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# JAMB releases results for 2025 UTME resit

By Damilola Olufemi



**T**he Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has announced the release of results for the 2025 UTME resit, conducted for candidates affected by technical issues during the initial exams.

According to the board, a total of 336,845 candidates were rescheduled for the makeup examination. However, 21,082 of those candidates did not show up for the test. JAMB did not provide an explanation for the significant number of absentees.

The results were made public through a statement issued on Sunday by JAMB's Public Communication Advisor, Fabian Benjamin.

The statement read: "Of the 336,845 who were eventually scheduled after isolated good sessions of the affected centres were excluded and their previously unverified candidates were added, 21,082 were absent."

Prior to the resit, the exam body disclosed that only 22.13% of candidates who sat for the initial 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) scored 200 and above.

Out of a total of 1,955,069 candidates who took the exam, only 432,829 scored 200 or higher.

JAMB broke down the score distribution as follows:

(0.24%)  
 300–319: 7,658 (0.39%)  
 300 and above (total): 12,414 (0.63%)  
 250–299: 73,441 (3.76%)  
 200–249: 334,560 (17.11%)  
 160–199: 983,187 (50.29%)  
 140–159: 488,197 (24.97%)  
 120–139: 57,419 (2.94%)  
 100–119: 3,820 (0.20%)  
 Below 100: 2,031 (0.10%)

JAMB also noted that 40,247 underage candidates were allowed to participate in the exam to demonstrate their "exceptional abilities." However, the board stated, "Only 467 of these candidates (1.16%) achieved scores that meet the threshold for exceptional ability as defined for the UTME, with their performance in the subsequent three stages still pending."

320 and above: 4,756 candidates



# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

## PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

## PRODUCT COLOUR

## EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
HALF PAGE	213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
14X2	118,000.00
10X6	261,585.50
10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
1X1	4,400.00

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

## POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

## POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

## CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
8X6	170,725.00
8X3	70,390.00
7X4	58,666.50
6X4	67,048.00
6X3	53,361.50
6X2	37,694.00
5X6	83,850.00
5X4	55,900.00
5X3	43,705.00
5X2	27,938.00
4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
1X1	2,795.50

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10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

## PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
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
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

## PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
10X6	194,961.00
10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

## ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD		806,250.00
ALLURE COVER		750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover		376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover		430,000.00
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Full Page		430,000.00
10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

## PICTURE & CAPTION

SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

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# Mining reforms generated N38bn in 2024 — FG

By New Daily Prime

**P**resident Bola Tinubu administration's new policy of local value addition and a tightened licensing regime in Nigeria's solid minerals sector attracted over \$800 million in processing projects last year, the Federal Government has said.

A statement by presidential spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, said the sector also generated over ₦38 billion in revenue in 2024, up from just ₦6 billion the previous year, despite receiving only 18% of its ₦29 billion budgeted allocation.

He said that the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dele Alake, revealed this during a feature interview for an upcoming State House documentary marking President Tinubu's second anniversary.

Alake, according to the statement, said the sector has witnessed an increase in investor interest buoyed by the administration's mining sector reforms.

He listed the \$600 million lithium processing plant near the Kaduna-Niger border, to be commissioned this quarter, the \$200 million lithium refinery on the outskirts of Abuja, nearing completion, and two additional processing plants in Nasarawa, slated for commissioning before Q3 2025.

"These investments follow the administration's insistence that no miner gets a license without a clear local processing plant. The days of exporting raw minerals from pit to port are over.

"When we resumed, the entire sector generated ₦6 billion annually. By the end of 2024, we hit ₦38 billion. And this was with just 18% of our ₦29 billion budgetary allocation released. It shows how effective our policy framework has been," Alake stated.

According to the Minister, in the first quarter of 2025 alone, two regulatory



agencies—the Mining Cadastral Office (MCO) and the Mines Inspectorate—have already recorded ₦6.9 billion and ₦7 billion in revenue, respectively.

The Minister projected this year to be a record-breaking one for the sector, adding that the current budget allocated ₦1 trillion for mineral exploration, targeted at generating internationally certified geological data.

"Exploration is key. When we came in, Nigeria had spent just \$2 million on exploration, compared to \$40 million in Sierra Leone, \$148 million in Côte d'Ivoire, and over \$300 million in South Africa. No serious investor will touch your sector without credible data," he said.

"We are now focused on turning our mineral wealth into domestic economic value—jobs, technology, and manufacturing," he said.

As part of its seven-point agenda, the Minister said he has taken aggressive steps to curb illegal mining and formalise artisanal activity.

He noted that over 300 illegal miners were arrested last year, 150 prosecutions are ongoing, and nine convictions have been secured, including foreign nationals.

"We adopted both kinetic and non-kinetic strategies. While enforcement has yielded results through the Mining Marshals, we're also empowering locals by formalising them into cooperatives, making them eligible for finance and revenue sharing," he said.

He added that over 250 mining cooperatives have been established nationwide to absorb informal miners into the formal economy.

The Minister said Nigeria now chairs the newly formed African Mineral Strategy Group, a continental bloc focused on ensuring local value addition and fairer mineral trade deals across Africa.

"This was a direct result of Nigeria's position at the 2024 Future Minerals Conference in Riyadh. We're leading Africa in saying: no more raw material exports without domestic beneficiation."

