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Court forfeits \$2.04m, properties, shares linked to Emefiele

By Dave Oludare Oso



The Federal High Court sitting in Lagos on Friday ordered the final forfeiture of the sum of \$2.045m, seven choice landed properties and share certificates linked to the former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Godwin Emefiele.

Justice Deinde Dipeolu ordered the permanent forfeiture of the monies and the two share certificates of Queensdorf Global Fund Limited Trust, after holding that the former CBN governor or any other interested party did not contest same after the initial interim forfeiture.

The court also forfeited the seven choice landed properties on the ground that the former CBN Governor, Emefiele, was not able to connect his lawful earnings from Zenith Bank and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to the acquisition of the properties.

The court held that the former CBN Governor failed to provide documents or links to show that he owned the properties.

Emefiele had denied any connection between him and the companies in whose names the properties were purchased and the companies had also failed to appear before the court to claim the properties.

The EFCC had listed the companies as; Amrash Ventures Limited, Modern Hotels Limited, Finebury Properties Limited, Fidelity Express Services Limited, H & Y Business Global Limited and SDEM Erectors Nigeria Limited.

Justice Dipeolu held, “the conclusion that can be deduced is that there must be something dark about the acquisition of the properties which Emefiele and the companies does not want to come to light.”

The judge further held “that the interested party has failed to demonstrate any lawful interest in the properties and that they were acquired from his legitimate earnings.

“I therefore order the final forfeiture to the Federal Government of Nigeria of all those properties...which are reasonably suspected to have been acquired with proceeds of unlawful activities.”

The properties are: two fully detached duplexes of identical structures, lying being and situated at No. 17b Hakeem Odumosu Street, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos; an undeveloped land, measuring 1919.592sqm with Survey Plan No. DS/LS/340 at Oyinkan Abayomi Drive (Formerly Queens Drive), Ikoyi, Lagos; a bungalow at No. 65a Oyinkan Abayomi Drive, (Formerly Queens Drive), Ikoyi,

and a four-bedroom duplex at 12a Probyn Road, Ikoyi.

Others are an industrial complex under construction on 22 plots of land in Agbor, Delta State; 8 units of an undetached apartment on a plot measuring 2457.60sqm at No. 8a Adekunle Lawal Road, Ikoyi, and a full duplex together with all its appurtenances on a plot of land measuring 2217.87sqm at 2a Bank Road, Ikoyi, Lagos.

On August 15, 2024, the court had authorised the EFCC to temporarily take custody of the cash sum of \$2.045 million, seven choice landed properties and shares linked to Emefiele after hearing an Exparte application filed by lead counsel to the Commission, Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN).

The court’s ruling followed EFCC assertion that the money and other items sought to be forfeited were reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities.

However, counsel to Emefiele, Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Olalekan Ojo had urged the court to stay proceedings and not grant the final forfeiture of the properties.

#EndBadGovernance protest: Court grants N10m bail each to 67 minors

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Abuja has granted bail to about 67 minors to the tune of N10m each out of the 76 that were arraigned for participating in the August 2024 End Bad Governance protests.

Those granted bail, who are below 15 years, are expected to present one surety who must be a civil servant.



Meanwhile, another 87 who are adults, are currently being arraigned on the same charges.

NLC threatens strike over ruling on Rivers' allocation

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Rivers State chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has threatened to withdraw services of its members over the court order stopping disbursement of financial allocations to the state.

A federal high court in Abuja, on Wednesday, restrained the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) from further disbursing financial allocations to the Rivers State government.

The court held that monies from the federation account should not be released to the state pending the passage of a lawful appropriation act by a validly constituted house of assembly.

Condemning the judgement, Rivers State NLC chairman, Alex Agwanwo, told journalists after an emergency meeting with labour leaders in the state, that the judge did not take the citizens and workers of Rivers State into consideration before issuing the ruling.



He said, "Everybody knows that taking allocation away from a state will put the state into suffering. It will disrupt governance in a state because governance will not take place without funds.

"It will affect the workers in the state and at the local government levels. Even the private sector doing business in the state will also be affected.

"For us as a state council, we will not sit down and watch, so we are calling on the judges that, going forward, they should put the masses into consideration.

"There is no politician in the state that does not have a sister or brother working in the state. If they seize the allocation, are you going to be paying them?"

76 Malnourished #EndBadGovernance protesters arraigned

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The detained 76 #EndBadGovernance protesters just arrived at the Federal High Court in Abuja for their scheduled arraignment before Justice Obiora Egwuatu.

The protesters, mainly minors, looked malnourished as four of them were hurriedly rushed out of the courtroom as they couldn't stand on their feet.

Looking very sickly, they wriggled in pain in a screeching sound.

They were arrested and detained during the nationwide August 1 to 10 protests which were sparked by widespread economic hardship that led many Nigerians to take to the streets to express their grievances.

The 76 protesters, who were arrested in Abuja, Kaduna, Gombe, Jos, Katsina, and Kano states, are being accused of treason, among other offences.

The protesters include Nura Ibrahim, 24; Abdulbasi Abdusalami, 34; Ahmed Yusuf, 25; Awolu Abdulahi, 21; Umar Musa, 15; Muhammadu Mustapha, 16; among others.

Tunji-Ojo charges NIS officers to remain committed to service, innovative

By Friday Omosola

Interior Minister Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo has urged officers of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) to remain dedicated to their duties and adopt innovative approaches to address emerging challenges.

Speaking at the 2024 Comptroller General Annual Conference in Jos, Plateau State, themed "Enhancing Border Security and Immigration Management in a Globalized World: Challenges and Opportunities for Nigeria," Tunji-Ojo stressed the importance of adaptability.

He highlighted that with rapid changes in global trends, existing methods may soon become outdated, necessitating proactive thinking to keep Nigeria secure and progressive.

Tunji-Ojo also reaffirmed President Bola Tinubu's commitment to bolstering the NIS as a key agency in the nation's security infrastructure.

Additionally, he pointed out that Nigeria's borders are no longer limited to land, sea, and air; they now extend into cyberspace, calling for advanced preparedness in managing this new frontier.



"As a government built on the mandate to lead change, we must, therefore, build modules for tactical management of this digital border, ensuring our security and prosperity.

"More than ever before, I am confident that our dreams of a greater Nigeria, where both men and women – young or old – shall attain true greatness, will be achieved," the Minister said.

We saw hell in DSS hands – #EndBadGovernance protester

By Dave Oludare Oso

One of the participants of the August #EndBadGovernance nationwide protests has rendered a harrowing narration of how operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) arrested him in Kano, detained and tortured him for over 60 days.

Khalid Aminu, an engineer by profession, said he was picked up alongside other young demonstrators protesting hunger and bad governance in early August.

Aminu said he was subjected to all forms of dehumanizing torture while in custody and he had no contact with his family for the period of his incarceration at the Kano office of the DSS.

He was a guest on Inside Sources with Laolu Akande, a socio-political programme aired on Channels Television on Friday.

Describing his plight in the hands of the secret police as a “terrible” experience that he won’t wish to remember, he said, “They (DSS operatives) blocked all of us at the NEPA Roundabout and packed about 11 of us on the day three of the protests (August 3) and took us to their command.”

His face still plastered with after-trauma of the episode, signs that he is still recovering from the “terrible” ordeal in the hands of the secret police, he continued, “They kept me in detention from August 3 to October 17. For the 68 days, I was in the custody of the DSS minus one week when we were taken to the correctional centre after we were taken to court in Kaduna.

He said, “When we were in detention, they kept bringing in more and more people and the number accumulated to about 39 of us.

“What I went through, what we went through was inhuman, I can’t even begin to tell you everything.



“On the 3rd (of August), they arrested us at NEPA Roundabout. There and then they started beating us. Boots, kicks, and all that. Then they pushed all of us into their Hilux, some into their SUVs, and then we went down to the Command.

“When we got there, the first thing I received was a strong cane, like an armoured cable that they used. If I pull up my chest, you will see. They started beating me, I was flat down and they were blasting me with all forms of sticks, armoured cables, everything you can think of.

