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Tinubu congratulates Edo's new governor, Okpebholo

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu



Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo

President Bola Tinubu on Tuesday celebrated the triumph of democratic ideals as Monday Okpebholo and Dennis Idahosa were inaugurated as Governor and Deputy Governor, respectively.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Tinubu, represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, assured Nigerians that the nation's most challenging economic hurdles were now in the past.

In his inspiring address, Tinubu hailed the occasion as a testament to "democracy in its truest form," emphasising the critical role of the people's will in shaping Nigeria's political trajectory.

"This atmosphere of joy and hope resonates with the voice of the people. This joyful cheer, this resounding call for a brighter tomorrow, is what democracy sounds like," the President declared.

He struck an optimistic tone about the nation's economic trajectory, saying Nigeria has already overcome its most

challenging period.

"We have weathered the hardest days as a nation. We have pulled back from the brink of economic collapse, and now we step forward into a time of growth," he stated.

President Tinubu urged immediate reconciliation to address potential post-election disputes in the state, stating, "While some may attempt to disrupt peace after the people's will has been expressed, every elected leader has a responsibility to serve all, including those who voted differently or opposed them."

He highlighted Nigeria's democratic progress, remarking, "More than 25 years into our return to democracy, we have grown, and today's inauguration stands as proof that no single vote carries more value than another."

Discussing leadership qualities, Tinubu observed, "An honest leader quickly recognizes the legacy of problems they inherit. However, what truly defines such a leader is their sincerity and

courage to confront these challenges, not their scale."

The President outlined the new administration's inclusive mandate, noting, "Senator Okpebholo has pledged to build the Edo State you envision: a state with abundant jobs, accessible and quality education, modern infrastructure, and healthcare within reach of every citizen."

Connecting state governance to the national economic agenda, Tinubu emphasised, "From the moment we assumed office, we understood that securing our economy's future would require serious reforms—reforms to avert fiscal and monetary threats to the stability of this great nation."

He commended his party's internal cohesion, stating, "No political party has managed its affairs with greater unity and purpose than the APC since we assumed leadership."

The President described Edo State's transition as a "covenant of hope," underlining its importance to Nigeria's economic recovery and growth trajectory.

Trade policies boost Nigeria's export growth to N6.9tn — FG

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The Federal Government has announced significant progress in Nigeria's export sector, with trade policies and facilitation programmes leading to a surge in the country's trade balance.

According to government officials, Nigeria's trade surplus reached N6.5 trillion in the second quarter of 2024, driven by strong export performance.

Vice President Kashim Shettima, speaking at the 3rd National Conference on Non-Oil Exports in Abuja on Tuesday, November 12, revealed that exports now make up 60.89% of Nigeria's total trade, amounting to N19.42 trillion.

This marks a slight increase of 1.31% from the first quarter of 2024, and a remarkable 201.76% growth compared to N6.44 trillion in Q2 of 2023.

Shettima attributed the positive trade balance to the successful implementation of the government's trade policies aimed at maximizing economic opportunities.

"For Nigeria to improve its trade balance and reduce reliance on oil and gas, effective trade policy implementation is essential," he said, highlighting that exports now represent a key pillar of the nation's economic diversification efforts.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) confirmed that Nigeria's foreign exchange earnings increased in the second quarter of 2024, thanks to the robust export performance.

The trade surplus reached N6.95 trillion, signaling Nigeria's strengthening position in the global market.

However, Shettima cautioned that Nigeria must avoid becoming a dumping ground for substandard goods.

He emphasised the importance of ensuring that Nigerian exports meet global standards and are competitive in international markets.

"With the global trade market projected to reach \$32 trillion by the



end of 2024, Nigeria and Africa must work to fully capitalize on these opportunities," Shettima said.

"We aim to significantly increase the contribution of the trade sector to GDP and grow Nigeria's share of global trade."

Shettima also outlined the administration's commitment to enhancing trade facilitation for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through regulatory reforms.

He noted the role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in providing access to a 1.4 billion-person market, urging stakeholders to support Nigerian entrepreneurs in overcoming challenges to maximize AfCFTA's potential.

Non-oil export growth was also highlighted by Nonye Ayeni, Executive Director and CEO of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), who reported a 6.7% increase in non-oil exports.

Ayeni stressed that the NEPC is working to improve market access, reduce export costs, and streamline logistics processes for exporters.

"We are focused on eliminating barriers to exports, particularly by

improving logistics and fostering partnerships with key agencies such as the Nigerian Customs Service and Nigerian Ports Authority," Ayeni said. The NEPC has also partnered with the World Trade Organization and the International Trade Centre to enhance the quality of key non-oil exports and address product rejections in international markets.

The conference, themed "Promoting Non-Oil Exports for Rapid National Economic Growth," served as a platform to discuss emerging challenges and opportunities in the export sector, with the goal of further boosting Nigeria's export levels and diversifying its revenue base.

The government remains committed to fostering policies that support locally made products, enhance market access, and create jobs, with a long-term vision of transforming Nigeria into a major global economic player.

In his closing remarks, Shettima reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to strengthening trade and investment opportunities through bilateral and multilateral agreements, signaling an optimistic outlook for the country's economic future.

How I turned down N800,000 from MKO Abiola — Sowore

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

Omoyele Sowore, the presidential candidate of the African Action Congress (AAC) in the 2023 elections, has shared a fascinating account of his encounter with the late Chief MKO Abiola, the acclaimed winner of Nigeria's annulled 1993 presidential election.

Sowore, in an appearance on the Honest Bunch podcast, revealed how, at the age of 21, he turned down a generous offer of N800,000 from Abiola during a pivotal moment in Nigerian history.

The encounter, which took place in 1993, occurred shortly after General Ibrahim Babangida annulled the June 12 election.

At the time, Sowore was the leader of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) Student Union, and he led a delegation to meet Abiola in a bid to understand his commitment to the fight for democracy.

Speaking to co-hosts Nedu, Husband Material, Deity Cole, and Ezinne on the Honest Bunch podcast, Sowore recounted the story, reflecting on the broader political atmosphere of the time.

“We started protesting immediately after the annulment, but we were also concerned whether Abiola was strong enough to fight the battle we were ready for—the battle of our lives. This was the year I was supposed to graduate from university,” Sowore recalled.

Sowore explained that the student leaders were so determined to speak with Abiola that they drove directly to his house in a Student Union bus, bypassing all formal protocols. Upon arriving, Abiola recognized Sowore, greeting him warmly: “Ah, student union leader, I know you. Good job!”

The conversation quickly turned to the seriousness of the struggle. Sowore asked Abiola, “Are you ready for this battle? Are you ready to die for Nigerians?” Abiola, responding affirmatively, was surrounded by politicians who Sowore claimed were more interested in Abiola's wealth than his political mandate.

“I told him, ‘These people don't believe in your mandate. They will eventually



abandon you,’” Sowore said.

As they entered Abiola's living room, Sowore noticed a duffel bag of cash beside the businessman and politician, and shortly thereafter, Abiola offered N800,000 for transportation.

However, Sowore rejected the money, explaining that it was far too much for what was essentially a short journey from UNILAG to Abiola's house.

“I told him, ‘Chief, forget the transportation; how can N800,000 cover transport from UNILAG to here?’” Sowore recalled.

Despite Abiola's insistence, Sowore and his colleagues refused the offer. “He had never given money to anyone before, but we rejected it.”

Sowore's firm stance caused visible tension in the room, especially among the politicians who were present.

He was, at the time, dressed simply in slippers and his only Ankara outfit, making his rejection of the offer even more symbolic.

Sowore mentioned that Chief Anthony Enahoro, a prominent Nigerian nationalist who was also in the room, supported him.

In an effort to ease the situation, Abiola escorted Sowore and his colleagues out. At that moment, John Momoh—now the owner of Channels Television—and his cameraman were waiting to interview Abiola.

It was during this brief interaction that the now-iconic photograph of Sowore with Abiola was taken.

Sowore explained that he wasn't aware of the photo's existence until 2018. The photograph, which had been taken by a photographer named Tunji Oyelero, was never given to Sowore at the time.

“He passed away before I got it, and one day, someone sent it to me,” Sowore said.

