

# The New Daily Prime



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# LAWMA seals office, cracks down on illegal waste disposal practices

By Helen Okechukwu

The Lagos Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) has ramped up enforcement across the state, sealing off Ile Iyan, a business place located on Herbert Macaulay Way, Sabo, Yaba, for violating waste disposal rules.

The agency has also launched a major crackdown on illegal cart pushers to address growing environmental concerns.

Speaking on the action via their X page on Wednesday, LAWMA's Managing Director and CEO, Dr. Muyiwa Gbadegesin, revealed that the facility was shut down due to reckless waste disposal practices.

Gbadegesin said, "Our operatives discovered evidence of Ile Iyan's waste disposal at an illegal dumpsite near Aje Comprehensive High School's fence in Sabo, Yaba. Although the facility claimed to have enlisted with LAWMA, they were unable to provide any proof of registration or documentation. This left us with no choice but to seal off their premises to compel compliance."

Gbadegesin stressed LAWMA's commitment to strict enforcement, insisting that all businesses in Lagos must adhere to waste management

regulations to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment for residents.

"Every business operating in Lagos must be registered with LAWMA and comply with approved waste management guidelines. Defaulters will face strict penalties, including the sealing of their premises. This will help us safeguard our environment, making it livable for all residents."

Also, the agency also extended its crackdown to illegal cart pushers operating in areas like Ejigbo, Isolo, and Somolu. Gbadegesin described these cart pushers as a significant threat to LAWMA's efforts, accusing them of indiscriminate waste dumping that harms the environment and endangers public health.

"These illegal cart pushers are sabotaging our work. They dump waste carelessly, degrading the environment and putting residents at risk of serious health problems. We urge Lagosians to stop patronizing them. Anyone caught will face arrest and prosecution. Instead, residents should use assigned PSP operators for proper waste disposal," he said.

Referring to the legal basis for LAWMA's actions, Gbadegesin highlighted the Lagos State



Environmental Management and Protection Law.

"Section 82 (1) of the law clearly states that dumping waste in unauthorised locations, such as road medians, is illegal. Offenders risk fines of not less than ₦25,000 and potential jail term under Section 109. These regulations exist to protect our environment and the health of Lagosians," Gbadegesin noted.

LAWMA is working closely with other state agencies, including the Lagos State Environmental Sanitation Corps (LAGESC), to prosecute violators and uphold environmental standards.

Moreso, Gbadegesin highlighted, "There is no hiding place for defaulters. With the support of sister agencies, we will continue to arrest and prosecute those who flout waste management laws. Our goal is to make Lagos cleaner, safer, and more sustainable for everyone."

# 120 Afghan couples marry in mass wedding ceremony

By Agency Reporter

A charity organization on Wednesday organized a mass wedding ceremony for about 240 grooms and brides in western Afghanistan's Herat province.

Mawlawi Abdul Sadiqi, head of the organization said each newlywed couple was gifted household appliances, including carpet, blanket, and kitchen tools valued at 100,000 afghani (about 1,460 U.S. dollars).

Young people may have to wait for

years to have their wedding ceremonies due to unemployment, the economic crisis, the high cost of lavish dowries and expensive gifts in the poverty-stricken country.

Earlier, a mass wedding event was held in northern Sari Pul province, where 100 couples got married.

The Afghan caretaker government



has repeatedly called on people to prevent irrational marriage customs and avoid wasting money on wedding ceremonies.

## Stranded Zamfara students in Cyprus: Parents seek Lawal's intervention

By Agency Reporter

The parents and guardians of the Zamfara students stranded in Cyprus have called for Governor Dauda Lawal's urgent intervention.

The Chairman of the parent's association, Ibrahim Tudu, made the appeal while addressing newsmen in Gusau on Wednesday.

Tudu called on the state government to take tentative measures to rescue their children.

He said, "This is to highlight our concern about the condition of our 88 children sent on scholarship by the Zamfara Government studying various courses at Cyprus International University Nicosia, facing numerous problems currently.

"We would like to clear that the affected students are bonafide indigenes and citizens of Zamfara from decent backgrounds and families.

