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Shettima visits Aisha Buhari in London ahead of Buhari's Burial

By Gbenga Olaleye

Vice President Kashim Shettima has paid a condolence visit to Aisha Buhari, widow of the late former President Muhammadu Buhari, in London following the former leader's death on Sunday.

Shettima, who is leading the Federal Government delegation to repatriate Buhari's remains, also met with the late President's children.

Images shared widely on social media show the Vice President and the grieving family in a solemn atmosphere.

Former President Buhari died in London while receiving treatment for an undisclosed illness. His death brings to a close a significant chapter in Nigeria's history, having served both as a military Head of State and later as a two-term civilian President.



During his presidency, Buhari spent over 225 days abroad for medical treatment, with his longest stay being 104 days in 2017.

The Vice President and his delegation are expected to arrive in Nigeria on Tuesday with Buhari's body. Burial arrangements have been confirmed for the same day in Daura, his hometown in Katsina State.

ADC declares three days of mourning for Buhari

By Gbenga Olaleye

The African Democratic Congress (ADC) has declared a three-day mourning period in honour of former President Muhammadu Buhari, who passed away recently at the age of 82.

The announcement was made in a statement issued on Monday by Mallam Bolaji Abdullahi, the party's Interim National Publicity Secretary and spokesperson for the Opposition Coalition.

According to the statement, the mourning will commence on Tuesday, 15 July 2025. During this period, the ADC will suspend all political activities and refrain from issuing public statements.

Describing Buhari as "a man who served Nigeria with a fierce sense of duty, personal discipline, and conviction," the



ADC urged Nigerians to remember him for his integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to public service.

However, the party also used the occasion to criticise what it described as political opportunism surrounding Buhari's death, accusing the current administration and the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) of

hypocrisy.

"His own political party and the government that had done everything in the last two years to tarnish his records, dismantle his legacies and blame him for every one of their failings, are now posturing as the chief mourners at his burial, this is sheer hypocrisy and a brazen move to harvest political gains from a national tragedy," the statement read.

The ADC called on Nigerians to honour Buhari's legacy not through hollow praise, but by demanding higher ethical standards from current and future leaders.

It also appealed to the late president's family and loyalists to be cautious of those seeking to exploit his passing for political advantage.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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10X4	206,890.50
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9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.5
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
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4X3	36,499.50
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
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6X3	78,500.00
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9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
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4X3	39,499.50
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3X2	19,750.00
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10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
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9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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6X3	41,124.50
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
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National Assembly adjourns proceedings to July 22 in honour of Buhari

By Friday Omosola

Legislative sessions at both the Senate and House of Representatives have been put on hold until Tuesday, 22 July 2025, following the death of former President Muhammadu Buhari.

This adjournment was communicated in a statement released on Monday by the Clerk to the National Assembly, Kamoru Ogunlana.

He explained that the decision was made to allow lawmakers to pay their respects and participate in funeral activities for the late former president, who died in London on Sunday, 13 July 2025.

“In tribute to his life of service to the nation, the Senate President and the Speaker of the House have instructed that all legislative duties be suspended. Lawmakers are advised to adjust their schedules accordingly,” the statement noted.

The leadership of the National Assembly



also expressed their deep sympathies to Buhari’s widow, Aisha, his children, the people of Katsina State, and Nigerians.

They praised Buhari’s enduring legacy, highlighting his unwavering dedication to national unity and his reputation for integrity.

Buhari, a native of Daura in Katsina State, first led Nigeria as a military ruler from January 1984 to August 1985.

He later served two terms as a democratically elected president from 29 May 2015 to 29 May 2023.

FG declares Tuesday public holiday in honour of Buhari

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government (FG) has declared Tuesday, 15 July, a public holiday in honour of the late former President Muhammadu Buhari.

According to a statement issued by Magdalene Ajani, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, the declaration follows the approval of President Bola Tinubu and aligns with the seven-day period of national mourning previously announced.

The Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, who made the announcement on behalf of the FG, said the holiday serves as a mark of respect for the late President’s service to the nation.

He highlighted Buhari’s significant contributions to Nigeria’s democratic evolution and his enduring legacy in



governance and national development.

“President Muhammadu Buhari served Nigeria with dedication, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to the unity and progress of our great nation.

“This public holiday provides an opportunity for all Nigerians to reflect on his life, leadership, and the values he upheld,” the Minister said.

He called on citizens to mark the day by honouring the late President’s memory through the promotion of peace, patriotism, and national unity, values the former leader upheld in his vision for a prosperous and united Nigeria.

As previously announced, national flags are to be flown at half-mast throughout the seven-day mourning period, beginning on Sunday, 13th July.

The FG extends its deepest condolences to the late President’s family, the people of Katsina State, and all Nigerians, while offering prayers for the peaceful repose of his soul.

Knocks, praises trail Buhari's death as Nigerians reflect on his legacy

By: **Fatimah Idera and Helen Okechukwu**

It is no longer news that former President Muhammadu Buhari has died—tributes from dignitaries across all walks of life have poured in for the former military Head of State, who passed away in London on Sunday, 13 July, after a brief illness.

His death, however, sparked mixed reactions across the country, with one of his close allies, Farouk Aliyu, noting the wave of criticism and insults many Nigerians directed at the late president.

The New Daily Prime spoke to several Nigerians to gauge their views, revealing a broad spectrum of sentiments, ranging from admiration for his discipline to deep frustration over the hardships experienced during his administration.

Reflecting on Buhari's legacy and what his death meant, Taofeek Imam, a web developer who resides in Abuja, described him as a legend who made significant efforts to reshape the nation.

Imam said he would remember Buhari for lifting the ban on the importation of international goods, which helped promote locally made products.

He also noted that Buhari's administration deepened his understanding of Nigeria's political system and its functioning across various sectors.

He said, "Some of the negativity, but I personally have no grudges against him following his death, I might have been hurt indirectly during his administration but all my grudges end the moment he dies."

"Although I will remember him for his contribution in lifting a ban on importation of international goods and promoting the locally made ones. It was a reasonable decision from my end even though locally made products are not being well processed but then, this reduces importation of foods to promote our local ones.



Moreover, Ibrahim Ghazali, a teacher and resident of Kwara State, stated that Buhari's policies contributed to the naira's devaluation and inflicted severe damage on businesses.

Similarly, Kazeem Munir, a student of Adekunle Ajasin University (AAUA) in Ondo State, criticised Buhari's leadership style, describing it as 'autocratic.'

He accused the former president of shattering the hopes of the people, alleging that his politics were marked by bigotry, nepotism, and tribalism.

"I could vividly remember the rate at which Fulani herdsmen kill people in Ondo state (Owo Town). It was so devastating that the inflation hit the economy during his tenure during the Lekki massacre where an outrageous number of people died without getting justice," Munir lamented.

Abeeb Ajibade, a student of AAUA also acknowledged Buhari's dedication to the fight against corruption, highlighting the recovery of over \$300 million from the late Sani Abacha's Swiss accounts and the establishment of the Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption.

"I remember him for raising hopes about

tackling corruption but falling short of transformative change," he said.

Abeeb also recalled that Buhari's pledge to defeat Boko Haram achieved only limited success.

"While his administration achieved some successes, such as the release of some Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014, insecurity worsened overall as Boko Haram remained active, and new threats emerged, including banditry in the northwest, separatist violence in the southeast, and clashes between farmers and herders."

He added that the heavy-handed response to the 2020 #EndSARS protests laid bare the administration's intolerance of dissent.

"I will remember him for the unfulfilled promise of restoring security, as violence spread beyond the northeast, leaving many Nigerians feeling," he said.

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on next page

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In the same vein, Adeyemi Adrat, a law student at Ladoke Akintola University (Lautech), Oyo State, described Buhari as a disciplined and patriotic leader whose life was deeply intertwined with Nigeria's transition from military rule to democracy.

He commended Buhari's infrastructural achievements, including the Second Niger Bridge, the Lagos-Ibadan railway, and strides in agriculture — while also acknowledging that economic instability, insecurity, and the EndSARS protests marred parts of his legacy.

READ ALSO: FG declares Tuesday public holiday in honour of Buhari
“His persona reflected an unwavering commitment to order, integrity, and anti-corruption, even when the results of his policies often sparked mixed reactions across the nation.”

Pain instead of change

For Ms Chisom Luke, a business woman and resident of Imo State, said Buhari was a distant leader. “He was calm but disconnected. His silence on pressing national issues spoke louder than words,” he said.

Echoing this sentiment, Ms Marvelous Wisdom, a trader and resident of Rivers State, stated that the Buhari administration exposed the country to experiences it had never faced before.

While describing the late president's tenure as a ‘preparatory class for the worst economy’, he added that although Buhari promised change, his administration delivered pain through policies that were largely unfriendly to Nigerians.

Similarly, Yusuf Abdulbasit, a student of UNILORIN believed that Buhari had good intentions but was often misunderstood because of his leadership style.

According to him, ‘Buhari was human and bound to err’, noting that the former president's silence during the ASUU strikes, the EndSARS protests,

and the rise in insecurity was deeply painful.

“He is a human and they are expected to make mistake, this mistake made his tenure marked by pain for many of us but I will remember him for the silence during critical moments ASUU strikes that stole students' time, EndSARS protests that cost lives, and the spread of insecurity,” he lamented.

For many, Buhari's passing at 82 — considered a “ripe age” by biblical standards — is not shocking, but a moment to assess a complicated legacy.

Adewale Sodiq, a trader from Lagos described the Buhari administration as one of the most corrupt Nigeria has ever witnessed.

“The 1983–85 regime was prudent but later interrupted by by General Ibrahim Babangida coup. His return in 2015 was to bring the change Nigerians wanted, sadly, from 2015 to 2023, his regime was one of the most corrupt Nigeria has witnessed. May Allah forgive his shortcomings and make Nigeria great again.”

A public analyst, Olaka Olaka, from Rivers State, reflected on Buhari's first tenure in the 1980s, commending his War Against Indiscipline.

“Nigeria was made to know what discipline is. Then Nigeria started knowing what it means to queue before you can buy, or in a public gathering, there should be orderliness. Like you go to the bank, you have to queue. You go to the filling station, you have to queue, and you know all of that,” he noted.

However, Mr Olaka was candid in his assessment of Buhari's second term.

“I will remember him for hardship, insecurity, and nepotism. The economy was at a standstill. Nigerians suffered untold hardship. Buhari is a symbol of bad governance,” he stated.

“It would have been a relief if he had died in office. Dying now as a former

president is meaningless to me.”

“So I, as a Christian believer, would describe the death of Muhammadu Buhari as an inevitable experience. It's something that would always come. Everybody is bound to die one day, and so I don't really see anything new or strange in his death.”

Smith Nwokocha, a public interest advocate in Rivers State, offered a more measured perspective. “But the truth is this: unfortunately, he didn't meet that expectation, right? There was so much hardship in his time. Nigerians struggled,” he said.

“People were so embittered. Even when he was leaving office, during the election period, we talked about the CBN crisis, naira change, and all that — a whole lot of things happened in that time. Yes, he's a great man and he sustained democracy, which is a good part of him,” he said.

Nevertheless, Nwokocha acknowledged Buhari's commitment to democratic principles. “He still maintained that democracy in his time. That is a good part. Also, he pushed for local government autonomy and fought for anti-corruption.”

