



**Nigeria, Brazil
strengthen ties with
\$1bn agric deal** **Pg 2**

**Abuja is safe: Nigeria
reacts to U.S security
alert** **Pg 6**



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'Construction of new INEC headquarters is not wrong if...' - Political expert

Pg 5

**Israel launches strike
on Tehran minutes
after ceasefire** **Pg 23**



**I don't roll with
failures, Portable
knocks Bella
Shmurda** **Pg 17**



**Harvard: Judge
indefinitely blocks
Trump's ban on
int'l students** **Pg 24**

Osimhen eyes Old Trafford switch with £200k weekly wage proposal **Pg 28**

Nigeria, Brazil strengthen ties with \$1bn agric deal

By Friday Omosola



Vice President Kashim Shettima has commended the \$1 billion Nigeria-Brazil Green Imperative agricultural programme, describing it as a landmark in the renewed strategic partnership between both nations.

Speaking at the opening of the 2nd Nigeria-Brazil Strategic Dialogue Mechanism (SDM) on Tuesday at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, Mr Shettima said the initiative symbolises shared values and mutual aspirations between the two major democracies.

“The Green Imperative is a flagship of this partnership. It will create jobs, boost productivity, and support Nigeria’s food security agenda,” Mr Shettima said, adding that the collaboration represents ‘a shared dream’ between Nigeria and Brazil.

He also reaffirmed the President Bola Tinubu administration’s commitment to economic reforms aimed at restoring market credibility, noting the removal of fuel subsidies, unification of exchange rates, and implementation of business facilitation measures.

Highlighting Nigeria’s ambitious target to grow its economy to \$1

trillion by 2030, Mr Shettima said Nigeria is prioritising large-scale agriculture, energy investments, and skills development.

His Brazilian counterpart, Vice President Geraldo Alckmin, stressed that the alliance is driven by shared values and tangible results, citing the signing of several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in key areas such as agriculture, defence, energy, tourism, culture, and drug control.

Mr Alckmin also invited Nigeria to participate in COP30 in Belém later this year to deepen collaboration on climate change, energy transition, and the green economy.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Yusuf Tuggar, noted that Nigeria’s ties with Brazil date back to the 1960s and that the SDM provides a platform to strengthen these relations through meaningful cooperation.

Brazil’s Ambassador to Nigeria, Carlos José Areias Moreno Garcete, described the partnership as one rooted in deep cultural and historical connections, adding that Brazil views relations with Africa as integral to its domestic and international agenda.

Nigeria’s Minister of Defence,

Mohammed Abubakar, highlighted new opportunities for defence cooperation, particularly in maritime security in the South Atlantic.

Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, called for enhanced collaboration in agriculture to drive Nigeria’s food security strategy.

Also in attendance were senior government officials, including the Ministers of Industry, Trade and Investment, Health, Power, Livestock Development, Culture, and Innovation, as well as governors from Borno, Ebonyi, and Niger States.

Seven MoUs were signed on the first day, covering agriculture, defence, energy, livestock development, audiovisual cooperation, tourism, and counter-narcotics.

The Green Imperative Project, central to the partnership, is expected to deliver modern agricultural machinery, service centres, and training across Nigeria to transform the nation’s farming sector.

Both sides emphasised that the success of the agreements would depend on concrete action and measurable progress.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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PRODUCT COLOUR

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8X6	225,368.50
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7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
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5X5	110,000.00
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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
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Tinubu hosts Queen of Denmark, seeks stronger ties on education, others

By Oluwatosin Ologun

President Bola Tinubu, on Tuesday, emphasised the importance of expanding Nigeria's dairy and livestock economy, noting that with the country's growing population, the sector holds enormous potential for job creation, rural development, and food security.

The President spoke at the State House, Abuja, when he received Queen Mary Elizabeth of Denmark, who was in Nigeria as Patron of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It was her first visit to Nigeria.

According to presidential spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, President Tinubu highlighted Nigeria's readiness to deepen cooperation with Denmark in knowledge transfer, veterinary health, and sustainable agribusiness practices.

He identified conflicts between farmers and herders as one of Nigeria's pressing security and developmental challenges. Still, he expressed confidence that these can be transformed into economic opportunities through investment, education, and modernisation.

Advertisement

"We can convert that friction into structured economic opportunity and provide education pathways—even for farmers and herders. We can stabilise communities, grow our food systems, and lift millions out of poverty," he said.

President Tinubu reaffirmed that demography is one of the key pillars of Nigeria's foreign policy, which aligns with his administration's Renewed Hope Agenda.

He underscored the importance of managing Nigeria's projected 400 million-person population by 2050 through targeted investments in agriculture, education, healthcare, and



employment.

He highlighted ongoing macroeconomic reforms and called for foreign investment that strengthens local production and job creation.

President Tinubu acknowledged Danish investments in agriculture and maritime operations and applauded the contributions of companies such as A.P. Moller–Maersk and Grundfos to Nigeria's infrastructure and food systems.

He commended Denmark's support for internally displaced persons in conflict-affected areas. He expressed optimism about continued collaboration as Denmark assumes the presidency of the European Union Council and serves as a member of the UN Security Council in 2025-2026.

On the social front, the President welcomed the partnership between Her Majesty and Nigeria's First Lady, particularly on initiatives such as school feeding programmes and the reduction of out-of-school children.

The First Lady emphasised the need to

transform traditional Islamic schools to ensure formal recognition of the knowledge they offer as part of broader educational reforms.

Queen Mary thanked President Tinubu and the First Lady for the reception and expressed sympathy over the crisis in Nigeria's northeast.

She said she was in Nigeria to strengthen relations and explore investment possibilities in the green economy, trade and business development for women, child health, and cultural and educational exchanges.

She commended the First Lady for supporting women and families with the First Lady's Renewed Hope Initiative Programme. She also said she would visit the A.P. Moller–Maersk terminal in Lagos on a business trip.

Denmark has a longstanding partnership with Nigeria in advancing sustainable development and humanitarian support, particularly for internally displaced persons in conflict-affected regions.

FG moves to professionalise youth work practice

By Friday Omosola



The Federal Government (FG) has taken a decisive step towards professionalising youth work practice in the country, with the launch of a landmark workshop aimed at setting ethical, academic, and regulatory standards for the sector.

The Minister of Youth Development, Emmanuel Ayodele, disclosed this on Tuesday while addressing participants at the workshop on the Professionalisation of Youth Work Practice.

The workshop was organised by the Federal Ministry of Youth Development in collaboration with Yakubu Gowon University (formerly University of Abuja), the Nigerian Youth Workers Association, and key civil society organisations.

Mr Ayodele emphasised that youth work should no longer be regarded as mere volunteerism but as a critical professional field that requires structure, ethics, and specialised skills to meet the evolving

challenges faced by young people in Nigeria.

“This workshop reflects our deep belief that youth work is not just volunteerism—it is a vital professional field that must be grounded in ethics, capacity, and standards to meet the complex needs of today’s youth,” Mr Ayodele said.

The minister explained that the initiative aligns with President Bola Tinubu’s ‘Renewed Hope Agenda’, which prioritises youth empowerment and development as central to national growth.

According to him, the government is adopting globally recognised training frameworks, including the Commonwealth Youth Programme Diploma, and supporting higher academic pathways through institutions like Yakubu Gowon University.

Mr Ayodele revealed that the FG’s

roadmap includes plans to introduce licensing, certification, and structured academic progression for youth workers—from diploma to doctorate levels—to make the profession both respectable and rewarding.

“Our vision is anchored on three key pillars: setting professional standards and ethics, establishing academic routes for human capital development, and building a strong regulatory framework to support the profession,” he said.

He stressed that the goal is not only to enhance qualifications but to ensure that those working directly with Nigerian youth are fully prepared to shape the next generation of leaders.

Mr Ayodele called on all stakeholders to recommit themselves to the mission of empowering young people and transforming the nation through structured youth development services.

FG revenue hits N6.9trn in four months - Edun

By Gbenga Olaleye



Nigeria's Federal Government recorded a revenue of ₦6.9 trillion between January and April 2025, marking a significant 40% increase from the ₦5.2 trillion generated during the same period in 2024.

This was disclosed by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, during the Second Quarter 2025 Citizens and Stakeholders' Engagement Session on fiscal performance and reform outlook held in Abuja on Monday.

Highlighting the administration's continued push for fiscal discipline and enhanced revenue generation, Edun said: "In the first quarter of this year, when we even take April into account—the first four months—we do have a substantial increase in revenue, and that effort continues. There is a commitment to diligently go after all that should be brought in. So, by the end of April, about ₦6.9 trillion

was generated, and as I've said, rising."

Edun also attributed part of the progress to recent monetary policy decisions by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), particularly the shift to a market-based foreign exchange regime.

He noted that this move had effectively eliminated the wide gap between official and parallel market rates.

"With the monetary policy followed by the Central Bank and its market-based foreign exchange pricing, we do have essentially the elimination of the black market," he explained.

According to the minister, while some disparity between rates may persist due to varying levels of documentation required, the days of speculative profiteering through forex arbitrage are over.

"There's always going to be some slight difference between the two rates because one, you provide paperwork, another one, maybe you provide less paperwork, and you might even want to pay a premium for the convenience.

"But the point is that a huge premium that was a disincentive to investment but yet encouraged unproductive activity has gone. No more can anybody—a businessman, a market woman, anybody with access—wake up and say, my quickest route to money is to get allocation of foreign exchange at the official rate and fling it immediately in the free market at a huge profit."

Edun reaffirmed the government's commitment to reforms aimed at stabilising the economy and boosting investor confidence, adding that these efforts were beginning to yield measurable results.

Abuja is safe: Nigeria reacts to U.S security alert

By Damilola Olufemi



The Federal Government of Nigeria has responded to the United States' mission warning citizens to stay away from military areas and government properties in Abuja.

The alert, released on Sunday, comes amid heightened global tensions, with the U.S. embassy urging its nationals in Nigeria to exercise increased vigilance and adopt proactive safety measures.

According to the directive, all embassy staff and their family members are now barred from entering military or government sites in the capital except for official purposes.

The mission also advised U.S. citizens to maintain heightened awareness, especially in areas often visited by Westerners, expatriates, and government officials.