“Then they took me to a garden with a sharp grass carpet. They asked us to pull our shirts and asked us to lie down. They poured water on me while I lay on this sharp grass. They were beating me and told me to roll from one side to another. I rolled from one end to another with water on my body. All sorts of insects were on this grass. So, it was double punishment. It was terrible. That continued for about an hour.

“Then they asked us to crawl in a gutter and we came out and they asked us to be looking into the sun. we were there for another hour. It became different type of torture after that day. From what you eat, psychologically, you cannot be stable.”

Aminu and his co-detainees were accused of unlawful assembly and for flying Russian flags but the #EndBadGovernance campaigner denied the allegation.

“There was nothing like the Russian flag in the first five days of the protests when we were arrested,” he said.

FG must compensate protesters – Lawyer

Also, on the programme, Aminu’s lawyer, Ibrahim Wali, said there was no justification for arresting the protesters in the first place because the constitution clearly states that if you arrest someone, you should charge them to court after 48 hours.

“The Administration of Criminal Justice Act goes further to say that when you need to remand further, you can apply for an order to remand further for 14 days but there was no remand order,” he said.

“They arraigned them in court on October 10 and they pleaded not guilty and they were now sent to the correctional centre,” the lawyer said, adding that the claim by the DSS that the protesters gathered unlawfully was not tenable.

“It is the duty of the police to curb riots during protests and the police failed in this duty but they tried to transfer the responsibility to the protesters.”

VeryDarkMan faces court today for wearing police uniform

By Dave Oludare Oso

Social media figure, Martins Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan is scheduled to appear in court on Friday (today) over allegations of impersonation levelled against him by the police.

A recent viral video in which VeryDarkMan was seen in Nigeria Police Force uniforms has irked the police who say VDM will have to explain why he wore the uniform “without authorization.”

The police in a statement from the FCT command, which is spearheading the prosecution, condemned VeryDarkMan in the recently released video, where he described himself as CSP VeryDarkMan and Nigeria’s “number one online police officer.”

According to the release, the Police say the force place a high premium on maintaining the integrity of its uniforms and preventing unauthorized usage.



The public is encouraged to stay informed as the case progresses in court.

The NPF’s statement read, “Martins Otse is set to appear in court today following allegations of impersonation related to the unauthorised use of Nigeria Police Force uniforms in a viral social media video.

“The FCT Police Command is actively handling the case, underscoring the Nigeria Police Force’s commitment to upholding the integrity of its symbols and preventing their misuse.

“Interested persons are encouraged to follow up on the proceedings as the case unfolds.”

Meanwhile, VeryDarkMan was detained by police on Thursday after responding to an official summons.

Although VDM’s offence was not spelt out, his lawyer, Deji Adeyanju, said he was detained in a post on X on Thursday.

We won't revoke licence of Oyedepo church's airstrip – Keyamo

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, has said the House of Representatives did not ask him to revoke the airstrip licence for Oyedepo’s Living Faith Church or those of other private individuals.

The minister said this in a statement via his official X handle on Friday.

There were reports that the House of Representatives asked the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development to halt the issuance of airstrip licences to private individuals and organizations and to revoke existing licences, including those granted to Living Faith Church, as a measure to safeguard national security.

Reacting to the report, the minister said it was incorrect, saying a motion was moved in the House in that regard and it was unanimously referred to the Aviation Committee to look into it.

According to him, while the intention of the Honourable member who moved the motion was very patriotic, it was based on a complete lack of knowledge of the aviation sector.

The minister said, “By the time we explain to them how private air strips work and the processes they undergo by our agencies before the final approval, they will be satisfied.

“The responsibility of the owners of private air strips is just to build the runway and terminal building. But after they built the control tower in particular, it is completely handed over to the Federal Government through NAMA (Nigerian Airspace Management Agency) which is in complete control of the entire airspace in Nigeria. An MOU is usually signed with NAMA in this regard before the airstrip is approved for operations.

“It is NAMA that provides the Air Traffic Controllers and Engineers in all airports and airstrip in Nigeria. And the private’s air strip owners pay the Federal Government handsomely for these services.

“No object flies into Nigeria without the prior clearance by NAMA and without filing a clear flight plan like where it is taking off from and where it intends to land,” he said.

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“No object flies into Nigeria without the prior clearance by NAMA and without filing a clear flight plan like where it is taking off from and where it intends to land,” he said.

EFCC transfers Bobrisky to Abuja for interrogation

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

Controversial social media personality and crossdresser Idris Okuneye, popularly known as Bobrisky, has been re-arrested and transferred to Abuja for questioning related to allegations of bribery and corruption.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) announced that he would be flown to the capital on Friday, November 1.

Bobrisky was detained late Thursday, October 31, night at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos while attempting to board a KLM flight to Amsterdam, ultimately bound for London.

Reports indicate he was stopped by immigration officers, leading to his subsequent arrest.

The social media star took to Instagram to share his distress, claiming he sustained injuries during the altercation with the officers and alleging that the EFCC was behind his detention.

“Nigerians help me, EFCC just arrested me. I’m badly injured,” he wrote.



Sources within the EFCC have indicated that Bobrisky’s arrest stems from his failure to respond to multiple invitations from the commission.

This follows accusations made by Bobrisky, captured in a voice note shared by social critic Martins Otse, also known as VeryDarkMan, where he allegedly claimed to have bribed EFCC officials with N15 million to drop money laundering charges against him.

While the EFCC has denied these allegations, they have established a committee to investigate the matter.

During a press briefing on Thursday, October 31, Wilson Uwajaren, Director of Public Affairs for the EFCC, suggested that Bobrisky could face additional charges if his allegations against the commission were found to be unfounded.

Uwajaren stated, “One could be charged for giving false information to the EFCC, let alone making false allegations against the commission.”

A senior EFCC source revealed that the decision to arrest Bobrisky was necessary to address the serious nature of his claims.

“We have arrested him in Lagos today and will be flown to Abuja today. He accused us of bribery and corruption; we invited him severally, but he did not show up. He who alleges must be ready to prove. Those allegations are too weighty to allow slide,” the source explained.

When reached for comment, Dele Oyewale, the EFCC’s Head of Media and Publicity, confirmed Bobrisky’s transfer, stating, “Bobrisky is on his way to Abuja as we speak.”

The ongoing situation continues to draw significant public interest, with many awaiting further developments as the EFCC investigates both the allegations against its officials and Bobrisky’s claims.

Oyo Assembly suspends LG chairman over viral video

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

Chairman of Oyo East Local Government, Olusola Oluokun, has been suspended by Oyo State House of Assembly over a viral video that sparked controversy.

Oluokun was suspended on Thursday after the presentation of a Matter of Urgent Public Importance titled: “Urgent call for full investigation into the indecent attitude of the Chairman, Oyo East Local Government, Mr. Olusola Oluokun, in a viral video online.”

The controversial video showed Oluokun eating half-clad and praising a political stalwart, who helped him to become chairman.

The chairman also allegedly rained curses on those perceived as enemies of his benefactor.

Oluokun’s actions in the video were deemed unbecoming of an elected local government chairman.

The house, however, set up a committee to investigate the matter, pending which the vice chairman will act as chairman.

The lawmakers condemned the act, describing it as unbecoming of an elected council boss.

The Assembly Speaker, Adebayo Ogundoyin said they would not condone such indecent behaviour, adding that the swift action taken by the assembly demonstrated its commitment to maintaining the integrity and dignity of public office.

Food Security: Shettima urges diversification from crop production to livestock, fishery, others

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has urged the Presidential Food Systems Coordinating Unit (PFSCU) to deliver concrete results in the drive for food security in Nigeria, stressing that Nigerians expect action, not just rhetoric.

He highlighted that while many presidential initiatives have been launched, effective implementation remains a challenge.

Shettima noted that the PFSCU is uniquely positioned to transform Nigeria's food security challenges into real progress.