Olaka, who served on a Special Public Works Committee, noted that although he never met Buhari, he felt the impact of his administration.

“There was no transparency in any election that was conducted under him. There was no electricity — the tariff was being increased every now and then, and the fuel price was being increased every now and then.”

“There was insecurity, and Nigerians were dying in their numbers on a daily basis. The herders-farmers clashes were not addressed until he left office. And so, if he were to be a listening president, he would have addressed it. Rather, the issue of land donation and open grazing was even being promoted,” he said.

Only the gods can fill your shoes – Showunmi pays tribute to Late Awujale

By Gbenga Olaleye



Prominent member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and convener of The Alternative, Segun Showunmi, has paid a heartfelt tribute to the late Awujale and paramount ruler of Ijebuland, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, who passed away on Sunday at the age of 91.

In a statement issued on Monday, Showunmi described the monarch's death as a profound loss, stating that the vacuum left behind would be "difficult to match". He expressed his condolences to the people of Ijebuland and hailed the legacy of the revered royal.

"Your shoes are very big — only the gods can help fill this mighty

shoe you left behind," he said, reflecting on the monarch's stature and impact during his decades-long reign.

Describing Oba Adetona as a leader who lived not only for himself but for the collective good of all sons and daughters of Ijebuland, Showunmi drew from poetic imagery to honour the monarch's memory.

"Oh, the big iroko has fallen. Ajankoro dugbe dugbe, your duty is done on this royal throne, in this sphere. Now you join the ancestors, your ancestors, our forebears. I reckon they will be proud of you for leaving the throne better than you found it," he lamented.

Oba Sikiru Adetona, who ascended the throne in 1960, was one of Nigeria's longest-reigning traditional rulers. Widely respected for his wisdom and leadership, he played a vital role in the cultural, social, and political life of the Ijebu people and beyond.

"Baba Adetoun, sun re, may Almighty Allah accept your soul and forgive your sins," Showunmi concluded.

The passing of the Awujale marks the end of an era for the Ijebu kingdom, with tributes continuing to pour in from across Nigeria.

Nigerian govt sets up inter-ministerial committee for Buhari's funeral

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has approved the constitution of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to plan and coordinate a state funeral for the late former President Muhammadu Buhari, who died on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by Segun Imohiosen, Director of Information and Public Relations in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), the committee is to be chaired by SGF George Akume.

It comprises key cabinet members and top security officials, tasked with delivering a dignified and befitting burial ceremony.

Members of the committee

include the Ministers of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning; Defence; Information and National Orientation; Works; Interior; Federal Capital Territory; Housing and Urban Development; Health and Social Welfare (State); and Culture and Creative Economy.

Also named are the National Security Adviser, the Special Adviser to the President on Policy and Coordination, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Political and Other Matters, the Inspector General of Police, the Director-General of the Department of State Services, and the Chief of Defence Staff.

The statement further noted that

Tinubu has directed all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to open condolence registers at the entrances of their offices, allowing members of the public to pay their last respects to the late statesman.

In addition, central condolence registers will be made available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bola Ahmed Tinubu International Conference Centre in Abuja to accommodate tributes from the diplomatic community and the general public.

Further announcements regarding funeral arrangements will be made in due course, the statement added.

Kwankwaso not decamping, we're too calculative – NNPP Kano Chairman

By Gbenga Olaleye



The Kano State Chairman of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Suleiman Hashimu Dungurawa, has firmly dismissed rumours suggesting that the party's 2023 presidential candidate, Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, is preparing to defect to the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

Speaking to journalists in Kano on Monday, Dungurawa described the speculation as a deliberate miscalculation by political opponents "afraid of the leader of the Kwankwasiyya Movement."

"Kwankwaso is not one of those pushover politicians who take decisions without appraising and deeply thinking about their consequences," he said.

The NNPP stalwart underscored Kwankwaso's political stature, describing him as "the political leader of Northern Nigeria," and emphasised that many politicians in the region

looked up to him for direction and leadership.

"It is malicious to say he is decamping out for now. Why are Nigerian politicians panicking about Kwankwaso's movements? Let them calm down – the time for decisions is yet to come. We are people who are too calculative; we don't just take actions without due consideration," Dungurawa asserted.

Addressing the concerns raised by some observers about Kwankwaso's meetings with other political groups, the NNPP chairman explained that such interactions are standard in politics.

"As a politician who has a PhD in the field, do you expect him to hide himself or desert people? No way. He can talk to anybody it's a normal thing," he said.

Dungurawa also criticised those he described as "pretending followers"

of Kwankwaso, adding that true supporters understand the former governor's inclusive decision-making style.

"Genuine followers know that Kwankwaso doesn't take any decisions without consulting, even from as low as a ward supporter," he said.

In a related development, Dungurawa praised the performance of Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf, stating that the opposition had been "overwhelmed" by the governor's infrastructural achievements over the past two years.

"Governor Yusuf's heavy infrastructural development has overwhelmed the opposition they can't even show their presence anywhere in Kano. That is why we are proud of what he is doing," he concluded.

“Buhari never gave up on leading Nigeria through democratic means” - Fayemi

By Friday Omosola

Former Governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, has paid tribute to the late former President Muhammadu Buhari, describing him as a man of unwavering conviction and remarkable tenacity.

Fayemi, who served as Minister of Mines and Steel Development during Buhari's administration said this in a statement posted on his Facebook page on Monday.

He said the former president never wavered in his ambition to lead Nigeria democratically, despite enduring multiple electoral defeats before eventually securing victory in 2015.

Fayemi, who also chaired the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), expressed profound sadness over Buhari's passing, which occurred in London on Sunday, 13 July, following a brief illness.

He extended his heartfelt condolences to the Buhari family, the government and people of Katsina State, and all Nigerians, urging collective prayers and support as the nation mourns the loss of one of its prominent leaders.

“President Buhari's life was defined by resilience and an unyielding belief in the Nigerian project. He contested and lost multiple presidential elections but never gave up on his commitment to the ideals he believed in.

“His eventual victory in 2015 and re-election in 2019 were testaments to his perseverance and the trust millions of Nigerians placed in his leadership,” Fayemi said.



Fayemi, who chaired the All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Primary Convention that produced Buhari as the party's presidential candidate in 2014, remarked that the former president made a lasting impact on Nigeria's infrastructure development.

“His administration undertook some of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in recent Nigerian history, including massive road constructions, the revitalisation of rail transport, and the Second Niger Bridge. He believed in building for the future, and his legacy in this regard will long outlive his time in office,” Fayemi stated.

While acknowledging the array of challenges that confronted Buhari during his administration—from economic turbulence to widespread security concerns, Fayemi described the late leader as “a fundamentally good man, often misunderstood, but deeply committed to Nigeria's

progress.”

“History will be kinder to him than the moment allowed. He faced enormous trials, both as a man and as president, yet remained steadfast in his commitment to Nigeria's unity and progress.

“President Buhari has finished his course and fought the good fight. Yet his vision of a stable, united, and prosperous Nigeria remains unfulfilled. It is now our collective responsibility as leaders and citizens to ensure that his dreams for our great nation are realised.

“We must build upon the foundation he laid and work tirelessly to achieve the Nigeria he envisioned. As we mourn his loss, let us also celebrate his life and contributions. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may God Almighty grant his family and our nation the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss”, he said.

Sanwo-Olu hails APC's landslide victory in LG elections, calls for unified service

By Friday Omosola

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has expressed profound joy and gratitude following the All Progressives Congress (APC)'s sweeping victory in the local government elections held across the state on Saturday, July 12.

Mr Sanwo-Olu, in a statement yesterday, congratulated the APC, its leadership, stakeholders, and members on their overwhelming electoral success.

He described the outcome as a clear demonstration of the trust Lagosians place in the party's vision for inclusive grassroots development.

"This victory belongs to the people of Lagos," Sanwo-Olu affirmed, highlighting that the results reflect public confidence in the agenda of continuity, progress, and people-centric governance.

He extended congratulations to all victorious APC candidates, party members, and supporters across the 57 Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Local Council Development Areas (LCDAs) for their commitment and contributions.

Addressing the newly elected Chairmen and Councillors, the governor offered warm congratulations while delivering a crucial reminder: "This victory is not an end, but a means to an end—that end being selfless, responsive, and accountable service to the people."

He underscored their responsibility to deliver good governance, uplift communities, and promote the welfare of every resident, irrespective of political affiliation.

Sanwo-Olu urged the victors to embrace humility, inclusiveness, and



sportsmanship, extending goodwill across all divides.

He emphasised that leadership is a sacred trust, obligating them to serve their entire communities with equity, transparency, and compassion.

The governor also commended party members who participated in the primaries but were not successful, saluting their courage and dedication to the democratic process.

He encouraged them to remain steadfast and collaborate with the newly elected officials, stressing that "within the APC, we must always prioritise unity above personal ambition" to sustain the party's legacy of service and success.

Calling for an end to internal divisions, Sanwo-Olu urged all APC members to reconcile and support their elected representatives in fulfilling the mandate received from the populace.

"We are stronger together, and the task of building a Greater Lagos demands our collective effort, wisdom, and collaboration," he stated.

Sanwo-Olu lauded the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) for conducting a peaceful and credible election, and thanked security agencies for maintaining law and order throughout the electoral exercise.

He expressed appreciation to the people of Lagos for peacefully exercising their civic responsibility, thereby reinforcing democratic ideals with dignity and maturity.

As the new local government administrations prepare to assume office, Sanwo-Olu reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to close collaboration, aiming to drive meaningful development to every part of the state.

Buhari to be buried Tuesday - Katsina govt

By **Damilola Olufemi**

Former President Muhammadu Buhari's burial has been announced for tomorrow, Tuesday, July 15, 2025.

According to his media aide, Garba Shehu, he died in a clinic on Sunday, July 13, in London.

The burial arrangement of the former head of state and president was announced by Katsina State Governor Dikko Radda at a press briefing on Monday.

While the paperwork to complete the release of his body in London has begun, Radda said the former president's remains will arrive in Katsina by noon on Tuesday, July 15, while the burial will take place in Daura, the hometown of Buhari, at 2 pm. The burial arrangement, he said, followed consultations with Buhari's family and close associates in London.

Buhari's remains would be released once the paperwork was perfected.

The governor condoled with the family of Buhari, the country and Nigerians at large.

Meanwhile, President Bola Tinubu has announced a public holiday to mourn his predecessor.

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, disclosed this on behalf of the Federal Government on Monday.

Tunji-Ojo said the holiday is a mark of respect for the late president's service to the nation, his contributions to Nigeria's democratic journey, and his enduring legacy in governance and national development.

He said, "President Muhammadu Buhari served Nigeria with dedication, integrity,



and an unwavering commitment to the unity and progress of our great nation. This public holiday provides an opportunity for all Nigerians to reflect on his life, leadership, and the values he upheld."

Tributes to Buhari

Leaders across the world have continued to send in their condolences to Nigeria and Nigerians over the demise of Buhari, who died at the age of 82, after receiving treatment for many weeks in London.

Born in Daura, Katsina State, Buhari first led Nigeria as a military ruler from January 1984 to August 1985. After the return to civilian rule in 1999, he ran for president three times unsuccessfully—in 2003, 2007, and 2011.