"Stay alert in public places and be mindful of surroundings. Avoid large gatherings and limit unnecessary travel," the advisory stated.

It further recommended that individuals "vary daily routines to reduce predictability," and "familiarise oneself

with emergency exits in buildings."

Abuja is safe

Reacting, the Minister of Information, Mohammed Idris, said there was no security threat in the federal capital territory.

"The Federal Government of Nigeria has taken note of the latest security advisory issued by the Embassy of the United States, restricting its staff and their families from non-official travel to military sites or other government facilities in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

"While the Federal Government recognises and respects the right of foreign missions, including the U.S. Embassy, to issue travel advisories to their citizens, it is important to state categorically that Abuja remains safe for citizens, residents, and visitors alike," he said.

He added that Nigeria's security agencies are working around the clock to ensure the continued safety and protection of all residents of the FCT and across the country.

"The current security architecture in Abuja has not only been proactive but has also recorded significant successes in detecting, preventing, and neutralising threats.

"We understand that the U.S. advisory is based on general global developments and does not reflect any imminent or specific threat within the FCT. However, we reiterate to all diplomatic missions, investors, development partners, and the general public that there is no cause for alarm.

"The Federal Government wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the safety of all residents and to maintaining Abuja's reputation as one of the most secure capitals in the world. Our security and intelligence agencies are monitoring developments across the country and are fully prepared to respond decisively to any threat," Idris clarified.

He urged citizens to conduct their lawful activities without fear, while also remaining vigilant and reporting any suspicious activity to the relevant authorities.

‘Construction of new INEC headquarters is not wrong if...’ – Political expert

By Friday Omosola

On Tuesday, 17 June 2025, President Bola Tinubu inaugurated the construction of a new national headquarters for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Mr Tinubu stated that the project symbolises democratic resilience and institutional dignity.

Similarly, the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, assured that the project would be completed before the end of the President’s first term in office, which concludes in 2027.

The project, being executed by the Federal Capital Development Authority, will feature office spaces, meeting and conference rooms, a 1,000-seat auditorium, and designated areas for IT infrastructure, including the Election Monitoring and Support Centre.

It will also house a museum to preserve Nigeria’s electoral history and promote civic education.

INEC’s current headquarters were built and inaugurated in December 1997.

According to the Commission’s Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, the building was originally designed to accommodate only eight commission members, ten departments, and around 500 staff.

Speaking at the inauguration, Mr Yakubu noted that INEC has since expanded significantly, now comprising 13 full-time members, 22 departments, and over 1,000 staff.

He explained that due to space constraints and in a bid to ease operational pressure, the Commission had resorted to renting two buildings in Wuse 2. However, the need for a permanent solution remained



pressing.

He revealed that help eventually came last year when the Ministry of the Federal Capital Territory stepped in to support the construction of the new annexe.

Despite his clarification, Mr Yakubu’s explanation failed to ease the controversy and criticism surrounding the motive behind the new headquarters, especially in light of the recent massacre in Benue State, where over 200 people were reportedly killed by assailants identified as Fulani herdsmen.

These killings intensified public backlash against the construction, with many critics suggesting that the project was politically motivated to enhance Mr Tinubu’s chances of re-election.

Meanwhile, political analyst Dr Bayo Fasuwon of Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko (AAUA), Ondo State, offered some perspective in an interview with The New Daily Prime.

He addressed the pressing question in the

minds of many Nigerians: ‘Why build a new INEC headquarters?’

Dr Fasuwon described the initiative as a positive development, highlighting its importance in safeguarding the security of the facility and the sensitive electoral data it will house.

He emphasised that the construction aligns with the broader need to enhance electoral security and ensure credible, transparent elections.

“While you talk about the priorities, the timing and priorities of the Nigerian government, maybe you want to ask whether it reflects the priorities of Nigerians. Number one, if we are to look at the priorities of Nigerians, they want credible elections. They want good governance and they want to put the right people in place.

**Continue reading
on next page**

Cont from page 7

“And so, the construction of the INEC office does not presuppose that INEC will be in favour of the ruling party. It's just like saying that the government is constructing courts and judicial quarters for judges and that implies that there will be injustice. So, Nigerians may not like it. Nigerians may not want it. But the question to ask is whether it is needed? Is the construction needed? Number two, is the construction within the budgets of the federal government that has been so approved? If that is the case, then we cannot say that what they are doing is wrong”, Mr Fasuwon noted.

Timing

Additionally, the analyst stated that the timing for the construction is still appropriate, as the Nigerian budget includes allocations for security.

He noted that if the construction had commenced a year before the elections, Nigerians might not have perceived it as an attempt to undermine credible elections.

He added that spending money on INEC does not necessarily imply that funds earmarked for national security have been diverted.

“If they declare emergencies in this area, that means that which has been allocated to these areas will also get speedy attention and then resources can also be released to quickly attend to this. However, if we talk about food insecurity, that one has to do with times and seasons too. If we talk about the cause of food insecurity, that means the security agencies should be up to the task.

“And let's not forget that quite recently, the federal government also approved that forest rangers should be employed and equipped. And also, we realised that when it comes to issues of security, security is everybody's business. And they are trying that.”

Security side-by-side

Mr Fasuwon emphasised the need for the government, not only to expedite the construction of the INEC headquarters, but also to act swiftly on critical issues such as the creation of state police in response to the growing insecurity in the country.

He noted that the construction of the INEC headquarters is unrelated to the issue of food insecurity, dismissing concerns that funds meant to address hunger and general insecurity are being diverted.

According to him, there is no diversion in this instance; rather, the government is focused on implementing the budget as approved.

“That of the security too, we will employ them to give more speedy attention to it. There are no alternative uses. Something we don't know, or that most people out there don't know, is that when you have a budget, a budget is a law. And when you begin to divert resources meant for project A to project B, you are breaking the law. And that is why even when the government needs money, they have to get a supplementary budget which must be approved by the Senate.

“So it has been written there that this is what the money must be used for. Any form of diversion, whether for positive or negative use, means that they are breaking the law. And it is an impeachable offence. So if the government has not broken the law by embarking on that project, if they have not diverted funds meant for security to the construction of the INEC office, then they have not broken any law whatsoever”, said Mr Fasuwon.

The analyst said he refused to align with those suggesting alternative uses for the funds, insisting that such alternatives are not applicable when the expenditure is legally backed.

He stated that what Nigerians should demand now is the swift implementation

of the section of the budget addressing insecurity, whether in the food sector, the protection of lives and property, or national defence.

He maintained that the government is not misplacing its priorities, but emphasised that there are established plans and procedures that must be adhered to to remain within the bounds of the law.

“So when there are emergencies, we also expect to see the human face of the government. The government is always too silent, too like a bicycle, and too reserved when it comes to issues that need a quick response. But we cannot say that because those issues need a quick response, they should also overlook those things that the law has given them the responsibility of seeing to or performing. So if we balance both together, then all the tiers of government must work together with the understanding that whenever there is an issue in one part of the country, there can be a spillover to the other parts of the country.

“So it is when the local government and the state governments have exceeded their limits, or they have found the situation beyond their control, that they should seek the intervention of the federal government. But by and large, all of us must work together. We want credible elections. We want INEC to be impartial. They need structures for them to live up to that expectation. We want a nation that is free from insecurity, either food insecurity or insecurity of lives and properties.

“We all need to work together, we need to give information, and we need to do what is also necessary. Every spending in Nigeria, every sector is a priority, but we can all work together to ensure that all these things are receiving attention. And even people have a social responsibility. If a project is ongoing or if there are things that are going wrong, they should come out and talk about it so that such will not become relevant projects in the future.”

Sanwo-Olu inaugurates LASMAC, charges traders on integrity

By Gbenga Olaleye



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has inaugurated the Lagos State Market Advisory Council (LASMAC) and charged its members to work towards improving market operations, enhancing security, and promoting fair and transparent trade across the state.

During the swearing-in ceremony held at Lagos House, Ikeja, yesterday, Mr Sanwo-Olu emphasised the importance of integrity in business transactions and urged traders to shun sharp practices.

He encouraged the newly inaugurated Council to adopt proactive, transparent, and inclusive approaches in addressing market-related issues.

The 21-member Council is chaired by the Iyaloja-General, Folashade Tinubu-Ojo.

“Our markets are more than just places

to buy and sell; they are vibrant hubs of culture, innovation, and social connection,” the governor said.

“They support the livelihoods of millions of Lagosians and are critical to our state’s economic growth. This administration is fully committed to supporting traders through thoughtful policies, infrastructure upgrades, and capacity-building initiatives.”

Mr Sanwo-Olu described LASMAC as a key platform for collaboration between government, market leaders, and traders to foster solutions and ensure that the voices of traders are heard and their concerns addressed.

He added, “Your success is directly tied to the success of Lagos State. With your dedication, we can modernise our markets, improve access to technology, and create safer, cleaner, and more efficient trading environments.”

Lagos State Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs, and Rural Development, Bolaji Robert, praised the inauguration as another milestone in the Mr Sanwo-Olu administration’s drive to strengthen market structures and sustain economic growth.

He explained that LASMAC’s establishment aligns with the state’s bye-laws and that its diverse membership was carefully selected to advance market development and meet stakeholders’ needs.

In her response, the Iyaloja-General, Folashade Tinubu-Ojo, thanked the state government for its continuous support for traders and assured that the Council would faithfully serve as a bridge between the government and the trading community.

Owo monarch reacts to demolition of memorial park for Church attack victims

By Gbenga Olaleye

The Olowo of Owo, Oba Ajibade Gbadegesin Ogunoye III, has reacted to the demolition of the memorial park built for victims of the June 5, 2022, church massacre at St Francis.

The park, a project initiated by the late Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, was built to honour the memory of over 40 worshippers who lost their lives in the brutal assault.

In a post shared on his Facebook account titled: DEMOLITION OF OWO MEMORIAL PARK: OLOWO-IN-COUNCIL SPEAK," the council disclosed that the demolition of the memorial park was at the instance of the Kingdom and "entire good people of the kingdom."

The post added that the decision to site the structure in that particular location was resisted by the Olowo-in-Council and frowned upon by the people of the community when it was being conceived by the government of the late Governor, Arakunrin Rotimi Akeredolu SAN, CON.