The viral image of Sowore and Abiola, standing together in the aftermath of the annulled June 12 election, has since become one of the most enduring symbols of that turbulent period in Nigeria's history.

Reflecting on the encounter, Sowore expressed gratitude for the chance to meet Abiola, but he also stressed the importance of staying true to one's principles.

The moment has remained a powerful part of Sowore's own political journey, serving as a reminder of his commitment to fighting for a better future for Nigeria, free from the corrupting influence of money and power.

Sanwo-Olu mourns victims of Lagos truck accident

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has expressed deep sorrow over the tragic truck accident that occurred in the Aiyetoro area of Epe, Lagos State, on Monday, November 11, which claimed the lives of at least three people and left several others injured.

In a statement posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Tuesday, November 12, Governor Sanwo-Olu extended his condolences to the families of the victims, describing the incident as heartbreaking.

“I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences in light of the tragic traffic accident that occurred in the Aiyetoro area of Epe, Lagos State, yesterday, Monday, 11 November 2024,” Sanwo-Olu wrote.

“Reports indicate that a cement truck suffered brake failure, resulting in the unfortunate loss of lives and injuries sustained.”

The governor expressed his sympathy for the affected families and prayed for the



repose of the deceased as well as a swift recovery for the injured victims.

“With deep sorrow, I extend my sympathies to the families of those affected. I also pray for the departed souls and for the speedy recovery of those injured. May the families find solace in the love and support surrounding them, and may the cherished memories of their loved ones bring them some comfort as they

navigate their grief.”

According to reports, the tragic accident occurred when a cement truck, descending from Ita-Opo, suffered a brake failure.

The truck reportedly collided with a commercial tricycle and a parked Toyota Camry before plowing into a nearby market. The incident has left the community in shock as the truck’s uncontrolled descent caused significant damage and loss of life.

The Lagos State Government has vowed to investigate the cause of the accident, with authorities urging greater safety measures for commercial vehicles and improved road conditions to prevent such incidents in the future.

Governor Sanwo-Olu’s office has pledged continued support for the affected families, and emergency response teams have been deployed to assist those injured and provide necessary aid.

Police dismiss rumour of bomb explosion in Jos

By Agency Reporter

The Police Command in Plateau has dismissed rumour of a bomb explosion on Murtala Way, near Jos Terminus, in Jos North Local Government of the state.

Mr Alfred Alabo, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) said this in a statement on Tuesday in Jos.

Alabo said that the command had on Tuesday morning received report that an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was allegedly planted around Murtala Way, Jos.

“At exactly 8:20 a.m., we received a report of a shallow dug hole suspected to be planted with an IED at Murtala Way beside the old site of the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

“The rumour created panic among the residents of the state.

“Upon receipt of the information, the Commissioner of Police, Mr Emmanuel Adesina, immediately

mobilised the Anti-Bomb Squad to the scene to assess the situation and take necessary actions.

“On reaching the scene, the area was immediately cordoned and our team began examination and the hole was found to be safe and free of any explosive devices,” he said.

Alabo, who said that the commissioner of police also visited scene, thanked residents of Plateau for conducting themselves peacefully, cooperating with its men and being security conscious amid



the rumour.

He called on the residents to go about their usual businesses and other activities without fear, insisting that the area was safe.

Ekiti govt targets elimination of mother-to-child HIV/AIDS transmission

By Friday Omosola

In an ambitious move to foster inclusivity, the Church of England has undertaken a sweeping initiative aimed at diversifying traditional images of Jesus and other biblical figures, urging dioceses across the country to reflect a more racially inclusive vision of God and the divine. With the emphatic assertion that “God is not a white man,” clergy are re-evaluating religious imagery and messaging to address what leaders have described as long-standing racial inequities within the church. This initiative follows a series of reports and recommendations from the Archbishops’ Commission for Racial Justice, which has called out “structural and institutional racism” across congregations, particularly in predominantly white rural areas. The commission’s recent report, *Behind the Stained Glass*, details how cultural biases and preferences for traditional leadership styles contribute to “systemic racism” within church ranks. According to the report, there remains an entrenched preference for white, male leaders who conform to traditional British norms, such as speaking “the Queen’s English.”

Church leaders, including the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, launched an anti-racism taskforce in 2021 in response to Black Lives Matter and global calls for racial equity. The taskforce set concrete objectives, including the diversification of biblical imagery and a mandate to ensure that leadership recruitment reflects the full diversity of the nation. In a landmark statement at the time, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby admitted the “Church has failed” in addressing racism, calling for deep introspection and proactive reform.

The Diocese of Southwark has taken the



Governor Biodun Oyebanji and the Director-General of the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Dr Temitope Ilori

lead, promoting what it terms “correct images” that celebrate diversity. Their update on racial justice efforts highlights an intentional shift to diversify all communications, from sermon imagery to church videos. “God is not a white man; we make sure of the correct images,” reads a recent diocesan statement. Meanwhile, the Diocese of Coventry has also launched a “diversity audit,” reviewing everything from artwork and sermon content to the diversity of biblical figures portrayed within church services. The diversity movement has already yielded visible change. The Diocese of Chester hosted a 2021 exhibition featuring a Black Jesus in a reinterpretation of the Last Supper, originally installed at St Albans Cathedral in 2020. In Bristol, a stained glass window depicting slave-trader Edward Colston was replaced with an image of Jesus in a Channel migrant boat in 2022, signaling a conscious effort to rethink longstanding symbols in a racially sensitive light. Despite the progress, some parishioners, particularly in rural areas, have pushed back, claiming the initiative disrupts tradition. Nonetheless, dioceses nationwide are actively reporting their

diversity efforts to a newly established racial justice unit, sharing best practices and examining what they can do to make worship more inclusive.

The *From Lament to Action* report from 2021 set the tone for ongoing reform, recommending that dioceses hire full-time racial justice officers and require diversity within hiring pools for clergy, including bishops. Dioceses were invited to report on their progress in 2024, with some emphasizing a move away from “white, normative ways of working.” Many

dioceses are now seeking to counter all-white ordained teams by inviting diverse guest preachers and challenging the church’s traditional structures.

Read Also: UK to create ‘smoke-free generation’ with new tobacco law

Read Also: Kemi Badenoch makes history, first black leader of UK Tories

The Church of England, however, insists that it is not enforcing a “top-down” mandate on diversifying biblical imagery, emphasizing that each diocese is taking the initiative. As debates continue over the best way to embody the values of racial justice in worship, this movement signals a pivotal moment for a centuries-old institution that, according to its leaders, is finally grappling with a commitment to inclusion.

\$25,000 Reward for Arrest of Nigerian Murder Suspect

By Olamilekan Botti



In a chilling case that has captured national attention, the United States government is offering a reward of \$25,000 for information leading to the arrest of Olalekan Abimbola Olawusi, a Nigerian fugitive accused of the heinous murder of his three-month-old child.

According to a statement released by Supervisory Deputy U.S. Marshal Don Freeman, Olawusi has been placed on the U.S. Marshals Service's list of 15 most wanted fugitives. The troubling allegations against Olawusi stem from a harrowing incident that took place on April 3, 2017, in Providence, Rhode Island.

Law enforcement officials and emergency responders were called to a residence where they discovered the infant in a critical condition, bleeding from his mouth and nose. The baby was swiftly transported to a local hospital, arriving in cardiac arrest and requiring immediate resuscitation.

Medical examinations revealed a shocking 18 separate injuries on the child's frail body, indicative of prolonged abuse. These injuries included a skull fracture, serious brain trauma, and multiple broken bones across various regions. Tragically, despite the medical team's efforts, the infant succumbed to his

injuries six months later, leading to an escalation of charges against Olawusi.

Freeman noted that on April 20, 2017, Olawusi was formally charged with two counts of first-degree murder and multiple counts of inflicting serious bodily harm upon a child. However, following his release on that same day, the accused vanished, evading the judicial process.

The dire circumstances surrounding the case compelled authorities to add a murder charge after the infant's death on October 31, 2017, igniting further scrutiny into Olawusi's whereabouts. The U.S. Marshals Service has since launched an extensive manhunt for Olawusi, who reportedly fled the country on June 20, 2017.

Investigative efforts have suggested that he is currently receiving support from family members residing in Nigeria. Deputy Marshal Freeman emphasized the dangers Olawusi poses, not only to children but to the broader community as well.