In 2013, his political party, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), merged with other opposition parties—including Bola Tinubu's Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), factions of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)—to form the All Progressives Congress (APC).

The Chairperson of the African Union

Commission (AUC), Mahmoud Youssouf, in a statement, described the former president as a Pan-Africanist and an advocate for regional integration.

While expressing his condolences, he described Buhari as a "principled and resolute leader who served Nigeria with honour and conviction. He was a steadfast supporter of multilateral cooperation and a tireless champion of peace and stability across Africa."

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, in his condolence message and assured the country of his support.

Sierra Leone's President and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Julius Maada Bio, in his message on behalf of the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone, expressed heartfelt condolences to Buhari's family, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and Nigeria during this incredibly difficult time.

"This is truly a devastating loss, and our thoughts are with you all," he posted on X.

We must rescue Nigeria's democracy – Sule Lamido backs ADC-led opposition coalition

By Gbenga Olaleye



Former Governor of Jigawa State, Alhaji Sule Lamido, has declared his support for the emerging opposition coalition under the African Democratic Congress (ADC), stating that the move is aimed at rescuing Nigeria's democracy from what he described as its rapid decline under the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Lamido made the declaration while addressing supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) during an empowerment programme held at the party's headquarters in Dutse.

In a bold political shift, the PDP stalwart revealed that he has aligned himself with the ADC-led coalition spearheaded by former Senate President, Senator David Mark.

According to Lamido, the alliance seeks to restore democratic values, protect the opposition space, and ensure national progress.

"Our coming together under the African Democratic Congress (ADC) led by Senator David Mark is for the unity and progress of the country, not for selfish interest," Lamido said.

He accused the APC-led government of overseeing the erosion of democratic norms, citing growing incidents of power abuse, suppression of opposition voices, and disregard for constitutional principles.

"Any patriotic Nigerian who has Nigeria at heart must come together to give his contribution to unseat the present administration in order to save the country and Nigerians from the difficult situation," he added.

Lamido stressed that the current political moment requires leadership driven by national interest, not partisanship.

"Our duty now is to advise and guide for the betterment of the country and the brighter future of Nigeria," he said.

During the event, he also commended PDP federal lawmakers from Jigawa for their dedication and continued advocacy for the party's founding principles.

In his remarks, Senator Mustapha Khabeeb, who represents Jigawa South-West Senatorial District, revealed that more than 3,000 constituents had benefited from the empowerment programme, which includes skills development, financial support, and tools for self-reliance.

The alliance under the ADC is gaining momentum amid increasing discussions about the shape of Nigeria's opposition ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Why leaders must learn from posthumous insults on Buhari – Aliyu

By Friday Omosola



Farouk Aliyu, a prominent ally of the late former President Muhammadu Buhari, has called on Nigerian leaders to draw crucial lessons from the death of the former president.

Aliyu, a former Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, offered this counsel during a Monday interview on Channels Television's 'Sunrise Daily' programme.

His remarks came as he addressed the torrent of criticism and insults that many Nigerians have directed at the late president.

He underscored that no human being, irrespective of their political standing, is without fault,

yet he stressed that Buhari should be respected for his contributions to the nation's growth and development.

Aliyu urged politicians to be highly mindful of their actions while in power, serving as a reminder that death is an inevitable end for all.

He added that while Buhari's decisions were ultimately aimed at the nation's well-being, they might not have been universally accepted or popular with every segment of the populace.

He said, "When it (death) comes, it is between the individual and God. Those of us in leadership positions, or aspiring to such roles, must reflect on the fact that everything in life has an end. Life

is transient. No matter your status, whether president, governor, or any other position, death will eventually come.

"In this country, we have lost leaders like General Sani Abacha, Shehu Shagari, Murtala Muhammed, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, and now Muhammadu Buhari. Those in authority today should learn from this reality.

"If you look at social media, you'll find many people raining insults on the late President Buhari. It's unfortunate. This should serve as a lesson to current leaders: no matter what you do, there are Nigerians who may never forgive you. So while you're still in office, strive to do your best."

“Hit the ground running to meet citizens’ expectations” – Aiyedatiwa tells newly sworn-in commissioners

By Friday Omosola

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa of Ondo State has charged newly sworn-in commissioners to hit the ground running and deliver on the administration’s promises.

He stressed that citizens expect nothing less than effective, people-focused governance.

While inaugurating the new batch of commissioners into the State Executive Council, the governor reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and effective service delivery.

The swearing-in ceremony took place at the International Centre for Culture and Events (The Dome) in Akure on Monday.

Describing the occasion as a significant milestone in his administration’s journey towards building a greater state, Aiyedatiwa urged the new appointees to hit the ground running, stressing that the expectations of the people remain high.

“The people of Ondo State expect nothing but the best from us, having entrusted us with an overwhelming mandate. We must strive to deliver on all our electioneering promises,” he stated.

The governor explained that the delay in appointments was deliberate, reflecting his administration’s belief in steady, consistent governance over hasty decisions.

“Within the first 100 days of our administration, we have been able to prove that slow and steady wins the race,” he added.

He described the newly appointed commissioners as individuals with “unassailable qualifications, impeccable track records and a deep commitment to public service.”

He urged them to uphold integrity, patriotism, due process, and foster cordial working relationships within



their ministries and agencies.

Aiyedatiwa also cautioned family members and associates of the appointees against exerting undue pressure for personal or sectional interests.

He encouraged the new commissioners to align their efforts with his administration’s 7-point agenda, OUR EASE, which focuses on Economic Development, Food Security, Education, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Security, Youth Empowerment, and Social Welfare.

Highlighting his administration’s achievements, the governor said various infrastructure projects and socio-economic programmes had been initiated to support the elderly, less privileged, and vulnerable groups.

He added that both continuity and innovation had guided his government’s developmental strategy.

On security, Aiyedatiwa reiterated his administration’s resolve to combat

criminality, noting the recent approval of a bill prescribing the death penalty for kidnappers and abductors in the state.

He also reassured party faithful and citizens who are yet to be appointed that more opportunities to serve in various capacities lie ahead.

However, Secretary to the State Government, Taiwo Fasoranti, described the appointments as a strategic step towards inclusive and people-oriented governance.

He commended Aiyedatiwa for selecting appointees based on merit, competence, and commitment to the OUR EASE agenda.

Speaking on behalf of the new commissioners, Omoyofunmi Segun expressed appreciation to the governor for the opportunity to serve and pledged that the team would deliver diligently in their respective roles.

Abdulsalami: I was in same London hospital as Buhari before his death

By Damilola Olufemi



Former military Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar, has revealed that he was admitted to the same London hospital as former President Muhammadu Buhari shortly before Buhari's passing.

Buhari died on Sunday at the age of 82 after a prolonged illness.

In an interview with Channels Television, Abdulsalami shared that he had only just been discharged when he received the news of Buhari's death.

"Unfortunately, we were in the same hospital together. But I have been discharged," he said. "So, when I heard the news of his passing away, I quickly went there to condole the family and see what could be done to get the corpse ready to be taken home."

Looking back on their long-standing relationship, Abdulsalami recalled that their paths first crossed in 1962 when both joined the Nigerian military.

"He was my senior, and during the unfortunate civil war, we were fighting in the same sector with him," he recounted.

Abdulsalami hails Buhari

He praised Buhari as "a gentleman who was very quiet and exceptionally honest," adding, "You can trust Buhari with anything on this earth and he will not betray you."

On Buhari's legacy in office, Abdulsalami acknowledged his commitment to fighting corruption, although he admitted that not all members of his administration lived up to expectations.

"When he became a democratic president, he tried his best to fight corruption. Unfortunately, some of the officers who served with him are found wanting. They didn't do as much as was expected from them," he said.

He described Buhari's passing as a "big blow" to both Nigeria and the wider West African region, commending President Bola Tinubu for sending Vice President Kashim Shettima and Chief of Staff Femi Gbajabiamila to London to oversee the repatriation of the late leader's remains.

"That shows the magnitude of what has befallen Nigeria," Abdulsalami noted.

"With the passing away of Buhari, politics in Nigeria will certainly change — I hope for the better," he concluded.

FG health personnel to apply knowledge into service By Friday Omosola



The Federal Government has called about 150 trained health personnel to put their newly acquired knowledge into practice in a bid to strengthen Nigeria's system.

According to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the call was made on Monday during a four-day workshop in Damaturu, Yobe State, as part of the National Health Sector Renewal Initiative (NHSRI).

The event, themed "Leadership, Health System Strengthening, and Health Planning Capacity Development," brought together over 70 programme managers and development partners from across the country.

Dr Babagana Abba, the Sector-Wide Approach Desk Officer, said the training focused on building the capacity of frontline medical managers to improve planning, leadership, and technical delivery of medical services.

"The training targets programme officers and managers—those directly responsible for implementing health programmes at the state, local government, and community levels," he

explained.

According to Dr Abba, similar workshops had already taken place in Enugu and the Federal Capital Territory, intending to ensure that medical officers at all levels understand and implement national health priorities effectively.

He urged the participants to actively take part in the sessions and to share their knowledge with their teams, stating that this would help prepare for the development of the 2026 Annual Operational Plan (AOP).

"We want every health worker—whether at the state or community level—to be informed, involved, and working towards common national goals," he said.

Health minister speaks

The Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof Muhammad Pate, addressed the participants virtually.

He described the 2026 AOP as a vital tool for achieving the country's flagship reforms and urged medical workers to focus on people-centred, data-driven

planning.

Represented by his Technical Adviser, Dr Isa Bukar, Prof. Pate added, "This is not the time for business as usual. Nigerians must see results, especially with the 2027 elections approaching."

Dr Musa Matazu, speaking on behalf of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Aliko Dangote Foundation, praised the programme, calling it a results-oriented approach that connects planning with real impact.

"This is the first time we are seeing such a targeted training that focuses on systems strengthening, problem-solving, and planning for impact," Dr Matazu said.

He commended Yobe State for showing leadership in resource mobilisation and partnership, adding that other states could achieve even more if they applied the same commitment.

The training is expected to boost the capacity of medical managers nationwide and help Nigeria deliver better healthcare outcomes.

WHO endorses twice-yearly HIV prevention jab in major policy shift

By Helen Okechukwu

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new guidelines recommending lenacapavir (LEN) as a twice-yearly injectable option for HIV prevention, marking a major advance in the global HIV response.

The announcement was made at the 13th International AIDS Society (IAS) Conference on HIV Science in Kigali, Rwanda.

Lenacapavir, the first long-acting PrEP requiring just two doses annually, offers a highly effective alternative for people who struggle with daily medication, stigma, or limited access to healthcare.

“While an HIV vaccine remains elusive, lenacapavir is the next best thing,” said WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Committed to working with countries and partners to ensure this innovation reaches communities as quickly and safely as possible.”

The new guidelines arrive amid stalled progress in HIV prevention. In 2024, 1.3 million people contracted HIV, with key populations — including sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, and adolescents — disproportionately affected.

WHO now recommends HIV rapid testing to support delivery of injectable PrEP, streamlining access through pharmacies, clinics, and telehealth. This shift removes barriers tied to costly and complex testing.

Lenacapavir joins a growing list of WHO-endorsed prevention tools, including daily oral PrEP, injectable cabotegravir, and the dapivirine



vaginal ring.