"All advice to the late governor that celebrating the dead in any guise around the palace is not in conformity with the age-long culture and traditions of Owo was defiantly dismissed. Even at a time a protest was made by concerned Owo youths and stakeholders to that effect, which the then governor disregarded."

According to the post, the Olowo-in-Council will soon come out to inform the public with the comprehensive details of all that happened before and during the construction of the structure, which led to the current development."

The Council reverend Lucky Aiyedatiwa as a listening governor and urged anyone with any issues whatsoever against the memorial park demolition to make the palace their target, "and not the listening Governor, Hon. (Dr.) Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, who is in no way responsible



for the demolition."

Betty Akeredolu reacts to demolition of memorial park

Betty Anyanwu-Akeredolu, the former First Lady of Ondo State, has criticised Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa for ordering the demolition of the memorial park dedicated to the victims of the tragic June 5, 2022, attack on St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Owo.

Akeredolu condemned the act, describing it as an act of profound insensitivity and a desecration of sacred ground."

She challenged the rationale behind removing a monument that served as a powerful symbol of the community's collective grief and healing.

"What kind of leadership defiles the memory of innocent souls in such a callous manner? Lucky Aiyedatiwa's demolition of the Owo church massacre monument is not only an act of profound insensitivity; it is a desecration of sacred ground.

"That monument, built by my late husband, Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN, CON, a son of Owo,

was a solemn tribute to lives violently cut short in a house of worship. It symbolised collective mourning, remembrance, and healing.

"To now dismiss it as having 'no economic value' and to demolish it for a so-called 'world-class shopping complex' reveals a disturbing level of moral bankruptcy.

"A world-class society does not erase its pain to make way for profit. It preserves memory, it honours the dead, and it builds with conscience.

"This evil act is not just a political misstep; it is an affront to decency. It insults the victims, disrespects their families, and dishonours the legacy of a governor who governed with empathy and stood for justice.

"The voiceover defending this abomination only deepens the outrage. How daft can one be to assume that the value of life, memory, and honour must be measured by profit margins? An honorary doctorate cannot mask a glaring absence of humanity and scholarship. Lucky Aiyedatiwa has shown us who he is and history, too, will remember," she said.

Oyebanji reaffirms commitment to making Ekiti Nigeria's op business-friendly state

By Friday Omosola

Governor Biodun Oyebanji of Ekiti State has reaffirmed his administration's dedication to positioning the state as one of the most business-friendly destinations in Nigeria.

Mr Oyebanji gave the assurance on Monday in his office in Ado Ekiti while receiving the second-quarter report from the Ease of Doing Business Council (EoDB).

He emphasised his government's resolve to eliminate all barriers hindering business operations in the state and to implement policies that would improve accessibility for investors.

The governor identified power supply and road infrastructure as two critical challenges discouraging investment.

He noted that his administration is actively working to address these



issues by improving electricity access and upgrading road networks across the state.

Highlighting the impact of reliable electricity on reducing operational costs, particularly those linked to diesel consumption, Mr Oyebanji stressed the

need for the government to prioritise efforts that will guarantee a steady power supply to ease the burden on entrepreneurs and help their businesses achieve profitability.

He further assured potential and existing investors that the state government is committed to simplifying all procedures related to starting and running businesses in Ekiti.

According to him, streamlining bureaucratic processes would encourage more investment, support innovation, and create an enabling environment for businesses of all sizes to thrive.

The Ease of Doing Business Council meeting, chaired by the governor, was attended by council members and representatives from various Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

SDP Chairman suspended over financial misconduct allegations

By Gbenga Olaleye

Amid mounting internal tensions, the National Working Committee (NWC) of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has announced the immediate suspension of its National Chairman, Alhaji Shehu Gabam, alongside two other senior officials, over allegations of gross financial misconduct.

In a statement released on Tuesday by the party's spokesperson, Araba Rufus Aiyenigba, the NWC disclosed that Nze Nnadi Clarkson, the party's National Auditor, and Uchechukwu Chukwuma, National Youth Leader, were also suspended.

"In exercise of its exclusive powers as guaranteed in Article 19.1, 19.3(i), and 19.5 of the Party Constitution (2022 as amended), the National



Working Committee (NWC) of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has approved the immediate suspension of the National Chairman of the Party, Alhaji Shehu Musa Gabam, along with two members of the NWC... over grave allegations of gross financial misconduct, embezzlement,

misappropriation, and diversion of party funds," the statement read.

The NWC stated that its decision was based on overwhelming evidence presented during a recent committee meeting.

The suspended officials were allegedly linked to unauthorised financial transactions, schemes of personal enrichment, and movement of funds from party accounts without the required NWC approvals.

This latest development follows protests at the party's National Secretariat in Abuja on Tuesday, during which demonstrators reportedly pulled down the entrance gate signalling the deepening crisis within the party.

INEC, PDP hold crucial talks over national secretary crisis

By Friday Omosola



The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Tuesday met with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in a bid to resolve lingering internal leadership issues that have created confusion within the party's ranks.

Leading the PDP delegation were key governors, including Bala Mohammed of Bauchi, Seyi Makinde of Oyo, Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau, and Dauda Lawal of Zamfara.

Other prominent figures at the meeting included former Senate President Bukola Saraki, ex-Kaduna Governor Ahmed Makarfi, Senate Minority Leader Abba Moro, former Bayelsa Governor Seriake Dickson, PDP National Organising Secretary Umar Bature, and Senator Ben Obi.

The meeting, which later moved behind closed doors, was convened to address unresolved matters surrounding the party's national secretary position.

Acting PDP National Chairman, Ambassador Umar Damagum, told INEC officials at the start of the session that they were there to seek regulatory guidance on the issue.

Notably, the two individuals claiming to hold the office of PDP National Secretary—Senator Samuel Nnaemeka Anyanwu and Sunday Udeh-Okoye—were absent from the meeting.

Damagum explained that the party wanted to clarify procedures after INEC rejected a recent notification for the PDP's 100th National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting.

The notification, sent to INEC on 30 May and signed solely by Damagum, was deemed invalid under INEC's guidelines, which require both the national chairman and national secretary to jointly sign such notices.

In his opening remarks, INEC Chairman, Professor Mahmood Yakubu, emphasised the importance of resolving the confusion over the party's national secretary.

He pointed out that the commission had received conflicting communications from the PDP, each signed by different individuals claiming to be the national secretary.

"In recent months, we've had letters naming Sunday Udeh-Okoye as secretary, then later Samuel Anyanwu, followed by Mr Setonji Koshodo, and

then back to Anyanwu. The most recent letter had no secretary's signature at all," Mr Yakubu said.

He noted that INEC has always maintained an open-door policy with political parties and referenced a similar engagement with the Labour Party not long ago.

Mr Yakubu further remarked that the PDP had consistently complied with INEC's requirements in the past, successfully inviting the commission to 99 NEC meetings properly signed by both the chairman and secretary.

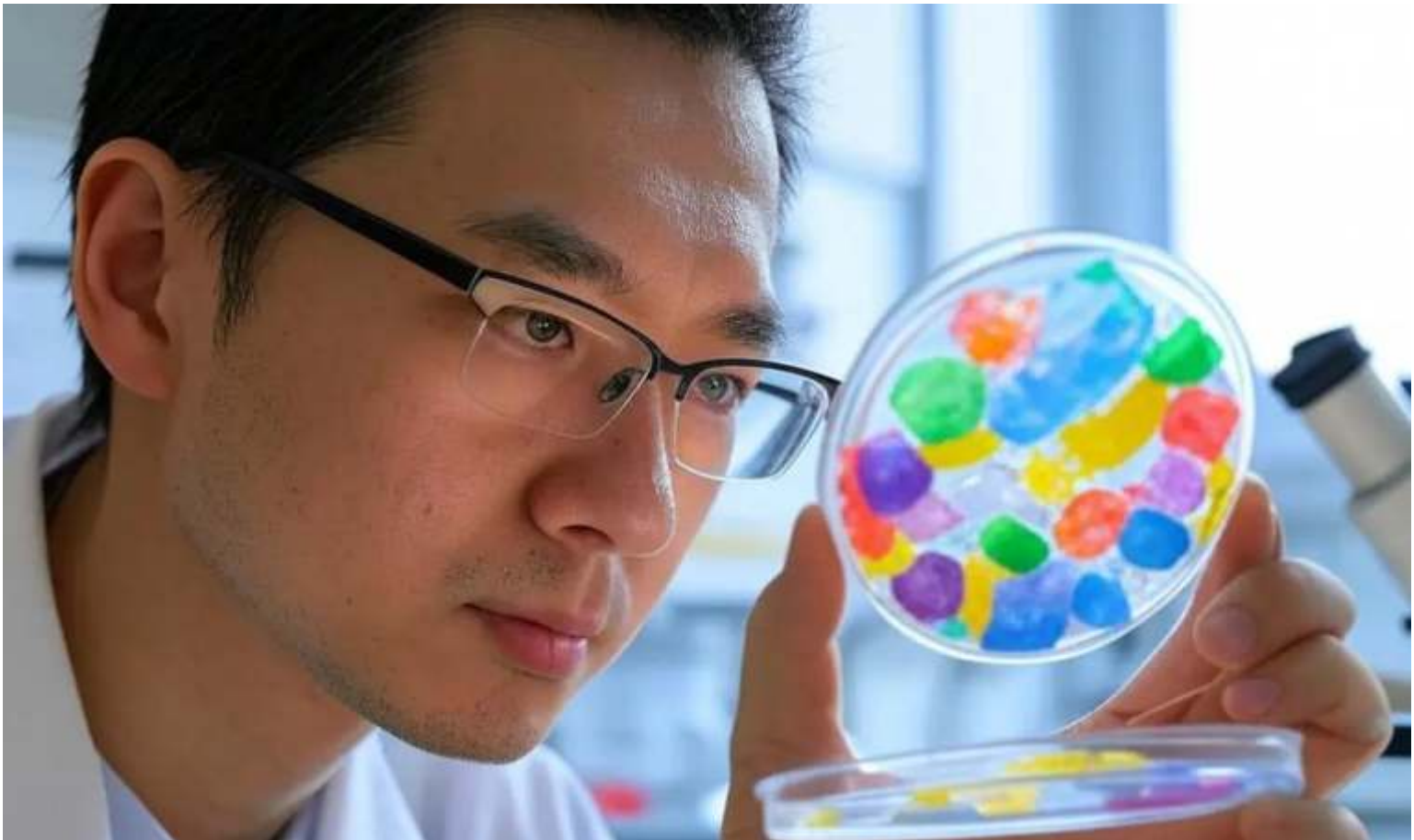
Speaking after the closed-door session, Damagum described the discussions as "very fruitful" but declined to reveal further details.

