisoners each.

Russia announced a fresh swap of prisoners of war with Ukraine on Friday as part of that agreement.



# Starmer set to reject calls for wealth taxes

By **Fatimah Idera**

**S**ir Keir Starmer is preparing to shut down further wealth tax proposals amid warnings from a key adviser that taxing the rich could harm the UK economy.

The Blairite director of policy delivery, Liz Lloyd, has reportedly raised concerns that measures such as the scrapping of non-dom tax status may be driving wealthy individuals out of the country, potentially stifling investment and growth.

Her intervention follows a difficult week for the government, after a U-turn on welfare reforms left Chancellor Rachel Reeves scrambling to fill a £5 billion budget gap. Left-wing Labour MPs have renewed calls for a two per cent annual levy on assets over £10 million, which they claim could raise £24 billion. But Lloyd appears to have prevailed in an internal policy battle, with Starmer leaning toward prioritising economic growth over new taxes on the rich.

The Prime Minister had previously warned that the wealthy are not a bottomless pit and has emphasised the importance of expanding the economy rather than relying on high networth individuals to fund public services. He is now looking to strengthen his influence over economic decisions by appointing a new political economic adviser in No 10, a role that has been vacant since Ravinder Athwal, a key figure in Labour's 2024 manifesto, departed. Huw Leslie, a civil servant, is temporarily filling in but can not engage in partisan policymaking.

One former government adviser said that Starmer's move to bring in a political economic voice at No 10 could help shift control away from the Treasury and ensure the budget aligns



more closely with his priorities.

Despite Starmer's public show of unity with Reeves, his decision to block further tax hikes on the wealthy suggests a divergence in strategy behind the scenes. Reeves, while not ruling out new taxes in the autumn budget, told *The Guardian* she was committed to avoiding the kind of unfunded spending pledges that plagued past governments. "It would be irresponsible for a chancellor to rule anything out," she said, but added: "There are costs to what happened before."

Concerns are mounting that the UK is facing a significant wealth drain, with one forecast predicting a record 16,500 millionaires will leave the country in 2024, the highest number for any nation globally. This could not only reduce the revenue from scrapping non-dom status but also risk losing investment, business, and jobs.

Starmer's inner circle appears to be deepening

The tension between Blairite and more traditional Labour figures in Starmer's inner circle appears to be deepening.

Lloyd's rise has reportedly sidelined more Left-leaning voices, including Stuart Ingham, who leads the No 10 policy unit and has worked with Starmer since 2016. Some in the party now view Ingham's position as untenable.

Last year, Starmer brought in economists Carys Roberts and Rachel Statham from the Institute for Public Policy Research, a think tank supportive of wealth taxation. But insiders say their influence has diminished since Lloyd's arrival in January.

Pressed on Starmer's stance, a Downing Street source pointed to his Commons statement from March: "We have raised money, the energy profits levy, taxing non-doms and air passenger duty on private jets, but this isn't a bottomless pit and we must kickstart growth to get the economic stability that we need."

Starmer's shift away from wealth taxes underscores a broader recalibration within Labour, one that favours growth-friendly policies and a firm grip on fiscal credibility over the demands of its more radical flank.

# Russia and China to skip BRICS summit in Brazil

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a striking shift that raises questions about the ideological direction of BRICS, neither Russia's President Vladimir Putin nor China's President Xi Jinping will attend the upcoming summit in Brazil, set to begin on Sunday. This marks a rare absence for both leaders, who have historically been staunch advocates of the bloc once seen as the developing world's alternative to the G7.

Xi, 72, has been a fixture at BRICS summits for over a decade. This year, however, he will be replaced by Premier Li Qiang, with Chinese officials citing scheduling conflicts as the reason, though no further explanation has been provided.

Putin, meanwhile, remains under an international arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC), accusing him of orchestrating the abduction and deportation of thousands of Ukrainian children. His potential presence at the summit in Rio de Janeiro would have placed host country Brazil, an ICC signatory, in a diplomatically precarious position. A similar situation unfolded in 2023 when Putin cancelled plans to attend the South African BRICS summit after President Cyril Ramaphosa admitted he could not ensure the Russian leader would not be arrested.

What this year's BRICS is?

This year's summit comes on the heels of a rapid expansion of the BRICS group, originally founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In 2023, the bloc



extended membership to six more nations: Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. While this expansion broadens the group's geographic and economic reach, it has also raised concerns among founding members about the erosion of ideological coherence.