While broader access to LEN is still limited, WHO urges countries and donors to begin rollout within national HIV programmes, gathering data on real-world impact.

Updated Treatment and Service Integration

WHO has also updated its treatment guidance to recommend injectable cabotegravir and rilpivirine (CAB/RPV) for people with suppressed viral loads who don't have active hepatitis B. This long-acting ART option supports individuals with adherence challenges.

In addition, WHO now encourages integration of HIV services with treatment for noncommunicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension, alongside mental health support. New STI guidelines also recommend routine screening

for gonorrhoea and chlamydia in high-risk groups.

For people with HIV and mpox, WHO strongly advises rapid ART initiation, alongside routine HIV and syphilis testing for suspected mpox cases.

By the end of 2024, 40.8 million people were living with HIV, 65% of them in Africa. While 31.6 million were on treatment, 630,000 died from HIV-related causes.

With global HIV funding in decline, WHO has released operational guidance to help countries prioritise essential services and safeguard progress.

“We have the tools and the knowledge to end AIDS as a public health problem,” said Dr Meg Doherty of WHO. “What we need now is bold implementation of these recommendations.”

KWEPA tasks UNILORIN management on tackling environmental issues

By Helen Okechukwu

The Kwara State Environmental Protection Agency (KWEPA) has urged the management of the University of Ilorin (UNILORIN) to address environmental concerns observed during a recent inspection at its permanent site.

The visit, conducted by the Agency's Tertiary Institution Unit, was aimed at evaluating the University's compliance with sanitation and waste management standards.

The inspection team identified several lapses and called on the institution to take immediate steps to improve its environmental conditions for the safety and well-being of students, staff, and nearby residents.

Leading the team on behalf of KWEPA's General Manager, Hon. Jide Aina, Mrs. Hassan Fatimoh stressed the Agency's commitment to ensuring healthy and clean learning environments across all higher institutions in the state.

UNILORIN to partner KWEPA

Reacting to the findings, Dr. Abdulrashid Adekeye Odunola, Director of Health



Services at UNILORIN, expressed the University's willingness to collaborate with the health agency.

He assured the team that the management would reinforce existing environmental measures and promptly address the issues raised.

In a related effort, KWEPA's School Health Unit carried out inspections at various private schools within Ilorin to assess their compliance with environmental and hygiene regulations.

According to the press Secretary of KWEPA, Aliyu Amode, in a shared document, the checks are part of a wider initiative by the agency to uphold public health and ensure that all schools maintain safe and sanitary learning spaces.

KWEPA reaffirmed its dedication to safeguarding the environment and public health through regular assessments, awareness campaigns, and strict enforcement of environmental laws.

KWEPA cracks down on unsanitary pharmacies

By Helen Okechukwu

In a determined move to enforce environmental health regulations, the Kwara State Environmental Protection Agency (KWEPA) has carried out a sweeping inspection of pharmacies across Ilorin, intensifying efforts to safeguard public health and uphold environmental standards.

The operation, spearheaded by Mr Jamiu Isiaka on behalf of the Agency's General Manager, Mr Jide Aina, zeroed in on the sanitary conditions, waste disposal systems, and overall environmental management practices of pharmaceutical outlets within the metropolis.

Dozens of premises were subjected to rigorous scrutiny, with the inspection team commending those that met prescribed hygiene and safety standards.



Read Also: Diarrhoea: Kaduna govt seeks end to open defecation

However, not all establishments passed muster. Several were served official notifications highlighting areas of concern, while others were handed stern warnings for flouting environmental safety guidelines.

According to the VON report, KWEPA made

it clear that persistent violations would not be tolerated, stressing that repeat offenders risk sanctions following environmental laws.

KWEPA reassures provision of safety Speaking after the exercise, Mr Isiaka reaffirmed the Agency's commitment to protecting public health through proactive regulation.

He urged all pharmacy operators and health-related businesses to prioritise environmental compliance as a non-negotiable aspect of their operations.

Isiaka stated that similar inspections would continue at regular intervals to ensure consistent adherence to environmental protocols within the health sector.

Tems makes history as first African to headline Club World Cup Final

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Grammy-winning Nigerian singer Tems has made history by becoming the first African artiste to headline the FIFA Club World Cup final.

The globally celebrated songstress took the spotlight during the closing ceremony of the match between Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain on Sunday, July 13, 2025.

The match, which took place at a packed stadium, wasn't just a football showdown—it also served as a powerful showcase of African talent on the world stage. Tems delivered an electrifying performance that captivated both fans in the arena and millions watching across the globe.

The announcement of Tems as the headliner was made days earlier by FIFA and Global Citizen, co-producers of the high-profile sporting event. The news quickly went viral and generated excitement across social media platforms. Music lovers and football fans alike expressed their enthusiasm, proud to see an African artiste achieve such a major milestone.

When Tems finally took the stage, she didn't disappoint. Dressed in a dazzling outfit that reflected her signature style, she opened her set with the chart-topping track "Essence", her hit collaboration with Wizkid that gained global attention in 2021.

She followed with powerful performances of "Born in the Wild", the title track from her 2025 debut studio album, and the soulful "Free Mind." Her stage presence, vocals, and energy earned praise from fans and critics worldwide.

Tems now joins a prestigious group of global superstars who have performed at FIFA events, including Shakira and Jennifer Lopez. While Shakira set the tone with her iconic 2010 World Cup anthem "Waka Waka," and Jennifer Lopez rocked the stage in 2014, Tems'



2025 appearance marks the first time an African artist has been placed in the headliner spotlight for the Club World Cup final.

Her inclusion signals a growing recognition of African talent on global platforms, and it reinforces her status as one of the continent's most successful and influential musical exports.

Tems, whose full name is Temilade Openiyi, has continued to break barriers since her rise to fame. In 2021, she won her first Grammy Award for her contribution to "Wait For U," a 2022 hit song by American rapper Future featuring Drake. The track showcased her haunting vocals and lyrical depth, earning her widespread acclaim.

In February 2025, she added another Grammy to her name by winning the newly created Best African Performance category, an award introduced to highlight and celebrate excellence in African music.

The category was widely welcomed by fans and industry experts as a long-overdue step in recognising the influence of African sounds in global music.

Tems' performance at the Club World Cup final has been hailed as a cultural landmark, not just for Nigeria but for the entire African continent. Many fans and celebrities have taken to social media to share their admiration and pride, calling her achievement a win for African music and a sign of even greater things to come.

Several prominent voices in the entertainment and sports industries have also applauded FIFA and Global Citizen for their decision to highlight African excellence on such a prestigious stage.

As Tems continues her global rise, this historic moment adds another layer to her already impressive legacy. With sold-out shows, award-winning music, and now a record-setting FIFA performance, she remains one of the most influential voices shaping the future of music.

Her Club World Cup performance will likely inspire a new generation of African artists to dream bigger and to know that the world stage is within reach.

‘UK rappers deserve respect’, says Skepta

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

British grime heavyweight, Skepta, has declared that the time when UK rappers were overlooked is now behind them.

The rapper, known for pushing the boundaries of grime and hip-hop, said it's time the world gives British artists the respect they deserve.

Speaking during a recent interview with Link Up TV, Skepta explained that his recent call for a lyrical face-off between American and British rappers wasn't an act of hostility. Instead, he said it was a bold statement meant to shine a light on the talent coming out of the UK's rap scene.

Skepta explained that his challenge to US rappers to go head-to-head with their UK counterparts was meant to start a conversation, not a rivalry.

“It wasn't about us trying to embarrass anyone,” Skepta said. “My challenge to US rappers was simply saying it's time for us to get the respect we deserve.”

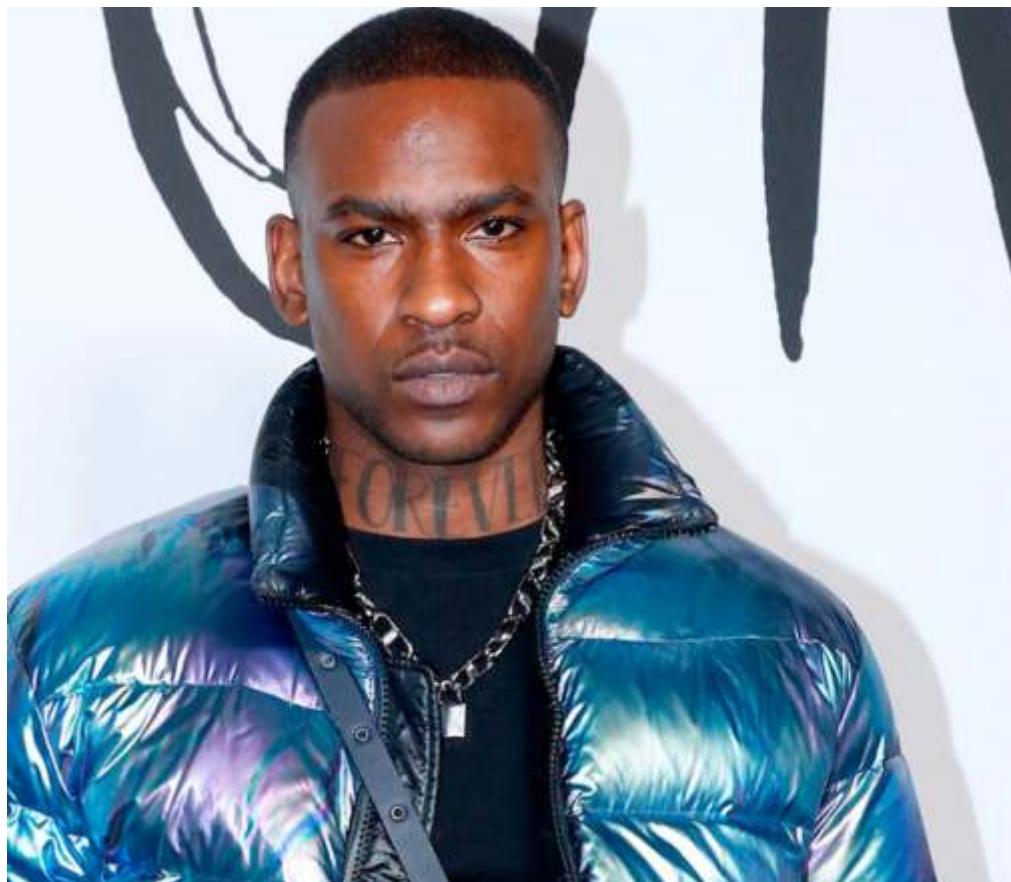
The 41-year-old rapper made it clear that the UK has proven its strength, and a lyrical battle could go either way. However, his main point was about recognition, not domination.

“I wasn't trying to say we're going to annihilate them,” he said. “Even though I believe we could 100%. It's more about us finally being seen and appreciated.”

Over the years, the UK rap scene has grown significantly in global influence. Artists like Stormzy, Dave, Central Cee, Little Simz, and Skepta himself have helped shape a distinct sound that now holds weight worldwide.

But despite the rising popularity, Skepta feels that UK rappers are still treated as second-tier compared to their American peers. According to him, the UK's talent, creativity, and storytelling often go unnoticed on the world stage.

“People need to stop acting like we're in



the shadows,” he said. “We've got our own wave. We've built our own culture. And we're just as good, if not better.”