He stated, "We are committed to utilizing all resources at our disposal to ensure he is brought to justice." Freeman further elaborated on the severity of Olawusi's alleged crimes, stating, "Olawusi is wanted for the abuse and murder of an innocent child. The heinous nature of his actions

leaves no doubt as to the threat he poses to the public.

Our commitment to bringing him to justice is unwavering, not only for the sake of the victim's family but for the safety of the entire community." Described as standing approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and weighing around 185 pounds, Olawusi has black hair and brown eyes.

He is known to also go by the alias Olekun Olawusi. Individuals with any knowledge regarding his whereabouts are urged to contact the U.S. Marshals by calling 1-877-WANTED2 (926-8332) or via the USMS Tips App.

The shocking nature of this case has sent ripples of outrage through the community, raising awareness about domestic violence and child abuse. As the search for Olawusi continues, authorities remain vigilant and hopeful that the public will assist in the pursuit of justice for the young victim and those affected by this tragic incident.

The U.S. Marshals Service is determined to act on any leads that could help resurrect the path of justice that has been marred by Olawusi's flight.

Naira Abuse: EFCC clears Senator Danjuma Goje's daughter

By Helen Okechukwu

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has confirmed that the alleged naira abuse linked to Senator Danjuma Goje's daughter, Mrs. Fauziya Goje, is footage of Hajara Seidu Haruna's daughter, Amina Zannah.

On 25 October, Fauziya and Aliyu Ahmed Abubakar had a grand wedding ceremony with dignitaries such as President Bola Tinubu, Deputy Senate President; Umar Ganduje, and Senate President Godswill Akpabio.



A few days after the ceremony, videos from a wedding reception emerged online showing naira notes on the floor. Netizens insinuated the video clip was from Fauziya's wedding.

However, in a statement disclosed on Monday by the Head of Media and Publicity to EFCC, Dele Oyewale, noted that the alleged money abuse occurred at the wedding dinner of Amina Babagana Zannah.

The statement read, "The attention of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has been drawn to a viral video where the nation's currency, Naira, was freely sprayed at a wedding ceremony in Kano, Kano

State, on Friday, October 24, 2024.

"Allegations of the abuse of the Naira were imputed to Mrs. Fauziya Danjuma Goje, daughter of Senator Danjuma Goje, by Nigerians from all walks of life, including an editorial by a leading and respected national newspaper.

"As a responsible and accountable anti-corruption agency campaigning against currency mutilation and dollarization of the economy, the EFCC swung into action by analyzing the video, and findings showed that the alleged naira abuse actually happened, but not at the wedding of Goje's daughter but at the wedding dinner of Amina Babagana Zannah held on the aforementioned date.

Oyewale added that "Zannah is the daughter of Hajara Seidu Haruna (a.k.a. Hafsat Gold Nigeria), who is the Chief Executive Officer of Hafsat Jewellery Enterprise with offices in Abuja, Kano, and Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

"Haruna confirmed the viral video. She admitted that the alleged Naira abuse took place at the wedding dinner of her daughter on 24 October 2024.

"The bridegroom, Ibrahim Mohammad, hails from Niger Republic, and those that allegedly sprayed naira notes and dollar bills were from the groom's family in Niger Republic.

"The Commission has invited the Nigerian groom, Mohammad, to report at its national headquarters in Abuja, with everyone that sprayed naira notes at his wedding with Zannah.

"Therefore, as the fight against Naira abuse continues, the commission thanked the public for their efforts, stating that "it will not move against anyone wrongly accused of an alleged crime. The Commission remains steadfast in this crusade and would spare no offender, no matter how highly placed."

Jos explosion shakes community in chaos

By Olamilekan Botti

A powerful explosion shook the city of Jos on Tuesday morning, sending shockwaves through surrounding communities.

Eyewitnesses reported that the blast occurred around 10:30 am near the densely populated Terminus market area.

Initial reports indicate that several people were injured in the blast, with some sources suggesting there may have been fatalities.

The extent of the damage remains unclear, but witnesses described scenes of destruction and chaos.

"I was nearby when I heard a loud bang," said an eyewitness.

"I saw people running and screaming. It was terrifying," added Gyang Buba, a

clothes vendor who confirmed the incident. Emergency services, including the police, fire department, and ambulance teams, reportedly rushed to the scene to assist.

However, security sources at police command headquarters in Jos confirmed the incident, adding that an investigation had been launched.

"The area has been cordoned off as investigators begin to assess the situation. We are working to determine the cause of the explosion," the source added.

"We urge calm and assure the public that we will do everything possible to ensure their safety."

Our correspondent reports that the incident has heightened security concerns in Jos, which has experienced periodic violence and unrest in recent years, with



residents calling on authorities to increase security measures in the area.

More details later...

Defence Minister advocates for leveraging technology to strengthen security

By Friday Omosola



In a bid to fortify national security, the Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle, has called for the greater integration of advanced technology into military operations.

The Minister made this call during the opening ceremony of the 2024 Chief of Defence Intelligence Annual Conference, held at the Conference Hall of the New NAOWA School Events Hall in Abuja.

He stressed the vital importance of modernizing defence strategies and enhancing the nation's capacity to confront emerging security threats.

Running from November 11 to 15, the conference brings together Nigeria's foremost defence intelligence experts to deliberate on the evolving role of technology in bolstering both national and regional security.

In his address, the Minister highlighted the significance of the conference's theme, "Exploring the Role of Technology in Strengthening National and Regional Security."

He acknowledged the challenges

posed by the rapid evolution of technology within a complex security environment, underscoring the indispensable role of technology as a "force multiplier" in national defence. The minister noted, "As we navigate an increasingly complex security environment, technology offers us both opportunities and challenges. For any nation's defence strategy to succeed, it must integrate technology into every facet of its security apparatus."

The Minister emphasised the growing challenges Nigeria faces in ensuring security and stability.

He acknowledged the vital contributions of Nigeria's Defence Attachés, state intelligence officers, and diplomats in tackling both internal and external threats.

"Intelligence remains vital to our security strategy. It equips our civilian and military leaders with the situational awareness needed to protect our citizens and safeguard our national interests," he stated.

Matawalle urged the Defence Attachés and Advisers to approach their roles with a heightened sense of

ethical responsibility, especially during international engagements.

He stressed the importance of leveraging technology, within the confines of international law, to strengthen diplomatic relations and protect Nigeria's sovereignty.

"We must leverage technology ethically and strategically in our diplomatic engagements to ensure Nigeria's security and stability on both national and regional fronts," he said.

Matawalle urged all conference participants to reaffirm their commitment to serving Nigeria with excellence.

He emphasised the need for vigilance, encouraging them to consider global, regional, and national dynamics in their work representing the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Ministry of Defence, and Nigeria at large.

Matawalle expressed his hope that the conference would generate actionable insights to strengthen Nigeria's national security and defence posture.

He also wished all attendees productive and meaningful discussions.

Remi Tinubu denies organizing national prayer over hardship

By Dave Oludare Oso



In the effort to obey court judgment in Nigeria, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has urged stakeholders to enforce environmental justice in the Niger Delta.

In the engagement programme held today at Casoni Hotel in Port Harcourt, the keynotes were drawn from the National Human Rights Commission and the Federal Ministry of Justice.

The engagement session with the stakeholders was aimed at tackling impunity for disobeying court judgments on environmental rights in Nigeria.

During the session, SERAP educated the oil and gas communities on the need to demand transparency and accountability as part of the essentials of managing public resources.

As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), SERAP is an advocacy organization working to promote transparency, accountability, and respect for socio-economic rights in Nigeria.

Mr. Kolawole Oluwadare, the group Deputy Director, described the interactive session as dynamic and thanked the organisers, the Ford Foundation, for this initiative.

According to Mr. Oluwadare, the event focuses on brainstorming and strategizing to ensure that the court decisions are enforced.

Dr. C.A.J. Chinwo, in a paper titled "Public Interest Litigation and Enforcement of Judgment in Environmental Matters in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria," calls for collaboration to improve the lives of the residents in the Niger Delta region against industrial degradation.

Chinwo emphasized that the pollution from the oil sector has destroyed the flora and fauna, leaving several ill effects on the lives of the residents.