"They secured the offer of

scholarships to study in Cyprus based on their academic performances, competency examinations and screening interviews, all conducted by the State Scholarship Board under the previous administration," he said.

"I would like to use this medium to inform the state government based on our daily communication with all the 88 students currently in Cyprus that they are facing numerous problems.

"They are facing lack of feeding, accommodation, upkeep allowances, their safety, studies and serious state of mental health as a result of the non-payment of registration, tuition and students' allowances."

Tudu added that the students were now in great pain and encountering a lot of hardship as they were ejected from their school accommodation.

"They are now living in a Mosque and rented houses where they are being harassed for non-payment of rent.

"In fact, the female students among



them are facing multiple problems," he lamented.

According to Tudu, the student's International Passports and Cyprus resident permits had since expired and they were at the risk of being caught at the other side of the law of foreign land.

"They are facing various challenges that may lead to their detention, imprisonment, and deportation to Nigeria as well as risking their lives.

## 'F\*\*k you' – Brazil's first lady swears at Elon Musk at G20 event

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Brazil's first lady, Janja Lula da Silva, swore while addressing billionaire Elon Musk during a G20 event on the weekend, at which she spoke about the need to regulate social media to rein in misinformation.

A ship's horn sounded as she spoke Saturday and she joked, "I think it's Elon Musk," before adding, "I'm not afraid of you, f\*\*k you, Elon Musk."

Musk, owner of social media network X, reacted to a video of her remarks by posting a laughing out loud (LOL) emoji graphic.

In another post, he added, "They are going to lose the next election," in a reference to President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The president's wife spoke at an event ahead of the Rio de Janeiro summit of



the G20 group of largest nations set for Monday and Tuesday.

X was suspended in Brazil for a month this year for failing to name a legal representative in the country and ignoring the top court's orders to

block accounts accused of spreading "fake news" and hate messages.

X was cleared to resume service in Brazil last month, after it reversed course and started complying with the court rulings.

# I-G sues Andy Uba, others over alleged N400m fraud

By Agency Reporter

The Inspector-General (IG) of Police, Mr Kayode Egbetokun, has sued former Senator representing Anambra South, Andy Uba, and two others, for alleged fraud. The IG, in a two-count charge marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/538/2024 filed before Justice Inyang Ekwo of a Federal High Court in Abuja, joined Crystal Uba and Benjamin Etu as 2nd and 3rd defendants respectively.

The charge, dated Oct. 8, was filed on Oct. 10 by Abdulrashid Sidi in the Legal/Prosecution Section at the Police Force Headquarters, Abuja.

In count one, Uba, Crystal, Etu and Hajiya Fatima now at large, sometimes in 2022, were alleged to have conspired amongst themselves to commit the offence.

Una and others were accused of obtaining by false pretence, by making a presentation to George Uboh that they had perfected ways for the appointment of the Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to any

interested persons who could afford N400 million.

“A presentation which you know is not true and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related offences Act, 2006.”

In count two, the defendants and Fatima, who is at large, in 2022 within the jurisdiction of the court, were alleged to have conspired amongst themselves with intention to defraud and induced George Uboh by making a presentation to him that they had perfected way to give an appointment of the post of Managing Directorship of NDDC to any interested person who could afford the sum of N400 million.

“A presentation which you know is not true. You obtained the money and converted it into your own personal use and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (2) and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related offences Act, 2006,” the count



read in part.

Uboh, in a letter dated April 5, 2023, and addressed to the I-G, said the petition was based on documentary and voice recording.

According to Uboh, the evidence is overwhelming and irrefutable.

No fewer than six witnesses had been listed to testify against the ex-lawmaker and others.

Justice Ekwo adjourned their arraignment until Feb. 18, 2025.

The adjournment followed a complaint by M.L. Anthony, who appeared for the I-G on Nov. 13, that the defendants had been evading the service of the court documents despite being given administrative bail.

Anthony told the court that they had been on the matter since 2023.

