



Senate tells Natasha to stay away from National Assembly Tuesday **Pg 2**

Awujale's blessings paved my path to presidency - Tinubu **Pg 4**



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Senate tells Natasha to stay away from National Assembly Tuesday

By Damilola Olufemi

The Senate has issued a stern warning to suspended Kogi senator, Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan, advising her not to attempt a return to the National Assembly ahead of the expiration of her suspension.

Senator Yemi Adaramodu, Chair of the Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, made this clear in a statement released on Sunday, saying there is no valid court ruling compelling the Senate to reinstate Akpoti-Uduaghan immediately.

“The Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria wishes to reaffirm, for the third time, that there is no subsisting court order mandating the Senate to recall Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan before the expiration of her suspension,” Adaramodu stated.

His comments followed reports that Akpoti-Uduaghan planned to resume her legislative duties on Tuesday, allegedly citing a judgment by Justice Binta Nyako of the Federal High Court in Abuja.

However, Adaramodu explained that both the court ruling and the Certified True Copy of the Enrolled Order had already been reviewed by the Senate, with no binding instruction given regarding her recall.

“Rather, the Honourable Court gave a non-binding advisory urging the Senate to consider amending its Standing Orders and reviewing the suspension, which it opined might be excessive,” he said. “The Court, however, explicitly held that the Senate did not breach any law or constitutional provision in imposing the disciplinary measure based on the Senator’s misconduct during plenary.”

The Senate also recalled that the same court found Akpoti-Uduaghan in contempt, imposing a ₦5 million fine payable to the Federal Government



and directing her to publish a formal apology in two national newspapers and on her Facebook page—an order she has reportedly yet to obey.

“It is therefore surprising and legally untenable that Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan, while on appeal and having filed a motion for stay against the valid and binding orders made against her, is attempting to act upon an imaginary order of recall that does not exist,” Adaramodu said.

He warned that any attempt by the senator to “storm the Senate next Tuesday under a false pretext” would be disruptive and in violation of legislative procedures.

Adaramodu concluded that the Senate would, in due course, consider the court’s advisory on potential amendments to its Standing Orders and her recall, and would formally communicate any decision to Akpoti-Uduaghan. Until then, he advised her to remain away from Senate proceedings and allow legal processes to take their course.

Natasha vows to be present

Meanwhile, Natasha is insisting she will resume plenary at the Senate on Tuesday, 22nd of July 2025, in line with the judgement of the court, despite the appeal by the president of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio.

The New Daily Prime that while in her constituency for a training programme on Saturday, Natasha confirmed she had written to the Senate to formally announce her intention to return.

“I have pretty much two months more before the six months expire. However, I have written to the Senate again telling them that I’m resuming on the 22nd, which is on Tuesday, by the special grace of God,” she said in her Ihima hometown of Kogi on Saturday.

“I will be there, because the court did make the decision on that. Now, they argue that it’s an order — it’s not an order, but it is a decision.”

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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7X4	180,173.50
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6X3	82,750.00
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8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
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Awujale's blessings paved my path to presidency – Tinubu

By Oluwatosin Ologun

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has revealed that the late Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Dr. Sikiru Kayode Adetona, had predicted his presidency and assured him he would be re-elected for a second term.

Tinubu spoke on Sunday during the eight-day Fidau prayer for the late monarch at Dipo Dina Stadium in Ijebu Ode, Ogun.

The New Daily Prime reported that President Tinubu, accompanied by the First Lady Oluremi Tinubu, landed at the Gateway International Agro/Cargo Airport in Ilishan-Iperu at 12:45 PM.

The president paid heartfelt tributes celebrating Adetona's impactful reign, leadership and enduring legacy.

"Today marks a very great day in the history of Nigeria and particular history of the Yoruba race.

"I thank God Almighty that I stand before you as the president of Nigeria.

"Our history would not have been



completed if I failed the last election.

"I was successful because of your support and the blessing of the late Awujale.

"I came to him and he blessed me and he said you will win that election and you will win another one.

"Today, he's no more," an emotional president said.

Tinubu described Adetona as a

revered ruler who brought dignity and pride to both Ijebu land and the Yoruba nation.

He recalled the monarch's unwavering support during the pro-democracy June 12 struggle.

The president urged Nigerians to uphold his legacy by fostering unity, peace and national cohesion.

Earlier, Gov. Dapo Abiodun of Ogun described Adetona as more than a monarch but a mentor and moral compass to the nation.

"Under Oba Adetona's leadership, Ijebu land witnessed unprecedented leadership.

"Kabiyesi upheld the dignity of Ijebu culture and upheld the dignity of the Yoruba race; his reign brought prestige to our land," he said.

Tinubu was joined at the Fidau prayers by governors, ministers and senior officials led by Nigeria Governors' Forum Chairman, Gov. Abdulrazaq Abdulrahman of Kwara.



“Step aside for Obi in 2027” — Obidients urge Atiku

By Gbenga Olaleye

Members of the Obidient movement have called on former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to shelve his 2027 presidential ambition and throw his weight behind Mr Peter Obi to secure the African Democratic Congress (ADC) presidential ticket.

The appeal was made during a massive rally in Umuahia, part of a coordinated ‘One Million Man-March for Obi’ held simultaneously across Umuahia, Aba, Ohafia, and Uzuakoli to celebrate Mr Obi’s 64th birthday.

Speaking to journalists, Chibuzor Obiesili, Abia State chairman of the rally’s Organising Committee and a state coordinator of the Obidient movement, urged Atiku to make the ultimate political sacrifice for the nation by stepping aside.

“We thank those behind the formation of the coalition. We appeal that the coalition should consider Obi as its presidential ticket because he has the national appeal



needed to uproot the ruling APC,” Obiesili said.

He acknowledged Atiku’s past efforts in challenging the ruling party but insisted that supporting a Southerner like Obi would be the game-changing move needed to unify the opposition and secure electoral victory in 2027.

“Atiku has tried his best for Nigeria, but his greatest sacrifice and gift to Nigeria will be to support Obi get the ADC presidential ticket in 2027 so that Nigeria

can move forward,” he added.

Obiesili described Peter Obi as a consistent advocate for the poor, saying the birthday rallies were a spontaneous show of admiration and grassroots support for his leadership ideals.

The Obidients also praised recent coalition efforts among opposition figures to challenge President Bola Tinubu’s re-election bid but reiterated their belief that Obi represents the most unifying and credible choice to lead Nigeria forward.