Highlighting the factors that halt the enforcement of court judgment, Chinwo noted they include specific designation of future dates, and order of stay of execution of the judgment by the trial court or an appellate court, among others.

Adaeze Amanda, representing the Federal Ministry of Justice, stressed the need for the call to order, noting that justice was not an aspiration but a reality.

Commending the NGO, Mrs. Rabin Awa, the Director of Legal Services and Enforcement, condemned the negative impacts of oil activities from companies in the Niger Delta on the environment, health, and source of

livelihood.

Mores, 16 new volunteer lawyers from Rivers, Edo, Ondo, Bayelsa, and Delta states were inaugurated.

Mr. Kehinde Oyewumi, the legal adviser for SERAP, addressed the participants, urging the volunteers to actively follow up on court cases for the organization, provide legal opinions to support their mission, offer updates on ongoing cases, and ensure the enforcement of court judgments through their efforts.

To this end, he urged community stakeholders present to educate and sensitize their people on the need and efforts to enforce judgment and report cases of human rights violations to SERAP.

Speaking to NEW DAILY PRIME and other media representatives, he appealed to them to continue in their good work to ensure that change occurs in affected communities.

'I'll not betray you,' New Edo Governor assures citizens

By Friday Omosola

Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, has urged the citizens of the state to embrace peace and reject ethnic division to foster national unity and development. The governor made this appeal during the 13th Igbomina Day celebration in Iludun Oro. He also visited Offa to attend the Maulid Nabbiy celebration.

While in Iludun Oro, Governor Abdulrazaq praised the Igbomina people for their resilience and their deep-rooted culture of self-help, which he credited for their achievements in education and business.

He highlighted that the Igbomina Day celebration exemplifies the strength of communal bonds and the power of collaboration in achieving greater goals. The governor congratulated the people of Igbomina land for their continued support of his administration and commended the Igbomina monarchs, particularly under the leadership of the Olupo of Ajase Ipo and the Chairman of the Igbomina Traditional Council, Oba Ismaila Yahaya Alebiosu, for their invaluable contributions.

"I urge you not to give up on the impressive cultural legacy of self-help handed over by your forebears. There is



also a need for national unity and less emphasis on ethnic division, which creates division, disunity, and underdevelopment," the Governor said.

"This government is for all, including the people of Igbomina who are not only robustly represented in government but have also benefitted hugely from the administration's rural and urban development initiatives."

He highlighted several road projects in Igbomina land, including the Arandun-Esie-Oro Road, Owu Fall Road, Orisa Bridge in Oro Ago, Omu Aran Oko Road, Owode Ofaro-Alabe Road, and the Ajase-Ipo Okeiya Road, among others.

"I am truly impressed by today's gathering and I extend my congratulations to the people of Igbomina land on this occasion. I

need not overemphasize the importance of fostering community and collaboration, which is the essence of today's event," he remarked.

"We will intensify our investments in primary healthcare, as well as in basic, secondary, and tertiary education. I urge you all to continue supporting the government as we address the critical issue of security."

AbdulRazaq also expressed his condolences to the Igbomina people over the recent passing of the leader of hunters, Chief Luqman Balogun (Jagun). He prayed for the repose of his soul, emphasizing that his legacy would not be forgotten.

The governor also thanked the people for their ongoing engagement and support, which, he noted, have been instrumental in the government's success.

Additionally, the governor visited Offa to attend the Maulid Nabbiy celebration hosted by the Chief Imam of the ancient town, Sheikh Muhyideen Salman Hussein.

He called on Nigerians to offer prayers for the nation, urging them to always be grateful for God's mercies and to use that gratitude as a means to seek even greater favour from Him.

Ondo 2024: Odu confident of landslide victory for APC

By Agency Reporter

Achieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ondo State, Princess Oladunni Odu, has expressed confidence in Gov. Lucky Aiyedatiwa, the party's candidate, emerging victorious in the Nov. 16 governorship poll in the state.

Odu, the first female Secretary to the State Government (SSG), who served under late Gov. Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, told newsmen in Okitipupa on Tuesday, that the electorate in the state would vote Progressives to stay with the ruling party at the centre.

The APC chieftain said that the party's women forum in the state was ready for the governorship poll and had mobilised support for the ruling party ahead of Saturday's poll.

"In Nigeria of today, the women folk play active role in participatory democracy and as strong supporters in the home front.

"The state APC women have canvassed in their homes and neighbourhood for the party, because women population at anytime is always more.

"So, the backing of the women will go a long way to shore up the victory margin of APC at the off cycle governorship election," Odu said.

The APC chieftain said that there was



no chance for any of the other opposition parties to claim victory, stressing "none of them has the leverage of APC".

She said that in the election in Edo, APC stepped up its game and ousted

Rivers State: Appeals court appoints special panel for Thursday hearings

By Olamilekan Botti



In a significant development aimed at addressing the mounting political conflicts in Rivers State, the Court of Appeal in Abuja has appointed three special panels dedicated to handling a myriad of political cases originating from the state.

The panel is set to commence its proceedings on Thursday, November 14, 2024. This decisive action comes in response to an escalating legal confrontation between the current Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, and his predecessor, the incumbent Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike. The ongoing rivalry between these two political leaders has sparked a flood of legal challenges, thereby fueling political divisions among various factions in Rivers State.

The situation has led to an alarming trend of conflicting judgments emanating from courts of comparable authority, a situation that has drawn the wrath of judiciary stakeholders as well as the public at large.

To address these pressing concerns and facilitate a more coherent resolution to the disputes, the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem, has taken the proactive step of appointing a specialized panel.

This panel will be responsible for overseeing all appeals connected to the political turmoil currently

engulfing Rivers State. Leading this specialized panel is Justice Onyekachi Otisi, who is joined by fellow justices Misitura Bokaji-Yusuf and James Abundaga. Together, they will focus on cases that involve prominent political figures and factions within the state, effectively becoming a crucial arbiter in the ongoing political chaos.

Among the appeals slated for consideration by the newly constituted panel is one filed by Governor Fubara himself, along with the Rivers State House of Assembly. This appeal also encompasses cases involving both the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC) concerning allegations of the defection of twenty-seven lawmakers loyal to Wike from the PDP to the APC.

During a session on Monday, a different panel within the court opted to adjourn three appeals, one of which is a case brought forth by the Rivers State Government against the Rivers State House of Assembly.

This particular case is now set to be heard by the newly established special panel. Presiding over the Monday proceedings, Justice Hamma Barka remarked, "The appeal, marked CA/ABJ/PRE/ROA/CV/1211m1/2024, is among the Rivers matters for which a special panel was constituted."

Chief Paul Erokoro, a senior attorney representing the appellant, informed the court of his intentions to ensure that all respondents, who have yet to

receive the necessary documents, would be served before the Thursday session.

He highlighted that he had recently received filings from the respondents and required additional time to adequately prepare his response. Ferdinand Orbih (SAN) and Dr. Joshua Musa (SAN), counsel for the first and second respondents respectively, concurred with the request for adjournment and agreed to the proposed timeline for November 14, allowing for a thorough review of the matters at hand.

Furthermore, two additional cases—one initiated by the Accountant General of Rivers State against the Rivers State House of Assembly, and another by the Action Peoples Party against the Independent National Electoral Commission and other parties—were also postponed to Thursday for hearings by the Justice Otisi-led special panel.

The establishment of this specialized panel marks a pivotal effort to provide a clear and expedited resolution to the prevailing political disputes in Rivers State. This step is seen as a critical move toward restoring order and stability amidst the ongoing political turmoil that has plagued the state in recent months. With the special panel set to begin its work, many are hopeful that a resolution to these contentious issues may soon be on the horizon.

MOH Kenya links deaths of two children to other health conditions, not polio vaccine

By Friday Omosola

As concerns are raised about the aftermath reactions and deaths recorded during the first phase of the polio vaccine in Kenya by parents, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has refuted the claim alleging that the cause of two deaths did not emanate from the administered polio vaccine.

The MOH said that the result obtained by the Kenya National Vaccine Safety Advisory Committee (KNVSAC) after a prompt investigation was carried out indicated that the deaths were linked to other health conditions, describing it as “coincidental,” says a report.

