



Court orders Senate to recall suspended Senator Natasha **Pg 2**

Tinubu: Days of empty promises, abandoned projects in Nigeria over **Pg 4**



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‘I see no opposition momentum’ – APC’s Ajibola Basiru dismisses coalition threat **Pg 20**



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Court orders Senate to recall suspended Senator Natasha

● Fines her N5m for contempt of court

By Alade Adisa



Justice Binta Nyako has ordered the Senate to recall Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan immediately.

The court ruled that the six months suspension given her was too excessive and threw out the objection of the Senate and Senator Godswill Akpabio that it was an internal affair of the Senate that the court could not dabble into.

However, the court fined Ms Natasha N5 million for breaching a gag order it placed on all parties to the matter.

The court frowned at Ms Natasha's satirical apology letter she posted on her Facebook wall after the court had said everybody should not talk about the issue publicly again.

The court also asked her to publish apology to the court in two newspapers within seven days.

The court also held that Senate President Godswill Akpabio was not wrong to have denied Senator Natasha, who was not in the official seat that was allotted to her, the opportunity to speak during plenary. The court asked her to apologise to the Senate.

Justice Nyako added that the two pieces of legislation failed to specify the maximum period that a serving lawmaker could be suspended from office.

According to the court, since lawmakers have a total of 181 days to sit in every legislative cycle, the six-month suspension handed to Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan was equivalent to pushing her away from her responsibilities to her constituents for approximately 180 days.

It held that though the Senate has the power to punish any of its members who err, such sanction must not be excessive

to deprive the constituents of their right to be represented.

Justice Nyako equally dismissed Akpabio's contention that the court lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the suit, which he said bordered on an internal affair of the Senate.

Earlier in the ruling, the court imposed a N5 million fine on Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan for violating its order, which barred the parties from making public statements about the subject matter of the suit.

It further ordered her to publish an apology within seven days in two national dailies.

Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan is also facing two separate cases of cybercrime and defamation in two separate courts in the nation's capital.

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Tinubu: Days of empty promises, abandoned projects in Nigeria over

By **Damilola Olufemi**



President Bola Tinubu has declared an end to the era of unfulfilled promises and abandoned projects, stressing that infrastructure and development are fundamental rights of all Nigerians, not privileges for a select few.

The president made this known on Friday during the commissioning of the newly rehabilitated Aguma Palace–Radio Nigeria–New Market Road in Gwagwalada, a project delivered by the Nyesom Wike-led Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Administration.

Represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, Tinubu described the road as more than just a physical link. “It is a corridor of dignity for market women, a path to safety for school children, and a road to prosperity for the hardworking trader,” he said.

According to the president, his administration is committed to action, not lip service. “The days of empty promises and abandoned projects are behind us. We are not just building infrastructure; we are building confidence in governance,” he stated.

He highlighted the quiet but significant transformation happening across the FCT — from upgraded healthcare facilities to safer roads and better learning environments — attributing the momentum to a new standard of leadership. “A revolution made possible by people who refuse to accept mediocrity. One such person is Barrister Nyesom Wike. I thank him for proving that disruption is not a threat to order but a requirement for progress,” Tinubu said.

Tinubu admits communities outside Abuja’s city centre had been sidelined

Tinubu acknowledged that for far too long, communities outside Abuja’s city centre had been sidelined, witnessing development from the margins. “They have watched their dreams of inclusion delayed by excuses, and their hopes depart by shifting priorities. But we are here to rewrite that history,” he noted.

He stressed that the symbolism of the road commissioning extends beyond its physical form. “What brings us together on this historic day is more than a road. It

is a reminder that no community under this administration is too far to be seen and nobody is too far to be heard,” he said.

Expressing pride in the participatory nature of the project, Tinubu pointed out that the initiative was driven by local input. “The projects we are unveiling were not imposed from above. They were nominated by the people of Gwagwalada themselves. And this is the kind of democracy we believe in—one that listens, responds, and delivers. We are not just rehabilitating roads; we are rehabilitating trust,” he stated.

He concluded by noting that the progress in the FCT stems from deliberate reforms and policy decisions aimed at boosting revenue and reinvesting in public goods. “The transformation unfolding across the Federal Capital Territory is the product of deliberate reforms and the bold, reform-oriented policies of this administration. By expanding the revenue base of the FCT, we are investing in roads, schools, hospitals, and people,” Tinubu added.

FG orders foreigners with expired visas to regularise status by August 1

By Gbenga Olaleye

The Federal Government (FG) has directed all foreigners who have overstayed their visas in Nigeria to regularise their immigration status before August 1, 2025, or face stiff penalties.

The National Orientation Agency (NOA) disclosed this in a statement posted on its X page yesterday.

NOA said the new policy does not compel affected individuals to seek Nigerian citizenship but provides them with a temporary opportunity to update their status through a newly introduced online portal.

The agency added that the initiative is part of the government's broader immigration reforms aimed at addressing visa overstays more systematically and humanely, without resorting to immediate deportation.



The agency warned that once the grace period ends on July 31, strict penalties would be enforced, including daily fines and possible bans from re-entering the country.

NOA urged affected foreigners to take advantage of the window to avoid sanctions.

Datti Ahmed casts doubt on opposition coalition's unity

By Gbenga Olaleye

The Labour Party's vice-presidential candidate in the 2023 general election, Yusuf Datti Baba-Ahmed, has expressed doubts over the sustainability of the coalition formed to challenge President Bola Tinubu's government ahead of the 2027 presidential election.

Speaking during an interview on Arise News, Baba-Ahmed questioned whether the alliance comprising prominent opposition figures could withstand the test of internal competition, particularly if certain candidates fail to secure the presidential ticket of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), the platform adopted by the coalition.

"I think we should not be swept away by this coalition," Baba-Ahmed said.

"You have key players Peter Obi, I will call him first—Amaechi, Atiku, and maybe Nasir El-Rufai, all coming together from diverse backgrounds with a variety of interests."



He noted that while the excitement around the coalition is palpable, the close political stature of major figures such as Peter Obi, Chibuike Amaechi, and Atiku Abubakar could lead to tensions.

"Out of these three, you can imagine that Atiku, Obi, and Amaechi clearly are front runners. It makes me think, how will the contest be? They are very, very close in the race."

Drawing a comparison to past political developments, Baba-Ahmed referenced President Muhammadu Buhari's outsider status in his early political career.

"Buhari was a distant outlier, far from the pack. But here, all three are very close together. Now, if one wins, will the two others still remain in the coalition?" he asked.

The coalition is made up of several political heavyweights, including former Governor of Rivers State Chibuike Amaechi, former Governor of Kaduna State Nasir El-Rufai, former Governor of Anambra State Peter Obi, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, and former Senate President David Mark.

With the African Democratic Congress now positioned as the coalition's chosen platform for the 2027 election, questions around unity and compromise among its leaders remain a key concern for observers.

'I see no opposition momentum' — APC's Ajibola Basiru dismisses coalition threat

By Friday Omosola



As Nigeria approaches another critical election cycle, coalition politics is once again taking centre stage. With no single party holding overwhelming national dominance, political actors are turning to alliances and mergers in a bid to boost their electoral prospects and challenge the complexities of Nigeria's diverse, multi-ethnic democracy—with a shared goal of unseating President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The latest coalition movement, which began with modest consultations, has evolved into a broader political alignment. This includes the formation of the All-Democratic Alliance (ADA) and the revival of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) as a key coalition platform. Within a matter of weeks, this opposition alliance has attracted members from various political parties and high-profile Nigerians who have previously served as presidential candidates, ministers of the Federal Republic, state

governors, senators, and federal lawmakers.

Prominent figures reportedly involved include David Mark, who now serves as Interim National Chairman of the ADC; Rauf Aregbesola, former Osun State Governor and interim national secretary; Peter Obi, former Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate; Atiku Abubakar, former Vice President; Nasir El-Rufai, former Governor of Kaduna State; and Rotimi Amaechi, former Minister of Transportation.

The coalition has pledged to put Nigerians at the heart of its decisions and is committed to confronting the nation's most pressing issues—economic hardship, insecurity, and institutional decline.

APC Responds: "We're Not Threatened"

With the coalition gaining momentum, political analysts

speculate that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) may begin to feel the heat, particularly in light of current economic instability, rising inflation, and national security concerns under the Mr Tinubu administration.

Responding to inquiries from New Daily Prime, Senator Ajibola Basiru, APC National Secretary, dismissed any suggestions that the ruling party feels threatened.

"I can't see any growing momentum of the opposition you're claiming, so I have nothing to say," he stated via text.

Nafiu Hamid, an APC chieftain from the Lagos State chapter, went further, describing the coalition's emergence as an act of electoral desperation.

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““The APC has never thrived on fear but on structure, national reach, and performance. Coalitions are a normal part of democracy. We saw one in 2014, when the APC itself was formed through a merger,” he said.

Let’s not forget—many of the key figures in these coalitions were once part of the APC or PDP. This isn’t new terrain. We’ve survived tougher political storms—from internal wrangling to the #EndSARS aftermath—and still came out strong. We’re not scared; we’re focused.”

Mr Hamid also addressed the inclusion of Mr Obi in the coalition, noting that while Mr Obi’s performance in the 2023 election was notable, it was largely fuelled by a youth-led protest wave, not institutional political backing.

“Despite the social media momentum, he won only one geopolitical zone—the South-East—and came third overall. Unless this coalition can resolve its internal contradictions—such as who leads and what vision it shares—it’s unlikely to present a serious threat,” he added.