“You promised 24/7 power, Mr President” — ADC slams Tinubu over electricity woes

By Gbenga Olaleye

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) has launched a scathing critique of President Bola Tinubu’s administration, accusing it of failing to fulfil its campaign promise of providing uninterrupted electricity to Nigerians within four years.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, ADC’s interim spokesman, Bolaji Abdullahi, reminded President Tinubu of his bold vow during the 2023 campaign: to ensure 24/7 electricity across the country or forfeit a second term bid.

“Today, we just want to take some time to remind President Tinubu that he promised Nigerians uninterrupted electricity within four years. Yes, that’s right, Mr President promised us 24/7 power. All by himself,” Abdullahi wrote.

He pointed to soaring electricity tariffs, which have reportedly risen by 240%



since Tinubu assumed office, while the national grid has collapsed 12 times, disrupting power supply for millions of Nigerians.

“Over 90 million Nigerians still lack electricity, while many get just 4 to 6 hours a day under Tinubu’s failed Band A-E system,” Abdullahi continued.

“In rural communities, most of Nigeria’s 50 million families remain completely off the grid, with no access to electricity at all.”

Abdullahi also criticised the administration’s inaction, citing a lack of meaningful reforms or a clear strategy to revitalise the power sector.

“We are past the halfway mark of this administration, and millions of Nigerians are still charging their phones at mobile charging kiosks, and spending hundreds of thousands to fuel their generators,” he added.

The ADC’s remarks reflect growing public frustration over power supply challenges, despite persistent promises from successive governments. The party’s criticism adds further pressure on the Tinubu administration to take decisive action as the 2027 election cycle looms closer.

Edo gov warning to Peter Obi 'null and void' - Experts

By Damilola Olufemi and Fatimah Idera



A recent statement by Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, warning Peter Obi not to enter the state without obtaining prior security clearance, has sparked controversy and debate.

Renowned lawyer, Prof. Afe Babalola and political analyst Abdulateef Ahmad have weighed in on the issue, describing the governor's demand as 'null and void' and 'politically tone-deaf.'

Constitutional rights under threat

Prof Babalola emphasised that the statement is not only illegal but also unconstitutional, as it contravenes sections 40 and 41 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), which guarantee every citizen's

fundamental right to freedom of assembly and movement.

"Such a statement is not worth more than the breeze that blew it out of his mouth as it is null and void and of no effect whatsoever," Prof Babalola said.

Ahmad echoed this sentiment, stating that there is no statute in Nigeria's constitution that mandates a citizen to obtain permission before entering any part of the country.

Democratic backsliding

Ahmad warned that the governor's statement is part of a larger trend of coordinated hostility towards Obi and his supporters, which he described as "democratic backsliding."

"These gestures, whether subtle or blunt, only signal a shrinking civic space. They suggest that liberty is now conditional and that the powers that be are increasingly allergic to dissent or even symbolic gatherings," Ahmad said.

Potential consequences

The analyst noted that such statements could have significant effects the state and Nigeria at large, potentially fueling partisan tensions and breeding resentment.

"2027 might just be the year when many voters say, 'Enough.' At the national level, it damages the image of political tolerance that democracy demands," Ahmad said.

SERAP sues Tinubu govt at ECOWAS Court over undisclosed NDDC audit report

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP), alongside four concerned Nigerian citizens, has initiated legal action against President Bola Tinubu's administration at the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice.

The lawsuit challenges the government's failure to make public the forensic audit report of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), which allegedly details the disappearance of N6 trillion from the commission between 2001 and 2019.

The forensic audit was commissioned in 2019 by the late former President Muhammadu Buhari, following widespread allegations of extensive corruption within the NDDC.

The urgency of the matter was recently underscored by comments from the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, who controversially alleged that the wife of a former minister received N48 billion over 12 months for a scheme to train Niger Delta women.

The four private citizens joining SERAP in the suit are Prince Taiwo Aiyedatiwa, Chief Jude Igbogifurotogu Pulemote, Ben Omietimi Tariye, and Princess Elizabeth Egbe.

Filed on Friday, July 18, under suit number ECW/CCJ/APP/35/25, the plaintiffs are seeking a declaration from the court that the Nigerian government's failure to publish the NDDC forensic report constitutes a fundamental breach of its international human rights obligations.

They are also requesting an order compelling the Nigerian government to release the report, which they contend remains 'shrouded in secrecy' despite being submitted to the government.

Furthermore, the suit seeks an order directing the government to implement effective measures to address transparency and accountability deficiencies in the management of public funds allocated to the NDDC.

The plaintiffs argue that withholding the report violates their right to know the truth about the corruption allegations and



perpetuates impunity and cover-ups.

They assert that the public's right to open access to information and to understand government actions on their behalf is implicit in freedom of expression.

They accuse the Nigerian government of failing to provide any justification for withholding the report from them and the general public.

According to the plaintiffs, the Nigerian government is legally bound to ensure transparency and provide access to information regarding the NDDC audit report, as this is a core component of the right to seek, receive, and impart information.

They stress that there is an 'overriding public interest' in the report's disclosure.

The suit, filed by lawyers Kolawole Oluwadare, Kehinde Oyewumi, and Andrew Nwankwo on behalf of SERAP and the other plaintiffs, contends that the continued concealment of the report denies them the ability to study it, hold the government accountable, and undermines the rule of law.

They emphasise that the information sought is not classified for national security reasons but pertains to transparency, accountability, and human rights, which are protected under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the International Covenant on

Civil and Political Rights— both treaties ratified by Nigeria.

The plaintiffs further argue that the right to access information is a fundamental human right under these treaties, imposing a positive obligation on the Nigerian government to allow access to documents under its custody.

They believe that access to the report would enable them to effectively exercise their human rights, pursue accountability, and promote democratic participation, thereby empowering citizens to control corruption.

The suit highlights that state administrations must adhere to principles of 'maximum disclosure and good faith' regarding access to information, where transparency is the general rule and secrecy is the exception, subject only to strict, legally enshrined, and proportional limitations.

The plaintiffs argue that the Nigerian government bears the burden of proving that any restrictions on publishing the report are compatible with international human rights standards.

The plaintiffs also claim that the denial of access to the NDDC forensic report is a violation of their right to a legal remedy.

No date has yet been set for the hearing of the suit.

Okpebholo clarifies warning to Obi as protocol, cites security concerns

By Friday Omosola



Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State has clarified his recent statement urging Peter Obi not to enter the state without prior clearance.

The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua, on Sunday, said his remarks were a directive on protocol and not a threat.

He emphasised the need for high-profile individuals to adhere to security procedures.

Okpebholo had, at a rally in Uromi on Friday, advised Obi against visiting the state without first obtaining clearance from the state government.