However, alleging their death to underlying or emerging health conditions unrelated to the vaccine.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease with high chances of causing paralysis or even death when not treated urgently

within hours, leaving children the most vulnerable victims if not fully vaccinated.

On Friday, after investigations were conducted on 23 reported cases, the health ministry described 16 cases as non-serious, highlighting their symptoms as itchy rash, fever, conjunctivitis, body rashes, abdominal pain, diarrhea, and others.

More symptoms of 7 cases out of the 2 reported cases were itchy bumps in the skin and fever, weakness of the lower limbs, convulsions, diarrhea and vomiting, and herpes zoster.

This came shortly after the MOH, Kenya, announced the second phase of polio vaccination to have kickstarted from 9 November to 13 November, targeting nine prone areas under attack

These critical areas include Busia, Bungoma, Trans-Nzoia, West Pokot, Turkana, Nairobi, Kiambu, Machakos, and Kajiado.



Assuring the Kenyans that the vaccine is effective and safe for use, the Health DG Patrick Amoth said the vaccines approved by the ministry are designed to stimulate immune response in the body against infectious diseases with little side effect.

Okpebholo appoints SSG, attorney-general, others

By Agency Reporter

The newly sworn-in Governor of Edo State, Monday Okpebholo, has appointed Musa Ikhilor as the Secretary to the State Government (SSG).

He also announced the appointments of Samson Osagie as the Attorney-General and Cyril Oshiomhole as the Health Commissioner-designate.

The governor revealed these appointments in a statement issued on Tuesday in Benin by his spokesperson, Fred Itua.

Monday Okpebholo [PHOTO CREDIT: Google]

According to the statement, the nominations of Messrs. Osagie and Oshiomhole are subject to confirmation by the Edo State House of Assembly.

READ ALSO: ‘I’ll not betray you,’ New Edo Governor Okpebholo assures citizens

“Ikhilor was born on 6 August 1980 at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, Benin City, Edo State. Ikhilor attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he obtained an LL.B in 2008 (Second Class Upper

Division). “In 2009, he obtained a B.L. (Second class Upper Division) at the Nigerian Law School and was enrolled as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“In 2017, Ikhilor proceeded to acquire his Master’s degree in Telecommunications Law (LL.M) from Sir Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria,” the statement said.

According to him, Mr Ikhilor possesses over 11 years of expertise in legislative drafting, parliamentary administration, lawmaking procedures and processes, constitutional drafting, and amendments, among other areas.

The statement further noted that Mr Ikhilor has extensive experience in general legislative governance, having served in various capacities within the National Assembly.



Tinubu honours Ogoni Martyrs

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reiterated his administration's unwavering commitment to promoting dialogue, reconciliation, and healing among the diverse ethnic nationalities that form the fabric of our great nation.

In a message commemorating the 2024 Ogoni Martyrs Remembrance Day, President Tinubu, through his spokesperson Bayo Onanuga, expressed solidarity with the National Youth Council of Ogoni People (NYCOP) and the entire Ogoni community.

He emphasised the importance of honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the interests of the Ogoni nation.

Reflecting on this year's theme, "After Price, Comes Prise," the President

noted that it underscores Nigeria's shared resolve to confront the pains of the past while drawing valuable lessons to shape a brighter, more unified future.

"We honour their memory by recognising the sacrifices made and pledging to strive for a future characterised by peace, justice, and sustainable development for all communities, particularly those in the Niger Delta," said President Tinubu.

The President further emphasized his commitment to addressing long-standing grievances while fostering a united and prosperous nation for future generations.

He asserted that this vision would be achieved through constructive dialogue and a foundation of mutual respect.

"Oil was explored in Ogoniland for many years. The struggles of Ogoni leaders to protect their environment from harmful oil exploration were met with severe repression, culminating in the tragic execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other leaders in 1995.



"As we remember the Ogoni Martyrs, let us honour their legacy by committing to a future where such injustices are no longer tolerated and where the voices of all Nigerians are heard and respected", President Tinubu said.

Borno Jailbreak: 278 Convicts still missing two months after flooding

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Two months have passed since the devastating flooding that destroyed the medium security custodial centre in Maiduguri, resulting in the escape of 281 prisoners. Despite efforts to recapture the convicts, 278 of these convicts remain unaccounted for. The flooding that happened on the 10th of September brought down the walls of the correctional facilities and staff quarters, forcing the prisoners to flee for their safety.

Abubakar Umar, spokesperson for the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS), attributed the challenge to the destructive impact of the flood on the facility.

"We are working tirelessly with sister security agencies to rearrest the escaped inmates," Umar said.

The state police command has progressed, re-arresting three escapees: Auwal Aminu, Abubakar Mohammed, and Kyari Kur. Kur was apprehended on 10 October in Gubio town following credible intelligence.

The ongoing search has raised concerns about public safety and potential increased crime rates. Residents are urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity.



"The police assure the public of their commitment to ensuring the recapture of the remaining escapees and maintaining law and order," said Nahum Daso, state Police Public Relations Officer.

The Borno jailbreak highlights the need for enhanced security measures to prevent such incidents in the

future. Authorities must prioritize infrastructure upgrades and emergency preparedness to mitigate the impact of natural disasters.

As the search continues, the NCS and law enforcement agencies are working to reassure the public of their dedication to maintaining public safety.

Morgan Rogers called up to England squad amid injury crisis for november Nations League matches

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Aston Villa midfielder Morgan Rogers has earned his first call-up to the England senior squad for the upcoming Nations League games after eight players, including key stars from Manchester City, Arsenal, and Liverpool, were forced to withdraw due to injuries. Rogers, 22, was initially slated to represent England Under-21s but was promoted by interim manager Lee Carsley following an impressive season start at Aston Villa, where he has scored three goals and recorded two assists in 11 appearances. Joining him are new additions to the squad: West Ham's Jarrod Bowen, Everton's Jarrad Branthwaite, Newcastle's Tino Livramento, and Burnley goalkeeper James Trafford.

The withdrawals include several high-profile players: Chelsea's Levi Colwill and Cole Palmer, Arsenal's Declan Rice and Bukayo Saka, Manchester City's Phil Foden and Jack Grealish, Liverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold, and



Southampton's Aaron Ramsdale. Injuries have decimated the lineup ahead of matches against Greece on 14 November and the Republic of Ireland on 17 November.

Key players face various setbacks: Liverpool's Alexander-Arnold left the field after just 25 minutes in a recent

win over Aston Villa, while Arsenal's Saka and Rice suffered injuries during their club's 1-1 draw with Chelsea. Grealish, recovering from an injury, has not played for Manchester City since 20 October, a point City manager Pep Guardiola recently criticized when Grealish was initially included in Carsley's squad. Ramsdale is reportedly out with a fractured finger sustained in a Southampton match against Wolves.

Details surrounding Foden, Palmer, and Colwill's unavailability remain unclear, although all played full matches for their clubs over the weekend.

The upcoming fixtures will be the last under Carsley's management, as former Bayern Munich and Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel is set to take over in January 2025.

Ruud van Nistelrooy departs Manchester United coaching staff following Ruben Amorim's appointment

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Ruud van Nistelrooy, Manchester United's interim head coach, has left the club following the decision by newly appointed manager Ruben Amorim not to retain him on the coaching staff. Van Nistelrooy, who joined as an assistant in July on a two-year contract, briefly stepped up as caretaker boss after Erik ten Hag's dismissal, leading the team to three wins and a draw in his four matches in charge.

The former Netherlands international and United goal-scoring legend, who netted 150 goals in 219 appearances between 2001 and 2006, was a fan favorite during his playing days at Old Trafford. His recent stint as interim manager rekindled his connection with the club, though



Amorim, the new Portuguese head coach, opted for a fresh coaching lineup.

"Ruud is, and always will be, a Manchester United legend," read a

statement from the club. "We are grateful for his contribution and the way he approached his role. He will always be very welcome at Old Trafford."

In addition to van Nistelrooy, assistant coaches Rene Hake, Jelle ten Rouwelaar, and Pieter Morel have also left the club. Former United midfielder Darren Fletcher, however, will remain, maintaining his role as a bridge between the first team and the academy.

Manchester United has announced it will soon reveal the full composition of Amorim's first-team coaching staff as the club enters a new chapter under his leadership.