Reflecting on the rising investor confidence, Alake noted that top global players, including UK, US, Saudi Arabia, and UAE officials, have expressed interest in Nigeria's lithium and other critical minerals.

"The former British Deputy Prime Minister personally invited me to Downing Street to discuss their interest in Nigerian lithium," Alake said.

# 2015 Poll: Nigeria lost, not just contest between Jonathan or Buhari – Lamido

By **Damilola Olufemi**

**F**ormer Governor of Jigawa State, Alhaji Sule Lamido, has reflected on the 2015 presidential election, asserting that neither of the two main contenders—then-President Goodluck Jonathan and former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari—had the nation’s genuine interest at heart.

Lamido made these remarks in Chapter 16 (pages 416–417) of his autobiography *Being True To Myself*, launched in Abuja on May 13. He recounted a conversation with President Jonathan during the campaign, warning him about the troubling state of affairs, especially in the North.

According to Lamido, “Mr. President, sir, the election of 2015 is not about Nigeria or political parties but between two contending people — Buhari and Jonathan. Neither of you has the overall interest of the country as his ultimate objective, but your aspirations. Thus, whoever wins between you and the country will lose. Yes, Nigeria will lose.”

Lamido described Buhari as a candidate backed by a coalition of political interests rather than a true national vision, while accusing Jonathan of violating an earlier agreement made after the death of President Yar’Adua in 2010 to only complete that term.

He wrote, “Jonathan had also reneged on the agreement he had undertaken after President Yar’Adua’s death in 2010 to complete that tenure only and was now seeking to contest again in 2015. It was a breach of the agreement that was mutually reached.”

The former Foreign Affairs Minister also blamed the alienation of key PDP members and the party’s internal distrust for weakening Jonathan’s campaign. “In 2015, people within the



PDP had been alienated and unduly accused of being against Jonathan, even if they were not. The party simply pushed them away and never trusted them or got them involved in its affairs,” he stated.

Lamido emphasized how APC’s aggressive propaganda machinery, especially through religious narratives and emotional manipulation, made it increasingly difficult for the PDP to campaign effectively in the North.

“The propaganda of the APC was so intense that it became very difficult for us to promote him successfully in the state. It was so choking and suffocating that even a Muslim member of PDP felt ashamed to identify with the party because of the emotional blackmail.”

He added that religion was weaponized to portray the PDP in a negative light: “When they deployed religion to confuse the mind, individuals had to be careful not to act in a manner that was anti-Islam or anti-North.”

According to Lamido, this narrative, coupled with images of Boko Haram’s destruction circulating widely on social media, stirred public anger. “Pictures of people and places bombed by the insurgents were widely posted on social media, with pictures of buses, marketplaces, motor stations, mosques, and churches burning in blazing fires,” he wrote.

Even religious leaders, Lamido said, became part of the anti-government sentiment: “The crisis was so manipulated that it touched the minds of the Muslim clerics, who took to the pulpits to preach sermons that strongly condemned the federal government for its indifference to the plight of its citizens.”

He concluded that the toxic political atmosphere left even staunch PDP supporters struggling to defend Jonathan’s candidacy: “The net consequence was to make it difficult even for PDP supporters with very strong conviction to sell President Jonathan to voters.”



# Wike points finger at Makinde, declares withdrawal from PDP peace talks

By Friday Omosola

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike, has distanced himself from all reconciliation arrangements within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He cited betrayal and consistent violations of previously agreed terms by some party leaders.

In a statement released on Sunday, Wike linked the party's growing internal instability to unresolved issues following the 2023 general elections.

He lamented the erosion of trust among the party's leadership, describing it as a 'pernicious virus of dishonesty and treachery.'

"Since after the 2023 General Election, the PDP has been wantonly swinging from one part of a slippery precipice to another," he remarked, noting that repeated efforts to stabilise the party had failed.

The former Rivers State governor and prominent member of the G5 alliance specifically pointed fingers at Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, whom he accused of derailing progress made during reconciliation talks.

"I made it clear to the Governor of Oyo State, he, Seyi Makinde, that he was the architect of our problems, pointing out to him that non-adherence to agreements reached was the bane of the party, and that he was the chief culprit of this anomaly," Wike said.

According to him, a prior meeting of the G5 governors held in Lagos had produced a consensus to reconcile and move forward.

This was followed by another gathering at Senator Bukola Saraki's Abuja residence, which included Governors Bala Mohammed, Umaru Fintiri, and Makinde, among other senior PDP figures.

During the Abuja session, Wike said



attendees agreed to key resolutions: accepting Senator Samuel Anyanwu as National Secretary under a Supreme Court ruling, withdrawing all PDP-related court cases in Rivers State, and discontinuing legal proceedings concerning a possible state of emergency in the state.

However, Wike claimed that the agreements were abandoned almost immediately.

He alleged that Makinde, in collaboration with Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu, coordinated a meeting of South-East PDP leaders who threatened to leave the party unless Ude Okoye was endorsed as Secretary.

"To my chagrin, Seyi Makinde had connived with Peter Mba of Enugu State to orchestrate the summoning of the meeting of so-called South-East leaders to recommend that if Ude Okoye was not adopted as Secretary, they would pull out of the PDP," Wike stated.