Adding to the debate, Canadian rapper Drake recently voiced support for the UK scene. Known for his strong ties with British artists, Drake boldly stated that no one can out-rap the best of the UK.

“The UK has the best rappers,” he said in a statement that quickly made headlines and sparked conversation across social media.

Drake's support comes as no surprise. Over the years, he has collaborated with several UK artists, including Skepta, Giggs, and Headie One. His admiration for the UK sound has helped introduce grime and British rap to new audiences across the globe.

Skepta's remarks and Drake's endorsement reflect a growing change in how UK rap is seen internationally. Once considered a niche genre, British hip-hop and grime have now earned

spots on major global stages, music charts, and award shows.

British artists are no longer waiting for validation. They're creating their own movements, building fan bases outside the UK, and inspiring a new generation of talent.

“It's about time people recognise what we've been doing,” Skepta said. “We've paid our dues. Now, it's time to get our flowers.”

As the global hip-hop scene continues to evolve, the conversation around the UK's role in the culture is becoming louder and more urgent. Skepta's message is clear: UK rappers are here to stay, and they're no longer content being underdogs.

With international support and growing influence, the future of British rap looks brighter than ever.

Iyanya recalls performing for four minutes after mom dies

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian singer, Iyanya, has shared a deeply personal and emotional chapter of his life, revealing how he lost his father, brother, and mother in a heartbreaking sequence, all within just two years.

The music star, known for hits like *Kukere* and *Your Waist*, opened up during a recent interview with media personality Hero Daniels. He reflected on how the pain of those losses shaped him and described a moment many would find unthinkable: performing on stage just minutes after hearing of his mother's death.

Iyanya said the difficult period began just before his breakthrough into the music industry. According to him, his father died just days before he got his first major music deal.

"The lowest point of my life would be losing three family members in about two years," the singer said. "My dad passed away about seven or eight days before I got signed. Immediately after that, my brother died too."

But the hardest blow, he explained, came with the death of his mother. Unlike the others, her passing came at a particularly shocking moment — right before a live performance.

Iyanya recalled being backstage at an event, just four minutes away from performing, when his phone began to ring repeatedly. On the other end of the line was his mother's younger brother, who kept calling until he finally picked up.

"I think four minutes to my performance, my mom's junior brother was calling me back-to-back," Iyanya said. "So, I picked the call, and he goes, 'Your mom is dead.'"

The news hit him hard, but despite the overwhelming grief, he went ahead with the performance. "I still performed despite my devastation," he added. "That moment changed me."



Many fans may find it hard to believe that someone could summon the strength to sing in such a moment, but Iyanya said his decision to perform wasn't about being strong; it was simply something he felt he had to do.

"It was like I was outside my body," he shared. "The whole show felt like a blur. But somehow, I pulled through it."

Iyanya's story highlights the hidden struggles that artists often face behind the scenes. While the crowd cheers and cameras flash, many celebrities carry burdens that never make the headlines.

Over the years, Iyanya has managed to keep his career alive despite personal struggles. He said that channelling his pain into music and performance helped him stay afloat during his darkest times.

"Losing people you love it changes how you see life," he said. "You begin to understand what really matters. Every time I get on stage now, I remember them."

His story serves as a reminder of the emotional resilience that many entertainers need to survive in a tough

and competitive industry. Behind the glamour, there are stories of loss, survival, and silent strength.

Fans react to Iyanya's statement

Since the interview was made public, fans have taken to social media to express their support. Many praised Iyanya for his openness and admired his strength for performing under such heartbreaking circumstances.

One fan wrote, "Now I understand him better. He's been through a lot and still shows up for his fans." Another added, "This makes me respect Iyanya even more."

Iyanya may be best known for his catchy tunes and energetic performances, but his recent interview shows a more human side of the star. A side marked by grief, endurance, and quiet courage.

As he continues to grow both personally and professionally, the singer says he carries the memory of his late parents and brother with him every time he steps on stage.

Gaise Baba speaks on remix of 'No turning back' with Lawrence Oyor

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian gospel singer Akinade Ibuoye, widely known as Gaise Baba, has opened up about how his collaboration with Pastor Lawrence Oyor on the remix of No Turning Back came to life.

Contrary to public belief, the 38-year-old revealed that he did not seek out the fiery preacher for the remix. Instead, it was Pastor Oyor who approached him after being deeply moved by the original song.

The remix, released in May 2025, has since taken social media by storm. With countless dance challenges and video tributes flooding TikTok and Instagram, the song has become a gospel anthem, particularly among younger Christians.

“He came to me for the remix”

Speaking in an interview with media personality Chude Jideonwo, Gaise Baba explained how the viral remix happened.

Jideonwo asked, “Let’s talk about Lawrence Oyor, and why you went to him for the remix.”

In response, Gaise Baba corrected the narrative, saying,

“I didn’t go to him for the remix. Technically, he came to me for the remix. He loved the song. When we met, he was like, ‘Let’s do something about it.’ I was surprised.”

This revelation sheds light on the genuine connection and mutual admiration between both men, whose collaboration has now turned into one of the most talked-about gospel remixes of the year.

Gaise Baba praises Oyor’s “Ridiculous anointing” Beyond music, Gaise Baba spoke passionately about the spiritual depth of Pastor Oyor, describing him as having a “dangerous and ridiculous anointing.” But he didn’t stop there. According to him, Oyor’s spiritual gifts have evolved with time and intentionality.

“He’s from an interesting heritage of deliverance ministry,” Gaise Baba



explained. “God has added wisdom to it. So now, it’s not just raw anointing, it’s refined and packaged. There’s wisdom and excellence attached to his raw anointing, and that’s a dangerous combination.”

This description, though dramatic, speaks to the powerful impact Pastor Oyor has had on many young believers, combining deep spiritual insight with modern presentation.

What sets the No Turning Back remix apart isn’t just its beat or catchy chorus. It’s the spiritual depth and energy both artists bring to the table. Gaise Baba’s Afro-fusion gospel style blends smoothly with Oyor’s intense, prayer-driven delivery.

The remix echoes a commitment to faith, boldness, and the decision to move forward with Christ, no turning back. The song’s lyrics and tone strike a balance between devotion and celebration, resonating with both the church and the unchurched.

Fans react to the remix

Since its release, the No Turning Back remix has received massive attention online. Fans have praised both Gaise

Baba and Lawrence Oyor for creating a song that inspires, energises, and moves people to reflect on their spiritual journey.

Many Christian content creators have jumped on the viral dance challenge, using the song in skits, sermons, and short videos to spread the message of unwavering faith.

On TikTok, the song has generated over a million views in just a few weeks. On YouTube, the official video continues to gather traction, sparking conversations around the role of modern gospel music in today’s digital world.

For Gaise Baba, this collaboration is about more than music. It represents a movement that blends deep spirituality with contemporary expression.

In an age where gospel music competes for attention alongside mainstream hits, No Turning Back stands out as a message-driven anthem that touches hearts and stirs revival.

Both artists have made it clear that the remix wasn’t a marketing gimmick. It was born from a place of mutual respect, divine inspiration, and shared spiritual goals.

Blessing CEO explains why many marriages fail today

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial Nigerian relationship therapist, Blessing Okoro, widely known as Blessing CEO, has shared her thoughts on why modern marriages are struggling more than ever.

In a recent interview with Instablog TV, she discussed the pressures of today's society, particularly how independence, communication breakdowns, and social media are contributing to the growing rate of marital failure.

According to Blessing, one major factor causing strain in relationships is the overuse of social media. In past generations, couples often relied on family, elders, or the community for advice and conflict resolution. Today, however, many people turn to the internet to share their problems or seek guidance.

She explained that this shift has removed the privacy that once protected marriages. Rather than talking to their spouses or trusted elders, many now post about their struggles online, often receiving poor advice from strangers who lack context.

"We talk too much, and we talk to the wrong people," she said. "Social media has become our new confidant, and that's not how it's supposed to be."

Blessing also pointed out that traditional support systems, such as extended family and elders, used to play a vital role in helping couples stay together. These systems are now fading, especially in urban areas where modern lifestyles often prioritise independence over community. Without this support, couples are more likely to feel isolated during conflicts.

"In the past, when couples fought, there was always someone to talk to who could help calm things down," she noted. "Now, people either walk away or broadcast their issues online."

Blessing CEO gives another reason. Another major point she raised was the evolving role of women in society. Blessing acknowledged that women today are more empowered, educated, and financially independent. While she



praised this progress, she also warned that some women may struggle to balance their success with the traditional dynamics of a romantic relationship. She stated, "Today's woman is doing everything, she's educated, working, earning, and running businesses. That's powerful. But in some cases, it becomes a problem when that power shifts the way she relates to her partner."

Blessing emphasised that success, especially among women, can create tension in marriages, not necessarily because of the achievements themselves, but because of how they are expressed within the relationship.

She further explained that many men do not feel threatened by a woman's success directly, but rather by what that success might represent. Some men, she said, view a successful woman as a challenge to their role or identity as the head of the household.

"A lot of people think men are intimidated by a woman's money. That's not it," Blessing said. "What really bothers them is the masculinity that can come with success, the assertiveness, the dominance, the competition. That's what they fear."

Blessing's core advice to women was to remain soft, regardless of how much they earn or achieve. She believes that femininity should not be lost in the

pursuit of success. According to her, when women begin to act competitively in their homes, it may cause their partners to seek out relationships where they feel more respected or needed.

"Even when you're doing well, don't forget to be feminine," she urged. "If you keep trying to match your man in everything, power, control, decisions, it creates a rift. Some men will cheat or leave, not because they don't love you, but because they're looking for softness."

Blessing CEO's views have sparked widespread debate, with some applauding her honesty and others criticising her for promoting traditional gender roles. However, she maintains that her advice is rooted in real-life observations and her experience as a relationship therapist.

She concluded by saying, "We need to rebuild the way we see marriage. It's not just about being strong and independent. It's also about understanding, humility, and learning to work together, not compete."

As the conversation around relationships and gender continues to evolve, Blessing's controversial but thought-provoking statements continue to draw attention and raise questions about how society can better support modern marriages.

Starmer criticised for downplaying the struggles of troubles veterans

By Fatimah Idera

Sir Keir Starmer is facing mounting criticism over Labour's plans to scrap the Northern Ireland Legacy Act, with military veterans and political opponents accusing the Prime Minister of disregarding the sacrifices made by British soldiers during the Troubles.

The Labour government intends to repeal the 2023 legislation, which restricts new historical investigations and civil actions related to deaths during the Northern Ireland conflict. Labour argues that the Act is widely opposed by victims' groups and Irish political parties, and is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

But critics say the move could reopen the door to politically driven prosecutions of veterans, many of whom served decades ago and have warned that Labour's plans risk alienating the public and rewriting history.

Ex-British Army officer criticises Starmer

In response, a former British Army officer famous for his pre-battle speech before the Iraq war, Colonel Tim Collins, strongly criticised Sir Keir's response to concerns raised in Parliament.

He said the Prime Minister had been "frivolous and even disdainful" when answering a question from senior Conservative MP Sir David Davis during Prime Minister's Questions.