In a statement by his spokesperson, Stanley Nkwocha, Shettima issued this directive on Thursday during the PFSCU's second meeting, which was convened as part of President Bola Tinubu's administration's efforts to combat hunger and alleviate hardship in Nigeria.

In July, the Vice President inaugurated the PFSCU under the Presidential Economic Coordinating Council after presenting a proposal to President Tinubu to establish a food systems council addressing food insecurity.

During this second meeting, which included representatives from states, development partners, and other key stakeholders, Shettima urged the PFSCU to broaden its focus beyond rural farming by introducing urban agriculture, modelled on systems in advanced countries like Cuba.

He said, "We have to walk the talk. I will be in Calabar, and we will go to northern Cross River to flag off the wet season farming. Nigerians want to see what we are doing. And Hon. Minister, I want you to robustly engage the private sector. I want the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to drive the process.



"So, let's walk the talk. This presidential initiative is a very beautiful one, but we have had a lot of presidential initiatives from time immemorial. It's the implementation that counts, and we are in a unique position to catalyse our challenges into progress."

Shettima expressed optimism that the Presidential Food Security Coordination Unit (PFSCU) would strengthen food security across Nigeria, highlighting that the unit comprises prominent private-sector leaders whose expertise and connections could drive impactful change.

He urged the PFSCU to expand its focus beyond crop production to include areas like livestock and fisheries, noting the importance of these sectors, especially in the South-South and South-East regions.

Shettima also tasked Finance Minister and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, with devising solutions to improve loan access through credit guarantee schemes, underscoring the need for financial support across the agricultural sector, including for large-scale producers.

During the meeting, several governors echoed the call for a comprehensive shift in food security strategy, stressing the need for stronger collaboration between federal and state levels.

Borno State Governor Babagana Zulum emphasized the importance of food quality, noting that 'food security isn't just about quantity but also quality,'

and cited fisheries and livestock as essential but often overlooked areas in agricultural policy.

He called for closer synergy between federal initiatives and state-level capacities.

Cross River State Governor Bassey Otu shared his state's ambitious vision, pledging to make Cross River a leading food supplier within two years.

Ekiti State Governor Biodun Oyebanji emphasised the urgency of immediate action in agriculture, highlighting the sector's time-sensitive nature and advocating for enhanced engagement with stakeholders to accelerate implementation.

Ebonyi State Governor Francis Nwifuru advocated for a practical approach to agricultural development, suggesting that leaders' visible involvement in farming could inspire youth participation, as 'agriculture needs practical demonstration, not just talk.'

Finance Minister Wale Edun affirmed the need for better support mechanisms, particularly through credit guarantee schemes, to aid farmers and agricultural stakeholders.

Food Security: Shettima urges diversification from crop production to livestock, fishery, others

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima announced that the National Economic Council (NEC) is set to implement measures to accelerate the decentralization of Nigeria's national grid.

Speaking during the 145th NEC meeting held on Thursday at the Presidential Villa in Abuja, Shettima emphasised that these steps are necessary to prevent frequent grid collapses, which have left certain northern states in total darkness.

As NEC Chairman, he stressed that the government's commitment to accountability necessitates a proactive response to these persistent energy challenges.

Shettima outlined specific actions to support grid decentralization, including establishing mini-grids and expanding the use of renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic systems and wind turbines.

He highlighted the urgency of implementing the Nigeria Energy Sector Implementation Plan (NESIP), noting that the energy sector must harness the potential of renewables and deploy solar and mini-grid solutions tailored to regional electricity needs.

"A robust economy is the backbone of every nation. The recent blackouts caused by the actions of vandals remind us of our urgent need to expand our energy infrastructure. I believe the governors here would agree that the decentralisation of electricity is our path forward.

"We will continue to promote the constitutional framework that empowers constituent states within the Nigerian federation to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity in areas covered by the national grid. Together, we can make instability a relic of the past.



"Furthermore, our energy sector must embrace the potential of renewable energy. We must leverage solar and mini-grid solutions tailored to regional needs. I urge the Council to support the implementation of the Nigeria Energy Sector Implementation Plan (NESIP).

"If we capitalise on our diverse regional energy resources—from northern Nigeria's solar potential to the south's gas reserves—we can build a resilient, decentralised energy system that drives growth and empowers our communities."

The Vice President highlighted that the tax reforms introduced under President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Administration aim to diversify the nation's revenue sources, promote economic stability, and reduce reliance on specific sectors.

"I must admit that the tax reforms initiated at the onset of this administration by His Excellency, President Bola Tinubu, have opened avenues to address stakeholders' concerns, particularly regarding VAT reform and its implications for sub-national revenues.

"As representatives of diverse interests, I do not doubt that you share a common aspiration: to broaden our revenue base, foster economic stability, and diminish our dependency on specific sectors," he noted.

Shettima, addressing Nigeria's low ranking on the Human Capital Index, described it as a critical challenge that demands urgent attention.

"We are confronted with alarming statistics regarding life expectancy, maternal and child mortality, and educational attainment. Today's gathering seeks to transform this grim reality through a series of deliberations and sector-specific recommendations, led by experts from both government and our development partners," he said.

The Vice President also highlighted the progress made toward mitigating flood disasters, emphasising that 'recent months have tested the effectiveness of the solutions' aimed at strengthening flood resilience.

"Although many regions were caught unprepared by the floods, our proactive mitigation efforts have led to sustainable strategies to address the widespread damage, including significant property loss and health risks," he stated.

He commended the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and the Director-General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for their foresight and swift response.

FG, Morocco, ECOWAS drive \$26bn African gas pipeline initiative

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in collaboration with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Morocco, and Mauritania, has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing the African Atlantic Gas Pipeline (AAGP) project, a transformative initiative estimated to cost \$26 billion.

This announcement was made during the ECOWAS Inter-Ministerial Meeting of the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project held on Friday, November 1 in Abuja.

The meeting, attended by Ministers of Hydrocarbons and Energy from ECOWAS member states, focused on advancing the AAGP, which aims to connect at least 13 countries, enhancing economic growth across the region.

The project was initially conceived during King Mohammed VI of Morocco's visit to Nigeria in December 2016.

The AAGP will merge two significant pipeline projects: the \$975 million West African Gas Pipeline Extension, which will extend 678 kilometers, and the 5,669-kilometer Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline, projected to cost around \$25 billion.

The initiative seeks to monetize Nigeria's abundant natural gas resources, generate additional revenue, diversify gas export routes, and eliminate gas flaring.

Furthermore, it aims to supply gas to Morocco, 13 ECOWAS countries, and Europe, thereby fostering regional economic integration.

The total pipeline length will stretch 5,300 kilometers from Nigeria to Dakhla, Morocco, and an additional 1,700 kilometers will connect Dakhla to Northern Morocco.



During the meeting, Mele Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), emphasised the significance of the decisions to be made, which will shape the future of the African Atlantic gas project. Represented by Olalekan Ogunleye, NNPCL's Executive Vice President for Gas Power & New Energy, Kyari highlighted the project's potential for shared prosperity among participating nations.

"Today, we come together to make significant progress in the African Atlantic gas pipeline project, perhaps the largest African project, a transformative initiative that promises to connect at least 13 African nations in shared prosperity and development," Ogunleye stated.

He noted that substantial progress has been made in front-end engineering design, with phase two studies completed, and work ongoing for environmental assessments and land acquisition.

"These achievements underscore our shared capacity and resolve to bring this partner project to fruition," he added.

The Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, emphasised the transformative potential of the project, stating, "We stand at a critical juncture where these draft agreements hold the power to reshape our energy landscape and uplift our people."

Morocco's Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Laila Benali, expressed optimism about the project's ability to open new markets and create employment opportunities.

ECOWAS Commissioner for Infrastructure, Energy, and Digitalisation, Sediko Douka, highlighted the importance of collaboration among all parties involved.

"We have reached a critical phase in the development of this project, and it's crucial for all parties to work closely to bring it to fruition," Douka said.