This followed Obi's visit to Benin on July 7, during which he reportedly donated ₦15 million to a school.

The governor previously linked Obi's visit to a subsequent resurgence of violence in the state.

The governor said his position stems from his constitutional responsibility as the state's Chief Security Officer, which includes safeguarding lives and property.

He highlighted the necessity for politically exposed persons to notify and seek security clearance before engaging in public activities that could draw large crowds or media attention.

Okpebholo said ignoring such protocols will create significant security vulnerabilities for both the visitor and the citizens.

He stressed the particular relevance of these protocols given the increasing attacks and abductions targeting religious leaders, especially Catholic priests and Christian clerics.

Regarding the matter of public donations, the governor advised caution.

He argued that while gifts to churches, hospitals, or faith-based institutions are well-intentioned, they should be made with full consultation with security channels to avoid exposing these institutions and their leaders to further danger.

Okpebholo calls for discretion in public giving, it added, is rooted in both intelligence gathering and moral responsibility, citing the biblical admonition from Matthew 6:2-4 about discreet charity.

He drew a distinction, noting, he was not Obi, who, as Governor of Anambra State, detained Nasir El-Rufai when he visited.

He urged leaders, regardless of their stature, to align with the security protocols and realities of any areas they visit, affirming that the state government would not permit politically motivated activities to jeopardise lives.

“If an Emir can kneel, I would kneel for you” — Emir of Daura on Kwankwaso

By Gbenga Olaleye



In a rare and heartfelt show of reverence, His Royal Highness Alhaji Umar Faruk Umar, the Emir of Daura, declared that if royal customs permitted, he would kneel in honour of Senator Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, the former Kano State Governor.

The statement came during Senator Kwankwaso's condolence visit to the Daura Emirate and Katsina State, following the passing of former President Muhammadu Buhari.

“Wallahi, if an Emir can kneel, I would kneel for you,” the Emir said, eliciting applause and surprise from attendees. This exceptional gesture highlighted Kwankwaso's significant national stature and personal integrity.

The Emir reminisced about his close relationship with Kwankwaso, noting

that the senator was the first to facilitate his honorary doctorate from a state university in Wudil.

He also recalled multiple invitations to Kano by Kwankwaso to commission major development projects during his governorship. The Emir spoke warmly of his bond with Kwankwaso's late father, describing it as a brotherhood that went beyond ordinary friendship.

Paying tribute to the late President Buhari, the Emir praised him as a man of truth and integrity, praying for Allah's mercy and eternal peace upon his soul in Aljannah Firdausi. He commended Kwankwaso's visit as a noble act of respect and statesmanship.

Senator Kwankwaso, in turn, extended his condolences to the

people of Daura, Katsina State, and Nigeria at large. He described his visit as an expression of solidarity during a time of national grief and praised the Emir as a father figure in his political journey.

Kwankwaso prayed for the Emir's health and long reign, emphasising the importance of unity and peace across Nigeria.

The senator's delegation included Kano State Deputy Governor Comrade Aminu Abdussalam Gwarzo, elder statesman Engr. Buba Galadima, and other senior members of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), underscoring Kwankwaso's enduring connections to traditional institutions and his influence beyond regional boundaries.

Falana urges Obi to seek court protection over Edo governor's death threat

By Helen Okechukwu



Human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, has advised former Labour Party presidential candidate, Mr Peter Obi, to urgently seek legal protection following a recent threat to his life by the Governor of Edo State, Monday Okpebholo.

Falana gave the advice in a statement issued on Sunday, in response to remarks made by Governor Okpebholo during a political rally in Uromi, Esan North East Local Government Area of the state.

At the rally, Okpebholo had warned Obi not to visit Edo State without prior notification or clearance from his office.

“There’s a new sheriff in town. He cannot just come into Edo without informing me,” Okpebholo declared.

“His security will not be guaranteed. If anything happens to him here, he will have himself to blame. I’m not joking.”

Reacting to the governor’s comments, Falana described the threat as a gross violation of Peter Obi’s constitutional rights, particularly his right to life as guaranteed under Section 33 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and Article 4 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act.

“In view of Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution, which stipulates that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government, Governor Okpebholo should withdraw the threat, apologise publicly to Mr Peter Obi, and assure him of the safety of his life in Edo State,” Falana stated.

The Senior Advocate of Nigeria further warned that should the governor fail to retract his statement, Obi must act without delay to seek redress through the judicial system.

“If Governor Okpebholo does not withdraw the illegal threat because of sheer arrogance of raw power, Mr Peter Obi should proceed to file an application in the Benin Judicial Division of the Federal High Court to secure the enforcement of his fundamental right to life,” Falana advised.

He added that the former presidential candidate must act swiftly in view of the rising cases of mob justice and extrajudicial killings across the country.

Sanwo-Olu renews demand for special status for Lagos at constitution review hearing

By Friday Omosola

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has renewed his call for Lagos to be granted special status in the Nigerian Constitution.

He argued that the demand is long overdue given the state's historical and strategic importance.

He spoke through his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, at the South-West Centre A Public Hearing on the Review of the 1999 Constitution held at Watercress Hotel in Ikeja.

Sanwo-Olu stressed that Lagos bears a disproportionate share of the nation's burdens, having served as Nigeria's former capital and remaining its economic and population hub.

He maintained that any former capital city should not be left to shoulder the lingering responsibilities of the entire country without compensation or constitutional recognition.

"Any state that once served as the federal capital cannot simply inherit the assets and liabilities of the entire country, then be abandoned. Let us be fair to the people of Lagos by granting the state a special status," he said.

The governor also reiterated his administration's support for the establishment of state police, describing the issue as a matter of urgent security and not a debate about semantics.

"State policing is about protecting lives. It is not political, it is practical," he added.

Sanwo-Olu further urged the National Assembly to formally list Lagos State's 37 Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) in the Constitution.

He noted that since their creation in



2003, the LCDAs had helped decentralise governance and enhance grassroots development.

He described the public hearing as a rare opportunity for the people of Lagos and the wider South-West to directly influence the highest law of the land.

"As we embark on this critical process of constitutional review, let us be guided by equity, inclusion, and justice. Every voice matters—young or old, male or female, from every part of our communities," he said.

While commending the House of Representatives Constitution Review Committee for promoting transparency and inclusiveness, Sanwo-Olu called on stakeholders to contribute purposefully to the process.

He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and constitutional reforms that promote good governance.

Earlier, the Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the South-West Centre A, Isiaka Ibrahim Ayokunle, assured participants that the committee would conduct the review with fairness, openness, and a commitment to justice.