He further pointed out that the APC continues to control the North-West, North-East, and much of the South-West, which are home to Nigeria’s largest voting blocs.

“In 2019, Atiku and Obi ran together on the PDP platform and still lost to Buhari. Nigerians want performance, not patched-together alliances,” Mr Hamid said.

He concluded that the APC is not complacent, highlighting ongoing efforts to strengthen internal democracy, reconcile aggrieved members early, and increase grassroots engagement.

“You’ve seen Tinubu’s ‘Renewed Hope’ policies being recalibrated—from student loans to power sector reforms and major infrastructure projects. We believe that delivering results will do more than any speech or tweetstorm. Real power lies in local units—and APC still controls over 20 state governments, the Senate majority, and local councils. No coalition currently matches that.”

PDP Insists It’s Not Being Overshadowed



Meanwhile, a member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Joshua Gana, dismissed suggestions that the opposition coalition might eclipse the People’s Democratic Party (PDP).

Mr Gana, who represents the Lavun/Mokwa/Edati Federal Constituency, emphasized that the

PDP remains focused on rebuilding its internal structures and preparing for a robust showing in the 2027 general elections.

He disclosed that the PDP is set to hold its national convention later this year and that preparations are already underway. The specific dates, he said, will be announced following approval by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

“We’re going to have our national convention later this year. The party organs will announce the date at the next NEC meeting after due consultation with INEC,” he said.

He described the convention as an essential step in repositioning the PDP and reaffirming its commitment to unity and a forward-looking agenda.

“Despite external political movements, the PDP remains a central force in Nigeria’s democratic process. We are committed to offering Nigerians credible and tested alternatives,” Mr Gana concluded.

With coalition politics reshaping the political terrain, all eyes are now on how the opposition will manage internal rivalries and present a unified front. While questions remain about leadership, ideological coherence, and voter mobilization, one thing is clear: the race for 2027 has already begun, and coalition dynamics may prove to be a decisive factor.

Wike slams Amaechi over 2027 ambition, says 'you won't return to power'

By **Damilola Olufemi**



Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, has lashed out at former Transport Minister Rotimi Amaechi for aligning with the opposition coalition ahead of the 2027 general elections, accusing him of pursuing power out of bitterness and personal ambition.

Wike made the remarks on Friday during the commissioning of the rehabilitated Aguma Palace Road and New Market Road in Gwagwalada, Abuja, an event attended by Vice President Kashim Shettima.

“Because you have left office, you are angry. You said Nigerians are angry. You want to come back to power; you won’t come back,” Wike said in a fiery rebuke of Amaechi.

The comments came a day after Amaechi, a former presidential aspirant under the All Progressives Congress (APC), appeared on Channels Television’s Politics Today, where he signalled his

intention to run for president again — this time under the African Democratic Congress (ADC). He pledged to serve only a single four-year term if elected.

During the interview, Amaechi criticised President Bola Tinubu’s administration, arguing that the economic situation under Tinubu is worse than during former President Muhammadu Buhari’s tenure.

Wike and Amaechi, both former governors of Rivers State, have had a long-standing political rivalry. Amaechi governed from 2007 to 2015 before handing over to Wike, who served two terms until 2023. The two have since drifted to opposite ends of the political spectrum — Wike now serving as a minister in Tinubu’s APC-led government, and Amaechi recently aligning with the ADC-led opposition coalition.

Wike challenged Amaechi

Reacting to Amaechi’s latest

political moves, the minister challenged him and his new allies to account for their records.

“You never made angry Nigerians happy, but Tinubu stayed in office for six months and you started saying Nigerians are angry,” Wike said.

He mocked the coalition’s timing and credibility, pointing out that Amaechi had ample time to deliver results while in office.

“They said the coalition has started... When will you stop deceiving Nigerians? Somebody came into office six months then you started the coalition, but you had the opportunity to be Minister of Transportation for eight years. What did you do?” he asked.

The war of words highlights the deepening divide between the two political heavyweights from Rivers State as Nigeria begins to gear up for the 2027 elections.

Coalition: Bode George knocks Atiku, Mark, says defection betrays PDP legacy

By Damilola Olufemi

A founding member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Bode George, has criticised former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and ex-Senate President David Mark for aligning with the African Democratic Congress (ADC)-led coalition, accusing them of weakening the opposition and undermining the PDP's foundation.

In an interview on Channels Television's Sunrise Daily on Friday, George expressed deep frustration over the move, calling it a betrayal of the PDP's legacy and questioning the sincerity of party members who are still within the PDP while actively supporting a rival political platform.

"You can't serve two masters, as stated in the Holy Book. You either serve A or you serve B. But to say you are in A and B is a fallacy," he said.

The formation of the ADC-led coalition, which includes key political figures such as Atiku, Peter Obi, Nasir El-Rufai, Rotimi Amaechi, and Dele Momodu, has stirred controversy within the PDP. The group met in Abuja on Wednesday to formalise their alliance, naming David Mark as interim National Chairman and Rauf Aregbesola as interim Secretary.

While Atiku has not officially left the PDP, his prominent involvement in the coalition has sparked concern. Mark, on the other hand, has formally resigned from the party.

Defectors key contributors to PDP internal turmoil – Bode George

Reacting to the development, George called the defectors "key contributors" to the party's internal turmoil and said it was ironic that they were now abandoning ship due to a crisis they helped create.

"I feel very heartbroken, I feel very sad, because the real political Iroko tree... yes, we have a crisis. Meanwhile, they are part and parcel of the crisis," he stated.

Reflecting on the 2022 PDP presidential primaries, George accused both Atiku and Mark of playing roles that fueled



discord in the party by insisting on a northern candidate despite the fact that then-President Muhammadu Buhari, also from the North, had just completed two terms.

"When we had the last convention, General Buhari had just finished eight years. Then Atiku Abubakar wanted to compete (but) we said no; a northerner had just finished eight years. We had (Peter) Obi in the South. This was the beginning of the crisis. David Mark was the chairman of that convention, and Iyorchia Ayu was the chairman of the party. Of course, you cannot do things like that and get away with it. I warned against it at that point," George said.

The former military administrator of Lagos State also poured scorn on the new coalition, arguing that it lacks both structure and vision.

"Do they have a concept? What is the strategy they have? That is a classless strategy. It is nothing but existential imbecility. Or sometimes what is called existential docility," he said.

George went on to question the motives of those leaving the PDP, suggesting their actions are more about personal ambition

than genuine political reform.

"Is it because the PDP has collapsed, or is it because of personal aggrandisement or personal ambition or self-conceitedness? What is driving them to this other party?" he asked.

Drawing a metaphor, he likened the PDP to a family home that should be mended from within rather than deserted at the first sign of trouble.

"This is your father's house. The house made you, brought you to the limelight. You gained every laurel and recognition from this same house. And because there is a little crisis, is leaving the cultural thing to do? No, you sit in there. If you have a house that is leaking, do you run out? No, you are the landlord," he said.

Despite his criticism, George remains optimistic about the PDP's future, stressing that the party still has the internal mechanisms to address its issues and remain relevant.

"The PDP is a party where you can sit down, debate, and deliberate. That's a strength, not a weakness," he added.

Sowore blasts opposition coalition, rejects alliance

By Gbenga Olaleye



Human rights activist and presidential candidate Omoyele Sowore has strongly criticised the newly formed opposition coalition gearing up for the 2027 general election, describing its key members as “country and destiny destroyers” responsible for Nigeria’s long-standing political dysfunction.

Appearing on Breakfast Central, a current affairs programme on News Central, Sowore dismissed the coalition and its adoption of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) as a political platform, saying the alliance is nothing more than a recycling of failed politicians under a new guise.

“These are not bridge builders,” Sowore declared during the interview.

“These are country and destiny destroyers who have come together. I have no doubts that I don’t need to be in bed with strange bedfellows.”

READ ALSO: Sowore: Coalition will secure, not stop, Tinubu’s re-election in 2027

The opposition coalition includes a number of prominent political figures such as former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Governors Peter Obi, Chibuike Amaechi, and Nasir El-Rufai, as well as former Senate President David Mark. Earlier this week, the coalition formally adopted the ADC as its political vehicle ahead of the 2027 presidential race.

But Sowore, who leads the African Action Congress (AAC), insists that many of these political veterans have had decades in power with little to show in terms of tangible progress for the country. According to him, the same individuals who contributed to the nation’s current problems cannot now claim to be its saviours.

“I cannot be on a bridge that has been built and broken by the same people, they have ruled Nigeria under various political parties—PDP, APC, and now ADC—and every time they return with the same broken promises and empty rhetoric,” he said.

Sowore’s criticism comes amid growing debate over the viability and credibility of the opposition coalition, which has

positioned itself as a unified force to challenge President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

While the coalition boasts political diversity, drawing members from multiple parties and regions, critics argue that its leadership lacks ideological coherence and may struggle to present a credible alternative to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

The activist-turned-politician, known for his unyielding stance on political reform and grassroots mobilisation, said he remains committed to building a new political movement independent of Nigeria’s traditional power brokers.

“Real change will not come from those who created the problem. Nigeria needs a new generation of leadership rooted in integrity, justice, and accountability.”

With the 2027 elections still over a year away, the future of the opposition coalition remains uncertain. While it has managed to rally significant political figures under one umbrella, Sowore’s comments highlight the ideological and trust challenges it must overcome to gain widespread public support.