He said the PDP would reconvene with its broader leadership to deliberate on the outcomes before reverting to INEC ahead of the scheduled NEC meeting on 30 June.

Mr Damagum reiterated that the visit was essential to ensuring that the party's next steps aligned with INEC's regulations and to prevent further disputes within the PDP.

Scientists turn plastic waste into paracetamol using engineered bacteria

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Scientists have discovered a groundbreaking method to transform plastic waste into paracetamol, offering a promising new approach to drug production that also tackles environmental pollution.

In a study published in *Nature Chemistry*, researchers from the University of Edinburgh revealed that genetically modified *E. coli* bacteria can be used to convert material derived from plastic bottles into paracetamol, a commonly used painkiller also known as acetaminophen.

“People don’t realise that paracetamol currently comes from oil,” said Professor Stephen Wallace, the study’s lead author. “What this technology shows is that by merging chemistry and biology in this way for the first time, we can make paracetamol more sustainably and clean up plastic waste from the environment at the same time.”

How plastic waste is engineered
The process began with polyethylene

terephthalate (PET), a plastic frequently found in food packaging and bottles. Using environmentally friendly chemical methods, the research team converted PET into a new material. When this material was incubated with a harmless strain of *E. coli*, it was transformed into para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA), an essential compound for bacterial DNA synthesis.

The conversion relied on a chemical reaction called a Lossen rearrangement, a reaction never before observed in nature. Typically requiring harsh laboratory conditions, the reaction occurred spontaneously in the presence of the *E. coli*. The team discovered that phosphate within the bacteria catalysed the transformation, making the reaction both effective and biocompatible.

To ensure the bacteria used the PET-derived material rather than producing PABA through their normal metabolic pathways, the researchers genetically modified the *E. coli* to block their usual PABA synthesis routes. The bacteria

were then engineered further by inserting two genes, one from mushrooms and the other from soil-dwelling bacteria, enabling them to convert PABA into paracetamol.

Remarkably, the modified bacteria produced paracetamol from PET-derived material in under 24 hours, with low emissions and an efficiency yield of up to 92%.

“This enables, for the first time, a pathway from plastic waste to paracetamol, which is not possible using biology alone, and it’s not possible using chemistry alone,” said Wallace. “It is a way to just completely Hoover up plastic waste.”

While further research and development are required before this method can be scaled for commercial production, the findings represent a major step forward in creating sustainable pharmaceuticals and tackling the global plastic waste crisis.

Omah Lay discloses what can heal his depression

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Stanley Omah Didia, better known by his stage name Omah Lay, has made a bold statement about his ongoing battle with depression.

The Afrobeats star, who has been vocal about his mental health struggles in recent years, says a large sum of money could temporarily ease his emotional pain.

On Tuesday, the ‘Soso’ crooner took to the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to share his thoughts. In a brief but revealing post, he wrote, “10M in pounds or dollars right now will heal me for at least a month.”

The statement quickly gained attention from fans and followers, many of whom expressed concern and support. While some saw it as a light-hearted remark, others viewed it as a raw expression of the toll depression had taken on the 27-year-old artist.

Open about his struggles

Omah Lay has never shied away from speaking about his mental health. In the past, he has openly described how depression affected both his personal life and his music career. He previously revealed that his experience with chronic depression nearly cost him his life.

In July 2022, just days after releasing his debut album *Boy Alone*, the singer shocked many when he admitted that he once slept with his therapist. He said the act worsened his mental state rather than helping him heal. That confession, made in another X post, sparked debate and concern among fans and mental health advocates alike.

The artist’s openness about his pain has made him one of the few Nigerian entertainers to speak candidly about depression. This issue is still heavily stigmatised in many parts of Africa.

New album focuses on healing



Omah Lay has hinted that his upcoming album, titled *Clarity of Mind*, will centre on his journey toward emotional recovery. The project, which has yet to be given an official release date, is expected to continue the deeply personal themes introduced in *Boy Alone*.

Released on July 15, 2022, *Boy Alone* offered fans an intimate look into the singer’s inner world. The album featured songs filled with sorrow, heartbreak, and longing, many of which reflected his mental struggles. Critics praised the project for its honesty, while fans connected with its emotional depth.

Fans react to Omah Lay’s statement

Following his Tuesday post, fans flooded Omah Lay’s comment section with messages of encouragement. Some tried to cheer him up with jokes and memes, while others offered words of comfort and reminded him that he is not alone.

One user wrote, “Money might help for a bit, but your peace of mind is priceless. Stay strong.” Another fan tweeted, “We love you, Omah Lay. Hope you get the healing you deserve.”

Despite the outpouring of love, some social media users raised concerns about the singer’s well-being and questioned whether he was receiving the proper support. Mental health advocates urged the public to take such statements seriously and to continue pushing for better access to mental health care in Nigeria and beyond.

A bigger conversation

Omah Lay’s comment, though brief, has helped reignite discussions around mental health in the Nigerian music industry. Many entertainers, including Victory, BNXXN, and WurlD, have begun speaking more openly about their emotional struggles.

In a culture where male vulnerability is often dismissed, Omah Lay’s transparency serves as a reminder that success and fame do not shield one from inner battles.

As fans wait for his next album, many hope that both the music and the message behind it will shine a light on healing, not just for Omah Lay, but for anyone facing similar pain.

'I'm arguably hottest artist in Nigeria', Odumodublvck claims

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian rapper Tochukwu Ojogwu, widely known as Odumodublvck, has boldly declared himself "arguably the hottest artist" in the country.

In a recent podcast appearance, the rapper opened up about his decision to participate in the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and why he chose to serve in a school in Osun State despite his growing fame.

Odumodublvck claims top spot in Nigerian music

Speaking on the Jusmen 105.7 Podcast, Odumodublvck expressed confidence in his current position in the Nigerian music scene. He stated without hesitation that he ranks among the top artists in the country at the moment.

"Music is more than just music," he said. "I'm arguably the hottest artist in the country right now."

The rapper, known for hit songs like Pity This Boy, emphasised that while his popularity continues to rise, he remains grounded and committed to values that go beyond fame and financial rewards.

Driving six hours for service

Odumodublvck revealed that he chose to serve his NYSC in a classroom in Osun State, where he teaches schoolchildren. He described how he drives for six hours to get to Ife, where he fulfils his duties as a corps member.

According to him, he turned down lucrative offers, worth millions of naira, to honour his commitment to the NYSC and the children he serves. This act, he said, is a reflection of his humility and desire to impact lives beyond the stage.

"The closest thing to God is children"

Explaining his motivation for teaching, Odumodublvck shared a deeply personal and spiritual reason. He believes that children are a direct link to purity and purpose.

"The main reason I'm serving the kids is because the closest thing to God is the



children," he said. "So, if you serve children, you serve whatever purpose that you are after."

His words struck a chord with listeners and fans, many of whom took to social media to praise his mindset and dedication.

'Celebrity status doesn't change me,' Odumodublvck

Despite enjoying massive success in the music industry, Odumodublvck insists that fame has not changed who he is at his core. He sees service and humility as qualities every public figure should hold on to, regardless of how far they rise.

"I might be trending, I might be everywhere, but that doesn't mean I forget where I come from or what matters," he added. "I didn't start this journey to impress people, I started to make a difference."

The antiworld gang joins the conversation

The podcast episode also featured members of Odumodublvck's music collective, Antiworld Gang, who shared similar views on staying grounded and using fame for a greater good. Together, they reflected on the importance of staying connected to their roots and using music as a tool for social change.

They highlighted how their art isn't just about beats and lyrics, but also about messages that inspire young people across the country.

Fans applaud his commitment

Following the release of the podcast, many fans praised the rapper for choosing to serve in a rural community rather than chasing only material rewards. His decision has sparked conversations about the role of celebrities in society and the importance of giving back.

Some users on social media described him as "a true role model," while others urged more artists to follow his example.

Final thoughts

Odumodublvck's declaration as Nigeria's "hottest artist" may stir debate, but there is no question that his actions, especially his commitment to youth education, speak louder than words. In a time when many public figures shy away from community service, his choice to serve in a classroom stands out.

Whether or not one agrees with his self-assessment, Odumodublvck's humility and sense of purpose have added a new layer to his public image, one that goes beyond music and into the realm of real impact.

I don't roll with failures, Portable knocks Bella Shmurda

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial Nigerian singer, Habeeb Okikiola, popularly known as Portable, has lashed out at fellow artist Bella Shmurda following comments made about him during a recent podcast appearance.

Bella Shmurda speaks on collaboration Bella Shmurda, during an interview on the Curiosity Made Me Ask podcast hosted by comedian Isbae U, explained why he had no interest in working with Portable. According to him, their music styles do not align. He also hinted that associating with Portable could attract unnecessary drama.

"I just don't see the connection in the music," Bella said. "I don't want wahala, I want peace."

His remarks seemed aimed at avoiding conflict rather than starting one. But that did not stop the comment from sparking a fiery reaction.

Portable reacts with anger

Portable, known for his outspoken and sometimes controversial behaviour, did not take the comment lightly. In a video posted to his Instagram page, he fired back at Bella Shmurda, calling him a failed artist and claiming that Bella could never afford to work with him.

"Anytime you wan do interview, don't mention my name again," Portable warned. "You can't feature me? I have been to America, London. No be who first blow o, na who dey blow dey go."

Claims of global success

In the same video, Portable bragged about his international reach and success. He stressed that he has performed in various countries and continues to make waves in the music scene.

"Which connection wan join me and you?" he asked rhetorically. "You are a failure. I no dey roll or do music with failures."