Critics say the addition of countries with varying degrees of authoritarian rule has skewed BRICS toward autocracy, making democratic members like Brazil, India, and South Africa increasingly uneasy.

Analysts suggest the absence of Xi and Putin could reflect internal tensions within BRICS and a reassessment of its strategic value, particularly as it attempts to redefine itself in a shifting geopolitical landscape.

Speaking at the Overseas Development Institute in London, former Brazilian foreign minister and current ambassador Antonio Patriota emphasised Brazil's view of BRICS as part of a broader

movement towards a multipolar world order. He argued that the decline of traditional western dominance, particularly under the influence of Donald Trump's "America First" doctrine, was accelerating this shift.

"The US, through its policies, including on tariffs and sovereignty, is accelerating the transition to multipolarity in different ways," Patriota said. He also pointed to growing transatlantic divergence: "It's difficult to argue today that Europe converges with US policy on trade or on security or on sustaining democracy, for example. So where there used to be one unique western pole, now perhaps there are two."

As BRICS enters this new chapter, the summit in Brazil will be closely watched for signs of unity, or fracture, within the bloc. Whether its expansion strengthens its role as a global counterweight to western powers or further dilutes its purpose remains an open question.



# Trump says TikTok deal talks with China to begin within days

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



**D**onald Trump has announced that discussions with China over a possible deal involving TikTok are set to begin on Monday or Tuesday, stating that the United States “pretty much” has a deal in place for the sale of the popular short-video app.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One on Friday, the US president said, “I think we’re gonna start Monday or Tuesday ... talking to China, perhaps President Xi or one of his representatives – but we pretty much have a deal.”

Trump added that he and Xi Jinping had recently invited each other for state visits, saying he might travel to China or host the Chinese leader in the United States.

The prospective deal centres on China-based tech firm ByteDance, the parent company of TikTok, which has 170 million users in the US. Trump has extended the deadline for ByteDance to divest TikTok’s US

assets to 17 September, giving the company an additional 90 days to either finalise a sale or face a ban.

A plan had previously been under development to spin off TikTok’s US operations into a new company, majority-owned and operated by American investors. However, talks stalled after Beijing signalled resistance, following Trump’s imposition of steep new tariffs on Chinese goods earlier this year.

On Friday, Trump acknowledged that the proposed deal would likely require approval from China. “I’m not confident, but I think so,” he said when asked about Beijing’s likely response. “President Xi and I have a great relationship, and I think it’s good for them. I think the deal is good for China and it’s good for us.”

The September deadline marks Trump’s third executive order aimed at delaying the ban or securing the sale of TikTok. His first such order was issued on his first day in office,

following a Supreme Court decision upholding the ban. A second order came in April, setting a deadline of 19 June before the most recent extension was granted.

## TikTok reacts

TikTok, in a statement issued Friday, thanked both President Trump and Vice President JD Vance for their involvement. “We are grateful for President Trump’s leadership,” the company said, adding that it would continue to work with Vance’s office “to come to an agreement”.

However, the move has faced criticism from across the political aisle. Democratic Senator Mark Warner, vice-chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, accused Trump of circumventing legal processes through the use of executive orders. “This is a matter of national security,” Warner said. “The president can’t continue to sidestep the law and expect no consequences.”

# Macron presses Starmer to officially recognise Palestinian state By Fatimah Idera

**E**mmanuel Macron is expected to urge Sir Keir Starmer to formally recognise Palestine as an independent state during his state visit to the UK next week.

The French President will embark on a three-day trip featuring high-level talks, policy announcements, and royal pageantry, including an address to both Houses of Parliament and a summit with the Prime Minister.

A key focus of the visit will be a proposed one-in, one-out migrant returns agreement designed to curb the surge in illegal channel crossings. The deal would see the UK send back migrants who arrive from France in small boats while accepting an equivalent number of asylum seekers directly from France.

However, behind the scenes, diplomatic attention is expected to centre on a more contentious issue: the recognition of Palestinian statehood. While both London and Paris officially support a two-state solution and say recognition should come at a time that best supports the peace process, the two capitals are divided over how soon and under what conditions that recognition should happen.

Macron spearheads efforts to revive international momentum for recognising Palestine.

Macron has taken a more assertive stance in recent months, spearheading efforts to revive international momentum for recognising Palestine. Last month, he co-sponsored a now-cancelled UN conference on the issue with Saudi Arabia. The meeting in New York was scrapped following Israeli airstrikes on Iran, but France is pushing to reconvene it during the UN General Assembly in September.