As the meeting concluded, critical agreements, including the Intergovernmental Agreement and Host Government Agreement for the AAGP, were advanced, reflecting a shared vision for a resilient and interconnected energy future for Africa.

The AAGP initiative is poised to significantly enhance the region's energy landscape and economic development.

NAFDAC raises alarm over fake condoms in circulation

By Friday Omosola

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has alerted Nigerians to the illegal sale and distribution of an unregistered condom brand in the country.

In a statement issued Thursday, NAFDAC reported that officials from the Post-Marketing Surveillance Directorate recently identified Foula condoms (packaged in sets of three) being sold in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, and Zango, Katsina State.

The agency highlighted that this condom brand is neither registered with NAFDAC nor labelled in English, raising concerns about its compliance with national safety standards.

“Condoms are a proven effective barrier method that can be used as a dual-purpose method for both prevention of unintended pregnancy and protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. To be most effective, any barrier method used for contraception or preventing infection must be used correctly.”

NAFDAC also warned that the illegal distribution and sale of unregistered condoms pose significant risks, as the safety, quality, and efficacy of these products are not assured.

The agency further emphasized that using substandard condoms could undermine efforts to promote condom use for preventing unintended pregnancies, HIV, and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).



When condoms leak or break, they fail to provide the necessary protection, putting users at serious health risk, according to the agency.

NAFDAC statement read: “All NAFDAC zonal directors and state coordinators have been directed to carry out surveillance and mop up the unregistered products within the zones and states.

Importers, distributors, retailers, healthcare professionals, and consumers are hereby advised to exercise caution and vigilance within the supply chain to avoid importing, distributing, selling, and using illegally distributed products. All medical products/ medical devices must be obtained from authorised/licensed suppliers. The products’ authenticity and physical condition should be carefully checked. Healthcare professionals and consumers are advised to report any suspicion of the sale of substandard and falsified medicines or medical devices to the nearest NAFDAC office, NAFDAC on 0800-162-3322 or via email: sf.alert@nafdac.gov.ng.

“Similarly, healthcare professionals and patients are also encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of medicinal products or devices to the nearest NAFDAC office, or through the use of the E-reporting platforms available on the NAFDAC website www.nafdac.gov.ng or via the Med-safety application available for download on android and IOS stores or via e-mail on pharmacovigilance@nafdac.gov.ng.”

Ex-Kwara deputy speaker dies in auto crash

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A former deputy speaker of the Kwara State House of Assembly, Christopher Ayeni, was killed in a ghastly auto accident on Thursday.

The fourth Kwara House of Assembly deputy speaker died in the crash that occurred at about 10:00 am 500m away from Igbaja junction, Ajase-ipo in the Ifelodun local government area of the state due to overspeeding and lack of concentration.

Some other people also died in the accident.

It was learnt that two vehicles involved in the accident are grey colour commercial Sinoki truck with registration number T-17488LA and white colour Toyota hilux pick up vehicle with registration number ARP545KY.

The PRO of the Kwara State sector command of the FRSC, Basambo Olayinka, confirmed the incident in a statement, saying that five people involved in the accident are three males and two females.

The statement said that all the five people involved sustained varying degrees of injuries and that no one died at the point of rescue of the accident.

We'll fix all federal roads before Christmas – FG

By Dave Oludare Oso

The minister of works, Dave Umahi, has said the federal government is working to ensure that all federal high roads are motorable before Christmas.

Speaking during a stakeholders' meeting organized by the ministry of works in Akure, the capital of Ondo State on Thursday, the minister said the administration inherited over 2,000 uncompleted road projects worth trillions of naira, adding the government terminated 10 contracts of erring companies.

Umahi said the federal and Ondo State governments are committed to restoring the Aiyetoro community facing sea incursion.

The minister said, "We have terminated over 10 contracts of big companies, and we have the mind to terminate more, and you can't dictate to us, we will tell you what we want."



"Our books are very much open. We will conclude the design (for Ondo State) within the month of November, and we will inaugurate it."

"We have directed that all federal road controllers should give us details of roads within their domain, whether awarded or not, so that by this Christmas, all federal high roads will be motorable."

"We are coming back after your election to start the Aiyetoro project, which we will construct after this one."

"Nigerians should be grateful that we have a listening president. He is committed to all sectors. This country still has a lot of potential."

The minister also said the 63 kilometres axis of the Calabar-Lagos coastal highway alignment in Ondo state will be inaugurated in December.

The minister also said the 63 kilometres axis of the Calabar-Lagos coastal highway alignment in Ondo state will be inaugurated in December.

Umahi added that works would begin immediately in December after the completion of designing of the road in November.

NAFDAC seals warehouse with N87.5m expired food

By Helen Okechukwu

A warehouse full of expired food products worth N 87.5 million has been sealed off by the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in Zone 4, Wuse, Abuja.

The anti-food agency shared this development on Friday via their X page, as the commission said that a large quantity of expired and unregistered food products were recovered.

The commission said the warehouse was raided, alleging that the management planned to revalidate and resell expired items to the market.

NAFDAC also revealed that a supermarket in Wuse 2 was visited and the revalidated items found in the raided warehouse were allegedly being sold to consumers.



The shared notice stated that the warehouse and supermarket were shut down for a thorough investigation.

The expired food items recovered are Cornitos Crusties Nacho, Chaunky Mango, Mother's Recipe, Nacho Crisp, Paneer Makhani, Palak Paneer, and Dal Tadka.

NAFDAC urges the public to remain watchful over food products they consume, particularly during this festive season, and

report any suspected food products to the nearest NAFDAC office for immediate action.

The statement stated, "NAFDAC has uncovered a warehouse in Zone 4, Wuse, Abuja, containing large quantities of expired and unregistered food products. The NAFDAC team raided the facility, which was reportedly preparing to revalidate and resell expired items into the market."

Governor AbdulRazaq distributes educational materials to students

As part of efforts to foster a positive reading culture, Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, has distributed educational materials to public secondary school students across the state's Local Government Areas.

Reaffirming his commitment to quality education, the Governor's initiative was highlighted during the official flag-off ceremony held at Saint Anthony's Secondary School, Ilorin.

Speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Education and Human Capital Development, Hajia Sa'adatu Modibbo Kawu, emphasised the government's intention to revive reading culture among students, which she noted has been diminishing with the rise of digital distractions.

According to the Commissioner, promoting a reading culture is essential to expanding students' vocabulary and improving communication skills.

She added, "The government will take necessary steps to make Kwara State a reading state and cultivate a reading population. We're committed to supporting schools and libraries to encourage this culture across all levels."

Hajia Modibbo Kawu also encouraged Kwarans to promote shared reading, urging parents to instil in their children the value of books and reading for academic success. She appealed to parents to model reading habits that inspire their children to embrace this culture.

The Commissioner further encouraged students to reciprocate the government's efforts by dedicating themselves to their studies and avoiding actions that could jeopardize their educational goals.

By Friday Omosola

Responding on behalf of the students, representatives expressed gratitude to Governor AbdulRazaq for the educational resources provided to enhance their learning experience.

In a related event, the Kwara State Government called on Senior Secondary School Principals across the state to uphold their roles in shaping the future leaders of the state.

This message was delivered during the commencement of the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WAEC) registration at Saint Anthony's Secondary School, Ilorin.

Addressing the Principals, Hajia Modibbo Kawu commended their cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Human Capital Development, noting their efforts to maintain high standards in the education sector.

She warned principals against charging additional fees beyond those approved by the Ministry, emphasising that any infractions would be strictly dealt with.

The Commissioner also rallied the support of the Principals for Governor AbdulRazaq's administration, noting his dedication to the welfare of teachers and the general public.