Portable's statement was heavy with criticism. He dismissed any idea of a



future collaboration and suggested that Bella Shmurda was not on his level in terms of popularity or success.

A pattern of outbursts

This is not the first time Portable has clashed with a fellow artist. Over the years, he has gained a reputation for openly criticizing his colleagues and speaking his mind without filter. These outbursts have often kept him in the spotlight, sometimes for the wrong reasons.

Despite the backlash he receives, Portable remains defiant and unapologetic. For him, controversy is part of his brand. He frequently uses social media to express himself, often going live or posting videos to respond to situations in real time.

Mixed reactions from fans

The recent exchange between Portable and Bella Shmurda has drawn mixed reactions from fans online. While some praised Bella for taking the high road and choosing peace, others supported Portable for defending himself and his brand.

Many social media users advised both artists to focus on their music instead of

throwing insults. Some noted that collaboration in the Nigerian music industry thrives best when artists respect each other's creative space, even when they disagree.

Industry observers weigh in

Music industry observers believe that conflicts like this, although common in the entertainment world, often distract from the real work, making music. Some have suggested that Portable could benefit from managing his reactions more carefully, especially when public comments are not necessarily direct attacks.

Others argue that artists should be more cautious when talking about colleagues in interviews, as words can easily be misinterpreted.

Conclusion

While Bella Shmurda's comments appeared harmless, Portable took offense and turned it into a public spat. Whether this exchange will fade quickly or escalate further remains to be seen. One thing is certain, Portable isn't one to stay silent when he feels slighted.

For now, fans can only hope the drama doesn't get in the way of the music.

How not posting on social media is affecting Genevieve Nnaji, other celebrities, DeeOne reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian comedian and reality TV star, DeeOne, has sparked debate after stating that some Nigerian celebrities are losing their influence due to their absence on social media.

He singled out award-winning actress Genevieve Nnaji as an example of a star whose brand is allegedly fading because of her low online visibility.

DeeOne made these remarks during a recent appearance on Pulse's Hot Takes podcast, where he spoke about how social media trends shape public opinion and determine relevance in the entertainment industry today.

"Not posting hurts your brand", DeeOne Speaking candidly, DeeOne argued that the entertainment landscape has changed, and celebrities who do not engage frequently on social media risk being forgotten. According to him, consistency in online presence keeps a celebrity relevant, especially among younger audiences who live online.

"Genevieve not talking much on social media is not helping her. Genevieve not posting every time is reducing her brand," he said. "Let me rephrase it: anybody who is not posting constantly is not top of mind."

DeeOne emphasised that being active on platforms like Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok helps celebrities remain visible, especially as new stars continue to emerge and dominate conversations online.

"Mysterious celebrities don't trend anymore"

The comedian further claimed that public interest in celebrities who maintain a low profile has dropped in recent years. He said the mystery that once surrounded certain stars is no longer appealing in today's fast-paced digital world, where people crave constant updates.

He pointed out that fans now expect celebrities to share parts of their daily lives, thoughts, and even behind-the-scenes moments. When stars choose silence or privacy, DeeOne believes they unintentionally make room for others to shine in their place.



He stated, "What makes her [Genevieve] different from other actresses? Number one, from when? Since which year?"

TikTok star Peller cited as a comparison To support his point, DeeOne compared Genevieve Nnaji's current visibility to that of a rising TikTok sensation, Peller. He claimed that Peller, who is popular among social media users, now holds more relevance in Nigeria's online space than Genevieve, a veteran actress with decades in the film industry.

"Peller right now is more relevant on the internet in Nigeria than Genevieve Nnaji," he said. The comment has drawn mixed reactions, with some agreeing that social media is vital for brand growth, while others argue that true star power doesn't always require constant online presence.

Fans react to DeeOne's comment

Following DeeOne's statement, social media platforms buzzed with responses. Some users supported his view, saying he raised a valid point about the power of digital presence. Others, however, criticised the comparison, insisting that Genevieve Nnaji's legacy in Nollywood speaks for itself.

One user wrote on X, "Genevieve doesn't need to post every day to stay relevant. Her work is timeless." Another added,



"It's sad that everything is judged by social media now. Not everyone wants to live online."

Still, others admitted that the entertainment world has changed, and staying visible online is now part of a celebrity's job, whether they like it or not.

Is social media now a measure of fame?

DeeOne's comments have raised deeper questions about how fame is measured in the digital age. While past generations of stars thrived on talent, awards, and film roles, today's celebrities often gain attention through viral moments, tweets, or Instagram reels.

Genevieve Nnaji, known for her iconic roles in Lionheart, Ije, and other Nollywood hits, has maintained a private lifestyle in recent years. Her rare social media appearances have sparked curiosity and admiration among fans, but critics like DeeOne argue that staying silent might cost her in the long run.

Final thoughts

Whether one agrees with DeeOne or not, his comments highlight the growing pressure on celebrities to adapt to the demands of social media. As the industry continues to evolve, the balance between privacy and publicity may become even harder for public figures to manage.

Pasuma fed my family for 3 years, Daddy Showkey recounts

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music icon Daddy Showkey has shared an emotional story about how popular Fuji musician Alabi Pasuma supported him during one of the most difficult periods of his life.

Daddy Showkey made the heartfelt revelation during a recent live performance at a celebrity event. In a now-viral video circulating on social media, the veteran singer expressed deep gratitude to Pasuma for standing by him when many others turned their backs.

A painful chapter begins

According to Daddy Showkey, the year 2007 marked a dark period in his life. He was involved in a serious accident that left him hospitalised and bedridden for three years. During this challenging time, he said, many of his friends and colleagues in the entertainment industry disappeared from his life.

While narrating his experience to the crowd, Daddy Showkey became emotional as he revealed that Pasuma was the only person who stepped in to support him and his family. He explained that the Fuji star took full responsibility for feeding his household throughout his time in the hospital.

Pasuma was my only friend

“You see this man,” Showkey said, pointing to Pasuma on stage, “he stood by me during the bad times and the good times. Many people didn’t see me in public or hear me sing for years because of that accident I had in 2007. I was in the hospital for three years. Pasuma was the one taking care of my family. I can never forget him in my life.”

His voice trembled as he described how deeply he was hurt by the way others treated him.

Friends who disappeared

Daddy Showkey said that after he recovered from the accident, he tried to



reconnect with several of his former friends and industry colleagues. But sadly, he met a cold response.

“I went to their houses,” he recalled. “They told me they were not around, even when I knew they were inside. They didn’t want to see me, let alone help me.”

He added that the experience made him realise who his true friends were. “Pasuma was the only one who never turned his back on me,” he said. “He didn’t just show concern; he showed action.”

The power of loyalty

Daddy Showkey’s story has touched many fans online, with social media users praising Pasuma for his loyalty and compassion. Many described Pasuma’s actions as rare in an industry often driven by fame and personal gain.

Fans have also commended Daddy Showkey for publicly acknowledging the help he received. “It takes a real man to remember who stood by him during tough times,” one user commented.

Reactions from the public

The video has sparked a conversation about loyalty and betrayal in the Nigerian music scene. Some fans noted that Daddy Showkey’s experience reflects the wider reality of how some people distance themselves from friends when trouble strikes.

Others used the opportunity to encourage celebrities and the public alike to be more supportive and compassionate, especially during hard times.

A legacy of gratitude

Known for his contributions to the ghetto sound and his community activism, Daddy Showkey has always been outspoken. His recent comments show a softer, more personal side of the artist, one shaped by hardship and real friendship.

He ended his tribute by thanking Pasuma once again on stage. “This man is not just a musician. He’s my brother. He’s my angel. I will never forget what he did for me.”

Daddy Showkey’s story is a reminder that true friendship is measured not by words, but by actions, especially when life becomes difficult.

'Life abroad is tough for struggling Nigerians in UK', Tacha opens up

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Reality TV star and influencer Tacha Akide has sparked online conversation after sharing her thoughts on the financial struggles of Nigerians living in the United Kingdom.

In a candid video posted online, the former Big Brother Naija housemate, who now lives in the UK, spoke out against the widespread belief that life abroad is always better.

She challenged the idea that Nigerians overseas are living in luxury, saying that many are barely getting by.

Life abroad not always rosy

Tacha stated clearly that life in the UK is not as easy as many Nigerians at home believe. According to her, the high cost of living in the UK is forcing many people into financial hardship. She argued that, in some cases, Nigerians back home live more comfortably than those abroad.

"You see those of you who always think that everyone in the UK is rich," she said. "Most people here are broke. In fact, the most broke people I've met are the ones I met here in the UK."

She continued by pointing out that living expenses in the UK are high and constantly rising. "Everyone is holding themselves together," she said. "It is expensive."

A wake-up call for Nigerians at home

Tacha warned Nigerians considering relocation to the UK to adjust their expectations. She emphasised that while it's okay to seek better opportunities, people should not do so under the illusion that everything is easy or luxurious abroad.

"Trust me, it's not rosy here," she said. "If you want to move, that's fine. But don't come with the idea that it's all smooth and beautiful."

She highlighted the high transportation costs as an example. "You could easily



spend ₦300,000 on taxis in a single day or over ₦1 million on a car within a week, unless you plan to use the train," she said. "Think about your decision carefully."

Social media reactions

Tacha's remarks quickly spread across social media, triggering mixed reactions. Some agreed with her, while others argued that life abroad still offered better quality of life.

Here are some of the top responses:

@oluchiafundu wrote: "She is saying the truth, 100%."

@okunyenyeife added: "Anyone walking around the UK doing content creation is either new in town or still trying to find their path."

@iammaryam_raz commented: "We never hear word since Tacha came UK."

@e.f.e.m.e.n.a_kylian said: "They may be broke, but they have basic amenities. Don't compare it to us who still shout 'UPNEPA.'"

@godwinrealest remarked: "No wonder my uncle spent 25 years there and came back with nothing to show for it."

@joyaustin4743 asked: "You all care so

much about money. What about quality of life? How's the quality of life in Nigeria, even with money?"

A conversation worth having

Tacha's video has added to the ongoing discussion about the true nature of living abroad. While many Nigerians dream of relocating to countries like the UK for better opportunities, her comments serve as a reality check.