# Man to sweep court premises for 3 weeks over tiles theft

By Agency Reporter

Kaduna Chief Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, ordered an unemployed man, Vincent Danladi, to sweep the court premises for three weeks for stealing one carton of floor tiles and other items worth N130,000.

The police had earlier charged Danladi, 30, of Ungwan Pama in Kaduna, with theft.

Delivering ruling, Magistrate Ibrahim Emmanuel, said the court took into consideration the fact that Danladi was a first time offender.

He ordered the convict to report to the court for three weeks to sweep the premises, after he pleaded guilty to the offence without an option of fine.

Earlier, the Prosecutor, Insp Chidi Leo, told the court that defendant and two others at large, on Nov. 9, stole a carton of 3×3 floor tiles from a house under renovation in Sabon Tasha in Kaduna.

Leo said the defendant and his accomplices also stole one bucket of paint and one carton of wall tiles, all valued at N130,000.

He added that the defendant was



however arrested and the items were recovered from him in the cause of investigation.

He said that the offence contravened Penal Code of Kaduna State 2017.

# Powerful people outside N'Delta behing oil theft – Tompolo

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

**F**ormer Niger Delta militant leader and founder of Tantita Security Services Nigeria Limited, Government Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo, has said he has become a target of attack by the powerful people behind oil theft in the country.

The Gbaramatu king insisted that the oil thieves are powerful people outside of the Niger Delta.

Speaking at Oporoza, the headquarters of the Gbaramatu Kingdom, on Monday, Tompolo, alleged that some naval personnel, a few days ago, forcefully attacked operatives of the private outfit during the arrest of some suspected oil thieves along the Port-Harcourt creeks.

Speaking during a working visit of the Nigerian Bar Association national executive, led by its President, Afam Osigwe (SAN), to the oil-bearing community, Tompolo called for synergy between the Navy and other security outfits.

Tompolo noted that in the course of the surveillance operations to round up crude oil barons, Tantita had stepped on toes and had become the target of revenge missions.

He said, “While doing this work, we have stepped on a lot of toes of people over there in Lagos and Abuja. We have stepped on a lot of toes. As I am here, after my court cases, I cannot travel anywhere because of me and the key people (barons) fighting this battle.

“If I want to travel to Abuja to visit you, I must go with security. Even with two or three security personnel, none of them are happy with me, and they are now collaborating with top players involved in oil theft.

“Most times, you see that Tantita Security now has confrontations with the Navy and every well-meaning Nigerian knows the function of the Nigerian Navy and Tantita, but nobody wants to come out to face the truth.

“If we happen to arrest anybody now,



we would get a lawyer from Abuja, Lagos or Ibadan to do the case very well.”

The former warlord expressed worry that efforts to checkmate crude oil theft were being sabotaged in some quarters.

“Some few days back, our people intercepted a vessel in Port Harcourt, where the Nigerian Navy was shooting at Tantita Security, with police, Department of State Services and Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps.

“We want to implore and beg you (NBA). You must play in this present situation, because if we are not careful in this country, maybe we will not have money to do any reasonable thing.

“All of us here know that Nigeria is facing hardship. A bag of rice is over N100,000.

“We are going to do our part locally. But you (NBA) are there at the top. If we make arrest today, lawyers would stand on the other side and this side.

“Can somebody come to load a vessel of 500 metric tonnes in this community? Nobody has that capacity; the person comes from Lagos, Abuja, or neighbouring countries.

“The man here would be a water boy for the people in charge. That is the one we would arrest,” he said.

Efforts by NEW DAILY PRIME to reach the Nigerian Navy spokesman, Commodore Aiwuyor Adams-Aliu, for comments on the issue, were

unsuccessful at the time of filing this report.

A unidentified female official in the Naval Public Relations Office said she “had been transferred to Lagos,” just as she maintained that “Commodore Adams-Aliu is in the best position to react to the issue.”

Speaking earlier during a courtesy call on the Pere of Gbaramatu kingdom, Oboro-Gbaraun II, in his palace, the NBA President expressed delight over the recent announcement from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited that oil production had risen to 1.8 million barrels per day, with a promise to increase it up to 2 million bpd by the end of this year.