TRCN inducts graduates, calls for digital teaching

By Gbenga Olaleye



The Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) has inducted 624 education graduates from the University of Uyo into the teaching profession, in what officials described as a record-breaking and historic ceremony.

Speaking at the university's 14th induction ceremony on Friday in Uyo, the Registrar/Chief Executive of TRCN, Dr Ronke Soyombo, emphasised the need for teachers in the 21st century to be technologically proficient, adaptable, and globally competitive.

Represented by the Director of Regulation, Accreditation and Enforcement, Dr Jacinta Ezeahurukwe, Soyombo said the future of education is digital and demands innovation in teaching.

"Teaching should be accorded its rightful place of prominence through the inculcation of best practices, this can be achieved by being innovative and creative in teaching, adopting new approaches, and leveraging technologies and methodologies that engage students, foster critical thinking, and promote

lifelong learning," Soyombo said.

READ ALSO: Welfare promises for teachers: FG, states fail to act

She stressed that the modern teacher must not only be knowledgeable but also skilled in digital tools and techniques that enhance classroom effectiveness.

"The 21st-century teacher must be tech-savvy, flexible, and globally competent. We must emphasise and embrace digital tools to enhance our teaching practices."

Vice Chancellor of the University of Uyo, Professor Nyaudoh Ndaeyo, hailed the induction as a landmark event, noting it was the largest in the institution's history. He praised the TRCN for its unwavering efforts to uphold professional standards and elevate the status of teaching in Nigeria.

"As a university known for excellence, we will continue to provide a conducive learning environment and maintain the highest standards in education, TRCN's contributions to

standardising and streamlining the profession have been remarkable," Ndaeyo stated.

Also addressing the inductees, the Dean of the Faculty of Education, Professor Ime E. Emah, urged the graduates to uphold the dignity of the teaching profession. She revealed that the inductees included holders of PhDs, Master's degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, and Bachelor's degrees across various disciplines.

"You are being formally admitted into a noble profession. Make a difference wherever you find yourselves, serve with passion, commitment, and integrity. Remember, UNIUYO is a brand—protect it with your actions," she said.

The induction marks a significant milestone for the University of Uyo and the TRCN as both institutions reaffirm their commitment to quality education, professionalism, and preparing teachers to meet the challenges of modern education.

PDP in crisis as APC dismisses 'desperate' coalition plot

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

As Nigeria edges closer to the 2027 general elections, deepening cracks within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) are becoming increasingly visible. Amid internal disarray and a wave of defections, the opposition party has denied involvement in a growing coalition movement aimed at unseating President Bola Tinubu, a move that has drawn harsh criticism from the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

In a statement released Wednesday, PDP's National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, refuted claims that the party had formally endorsed the coalition being led by the African Democratic Congress (ADC). The clarification comes as multiple media reports suggested the PDP was aligning with the ADC and other opposition parties to challenge the APC's dominance in 2027.

"The PDP has not taken any official position on the issue of the coalition," Ologunagba said.

"Our focus remains on rebuilding our internal structure and preparing for the upcoming National Convention."

This statement comes on the heels of a prolonged leadership dispute within the PDP, which was only recently resolved in favour of Samuel Anyanwu during the party's 100th National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting on Monday.

High-Profile Defections Deepen PDP's Crisis

Despite leadership claims of unity, the PDP continues to bleed members. Prominent figures, including Atiku Abubakar, David Mark, and Sule Lamido, have thrown their support behind the ADC-led coalition, calling on Nigerians to embrace the new platform.

At a recent strategy meeting held at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, the coalition officially adopted the ADC as its platform for 2027, with David Mark appointed National Chairman and Rauf Aregbesola named National Secretary. The move signals a clear challenge to PDP leadership and has added to the party's internal woes.

In response, PDP Acting National



Chairman Umar Damagum warned that disciplinary action would be taken against any member supporting external political arrangements without formal approval.

APC Hits Back: "A Coalition of the Desperate"

The APC has not held back in its response. In a strongly worded statement, APC National Publicity Secretary Felix Morka described the coalition as a "gathering of political opportunists."

"It was an unveiling of a coalition of hoaxers... a roll call of Nigeria's me-or-nothing politicians," Morka said.

"They are desperate to claw their way back to power under the pretense of patriotism."

Morka accused the coalition leaders of being more interested in power and patronage than genuine national progress, stating that the APC remains focused on national development under President Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda. Bayo Onanuga, President Bola Tinubu's special adviser on information and strategy, early dismissed the newly formed opposition coalition, describing its members as power-hungry politicians united solely by their disdain for Tinubu.

Voices from Across the Political Divide

Former Minister of Transportation Rotimi Amaechi also weighed in, urging Nigerians to take action rather than expect miracles from the political class.

"The only way you can stop Tinubu from being president in 2027 is to run an election of Nigerians versus the bandits," Amaechi said during a public event in Abuja.

"You sit at home and grumble. You made yourself helpless, not the elites."

Peter Obi, the former Labour Party presidential candidate, reaffirmed his support for the ADC-led coalition, calling it a product of "deep reflection" and a path toward "competent and compassionate leadership."

As the 2027 elections approach, Nigeria's political landscape appears increasingly polarized. While the ruling APC consolidates its grip, the opposition appears fragmented, with the PDP struggling to maintain unity and control amid rising defections and coalition controversies.

For now, APC leaders remain confident that the disunity among their challengers will only strengthen their chances for victory in 2027.

NGX extends rally as 55 firms boost market

By Alade Adisa



The Nigerian Exchange (NGX) recorded its second consecutive gain on Thursday, buoyed by a strong performance from 55 companies including Academy Press, Berger Paints, Deap Capital, Guinea Insurance, and Unilever Nigeria.

The All-Share Index (ASI) rose by 637.27 points or 0.53%, closing at 120,977.20, while market capitalisation jumped from ₦76.180 trillion on Wednesday to ₦76.583 trillion on Thursday, reflecting renewed investor confidence and robust buying interest.

NGX data revealed a positive market breadth, with 55 gainers against 15 losers. Leading the charge, Academy Press, Berger

Paints, Deap Capital, and Guinea Insurance each recorded a 10% increase in share price. Academy closed at ₦5.61, Berger Paints at ₦33.00, Deap Capital at ₦1.10, and Guinea Insurance at 99k per share. Unilever also posted a notable gain of 9.96%, ending the day at ₦56.85.

Conversely, Neimeth International Pharmaceuticals led the losers, shedding 8.49% to close at ₦7.22. Legend Internet dropped 7.98% to ₦7.73, while Computer Warehouse Group fell by 4.50% to ₦13.80. Sovereign Trust Insurance and VFD Group also declined, closing at ₦1.32 and ₦13.50 per share respectively.

Trading activity remained strong, with a total of 933.40

million shares exchanged in 24,207 deals, amounting to a market value of ₦29.31 billion. This was a slight dip in volume from Wednesday's 1.05 billion shares but saw a sharp increase in value, up from ₦12.17 billion.

Universal Insurance topped the activity chart with 67.33 million shares valued at ₦40.67 million. Access Corporation's Ja Paul Gold followed with 49.46 million shares, while Guaranty Trust Holding Company (GTCO) traded 40.64 million shares worth ₦3.37 billion.

Analysts suggest that the continued uptrend reflects positive investor sentiment driven by earnings expectations and macroeconomic developments.

LASG urges promotion of cleanliness, good sanitation practices in communities

By Friday Omosola



The Lagos State Government has called on residents to embrace a culture of cleanliness and prioritise good environmental sanitation and hygiene practices across all communities in the state.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Environmental Services, Gaji Tajudeen, made the call during activities to commemorate the National Environmental Sanitation Day (NESD) in selected communities in Somolu.

He noted that the annual event serves as a vital reminder of the importance of sanitation and hygiene in protecting public health and preserving the environment.

Represented by the Director of Sanitation Services, Hassan Sanuth, Gaji stressed the need to prevent the spread of diseases such as cholera and other sanitation-related illnesses through proper hygiene and sanitation.

“We cannot overlook the dangers posed by poor sanitation, inadequate waste management, and unhygienic

practices in our communities. These can lead to disease outbreaks, water contamination, and environmental degradation,” he said.

Speaking on this year’s NESD theme, ‘Safe Sanitation & Hygiene for Disease Protection’, Gaji highlighted the importance of maintaining proper hygiene and safe sanitation practices to safeguard public health.

He said the National Environmental Sanitation Day was established to raise public awareness about the role of sanitation in controlling and preventing communicable diseases.

Gaji urged residents to cultivate good hygiene habits, ensure proper waste disposal through the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA)-accredited Private Sector Participation (PSP) operators, regularly clean drainage channels, cut overgrown vegetation, and make use of proper sanitation facilities.

He added that the state government is leveraging Community Development Committees (CDCs) to promote

community-led sanitation initiatives and sustain grassroots engagement on environmental issues.

“We commend the efforts of individuals, communities, and organisations working diligently to improve sanitation and hygiene across Lagos. Their contributions are helping to ensure safer and cleaner living environments for all”, Gaji stated.

The Baale of Orile Somolu, Chief Mufutau Awoseyi, also spoke at the event.

He urged residents to keep their surroundings clean and adopt proper waste disposal methods. He appealed to the government to consider reinstating the monthly environmental sanitation exercise to further enhance community health and living standards.

The state government marked the day with a community clean-up exercise in Somolu, covering Fadipe Street, George Street, and Efon Alaye Street.

Stakeholders calls for urgent investment on SRHR

By Helen Okechukwu

Stakeholders have called for urgent investment in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in Nigeria to avoid the risk of jeopardising the future of youths.