Premier League referee David Coote suspended over alleged video criticizing Liverpool and Jurgen Klopp

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

The Premier League refereeing body, PGMOL, has suspended top-flight referee David Coote after a video allegedly showing him making disparaging remarks about Liverpool and former manager Jurgen Klopp circulated widely on social media. The video, which has not been verified, features a man believed to be Coote criticizing Klopp's behavior and using profane language in reference to the German coach.

PGMOL, which oversees Premier League referees, confirmed the suspension would take effect immediately, pending a full investigation into the video. While the authenticity and timing of the footage remain uncertain, a source from PGMOL indicated that officials are treating the video as credible. Coote, 42, is one of the Premier League's longest-serving referees, having officiated in the league since 2018.

The footage reportedly references a Liverpool match Coote refereed against



Burnley in July 2020, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Following the game, Klopp publicly criticized Coote for allowing challenges on Liverpool players that he felt warranted fouls. In the video, the man purported to be Coote recounts how Klopp "had a right pop at me" following the Burnley match and goes on to call Klopp "arrogant," while also using expletives.

The video clip, lasting just over a minute, shows Coote with another man in an unidentified setting. The circumstances of the video's emergence online remain unknown.

Liverpool is reportedly aware of the video but has chosen not to comment at this stage. PGMOL has similarly

declined to issue further statements until its investigation is complete. English Football League chairman Rick Parry told BBC Sport, "PGMOL is dealing with it—they have suspended him—they've acted quickly and will make sure they handle it thoroughly and professionally."

The incident sheds light on the challenging dynamics between officials and managers in the high-stakes world of Premier League football. Coote's suspension comes in the wake of Liverpool's 2-0 victory over Aston Villa, a match he officiated last Saturday. It also brings renewed attention to the historical tension between Klopp and Coote, who clashed after the Burnley game in 2020.

In that match, Liverpool—already Premier League champions—were aiming to become the first team to win every home game in a season and to match Manchester City's 100-point record.

Ronaldo honoured by Portuguese FA, reflects on career

By Kayode Akinwumi

Cristiano Ronaldo was honored earlier this week with the Quina de Platino award from the Portuguese Football Federation for his 200 international caps. During his acceptance speech, he spoke about his journey with the national team, his goals for the future, and the value of playing for one's country.

Ronaldo spoke about how his goals for the national team have evolved over time. He started with the dream of making his debut, then aimed for 25 caps, then 50. He eventually set his sights on 100, then 150, and finally 200. He said,

"I'm very proud, very fulfilled; it's been a lot of hard work. It's funny—I joined the team at 18 with just a dream to make my debut. Then I reached 25 caps, then 50... At one point, I thought, 'Why not 100?' It felt like such a milestone, three digits. And so I began aiming for 150, then 200, and I can't describe how great that feels." Ronaldo emphasized the importance of representing one's country, calling it the greatest honor a player can have. He expressed disappointment in players who don't want to play for their national team. Ronaldo believes that Portugal, despite

its size, has the potential to become a great nation in soccer and other sports. He cited Portugal's infrastructure, stadiums, coaches, and talented players as reasons for this belief. He said,

"I want to say, especially to my teammates, that after playing for so many clubs, winning trophies, Champions Leagues, Ballon d'Ors, FIFA awards... there's nothing greater than representing your country. Representing your entire nation, your culture, your children, your mother, your father, your closest friends. I'm often disappointed by play."

Ronaldo, who is 39 years old, admitted that his ambition to score 1,000 career goals is no longer a priority. He now focuses on living in the moment and enjoying the game. He said, "If I hit 1,000, fantastic; if not, well... no one has scored more goals than me anyway." Ronaldo continues to play for Portugal and remains an integral part of the squad.



AFRIFF Jury Award goes to Afolabi Olalekan's 'Freedom Way'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

This year, at the prestigious Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF), such a standout was undoubtedly "Freedom Way," a feature-length cinematic achievement helmed by the talented director Afolabi Olalekan, which has proudly claimed the Jury Award.

Despite being part of the Discovery line-up at the acclaimed Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), "Freedom Way" has made waves far beyond its initial recognition.

Its recent success at AFRIFF underscores its universal themes and impact, accentuating its relevance in contemporary discourse.

Crafted by the insightful writer Blessing Uzzi, "Freedom Way" is an intricate tapestry that intertwines the lives of three young co-founders determined to preserve their struggling business.

As the narrative unfolds, viewers are introduced to a myriad of characters facing their unique battles.

One pivotal character is a motorcyclist who finds himself amidst harrowing circumstances after losing his primary source of income, thrusting his family into dire straits. Another narrative thread follows a dedicated doctor grappling with ethical dilemmas, caught in the quagmire of antiquated government policies that stifle progress and innovation in the healthcare sector.

Perhaps the film's most gripping subplot revolves around two police officers, who, faced with the disheartening realities of their profession, find themselves at a moral crossroads.

Their journey encapsulates the notion of duty versus personal conviction, highlighting the often-bleak landscape of law enforcement in a system riddled with complexities.

"Freedom Way" doesn't merely entertain; it provokes critical thought and introspection, adding layers of meaning that extend well beyond the



screen.

The film tackles significant societal issues, including oppressive government regulations and the subsequent injustices that permeate everyday life.

Through its evocative storytelling, audiences are compelled to engage with the material on a deeper level, often reflecting on their environments and the systemic challenges that prevail.

The film's successful production is a collaborative effort spearheaded by Blessing Uzzi and Abisola Yussuf, whose combined vision has birthed a project marked by excellence and integrity.

The star-studded cast further enhances the film's appeal, featuring notable talents such as Bimbo Akintola, Taye Arimoro, Mike Afolarin, and Teniola Aladese, among others.

Their performances breathe life into the narrative, making the characters' strife resonate profoundly with viewers.

As "Freedom Way" continues to garner accolades on the international stage, it serves as a testament to the burgeoning talent emanating from Africa's film industry.

Afolabi Olalekan's directorial prowess, coupled with Blessing Uzzi's deft writing, showcases the tremendous potential that lies within African cinema.

The recognition at AFRIFF marks a significant milestone not just for the film and its creators but also for the broader landscape of African storytelling.

It highlights the importance of diverse narratives that can captivate global audiences while shedding light on pressing societal issues.

As we celebrate this monumental achievement, "Freedom Way" stands as a beacon of hope and possibility, reminding us of the power of film to inspire change and provoke thought.

The journey for Afolabi Olalekan and his team is far from over, and as their star shines brightly, the world eagerly anticipates what this formidable talent will present next.

Cast actors for talent, not followers- John Njama

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood filmmaker and actor John Njamah, best known for his captivating portrayal of Rabiun in the beloved TV family drama “Fuji House of Commotion,” has recently expressed his frustration regarding the current casting practices in Nigeria’s film industry.

Njamah argued that talent, rather than beauty or social media presence, should be the primary criterion for casting decisions.

His remarks come in the wake of a significant shift in the industry, where the emphasis seems to have pivoted towards external appearances rather than genuine creative abilities.

In an insightful and exclusive interview with Pulse Nigeria, Njamah shared his thoughts on the evolving landscape of Nollywood and reflected on the challenges and triumphs that characterize contemporary filmmaking.

As a seasoned actor, producer, and director, Njamah brings a wealth of experience to the conversation, having also starred in numerous other television programs including “Tinsel,” “Living In Lagos,” “Solitaire,” “Casino,” “Emerald,” “Tide,” and “My Flatmates.”

During the interview, Njamah made a profound statement regarding his motivations within the industry, revealing a deep-rooted passion for storytelling that transcends mere ambition.

“What fuels me is beyond passion,” he stated. “There’s that knack and need to grow with every month, whatever year. There’s that desire to do something different. This industry of ours is a canvas on which you can express yourself, not merely follow the trend set by others. For me, it is all about originality and the inherent need to create something meaningful and right I am driven by the ever-creative venture that defines my journey.”

A focal point of the discussions revolved around the evolution of African narratives in the film sphere.



Njamah acknowledged that while there have been substantial advancements, both technically and in terms of storytelling, there is an alarming downside.

“There’s a positive aspect and a negative aspect to the changes we are witnessing. On the one hand, our technical prowess has improved significantly. We are now narrating our stories with greater finesse and scale. However, this progress comes with a cost we are gradually losing our originality. We find ourselves borrowing from cultures foreign to us, rather than celebrating and amplifying our unique heritage. Our identity is at risk as we stray from our authentic narratives.”