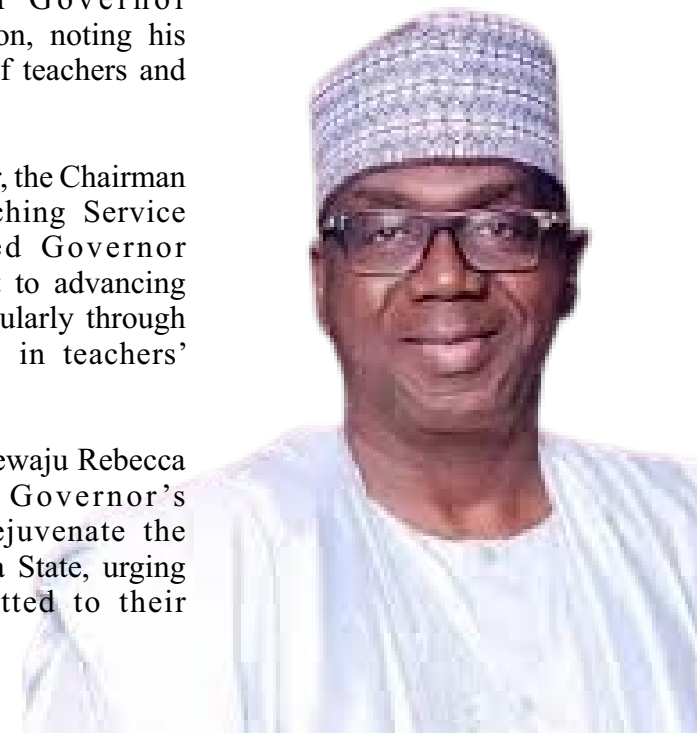
Meanwhile, Bello Abubakar, the Chairman of the Kwara State Teaching Service Commission, applauded Governor AbdulRazaq's commitment to advancing the education sector, particularly through significant improvements in teachers' welfare.

Permanent Secretary Olanrewaju Rebecca Bake also lauded the Governor's unwavering efforts to rejuvenate the education system in Kwara State, urging teachers to stay committed to their responsibilities.

Earlier, Adewuyi Victoria Funmilayo, Director of the Ministry's Curriculum and Assessment Department, outlined the approved WAEC registration fees for the 2024/2025 session as follows: WAEC charges: N27,000.00, e-registration charges: N1,250.00; administrative charges: N2,000.00 which total at N30,250.00

Mohammad Baba, President of the All Nigeria Confederation of Principals of Secondary Schools, Kwara State chapter, expressed gratitude to Governor AbdulRazaq for the positive changes in the education system.

He praised the governor's efforts in rehabilitating and constructing schools statewide, ensuring timely salary payments, and supporting teacher promotions. Comrade Baba assured that the Principals would continue to uphold their professional responsibilities to justify the trust placed in them.



Expect new minimum wage this month, Aiyedatiwa assures workers

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa has announced that the new minimum wage of ₦73,000 for civil servants in the state will take effect starting in November.

In a statement released by his Chief Press Secretary, Ebenezer Adeniyani, the governor made this announcement during the 2024 Public Service Week celebration, which included a fitness walk to promote the health and well-being of public workers.

Civil servants, accompanied by labour leaders, participated in a walk through various parts of the state capital before gathering at the Government House, where they expressed their support for the governor ahead of the upcoming governorship election on November 16.

Furthermore, the governor revealed that a committee has been established to determine the implementation structure



of the new minimum wage. With the committee's work now concluded, he stated that he would provide the necessary approval for payments to commence.

“Anything we have done for civil servants has never been politically driven. If workers are not happy, they won't be encouraged to put maximum effort into their work. That is why we

have always prioritised their welfare”, the governor said.

Governor Aiyedatiwa assured civil servants that, if elected, he would exceed his current achievements, pledging to set new benchmarks in delivering even greater benefits for the workforce.

He expressed gratitude for their solidarity and reaffirmed his identity as the state's foremost public servant.

During the event, the Head of Service, Bayo Philips, commended Governor Aiyedatiwa for fostering a supportive environment for civil servants throughout the state.

NAFDAC warns Nigerians against use of recalled Nivea Roll-on deodorant

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has issued a warning to Nigerians regarding the recall of Nivea Black & White Invisible Roll-on deodorant (50ml), which claims to provide 48-hour protection in African climates.

This recall follows an alert from the European Union Rapid Alert System for Dangerous non-food products based in Brussels.

In an official notice released on Thursday, October 31, NAFDAC identified the affected product by its batch number, 93529610.

The agency revealed that the deodorant contains 2-(4-tert-Butylbenzyl) propionaldehyde, a chemical that is prohibited in cosmetic products due to its potential health risks.



Manufactured in Germany, the product carries the Bar Code Number 42299882. NAFDAC has urged importers, distributors, retailers, and consumers to remain vigilant and avoid the importation, distribution, sale, and use of this specific batch of Nivea Roll-on deodorant.

Consumers who possess the recalled product are advised to cease its use immediately and return it to the nearest NAFDAC office.

The agency has also encouraged healthcare professionals and consumers to report any adverse reactions associated with the use of regulated products. Reports can be made through the nearest NAFDAC office, via the pharmacovigilance email at pharmacovigilance@nafdac.gov.ng, on the E-reporting platforms at www.nafdac.gov.ng, or through the Med-safety application available on both Android and iOS.

NAFDAC continues to prioritise consumer safety and urges the public to heed these warnings. “No object flies into Nigeria without the prior clearance by NAMA and without filing a clear flight plan like where it is taking off from and where it intends to land,” he said.

Police bust organ harvesting ring In Ebonyi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Ebonyi State Police Command have announced that they have dismantled an organ harvesting ring responsible for multiple killings in the state.

Disclosing this in Abakaliki on Friday, spokesperson of the Police, Joshua Ukandu said four suspected members of the ring were arrested following painstaking investigation and credible intelligence into the matter.

He said the suspects confessed to being responsible for the murder of Chikezie Idenyi a Dubai-based businessman.

The spokesperson said, "One Mrs. Blessing Chikezie Onyekachi had reported to the command of her missing husband, Mr. Chikezie Idenyi, who left home on 14th September, 2024 on a supposed business trip to Lagos but was not heard from again.

"Police investigation led to the arrest of one Innocent Elebe and Eze Elechi, who made useful statements that led the police to arrest Obinna Nwanguru and Oda Peter.

"They confessed to killing Chikezie Idenyi, Chibu Odii and Eze Fabian on different dates while trying to extract their blood/organs to use it to cure a cognitively impaired person (Down syndrome)."

He noted that the corpses of Chikezie Idenyi and Chibu Odii were subsequently recovered while effort is ongoing to recover the remains of the third victim.

Ukandu stated this while giving update on Police crime fighting activities in October, 2024.

He noted that 162 males and 15 females, totalling 177 suspects were arrested for various offences within the period under review.



According to him, 92 suspects have already been charged in court, while others will be arraigned once investigations are complete.

He said that under the new Commissioner of Police, Anthonia A. Uche-Anya, the Police in the state has employed strategic steps through increased stakeholder engagement to help bring crime to the barest minimum.

"Through this approach, we have been able to reduce the incidence of violent crimes, while operatives of the command are not relenting in our effort to make the state safe for all"

Ukandu revealed that the Police arrested one Chukwuebuka Okemiri over alleged murder of a monarch, Ezeogo Ibo Ubani.

The late Ubani was until his death the traditional ruler of Ihie Autonomous community in Akaeze, Ivo LGA of the State.

Ukandu said the monarch was allegedly murdered by a group of gunmen led by the suspect on 3rd May 2024.

He said efforts are ongoing to arrest other members of the group who are still at large.

The Police spokesperson also revealed that the Police freed a kidnap victim, Miss Nwigbo, who was allegedly kidnapped and held hostage in a forest behind Okwagba Primary School by one Ominiya Friday, Ubochi Ifeanyi and others at large.

He said: "The kidnapers raped and held the victim for four days while they collected a ransom of ₦400,000 before they freed the victim.

"On 22nd October, 2024 operatives of the command who had been on the trail of the kidnapers arrested the two suspects while effort is ongoing to arrest others at large. They will be arraigned in court to answer for their crimes," he said.

Ukandu said the Police recovered a Berretta pistol belonging to a police officer and a single-barrel gun from various parts of the state.