He further accused PDP operatives of sidelining Anyanwu by installing the Deputy National Secretary in an acting capacity and using correspondence signed by the latter to summon a National Executive Committee meeting — actions Wike described as a blatant breach of the reconciliation pact.

As a consequence, he said, INEC refused

to supervise a zonal congress scheduled for 24 May 2025 in Jos because the invitation was signed by an unauthorised party official.

"This is undeniably distasteful, provocative and annoying, to say the least," he declared.

Reflecting on his decades-long involvement with the PDP, Wike expressed disappointment at being betrayed by individuals whose political success he had helped nurture.

"It is on record that none of these persons have done anything close to what I have done to sustain this party.

"What is more painful is that I contributed substantially to most of these governors winning their elections, yet I have not made any personal demands on any of them and I would never do so," he said.

Wike announced that he no longer sees value in further reconciliation efforts, declaring his intention to pursue justice independently.

"I have now firmly decided to pull out of all agreements hitherto reached. I have decided to fight on until justice is attained," he affirmed.

Neither the PDP nor Makinde and Mbah had responded to Wike's statement at the time of filing this report.

# Atiku, Obi meeting disrupted by Jigawa delegates

By Damilola Olufemi



A political meeting convened in Abuja to strategize a coalition against the All Progressives Congress (APC) descended into chaos on Sunday after a disagreement among delegates led to a disruption.

The meeting, held at the Abuja Continental Hotel, drew several prominent opposition figures, including former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar; 2023 Labour Party presidential candidate, Peter Obi; former Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi; and former Secretary to the

Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal.

Tensions flared when a delegate from Jigawa State was named to speak by Babachir Lawal. According to The Punch, this move sparked outrage among other Jigawa delegates, who surged toward the podium in protest, insisting that the chosen individual did not represent their interests.

A video circulating on social media captured the moment the meeting turned rowdy, with delegates engaging in a heated exchange and the gathering descending into

confusion.

Security personnel, including police officers and operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS), swiftly intervened to de-escalate the situation and ensure the safety of high-profile attendees.

Following the intervention, calm was restored and a resolution was reached. Mustapha Lamido, son of former Jigawa governor Sule Lamido, along with another delegate, was selected to represent the state in the ongoing discussions.



# 2027: Opposition coalition talks nearing completion – ADC Chair

By Damilola Olufemi



**T**he National Chairman of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Ralph Nwosu, has confirmed that discussions among opposition leaders to form a united front ahead of the 2027 general elections are progressing steadily and will be finalised in a matter of weeks.

Nwosu, speaking during an interview with Arise TV, revealed that the ADC has been at the centre of coordination efforts for over 16 months, working closely not only with political actors but also with grassroots movements and civil society organisations.

“ADC has started a process in the last 16 months, and what we have been doing is that beyond all the political talks about political leaders, we needed to touch the grassroots,” he said. “The situation in the country will either one day call for a citizens’ revolt

or a patriots’ coalition.”

Opposition figures are seriously considering adopting the ADC as the platform to challenge the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2027 presidential election.

Nwosu disclosed that the party set up strategic committees led by key figures like Dr. Bamidele Jamilu Jade and Dr. Mani Ibrahim Ahmad, who have been engaging political stakeholders, including former presidential aspirants and candidates from the 2023 elections.

“They have met Rotimi Amaechi, they have met almost all those who ran for president in 2023 either as aspirants or candidates,” he said. “Dr. Ahmad has also met all the political parties.”

However, the ADC chairman was

quick to issue a warning to politicians seeking to use the party for convenience without genuine commitment to its ideals.

“We made it clear that any politician who thinks that ADC is a ‘molue’ for going to where they want to go, a multipurpose vehicle, must think again,” Nwosu said. “That has made parties the weakest link in the chain of our democratic system... That is wrong because the weakest link cannot create leaders that can create the kind of transformation that we want. ADC is certainly not the vehicle.”

Nwosu emphasised that the coalition’s success hinges on authenticity and long-term vision, not transactional alliances. As discussions reach their final phase, all eyes will be on how opposition parties navigate unity and strategy ahead of 2027.



# 7% absent from 2025 UTME resit as JAMB grants mop-Up exam waiver

By Damilola Olufemi



**T**he Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has released the results of the 2025 UTME resit conducted for candidates affected by technical disruptions during the initial exam sessions.

Out of the 336,845 candidates rescheduled for the makeup exam, 21,082 were absent—representing about seven per cent of the total.

While no official reasons were provided for their non-appearance, JAMB has granted them another opportunity through an upcoming mop-up exercise. This opportunity also extends to those who missed the main UTME earlier in the year.

In a statement issued on Sunday, JAMB's Public Communication Advisor, Fabian Benjamin, confirmed the release of the resit results. He noted that performance trends remained in line with previous years, even as investigations into various irregularities continue.

The board raised serious concerns about widespread examination malpractice, implicating candidates, some school proprietors, and a number of CBT centres. The resit results were reviewed and approved by Chief External Examiners led by Prof. Olufemi Peters of the National Open University, alongside psychometric analysis carried out by Prof. Boniface Nworgu.

In a move aimed at fairness, JAMB has also decided to release results of underage candidates, except in cases currently under litigation. However, these results remain inadmissible for entry into tertiary institutions, as the candidates had previously agreed to the admission requirements at registration.