Njamah drew distinctions between the casting methods from his era and today’s industry practices.

Reflecting on the grassroots approach of “Fuji House,” which featured passionate, aspiring actors working with limited resources, he expressed concern over the contemporary trend of prioritizing aesthetics over talent.

“Back in the day, ‘Fuji House’ was shot with a single camera and fueled by the ambition of hungry artists,” he reminisced. “Now, we see people being cast based on beauty standards and social media clout, rather than their capabilities as performers. Several of us strive to uphold our originality; after all, compelling stories are best told by those with genuine passion.”

He further criticized the widespread lack of professionalism and accountability within the industry, stating that there is a need for more robust systems to monitor production quality.

“Professionalism is in decline,” he remarked. “The industry is riddled with issues such as a lack of respect for those in leadership positions and an absence of humility. We lack the necessary checks and balances. It’s become alarmingly easy for anyone to declare themselves a producer without any formal evaluation or standards in place. The guild system that should oversee our creative community is ineffective. As creators, we must be vigilant and responsible in our roles as producers, directors, and actors.”

Concluding his reflections, Njamah emphasized the richness and uniqueness of Nollywood, advocating for the development of indigenous platforms to promote local stories and lessen reliance on foreign streaming services.

“What makes us unique is often seen as a flaw to others,” he asserted. “I am frustrated by claims that international collaborators shun our industry because of preconceived notions. Instead of relying on external platforms for our survival, we must cultivate our own spaces to showcase our creativity. If foreign entities hesitate to partner with us for any reason, they are mistaken there are incredible producers here whose work speaks for itself. Collaboration can thrive if we engage with each other on equal terms.”

As Njamah continues to advocate for a more authentic and talent-driven Nollywood, his insights serve as a call to action for industry stakeholders to refocus their priorities and embrace the unique stories and perspectives that define Nigeria’s vibrant film landscape.

Sarah Martins reveals ex turned her into a gold digger

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress Sarah Martins bravely shared her journey of becoming a so-called “gold digger.”

Her revelation comes in light of the distressing experiences recounted by fellow actress Veekee James, who spoke candidly about her struggles with abuse and financial manipulation at the hands of a previous partner.

The story, reported by The Daily Post, highlights a growing trend among women who, after experiencing financial betrayal, adopt a more mercenary attitude towards relationships.

In her Instagram post, Sarah recounted a harrowing chapter of her life that significantly affected her outlook on love and finance.

Describing her emotions, Sarah emphasized, “After listening to Veekee James’ experiences in her former relationship, all I can say is, stop overplaying your role in a relationship!”

This statement encapsulates the frustration of many women who have given up selflessly in their relationships only to be met with betrayal.

Martins went on to reveal a startling truth about her relationship with her ex-partner.

According to her, she selflessly contributed a substantial portion of her income to support him, a decision that ultimately backfired on her.

“There was a time I gave my ex 50% of my salary for six months, and he was giving the money to another woman. He even funded her business from my sweat, and the lady got married to someone else months after he funded her business,” she recounted.

This experience paints a stark

picture of emotional and financial exploitation, a narrative that resonates with many women who have navigated similar treacherous waters in their romantic lives.

Sarah’s story is a poignant reminder of the risks involved when one partner gives too freely while the other exploits that generosity.

Having faced such an emotional and financial betrayal, the actress admits her perspective on relationships has shifted dramatically.

“I’m a lover girl and I go hard for people I love, but ever since they showed me shege [a colloquial term for hardship] on top of my kind heart, I no dey give man shishi!” she declared, making it clear that her generosity has its limits now.

With unapologetic conviction, she concludes with, “With my full chest, I am currently a gold digger!”

This exclamation serves not only as a humorous take on her current stance but also as a powerful statement of self-empowerment.

Many fans and followers have resonated with Sarah’s candid revelations, acknowledging that her journey reflects broader societal issues surrounding gender dynamics in relationships.

The concept of women like Sarah identifying as gold diggers may stem from their desire for self-preservation after experiencing betrayal, encouraging a more pragmatic approach to dating and relationships.

As discussions around financial independence and emotional security continue to garner attention, Sarah



Martins’ and Veekee James’ stories hold valuable lessons for both men and women.

The narratives they share amplify the importance of transparency, respect, and mutual support in romantic partnerships, ultimately challenging outdated stereotypes regarding gender roles in relationships.

Through her brave confessions, Sarah Martins not only sheds light on her transformation but also encourages reflection on the nurturing yet fragile nature of love, trust, and financial dependency in modern relationships.

The conversation she has ignited in the Nollywood community is likely to encourage women to reassess their decisions in love, promoting a culture of empowerment and self-reliance.

Jaywon apologizes to Ayra Starr

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Jaywon has issued a heartfelt apology to fellow artist Ayra Starr after being accused of making light of her recent Grammy snub.

The 67th Annual Grammy Awards nominations were unveiled just days ago, and Ayra Starr, despite her impressive achievements in the music industry over the past year, was noticeably absent from the coveted list of nominees.

According to New Daily Prime, the announcement of this year's Grammy nominees sparked significant reactions within the music community, particularly among fans and fellow artists.

Ayra Starr, known for her exceptional talent and radiant stage presence, failed to garner a nomination, leaving many disheartened and puzzled at the Academy's decision.

In the wake of this announcement, Jaywon, who has been involved in a public dispute with Ayra Starr, drew the ire of fans and industry insiders alike when he shared an image of himself proudly holding two Grammy awards.

This post was widely interpreted as a direct jab at Ayra Starr, further intensifying the ongoing rivalry and leading to a wave of backlash against Jaywon.

Realizing the implications of his actions and the hurt they may have caused, Jaywon took to social media to clarify his intentions and convey his support for Ayra Starr.

In his statement, he emphasized his admiration for her talent, declaring her as one of Africa's premier female vocalists.

"I want to express my sincere apologies to Ayra Starr for the perception that my post may have caused," he stated.

"I genuinely believe she is one of the best female vocalists in Africa, and I am a huge fan of her music."

Jaywon went on to detail his philosophy concerning artistic collaboration and support within the music industry.

"On this side, we don't pull people down. We elevate, not just for today, but for the future. Ola Inu Kan," he remarked, reinforcing his commitment to uplifting his peers rather than detracting from their successes.

This moment of reflection from Jaywon highlights a growing sentiment in the music community: the necessity of supporting one another amid challenges, particularly in a competitive environment where accolades like the Grammys can define an artist's career trajectory.

Moreover, Jaywon's position as a voting member of the Recording Academy adds weight to his apology.

As someone with direct involvement in the Grammy nomination process, his words carry a significant impact and reflect on the broader narrative related to artist recognition and representation within the industry.

Fans have long rallied behind Ayra Starr, appreciating her contributions to the contemporary music scene.

Her unique sound and innovative approach have not only garnered her a dedicated following but have also positioned her as a notable figure in Afrobeat.

Despite her absence from this year's nominations, many remain optimistic about her future endeavours and potential future recognitions.

The music industry can be both exhilarating and ruthless, often marked by fierce rivalries and competitive spirits.

However, it is also a realm where collaboration and communication can foster growth and creativity among artists.

As Jaywon's situation illustrates, the importance of solidarity and acknowledgement among musicians cannot be overstated.

As Ayra Starr continues to navigate her path in the music industry, the support



from fans and colleagues alike will undoubtedly play a critical role in her journey.

Jaywon's apology not only serves as an opportunity for reconciliation between the artists but also as a reminder to all within the industry that professional respect and encouragement can pave the way for greater achievements.

As the dust settles on this latest chapter in their artistic narrative, the hope is that Ayra Starr and Jaywon can move forward with mutual respect and an understanding of each other's worth in the ever-evolving landscape of music.

However, moments of misunderstanding like these serve as pivotal learning experiences for all involved, emphasizing the need for camaraderie and encouragement in an industry that thrives on passion and creativity.

As the future unfolds, fans are eager to see how these artists continue to shape their careers and influence the rich tapestry of Nigerian music.

JUSTIN WELBY: Who is the outgoing Archbishop of Canterbury forced to resign over sex abuse scandal?