He said all memoranda and suggestions submitted would receive thorough consideration at the National Assembly.

Also, the Speakers of the Lagos, Ogun, and Oyo State Houses of Assembly backed calls for the recognition of traditional rulers in the Constitution, devolution of power from the federal centre, creation of state police, inclusion of LCDAs in the Constitution, and transfer of control over waterways to state governments.

They also highlighted security challenges and other regional concerns requiring urgent constitutional attention.

Labour party senators condemn Edo governor's threat against Peter Obi

By Gbenga Olaleye



The Labour Party (LP) Caucus in the Nigerian Senate has strongly criticised Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, following his recent threat to bar the Labour Party's 2023 Presidential Candidate, Peter Obi, from entering Edo State.

In a statement issued on Saturday, Senators Victor Umeh, Ireti Kingibe, Ezea Okey, and Tony Nwoye called on the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, and the Director General of the Department of State Services (DSS), Adeola Oluwatosin Ajayi, to take urgent note of the governor's warning.

The senators asserted, "Mr Peter Obi is a citizen of Nigeria, and his

movement is guaranteed and should not be curtailed by sheer Executive lawlessness and impudence. As a champion of democracy, nation-building and sustainable development, Mr Peter Obi deserves protection and support from the law and all who share the vision for a better Nigeria."

The controversy arose after Governor Okpebholo, during a public event on Friday, cautioned Peter Obi against visiting Edo State without prior security clearance. The governor justified his stance by citing incidents of violence that reportedly occurred in the aftermath of Obi's last visit to the state.

This development has intensified

debates over political freedom and the right to movement for presidential candidates across Nigeria, with many urging the federal security agencies to intervene and uphold democratic principles ahead of the general elections.

Daily Post recalls that the tension escalated following the governor's remarks, raising concerns over the impact of such threats on the country's electoral process and democratic integrity.

The Labour Party Senate Caucus's response underscores the party's resolve to protect its candidate's rights and calls for accountability from state executives who undermine Nigeria's democratic values.

Eight jailed for violating Lagos' ban on open defecation, urination

By Helen Okechukwu



Eight persons have been sentenced to one month in prison by a Magistrate Court sitting in Bolade, Oshodi, for contravening Lagos State's laws against open defecation and urination.

The culprits, aged between 18 and 45, were brought before Magistrate Oshikoya of the Special Offences (Mobile Court) recently. Upon arraignment, all eight pleaded guilty to the charges levelled against them.

The Lagos State Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, in a statement released shortly after the proceedings, disclosed that the sentencing was intended to serve as a deterrent to other residents who may engage in similar unhygienic practices.

The conviction follows a related incident on 26 June, where eight individuals were apprehended by the Lagos Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), also known as KAI, for public urination and disturbing the peace in the Yaba area.

Retired Major Olaniyi Cole, the Corps Marshal of LAGESC, stated that the offenders were prosecuted under Section 168 (1)(d) of the Lagos State Criminal Law of 2015 and Section 5(1) of the state's Public Health Law of the same year.

He emphasised that the ruling reaffirmed the state government's commitment to upholding environmental sanitation and curbing public indecency.

"As the premier enforcement Agency in the State with operatives spread across the five divisions in the State, we must not allow public indecency such as open urination and defecation to fester undeterred and this daily monitoring of Lagos environs lead to the arraignment and prosecution of eight offenders in the same vein and we remain unshaken," Cole said.

In a similar crackdown earlier on 16 June, thirteen individuals were handed a three-month jail term for committing the same offences in Agege and Alimosho, underscoring the government's zero-tolerance approach to environmental violations.

NDLEA arrests drug kingpin after 7-years, seizes over 11kg of illicit drugs

By Helen Okechukwu



The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has arrested 60-year-old drug baron Okpara Chigozie after seven years on the run.

According to the Director Media & Advocacy, Femi Babafemi, Chigozie was captured on Sunday, 13 July 2025, at his hideout in Isheri, Lagos, following the interception of his courier, Achebe Kenneth Nnamdi, along the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway.

Achebe, en route to Onitsha in a Toyota Sienna, was found with 7.6kg of cocaine and 900g of methamphetamine concealed in the vehicle. A follow-up raid at Okpara's residence led to the recovery of another 1.8kg of cocaine and 1.3kg of meth.

At Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA), Lagos, NDLEA operatives, in collaboration with FAAN, seized 7,790 pills of tramadol and rohypnol from an Italy-bound

passenger, Omoregie Uyiosa, on 16 July.

The next day, 1.7kg of skunk concealed in Golden Morn cereal packs and headed to Pakistan was intercepted, and Chioba Uchenna was arrested.

On 19th July, NDLEA raided Sarah Sam Hotels in Ogudu, Lagos, and arrested Obayemi Oyetade with 1.3kg of chocolate cannabis, 900g of drug-laced gummies, and 22.9g of skunk. Three vehicles were also seized.

Elsewhere, three suspects were arrested in Kaduna with over 742kg of skunk and Colorado. In Kano, Lawan Rabiu was caught with 36,000 tramadol pills, while in Gombe, two operations led to the seizure of 54kg of drugs.

In Borno, 74,360 opioid pills were recovered from a vehicle in Maiduguri. In Bayelsa, 63-year-old Akuna Nelson was arrested with 163

litres of 'skuchies'.

In Kogi, four suspects were arrested with 2kg of methamphetamine, while in Abia, a raid in Aba led to the arrest of Nduka Obi and the recovery of multiple drugs and N736,000.

While in Enugu, 45,000 tramadol pills were seized from a suspect along the expressway, and in Taraba, two men were arrested with 10,000 tramadol capsules.

NDLEA's War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) campaign continued with sensitisation lectures in schools across Niger, Adamawa, Enugu, Anambra, and Kano states.

NDLEA Chairman, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Marwa (Rtd), praised the agency's commands for balancing enforcement with public education and sustaining pressure on drug networks nationwide.

Tiktoker Jarvis confirms engagement to Streamer Peller

By Oluwatosin Ologun



Nigerian content creator and TikTok influencer, Elizabeth Amaduo, better known as Jarvis, has confirmed that she is engaged to fellow content actor and streamer, Habeeb Hamzat, popularly called Peller.

Jarvis made this known in an interview with Channels Television on Sunday, months after Peller, 20, proposed to her in December 2024.

According to Jarvis, who is 23 years old, the proposal came as a shock, but she believes they will eventually get married when the time is right.

“I believe that we will get married at the right time. There’s a lot in marriage, so you have to be careful. It’s true that we are engaged. He [Peller] actually engaged me;

shockingly to me. But the ring doesn’t fit my finger, so I kept it safe at home,” she said.