Additionally, the board announced a one-time waiver for candidates linked to online cheating networks, including "WhatsApp Runs," but warned against future involvement in such misconduct.

CBT centres found to have facilitated

malpractice will face blacklisting and prosecution, while individuals involved in identity fraud during registration will also be held legally accountable.

JAMB also criticised the negative influence of unregulated tutorial centres, urging government intervention to license and supervise such facilities.

Despite the hurdles faced, the board reiterated its strong commitment to the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) system, describing it as a key tool in curbing malpractice and enhancing digital skills among students. It also revealed plans to bring in management consultants to improve the exam accreditation and registration framework.

The exam body condemned attempts to frame the technical glitches through ethnic or political lenses, urging stakeholders to avoid divisive rhetoric. The board commended its leadership team for the professional and measured response to the situation.

# AbdulRazaq endorses Kwara Kre8 as headline sponsor to empower creative talents

By Friday Omosola



**G**overnor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq of Kwara State has approved the state's headline sponsorship of Kwara Kre8, an initiative aimed at empowering creatives in photography, filmmaking, content creation, social media influencing, and storytelling.

Kwara Kre8 announced the partnership in a statement on Sunday, confirming that the sponsorship came through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the governor on New Media.

"We are glad to announce that the Kwara State Government has become the headline sponsor for the maiden edition of the Kwara Kre8 workshop. This landmark partnership marks a significant milestone in our journey to nurture and promote creative talents in

Kwara State," the statement read.

The initiative targets young talents who leverage digital platforms to promote creativity and showcase Kwara State's rich culture and artistic heritage on a global scale.

Creative Lead of Kwara Kre8, Adebisi Oyelere, hailed the sponsorship as a demonstration of AbdulRazaq's belief in the creative sector as a catalyst for economic growth, innovation, and cultural development.

"This is a morale booster for our resolve at Kwara Kre8 to provide a sustainable platform where young creatives can express themselves, gain mentorship, and connect with industry professionals to grow their talents," Oyelere said.

According to the organisers, the

workshop will offer participants essential skills, mentorship, and opportunities to network with key industry stakeholders. It will also feature talent showcases to expand participants' visibility within the creative economy.

Notable figures billed to speak at the event include the Minister of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy, Hannatu Musawa (Esq); Ayo Adeagbo, Special Assistant to the President on Art, Culture and Creative Economy; and Sadiq Rabi'u, Special Assistant to President Bola Tinubu on Capacity Development, among others.

Kwara Kre8 expressed gratitude to AbdulRazaq, describing his administration as youth-friendly and supportive of initiatives that empower young people across various sectors.



# Debts: WAEC, NECO release results of Zamfara students withheld for five years

By Alade Adisa

The Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination, SSCE, results of students from Zamfara State withheld by the West African Examinations Council, WAEC and the National Examination Council, NECO, withheld for five years over indebtedness of the state government to the examination bodies, have been released.

The release of the results followed the payment of the debts to the examination bodies by the state government.

Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal, has settled outstanding debts.

The debts were owed NECO from 2014 to 2018 and WAEC from 2018 to 2022.

The statement by the spokesperson for the governor, Sulaiman Bala Idris, the examination bodies have released all results withheld by them.

“In his commitment to overhauling the educational sector of Zamfara State, Governor Dauda Lawal has settled all backlog of payments owed by previous administrations in the state.

“The nonpayment of fees for WAEC and NECO has caused a significant setback for public schools throughout Zamfara State, continually placing Zamfara at the bottom of educational indices across Nigeria.

“Recognizing the issues within the



education system, Governor Lawal declared a state of emergency in education in November 2023, a decision producing positive results for the educational sector in Zamfara State.

“More than 500 schools have been renovated and equipped since the emergency declaration. Public teachers have been trained and are undergoing retraining.

“The swift payment of the outstanding debt to WAEC and NECO has relieved the stranded Zamfara students, who completed their final exams but could not proceed due to the examination bodies withholding their results.

“For the West African Examination Council (WAEC), Governor Dauda Lawal has paid the outstanding of one billion four hundred million naira that the previous administrations owed from 2018 to 2022.

“The immediate past government could not pay for the 2023 WAEC;

therefore, no public school in Zamfara State participated in the examination. However, payment was made for 2024, and students took the exams.

“On the part of the National Examination Council (NECO), Governor Lawal has paid N320, 699, 850.00 to settle a debt owed the council from 2020 to 2021.e

“The previous administrations from 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 failed to pay the National Examination Council (NECO) the sum of one billion and twenty-two million naira, a reason why the council decided to withhold the results of Zamfara students who sat during that period.

“Governor Dauda Lawal has also approved the payment of the withheld results from 2014 to 2018, and an agreement has been reached with NECO to release the results immediately after receiving the first batch of the payment,” the spokesperson said.

# SERAP sues CBN over failure to disclose direct payments to LG, Rivers councils

By Alade Adisa

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has filed a lawsuit against the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for allegedly failing to disclose details of any direct payments made to Nigeria's 774 local government councils, including councils in Rivers State.

SERAP revealed on its website on Sunday that the suit numbered FHC/L/MS/521/2025 was filed last Friday at the Federal High Court in Lagos.