This stark warning emerged from the National Policy Dialogue on Improving Adolescent Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services, held on Thursday in Abuja.

The event brought together experts, advocates, and policymakers to address persistent gaps in adolescent reproductive health across Nigeria, including low contraceptive uptake and limited access to youth-friendly services.

Hosted by Nigeria Health Watch and its partners, the event focused on “Closing Reproductive Health Impact Gaps: Strategic Approaches for Equity and Access.”

Experts, advocates, and policymakers convened to tackle persistent disparities in adolescent reproductive health outcomes in Nigeria, including low contraceptive uptake and limited access to youth-friendly services.

Panellists, while noting the inconsistent outcomes of national investment, emphasised the urgency of evidence-based, high-impact interventions, youth-led design processes, and more strategic funding at both national and sub-national levels.

Africa Access Lead at global pharmaceutical company Organon, Ms Mashishi Mokgadi, illustrated this reality through a sobering scenario: Lucy, a 15-year-old, becomes pregnant due to lack of contraceptive access.

She drops out of school and is forced into early marriage. Though



hypothetical, Lucy’s story reflects the experiences of thousands of real lives.

“It affects every sustainable development goal,” Mokgadi said, noting the impact on education, gender equality, and economic growth.

SRHR experts speak

Organon, through the FP2030 initiative, has already surpassed 55% of its goal to prevent 120 million unintended pregnancies. Mokgadi called on African leaders to fund family planning and remove legal barriers to adolescent SRHR access.

Dr Fatima Bunza of Tiko Nigeria highlighted a culturally sensitive “ecosystem model” that connects youth with trusted health providers through both digital and offline tools, including “eco-cards” for areas with limited smartphone use.

Peace Umanah of IYAFP emphasised storytelling as a tool for advocacy, stating, “We must tell real Nigerian stories—stories that move funders and

resonate with young people.”

Margaret Bolaji of FP2030 showcased privacy-preserving tools like HPV self-sampling and discreet STI test kits (“Lemon kits”) now available at pharmacies.

Healthtracka’s Testimony Adeyemi introduced Lola AI, a WhatsApp-based chatbot offering friendly, accurate SRHR information. “Girls want safe, private spaces to learn—Lola provides that,” she explained, citing ongoing issues with shame and misinformation.

A Unified Call

Speakers called for cross-sector collaboration—from health to education to finance—to secure adolescent girls’ right to reproductive health.

However, the message echoed, “Normalise youth access to reproductive health services—through dignity, data, and design.”

Unpaid wages: Yaba resident doctors set for strike action from Monday

By Helen Okechukwu



Federal Neuro Psychiatric Hospital Yaba, Lagos



Resident doctors at the **Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital** in Yaba have vowed to begin a one-week warning strike starting Monday, July 7, citing non-payment of salaries and persistent neglect of their welfare by hospital management.

In a communiqué released on Friday, the Association of Resident Doctors (ARD) at the hospital expressed deep dissatisfaction with the continued delay in salaries for newly employed medical staff.

According to the statement signed by ARD President Dr Babarinsa O. A. and Secretary Dr Disu K. B., many of the affected doctors have been working for five to six months

without pay.

“The Congress resolved that the association shall embark on a one-week warning strike commencing 8 am on Monday, July 7, 2025, and will proceed on an indefinite strike should the newly employed residents not be paid by the end of July 2025.”

“The congress expressed disappointment,” the communiqué noted, adding that such treatment is not only demoralising but also unsustainable for professionals tasked with delivering critical mental health care services.

Yaba resident doctors at Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital lament situation

The group described the ongoing

situation as “a now-established pattern” that threatens the morale of young doctors and the quality of healthcare delivery. They also criticised the hospital’s management for allowing the issue to linger despite several attempts by the association to seek redress through dialogue.

“The congress observed with despair that the June salary window had closed without the new residents receiving their first salaries, after working for five months,” the communiqué stated.

The association has warned that if the salaries are not paid by the close of July, the warning strike will transition into a full-blown indefinite industrial action.

Burna Boy: 'I'm getting older, it's time to have my kids'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation Damini Ogulu, popularly known as Burna Boy, has revealed that he is now thinking seriously about starting a family.

The Grammy-winning artist shared this during his 34th birthday celebration in Lagos on Wednesday night.

While addressing close friends and associates at the private event, the singer said he felt it was time to take the next big step in life, becoming a father. According to the singer, a recent heart-to-heart conversation with Nigerian oil mogul, Joseph Eze Okafor Jr., better known as Jowizaza, triggered the thought.

"Jowizaza had a conversation with me not long ago, and it made me reflect deeply on my life," he said in a mix of English and Pidgin. "Man, I'm getting older. I think it's time to start having kids."

A shift in priorities

This marks a significant change in his outlook on parenthood. Just over a year ago, the 'African Giant' singer stated that he wasn't ready to have children. In an Instagram Live session in May 2024, he explained that he didn't want to bring kids into the world if he couldn't give them his full attention.

At the time, Burna Boy emphasised the importance of being emotionally and mentally prepared before assuming such a life-changing responsibility. "I don't want to be absent in my children's lives," he said then. "I want to be the kind of father who is present, not just financially but emotionally and spiritually too."

Burna Boy signals new chapter

The artist, whose recent hit single "Tatata" continues to dominate the airwaves, appears to be entering a



more reflective phase of his life. Known for his fierce independence and global ambition, Burna Boy's comments on fatherhood suggest a desire to build something more personal and lasting.

Although he has not publicly disclosed whether he is currently in a serious relationship, fans and observers believe that the singer's new mindset could indicate that marriage and children may soon follow.

Fans react to Burna Boy's revelation

News of Burna Boy's openness to having children has sparked excitement and discussion among fans online. Many praised the singer for his honesty and growth, noting that maturity comes with age and experience.

Social media platforms were flooded with supportive messages, with some fans even jokingly offering themselves as potential co-parents. Others expressed admiration for his desire to be a responsible father and for taking the time to reflect on such an important decision.

From global tours to personal goals

Burna Boy has spent the last decade making waves on the global stage. From sold-out tours across Europe and North America to Grammy wins and chart-topping records, his career has seen steady growth and international recognition.

Now, as he steps into a new year of life, it seems he is also looking inward. By considering fatherhood, Burna Boy is embracing a more grounded vision of the future, one that includes not just a musical legacy, but also a family legacy.

Final thoughts

While there's no timeline yet for when Burna Boy might welcome his first child, his comments suggest that the idea is no longer a distant dream. With his career firmly established and his perspective evolving, fans can expect to see a more personal side of the Afrobeats giant in the years to come.

For Burna Boy, the journey from stage to fatherhood may just be his next great performance.

Reekado Banks backtracks on plans to marry babymama

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian singer Reekado Banks has revealed that he is no longer certain about marrying his fiancée, who is also the mother of his child.

This statement comes barely two months after he publicly declared his intentions to marry her.

A sudden change of heart

Reekado, whose real name is Ayoleyi Hanniel Solomon, made the surprising revelation during a recent appearance on TVC's "Interview with Esther Oye."

In the session, the award-winning artist admitted that while he was confident about marrying his partner during an earlier interview, he no longer feels the same way.

"I was pretty sure about my stance at my last interview, but I'm now in a different place," he said. "It's only been two months since that conversation. That's why I said I can't say anything about it now. I was sure then, but I'm not sure now."

The singer pointed to his personal development and emotional maturity as reasons behind the change. "I wouldn't blame it on music," he said. "I'd blame it on myself and my emotional intelligence, which I'm still working on."

Reekado Banks announced in May

Back in May 2025, Reekado made headlines when he announced that he was planning to tie the knot with his longtime partner. The declaration came during an interview in which he expressed strong confidence about taking the next step in their relationship.

His fans and followers were thrilled at the news, especially after the couple had welcomed their first child together, a baby boy, in November 2024. The announcement sparked congratulations across social media, with many praising the singer for embracing fatherhood and committing to building a family.

In December, just weeks after the birth of their son, Reekado was seen publicly with



his partner for the first time. The couple attended a public event together, fueling even more speculation that wedding bells were around the corner.

Emotional intelligence and personal growth

However, Reekado's recent remarks suggest that he is taking a more cautious approach to matters of the heart. He emphasised that his new position is based on recent personal experiences and growth.

The 30-year-old singer explained that while his music career demands a lot of time and energy, his doubts are rooted in his struggles with emotional understanding and relationship management.

"I'm not trying to dodge responsibility," he said. "I just feel like I need more time to develop myself emotionally before making such a lifelong commitment. It's not something I want to rush."

He acknowledged the importance of being honest with himself and his partner. "It's better to be unsure now than to act certain and get it wrong later," he added.

Fans react to his honesty

Reekado's candidness has sparked a range of reactions online. While some fans applauded him for being truthful and

prioritising emotional maturity, others expressed disappointment at the sudden U-turn.

Still, many agreed that personal growth should never be rushed, especially when it involves the future of a child and a lifelong partnership.

"I respect him more for admitting he's not ready," one fan wrote on X (formerly Twitter). "It takes courage to say that publicly."

Another user added, "Relationships are not just about love, they're about timing, communication, and emotional growth. Reekado is showing that he's aware of that."

Looking ahead

Though Reekado Banks has stepped back from his earlier wedding plans, he made it clear that he remains devoted to co-parenting and maintaining a strong relationship with the mother of his child.

He did not reveal whether the couple had broken up or simply decided to slow things down. For now, he says he is focusing on becoming a better version of himself, both as a father and as a partner.