Paris believes that recognising Palestine could act as a lever for reviving peace negotiations and encouraging a two-state solution. London, however, remains cautious.



UK officials are reportedly concerned that such a move could be largely symbolic unless accompanied by strict conditions on Hamas, including disarmament and a commitment not to lead Palestine during any future reconstruction phase.

One Whitehall source said: “The French are trying to get us back on board with recognition. We’re reticent. You do it when you think you can achieve something from it, not just to say you’ve done it.”

The UK Foreign Office reiterated its long-standing position, stating: “We support a two-state solution that guarantees security and stability for both the Israeli and Palestinian people. We will recognise a Palestinian state at a time that is most conducive to the peace process.”

Israel has strongly opposed unilateral recognition, warning it would reward Hamas following its October 7, 2023 attacks, which sparked the war in Gaza.

Domestic politics may further complicate Starmer’s calculus. Talks of a new pro-Palestinian political party involving former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn could pressure the

Prime Minister to shift his stance, especially among parts of the Labour grassroots.

The Macron-Starmer summit, scheduled for Thursday, is expected to showcase joint policy efforts on migration and civil nuclear cooperation. Discussions on Gaza and Palestinian statehood are likely to occur behind closed doors, although it is unclear whether any agreement will be reached.

On Friday, in a new approach to the Channel migrant crisis, French police punctured dinghies at sea for the first time, a move backed by Home Secretary Yvette Cooper. Officers entered shallow waters near Boulogne-sur-Mer to deflate boats, forcing migrants to return to shore without risking lives in deeper waters.

Beyond politics, the French President and his wife Brigitte Macron will be treated to full royal honours during their stay. King Charles, Queen Camilla, and the Prince and Princess of Wales will welcome them with a ceremonial carriage procession through Windsor on Tuesday, as Britain rolls out the red carpet for its closest continental ally.



# Credit ratings giant warns UK vulnerable after labour policy u-turn

By Fatimah Idera



**B**ritain's fiscal stability has been called into question by the world's largest credit ratings agency following Labour's abrupt reversal on welfare cuts.

S&P Global has warned that the government's inability to implement even modest savings measures highlights the scale of the political and economic challenges now facing Chancellor Rachel Reeves.

The agency said the decision to scrap a proposed £5 billion cut to welfare spending has left the UK's public finances vulnerable and raised doubts over the government's broader ability to keep expenditure under control.

"In our view, it remains to be seen whether the Government succeeds in following through on its wider plans for keeping public spending in check, as announced in the June 2025 spending review," S&P told investors.

The agency cautioned that continued high spending, combined with limited fiscal flexibility, could hamper the UK's ability to respond to future economic shocks. It also warned that

borrowing costs may remain elevated for longer, as investors wait for clearer signs of fiscal discipline.

"We consider the UK's fiscal position as vulnerable and one of the key constraints on our 'AA' sovereign rating. We expect that UK budgetary consolidation will remain a slow process," S&P said.

Earlier this week, Sir Keir Starmer was forced into a last-minute retreat on planned welfare reforms to avoid a damaging Commons defeat. The backtrack effectively neutralised the legislation's intended savings and widened the budget shortfall by £5 billion.

The episode has cast serious doubt on the Chancellor's ability to meet her fiscal targets. S&P now expects only a marginal reduction in the UK's budget deficit, from 5.9% of GDP last year to 5.5% this year.

S&P yet to downgrade UK's credit ratings

While S&P has not downgraded the UK's credit rating, its warning adds to

growing pressure on the government to clarify its fiscal strategy. Just a day earlier, major bond investor Legal & General raised concerns that Labour's policy U-turns were undermining investor confidence.

Markets have already responded. The yield on 10-year UK government bonds – a key measure of borrowing costs – rose to 4.53% on Friday, up from 4.45% before the vote on the Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment Bill.

Economists are now forecasting that Labour's spending commitments could trigger further tax rises. Jack Meaning of Barclays said the combination of increased welfare spending and a weaker growth outlook made it highly likely that Reeves would breach her own fiscal rules in the autumn budget.

"The fragility of the fiscal position has come into focus, making tax increases in the autumn almost inevitable," he said, suggesting the government could extend the ongoing freeze on income tax thresholds to raise revenue.

# Home Office launches crackdown on asylum seekers working illegally

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Home Office has announced a “nationwide blitz” targeting asylum seekers who are working illegally, following political uproar over reports that some individuals living in asylum hotels have been delivering food for major gig economy platforms.