Yes, the UK offers steady electricity, better infrastructure, and a more structured system. However, the cost of living, rent, transport, food, and healthcare, can be overwhelming for immigrants, especially those without high-paying jobs or solid financial support.

For many, the dream of "japa" (relocating abroad) often comes with unexpected sacrifices and challenges. Tacha's experience reminds everyone that greener pastures aren't always green at first glance.

In the end, the conversation she sparked may help more Nigerians at home and abroad reflect on what truly matters: not just money or location, but peace of mind, comfort, and long-term stability.

Comedian Klintoncod slams Prophet Fufeyin, calls him a 'fraud'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian comedian Ekene Clinton Egbuna, widely known as Klintoncod, has sparked controversy online after launching a scathing attack on Prophet Jeremiah Omoto Fufeyin, founder of Christ Mercyland Deliverance Ministry.

In a video shared on Instagram, the comedian accused the popular preacher of deceiving worshippers with so-called miracle products.

Klintoncod alleged that Prophet Fufeyin has been manipulating his congregation through the sale of spiritually branded items. One such item, he said, was a plastic-wrapped bag of sand sold with promises of divine intervention.

Accusations of religious fraud

In his strongly worded video, Klintoncod questioned Prophet Fufeyin's legitimacy as a spiritual leader. According to him, the cleric's actions are not only deceptive but damaging to Christianity as a whole. He insisted that someone like Fufeyin would be behind bars or in a psychiatric facility if Nigeria had stricter laws.

"Are we going to continue pretending that this man, Jeremiah Omoto Fufeyin, is not a nuisance to Christianity?" Klintoncod asked. "Right now, as I speak, he is probably defrauding a lot of people."

The comedian didn't mince words. He described the pastor's behaviour as fraudulent, claiming there's little difference between the preacher and a convicted scammer. His main concern, he said, was how many people have been misled and spiritually damaged by such acts.

Selling sand for miracles

Klintoncod was particularly angered by a recent claim that Prophet Fufeyin was selling bags of sand as a spiritual product. The pastor allegedly told his congregation that purchasing the sand would result in divine assistance, particularly in building houses.

"This guy packaged sand in nylon, sealed it, put his face on it, and told people that if they buy it, God will help them build a house," Klintoncod said. "And a whole



bunch of people are attending his church, standing up, calling him 'Papa'."

The comedian expressed disbelief at how many Nigerians continue to fall for such promises. He questioned the reasoning behind following a man who, in his words, offers nothing but deceit.

Criticism of followers

Klintoncod didn't spare the congregation either. He labelled many of the pastor's followers as "gullible" and blamed their blind faith for encouraging men like Fufeyin.

"Some Nigerians are just not thinking. These people go to his church, spend money on fake miracle items, and even celebrate him like a hero," he said.

He added that this level of blind devotion is part of the reason why some people have stopped going to church altogether. According to him, people like Prophet Fufeyin are damaging the image of Christianity and pushing honest believers away.

Linking the problem to broader issues

Taking a broader view, Klintoncod also touched on the state of the nation. He argued that religious manipulation is a more pressing problem in Nigeria than even the country's political issues.

"Tinubu or APC is not our real problem. Nigerians are actually very stupid," he stated bluntly. "This guy is part of the reason some people stopped going to church."

He called on society to start questioning religious leaders more openly and hold them accountable for their actions. He also urged authorities to step in and regulate religious practices that exploit people for profit.

Reactions online

Since posting the video, Klintoncod's comments have sparked heated debate across social media platforms. While some praised him for speaking out, others felt he was too harsh or disrespectful toward the church and its followers.

Despite the backlash, Klintoncod has not taken down the video or issued a clarification. His message remains clear: Nigerians must be more critical of those who claim to speak for God, especially when they demand money in return for miracles.

As public scrutiny grows over the conduct of religious leaders in Nigeria, Klintoncod's viral outburst adds fuel to an ongoing national conversation about faith, accountability, and exploitation in places of worship.

Canada, EU sign landmark defence pact amid global tensions

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Canada has signed a landmark security and defence pact with the European Union, in a move widely seen as a strategic shift by traditional US allies seeking greater autonomy in the face of global instability and a turbulent American presidency.

Canada, EU reps meet

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney joined European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa in Brussels on Monday to formalise the wide-ranging partnership. The agreement includes closer cooperation on defence, artificial intelligence, the climate crisis, and continued support for Ukraine.

At a warm and optimistic press conference, Carney declared Canada “the most European of the non-European countries,” adding that the nation “looks first to the European Union to build a better world.” Costa echoed the sentiment: “The European Union and Canada are among the closest allies in the transatlantic space. We see the world through the same lens. We stand for the same values.”

Conspicuously absent from the event was any mention of US President Donald Trump, whose disdain for traditional allies has added urgency to efforts by the EU and Canada to deepen their already robust relationship. Trump is expected to attend a two-day NATO summit in The Hague beginning Tuesday, where member nations are under pressure to commit 5% of their GDP to defence.

Carney, who swept to power in April with a decisive mandate, campaigned on keeping Canada from becoming “the 51st US state,” a notion Trump has flirted with in the past. Speaking in Brussels, Carney described the agreement as part of a broader vision to “diversify and strengthen our international partnerships” in what he called “a hinge moment of history.”

“This is a time when the rules-based international order is under threat. The world is more dangerous and more divided,” Carney said.

The newly signed pact paves the way for Canada to join the EU’s fledgling €150bn defence fund, known as SAFE (Strategic Armament for Europe), marking a



significant step in Canadian-European defence integration. Von der Leyen said the agreement would lead to “joint capabilities, interoperability and procurement,” specifically referencing air defence.

“The access of Canada to our joint procurement in the European Union, the door is open,” she stated, adding that negotiations for Canadian participation in the scheme would begin “swiftly.”

The security arrangement mirrors a similar deal the EU recently struck with UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer. While the EU has existing defence partnerships with countries such as Norway and Japan, this is the first of its kind with a country in the Americas. The deal includes cooperation on cyber, maritime and space security, arms control, and military support for Ukraine.

Although participation in joint procurement under the SAFE programme requires a further technical agreement, the political commitment from both sides is clear. Carney said the pact would allow Canada to “deliver on our new capabilities more rapidly and more effectively,” a crucial point for a country currently lagging behind its NATO peers. In 2024, Canada spent just 1.37% of its

GDP on defence, far short of NATO’s 2% target.

The new agreement builds upon an already strong economic relationship. The EU and Canada share a €125bn trading partnership, anchored by the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) signed in 2016, which eliminated 98% of tariffs. However, the deal has yet to be ratified by 10 EU member states, including Belgium, France, Italy, and Poland, leaving certain provisions in limbo.

Before the summit, Carney and his wife, Diana Fox Carney, visited Schoonselhof military cemetery in Antwerp, where 348 Canadian soldiers are buried. On social media, Carney paid tribute to the “brave young soldiers who ventured across the Atlantic to defend the freedom of Europe.”

They were joined by Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever, a former mayor of Antwerp. The couple laid wreaths at the cemetery, and De Wever’s son performed the “Last Post” in a solemn tribute covered by local newspaper Het Nieuwsblad.

Israel launches strike on Tehran minutes after ceasefire

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



Just hours after a U.S.-brokered ceasefire was announced between Iran and Israel, tensions reignited late Monday as Israel reportedly launched a targeted strike on Tehran, accusing Iran of breaching the truce—an allegation Iran denies.

U.S. President Donald Trump had earlier declared a “complete and total ceasefire” between the two long-standing adversaries, writing on Truth Social:

“It has been fully agreed by and between Israel and Iran that there will be a complete and total CEASEFIRE (in approximately 6 hours from now) for 12 hours, at which point the War will be considered, ENDED.”

The truce announcement, while widely welcomed by the international community, was not officially confirmed by either Tehran or Jerusalem at the time of publication. Nevertheless, it raised hopes of de-escalation after days of missile strikes, air raids, and mounting fears of a full-scale regional war.

But those hopes were swiftly dashed. Reports from regional sources confirm that within hours of the ceasefire taking

effect, Israel launched a precision strike in the heart of Tehran. Israeli military officials claimed that the action was in response to an “imminent violation” of the ceasefire agreement by Iran. Specific details of the alleged violation remain unclear.

Iranian authorities have strongly denied any breach of the ceasefire and condemned the Israeli strike as a “flagrant act of aggression.” At the time of reporting, Iranian leadership has not issued a statement on potential retaliatory measures, but heightened military readiness has been observed around key Iranian installations.

Global Reactions & Uncertainty

The United States, which played a critical role in brokering the initial ceasefire, has yet to comment on the Israeli airstrike or its implications for the broader peace effort. The White House is reportedly monitoring the situation closely and is expected to issue a statement within hours.

Observers warn that the renewed hostilities could unravel all diplomatic progress made in the past 48 hours. The situation is particularly volatile, with analysts noting that a retaliatory strike from Iran could once again plunge the

region into full-scale conflict.

“This strike could jeopardize everything that was achieved diplomatically in the last day,” said a senior Middle East analyst in Washington. “It’s a test not just of Iran’s response, but also of how much influence the U.S. still holds over its key ally, Israel.”

Tensions Remain High

The ceasefire had initially brought a sigh of relief across global capitals. World leaders had expressed cautious optimism that the U.S. could help steer both nations away from further conflict. But the latest developments point to how fragile and complex the path to peace remains in the region.

Questions also remain about the United States’ next steps. Will Washington condemn Israel’s latest strike or justify it as a defensive action? Can President Trump’s administration still play a meaningful role in reviving talks?

As the world watches with bated breath, uncertainty looms large.

Stay with New Daily Prime for the latest developments on the Israel-Iran conflict.

Harvard: Judge indefinitely blocks Trump's ban on int'l students

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A US Federal Judge has blocked Donald Trump's administration from enforcing a controversial proclamation that would have barred foreign nationals from studying at Harvard University, marking a major legal victory for the Ivy League institution in its escalating battle with the former president.

US District Judge Allison Burroughs, sitting in Boston, issued a preliminary injunction on Monday, extending an earlier temporary order made on June 5. The injunction halts the Trump administration's attempts to prevent international students from entering the United States to attend Harvard or participate in its exchange programmes.