He said operatives of the command attached to the crack unit acting on credible intelligence nabbed one Utobo Onyekachi, AKA Azaman, who is a member of a notorious armed robbery syndicate terrorising citizens within Abakaliki.

"The suspect led the police officers to the syndicate's hideout in Igbeagu Izzi, where his gang members, upon sighting the police officers, took to their heels and abandoned one Berretta pistol, which was recovered.

"Upon investigation, it was found to have been snatched from a police officer.

Dangiwa advocates for youth inclusiveness in urban planning

By Friday Omosola

Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Ahmed Dangiwa, has emphasised the importance of integrating youth perspectives in urban planning and development to better address climate change and enhance cities' resilience to future challenges.

In a statement, Salisu Badamasi Haiba, the ministry's Director of Information and Public Relations, noted that Dangiwa highlighted this point during his keynote address at the 2024 World Habitat Day and World Cities Day commemoration in Abuja.

This year's themes are "Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future" for World Habitat Day and "Youth Leading Climate and Local Action for Cities" for World Cities Day.

The Minister expressed appreciation for these themes, recognising that today's youth are already significant contributors to sustainable urbanization through innovation and advocacy.

Dangiwa emphasised the value of creating spaces where youth ideas are respected and actionable.

He noted that with adequate support and resources, young people's contributions could substantially enhance urban development and climate resilience.

Expressing pride in the ministry's role in leading Nigeria's Urban October participation, the Minister highlighted Nigeria's commitment to addressing urbanization challenges.

Key initiatives include the Renewed Hope Cities and Estates Programme, aiming to build 50,000 housing units in its first phase, and a World Bank



and IFC EDGE Green Building Workshop for ministry staff, promoting climate-smart practices in housing projects.

He further underscored the ministry's commitment to affordable housing, mentioning efforts toward establishing the National Social Housing Fund to help low-income Nigerians access housing.

He linked these initiatives with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals on poverty, inequality, and climate action, noting that youth engagement is crucial to achieving these goals.

"By involving young people in urban planning, we can create inclusive cities that remain resilient to climate impacts," he added, assuring that the ministry stands ready to amplify youth voices and support their efforts toward a sustainable urban future.

In his World Habitat Day message, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres stressed that cities need youth energy and vision, as they represent more than half of the world's population and contribute 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Guterres called for amplifying youth voices, investing in their ideas, and enabling meaningful participation in urban decision-making to accelerate climate action and sustainable development progress.

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Urban Development and Regional Planning, Honourable Abiante Awaji, represented by Vice Chairman Abdulhakeem Ado, also addressed the event, calling it an opportunity for reflection and collaboration toward sustainable urban spaces.

He noted that engaging young people's creativity and commitment could help solve challenges like unplanned building and the conversion of residential areas for commercial use.

In his welcome address, Permanent Secretary Marcus Ogunbiyi said Nigeria's participation aligns with global efforts to promote sustainable urbanization and encouraged stakeholders to contribute ideas and solutions.

"Let us work together to build inclusive, safe, and resilient cities where all citizens can thrive," he urged, while also acknowledging the role of UN-Habitat in making the event possible.

Amnesty International demands immediate release of minors charged to court

By Helen Okechukwu

Amnesty International, a human rights group, has called on the Federal Government for the immediate release of the detained minors nabbed during the #EndBadGovernance protest held in August.

Recall that protesters gathered on the streets across Nigeria for 10 days between August 1 and August 10, 2024, over the hardship in the land.

During the demonstrations, some protesters were arrested in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Sokoto, and Gombe, among other states.

The New Daily Prime reported that 79 minors were charged to the Federal High Court in Abuja on Friday with an N10 million bail grant.

At the court, four minors slumped when they were called to take their plea in the dock.

However, the viral video circulated online has sparked a lot of reaction, showing the reaction of social media activist Martins Otse, known as VeryDarkMan, who, too, was recently released from detention.

VeryDarkMan alleged that he and some of the children were locked up in the same cell when he was still in detention.

Being moved by the detention of the minors, Amnesty International described their detention as illegal.

The organization stated, “Amnesty International condemns President Bola Tinubu’s government for the continued detention of minors for participating in the August #EndBadGovernance InNigeria protests.

“The attempts to put the minors through a sham trial over alleged ‘treason’ show the government’s utter disregard for the rule of law. The authorities must release them immediately and unconditionally.”

“Putting minors through these horrifying detentions for participating in protests against hunger and corruption is — so far — one of the deadliest attempts to suppress freedom of assembly. President Bola Tinubu must unconditionally release minors detained since August.

“In Katsina, at least 12 children under 16 years old were detained. The children ended up in detention for just being on the streets during the #EndBadGovernance protests. Children with their whole lives ahead of them are now at the risk of being tried on trumped-up charges.

“Right now charges of treasonable felony are being read to another group of 43 protesters in the same Federal High Court Abuja. The Nigerian authorities are only escalating attempts to deprive people of the right to peaceful protests through horrifying detentions and sham trials.

“The government of President Bola Tinubu must uphold the constitutionally and internationally guaranteed human rights of everyone in the country — including the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. All protesters currently on trial or detained must be released.

”The Nigerian authorities detained these minors unlawfully — putting them through horrifying experiences — for exercising their right to peaceful protest. The government must release them all — immediately and unconditionally.”

Ex-Kwara deputy speaker dies in auto crash

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Enugu State Commissioner of Police (CP), Kanayo Uzuegbu, has urged his team to investigate a viral audio recording featuring his photograph allegedly sharing new communication rules for WhatsApp chats and calls, identify the sources, and apprehend the initiators.

The police chief described the content as “misleading audio.”

The police spokesperson, Daniel Ndukwe, in a statement dated October 31, said, “The Enugu State Police Command is aware of a viral audio recording featuring the photograph of the Commissioner of Police, purportedly sharing new communication rules for WhatsApp chats and calls. The Command strongly condemns this audio, labelling it as misleading and malicious.”

Therefore, Ndukwe urged the public to disregard such audio as it does not represent any official communication from the Command, adding that WhatsApp, owned by Meta, is an organization that would not disseminate information using third-party sources.

Tax review: Presidency mounts defence as 36 governors reject proposal

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The 36 state governors of Nigeria have unanimously called for the immediate withdrawal of the National Tax Reforms Bill, a move that challenges the comprehensive efforts of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee led by Taiwo Oyedele.

The governors made their demands during a meeting of the National Economic Council, Nigeria's highest economic advisory body, on Thursday, October 31.

Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde announced the decision, stating that the council agreed it was crucial to conduct further consultations before proceeding with the bill.

He emphasised the need for consensus-building to ensure that all stakeholders fully understand the proposed reforms.

“The council recommends the withdrawal of the bill currently before the National Assembly to allow for wider consultations and to clarify any misinformation,” Makinde stated.

The proposed tax reforms aim to overhaul Nigeria's taxation system, with a focus on fair taxation, responsible borrowing, and sustainable spending.

Despite a presentation by Oyedele detailing the intended benefits of the reforms, which include streamlining tax processes and establishing a unified revenue service, the governors remained unconvinced.

The reforms, stemming from a review of existing tax laws, encompass four executive bills, including the Nigeria Tax Bill and the Nigeria Revenue Service (Establishment) Bill.

These bills seek to simplify tax obligations, harmonize administrative processes, and create a more efficient tax framework across federal and state jurisdictions.

However, the Northern Governors' Forum, representing 19 governors from the northern region, has expressed opposition to the reforms, particularly regarding the proposed derivation-based model for Value-Added Tax (VAT) distribution.

They argue that the new model undermines the interests of northern states, potentially leading to job losses and economic instability.

In response to the governors' concerns, the Presidency defended the tax reforms, asserting that they would not result in job losses and would instead foster economic growth.

Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, emphasised that the proposed changes are designed to optimize existing tax frameworks without increasing the overall tax burden on citizens.

As the National Assembly considers the governors' request, both the Senate and the House of Representatives unexpectedly adjourned plenary until November 19, complicating the timeline for the proposed reforms.