In the suit, SERAP asked the court to compel the CBN to reveal the amounts sent directly to each local government council since the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in July 2024.

The ruling mandated that allocations from the Federation Account must be paid directly to democratically elected local councils and prohibited state governors from controlling the funds.

SERAP also requested the court to direct the CBN to confirm whether it had made any such payments to the local government councils in Rivers State and to provide the rationale behind those transactions.

In its application, filed by solicitors Kolawole Oluwadare and Oluwakemi Oni, SERAP argued that disclosing the details of direct payments would ensure transparency, accountability, and public oversight of the CBN's compliance with the Supreme Court judgment.

"State governors continue to starve local governments of funds in defiance of the



Supreme Court's binding orders, thereby threatening the rule of law and undermining the integrity of the judiciary," SERAP stated.

The organisation stressed that the CBN had both a constitutional and statutory obligation to protect allocations from the Federation Account and ensure that funds reach all three tiers of government as prescribed by law.

According to SERAP, any failure to comply with the Supreme Court judgment would endanger the autonomy of local governments, increase poverty, and deprive millions of Nigerians at the grassroots of development opportunities.

"Local government councils are legitimate recipients of funds from the Federation Account and must receive allocations directly, without interference from state governors or the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)," SERAP said.

The group cited the Supreme Court's ruling, which affirmed the applicability of the Freedom of Information Act to all

public institutions, including the CBN, and imposed a duty on the apex bank to make such financial records accessible to citizens.

Following the court's ruling in July 2024, Nigeria's 774 local governments reportedly opened dedicated accounts with the CBN for the direct receipt of funds from the Federation Account.

SERAP also referenced a statement by former President Muhammadu Buhari in December 2022, in which he alleged widespread misappropriation of local government funds.

Buhari claimed that local council chairmen often received only a portion of the allocated funds and signed for the full amount, sharing the balance with unnamed individuals.

In March 2025, the Federation Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) reportedly disbursed a total of N1.578 trillion in revenue to the three tiers of government.



# Three cancer centres set to be commissioned soon – Prof. Pate reveals

By Helen Okechukwu

**W**ith cancer remaining a leading cause of non-communicable disease-related deaths in Nigeria and globally, three cancer centres are set to be commissioned for public access in the next couple of days.

This move aims to improve Nigeria's specialized healthcare system, with 500 clinicians to be trained, 2,000 cancer patients expected to be treated, and 350,000 people to receive diagnostic services yearly.

According to a Nairametrics publication on Sunday, this announcement was shared by the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Pate's X page.

Out of the six centres announced to be established in February 2024, the three centres to be opened are located at the Federal Teaching Hospital in Katsina, the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital in Nsukka, and the University of Benin Teaching Hospital.

Prof. Pate described the initiative as an investment that will position Nigeria as West Africa's largest network of oncology and diagnostic centres.

He said, "In the coming days, three newly built cancer centres will be formally commissioned by Mr. President and opened for public access."

While marking President Bola Tinubu's midterm, this development is being rolled out.

"The newly completed centres, located at the Federal Teaching Hospital in Katsina, the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital in Nsukka, and the University of



Benin Teaching Hospital, will bring the total number of such facilities to six across the country, ushering in a new era of specialized cancer care," Prof. Pate noted.

The comprehensive initiative rolled out by the Federal Government aims to improve cancer care services across Nigeria, focusing on affordability, accessibility, and sustainability.

Health Minister Muhammad Ali Pate announced that select medical personnel are currently receiving specialized clinical and technical training in South Africa.

This is part of broader efforts to ensure that the newly established cancer care facilities are efficiently managed and maintained.

In a parallel move, the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) has introduced a targeted subsidy scheme for low-income patients undergoing radiotherapy.

Under this programme, qualified individuals can receive financial support of up to ₦400,000 to reduce treatment

costs and enhance patient adherence.

Pate emphasized that these reforms align with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, signaling a commitment to making cancer treatment more accessible and standardized nationwide.

"We are dismantling longstanding barriers both on the supply and demand sides to ensure that quality, affordable cancer care becomes the national standard, not the exception," he said.

In 2024, the government earmarked N37.4 billion in the national budget for the Ministry of Health's oncology programme.

This funding will support the creation of six state-of-the-art cancer centres across federal tertiary hospitals, following President Tinubu's approval of a nationwide scale-up of screening, diagnostic, and treatment infrastructure.

These reforms aim to reduce the reliance on medical treatment abroad and establish a stronger, locally available cancer care system.

# Nigerian students evacuated from Sudan face hurdles registering for medical exams

By Helen Okechukwu



**F**orty-seven Nigerian medical students who fled the war in Sudan in 2023 are currently unable to register for the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) licensing exams due to missing travel documents.

According to News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) report on Sunday, the students, formerly enrolled at Sudan International University (SIU), were evacuated during the conflict without proper exit visas, leaving many of their passports behind.

With the National Universities Commission (NUC) approval, they continued their medical training at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) in Sokoto under a formal academic agreement.

**Read Also:** Firm donates multimillion-naira medical equipment, drugs to RSUTH. They completed clinical rotations and graduated in 2024 with certificates issued by SIU. Now preparing to take the MDCN assessment in June 2025, they are being denied registration for failing to provide required documents—specifically, first entry and last exit visas.