“If the oil production keeps going up, it will benefit all of us and the government will be able to provide for the needs of the people,” he stated.

Consequently, the NBA president maintained that “there is a need to stem the theft of our commonwealth.

“The fight against oil theft is more desirable now, more than ever before, because Nigeria is borrowing so much to fund its budget and cannot meet the needs of Nigerians.”

# Senate sacks Code of Conduct Tribunal chairman, Umar over misconduct

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Senate, citing Section 157 (1) of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended), has removed Yakubu Danladi Umar from his position as Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) over alleged gross misconduct.

Senators deemed Umar's actions as incompatible with the responsibilities of his office, describing his behaviour as unacceptable for such a sensitive position.

The decision to remove Umar was supported by an overwhelming majority, with 74 senators signing the motion and 10 others present, bringing the total to 84 in favour.

Deliberations on the matter began during a closed-door session at 1:17 PM on Wednesday. The session, which lasted until 2:36 PM, culminated in a motion to sack Umar, led by Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele (APC, Ekiti Central) and seconded by Senate Whip Mohammed Tahir Monguno (APC, Borno North).

It was titled, "Invocation of the provision of Section 157 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended for the removal of the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal."

According to Bamidele, "The Senate notes that the Code of Conduct Tribunal is one of the key components of Federal Institutions in the country, saddled with the sacred statutory responsibilities of maintaining high standard of morality in the conduct of government business and to ensure that the actions and behaviours of public officers conform to the highest standard of public morality



and accountability;

"Also notes that a statutory institution of such magnitude is expected to be an epitome of moral rectitude and should be seen to uphold the virtues of integrity, probity and accountability. However, the conduct of Mr. Yakubu Danladi Umar, who is the Chairman of the Tribunal has fallen short of the requisite standard of a public officer to conduct the affairs of such Tribunal;

"Concerned that the Senate has been inundated with series of petitions and allegations of corruption/misconduct against the Chairman, a situation that necessitated the 9th Senate, through the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions to invite him to series of its investigative hearings in order to unravel the circumstances surrounding those allegations."

"However, he appeared before the Committee only once and thereafter avoided subsequent invitations;

"Also concerned about his alleged

absenteeism from office for more than one month, without permission and recuse to his position, coupled with preponderance of corruption allegation, misappropriation, and physical street brawl with a security man in the FCT vis-à-vis his current investigation by the EFCC, ICPC and the DSS. All these are tantamount to acts of negligence and gross misconduct, unbecoming of a Chairman of such a reputable Tribunal;

"Aware of the series of overwhelming allegations against the Chairman, Mr. President, Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, forwarded the name of Mr. Abdullahi Usman Bello to the Senate for confirmation as the new Chairman of the Tribunal, and at the Plenary Sitting of the Senate on Thursday, 4th July 2024, his appointment was duly confirmed, hence the need for the erstwhile Chairman to vacate the office for the substantive Chairman resume office officially."to

# Weapons from Libyan stockpiles flow to terror groups in Nigeria

By Agency Reporter

**T**errorists that plague northern Nigeria are arming themselves with weapons that originated in Libya, according to Nigerian defence officials.

Weapons traffickers in Nigeria are benefiting from instability across the Sahel, particularly in Niger, which has become a key transit point for weapons taken from Libyan stockpiles. Those weapons have moved into other Sahel countries as well as Nigeria, according to the Small Arms Survey.

“When we talk about the proliferation of arms, first, you have to look at what happened in Libya years ago and in the Sahel,” Nigerian Maj. Gen. Edward Buba said during a recent briefing.

“Now, this gave the opportunity for arms to get into the wrong hands and then filtered into our country, which worsened the issue of insurgency and terrorism that we were faced with in the country.”

In late October, Nigeria’s National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons destroyed 2,400 weapons confiscated from criminals across the country. Johnson Kokumo, the center’s director-general, said Nigeria would not tolerate the illegal trafficking of weapons into the country.