Trump vs Harvard: How it started

The now-blocked proclamation, signed by Trump just days earlier, cited national security concerns and alleged that Harvard could no longer be trusted to host foreign students. It aimed to suspend international enrolment for six months and tasked Republican senator Marco Rubio with considering whether to revoke the visas of currently enrolled students.

Harvard, which counts nearly 6,800 international students, about 27% of its student body, called the move a politically motivated attack on academic freedom. The university has filed two lawsuits against the Trump administration, both heard by Judge Burroughs. One seeks to unfreeze approximately \$2.5bn in federal funding, while the other challenges the administration's efforts to bar international student access.

The dispute is the latest chapter in a broader feud between Trump and the prestigious university. In recent



months, the administration has suspended federal funding to Harvard, threatened its tax-exempt status, and launched multiple investigations into its operations.

In a statement last Friday, Trump suggested a possible deal with Harvard was in the works and could be announced "over the next week or so." However, Harvard maintains that the administration's actions amount to unlawful retaliation for the university's refusal to alter its governance, academic curriculum, and ideological stance in line with White House demands.

The legal battle intensified on 22 May when Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem abruptly revoked Harvard's certification to host international students. Noem accused the university of "fostering violence, antisemitism, and coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party," though she presented no supporting evidence.

Judge Burroughs swiftly intervened to block Noem's action and later criticised the department's conduct at a 29 May hearing, stating her

intention to preserve the status quo. That intention was formalised in Friday's injunction.

The Trump administration's crackdown came amid heightened tensions on US campuses, including Harvard's, where protests over Israel's actions in Gaza have sparked fierce debate. The administration accused the university of creating an unsafe environment for Jewish students, while critics noted its silence on rising anti-Muslim and anti-Arab sentiment.

Harvard, for its part, has acknowledged concerns across the spectrum. In April, the university released reports from both its antisemitism and Islamophobia task forces, which highlighted a climate of fear and discrimination on campus.

While the Trump administration continues to pursue an administrative process to challenge Harvard's ability to enrol foreign students, Monday's ruling provides temporary relief for the university and its international community.

UK defence at risk: Report warns Britain can't stop nuclear missile attack from Russia

By Fatimah Idera

As tensions rise dramatically following the outbreak of war between Israel and Iran, fears over the possibility of a nuclear-armed Iran have resurfaced — with particular concern about the UK's ability to respond if such weapons were ever launched its way.

The escalation has brought renewed urgency to the question: how vulnerable is Britain to a nuclear strike — and how long would we have to react?

Currently, Israeli intelligence suggests that Iran is enriching uranium close to weapons-grade levels — a claim that US intelligence has not confirmed. But even if true, Iran is not believed to have assembled a fully operational nuclear weapon. What it does reportedly have is the nuclear material needed to begin that process.

UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has issued a stark warning about the possibility of a broader international conflict, including a potential World War III. Speaking from Chequers, the Prime Minister said the UK must prepare for “a very real threat in relation to the nuclear programme,” urging for diplomatic de-escalation.

According to Professor Andrew Futter, interviewed by the express newspaper, a nuclear weapons expert from the University of Leicester, if Iran were to launch a nuclear missile toward Britain, it could reach its target in just 15 minutes

“It wouldn't give us time to do anything,” Professor Futter told MyLondon. “Government officials might be okay — there is a bunker under Whitehall and some secure facilities for VIPs — but ordinary people would have no time to react.”

Iran lies approximately 3,700 miles



from the UK — a similar distance to Russia (3,650 miles), another country with nuclear capabilities. For comparison, China is about 7,775 kilometres away. These distances, paired with modern missile technology, mean nuclear weapons could strike with very little warning.

Can the UK Defend Itself Against a Missile Attack?

A report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) paints a grim picture of Britain's current defensive capabilities. The UK does not currently possess the ability to intercept a concentrated intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) attack.

The IISS describes missile defence for European countries, including the UK, as more of an “ambition” than a reality. The UK's Strategic Defence Review outlines plans to improve its missile defence systems, but development will take years — and billions in funding.

Professor Futter adds that while NATO and US-led missile defence systems might offer some protection against missile launches from the Middle East, they are largely ineffective against more advanced Russian missiles, which are capable of deploying decoys and evading interception.

“It has virtually zero capability against Russian missiles that can deploy countermeasures,” he said.

Is a Nuclear Attack on the UK Likely?

Despite the rising geopolitical temperature, experts caution against panic. Professor Futter does not believe a nuclear attack on the UK is likely, describing such an event as “an enormous escalation and essentially suicidal.”

“None of us have a crystal ball, but I don't see a nuclear attack on the UK being likely,” he said. “It would trigger a global catastrophe — and every country knows that.”

However, with Iran's alignment with powers like Russia, and its growing technological capabilities, the UK's vulnerabilities are being questioned more seriously than ever. Whether through diplomacy, deterrence, or defence upgrades, Britain must reassess its readiness for the unthinkable.

Stay with New Daily Prime for continued coverage and analysis on global defence, nuclear tensions, and geopolitical developments.

Netanyahu hails 'historic victory' in Iran-Israel war

By Oluwatosin Ologun



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday hailed a “historic victory” in his country’s 12-day war against Iran and vowed to prevent Tehran rebuilding its nuclear facilities.

“We have achieved a historic victory,” Netanyahu said in a televised address to the nation after the start of a ceasefire agreed to by both countries.

“Iran will never have a nuclear weapon,” he told viewers in the near-10-minute speech.

“We have thwarted Iran’s nuclear project. And if anyone in Iran tries to rebuild it, we will act with the same determination, with the same intensity, to foil any attempt,” he added.

The head of Israel’s military Eyal Zamir said earlier on Tuesday that

its strikes had set back Iran’s nuclear programme “by years” and the campaign against the country was now “entering a new phase”.

Iran said on Tuesday that it was ready to return to nuclear negotiations with the United States as the ceasefire took hold.

But Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said his country would continue to “assert its legitimate rights” to the peaceful use of atomic power.

Israel’s government said in a statement earlier Tuesday that it had removed the “dual existential threat” of Iran’s nuclear programme and missiles during its strikes.

Netanyahu claimed that Israel’s attack on Iran, named “Operation Rising Lion”, would be “recorded in the annals of Israel’s wars, and will be studied by armies all over

the world.”

It included repeated strikes on Iran’s nuclear and missile sites, assassinations of military and domestic security service leaders, as well as the bombing of state media and Evin prison in Tehran.

After the United States joined in the conflict with strikes on Sunday, President Donald Trump said his forces had “totally obliterated” Iran’s main nuclear sites.

Analysts said, however, that it remained unclear whether the strikes had put the nuclear threat out of reach, with the possibility that Iran had moved its stockpiles of highly enriched uranium away from the targeted sites.

Tehran has always denied seeking a nuclear weapon.

Thailand closes borders with Cambodia amid escalating tensions

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Thailand's military has shut border crossings with Cambodia across seven provinces, barring almost all travellers, as tensions continue to rise over a simmering territorial dispute between the two Southeast Asian nations.

In statements released on Monday, the Thai army and navy announced that all vehicles and individuals, both Thai nationals and foreigners, would be prohibited from crossing into Cambodia, with only limited exemptions. These include patients requiring medical treatment and students travelling for educational purposes.

Why Thailand closed borders

The closures follow an increase in hostilities between the two countries, sparked by a fatal skirmish in May at a contested section of the border, during which a Cambodian soldier was killed. Since then, both governments have engaged in retaliatory measures, and nationalist sentiment has surged on both sides.

Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra, currently under intense political pressure at home, confirmed the new restrictions and pledged tighter screening at land borders. Her government has come under fire for its handling of the dispute, particularly following a diplomatic blunder involving Cambodia's former leader, Hun Sen.

In a leaked phone call last week, Paetongtarn was heard referring to Hun Sen as "uncle" and appeared to criticise a senior Thai military officer for posturing. She also offered to "take care" of anything Hun Sen might want, remarks that have been widely condemned and interpreted as undermining Thailand's



negotiating stance.

The leak has sparked public outrage and deepened existing fractures within her ruling coalition. One coalition partner has since exited the government, citing the phone call as a key reason. Paetongtarn has apologised, claiming her comments were a strategic negotiating tactic and urging national unity.

The crisis has already triggered a raft of tit-for-tat actions. Cambodia has banned Thai films from being shown in cinemas and on television, limited internet access originating from Thailand, and halted imports of Thai agricultural produce and fuel. Thailand, in turn, has responded with increased border restrictions and shortened visa validity for Cambodian nationals.

The closures now apply to border crossings in Ubon Ratchathani, Surin, Buriram, Sri Sa Ket, Sa Kaeo, Chanthaburi, and Trat provinces.

In a press briefing on Monday,

Paetongtarn also floated the possibility of blocking exports to Cambodia that could be exploited by organised crime networks, particularly those behind cyber scams. Cambodia has drawn international criticism for allowing scam compounds to flourish, where victims of human trafficking are reportedly forced into illegal online operations.

UN experts and human rights organisations have named Cambodia a global hub for cybercrime, with many of the operations said to be run by transnational criminal groups exploiting weak regulation and state complicity.

Thailand has pledged to work with regional partners and international bodies to crack down on the industry and reduce cross-border criminal activity. However, as political instability grows and trust between Bangkok and Phnom Penh diminishes, a peaceful resolution to the border dispute remains uncertain.

Osimhen eyes Old Trafford switch with £200k weekly wage proposal

By Gbenga Olaleye



Victor Osimhen is reportedly willing to accept a weekly wage of just under £200,000 to join Manchester United well below earlier claims suggesting he was demanding £300,000 per week.

The update comes from respected transfer expert Fabrizio Romano, who told GIVEMESPORT that speculation about inflated salary expectations was “wide of the mark.”

“He just wants his current salary (around €12 million net, or £10.2 million per season) to be respected, nothing different. Same as one year ago,” Romano said.

Osimhen’s revised wage stance could open the door for Manchester United, whose ownership under INEOS has been keen to manage a leaner wage structure at Old Trafford. The striker’s potential salary would sit below that of players like Mason Mount, who

reportedly earns £250,000 per week.