Najid Hassan, who leads the Nigerian Students Association at SIU, urged government authorities to step in, stressing that the students had fulfilled all academic obligations despite the war disruption.

While the MDCN has provisions for graduates affected by global crises such as COVID-19 and wars in Ukraine and Sudan, its registrar, Dr.

Fatima Kyari, emphasized that only students who properly transferred to MDCN-recognized Nigerian institutions and completed their education locally are eligible for full registration.

The Federal Ministry of Education has acknowledged the issue and advised the students to write to the Minister of Education and include the Director of Education Support Services in the correspondence to help find a solution.

The NUC also confirmed the matter and advised the affected students to liaise with the Ministry of Education for further assistance.

Attempts to reach key officials from the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission and Usmanu Danfodiyo University for comments were unsuccessful.



# NDLEA intercepts N6.5bn worth of illicit drugs, arrests multiple suspects nationwide

By Helen Okechukwu



The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) has intercepted no fewer than six million opioid pills—including Tamol, Tapentadol, and Carisoprodol—and 332,000 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup at the Port Harcourt and Apapa ports.

The street value of the seizures is estimated at ₦6.52 billion.

At the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, NDLEA operatives, in a joint operation with Customs and other security agencies, uncovered six million opioid pills and 162,000 bottles of codeine syrup in two containers on May 19 and 20.

In a similar exercise at the Apapa Port, Lagos, 170,000 bottles of codeine syrup were discovered on May 22.

Meanwhile, four suspects—two British nationals and two Nigerians—were arrested at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, for attempting to smuggle 92 bags of Loud cannabis (51.1kg) into Nigeria.

The consignment, brought in by Mhizha Tatendra from Doha, was received at the airport car park by Ayedipe Adejuwon and his accomplices, Shonowo Imole and Ofuoma Ayobami.

A raid on their Lekki residence led to the recovery of over ₦3.8 million, 17,200 South African Rand, devices, and laughing gas canisters.

In other operations, NDLEA destroyed 75,000kg of skunk on 30 hectares in Cross River and seized over 2,000kg of the substance in Edo State. Additional arrests and seizures

were recorded across Nasarawa, Kaduna, Bauchi, Yobe, Niger, and Lagos states.

Notable seizures include; 4,000kg of skunk in Keffi, Nasarawa (May 24), 45kg of skunk in Bauchi (May 21), 2kg of Colorado in Yobe (May 21), 97kg of cannabis in Niger (May 22), and multiple drug types in Lekki and Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos.

NDLEA also continued its War Against Drug Abuse (WADA) advocacy with sensitization activities in secondary schools across Katsina, Akwa Ibom, Ebonyi, Adamawa, and Kano, as well as a courtesy visit to the Sarkin Fulani of Lagos.

NDLEA Chairman Brig. Gen. Mohamed Marwa (Rtd) commended officers nationwide for their balanced efforts in reducing both drug supply and demand.

# Nollywood actor hospitalised after unscripted kick from popular colleague during movie shoot

By Damilola Olufemi



**N**ollywood actor Godwin Nnadiékwe has been hospitalised with internal injuries following an on-set incident involving fellow actor Zubby Michael.

According to an official statement released by Nnadiékwe's management on Saturday evening, the actor sustained internal bleeding after being kicked in the chest during a film shoot.

"We regret to inform you that Actor Godwin Nnadiékwe was rushed to the hospital this evening. He is undergoing treatment for internal bleeding following an incident involving a kick on the chest during filming with his colleague Zubby Michael," the statement read. "We are committed to providing the best possible care and will ensure timely updates are shared with the public and the AGN board. We appreciate your concern and well wishes for Godwin at this time. Keep Godwin in your thoughts."

Before the official announcement, Nnadiékwe took to Instagram to share his personal account of the incident, explaining that the kick was not part of the planned action and was not directed by the film's director.

"Just wanted to share an incident that happened on set a few days ago. This isn't to call anyone out, but it's a serious reminder to prioritise each other's safety on set," he wrote.

"During a scene, I received a kick to the chest from my colleague, who wasn't part of the script or directed by the director. It's caused me serious pain. Had to get medication for my chest to feel better today. I did all these by myself. No assistance!"

Nnadiékwe also expressed frustration at the absence of medical support during the shoot and raised broader concerns about safety standards in Nollywood productions.

"When we're working without insurance policies or readily available first aid, unexpected physical actions like this, even if accidental, can have real consequences. Let us commit to sticking to the script and ensuring everyone feels safe and respected," he said.

"What if something more serious had happened? Or this went south? Every action on set, particularly physical ones, must be intentional and within the director's vision.

"Please let us all look out for each other and ensure our sets are always safe spaces where everyone feels secure and protected. Our health and safety are paramount. Our well-being should always come first. Peace!!!"

As of now, Nnadiékwe remains under medical care, and fans and colleagues continue to send in messages of support.



# Trump delays 50% tariff on European Union until July

By New Daily Prime



**P**resident Donald Trump said Sunday that the U.S. will delay implementation of a 50% tariff on goods from the European Union from June 1 until July 9 to buy time for negotiations with the bloc.