Jarvis had earlier denied the engagement during a livestream, claiming the ring was just a promise ring and that they were not dating.

However, her latest statement has now cleared the air.

The TikTok creator also said her impression of Peller changed after meeting him in person. She noted that she initially thought they would not be compatible, but later discovered he was calm and down-to-earth.

“I used to think we were not compatible, but when I met him, I saw that he’s cool. I’ve learnt not to judge people based on social media

behaviour,” she said.

Jarvis added that their relationship taught her not to judge people by their online behaviour, saying Peller’s personality offline is different from what people see on social media.

Both influencers have been in the public eye since the engagement video surfaced online.

While many fans congratulated them, some doubted the seriousness of the relationship due to their age difference and past denials.

Jarvis and Peller are among a new wave of young Nigerian creators whose personal lives continue to attract heavy attention from fans online.

Dayo Amusa speaks out after HIV rumours

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actress Dayo Amusa has firmly denied viral claims linking her to HIV.

The actress broke her silence following a controversial video circulating on social media, which falsely listed her among Nigerian actors allegedly living with the virus.

The video, which went viral on Friday, was created by content creator Olaoluwa Segun.

In the clip, Segun named Amusa and four other actors as being HIV positive. His claims sparked widespread reactions, with many social media users tagging and questioning the actress.

In response, Dayo Amusa took to her Instagram page to set the record straight. She described the claim as not only false but also reckless and damaging. She explained that the video was based on a misinterpretation of an old social media post she made in 2019.

According to her, that post from six years ago was meant to raise awareness about HIV, encourage regular testing, and remove the stigma surrounding the virus. She clarified that she had revealed her HIV status in the post, which was negative, as part of a public health campaign.

Amusa said, "I want to address a video that has been trending on all social media platforms for the past 24 hours. It was posted by someone I do not know. People have been tagging me nonstop. This video was made using a post I shared in 2019, where I revealed that I tested negative for HIV."

She added that her original post aimed to promote health education and encourage people to know their status. "The reason for that post was to educate the public. It's important to know your HIV status. And even if someone tests positive, it's not the end of the world. There are treatments available. You can live a full life," she explained.



Dayo Amusa clears self

However, Amusa expressed shock and anger that someone could take her message out of context and use it to spread a harmful lie. She pointed out that the video had gained traction online, attracting many likes and comments, which made the damage worse.

"It's unbelievable that someone would pick up that old post and twist it to say I am HIV positive. That's a big lie. There was no investigation, no fact-checking. Just pure defamation," she said.

The actress did not stop at simply debunking the rumour. She went further to issue a stern warning to the creator of the video. Amusa made it clear that she would not let the matter slide and would pursue legal action to ensure accountability.

"This kind of reckless content has to stop. I will make you a scapegoat. You can't just wake up and damage someone's reputation because you want views or attention," she said angrily.

Amusa's response has drawn support from fans and colleagues in the entertainment industry, many of whom applauded her courage and clarity in tackling the issue. Others used the

opportunity to call for more responsibility in content creation and social media reporting.

Experts have long warned about the dangers of misinformation and the emotional and social damage it can cause. In cases involving health issues, such as HIV, the impact can be particularly severe, reinforcing stigma and causing unnecessary panic.

Legal analysts say that if Amusa proceeds with a lawsuit, the case could serve as a strong warning to content creators who spread unverified claims for viral attention. It could also help to set clearer boundaries around digital defamation and privacy rights in Nigeria's fast-growing online space.

Dayo Amusa remains one of Nollywood's respected actresses, known not just for her roles on screen but also for her outspoken nature and social commentary. Her quick response to this controversy has reinforced her reputation as someone unafraid to stand up for herself.

As of the time of this report, the content creator has not issued a public apology or taken down the video. However, pressure continues to mount from fans and supporters demanding accountability.

Nollywood actor Tom Njemanze passes away

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Nigerian film industry has been thrown into mourning following the death of veteran Nollywood actor, Tom Njemanze.

The respected actor passed away on Friday at the age of 75 after a prolonged battle with prostate cancer.

News of his death sent shockwaves through the entertainment industry, especially among Nollywood stars and fans who grew up watching him on screen during the golden era of Nigerian cinema in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Njemanze was best known for his passionate and intense performances in several classic Nigerian films. Some of his most memorable roles were in *Tokunboh*, *Pounds and Dollars*, *Atosa*, *Issakaba*, *Osuofia in London*, *Brain Box*, and *Igbotic Love*. These movies, many of which remain popular today, showcased his unique acting skills and helped cement his place as a legend in the industry.

He was widely admired for his expressive delivery and strong screen presence. Whether he played a hero, a troubled father, or a tough village elder, Njemanze always brought life to his characters. His acting style left a lasting impression on viewers and inspired younger actors who came after him.

In his prime, Njemanze worked with top Nollywood stars and directors, helping to shape the identity of Nigerian cinema during a period when the industry was growing rapidly. His work reflected the culture, struggles, and hopes of ordinary Nigerians, making his roles deeply relatable and authentic.

Following his passing, tributes have poured in from all corners of the entertainment world. Colleagues, friends, fans, and family members have expressed deep sorrow over the loss, describing him as a humble,



talented, and generous man who gave so much to the Nigerian film industry.

Nollywood actor and filmmaker, Stanley Ontop, had earlier revealed through a video shared on Instagram that Tom Njemanze was battling prostate cancer and urgently needed financial support for surgery. The appeal for help sparked concern among fans, many of whom were unaware of the veteran actor's health struggles.

Stanley had urged well-meaning Nigerians to come to Njemanze's aid, stressing that the actor had contributed immensely to Nollywood and deserved every support in his time of need. Sadly, it appears help did not come in time.

The late actor's death has reignited conversations about the need for better welfare and support systems for veteran actors and creatives in Nigeria. Many fans and insiders have continued to call on industry leaders and government bodies to create programs that provide healthcare, pensions, and emergency support for aging stars who once entertained the nation.

While the details of Njemanze's final moments remain private, it is believed

that he spent his last days in pain, surrounded by close family and friends who did their best to care for him.

His legacy, however, lives on. Njemanze's body of work continues to entertain, educate, and inspire. For many Nigerians, he was more than just an actor, he was a storyteller who helped shape the narrative of Nollywood.

As the news of his passing continues to spread, many are taking to social media to share clips of his old movies, personal stories, and heartfelt messages. Some have described him as one of the unsung heroes of Nollywood, a man whose talent helped define a generation of African cinema.