Fans will likely continue to watch closely as the story unfolds. But for now, Reekado Banks seems more interested in self-awareness than ceremony.

'Bring back cashless policy', Yul Edochie tells Tinubu

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actor and former presidential aspirant, Yul Edochie, has made a public appeal to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, urging him to revive the cashless policy introduced by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) during the previous administration.

Edochie shared his opinion through a post on his Instagram page, where he detailed the benefits of the policy. He argued that bringing back the cashless system would help strengthen the naira, curb inflation, and reduce the rising cases of kidnapping across the country.

Policy improved economy, security

In his post, Edochie emphasised that the policy had a significant impact on Nigeria's economy when it was first implemented. According to him, the reduction of physical cash in circulation helped stabilise the naira and made low-denomination notes more valuable again.

"To my leader, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, I humbly suggest you bring back the cashless policy. When it was introduced by the previous administration, it increased the value of the naira tremendously," the actor wrote.

He continued, "It helped to bring down the prices of goods, and it made the 5, 10, 20, and 50 naira notes useful again. The cashless policy also helped to reduce kidnapping massively. Consider it again, Sir. Thank you, Your Excellency."

Edochie's appeal came at a time when Nigeria is battling economic instability, high inflation, and rising insecurity. His comments have stirred mixed reactions from citizens, many of whom experienced challenges during the last implementation of the policy.

Nigerians react online

The actor's suggestion has triggered wide conversations across social media platforms. While some users agreed with him, others reminded him of the hardship the policy caused, especially among small



business owners, rural dwellers, and those without access to digital banking.

One Instagram user, @emykelz, responded, "Do you know how many people suffered?" This sentiment echoed the frustrations of Nigerians who were unable to withdraw or deposit money during the previous attempt at enforcing the cashless system.

Another user, @ayamaster32, wrote, "No, we are good with the cash-at-hand policy. It is working for many of us."

Others took a more sarcastic tone. @princedanny001 said, "They haven't even listened to appointed officials. Now it's a lottery ambassador they will listen to?"

Despite the backlash, some voices supported Edochie's point. @mayor_akins71 commented, "Man of the people, we believe you. Tinubu will fix Nigeria for sure."

Another user, @wearmufty, added, "Relax, Jagaban will fix it," using a popular nickname for President Tinubu.

However, not all responses were mild. @deyoung_king_solomon criticised the actor strongly, saying, "You are a very wicked human being for saying that."

A policy with a mixed legacy

The cashless policy, introduced by the CBN under former President

Muhammadu Buhari, aimed to reduce the amount of physical cash in circulation, encourage digital payments, and promote financial transparency. However, poor implementation led to long queues at banks, cash shortages, and frustration among citizens, especially in early 2023.

Experts noted that while the policy had good intentions, the lack of infrastructure and poor communication created avoidable suffering. Many Nigerians, especially in remote areas, do not have access to reliable banking services or smartphones to enable digital transactions.

Calls for reform, not repetition

As debates continue, some analysts have suggested that a better approach would be to reform and strengthen digital payment systems before reintroducing any form of cashless enforcement.

They recommend addressing infrastructure issues, improving internet access, and educating the public on how to use online platforms securely.

Edochie's message, though controversial, has once again brought attention to the need for long-term financial reforms.

Whether the Tinubu administration will take up his suggestion remains to be seen, but one thing is clear: the conversation on how to move Nigeria's economy forward is far from over.

Omah Lay declares himself greatest of his generation

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats sensation Stanley Omah Didia, known to fans simply as Omah Lay, has boldly claimed the title of the greatest musician of his generation.

The rising star made this announcement on social media, signalling his confidence in his talent and hinting at even bigger achievements ahead.

A confident declaration on social media

Taking to his X (formerly Twitter) handle recently, Omah Lay introduced himself in a way that captured the attention of fans and industry watchers alike. He wrote:

“Hi guys! My name is Omah Lay, and I am the greatest of my generation. I don’t have proofs right now, but there will be a lot in the future. Thanks. Yours truly, Boy Alone.”

His message was simple but powerful. While he admitted that he had no concrete evidence yet to support his claim, he assured his audience that proof would come with time. The phrase “Boy Alone,” his signature sign-off, added a personal touch to the confident statement.

Not his first bold statement

This is not the first time he has publicly voiced his belief in his musical potential. Over the past year, the singer has consistently shown ambition and a clear vision for his career. Last year, during an interview with The Beat FM in London, he said he aimed to be one of the leading voices among the new generation of Afrobeats artists.

Omah Lay explained that he has created what he calls a “new sound”, a unique style he hopes to bring to the global music scene. This sound blends catchy rhythms, heartfelt lyrics, and fresh production techniques. The singer expressed his desire to popularise this style and influence the direction of Afrobeats music.



A journey of rapid success

Omah Lay’s rise in the music industry has been swift and impressive. Since bursting onto the scene, he has released hit songs that have earned him widespread acclaim both in Nigeria and internationally. Tracks like “Soso” and “Godly” have made him a household name among Afrobeats fans.

His music often reflects personal experiences and emotions, which resonate deeply with listeners. This connection with his audience is one reason why many believe he is poised to become a major star in the genre.

Industry and fan reactions

His bold claim has sparked mixed reactions. Some fans have rallied behind him, praising his talent and cheering on his confidence. They see his statement as a natural reflection of his self-belief and determination to succeed.

Others, however, believe it is too soon to make such a sweeping declaration. They argue that many talented artists compete in the same space and that the title of “greatest” requires years of

consistent success and influence.

Despite the divided opinions, most agree that Omah Lay’s talent and potential cannot be ignored. His music continues to gain traction, and he has already collected several nominations and awards that recognise his contributions to Afrobeats.

The future of Omah Lay

The musician’s message to his fans hints at a promising future filled with new music, collaborations, and opportunities to prove himself on bigger stages. His confidence signals a readiness to take on challenges and break new ground.

As Afrobeats continues to grow globally, artists like Omah Lay play a crucial role in shaping the sound and expanding its reach. With his unique style and growing fan base, he is expected to be a leading figure in the genre for years to come.

In the meantime, Omah Lay’s fans eagerly await the new releases and projects he has promised. Only time will tell if he truly becomes the greatest of his generation, but his journey is already one worth watching.

Daddy Freeze criticises 2Face's public apology

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian broadcaster and social commentator, Ifedayo Olarinde, better known as Daddy Freeze, has voiced strong concerns over legendary musician 2Baba Idibia's recent public apology video.

The media personality expressed disappointment at the tone and length of the apology, which was issued after 2Baba made a controversial statement claiming that "men are not built to be sexually committed to one woman."

Daddy Freeze, in a video shared on his TikTok page, said the apology was excessive and unnecessary in its delivery.

'Too much drama for an apology,' Daddy Freeze speaks out

Reacting to the viral apology clip, Daddy Freeze argued that as a veteran in the entertainment industry, 2Baba could have issued a brief, straightforward apology without all the theatrics.

He insisted that a simple, one-line message acknowledging the mistake would have been more effective and respectful to his audience.

"Alright, you said something that didn't make sense, just apologise and move on. You've earned legendary status. So why not just say, 'I was wrong,' and keep it simple?" Daddy Freeze asked during the video.

He continued, "Which one is 'I fk up, I fk up'? You are not a child, 2Baba. That kind of language and performance was not necessary."

'This is not the 2Baba we know'

The outspoken broadcaster went further to suggest that 2Baba's recent behaviour seems to be influenced by external control. Without naming anyone directly, he hinted that the singer might be under pressure or manipulation.

He sarcastically pleaded with someone he referred to as "Jebeto" to "release" the singer, suggesting that the 2Baba Nigerians see today is not the same person the public once admired.



"2Baba, what is this? What are you turning into? Do2dtun was right, we don't like this version of you," he said. "It feels like Jebeto don dey control Pinopi o!"

Failed attempts to meet privately

Addressing critics who believe he should have spoken to the singer privately, Daddy Freeze said efforts were made behind the scenes to engage 2Baba in a face-to-face conversation. However, according to him, those attempts failed.

"We tried to meet him three times, and he didn't show up. What else are we supposed to do?" he explained. "I can't just watch someone I respect and care for continue to fall apart in public."

He said his public commentary comes from a place of concern and disappointment. As someone who has known and supported 2Baba for years, Daddy Freeze said he felt compelled to speak up.

'Let 2Baba be free again'

In a more emotional part of his video message, Daddy Freeze begged, once again, for whoever is allegedly influencing the singer to allow him to return to the person fans once loved.

"I want to use this opportunity to beg, Jebeto, please help us leave Pinopi o! Let the man be free again. Allegedly," he said, clearly holding back further details.

Social media reacts

The video quickly spread across social media platforms, with fans taking sides. Some supported Daddy Freeze's outcry, agreeing that 2Baba's recent public appearances and emotional tone seem out of character. Others criticised the broadcaster for addressing such personal matters in public, arguing that he could have handled it with more sensitivity.

Despite the mixed reactions, the conversation around 2Baba's apology continues to dominate online discussions. The singer himself has yet to respond directly to Daddy Freeze's remarks.

The controversial statement

The drama began when 2Baba made a statement suggesting that men are not naturally wired for monogamy. The comment sparked criticism, with many accusing him of promoting harmful stereotypes and disrespecting women. His subsequent apology, while intended to calm the backlash, opened up a new wave of scrutiny due to its tone and presentation.