In a statement issued on Monday, the department said it would launch “a major operation to disrupt this type of criminality”, focusing on enforcement across the gig economy, particularly among delivery riders. The move comes amid rising concern from ministers over the use of shared or borrowed accounts to sidestep work restrictions placed on asylum seekers awaiting decisions on their claims.

“Strategic, intel-driven activity will bring together officers across the UK and place an increased focus on migrants suspected of working illegally whilst in taxpayer-funded accommodation or receiving financial support,” the Home Office said.

The operation follows a series of media reports and political statements drawing attention to the issue. Ten days ago, Chris Philp, the shadow home secretary, posted a video on social media showing dozens of food delivery bikes and bags clustered outside an asylum hotel in London. The footage rapidly gained traction online and increased pressure on the government to act.

Major food delivery platforms, Uber Eats, Deliveroo, and Just Eat, were summoned to an urgent meeting with ministers last week. In response, the companies pledged to ramp up facial verification checks to prevent the misuse of accounts by those without legal work status.

Under UK law, asylum seekers are generally prohibited from working while their claims are processed, except in limited circumstances and only for roles on the government’s



shortage occupation list. Reports suggest some have been using the log-in credentials of migrants with settled status to work in the gig economy undetected.

The Home Office warned that individuals caught working illegally could face the loss of accommodation and financial support. Businesses employing people without the legal right to work could be fined up to £60,000 per worker, and may also face director disqualification or criminal prosecution.

Ministers emphasised that enforcement against illegal working had already increased since Labour took office. Immigration and asylum remain politically sensitive issues, with Reform UK and the Conservatives seeking to challenge Labour’s stance amid rising small boat crossings across the Channel.

While Labour has made progress in reducing the backlog of unprocessed asylum claims, arrivals via unauthorised routes remain a major concern. Prime Minister Keir Starmer is set to discuss immigration with French President Emmanuel Macron during his upcoming UK visit, with a potential “one in, one out” arrangement under consideration.

The deal would see Britain return those arriving illegally to France in exchange for formally resettling asylum seekers with ties to the UK.

Home Office Secretary defends govt  
Home Secretary Yvette Cooper defended the government’s approach, saying: “We are stepping up action to combat the pull factor of illegal work. But there is no single solution to illegal migration. That’s why we’re working closely with international partners to dismantle trafficking networks and bring people smugglers to justice.”

Philp, however, criticised the government’s pace, saying: “It shouldn’t take a visit to an asylum hotel by me to shame ministers into acting. Illegal working is happening under the government’s nose, from the very hotels Yvette Cooper is using taxpayers’ money to run. I saw Deliveroo and other bikes parked in the hotel’s own compound yet all the security guard cared about was me filming.”

The coming weeks are expected to see a visible uptick in enforcement activity as the Home Office seeks to show it is taking firm action on illegal migration and work violations.



# Diogo Jota funeral: Wife and family joined by football players in Portugal

By New Daily Prime

**D**iogo Jota's wife and family were joined by Liverpool players for the funeral of the forward and his brother, Andre Silva, in Portugal following their deaths in a car crash in Spain.

The father-of-three, who married his long-term partner Rute Cardoso 11 days before the accident, died alongside his brother after a Lamborghini they were travelling in burst into flames following a suspected tyre blowout in the early hours of Thursday morning.

The coffins of Jota and Silva were carried into Igreja Matriz de Gondomar church in the town of Gondomar near Porto on Saturday morning, followed by mourners.

A church bell tolled and crowds applauded as the brothers' coffins were carried into the church, followed by mourners, some with their arms around each other.

Others seen arriving at the church included Reds head coach Arne Slot, captain Virgil van Dijk and team-mates including Andy Robertson, Conor Bradley, Ryan Gravenberch, Cody Gakpo, Curtis Jones, Darwin Nunez and Joe Gomez.

Also at the funeral for the Portugal international were his national team-mates Bruno Fernandes of Manchester United, Ruben Dias and Bernardo Silva of Manchester City, Joao Felix and Renato Veiga of Chelsea, Nelson Semedo from Wolves, Joao Moutinho, Rui Patricio and Ruben Neves, as well as former Liverpool player Fabinho, Porto president Andre Villas-Boas and Portugal manager Roberto Martinez.

Neves served as one of the pallbearers for Jota after flying in from Florida, where he played for Al Hilal in the Club World Cup quarter-final on Friday night.