That agreement came after a call Sunday with Ursula von der Leyen, the president of the European Commission, who had told Trump that she “wants to get down to serious negotiations,” according to the U.S. president’s retelling.

“I told anybody that would listen, they have to do that,”

Trump told reporters on Sunday in Morristown, New Jersey, as he prepared to return to Washington. Von der Leyen, Trump said, vowed to “rapidly get together and see if we can work something out.”

In a social media post Friday, Trump had threatened to impose the 50% tariff on EU goods, complaining that the 27-member bloc had been “very difficult to deal with” on trade and that negotiations were “going nowhere.” Those tariffs would have kicked in starting June 1.

But the call with von der Leyen appeared to smooth over

tensions, at least for now.

“I agreed to the extension — July 9, 2025 — It was my privilege to do so,” Trump said on Truth Social shortly after he spoke with reporters on Sunday evening.

For her part, von der Leyen said the EU and the U.S. “share the world’s most consequential and close trade relationship.”

“Europe is ready to advance talks swiftly and decisively,” she said. “To reach a good deal, we would need the time until July 9.”

# Pope Leo XIV declares 'I am Roman' as he formally becomes bishop of Rome

By New Daily Prime



**P**ope Leo XIV declared himself a Roman on Sunday as he completed the final ceremonial steps cementing his role as the bishop of Rome.

The first American pope formally took possession of the St. John Lateran Basilica, which is Rome's cathedral and seat of the diocese, with an evening Mass attended by Roman priests and faithful.

He then took the popemobile for a visit to St. Mary Major, where he prayed before Pope Francis' tomb and an icon of the Virgin Mary beloved to many Roman faithful.

In his homily, Leo said he wanted to listen to them "in order to learn, understand and decide things together."

One of the many titles that Leo assumed when he was elected May 8

was bishop of Rome. Given his responsibilities running the 1.4-billion strong universal Catholic Church, popes delegate the day-to-day governance of running of the diocese of Roman to a vicar.

Sunday's ceremonies at the St. John Lateran and a stop at St. Mary Major basilicas follow Leo's visit last week to the St. Paul Outside the Walls basilica. Together with St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, the four papal basilicas are the most important basilicas in the West.

Rome's Mayor Roberto Gualtieri welcomed Leo first at the steps to City Hall, noting that his May 8 election fell during a Holy Year, an event occurring every 25 years to invite pilgrims to Rome. The city underwent two years of traffic-clogging public works projects to prepare and expects to welcome upward of 30 million people in 2025.

Leo said he felt the "serious but passionate responsibility" to serve all Romans during the Holy Year and beyond.

Wearing his formal red papal cape and brocaded stole, Leo recalled the words he had uttered from the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica on the night of his election. The Augustinian pope quoted St. Augustine in saying: "With you I am Christian, and for you, bishop."

"By special title, today I can say that for you and with you I am Roman!" Leo said.

The former Robert Prevost succeeded Pope Francis, the first Latin American pope. Francis died April 21 and is buried at St. Mary Major, near the icon of the Madonna known as the Salus Populi Romani.



# Chelsea seal Champions League qualification as Forest miss out

By New Daily Prime

Chelsea booked their place in the Champions League as Levi Colwill sealed a 1-0 win that shattered Nottingham Forest's bid for a top five finish on Sunday.

Colwill struck early in the second half at the City Ground to ensure Enzo Maresca's side returned to Europe's elite club competition after a two-year absence.

The Blues finished fourth in the Premier League, four points above seventh-placed Forest, who were consigned to the UEFA Conference League after failing in their attempt to play in the Champions League for the first time since 1980-81.

Chelsea won five of their last six league games to earn their Champions League berth despite criticism of Maresca's conservative tactics from frustrated fans.

With their Champions League fate successfully resolved, Chelsea can focus on winning their first trophy since the Club World Cup in 2022 when they face Real Betis in the UEFA Conference League final on Wednesday.

Leading Chelsea to Champions League qualification and silverware would be a fitting riposte to Maresca's doubters after a turbulent debut season in charge for the Italian.

Chelsea had won only seven of their previous 18 away league games, in contrast to their impressive record of 12 wins from 19 at Stamford Bridge.



But they rose to Maresca's challenge after he urged them to prove they could cope with the pressure of a must-win match on the road.

## Advertisement

Forest, who were third for several weeks, paid the price for failing to win any of their last four home games.

Despite missing out on the Champions League, Forest's highest finish since coming third in 1994-95 was an impressive achievement for a club that battled to avoid relegation on the final day of last season.

It took Chelsea half an hour to create a chance of note when Pedro Neto shot wastefully over from five yards after Cole Palmer's cross picked out the winger.

Forest striker Chris Wood squandered a similar opportunity just before half-time as he met Ola Aina's cross with a volley that flashed over from close range.

With an average age of 24 years and 36 days, Chelsea's starting line-up was the youngest over the course of an entire season in the Premier League era.

Chelsea's lack of experience has been an issue at times in a rocky season, but they got the job done in the 50th minute.

Neco Williams' weak attempt to head clear was seized on by Neto and his low cross reached Colwill for a tap-in at the far post.

The 22-year-old defender's second goal this season reduced the Forest fans to silence, before news of top five rivals Newcastle falling behind against Everton brought renewed roars of hope from the stands.