"The Prime Minister resorted to downplaying an issue that will confront every Labour MP during the upcoming recess," Collins wrote. "As they return to their constituencies, they will face a wave of furious constituents, incensed by the Government's harsh and unwarranted treatment of veterans while seemingly rewarding those who waged a 30-year campaign against the British people."

Sir David Davis had warned that, unless the government reversed its course, it would sacrifice veterans to "politically motivated lawyers trying to rewrite history with a pack of lies." In response, Starmer accused Davis of cheapening the debate and engaging in political point-scoring.



Starmer said: "We have to tread carefully and get this right. It's not about scoring political points. I've worked in Northern Ireland and spoken to many affected. Without the support of victims and survivors, we can't build lasting confidence."

The issue is set to dominate political discourse over the coming weeks. A Parliamentary debate is scheduled for Monday, sparked by a petition titled Protect Northern Ireland Veterans from Prosecution, which has gathered over 167,000 signatures in just two months.

Several hundred veterans are expected to protest in Whitehall ahead of the debate.

The UK Government's proposed repeal has prompted fears that up to 70 former soldiers could face prosecution, according to the Northern Ireland veterans' tsar, many of them over incidents dating back more than 50 years.

Col Collins argued that the repeal would allow former IRA members and their affiliates to claim compensation, while subjecting British soldiers to renewed legal scrutiny despite their actions largely taking place under lawful orders and official rules of engagement.

Col Collins noted that over 90% of the

killings during the Troubles were carried out by illegal paramilitary groups, predominantly the IRA, while the police and British armed forces were responsible for less than 10%. "Many of those were lawful operations," he said. "Where wrongdoing occurred, it was prosecuted."

He continued: "Our soldiers served to prevent civil war. Eight hundred British soldiers and over 300 police officers were killed. Thousands more were wounded. Yet now, there are attempts to prosecute those same men and women under the guise of justice, decades after the fact, with little chance of successful convictions."

Critics alleged the legal campaign is being funded and encouraged by a network of republican-sympathising lawyers, supported by public funds, with the Irish government also playing a significant role. One Northern Ireland MP reportedly claimed the Irish Government was effectively driving the Northern Ireland Office's approach.

According to Collins, the situation resembles a political bargaining process: "The Irish Government wants up to 14 cases. The MoD argues for none. A compromise is looming, where weak cases will proceed not for justice, but for political appearances."

How two Nigerian-born entrepreneurs are rewriting American dream

By Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Two Nigerian-born business leaders — private equity titan Adebayo “Bayo” Ogunlesi and tech entrepreneur Tope Awotona — have been named among America’s richest immigrants, according to Forbes’ 2025 annual ranking of foreign-born billionaires.

Ogunlesi and Awotona are among 125 billionaires from 41 countries who now call the United States home. Collectively, this elite cohort represents 14 percent of U.S.-based billionaires and holds a staggering 18 percent of the country’s total billionaire wealth.

The list, which celebrates the enduring impact of immigrant entrepreneurship, once again underscores the transformative role of foreign-born talent in shaping America’s economic powerhouses — particularly in finance, technology, and infrastructure.

Nigeria’s Global Footprint Expands

Bayo Ogunlesi, a Harvard-trained lawyer and banker, ranks No. 77 on the list with a net worth of \$2.4 billion the Guardian described. He is best known as the chairman and managing partner of Global Infrastructure Partners, a multibillion-dollar private equity firm that has invested in airports and energy infrastructure worldwide.

Tope Awotona, founder and CEO of Calendly, the widely adopted scheduling software used by millions across the corporate and creative worlds, lands at No. 106 with an estimated fortune of \$1.4 billion.

Their inclusion affirms Nigeria’s ascent on the global innovation map — and signals the growing influence of African-born entrepreneurs in the U.S. economic landscape.

Immigrants Rewriting American Wealth

Topping the 2025 list is Elon Musk, the South African-born CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, whose net worth stands at a record-breaking \$393.1 billion. Others in the top 10 include Google co-founder Sergey Brin (Russia), NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang (Taiwan), and Hungarian-born trading magnate Thomas Peterffy.



Top 5 Richest Immigrants in America (2025)

1. Elon Musk – \$393.1B (South Africa)
2. Sergey Brin – \$139.7B (Russia)
3. Jensen Huang – \$137.9B (Taiwan)
4. Thomas Peterffy – \$67.9B (Hungary)
5. Miriam Adelson & Family – \$33.4B (Israel)

Africa’s Billionaires Hit New Heights

Beyond U.S. borders, Africa’s wealthiest individuals reached a milestone: their combined fortunes surpassed \$100 billion for the first time, rising from \$82.4 billion in 2024 to \$105 billion in 2025.

Leading the continent’s list is Aliko Dangote, Nigeria’s industrialist and founder of Dangote Group, with a net worth of \$23.9 billion. His fortune surged following the partial launch of his long-delayed Dangote Refinery on the outskirts of Lagos, which has begun limited operations in refining petroleum.

“This is a very, very big relief,” Dangote told Forbes in February. “This refinery is a pivotal step toward Africa refining its own crude oil — creating jobs, wealth, and independence.”

South African luxury mogul Johann Rupert ranks second with \$14 billion, followed by Nigerian energy tycoon Femi Otedola, whose Geregu Power Plc saw shares rise nearly 40% last year.

African-Born Billionaires in the U.S.

Other African-born billionaires on the U.S. immigrant list include:

- Haim Saban (Egypt) – \$3.1B – Media & Investment
 - Marc Lasry (Morocco) – \$1.9B – Hedge Funds
 - Bharat Desai (Kenya) – \$1.6B – IT Consulting
 - Rodney Sacks (South Africa) – \$3.6B – Energy Drinks
 - Patrick Soon-Shiong (South Africa) – \$5.6B – Pharmaceuticals
- Read Also: Nigerian doctor wins Guinness World Record for largest drawing

Their stories reflect Forbes’ ongoing thesis that 93% of immigrant billionaires are self-made, driven by what it describes as the “immigrant mindset” — one defined by risk-taking, reinvention, and resilience.

Methodology

Forbes compiles its annual immigrant billionaire list using publicly available stock prices and currency exchange rates, with valuations measured as of March 7, 2025. Private businesses are assessed using price-to-earnings and price-to-sales multiples of comparable public companies.

World leaders, Nigerian politicians bid Buhari farewell at 82

By Damilola Olufemi

Leaders across the world have continued to send in their condolences to Nigeria and Nigerians over the demise of former President of the country, Muhammadu Buhari, who passed away in London at the age of 82 on Sunday, July 13, 2025, after receiving treatment for many weeks in London.

The news of his death was announced by his spokesperson, Garba Shehu.

Born in Daura, Katsina State, Buhari first led Nigeria as a military ruler from January 1984 to August 1985. After the return to civilian rule in 1999, he ran for president three times unsuccessfully—in 2003, 2007, and 2011.

In 2013, his political party, the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), merged with other opposition parties—including Bola Tinubu's Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN), factions of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), and the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)—to form the All Progressives Congress (APC).

That coalition led to a landmark victory in the 2015 presidential election, with Buhari and his running mate Yemi Osinbajo defeating the incumbent, President Goodluck Jonathan. It was the first time an opposition party unseated a sitting president in Nigeria's Fourth Republic.

Buhari was re-elected in 2019 and served two full terms, eventually handing over power to President Tinubu and Vice President Shettima on May 29, 2023.

World leaders send tributes about Buhari
The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Mahmoud Youssouf, in a statement, described the former president as a Pan-Africanist and an advocate for regional integration.

While expressing his condolences, he described Buhari as a "principled and resolute leader who served Nigeria with honour and conviction. He was a steadfast supporter of multilateral cooperation and



a tireless champion of peace and stability across Africa."

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, in his condolence message and assured the country of his support.

Sierra Leone's President and current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Julius Maada Bio, in his message on behalf of the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone, expressed heartfelt condolences to Buhari's family, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, and Nigeria during this incredibly difficult time.

"This is truly a devastating loss, and our thoughts are with you all," he posted on X.

Also, the Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, described the death of the former president as "Unbelievable!"

She wrote, "I did not know just how ill President Buhari was, and minutes after sending my get-well wishes, I have just learned that he passed away. I am so very sad. May the Soul of HE @MBuhari rest in perfect peace. My deepest condolences to the entire Buhari family and his close

aides and associates."

Also, Somalia's President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud hailed Buhari for his role in regional stability and his commitment to progress.

"His lifelong service and commitment to Nigeria's stability and progress will be remembered. May Allah grant him Jannatul Firdaus."

Among other world nations to have paid tributes to Buhari include the United States of America, Chinese embassies, which described Buhari as a disciplined man whose life was defined by service

The U.S. embassy wrote, "Buhari, a leader whose life was defined by service, discipline, and a commitment to restore integrity to public office. His legacy includes his efforts to strengthen Nigeria's democratic institutions. Our thoughts are with his family, loved ones, and all Nigerians who mourn this loss," the embassy wrote.

**Continue reading
on next page**

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In the same vein, the Chinese embassy tweeted on X, “We mourn a resolute leader whose unwavering dedication to Nigeria’s unity and progress leaves an enduring legacy. His pivotal contributions to advancing China-Nigeria relations will forever remain etched in our shared history. Our thoughts are with his family and the Nigerian people.”

The Turkish Embassy has also sent its condolences, saying, “Turkey is deeply saddened by the passing of Nigeria’s former President Muhammadu Buhari.

“We offer our condolences to the Government and people of Nigeria. May the Almighty Allah bless his soul.”

Read also: Shettima, Gbajabiamila arrive London to receive Buhari’s remains

Tinubu orders flags to fly at half-staff as mark of respect for Buhari

ECOWAS hails Buhari’s invaluable contributions

The President of ECOWAS, Omar Touray, in his tribute, noted that the memory of the Daura-born would be greatly cherished

“It is with deep sorrow that the world learnt of the passing of His Excellency, Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“We mourn him, on behalf of all the institutions of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu, the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and to the entire Nigerian people.

“ECOWAS salutes the memory of this distinguished statesman whose invaluable contributions greatly advanced democracy and regional integration in West Africa and across the African continent,” Mr Touray said.

Nigerian leaders pay tribute

At the national level, several political leaders hailed the late former president for his contribution to various reforms.

President Bola Tinubu highlighted Buhari’s “quiet strength, profound integrity, and an unshakable belief in Nigeria’s potential” during turbulent times.

He noted Buhari’s commitment to public service discipline, anti-corruption efforts, and prioritising national interest.

Tinubu extended his deepest condolences to the late former President’s wife, Aisha, with whom he has been in continuous contact, as well as to his children, the wider Buhari family, and all who knew him.

Also, former president Goodluck Jonathan hailed Buhari’s courage and selflessness.

Jonathan called him a “disciplined officer and a committed public servant,” acknowledging their political differences but recognising Buhari’s contribution to Nigeria’s democratic journey” who “will be remembered as a courageous leader, a disciplined officer, and a committed public servant who made considerable contributions towards the peace and progress of our dear nation.

“The late President was deeply admired

across the strata of society for his decency, integrity and exemplary life of service. As a leader, he was selfless in his commitment to his duty and served the country with character and a deep sense of patriotism.”

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar described his death as “a profound national tragedy.”

He said Buhari was of “unflinching patriotism, stoic discipline, and a lifelong commitment to the sovereignty and unity of our great nation.”