Funeral arrangements are yet to be announced by the family, but tributes and prayers have not stopped. Friends and fans are praying for the peaceful repose of his soul and for God to give his loved ones the strength to bear the loss.

Tom Njemanze may be gone, but his voice, his face, and his stories will remain alive on screen, forever remembered in the hearts of those who watched and loved him.

Pope condemns Gaza war as 93 killed queuing for food aid

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Pope Leo XIV has denounced the ongoing war in Gaza as an act of “barbarity”, condemning the “indiscriminate use of force” amid mounting civilian casualties and worsening humanitarian conditions.

The pontiff’s comments followed reports from Gaza’s civil defence agency that at least 93 Palestinians were killed on Sunday while queuing for food aid, mostly in northern parts of the besieged enclave. According to the agency, 80 of the victims were shot dead by Israeli forces as they waited for UN food trucks arriving through the northern Zikim crossing.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) confirmed that a 25-truck convoy delivering food to Gaza was met by “massive crowds of hungry civilians”, who subsequently came under gunfire. “WFP reiterates that any violence involving civilians seeking humanitarian aid is completely unacceptable,” the organisation stated.

Dr Mohammed Abu Salmiya, director of Gaza’s al-Shifa hospital, told the Associated Press that since Sunday morning, the hospital had received 48 dead and 150 wounded people who had been seeking aid from expected lorries at the Zikim crossing. He said it remained unclear whether Israeli troops, armed groups, or both were responsible for the casualties.

In response, the Israeli military acknowledged opening fire on a gathering of thousands in northern Gaza, claiming the crowd posed a threat. However, officials disputed the casualty figures reported by Gazan authorities, stating they were “far higher” than its initial assessment. The military has not yet commented on reports of violence in southern or central Gaza.

Tensions escalated further as Israel issued new evacuation orders for central Gaza, an area where ground operations had previously been limited, and where many international humanitarian groups are operating. In Deir al-Balah,



Israeli airstrikes struck three homes, prompting dozens of families to flee with only a few possessions, according to witnesses interviewed by Reuters.

Prior to these reports, Pope Leo XIV, speaking from Castel Gandolfo during the Angelus prayer, called for “an immediate end to the barbarity of the war and for a peaceful resolution to the conflict”. He also expressed sorrow over last week’s Israeli strike on Gaza’s only Catholic church, which killed three and injured ten, including the parish priest, a close friend of the late Pope Francis.

“This act, unfortunately, adds to the ongoing military attacks against the civilian population and places of worship in Gaza,” the pope said. “I appeal to the international community to observe humanitarian law and respect the obligation to protect civilians, as well as the prohibition of collective punishment, the indiscriminate use of force, and the forced displacement of populations.”

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) also intensified its warnings on Sunday, accusing Israel of “starving civilians in Gaza”, including more than 1 million

children. Unrwa said it had enough food stockpiled in warehouses in Arish, Egypt, to feed the entire population of Gaza for over three months. “Open the gates, lift the siege, allow Unrwa to do its work,” the agency said in a social media post, sharing images of the blocked supplies.

Unrwa has faced an Israeli ban on operations in both Gaza and the West Bank, with Israel accusing the agency of infiltration by Hamas operatives. However, an independent review panel found Tel Aviv had failed to provide evidence supporting those claims. Before the ban, Unrwa served as the main provider of humanitarian aid, education, and healthcare for millions of Palestinians.

Last week, the agency reported that babies were dying from “severe acute malnutrition”, further underscoring the catastrophic impact of restricted aid access.

As the conflict continues to rage, with no end in sight, international pressure is mounting on Israel to ease restrictions and on all parties to pursue a ceasefire to avert further loss of life.

Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos add \$7.8 billion to fortunes

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos saw their combined net worth swell by \$7.8 billion (£6 billion) on Friday, as shares in Tesla and Amazon rallied, lifting both billionaires higher on the global rich list.

Musk, chief executive of Tesla and founder of ventures including SpaceX and the artificial intelligence start-up xAI, gained \$5.8 billion, bringing his total fortune to \$413.2 billion, according to Forbes' real-time billionaire tracker. The 1.41% jump in his wealth firmly cements his position as the richest person on Earth.

The gain followed a 3.21% rise in Tesla shares, which closed at \$329.65. Musk owns roughly 12% of the electric vehicle manufacturer, though more than half of that stake has been pledged as collateral for personal loans reportedly worth up to \$3.5 billion.

In addition to Tesla, Musk's wealth is bolstered by his 42% stake in SpaceX, now valued at \$350 billion following a private share sale in December. He also maintains majority ownership of xAI, which was valued at \$50 billion by investors late last year.

Despite facing legal challenges, including a 2024 Delaware court ruling that voided his



multibillion-dollar 2018 Tesla pay package, now under appeal, Musk continues to dominate headlines with his influence across tech, transport, space, and AI.

Meanwhile, Jeff Bezos, founder and executive chairman of Amazon, added \$2 billion to his fortune as Amazon shares rose by 1.01% to \$226.13. Bezos, who started Amazon from his garage in Seattle in 1994, still owns about 9% of the e-commerce behemoth. His net worth now stands at \$239.2 billion, making him the fourth wealthiest person in the world.

Since stepping down as Amazon CEO in 2021, Bezos has shifted focus to other ventures, including space company Blue Origin and The Washington Post. He has also advanced his



philanthropic agenda through the Bezos Earth Fund, which has pledged \$10 billion towards climate change efforts by 2030 with \$2 billion already disbursed.

Bezos stated in a 2022 interview that he plans to give away the majority of his fortune during his lifetime.

Friday's wealth surge underscores renewed investor confidence in major tech firms, with developments in artificial intelligence serving as a key driver of optimism. Tesla's AI initiatives and Amazon's continued innovation in cloud computing have reignited market enthusiasm, once again linking the fortunes of tech's leading figures to the industry's ever-accelerating pace.

Widespread anti-semitism reported in UK schools

By Fatimah Idera

Anti-semitism is becoming alarmingly common in British schools, with over half of Jewish teachers reporting abuse, according to a new survey by the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT).

The poll reveals a stark rise in anti-Semitic incidents, including swastika graffiti, offensive slurs, and anti-Jewish chants. One teacher described repeated harassment: "Students have shouted 'Free Palestine' at me on multiple occasions. Another time, someone yelled 'Free the Jews' outside a meeting of Jewish students."

NASUWT's findings highlight the deteriorating environment for Jewish staff in education since the Hamas terror attacks on Israel in October 2023. The union, which represents more than 300,000 members, found that 51% of Jewish teachers have encountered anti-Semitism at work since May 2023, while 44% reported seeing swastikas drawn in their schools, 39% have been subjected to or witnessed Nazi-related comments.