Some of the players carried wreaths shaped like football shirts as they arrived at the church.

"They are [have been] really sad days, as you can imagine, but today we have shown we are a very large, but close family," Martinez told Sky Sports News.



"We are Portugal, and it was essential for us that [with] Andre Silva and Diogo Jota, we are together and we will always be together and their spirit will be with us forever.

"Thank you very much for your messages, for your support and everything that we have received [from] all over the world. It means a lot and today we are all one football family."

City midfielder Silva also paid tribute to his fellow Portugal international.

"I can't even imagine the pain of the family, of Rute, of the children, of the parents," Silva told Portuguese broadcaster TVI.

"I must talk a little about Jota, who was a great friend to all of us.

"His career, although not the most important thing, speaks for itself. His passion, will and determination allowed him to succeed in life and have a brilliant career.

"More important than that, as a person, the memories that remain. Jota will remain in our hearts forever. He will always be present at all breakfasts, lunches, dinners, national team gatherings, PlayStation or card games.

"It is a very tough episode for all of us, because we spent a lot of time together. The memories I have with him are fantastic. These happy memories will remain; he will be present in every

victory.

"We were rivals and team-mates for many years. He became a great friend. He was present at my wedding. Unfortunately, I wasn't at his, because I was at the Club World Cup.

"It is a family that will always be with us and that we will try to preserve."

After the funeral service, the coffins were carried to the cemetery next to the church.

Family and friends gathered for the brothers' wake on Friday, with a queue forming outside the Portuguese chapel.

The brothers' parents attended the Sao Cosme Chapel, the Capela da Ressurreicao, in Gondomar, with Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Prime Minister Luis Montenegro and Jota's agent also there.

People held service sheets featuring pictures of both brothers, the largest one showing Jota smiling in his Liverpool shirt and making a heart sign with his hands.

Liverpool postponed the return of their players for pre-season following Jota's death and players past and present paid tribute to him and his brother on social media.

A sea of floral tributes had been left outside Anfield, with many Liverpool fans and supporters of other clubs looking to pay their respects.

# Nine-player PSG defeat Bayern in Club World Cup clash

By New Daily Prime



**P**aris Saint-Germain are through to the Club World Cup semi-finals after beating Bayern Munich 2-0 despite finishing the game with nine players.

Desire Doue scored the breakthrough goal in the 78th minute, wrongfooting Manuel Neuer after Harry Kane had been dispossessed in the centre circle, but it was an awkward finale for the European champions when they had two players sent off.

Willian Pacho's studs-up challenge was punished with a straight red card by English official Anthony Taylor and in the 92nd minute Lucas Hernandez suffered the same fate when he proceeded to elbow Raphael Guerreiro on the jaw in full view of the referee.

But Luis Enrique's side made light of those losses by scoring with a stunning counter-attack after Achraf Hakimi beat three players to set up substitute Ousmane Dembele, who finished emphatically having struck the underside of the bar just seconds earlier.

Bayern had no answer, even seeing a penalty decision overturned when VAR deemed Nuno Mendes' challenge on Thomas Muller, making what will be his final appearance for the German champions, to be a fair one. Vincent Kompany's side are out.

Musiala injury mars game for Bayern  
It was a miserable afternoon for Bayern in Atlanta, particularly as Jamal Musiala suffered a serious injury in the first half. Gianluigi Donnarumma clattered into his leg when collecting the ball, resulting in the ugly sight of Musiala fracturing his fibula.

Players from both sides were visibly distressed by the incident that will surely result in the talented Germany international missing a chunk of the forthcoming Bundesliga season, with the World Cup also coming up in the United States next summer.

Player of the match: Desire Doue

Desire Doue, scorer of the opening goal for PSG, speaking to DAZN:

"It was really important to win this game because we know that in the first part of the season we lost against this team. It was really important to beat Bayern today. We are really happy today.

"It was a fight today. We are really sad that Pacho and Lucas took a red card but it is part of the game. We have to be good in the next game and we are going to win. We are ready for anything."

Dembele celebration pays tribute to Jota

There was a tribute to Diogo Jota, the Liverpool forward who died in a road traffic accident this week, before kick-off, particularly poignant with Portuguese players among both squads. And Dembele proved that Jota was still in their thoughts at the end.

The Ballon d'Or favourite mimicked Jota's gaming celebration after scoring PSG's second goal, sitting cross-legged on the ground.