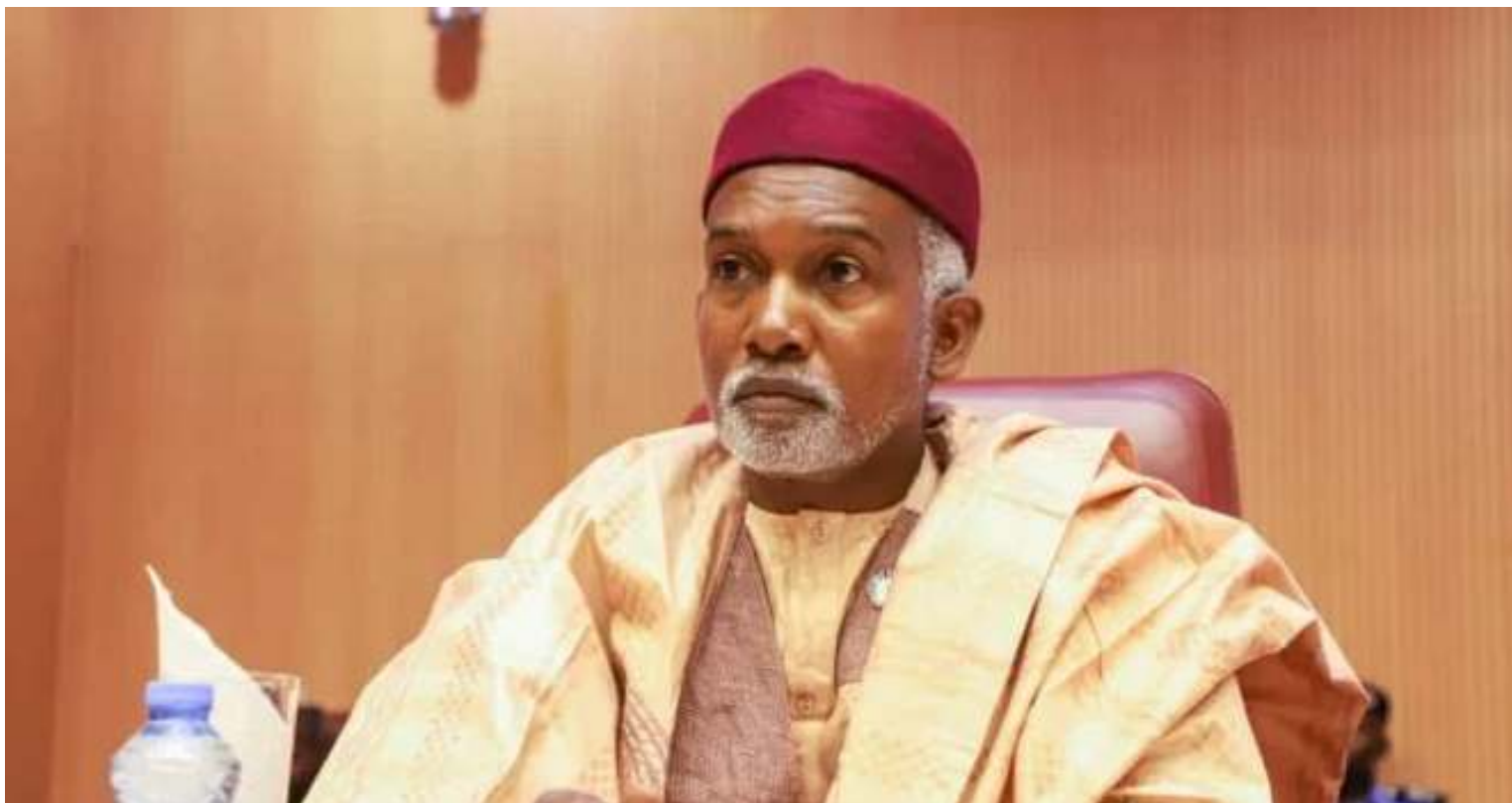
Vice President Kashim Shettima wrote: “Nigeria has lost more than a leader. We have lost a compass. In this moment of national mourning, may we find solace in the legacy he left behind. It is a legacy that reminds us that honesty, simplicity, and integrity are not relics of the past but blueprints for a more honourable future.

“As one who came of age politically within the very structure shaped by his reputation and integrity, I must say this: I learnt much from him, and so did a generation of others. His life gave us a path, his values gave us a foundation, and his passing gives us a charge to carry forward the virtues that made him different,” he said.



Foreign Affairs minister summoned over new US visa restrictions for Nigerians

By Damilola Olufemi



The House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs has summoned the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar, to address several pressing national and diplomatic concerns.

In a letter dated July 11, committee chairman Wole Oke requested Tuggar's appearance before the panel on July 16. The minister is also expected to submit a comprehensive briefing note by July 15.

Among the key issues flagged in the invitation is the recent shift in U.S. visa policy for Nigerian citizens. The committee also wants the minister to respond to allegations that directors nearing retirement—some with as little as three to six months left in service—are being unlawfully posted to foreign missions.

Additionally, Oke highlighted concerns about the management of

the Ministry of Finance assets in Nigeria's overseas missions, the digitisation of consular services, and the integration of digital platforms across key agencies, including the Nigerian Immigration Service. The committee is also seeking clarity on the process and documentation involved in financial disbursements to foreign missions.

U.S. Tightens Visa Rules for Nigerians

The United States government recently revised its policy for Nigerian nationals, with new rules taking effect from July 8, 2025. The updated policy now limits the validity of most non-immigrant, non-diplomatic visas—including tourist, business, and student visas—to just three months. In addition, these visas will now be single-entry, requiring applicants to reapply for each visit.

This change affects only visas issued from July 8 onwards; existing valid ones will retain their original terms, including multiple-entry allowances.

According to the U.S. State Department, the move is aimed at improving border control, curbing overstays, and enhancing bilateral information-sharing.

Initial reports had suggested that Nigeria's alleged refusal to issue five-year visas to Americans triggered the U.S. decision, claims that have since been debunked.

However, a report by TheCable indicated that Nigeria's reluctance to accept deported asylum seekers from the U.S. contributed to President Donald Trump's administration tightening visa rules for Nigerians.

EU ministers meet today over Trump's 30% tariffs on goods

By Damilola Olufemi



European Union ministers are meeting on Monday to discuss the bloc's strategy for trade negotiations with the United States, following a renewed threat from President Donald Trump to impose 30% tariffs on EU goods if no agreement is reached by August 1.

Trump's announcement on Saturday has disrupted months of progress in the ongoing talks, sparking urgent discussions within Brussels on how to respond. The EU is under pressure to strike a deal while preparing for the possibility of steep tariffs.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen signalled a continued willingness to negotiate by postponing retaliatory measures over separate US duties on steel and aluminium. "We have always been very clear that we prefer a negotiated solution," von der Leyen said. "This remains the case, and we will use the time that we have now till August 1."

Her decision to hold off on immediate countermeasures has kept diplomatic hopes alive, despite Trump's aggressive posture, which also includes threats

against Mexico. But EU officials remain cautious, describing Trump's unpredictability as a major challenge in the talks.

Diplomats say trade ministers will be presented with a set of retaliatory options during their meeting in Brussels, in case the US moves forward with the 30% tariffs. A potential EU response, first floated in May, could see duties imposed on American exports worth up to €100 billion (\$117 billion). However, insiders say the revised figure may be closer to €72 billion.

EU member states maintain a united front EU member states, despite varying levels of trade exposure to the US, have largely maintained a united front. French President Emmanuel Macron has urged von der Leyen to "resolutely defend European interests." At the same time, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz echoed the sentiment, noting he has been in touch with Macron, Trump, and von der Leyen in recent days and is committed to working toward a resolution.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni added her voice, warning that "a trade war

within the West" would only harm all parties involved.

The EU had initially prepared retaliatory tariffs worth around €21 billion in response to Trump's earlier duties on metal imports, but suspended those plans in April to pave the way for a broader trade accord.

Since returning to the office in January, Trump has reignited his aggressive trade stance, targeting allies and rivals alike with fluctuating tariffs. While his administration has touted plans for multiple trade deals, only two agreements—one with the UK and another with Vietnam—have been finalised so far, along with a temporary easing of reciprocal duties with China.

The EU and other economies were initially set to face a hike from the standard 10% US tariff on Wednesday, but Trump extended the deadline to August 1. In a letter released Saturday, he cited America's trade deficit with the EU as justification for the increased 30% levy, which surpasses the 20% tariff he previously proposed in April before pausing implementation until mid-July.

UN reschedules two-state summit without Macron

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A long-anticipated United Nations summit focused on advancing a two-state solution for Israel and Palestine has been rescheduled for 28–29 July in New York, following a postponement triggered by the recent Israel-Iran conflict. However, the absence of French President Emmanuel Macron is casting doubt on whether the summit will generate attention or lead to landmark recognitions of a Palestinian state.

The conference, designed to galvanise international support for a renewed peace process, features working groups on Palestinian governance, economic development, and strategies to counter extremist rhetoric. Yet without Macron's attendance, or that of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, according to *Le Monde*, hopes for high-profile announcements appear dimmed.

Macron has repeatedly affirmed that the recognition of a Palestinian state is "the only way to build peace and stability for all in the whole region." Last week, he delivered two public appeals for recognition, including a powerful address to UK parliamentarians. Still, the French government has not committed to a timetable, and sources in Paris say a separate event may be used for any formal announcement.

France's preference has been to coordinate a joint recognition with the United Kingdom, and potentially Canada, to give the move greater weight on the global stage.

Recognition of Palestinian statehood remains fiercely opposed by both Israel and the United States, who have reportedly urged UN member states to avoid attending the summit. Israel argues that such recognition would reward Hamas terrorism, a position echoed in quiet diplomatic lobbying efforts in the run-up to the New York event.

The summit was initially slated for June but was delayed after Israeli airstrikes



on Iran ignited a regional security crisis. Though the event will now proceed, it will be led by foreign ministers rather than heads of state, limiting the likelihood of sweeping declarations.

The recent Anglo-French summit saw recognition of Palestine discussed but not formalised. The joint statement issued by Prime Minister Keir Starmer and President Macron reaffirmed a shared commitment to "recognising a Palestinian state, as a contribution to a peace process," while pledging to "work together to support its development and the realisation of a two-state solution."

Speaking before Parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy reflected on Britain's historical role in shaping the Middle East, citing the Balfour Declaration and the need for a deliberate and inclusive process.

"I would prefer that the United Kingdom is part of a process," Lammy said. "A ceasefire might be the beginning of a process, and I suspect that our French colleagues are also

waiting to see whether there is a ceasefire in the next few days."

Lammy also expressed scepticism that normalisation between Saudi Arabia and Israel would be possible without concrete progress towards Palestinian statehood.

"From my conversations with the Saudis and the Saudi foreign minister, normalisation will be impossible to achieve until there is a ceasefire and unless there is tangible progress on two states. Frankly, I commend my Saudi counterparts for holding true to that," he added.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and Palestinian Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian are both scheduled to attend an EU-Southern Neighbourhood ministerial dinner in Brussels on Monday. It remains unclear whether the two will engage directly, but the event signals cautious diplomatic engagement between the parties and the EU's ten Mediterranean partner countries.