With voices like Daddy Freeze now joining the conversation, it's clear that many in the public and entertainment industry are paying close attention, not just to 2Baba's words, but to his actions and the company he keeps.

BBNaija's Ka3na hints at marriage 2 years after husband's death

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Former Big Brother Naija housemate, Ka3na, has opened up about her intention to remarry, two years after losing her husband, Mr. Jones, to cancer.

The reality television personality, whose real name is Kate Jones, shared the update with her followers on social media. Her announcement signals a major shift from a previous statement she made just over a year ago.

Tragic loss of husband

Ka3na's late husband, a British national known simply as Mr. Jones, passed away in May 2023 after battling cancer. His death was a painful moment in her life, and she often spoke about the love and support she received from him.

At the time of his passing, Ka3na mourned deeply and remained relatively quiet about her personal life. In May 2024, one year after the loss, she took to her Instagram page to publicly state that she had no plans of remarrying or changing her marital status.

"I have no intention of remarriage or changing my marital status by dropping my husband's name," she had declared in the now-archived post.

A new beginning for Ka3na

However, things appear to have changed for the mother of one.

On Thursday, July 3, 2025, Ka3na posted a brief video clip on her Instagram Story. In the video, she was seen dancing joyfully. The caption that accompanied the video hinted at a new chapter in her life.

"You can tell I'm ready for my next husband," she wrote.

Though short and lighthearted, the message attracted immediate attention from her followers. Many interpreted the post as a clear sign that Ka3na is emotionally ready to move on and welcome love again.

Mixed reactions from fans

As expected, reactions poured in across social media platforms. While some fans



expressed happiness for her decision to embrace happiness again, others shared more cautious or even critical views.

Several followers praised her strength and independence. "You deserve to find love again. Life goes on," one Instagram user wrote. Another added, "Mr. Jones will always be part of your story, but you deserve to be happy too."

However, some critics felt it was too soon or questioned the need to make such personal announcements online. A few asked whether her decision was final or another moment of emotional expression.

Ka3na has yet to respond directly to any of the comments.

A complicated journey

Ka3na's journey since leaving the Big Brother Naija house in 2020 has been filled with highs and lows. Known for her outspoken personality and bold fashion choices, she has kept a consistent presence on social media and occasionally shared updates about her family life.

Her marriage to Mr. Jones, whom she often referred to as the love of her life, was a frequent topic during her time on

the reality show. Together, they shared a daughter, who Ka3na continues to raise as a single mother.

The decision to consider remarriage could mark a turning point, both emotionally and publicly, in her post-BBN journey.

Public life and personal choices

In today's digital world, many celebrities use their platforms to share personal milestones, and Ka3na is no exception. Her post about being ready for a new husband might have been subtle, but it reflects the way modern public figures use social media to communicate life updates.

Though she hasn't confirmed whether she's dating anyone at the moment or actively searching for a partner, her message has sparked speculation and discussion.

Whether this is the beginning of a new love story or just a public acknowledgement of emotional healing, Ka3na's fans will be watching closely. As always, she remains unapologetically herself, ready to take bold steps, regardless of public opinion.

Skepta challenges American rappers to global rap battle

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

British rap icon Skepta has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging top American rappers to a head-to-head lyrical clash in what he calls a long-overdue rap battle between the UK and the US.

The challenge reignites a global debate that has persisted for years: who holds the crown in the world of hip-hop? The United States, birthplace of rap, or the United Kingdom, where Grime has carved out its influential sound?

Skepta calls for a cultural showdown

In a bold post shared on his official X (formerly Twitter) account on Thursday, Skepta proposed that a series of rap battles could finally settle the debate that has divided rap fans on both sides of the Atlantic.

"I wanna clash an American rapper anyway," he wrote. "Finally get this UK/US rap debate sorted."

Skepta, known for his hard-hitting verses and pioneering role in Grime, didn't stop there. He went a step further by putting together a potential lineup of matchups featuring some of the most prominent artists from both countries.

Suggested match-ups: UK vs US

Skepta's proposed battle card reads like a dream for rap fans. He matched UK rappers with American heavyweights, creating what could be a once-in-a-generation lyrical showdown:

- Ghetts vs Eminem
- Chip vs Kendrick Lamar
- Dave vs Lil Wayne
- Youngs Teflon vs Meek Mill
- Blade Brown vs Pusha T
- Queenie vs Megan Thee Stallion
- Central Cee vs Jack Harlow
- Lancey Foux vs Travis Scott
- JME vs Tyler, The Creator

The list blends veterans with rising stars,



suggesting Skepta's belief in the depth and strength of the UK scene.

"We're not easy", grime scene's rigorous standards
Backing up his challenge, Skepta praised the level of skill developed in the UK's Grime circuit. He argued that British rappers undergo intense lyrical training, especially in live and competitive settings.

"The microphone training you get from being in the grime scene is top-level, Oxford Uni-level training. We're not easy, lol," he added.

His statement shines a light on the unique culture of UK rap, where battles, freestyles, and rapid delivery are often considered essential to an artist's growth.

Grime vs hip-hop: A longstanding rivalry
The US has long been seen as the global capital of hip-hop. However, the UK has steadily built a strong reputation with Grime and Drill, genres that blend rapid bars, local slang, and gritty realism.

While the two scenes share some

similarities, they differ greatly in style, delivery, and themes. Skepta's proposal challenges assumptions about dominance in the genre, suggesting that UK artists are ready to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with American stars.

Reactions and possible outcomes

Since Skepta's tweet, fans and music lovers across social media have reacted with excitement, curiosity, and debate. Some praised his confidence and vision, while others questioned whether such matchups would ever happen on stage.

The idea of a UK vs US rap battle tour, or even a virtual event, has also started trending among fans who see it as a chance to celebrate the diversity and global reach of hip-hop.

Final word

Skepta's challenge is more than a call for lyrical combat; it's a statement of pride and belief in the UK rap scene. Whether or not the proposed battles take place, the conversation has already begun. And for fans of rap music worldwide, that in itself is a win.

Damson Idris proudly calls himself a mummy's boy

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

British-Nigerian actor Damson Idris has openly embraced the label "mummy's boy," saying he is no longer ashamed to identify that way.

The 33-year-old award-winning actor made the heartfelt confession during a recent interview with Kiss FM in London.

Speaking candidly, Idris revealed that his mother plays a central role in his life, both personally and professionally. He described her as the reason for his existence and credited her unwavering support as a key force behind his success.

No more shame about being close to his mother

In the interview, Idris said that while he used to feel embarrassed about being called a mummy's boy, he now sees it as a badge of honour.

"I am a mummy's boy. Big time," he said. "I'm not ashamed to admit it anymore. It used to be kind of like 'ah, he's a mummy's boy.' But now, I'm actually proud of it."

The actor emphasised that his mother's love, encouragement, and sacrifices have shaped him into the person he is today. He added that she continues to be his biggest fan, and he sees himself as her number one supporter in return.

A source of inspiration

Idris explained that much of his motivation comes from a desire to make his mother proud. Every role he plays and every milestone he achieves is driven by that goal.

"She is the reason why I exist," he said. "She is my biggest fan, and I'm her biggest fan. She's the one I want to make proud."

The actor's statement reflects not only deep personal affection but also the profound influence his mother has on his career choices and life decisions. According to Idris, her strength and



belief in him have kept him grounded in the entertainment industry.

Drawing parallels between life and art

During the conversation, Idris also connected his personal life with a character he portrayed in a recent project. Referring to a character named Joshua, he said he related to the fictional figure's desire to make his mother proud and to strive for success.

"I relate to Joshua in that sense, too, because he just wants to make his mother proud and be the best and win a championship," Idris explained. "And hopefully, I can win a championship in whatever way I can, too."

The actor's remarks offered a glimpse into how his real-life values influence his work and how his emotional connection with his mother often mirrors the roles he takes on screen.

From Peckham to Hollywood

Born in Peckham, South London, to Nigerian parents, Damson Idris has become one of the most recognisable faces in film and television. He gained international acclaim for his leading role as Franklin Saint in the critically acclaimed TV series *Snowfall*. Over

the years, he has continued to earn praise for his performances and his ability to bring emotional depth to complex characters.

Despite his rise to fame, Idris remains deeply connected to his roots. His pride in his heritage and the strong family values instilled in him by his mother have remained a guiding force in his life.

A message of gratitude

The actor's public expression of love for his mother resonated with many fans, especially those who share similar bonds with their parents. His honesty also serves as a reminder of the often-unseen emotional support that fuels many public figures behind the scenes.

By proudly declaring himself a "mummy's boy," Damson Idris challenges outdated notions of masculinity and shows that strength can come from vulnerability and love.

In closing, he shared a message that echoes far beyond the world of entertainment: success is most meaningful when it's shared with the people who helped you reach it.

Russia launches 550 drones, missiles in night assault on Kyiv

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Ukraine has accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of “publicly humiliating” Donald Trump after Russia launched a record-breaking overnight missile and drone assault on Kyiv, just hours after a phone call between the two leaders.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy described the seven-hour attack as a “deliberate act of terror” that offered a chilling glimpse into “how Moscow interprets diplomacy”. The timing, he said, made it clear that the strike was a direct response to the Trump-Putin conversation.

The assault was one of the most intense of the entire war, involving more than 550 drones and ballistic missiles. The Ukrainian capital spent the night under siege, with families forced to take shelter in metro stations, basements and car parks. Drones buzzed ominously in the skies while air defence units scrambled to intercept the onslaught amid machine-gun fire and explosions.