Despite links to Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal who offered Osimhen an eye-watering £30 million annually the Nigerian international turned down the move, favouring a continued presence in European football.

Former United defender Rio Ferdinand believes Osimhen may be holding out for the Red Devils.

“It looks like he’s turned down Al-Hilal... he must be waiting for Manchester United. I don’t know if Manchester United are going to come. That’s the problem,” Ferdinand said on his YouTube channel.

Osimhen, who enjoyed a prolific loan spell at Galatasaray with 37 goals and eight assists in 41 appearances, is set to leave Napoli this summer.

The 26-year-old still has one year remaining on his contract, which includes a €75 million release clause reportedly applicable only to foreign clubs.

Napoli are said to prefer a move that would see Osimhen head to Liverpool in a potential swap deal involving Darwin Núñez, but the player is understood to favour Juventus, attracted by the club’s sporting project.

Galatasaray, fresh off a domestic double, remain interested in making Osimhen’s move permanent, but the Turkish champions face stiff competition from top clubs across Europe.

Since joining Napoli in 2020, Osimhen has scored 76 goals and provided 18 assists in 133 matches, winning the Serie A title in the 2022/23 season.

Jackson's Club world cup ban fuels discipline concerns

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Chelsea's hopes of progressing in the FIFA Club World Cup suffered a blow on Friday after striker Nicolas Jackson was handed a two-match ban following his red card in the 3-1 defeat to Flamengo. The Senegalese forward was sent off just four minutes after coming on as a substitute for a reckless studs-up challenge on Flamengo's Lucas Ayrton. The incident, initially drawing an automatic one-game suspension, was reviewed by FIFA's disciplinary committee and upgraded to a two-match ban due to the severity of the foul.

This decision rules Jackson out of Chelsea's crucial final group stage match against African champions ES Tunis in Philadelphia, and, should the Blues qualify, the first knockout round as well.

The disciplinary committee deemed the tackle "serious foul play," and under FIFA rules, their decision is final and cannot be appealed. For Chelsea head coach Enzo Maresca, the timing could not be worse. His side must avoid defeat against ES Tunis to stay in the competition, and Jackson's absence limits attacking options at a pivotal stage.

It is the latest in a string of discipline-related issues for Jackson, who joined Chelsea from Villarreal in June 2023 for a reported fee of £32 million. The 23-year-old's dismissal on Friday was his second red card in four matches, and he has already accumulated eight yellow cards across all competitions this season. His ten bookings suggest a worrying pattern of rash decision-making and lack of composure under pressure.

Jackson took to social media shortly after the game to apologise publicly. He also apologised privately in the dressing room, as confirmed by teammate Marc



Cucurella and manager Maresca. "He knows he let the team down," Cucurella said. "But we all make mistakes. He's young and learning."

Maresca was more cautious in his comments. "Nico is an emotional player, and we love his energy. But we need that energy channelled positively. This team can't afford to lose players to unnecessary red cards at this stage of the season."

Chelsea, currently fighting on multiple fronts, including the Premier League and Club World Cup, now face growing concerns about squad depth and discipline. Jackson's suspension leaves Maresca short of options up front, with Liam Delap—recently recalled from a loan spell—expected to start against ES Tunis.

Delap may benefit from the opportunity, but many around the club feel Jackson's impulsive nature has now opened the door for the 21-year-old to stake his claim permanently. "Stupid, stupid, stupid," one Chelsea official reportedly muttered in the tunnel after the Flamengo game—capturing the frustration boiling inside the camp.

Jackson's talent is not in doubt. He

arrived at Stamford Bridge with a reputation for raw pace, goal-scoring ability, and an aggressive style that excited fans and coaches alike. But with each passing game, questions grow louder about his maturity and decision-making.

The heat in Philadelphia has been another factor testing Chelsea's mettle, with record-high temperatures making training difficult. "It's been impossible to train like we usually do," Maresca admitted. "But that's not an excuse. Everyone has to keep their head. Especially now."

The challenge against ES Tunis will be as mental as it is physical. The North African side are no pushovers, and Chelsea must rally quickly to ensure their Club World Cup journey doesn't end prematurely. All eyes will be on how the Blues respond without Jackson—and whether his moment of madness has lasting consequences on his place in Maresca's long-term plans.

As Chelsea enter the business end of the season, they need all hands on deck. Unfortunately for them, one of their key hands just got himself sent off. Again.

Moses Simon set for Paris FC move after medical

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Nigeria international Moses Simon is on the verge of completing a transfer from FC Nantes to Paris FC, with the 29-year-old winger reportedly passing his medical on Tuesday, June 24, 2025. The deal, valued at €7 million, marks Paris FC's first major signing of the summer window and a significant step in their ambitions to strengthen ahead of the new season.

Reliable transfer journalist Fabrizio Romano confirmed the development via his official X (formerly Twitter) account, stating: "Moses Simon has just completed his medical at Paris FC today after deal done with Nantes for €7m."

Simon's move brings an end to a successful six-year spell at Nantes, where he became a fan favourite and consistent performer. He initially joined the club on loan from La Liga side Levante in 2019. His performances convinced Nantes to secure his services permanently the following season, and he went on to make 151 league appearances, scoring 28 goals.

One of the standout moments of Simon's time with the Canaries came in the 2021/22 season when he played a vital role in Nantes' Coupe de France triumph under then-manager Antoine Kombouaré. The victory was a major highlight for both the club and the player, who has long been admired for his speed, dribbling, and creativity in the final third.

Simon's consistent performances in Ligue 1 earned him interest from several clubs across Europe, including a recent link to Premier League side Everton. However, the winger has opted to continue his career in France, with Paris FC



reportedly offering a project that aligned more closely with his personal and professional goals.

Paris FC, who are looking to build a squad capable of competing for promotion to Ligue 1 or consolidating their position in the top flight, see Simon as a key piece of their offensive puzzle. His experience at both domestic and international levels is expected to bring immediate impact to the team, which has lacked cutting edge in attack in recent seasons.

For Simon, the move represents a fresh challenge in a familiar league. While Paris FC may not carry the same pedigree as Nantes, the opportunity to play a leading role in the capital-based club's rise could prove appealing for a player entering the latter stages of his career.

The Nigerian winger has also been a regular fixture for the Super Eagles, featuring in multiple Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and World Cup qualifiers. His international experience adds further weight to the value of this signing for Paris

FC.

Nantes, meanwhile, will now look to fill the void left by Simon's departure. The club, which has faced fluctuating form in recent seasons, will likely dip into the transfer market to reinforce their wide options as they prepare for life without one of their most reliable performers.

Reactions to the move have been mixed among Nantes supporters. While many understand the need to cash in on a player nearing 30, others expressed sadness at seeing a long-time servant depart. Paris FC fans, on the other hand, are celebrating what they view as a major coup for their club.

With the deal now all but confirmed, only the official unveiling remains. Simon is expected to be presented later this week, with Paris FC preparing a welcome for their newest signing. As one of Nigeria's most experienced and versatile attackers, all eyes will be on Moses Simon to see if he can replicate his Nantes success and guide Paris FC to new heights.

Lyon relegated to Ligue 2 over financial crisis

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



In a seismic development for French football, Olympique Lyonnais, one of the country's most decorated clubs, has been officially relegated to Ligue 2 due to financial irregularities. The decision was confirmed on June 24, 2025, by the Ligue de Football Professionnel (LFP), following a meeting with the National Directorate of Management Control (DNCG), the financial watchdog overseeing professional clubs in France.

The ruling marks a significant and historic fall from grace for Lyon, who have won Ligue 1 seven times and enjoyed over two decades of top-flight stability. The DNCG's verdict follows a period of intense financial scrutiny in which Lyon had been given provisional warnings to rectify their deteriorating accounts or face automatic relegation.

Despite the best efforts of Eagle Football Group—the consortium that owns the club—Lyon failed to meet the financial criteria required to maintain their Ligue 1 status. Eagle Football had attempted to pull various financial levers, including the sale of club owner John Textor's stake in Premier League side Crystal Palace, as well as the sale of Lyon's women's team, in hopes of demonstrating financial improvement.

Textor, speaking optimistically to the press after the recent DNCG hearing, had insisted that the club's liquidity had significantly improved. "You can see

from the contributions of our shareholders," he said. "We have invested new capital, not only for the DNCG, but also for our UEFA licensing process. Not to mention the good news of the sale of Crystal Palace. Our liquidity situation has improved considerably."

However, those efforts failed to satisfy the DNCG, which concluded that the club's financial structure remained unstable and unsustainable in its current form.

The fall to Ligue 2 will send shockwaves through French football, where Lyon has long been regarded as one of the sport's powerhouses. Founded in 1950, the club rose to prominence in the early 2000s, winning seven consecutive Ligue 1 titles from 2002 to 2008—still a French football record.

Beyond domestic dominance, Lyon has been a staple in European competition, regularly qualifying for the UEFA Champions League and reaching the semi-finals twice—in 2009–10 and most recently in 2019–20. They have also claimed three Ligue 2 titles, five French Cups, one League Cup, and eight French Super Cups.

Despite this glittering legacy, the club has faced mounting financial strain in recent years. The COVID-19 pandemic, combined with dwindling revenues and costly investments, placed Lyon under

significant pressure. Textor's takeover was initially seen as a potential lifeline, but financial governance by the DNCG has remained stringent—ultimately deciding that the club had not done enough to avoid relegation.

With this ruling, Lyon will now compete in Ligue 2 for the 2025–26 season, a dramatic shift in fortune that will affect players, staff, sponsors, and fans alike. Key players may seek exits to remain in top-flight football, while the club's revenue from broadcasting, ticketing, and sponsorship will likely take a substantial hit.

There is no immediate indication that the DNCG's decision will be overturned or appealed, as the ruling is considered final. Lyon must now begin the arduous process of rebuilding both financially and competitively.

Supporters of the Rhône-based club are understandably dismayed. Many took to social media to express heartbreak and disbelief. Some, however, expressed cautious optimism that the drop might serve as a necessary reset for a club that once set the standard in French football.

Olympique Lyon now faces the challenge of reclaiming its place among France's elite. But first, they must come to terms with a stunning and historic relegation that has reshaped the landscape of Ligue 1.