“These frameworks underscore the importance of transparent documentation and the responsible disposal of recovered arms, ensuring that they do not find their way back into the hands of criminal elements,” Kokumo said during the destruction ceremony in Abuja.

The volume of illicit weapons into Nigeria has been described as “like rice on the market,” with much of that traffic being traced back to Libya.

“This unlimited and unchecked proliferation of illegal arms has reached an epidemic level in Nigeria in recent times with attendant



national security implications,” analyst Dakuku Peterside wrote for The Cable. The flow of weapons contributes to violence, crime and insecurity in the country.

The 2011 collapse of the Libyan government under former dictator Muammar Gadhafi left the country’s massive weapons arsenals largely unguarded. The United Nations estimated in 2020 that Libya had as much as 200,000 tons of weapons at the time of its collapse. The subsequent civil wars made the security of Libya’s weapons stockpiles even worse.

“Those weapons were sitting virtually unguarded, destined for markets in the Sahel down south,” Defence News Nigeria wrote on X.

“At the apex of its power the Boko Haram campaign was being fueled by large scale heavy weapons supplies from [Gadhafi’s] looted vast arms stockpile.”

Beyond its own stockpiles, Libya has also become a source of foreign weapons — many of them made in Russia and brought to the country by mercenaries connected to the former Wagner Group, now known as Africa Corps. Russia also uses Libyan ports to supply weapons to military juntas ruling Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger.

Many of those weapons ultimately end up in the hands of terrorists in northern Nigeria, threatening civilians and

Soldiers alike. Experts say terrorists have also captured weapons during raids on military outposts.

In 2020, the Small Arms Survey estimated that Nigeria had 6.2 million small arms in the hands of civilians compared to about 580,000 in the hands of security forces.

The presence of illicit weapons creates a vicious cycle of instability as local communities arm themselves to defend against terrorists and criminals, according to experts. That’s especially true in communities that feel ignored or overlooked by government security forces

“Surging illicit arms flows have increased the availability of firearms in many communities,” researchers with the Small Arms Survey wrote in a study

“Formerly low-level local conflicts thus risk violent escalation as traditional weapons — or, indeed, peaceful means of dispute settlement — are replaced with modern firearms.”

# Police rescue kidnap victim, recover vehicle in Rivers

By Dave Oludare Oso

Operatives of the Rivers State Police Command have rescued a kidnap victim and recovered an operational vehicle in Oyigbo, Rivers State.

According to a press release from the Command's spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, the incident occurred on November 17 at about 8:23 p.m.

Iringe-Koko said a distress call was received indicating that four armed men, operating in a black Toyota Corolla kidnapped one Madabuchi Julius at Sabbath Filling Station in Oyigbo, after firing sporadically to scare off bystanders.

Iringe-Koko noted that Police operatives were immediately mobilized to the scene.

The police spokesperson added that on sighting the officers, the kidnapers attempted to escape in their vehicle.

Iringe-Koko noted that a high-speed chase ensued, culminating in a gunfight along Egbu Street, Oyigbo.

"Overpowered by the police's superior firepower, the kidnapers abandoned their victim and the operational vehicle, fleeing the scene. The victim was

rescued unharmed, and the vehicle, with registration number RIVERS PHC 938 AH, was recovered", Iringe-Koko said.

Iringe-Koko said investigations are ongoing, with efforts intensified to apprehend the fleeing suspects and recover their weapons.

In a related development, on November 18 at about 10:48 p.m., police operatives carried out a covert operation on St. Lorinta Street, Oyigbo, acting on credible intelligence.

During the operation, Iringe-Koko said a 25-year-old Gabriel Morris, a resident of Mercy Ground, Kom-Kom, Oyigbo LGA, was apprehended.

During interrogation, Morris confessed to being a member of a criminal syndicate that has been terrorizing Oyigbo and its environs. Items recovered from him include a locally made pistol and a quantity of weeds suspected to be Indian hemp.

The Rivers State Police reiterated its commitment to combating kidnapping



and other crimes across the state.

Iringe-Koko said efforts are ongoing to apprehend Morris's accomplices and dismantle the syndicate.