It was that kind of afternoon, with momentum swings up and down the country, but it was Chelsea who held their nerve to wrap up a lucrative Champions League spot.

# Stuttgart ends Arminia Bielefeld's fairy tale cup run

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Stuttgart claimed their fourth DFB-Pokal title with a thrilling 4-2 victory over third-division side Arminia Bielefeld at the Olympiastadion in Berlin on Saturday evening.

While the result ultimately favored the Bundesliga giants, the final was a celebration of Arminia Bielefeld's remarkable journey—a run that captivated the nation and saw them eliminate four top-flight teams, including reigning champions Bayer Leverkusen, en route to the final. But their dream of lifting the trophy came to an end as Stuttgart's top-tier quality proved too much on the night.

The match began at a frenetic pace, and Stuttgart wasted no time asserting their authority. Just 15 minutes in, Nick Woltemade opened the scoring after a well-worked move, latching on to a precise pass from Angelo Stiller and calmly finishing to give the favorites an early lead.

Stuttgart doubled their advantage just seven minutes later through French midfielder Enzo Millot, who turned in a cross from Deniz Undav. The pressure continued to mount, and by the 28th minute, it was 3-0—this time Undav getting on the scoresheet himself, again with Stiller providing the assist.

At half-time, Arminia Bielefeld found themselves trailing by three goals, a margin that reflected Stuttgart's dominance in possession, movement, and attacking precision.

Despite the daunting scoreline, Bielefeld came out in the second half determined not to go down without a fight. However,



any hope of a dramatic comeback took a further blow when Millot added his second of the night in the 66th minute, firing home from the edge of the area to make it 4-0. The goal was another reminder of Stuttgart's clinical edge and Millot's growing influence on the game.

Still, Arminia Bielefeld's spirit never wavered. In the 82nd minute, Julian Kania gave their vocal supporters something to cheer about with a beautifully taken goal, rifling a shot into the roof of the net following a pass from Christopher Lannert. It was a historic moment—Bielefeld became the first third-division team to ever score in a DFB-Pokal final.

Just three minutes later, Stuttgart defender Josha Vagnoman inadvertently headed into his own net, bringing the underdogs to within two goals and sparking a final surge of belief among their players and fans. The stadium roared with anticipation, and for a brief moment, it felt as though another chapter in Bielefeld's fairytale might unfold.

But Stuttgart regrouped quickly, maintaining composure in the dying minutes to see out the win and claim the trophy. The final whistle sparked scenes of joy among Stuttgart players and

supporters, celebrating the club's first major silverware since their last DFB-Pokal win in 1997.

For Arminia Bielefeld, it was a bittersweet evening. The loss stung, but their unprecedented cup journey brought pride to the club and its fans. Their wins against Bundesliga giants and their courageous performance in the final earned them national admiration.

Speaking after the match, Stuttgart manager Sebastian Hoeneß praised Bielefeld: "They've been a credit to this competition and gave us a real challenge. We had to be at our best, and I'm proud of how our players handled the occasion."

For Stuttgart, the victory not only secures a prestigious trophy but also affirms their status among Germany's top clubs following an impressive domestic campaign.

Arminia Bielefeld's players may have walked off the pitch without a trophy, but they did so with their heads held high. Their 2025 DFB-Pokal campaign will be remembered as one of the most inspiring underdog stories in recent German football history.



# Real Madrid appoint Xabi Alonso as manager on three-year contract

By New Daily Prime



**R**eal Madrid appointed Xabi Alonso to replace Carlo Ancelotti as coach on Sunday, with the Spaniard to take over from June 1 and lead the team at the Club World Cup.

“Xabi Alonso will be the Real Madrid coach for the next three seasons, from June 1, 2025 until June 30, 2028,” said Real Madrid in a statement.

With veteran Italian coach Ancelotti taking the reins of the Brazilian national team, Madrid secured a deal with former midfielder Alonso, whom they have been linked with for months.

Alonso, 43, leaves German side Bayer Leverkusen at the end of the Bundesliga season after finishing second.

“Alonso is one of the biggest legends at Real Madrid and in world football,”

continued Los Blancos’ statement.

“He wore our shirt in 236 games between 2009 and 2014. During that time he won six trophies.”

Alonso will be officially presented on Monday at 1030 GMT.

The Spaniard coached Leverkusen to a league and German Cup double in the 2023-2024 campaign, with his team unbeaten in the top flight, making him a target for Europe’s top clubs.

Basque coach Alonso had an agreement with Leverkusen to allow him to depart if one of his former sides, including Madrid, Liverpool and Bayern Munich, wanted to hire him.

Ancelotti’s Madrid endured a disappointing campaign, winning the European Super Cup and

Intercontinental Cup but suffering Champions League quarter-final elimination by Arsenal.

Barcelona beat Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup and Copa del Rey finals and then reclaimed the Liga throne from their arch-rivals, meaning they failed to win a major trophy.

Madrid added French superstar Kylian Mbappe last summer but Ancelotti found it hard to include him in the team alongside Vinicius Junior without destabilising it.

Mbappe netted 31 La Liga goals which should earn him the European Golden Shoe, but Alonso’s main job will be to restore the team’s solidity without compromising the attack.

After losing two matches in the whole of the previous campaign, this season Madrid slumped to 14 defeats.