By 9 a.m. local time, Kyiv was blanketed in thick black smoke. Authorities advised residents to keep

windows shut due to ongoing fires. At least 23 people were injured in the bombardment, with 14 requiring hospital treatment. Residential blocks, vehicles and warehouses were all damaged in the strikes.

The city’s usually dependable rail system was also affected. Passengers arriving at Kyiv’s central station on Thursday night were ushered through underground passageways, with the main concourse closed and services on Friday heavily delayed.

Russian president speaks

Speaking after his conversation with Putin, Trump admitted the lengthy call had made no progress. “I’m not happy about that. No, I didn’t make any progress with him today at all,” he said, noting that Putin remained firm on his demand for Ukraine’s capitulation.

The massive air raid came just days after the Pentagon paused delivery of crucial weapons to Ukraine, including replacement interceptor missiles for the Patriot air defence systems. Ukrainian officials warned that the

decision left their cities dangerously exposed and empowered Russia to escalate attacks.

While Kyiv has refrained from directly criticising the US President, Zelenskyy made a pointed appeal to Washington and its allies to respond forcefully. “There must be consequences – not eventually, but now,” he said. “Strengthened sanctions. Immediate delivery of air defence systems. A shift from caution to clarity. The Kremlin is watching the world’s reaction. So are others.”

He expressed hope of speaking with Trump again on Friday regarding the continued supply of US arms, though expectations of a shift in White House policy remain low.

The latest barrage is part of a wide intensification of Russian airstrikes on Kyiv, which has seen some of the deadliest attacks of the war in recent weeks. Mayor Vitali Klitschko confirmed that six of the city’s 10 districts had sustained damage, with drone debris igniting a fire at a medical facility in Holosiivskyi district.

UNAids chief warns of HIV surge after US cuts aid programme

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The executive director of UNAids has issued a grave warning that HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths are set to soar in the coming years following what she describes as “seismic” cuts to US aid spending.

Winnie Byanyima, head of the global agency tackling HIV and AIDS, said in an interview at the UN international development summit in Seville that if the funding loss becomes permanent, the world could face an additional 6 million HIV infections and 4 million AIDS-related deaths by 2029.

“This is a deadly funding crisis, a global response knocked off course,” said Byanyima. “This is a pandemic, and pandemics have no borders.”

The cuts centre on the halting of Pefar, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, which was established in 2003 by Republican President George W. Bush. The programme had become the world’s largest initiative to combat HIV/AIDS globally, providing treatment, prevention, and care for millions. In February, Donald Trump abruptly suspended the funding, dealing a catastrophic blow to UNAids, which depended on Pefar for 60% of its budget.

“I am devastated. Appalled. Shaken and disgusted,” Byanyima said. “I don’t have the English words to use.”

Byanyima, a Ugandan engineer and former politician, said the devastating impact of the cuts nearly caused her to resign. “But I can’t run away. I told myself I was going to fix it. I need to take my gloves off.”

Over the past few years, US global health funding has stagnated. Simultaneously, traditional donors such as the UK have backed away from their commitment to spend 0.7% of GDP on aid, a target agreed by UN member states in 2015. The war in Ukraine and global economic pressures have further diverted international attention and resources.



Experts say that although the US later issued a vaguely worded waiver for parts of the Pefar funding, it has not improved conditions on the ground. Byanyima noted the immediate consequences of the cuts: “Dedicated people are losing jobs, loyal support is gone, research has ended, vulnerable people are being abandoned. What went away first was prevention services, now we’re seeing the rise in infections and deaths.”

UNAids decries challenges

She described how clinics have closed, research has stalled, and vital services for at-risk groups, including young girls and men who have sex with men, have disappeared. “These are people who hide, who are shunned. And now they’ve lost lifelines,” she said.

“I had to have therapy to stay strong for others. The remaining staff are stretched thin, we are at real risk of burning out.”

The crisis, she stressed, is not only financial but also political. “This is a huge shift because it is so connected to geopolitics and power shifts. It is seismic,” she said. “But after the first wave of panic and pain, we must now work with less than half of what we had to

save lives.”

Byanyima also criticised the broader global system, calling out the structural inequalities in how African countries are treated in financing, debt, and international aid.

“We lost 12 million people who didn’t need to die because antiretroviral drugs weren’t shared, pharmaceutical companies held onto them to make money. Now we face even more deaths,” she said. “Health is a human right. No one should die when we can prevent it.”

She added, “African countries aren’t lying down or holding out a begging bowl. They are making huge efforts to fill the gaps. But we need debt justice. We need tax justice. For too long, more money has flowed from the global south to the north than the other way around. That must end.”

In her closing remarks, Byanyima called for a complete rethinking of the global aid model: “It’s too unpredictable. The future must be less about charity and more about international solidarity.”

Hamas responds positively to US-brokered Gaza ceasefire proposal

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Hamas has said it responded on Friday “in a positive spirit” to a US-brokered ceasefire proposal for Gaza and expressed readiness to enter fresh talks on implementing the deal, which includes the release of hostages and the beginning of negotiations toward a permanent end to the nearly 21-month conflict with Israel.

The announcement followed President Donald Trump’s unveiling of what he described as a “final proposal” for a 60-day ceasefire. The plan, revealed earlier this week, outlines conditions under which hostilities would temporarily halt, with an aim to lay the groundwork for a lasting resolution.

In a statement posted on its official website Friday evening, Hamas said: “The movement has delivered its response to the brotherly mediators, which was characterised by a positive spirit. Hamas is fully prepared, with all seriousness, to immediately enter a new round of negotiations on the mechanism for implementing this framework.”

Israeli media reported that the government had received the response and was evaluating it. A senior Israeli official told Channel 12: “Judging by the signals from Hamas, there is a high probability that we will start proximity talks in the next few days. If there is consent to proximity talks, there will be a deal.”

According to sources familiar with the negotiations, Hamas leaders were nearing agreement on the terms of the proposal but have sought stronger assurances that any temporary halt in fighting would ultimately lead to a permanent ceasefire. The group has faced severe losses in recent months, with its military infrastructure heavily targeted and key territories lost.

Israel’s recent escalation, an intense wave of airstrikes, has killed more than 250 Palestinians in the past week alone, including significant numbers of women and children, according to medical and civil defence officials in Gaza. Since the



breakdown of a previous ceasefire in March, over 6,000 people have been killed, exacerbating an already dire humanitarian situation.

Speaking earlier in the week, Trump noted that Israel had already agreed to the conditions required to finalise the proposed ceasefire. When asked whether Hamas had done the same, he replied, “We’ll see what happens. We are going to know over the next 24 hours.”

Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu is expected to travel to Washington on Sunday to discuss the ceasefire proposal, as well as regional tensions, with President Trump.

Although Netanyahu has long resisted efforts to permanently end the war in Gaza, partly due to the demands of far-right allies within his coalition, Israel’s recent gains in the conflict with Iran have bolstered his domestic support. Opinion polls suggest the Israeli public overwhelmingly favours a ceasefire deal.

Israeli officials told Reuters that preparations were in place to approve the agreement and that a delegation was being assembled to participate in indirect talks, to be mediated by Qatar and Egypt, if Hamas officially consents.

The ceasefire proposal reportedly

includes the release of 10 living Israeli hostages in Gaza and the return of the remains of 18 more. In return, Israel would release an undisclosed number of Palestinian prisoners. Hamas abducted 251 people during the October 2023 attack; fewer than 50 are thought to still be in Gaza, with many believed to have died in captivity.

Under the terms of the deal, humanitarian aid would begin flowing into Gaza immediately, and the Israeli military would initiate a phased withdrawal from certain areas. Negotiations on a permanent ceasefire would begin simultaneously.

US Ambassador to Israel, Mike Huckabee, expressed cautious optimism: “We sure hope it’s a done deal, but I think it’s all going to be what Hamas is willing to accept. One thing is clear: the president wants it to be over. The prime minister wants it to be over. The American people, the Israeli people, want it to be over.”

A major sticking point throughout negotiations has been humanitarian aid. Israel imposed an 11-week blockade in March, only slightly easing it in May amid mounting international outcry and fears of famine. The delivery of food and medical supplies remains a core demand of Hamas.

Trump signs “big, beautiful bill” in July Fourth ceremony at White House

By Oluwatosin Ologun



U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law a massive package of tax and spending cuts at the White House on Friday, staging an outdoor ceremony on the Fourth of July holiday that took on the air of a Trump political rally.

With military jets flying overhead and hundreds of supporters in attendance, Trump signed the bill one day after the Republican-controlled House of Representatives narrowly approved the signature legislation of the president's second term.

The bill, which will fund Trump's immigration crackdown, make his 2017 tax cuts permanent, and is expected to knock millions of Americans off health insurance, was passed with a 218-214 vote after an emotional debate on the House floor.

"I've never seen people so happy in our country because of that, because so many different groups of people are being taken care of: the military, civilians of all types, jobs of all types," Trump said at the ceremony, thanking House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune for leading the bill through the two houses of Congress.

"So you have the biggest tax cut, the biggest spending cut, the largest border security investment in American history," Trump said.

Trump scheduled the ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House for the July 4 Independence Day holiday, replete with a flyover by stealth bombers and fighter jets like those that took part in the recent U.S. strikes on nuclear facilities in Iran.

Hundreds of Trump supporters attended, including White House aides, members of Congress, and military families.

After a speech that included boastful claims about the ascendance of America on his watch, Trump signed the bill, posed for pictures with Republican congressional leaders and members of his cabinet, and waded through the crowd of happy supporters.