While the House leadership remains open to discussing the bill on its merits, there is a growing sentiment among lawmakers that the current climate may not be conducive to significant tax reform.



Parents must join war against drug abuse – Akpabio

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Senate President, Godswill Akpabio has said parents must take active part in the efforts to stop the menace of drug abuse and trafficking among children.

The senate leader stated that for the war against drug abuse in Nigeria to succeed, parents must be actively involved, insisting that they are critical in combating the surge in drugs.

He made the appeal at a joint Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives on Drugs and Narcotics one-day sensitization programme on Thursday in Abuja.

Akpabio, who was represented by the Deputy Leader of the Senate, Senator Lola Yisa Ashiru, he urged parents to wake up to the challenge of protecting the future of their children.

The programme, organized in collaboration with the National Association of Nigerian Drugs Monitoring (NANDRUM), had school children, stakeholders, and civil society organizations in attendance.

Speaking on the theme, “Parents’ Inclusion in the Fight Against Drug Abuse and Reckless Behaviours,” he stated that the involvement of parents in the fight is critical.

Femi Kutu, 9ice to headline AMAA 2024 Event

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned Afrobeats singer and accomplished instrumentalist Femi Kutu, along with the Grammy Award-winning vocalist and songwriter 9ice, has officially joined the lineup of performers for the 20th edition of the Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA).

Mr. Tony Anih, the Chief Operating Officer of AMAA, disclosed this thrilling news during a recent press briefing held at the AMAA secretariat located in Ikeja, GRA, Lagos.

This milestone edition promises to be an extraordinary celebration of African cinema, infused with vibrant musical performances from some of the continent's most esteemed artists.

According to Anih, this year's ceremony will highlight significant performances from acclaimed musical talents spanning various genres across Africa.

Among the performers are Nigeria's own Yinka Davies, the talented singer-songwriter Adina from Ghana, and the exceptionally skilled guitarist Naird, also hailing from Ghana.

This eclectic mix of artists embodies the rich diversity of contemporary African music and adds a unique flair to the prestigious event.

Mr. Kingsley James, the technical director for AMAA, expressed enthusiasm about the upcoming ceremony, declaring, "It will be a night to remember! All hands are on deck to ensure that this year's edition stands out both in entertainment and organization."

He emphasized that musical highlights would be headlined by the legendary Femi Kutu and the celebrated Gongo Aso artist, 9ice.

Beyond these stars, the lineup is further enriched with performances from the likes of Yinka Davies, Narh Tettey, Bedwei Kwaku, and Adina Thembi.

To elevate the musical experience, DJ Kenchello and the Ebony Band will also take to the stage, ensuring an unforgettable atmosphere for the attendees.

Scheduled to take place on Saturday, November 2, 2024, this spectacular awards ceremony will unfold at the prestigious Balmoral Convention Centre, situated within the Sheraton Hotel in Ikeja GRA, Lagos.

Preceding this grand event is an anticipated gathering called the African Legends Night, which will occur on Friday, November 1, at the Amore Garden in Lekki Phase I, Lagos.

This special night aims to honour the legacy of African cinema and its pioneers. In a heartfelt statement, Mr Raymond Anyiam-Osigwe, expressing his commitment to the event, emphasized that "We are not just rolling out in a big way; we are intentionally focusing on making the 20th edition one of the most remarkable AMAAs that Africans will celebrate.

This event embodies the vision of our late sister and founder, Peace Maria Ogechi Anyiam-Osigwe, who always aspired to gather over 60 African film practitioners and creatives before her passing.



The list of esteemed guests expected to grace this momentous occasion is star-studded, featuring personalities such as Ghana's Lydia Forson and Jackie Appiah, Kenya's Kenneth Ambani, and Burkina Faso's Charles Koutou.

Notable Nigerian figures like Chinedu Ikeduzo and Osita IHEME will also be present, alongside a multitude of stars from across the continent, including Ghana's Michael Majid and Adjetey Anang, as well as Morris Sam and Zuby Micheals, among many others.

The 20th edition of the Africa Movie Academy Awards, with its vibrant fusion of film and music, promises to be a landmark celebration, illuminating the brilliance of African cinema and showcasing the undeniable talent that thrives across the continent.

As the date approaches, anticipation continues to build, setting the stage for an unforgettable evening of glamour, creativity, and cultural pride in the heart of Lagos.

With an overview of the distinguished lineup and the heartfelt intentions behind the event, the AMAA is gearing up to deliver a night that will resonate in the annals of African entertainment history.

As preparations intensify, the excitement within both the creative community and amongst fans is palpable, making this edition of AMAA an event not to be missed.

RMD: Unique Nollywood icon shaping the industry

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Among the many influential figures gracing the 2024 Silicon Valley African Film Festival (SVAFF), one name resonated with unparalleled distinction, not merely due to his stature but because of his profound impact on African cinema: Richard Mofe-Damijo, better known as RMD.

More than a seasoned actor, RMD stands as a cinematic legend, whose artistry has left an indelible mark on Nollywood and elevated African cinema to global prominence.

His presence at the festival signified more than a celebratory appearance; it was a homage to an enduring legacy that continues to enrich African storytelling and amplify its voice on the international stage.

RMD's journey commenced in modesty in Warri, Nigeria, where, as a young boy, he undertook arduous treks to find a place to savour television.

During a heartfelt fireside chat at the festival, he recounted how this early experience sowed the seeds of his passion for performance.

His television debut in 1982 laid the foundation for a remarkable career that has now spanned over three decades, shattering the limitations of what African cinema could achieve.

By the late 1980s, RMD had already emerged as one of Nollywood's most mesmerizing actors, delivering unforgettable performances in films such as "Out of Bounds" (1997), "Hostages" (1997), and "Diamond Ring" (1998).

These films not only showcased his exceptional versatility but also illustrated his gift for breathing life into characters that expose the rich and multifaceted realities of African life.

His impressive body of work played a pivotal role in transforming Nollywood from its regional roots into a global phenomenon, attracting international audiences and securing a rightful place within global cinematic dialogues.

Titles like "The Wedding Party" (2016) and "King of Boys" (2018) solidified his status as a pioneer, successfully spotlighting African narratives on the world stage.

Discussing Nollywood's exponential growth would be incomplete without recognizing icons like RMD, whose riveting performances have been instrumental in this transformative journey.

RMD's influence extends beyond his captivating roles; his voice commands respect and possesses an unusual blend of warmth and authority.

His presence alone feels like the embodiment of African cinema-wise and soulful. During SVAFF, his words resonated with the weight of experience, reflecting someone who has passionately lived the very essence of storytelling.

"Films are not just entertainment," he remarked. "They are a mirror to our society, showcasing the struggles, dreams, and triumphs of our people."

This deep comprehension of storytelling's power in shaping collective identity has elevated RMD's status from an actor to an ambassador of African narratives on the international stage.



In recent years, RMD has continued to broaden his horizons, as evidenced by his brilliant performances in projects like "Castle & Castle" and the critically acclaimed "Black Book", both of which have mesmerized audiences worldwide.

His remarkable ability to navigate between mainstream and niche roles stands as a testament to his enduring versatility as an artist.

A poignant moment unfolded at SVAFF when RMD paid tribute to his son, Tega Mofe-Damijo, drawing a touching parallel between his illustrious career and the new generation of filmmakers.

Much like the great Denzel Washington, RMD views this passing of the torch as a symbol of continuity in African storytelling across generations.

The love and pride in his voice as he spoke of Tega were unmistakable, emphasizing that genuine legacy extends beyond individual accomplishments; it encompasses the empowerment and nurturing of the storytellers who follow.

Despite holding an iconic status, RMD remains profoundly grounded. He often attributes his success to the rich cultural heritage of Africa, stating, "I grew up understanding that storytelling is a powerful tool. It fosters empathy and understanding across cultures."

His humility and grace manifest in various aspects of his life, from mentoring aspiring filmmakers to cultivating an impeccable fashion sense.

Davido releases a new hit single “Awuke”

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Global phenomenon Davido has officially released his latest single, “Awuke,” showcasing the talent of rising artist YG Marley.