Two killed, three injured in Kentucky shooting spree

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A gunman who wounded a state trooper near Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, Kentucky, on Sunday later opened fire at a nearby church, killing two women and injuring two men before being shot dead by police.

The violent rampage began at approximately 11.36am local time, when the suspect was pulled over by a state trooper on Versailles Road following a licence plate reader alert. According to Lexington police, the individual opened fire on the trooper before fleeing the scene and carjacking a vehicle in the 3700 block of Belleau Wood Drive.

The suspect then drove to Richmond Road Baptist Church, where four individuals were shot. Two women, aged 72 and 32, were pronounced dead at the scene. Two men were also shot, one critically injured, the other in stable condition, and transported to a nearby hospital, police chief Lawrence Weathers confirmed.

“There is preliminary information indicating the suspect may have had a connection to individuals at the

church,” Weathers stated. The motive remains under investigation.

The gunman was fatally shot by police officers and pronounced dead at the scene. Authorities have yet to release the suspect’s identity, pending family notification.

The wounded state trooper is currently receiving treatment at a local hospital. The extent of their injuries has not been disclosed.

Three Lexington police officers discharged their weapons during the confrontation and, in line with department policy, had their body-worn cameras activated. They have been placed on administrative assignment while investigations proceed.

The Kentucky State Police critical incident response team is leading the investigation, with oversight from the Lexington Police Department’s public integrity unit.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear condemned the attack in an online statement: “Violence like this has no

place in our commonwealth or country. Please join [my wife] Britanny and me as we pray for the families of those lost, each one a child of God gone too soon.”

He added: “Kentucky, let’s stand strong together and support our Lexington neighbours during this difficult time.”

Fayette County coroner Gary Ginn described the Baptist church as home to a small, tight-knit congregation now reeling from the tragedy.

State Attorney General Russell Coleman also expressed his shock and pledged full support from his office. “Today, violence invaded the Lord’s House. The attack on law enforcement and people of faith in Lexington shocked the entire commonwealth,” he said.

As investigators continue to piece together the chain of events, the community is left mourning another devastating episode of gun violence in the United States.

Families of victims demand clarity after Air India crash report

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Families of victims of the Air India crash are calling for greater transparency and accountability after a preliminary investigation report revealed that both fuel switches on the aircraft were moved to the cut-off position moments after takeoff, effectively cutting off fuel to the engines and plunging the aircraft into tragedy.

The report, published on Friday by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), has deepened the mystery surrounding the crash, which occurred on 12 June shortly after takeoff from Ahmedabad airport. The London-bound Boeing 787 Dreamliner slammed into a medical college, killing all 241 people on board. A further 19 people died on the ground, and 67 were seriously injured.

The report quotes a cockpit voice recording in which one pilot is heard asking the other, "Why did you cut off?" to which the second pilot replies that he did not do so. The seemingly inexplicable cut-off of fuel supply has raised new questions over mechanical malfunction, pilot error, or deeper systemic issues.

Ishan Baxi, cousin of Dhir and Heer Baxi, two sisters who had been returning to London after surprising their grandmother for her birthday, said the family was not satisfied with the current findings.

"We're still hoping for a more transparent and honest investigation that doesn't shy away from addressing possible mechanical flaws or lapses in protocol to avoid future potential accidents," he said from Ahmedabad. "I just hope the final report brings full clarity on what exactly failed and who's accountable. It shouldn't hide behind vague terms. More than anything, it should push for real changes so this never happens again."

Relatives of Akeel Nanabawa, his wife Hannaa Vorajee, and their four-year-old daughter Sara, who all perished in the crash, released a statement calling the report "the first stepping stone" towards justice and closure.

"Moving forwards, we require honesty,



transparency and an unwavering commitment to uncovering the full truth," the family said. "We seek justice and answers, both of which are essential for us to find any sense of closure.

"We accept God's fate, but knowing what happened will help ease our hearts and allow us to begin the long journey of healing. Above all, we hope that by pursuing the truth, no other family will ever have to endure the shock, uncertainty, and profound sorrow that we have lived through this past month."

Aviation lawyer Demetrius Danas, of Irwin Mitchell, who is advising several of the bereaved families, described the report's findings as "deeply concerning".

"We're continuing to speak with and advise families who've been affected by the Air India crash. Understandably, all they want is to be provided with answers," he said.

Fifty-two British nationals were among the dead, making the crash one of the worst aviation disasters in terms of UK fatalities in recent history.

According to the AAIB's report, the aircraft began losing altitude before it had even cleared the airport perimeter wall. The engines lost thrust after both fuel control switches were set to cut-off. However, investigators said fuel samples

taken from the aircraft's refuelling tanks were "satisfactory," and no significant bird activity had been detected in the vicinity of the flight path.

All crew members were breathalysed upon arrival at Ahmedabad prior to the flight and were deemed "fit to operate the flight," the report noted. Investigators have since identified "components of interest for further examinations."

UK Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said on Sunday that she had confidence in the ongoing investigation and affirmed Britain's willingness to assist.

"We stand ready to assist the Indian authorities if they require that from us," she said. When asked whether she believed Indian investigators were doing a good job, she responded: "On the basis of what I have seen so far, yes, but we do stand ready to provide any assistance. The US National Transportation Safety Board is also involved on an ongoing basis."

Air India, which has faced mounting scrutiny in the aftermath of the crash, released a brief statement saying, "Air India is working closely with stakeholders, including regulators. We continue to fully cooperate with the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau and other authorities as their investigation progresses."

Olmert warns Israel's Gaza camp plan could amount to ethnic cleansing

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has condemned plans by Israel's current leadership to build a so-called "humanitarian city" on the ruins of Rafah in southern Gaza, likening it to a concentration camp and warning it could constitute ethnic cleansing if carried out.

Speaking to The Guardian, Olmert said Israel was already committing war crimes in both Gaza and the occupied West Bank, and that the proposed resettlement camp marked a dangerous escalation.

"It is a concentration camp. I am sorry," Olmert said bluntly, referring to Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz's proposed camp that would house initially 600,000 Palestinians and eventually the entire population of Gaza. Katz has ordered military planners to begin preparations for the project, which would confine Palestinians to the site and allow them to leave only for other countries.

"If they [Palestinians] will be deported into the new 'humanitarian city', then you can say that this is part of an ethnic cleansing," Olmert said. "It hasn't yet happened, but that would be the inevitable interpretation."

The controversial plan has received backing from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Israel's refusal to withdraw from the Rafah area earmarked for the camp has become a key obstacle in ceasefire negotiations, according to Israeli media reports.

Olmert, who served as prime minister from 2006 to 2009, said that after months of inflammatory rhetoric, including calls from senior ministers to "cleanse" Gaza, the claim that the camp was intended to protect civilians lacked credibility.

"When they build a camp where they [plan to] 'clean' more than half of Gaza, then the inevitable understanding of the strategy of this [is that] it is not to save [Palestinians]. It is to deport them, to push them and to throw them away," he said. "There is no other understanding that I have, at least."

Israeli human rights lawyers and scholars have echoed these warnings, describing the plan as a potential crime against humanity. Some have even cautioned that under specific conditions, the project



could amount to genocide.

Comparisons to Nazi Germany have drawn harsh backlash within Israel. Yad Vashem, the country's Holocaust memorial centre, condemned one journalist for making what it called a "serious and inappropriate distortion of the meaning of the Holocaust."

Olmert's remarks came as funerals were held in the occupied West Bank for two Palestinian men, one of whom was an American citizen, killed by Israeli settlers. The killings follow a long-standing campaign of settler violence that has forcibly displaced several Palestinian communities over the past two years.

Describing the attacks as war crimes, Olmert said, "[It is] unforgivable. Unacceptable. There are continuous operations organised, orchestrated in the most brutal, criminal manner by a large group."

He rejected the government's description of the attackers as mere "hilltop youth," saying the phrase glossed over the reality of systematic violence. "I prefer the term 'hilltop atrocities'," he said.

"There is no way that they can operate in such a consistent, massive and widespread manner without a framework of support and protection which is provided by the [Israeli] authorities in the [occupied Palestinian] territories."

According to Olmert, the suffering in Gaza and ongoing settler violence in the West Bank have fuelled mounting anger against Israel worldwide, anger that cannot simply be dismissed as antisemitism.

"In the United States there is more and more and more expanding expressions of hatred to Israel," he said. "We make a discount to ourselves saying: 'They are antisemites.' I don't think that they are only antisemites. I think many of them are anti-Israel because of what they watch on television, what they watch on social networks."

"This is a painful but normal reaction of people who say: 'Hey, you guys have crossed every possible line.'"

Olmert believes attitudes inside Israel may only begin to shift under the weight of growing international pressure. He criticised the Israeli media for its inadequate reporting on violence against Palestinians and urged the international community to take a more active role, especially in the absence of a viable political opposition at home.

Despite the devastation in Gaza, Olmert, a key figure in Israel's last serious push for a two-state solution, remains hopeful that peace is still attainable. He is currently collaborating with former Palestinian foreign minister Nasser al-Kidwa to revive international momentum towards a negotiated settlement.

AC Milan confirm arrival of Luka Modric in one year deal

By New Daily Prime

Croatia captain Luka Modric has signed a one-year deal with AC Milan at the age of 39, the Italian club said on Monday.

Last week, Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said the 2018 Ballon d'Or winner would head to the San Siro from Real Madrid after the Club World Cup.

Modric, who turns 40 in September, joined Madrid from Tottenham in 2012 and had been linked with a move to Italy since early June, after announcing he would leave the Spanish giants at the end of his contract.

"AC Milan are delighted to announce Luka Modric has signed a contract with the club until 30 June 2026 with an option for a one-year extension until 30 June 2027," the 19-time Serie A winners said.

Modric was in Milan earlier on Monday to undergo medical tests but according to Italian media will only start training with his team-mates in August.



"I'm very happy to be here to start a new chapter in my career," Modric said in a video on the club's social media platforms.

"A big hug to everyone," he added.

Allegri is back at the helm at Milan having led them to the Serie A title in 2011 during his first spell in charge between 2010 and 2014.

Their first game of the new season is in the Italian Cup on August 17.

Maresca hails 'great triumph' in winning Club World Cup

By New Daily Prime

Chelsea coach Enzo Maresca insisted winning the Club World Cup meant as much as winning the Champions League after his side beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-0 in the final of the first edition of FIFA's new competition on Sunday.

"I have the feeling that this competition is going to be as important, if not more important than, the Champions League," said Maresca after adding the trophy to the UEFA Conference League title his team won in May.

Maresca only took over at Chelsea a year ago but was previously on the coaching staff under Pep Guardiola at Manchester City when they won the Champions League in 2023.

"I was lucky to be on the coaching staff of a team that won the Champions



League a few years ago, but this competition features the best teams in the world and I think we can value it on the same level," said the Italian.

"It is a great triumph for us and it will allow the Chelsea fans to have that on our shirt for the next four years, so it is a source of pride."

Maresca said he instructed his players to go out and take the game to PSG from the off — they went on to net all three goals in the first half with Cole Palmer netting a brace before Joao Pedro added his name to the scoresheet.

"The message was to let them understand that we were here to win the game and I think in the first 10 minutes we showed them that," Maresca said.

"That set the tone of the game, and then the quality of the players was also important."