The bill's passage amounts to a big win for Trump and his Republican allies, who have argued it will boost economic growth, while largely dismissing a nonpartisan analysis predicting it will add more than \$3 trillion to the nation's \$36.2 trillion debt.

Over 20 injured in massive explosion at Rome petrol station

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



More than 20 people, including nine police officers and a firefighter, were injured on Friday morning following a massive explosion at a petrol station in the Prenestino district of eastern Rome, according to Italian authorities.

The blast, which occurred just after 8 a.m. local time (0600 GMT), sent a towering fireball into the sky and could be heard across the Italian capital. Photographs published by Roma Today showed flames and dense smoke billowing high above the city, while images released by

the fire brigade revealed the petrol station almost destroyed.

Rome police boss speaks
Rome's chief of police, Roberto Massucci, confirmed that among the injured were 16 civilians, including the station manager. Fortunately, no one was reported to be in a life-threatening condition.

Health officials stated that five people were taken to hospital with minor burns and injuries caused by shattered glass. Emergency responders were already present at the scene when the explosion occurred,

having been called earlier to investigate a fuel leak after a truck reportedly struck a pipeline connected to the distributor.

The petrol station supplied petrol, diesel, and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is also monitoring the situation closely, her office confirmed in a brief statement.

An investigation into the cause of the blast is currently underway.

Supreme Court allows U.S. deportation of eight men to South Sudan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



The U.S. Supreme Court has cleared the way for the Trump administration to deport eight men, most of whom have no connection to South Sudan, to the war-ravaged African nation, despite warnings they may face torture, persecution, or death upon arrival.

The court's decision, handed down Thursday, follows a contentious legal battle over whether immigrants can be deported to third countries with which they have no ties. The conservative majority ruled in favour of the administration, reversing a lower court's order that required the government to give deportees a chance to express "reasonable fear" of danger before being removed.

Only one of the eight men is from South Sudan. The rest hail from countries including Vietnam, South Korea, Mexico, Laos, Cuba, and Myanmar. All eight have been convicted of serious crimes and had completed or were nearing the end of their prison sentences in the U.S.

According to Trina Realmuto, executive director of the National Immigration Litigation Alliance and attorney for the men, they were transported without proper notice and detained for weeks at Camp Lemonnier, a U.S. military base in Djibouti. "They could face perilous conditions, and potentially immediate detention, upon arrival," she warned.

The dissenting justices, Sonia Sotomayor and Ketanji Brown Jackson criticised the ruling as a troubling example of executive privilege overriding due process. "What the government wants to do... is send the eight noncitizens it illegally removed... to South Sudan, where they will be turned over to the local authorities without regard for the likelihood that they will face torture or death," Sotomayor wrote.

She added pointedly: "Other litigants must follow the rules, but the administration has the Supreme Court on speed dial."

Originally, the men were told they would be sent to South Africa and were asked to sign deportation documents, which they

refused. The case was brought before Judge Brian E. Murphy of the District of Massachusetts, who ruled that immigrants being deported to a third country must be given proper written notice and a chance to raise fears of mistreatment.

Instead, the men were abruptly informed they were being deported to South Sudan and secretly flown to Djibouti. ICE agents guarded them in gruelling 12-hour shifts amid reports of illness, poor medical care, malaria risks, and security concerns linked to nearby militant activity in Yemen.

U.S. faces deportation challenges

The Trump administration, facing challenges returning deportees to their home countries, has been seeking bilateral agreements to send them elsewhere. Officials have not publicly explained why South Sudan was chosen as a destination.

Neither the White House nor the Department of Homeland Security responded to requests for comment.

Nico Williams signs 10-Year Deal with Athletic Bilbao

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Athletic Bilbao winger Nico Williams has ended months of speculation surrounding his future by signing a new 10-year contract with the Basque club. The 22-year-old, who played a key role in Spain's Euro 2024 triumph, has extended his stay at San Mamés until June 2035, effectively ruling out a summer move to Barcelona or Bayern Munich.

Williams had been heavily linked with a switch to La Liga rivals Barcelona, with reports emerging last month that the Catalan giants had agreed personal terms with the player. German powerhouse Bayern Munich were also rumoured to be tracking his progress. However, the Spain international has opted to remain with the club that nurtured him through its youth ranks and launched his professional career.

His previous contract was due to expire in 2027, but the new deal not only secures his long-term future with Bilbao but also significantly increases his release clause. Though the club has not disclosed the exact figure, reports suggest that the clause—previously set at €62m—has now risen by 50%, meaning any suitor would have to pay over €90m (£78m) to sign him.

"When decisions have to be made, for me, what weighs most is the heart," Williams said. "I'm where I want to be, with my people. This is my home."

Williams makes 167 appearances. He has come through Athletic Bilbao's academy, playing alongside his older brother Iñaki, and made his senior debut in 2021 at the age of 18. Since then, he has amassed 167 appearances and scored 31 goals, helping the team secure a top-four



finish in La Liga last season and Champions League qualification for the 2025-26 campaign.

His performances on the international stage further elevated his profile. At Euro 2024, Williams was instrumental in Spain's run to the title, scoring the opening goal in the final against England in a 2-1 victory. That achievement added weight to the growing demand for his signature among Europe's elite clubs.

Ex-Arsenal player Thomas Partey charged with rape, assault

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Former Arsenal midfielder Thomas Partey has been charged with multiple sexual offences, including five counts of rape and one count of sexual assault. The charges, which involve three women and span alleged incidents between 2021 and 2022, were confirmed by the Metropolitan Police on Thursday.

Partey, 32, who until recently played for Premier League side Arsenal, has denied all the allegations through his lawyer and said he looks forward to clearing his name in court.

According to the police, the charges relate to three separate complainants. Two counts of rape relate to one woman, three other counts of rape involve a second woman, and the charge of sexual assault is linked to a third. The investigation was initiated in February 2022 after police received an initial report of rape. Further evidence and testimonies were gathered during what authorities described as a "thorough and sensitive" inquiry.

Detective Superintendent Andy Furphy, who is leading the investigation, emphasized the importance of supporting those who have come forward. "Our priority remains providing support to the women involved in this case," he said. "We are also encouraging anyone else who may have information or has been affected by this investigation to come forward and speak to our team."

Members of the public with relevant information have been asked to contact detectives at the Met's Central Investigation Team via the email address provided: CIT@met.police.uk.

Thomas Partey, who lives in Hertfordshire, is scheduled to appear before Westminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday, 5 August.

In a statement, Partey's lawyer, Jenny Wiltshire, said: "Thomas Partey denies all the charges against him. He has fully cooperated with the police and Crown



Prosecution Service throughout their three-year investigation. He now welcomes the opportunity to finally clear his name. Given that there are now ongoing legal proceedings, my client is unable to comment further."

Partey's high-profile move to Arsenal in October 2020 came with a £45.3 million transfer fee from Spanish side Atletico Madrid. Known for his strong presence in midfield and tactical intelligence, he quickly became a regular starter under manager Mikel Arteta.

Peter Rufai was ill for weeks before passing - NFF

By Damilola Olufemi

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has confirmed that former Super Eagles goalkeeper Peter Rufai had been battling an illness for several weeks before his death on Thursday at the age of 61.

In a statement mourning the loss of the football legend, the NFF said Rufai died in Lagos around 6 a.m. on Thursday and that his remains have been taken to a morgue.

Describing him as both “charismatic and disciplined,” the NFF praised Rufai for devoting his post-playing career to nurturing and mentoring aspiring footballers.

“Rufai made his debut for then Green Eagles in a friendly match in December 1981, and won the Africa Cup of Nations silver in 1984 and 1988, before Nigeria



swept to glory in the continental finals in Tunisia in 1994,” the federation noted.

“He was the first-choice goalkeeper in the three championships.”

Peter Rufai plays for 17 years Rufai, who earned over 60 caps for Nigeria during a 17-year international career, was a central figure in one of the

nation’s most celebrated football generations.

His death adds to the growing list of late members from Nigeria’s victorious 1994 AFCON squad, which also includes Wilfred Agbonavbare, Thompson Oliha, Uche Okafor, Rashidi Yekini, and Stephen Keshi.

Rashford set for Man Utd return amid uncertainty

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Marcus Rashford is expected to return to Manchester United training on Monday, marking the beginning of what could be a pivotal summer in the 27-year-old’s career. After a turbulent season that saw him loaned out to Aston Villa following a fallout with manager Ruben Amorim, Rashford’s Old Trafford future remains unresolved.

Rashford, who has been with United since the age of seven, spent the second half of the 2024-25 season on loan at Villa Park after being frozen out by Amorim in December. During his short spell at Aston Villa, the England international made 17 appearances, scoring four goals and registering six assists. Villa had an option to make the deal permanent for £40 million, but the Midlands club have not pursued it, and no bids have been made for the forward so far.

Despite suggestions earlier this year that he would not play for Amorim again,



sources close to Rashford now say he has no problem returning for pre-season. United’s preparations begin Monday, ahead of a packed schedule that starts with a friendly against Leeds United in Stockholm on July 19, followed by matches in the United States as part of the Premier League Summer Series.

Rashford’s dramatic exile followed a series of disagreements with Amorim, who was appointed midway through last

season. The Portuguese coach, known for his tactical discipline and high standards, struggled to bring the forward in line with his training expectations.

“I couldn’t get Marcus to see the way you’re supposed to play football and to train the way I see it,” Amorim said in February, confirming the growing rift between manager and player.