The much-anticipated track made its debut on various streaming platforms Thursday, marking yet another significant milestone in Davido’s illustrious career.

Taking to social media, the Afrobeat superstar shared his enthusiasm for the launch, inviting fans to partake in an interactive YouTube premiere chat.

His post read, “AWUKE OUT NOW! I’ll see you in the YouTube Premiere chat in 10 minutes!” This invitation not only highlights Davido’s dedication to his fan base but also emphasizes the increasingly important role of digital platforms in music releases.



As an artist who has already begun carving out his niche, YG Marley proves to be a fitting partner for Davido, known for his chart-topping hits and influential collaborations.

The synergy between the two artists is palpable in “Awuke,” leading many to speculate that this track holds the potential to become another monumental success in both their careers.

Listeners can expect “Awuke” to embody the infectious rhythms and melodies that Davido is renowned for, infused with the fresh energy that YG Marley contributes.



Ex-P Square’s Paul Okoye, Ivy welcome first child

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The half part of the extinct hit group, P Square, Paul Okoye, now addressed as ‘Rudeboy’ and his wife, Ivy Ifeoma have announced the birth of their first child together.

The ‘Reason With Me’ hitmaker shared a video of his kids from his previous marriage playing with the newborn in an Instagram post on Friday.

He expressed his joy over the childbirth, describing the period as “the most joyous and overwhelming sweetest.”

He added, “This past month and few days have been the most joyous and overwhelming sweetest ever period of our lives.”

How 2Baba resemblance affected career- Joe El

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

In the ever-evolving landscape of the music industry, identity is often shaped by the perceptions and comparisons made by audiences and industry professionals alike.

For singer Joe El Amadi, the burden of being compared to the revered music icon 2Baba has cast a shadow over his artistic journey.

In an insightful appearance on the “Hoha” podcast, El Amadi opened up about the challenges he has faced due to his striking resemblance to the legendary Afrobeat star.

His candid narrative sheds light on the often unseen struggles musicians encounter when navigating their unique paths in a competitive and unforgiving industry.

El Amadi, a talented artist in his own right, revealed that these constant comparisons have taken a significant toll on his career.



He expressed feeling disheartened and frustrated by the way his likeness to 2Baba has been perceived.

“The downsides of 2Baba comparisons almost broke me down,” he lamented. “This constant shadow leaves me feeling like I am less of an artist, engulfed by the legacy of another.”

Manchester United appoint Amorim as head coach

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Manchester United have confirmed the appointment of Ruben Amorim as the new head coach of the men's first team to succeed Erik Ten Hag, the club said in an official statement on its website on Friday (today).

According to the statement, Amorim will join Manchester United on Monday, November 11, 2024, with a contract until June 2027 'with a club option of an additional year.

"Manchester United is delighted to announce the appointment of Ruben Amorim as Head Coach of the men's first team, subject to work visa requirements.

"He will join until June 2027 with a club option of an additional year, once he has fulfilled his obligations to his current club. He will join Manchester United on Monday 11 November," the statement said.



Manchester United described the 39-year-old Portuguese as a highly decorated manager.

"Ruben is one of the most exciting and highly rated young coaches in European football. Highly decorated as both a player and coach, his titles include winning the Primeira Liga twice in Portugal with Sporting CP; the first of which was the club's first title in 19 years," the club's Communication Department wrote.

Ruud van Nistelrooy, the interim coach who took charge after Erik Ten Hag was sacked on Monday, will stay with Manchester United for the club's next three fixtures.



Ethan Nwaneri shines as Arsenal advances in Carabao Cup

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta praised the outstanding performance of 17-year-old Ethan Nwaneri, who scored a stunning goal in Arsenal's 3-0 Carabao Cup win against Preston North End.

Nwaneri, a rising star from Arsenal's academy, impressed with his first-half goal, curling a precise shot into the net after Gabriel Jesus had opened the scoring. Substitute Kai Havertz capped the night with a third goal after the break, securing Arsenal's spot in the quarter-finals where they will face Crystal Palace at the Emirates in mid-December.

Reflecting on Nwaneri's progress, Arteta noted that the young midfielder has the "right attitude" and "big talent" to succeed, while

Messi rules out coaching after retirement

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi has made headlines once again, this time during an interview with renowned journalist Fabrizio Romano for '433'.

In the discussion, Messi reflected on his future in the sport, his aspirations for the upcoming 2026 World Cup, and his clear stance on coaching post-retirement.

Despite his illustrious career, Messi expressed little interest in pursuing a coaching role after he hangs up his boots.

"I wouldn't like to be a coach. But I'm still not sure what I'd like to do in the future,"

"I value much more than before everything I do on a day-to-day basis, so I just think about playing, training, and having fun," he stated.

When asked about the possibility of participating in the 2026 World Cup, Messi admitted he is uncertain.

"The truth is that I don't know," he said.



Messi emphasised a philosophy of living in the moment, stating, "I'm going to live day to day without thinking too much about the future."

Reflecting on his legacy, Messi expressed gratitude for his achievements. "Let people remember me as they want.

North Korea pledges to stand by Russia until 'victory' in Ukraine

By Dave Oludare Oso

North Korea will back Russia until it achieves victory in Ukraine, Foreign Minister, Choe Son Hui said in Moscow as the United States warned thousands of Pyongyang's troops were at the Ukrainian border and could soon be deployed into combat.

In her meeting on Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Choe also accused the US and South Korea of plotting a nuclear strike against her country.

"Our traditional, historically friendly relations, which have travelled the tested path of history, today ... are rising to a new level of relations of invincible military comradeship," she said, praising the role played in this by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin.



She said North Korea had no doubt that under Putin's "wise leadership" the Russian army and people would "achieve a great victory in their sacred struggle to protect the sovereign rights and security interests of their state."

"And we also assure that until the day of victory we will firmly stand alongside our Russian comrades," Choe said.

Lavrov spoke of the "very close ties" between the two countries' militaries and said this enabled them to solve important security tasks together.

The two did not address statements by leaders in Ukraine, South Korea and their Western allies that Pyongyang had deployed some 10,000 North Korean soldiers to Russia to fight in Ukraine.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said as many as 8,000 North Korean soldiers were in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Russia in a surprise incursion in August, and that he expected them to go into combat against Ukraine in the coming days.

"We are deeply grateful to our Korean friends for their principled position regarding the events that have now unfolded in Ukraine as a result of the West's course of advancing NATO to the east and encouraging an openly racist regime to exterminate everything Russian," Lavrov said.

Kenyans give President Ruto 48-hour ultimatum to resign

Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A cloud of apprehension and uncertainty currently envelope Kenya as citizens issue President William Ruto a 48-hour ultimatum to step down, with a demand for a new government committed to "transparency, accountability, and good governance."

According to reports, the call for resignation has gained significant traction, with a viral Twitter statement stating, "We no longer recognize William Ruto as the President of Kenya. We recall his presidency and urge him to immediately resign and surrender his office to the Kenyan people."

This statement has generated lots of engagement, reflecting widespread discontent.

Regardless of President Ruto retracting a controversial finance bill that proposed tax increases, public outrage continues to prevail.

The bill, which was intended to address Kenya's debt of approximately 10 trillion shillings (\$78 billion), or roughly 70 percent of GDP, faced fierce opposition.

Ruto highlighted that without the tax increases, there would be a significant funding shortfall for critical development programmes, including those supporting farmers and teachers.

Kenyans are said to have struggled with economic instability, rampant corruption, and governance issues, leading to escalating living costs and high unemployment rates.

The public's frustration has climaxed into protests and a fervent demand for change.

Scores of protesters took to the streets, expressing their dissatisfaction with the administration, which they describe as plagued by "incompetence, mismanagement, and a persistent failure to address the nation's pressing needs."

Kenyan police were said to have fired rubber bullets and tear gas at demonstrators while soldiers were deployed and roads leading to Ruto's office at State House and parliament were blocked by police in anti-riot gear.