Some Jewish educators also recounted being stereotyped or having their British identity questioned. One said they were told, "It's not racist to say Jews are rich, it's just a fact," while others were wrongly assumed to be Israeli nationals.

The abuse is being driven in part by misinformation online and dangerous rhetoric from far-right groups, said Matt Wrack, NASUWT's acting general secretary. However, the union has faced criticism for failing to acknowledge the role of anti-Semitism from far left or Islamist sources, particularly since the October 7 attacks.



"A number of teachers are now afraid to even disclose their religion at work," Mr Wrack said. "This can not be allowed to continue. Schools urgently need strong, visible government support to ensure that Jewish teachers and pupils feel safe."

The union is urging Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson to meet with them and take action. Many teachers reported a lack of support from their schools.

One in three said they did not feel comfortable reporting anti-Semitism to their employer.

Just over half who did report incidents felt their complaints were mishandled.

"Schools and colleges have a legal duty to protect staff and students from abuse of any kind," Wrack added. "But anti-Semitism is rarely an isolated issue. It is part of a broader pattern of racism that must be confronted across the education system."

Russell Langer, Director of Public Affairs at the Jewish Leadership Council, said the figures reveal "shocking levels" of abuse faced by Jewish teachers.

He added that to understand the trend, it must be viewed in the context of the spike in anti-Semitic incidents following the October Hamas attacks. "Any effective response must recognise that anti-Semitism comes not only from the far-Right but also from far-Left and Islamist extremists," he said.

This report follows a separate Government-backed review last week, which found anti-Semitism to be deeply embedded in UK institutions such as the NHS, universities, and the arts. The review was co-authored by Lord Mann, the Government's adviser on anti-Semitism, and Dame Penny Mordaunt, the former Defence Secretary. Writing in The Telegraph, the pair said the evidence collected during their six-month inquiry had left them stunned into silence.

As concern over the treatment of Jewish professionals intensifies, teachers' unions, government officials, and school leaders are being urged to act decisively to protect staff and students and to root out the rising tide of hate.

Putin meets Iranian top adviser Larijani, discusses nuclear programme

By New Daily Prime



Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday received Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's senior aide in Moscow and discussed the aggravation of the situation in West Asia and issues of Iran's nuclear programme.

The visit by Ali Larijani, senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, comes almost a month after Putin met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

"On behalf of the Iranian leadership, Ali Larijani shared the assessments of the current escalation in the Middle East and the situation around the Iranian nuclear programme," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters without elaborating.

On June 23, President Putin, during his meeting with Araghchi, had assured Tehran of Moscow's

support in de-escalating the Israel-Iran conflict hours after the US strikes at Iranian nuclear sites at dawn on June 22.

Moscow and Tehran have signed a strategic partnership treaty, but it does not provide for military assistance in case any side is attacked.

However, Tehran and Moscow under the treaty have an obligation not to take the side of the aggressor and enter into urgent political consultations to mitigate the situation.

Russia supports Tehran's right to pursue its civil nuclear research under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) oversight.

Earlier reports said Larijani had played a key role as the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament in the negotiation and eventual approval

of the now defunct Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal.

He was instrumental in navigating domestic political complexities and securing parliamentary support for the agreement, which involved significant concessions from Iran in exchange for sanctions relief.

However, US President Donald Trump had walked out of the deal in his first term under pressure from Israel.

In his second term, Trump ordered the bombardment of Iranian nuclear sites and demanded the complete end to Tehran's enrichment activities under the civilian nuclear programme, allowed under the NPT to which Iran is a signatory.

Labour pledges to reduce sewage pollution in waterways by 2030

By **Fatimah Idera**

The Labour Government in the United Kingdom has announced a major plan to reduce the amount of raw sewage discharged into the UK's rivers, lakes, and coastal waters by 50% before the end of the decade.

Environment Secretary Steve Reed unveiled the commitment as part of Labour's broader agenda to restore the health of the country's waterways, promising to make them the cleanest since records began.

The move marks a significant policy shift and a victory for The Telegraph's long-running Clean Rivers Campaign, which has highlighted the unchecked pollution by water companies across the UK.

The deteriorating condition of Britain's waterways played a key role in the Conservatives' defeat in several rural constituencies during the last general election. In Chichester, a Tory stronghold for over 100 years of the Liberal Democrats won on a platform that capitalised on local fury over sewage discharges into the River Lavant.

Now in power, Labour has placed river pollution at the heart of its environmental agenda, vowing to hold water company executives accountable for illegal and excessive discharges.

Mr Reed announced a requirement to cut the number of storm overflow spills by at least half each year by 2030. These overflows of which there are approximately 14,500 in England release untreated sewage during periods of heavy rainfall. Last year alone, the UK recorded a staggering 3.6 million hours of sewage spills, severely harming ecosystems and contaminating swimming areas.

In addition to reducing overflows, the Environment Secretary pledged to cut phosphorus pollution by 50%. This



chemical, present in treated wastewater, can lead to the growth of harmful algae, depleting oxygen in rivers and threatening aquatic life.

Writing in The Telegraph, Mr Reed said public trust in water companies has collapsed and promised decisive action. "I'm making a clear commitment to the British people this Government will halve sewage pollution within five years," he wrote. "This is the first time any UK Government has made a clear pledge to cut sewage pollution which you can hold us to account for."

The pledge comes on the heels of a new Environment Agency report, which attributes the recent surge in river pollution to systemic failings by water companies. The number of serious pollution incidents rose by 60% last year, with just three companies responsible for 80% of those cases.

Thames Water was named the worst offender, logging 33 major incidents, followed by Southern Water with 15 and Yorkshire Water with 13. The report also condemned all nine water

companies operating in England for consistently poor performance.

Despite these failings, many of these companies have imposed hosepipe bans and awarded six-figure salaries to senior executives, drawing widespread criticism.

Overall, the number of sewage discharges increased by 29%, rising from 2,174 in 2023 to 2,801 last year.

In response, Labour has secured £104 billion in investment from water companies to repair and upgrade aging infrastructure. New legislation will ensure that money raised through customer bills is ring-fenced exclusively for system improvements.

Executives at underperforming firms now face tougher sanctions, including bonus bans, and the government has committed £100 million from fines to fund environmental clean-up projects.

"This is not just about cleaning up our rivers it's about restoring public trust, protecting nature, and making Britain's water systems something to be proud of," Mr Reed said.