By Agency Reporter

Russia has launched a new nuclear-powered icebreaker named Chukotka.

The latest vessel has joined the fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers. The launch was overseen by Russian President Vladimir Putin via video link.

The vessel in the Russia's Project 22220 series is expected to have a life of 40 years and can endure extreme Arctic conditions. It can also plow through ice up to 2.8 meters (9.2 feet) thick.

The launch is aimed at boosting cargo traffic on the Northern Sea Route.

Putin emphasized that expanding Russia's icebreaker fleet is key to developing Arctic territories.

"I would like to repeat that our plans to develop our Arctic territories and to increase cargo traffic along the Northern Sea Route rely on expanding Russia's icebreaker fleet," said Putin.

"We have ambitious plans in this area. There is a great deal to be done. In this context, I suggest holding a special meeting on this subject, thoroughly preparing and comprehensively discussing all aspects of advanced development of the Northern Sea Route, so that we find concrete practical solutions."

Three new-generation nuclear-powered vessels – the Arktika, Sibir, and Ural – have been floated out from the Baltic Shipyard and are now working in the waters of the Northern Sea Route.

The Chukotka icebreaker has joined this group. In the coming weeks, Russia is planning the delivery of another icebreaker, the Yakutia, which is more than 95 percent complete.



Putin underlined that Russia needs to consider options to create a more efficient pricing model for icebreaker freight transit, so that more carriers and shippers can afford such services, especially since both Russian and foreign companies are showing more and more interest in this route with each passing year.

Russia has also claimed that next year, as agreed, icebreaker Stalingrad of the same series should be laid down. In addition, the next-generation nuclear icebreaker Leader, the most powerful so far, is being built at Zvezda shipyard in the Far East.

"The construction of these powerful modern vessels is yet another embodiment of Russia's industrial, scientific, technological and human resources potential. It is on the basis of domestic technologies and breakthrough scientific solutions that the national economy should develop," said Putin.

The Chukotka is 173 metres long (567 ft),

34 metres wide and with a height from the waterline to the mainmast of 57 metres. The height of its side is 15.2 metres and it has a speed of 22 knots in clear water. The Project 22220 icebreaker will be powered by two RITM-200 reactors which each have a thermal capacity of 175 MW. It already has the reactors and most of its main equipment on board, reported World Nuclear News.

It's also being said that the vessel is the largest and most powerful icebreaker in the world. With a crew capacity of 54 people, the vessel has a water displacement capacity of 33.5 thousand tons. The vessel has RITM-200 reactors, which have a thermal capacity of 350 MW.

UN Climate Chief Assures Climate Action Will Survive Despite Trump's Re-Election

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The United Nations climate chief, Simon Stiell, has reaffirmed the global commitment to combating climate change, despite Donald Trump's re-election and pledge to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. At the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP29) talks in Baku, Azerbaijan, Stiell urged nations to demonstrate their solidarity on climate issues, stressing that "global cooperation is the only way humanity survives global warming". Stiell emphasized that global action on climate change "is robust and will endure"

The ongoing talks focus on securing finances to aid developing countries in adapting to climate change and transitioning their economies away from fossil fuels.

However, a significant challenge arises as wealthy nations, currently shouldering the financial burden, resist increasing the annual pledge of \$100 billion by tenfold. Domestic concerns over inflation and economic



sluggishness have shifted public attention away from climate action

Stiell countered this notion, warning that the climate crisis will exacerbate economic woes. "The climate crisis is fast becoming an economy killer," he cautioned. Inaction would result in severe consequences: "Every country and every household will be hammered even harder than they currently are"

Dan Lashof, U.S. Director at the World Resources Institute, also weighed in on Trump's re-election, stating that while

it may stall national climate efforts, most U.S. state, local, and private sector leaders remain committed to advancing clean energy

As global leaders navigate the complexities of climate action, Stiell's assurance serves as a beacon of hope. The UN climate chief's message is clear: climate action will persist, and cooperation is crucial for humanity's survival.

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Help Democrats pay campaign debts, Trump tells supporters

By Helen Okechukwu

A murder suspect, Anthony Mwenda, has been arrested today for allegedly killing his 24-year-old wife, Millicent Mwendwa, in the Mugirirwa area of Chuka in Meru South of Kenya.

On 11 July, 2024, Mwenda, the alleged suspect, was reported by the chief of Mugwe to have killed his wife after a short misunderstanding between

Late Mrs. Mwendwa was said to have died from the deep cut she sustained on her head and leg after the family dispute. They have been married for 2-year.

Revealing the death of late Mrs. Mwendwa via their X page on Tuesday, the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) said, "Neighbours

whose attention was drawn to the ruckus arrived at Mwenda's house to find a profusely bleeding Millicent, and beside her, a Maasai rungu, a black whip, and a panga all soaked in

"More blood on the wall and floor evidenced the young lady's struggle to escape with he

However, upon the arrival of the security force at Chuka, they found Mwendwa lying in the pool of her blood.

Following several attempts to arrest the suspect, the security operatives apprehended Mwenda during a manhunt operation at the Wempa location within Murang'a South.

"Acting on forensic intelligence, a joint team of Homicide and Crime Research detectives conducted a crackdown in Murang'a South today, smoking out the



suspect from his hideout in the Wempa area."

Information obtained by The New Daily Prime, the suspect will remain in security custody pending court arraignment on 13 November.

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Putin pushes to recapture Kursk before U.S. transition

By Agency Reporter



Putin deploys 50,000 Russian and North Korean troops to recapture Kursk before Trump's inauguration, intensifying the Ukraine conflict as Western allies brace for potential escalations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has reportedly deployed a force of over 50,000 Russian and North Korean troops in an ambitious offensive to seize control of the Kursk region from Ukraine before U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's January inauguration. Western defense officials and Ukrainian military sources warn this could mark a critical escalation in the war as winter sets in, with intensified Russian attacks aimed at shifting power dynamics in anticipated peace negotiations.

The operation, which involves thousands of North Korean conscripts deployed under a Russia-North Korea military pact, represents one of the largest coordinated efforts by Moscow in recent months, NATO intelligence suggests. British defense reports indicate that Russia is bolstering the offensive with kamikaze drone attacks from new launch sites near Ukraine's border, adding urgency to Ukraine's defensive efforts.

General Oleksandr Syrskyi, Ukraine's top military commander, stated that "tens of thousands of enemy soldiers from the best Russian shock units" are advancing on

Ukrainian positions, particularly around Kursk and the northeastern Sumy region reported by Telegraph. The Russian force's objective may be to quickly reclaim lost ground and establish stronger territorial leverage before January 20, the date of Trump's planned inauguration.

In response to the escalation, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has cautiously acknowledged Trump's election victory and called on him to uphold U.S. military support. Trump, who campaigned on promises to broker peace in Ukraine "within a day," reportedly urged Putin to avoid worsening the conflict in a phone call after the election. Although the Kremlin denies the call took place, U.S. media outlets report that Trump warned Putin against increasing hostilities.

Western leaders are rallying to support Ukraine's efforts, with British and French officials meeting in Paris to discuss strategies to strengthen Ukraine's position. Downing Street underscored the need to prepare Kyiv for the approaching winter as the conflict's toll on Ukrainian resources grows. The Biden administration has pledged to expedite the delivery of \$4.3 billion in redirected U.S. weapons and \$2.1 billion in new contracts for supplies to support Ukraine's defenses.

Jhn Healey, the U.K. Defence

Secretary, supported Trump's stance against further escalation but emphasized a continued policy of "security through strength." Meanwhile, concerns mount that Trump's future foreign policy could include reduced aid to Ukraine, with some allies wary that any shift in U.S. support may disadvantage Ukraine in negotiations.

Military analysts note that Putin's apparent strategy—securing gains around Kursk and advancing toward the eastern Donbas—would bolster Russian positions in case of peace talks where territorial concessions could be on the table. Fighting in Donbas has intensified, with Russian forces bypassing major Ukrainian fortifications to target the town of Pokrovsk, a critical supply hub.

With dwindling manpower and supplies, Ukraine is bracing for what analysts describe as one of the most consequential battles of the conflict, as the Kremlin eyes strategic control in the northeast and U.S. foreign policy faces a transition.