82 year old asylum seeker secretly deported to Guatemala

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



An 82 year old man from Pennsylvania has been discovered in a Guatemalan hospital after being secretly deported by U.S. immigration authorities, weeks after he attended an appointment to replace his lost green card.

Luis Leon, a long-time resident of Allentown, was granted political asylum in the United States in 1987 after surviving torture under the brutal dictatorship of Chilean leader Augusto Pinochet. According to his family, Leon vanished without a trace on 20 June after visiting an immigration office to replace the green card he had lost along with his wallet.

Upon arrival at the office, Leon was reportedly handcuffed by two Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers and taken away without explanation. His wife, who accompanied him, was detained in the building for ten hours before being allowed to

leave with help from relatives.

In the days that followed, the family said they received no official communication from ICE regarding Leon's whereabouts. Then, a woman claiming to be an immigration lawyer contacted them, offering assistance but refusing to disclose how she became aware of the case or where Leon was.

On 9 July, the same woman called again, this time to inform the family that Leon had died. However, a week later, the family received word from a relative in Chile that Leon was, in fact, alive, hospitalised in Guatemala, a country with which he has no known ties.

According to reporting by The Morning Call, Leon was first transferred to an immigration detention facility in Minnesota before being deported to Guatemala. His name did not

appear on any official ICE deportation lists.

The unusual deportation may have been enabled by a recent Supreme Court ruling, which allowed the Trump-era policy of deporting immigrants to third countries, rather than solely their country of origin, to stand.

During his nearly four decades in the U.S., Leon worked in a leather manufacturing plant and raised a family. Now retired, he suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure, and a heart condition. His current state in the Guatemalan hospital remains unknown.

Leon's family is now preparing to fly to Guatemala to reunite with him and assess his condition.

An ICE official told The Morning Call that the agency is currently investigating the incident.

'Sleeping prince' of Saudi Arabia dies after 20 years in coma

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Prince Al-Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal Al Saud, the Saudi royal famously known as the 'Sleeping Prince', has passed away at the age of 36, nearly two decades after falling into a coma following a devastating car accident in London.

The prince, who was just 15 at the time of the accident in 2005 while studying at a military school, suffered a brain haemorrhage and was subsequently transferred to King Abdulaziz Medical City in Riyadh. Despite the best efforts of numerous medical specialists, he remained unconscious and reliant on a ventilator until his death.

His father, Prince Khaled bin Talal bin Abdulaziz, remained steadfast throughout the years, refusing to withdraw life support even in the face of medical advice to let nature take its course. In 2015, doctors recommended ending treatment, but Prince Khaled defied the recommendation, determined to give his son every chance at recovery.

There were moments of fleeting hope. Over the years, Prince Al-Waleed was observed making slight movements, such as lifting his fingers and gently tilting his head, gestures that gave his family and supporters brief glimpses of possible improvement. However, his condition ultimately remained unchanged.

Announcing his son's passing on social media platform X, Prince Khaled wrote: "With hearts full of faith in Allah's decree and destiny, and with profound sadness and



sorrow, we mourn our beloved son Prince Al-Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah have mercy on him, who passed away to Allah's mercy today."

Prince Al-Waleed was a great-grandson of King Abdulaziz Ibn Saud, the founder and first monarch of modern Saudi Arabia. He was also the nephew of billionaire businessman Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal and a great-nephew of the current King Salman bin Abdulaziz.

Funeral prayers for the late prince will be held on Sunday afternoon at the Imam Turki bin Abdullah Mosque for men, while women will gather for a separate service at King Faisal Specialist Hospital. The family will also be receiving mourners at Al-Fakhariya Palace

from Sunday through to Tuesday.

The Global Imams Council expressed its condolences in a statement, saying: "The Global Imams Council extends its sincere condolences and heartfelt sympathy to... His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the esteemed Royal Family, on the passing of Prince Al-Waleed bin Khaled bin Talal Al Saud, who passed away after a long struggle that lasted nearly twenty years."

"As we share the grief of the Royal Family on this solemn occasion, we recall with deep respect the patience and steadfastness demonstrated by his father, Prince Khaled bin Talal, and his family, a testament to their profound faith in the will and decree of Allah."

Burglars steal trophies and medals from Michel Platini's home

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Former French football star and ex-UEFA president Michel Platini has fallen victim to an early morning burglary at his home near Marseille, resulting in the theft of several irreplaceable items from his legendary career.

The break-in occurred at approximately 5:30 a.m. on Friday at Platini's residence in the Bouches-du-Rhône region. According to French outlet RTL, the 69 year old was awakened by an unusual noise coming from his garden. Upon investigating, he was confronted by a masked intruder dressed in black at his

patio door.

Startled, the intruder immediately fled the scene before anything could escalate further. Platini, unharmed but visibly shaken, soon discovered signs of forced entry on the property, particularly in a garden shed where he stored a number of personal trophies and medals.

An estimated 20 pieces of memorabilia are believed to have been taken. While the full value of the stolen items is yet to be determined, the sentimental loss to the football legend is immeasurable.

Platini promptly contacted authorities following the incident. The Marseille prosecutor's office has confirmed that an investigation into aggravated burglary is now underway, with local gendarmes handling the case.

The burglary has sparked concern among fans and the sporting community, as many view Platini's memorabilia as iconic artefacts of European football history.

No arrests have been made as of yet.

Venus Williams, 45, to end 16-month layoff in Washington

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Venus Williams will make her return from a 16-month layoff at this week's DC Open, the seven-time Grand Slam singles champion saying Sunday she is not sure of anything beyond that.

The 45-year-old American overcame a serious health scare last year and after enjoying a visit to Wimbledon decided to accept a wildcard into the US capital tournament, the first hardcourt tuneup for the US Open.

"I think I know what I want to do, but I don't always want to talk about it," Williams said. "I'm just here for now. And who knows?

Maybe there is more. I hold my cards close, but at the moment, I'm focused just on this."

Williams will open against 23-year-old American Peyton Stearns, ranked 34th in the world. Stearns won her only WTA title last year on clay at Rabat.

The older sister of 23-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams has not played since a first-round loss at Miami last year.

"My personal goal is to have fun I think right now and enjoy the moment, not put too much pressure on myself," Venus

Williams said.

"I don't know if I define success at this moment in any sort of way other than believing in myself and sticking to my process. That's not easy to do, especially after a layoff. So those are my goals."

Venus Williams, the 2000 Sydney Olympic singles champion, has won five Wimbledon singles titles and two US Open crowns.

The most recent of her 49 WTA titles came in 2019 at the Taiwan Open. That was the last year she played a full tour schedule.