Iringe-Koko commended the swift and coordinated efforts of the operatives, emphasizing the Command's dedication to ensuring safety and security in Rivers State.

## Oshiomhole opposed his son's appointment as commissioner, reveals Edo Deputy Gov

By Dave Oludare Oso

Edo State Deputy Governor, Dennis Idahosa, has responded to claims of nepotism regarding the recent nomination of Cyril Adams Oshiomhole, the son of former Governor Adams Oshiomhole, as the Commissioner for Health-designate.

Idahosa, in an interview on Channels Television, clarified that Cyril's appointment was based purely on his qualifications and not his family connections.

According to Idahosa, Cyril Oshiomhole is a well-educated

and experienced medical doctor, having studied both in Nigeria and further pursued his education in the United States.

He stressed that Cyril's appointment was made on merit and competence, asserting, "The fact that he is Oshiomhole's son does not disqualify him from holding a position he is competent to manage."

Refuting allegations of nepotism, Idahosa emphasized that former Governor Adams Oshiomhole actually opposed



his son's nomination. He stated, "Adams opposed it. He was against the nomination because of the vision the governor has for the people of Edo State." This, he clarified, highlights that the governor's decision was not influenced by family ties but rather by a commitment to competence and the state's development.



# Oluremi Tinubu advocates for gender equality at 2024 gender conference

By Gbenga Oluranti **OLALEYE**

The First Lady of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, has called for continued efforts to achieve gender equality, stressing that it is crucial for fostering a peaceful, equitable society and driving sustainable development.

She made the call during her keynote address at the 2024 Gender Conference held at the University of Lagos on Tuesday, November 19.

Represented by Mrs. Maryam Obadina, Tinubu highlighted the importance of justice, equity, and empowerment in advancing societal progress.

“Gender equality is essential for achieving a peaceful and equitable society,” she declared, emphasising that empowering women is vital for economic growth and productivity.

Tinubu further noted that while discussions on gender often focus on equality, it is important to recognize that empowering women is not just a matter of social justice but also a key driver of economic progress.

“Women and girls represent half of the world’s population and potential. Empowering them is critical for productivity and economic growth,” she

said.

Reflecting on her personal journey in politics, the First Lady shared the challenges women face, particularly in influencing policies and decision-making.

“I worked for 12 years in politics without having the numbers to influence policies directly affecting us. For instance, I couldn’t effectively oppose laws like child marriage, which severely impacts young girls,” she lamented.

Despite these challenges, Tinubu encouraged women to actively pursue opportunities and not wait for them to be handed over.

“Be bold, stay informed, and create your own opportunities. Hard work and faith go hand in hand,” she advised the audience.

The First Lady of Oyo State, Tamunominini Makinde, also delivered a goodwill message during the event, emphasizing that gender equality benefits both men and women.

“Gender equality is not just about women. A man can be a nurse, and a woman can be



a pilot or a lawyer. It’s about having the opportunity to pursue your dreams irrespective of gender,” she stated.

Makinde further encouraged women entering male-dominated professions to prepare thoroughly. “Ask yourself: How well do you know the field? Who has succeeded in it before you? What can you do better? These questions will help you build a solid foundation,” she advised.

The 2024 Gender Conference served as an important platform for discussions on advancing gender equality in Nigeria, with key stakeholders emphasising the need for sustained action to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of

# Adenuga alive, Dele Momodu debunks billionaire’s death rumours

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Founder of Ovation magazine and chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dele Momodu, has refuted circulating reports claiming that billionaire businessman, Mike Adenuga, has passed away.

Adenuga, the fifth-richest person in Africa according to Forbes, is the founder of Globacom, Nigeria’s second-largest telecom operator with operations in Ghana and Benin Republic.

Rumors online suggested that Adenuga, 71, had died, prompting widespread reactions.

However, in a post on X (formerly

Twitter) on Tuesday night, Momodu assured the public that the business mogul is alive and well.

He disclosed that he had a phone conversation with Adenuga, who confirmed he remains an active contributor to Nigeria’s economy.

Momodu tweeted on Wednesday, “Ignore the fake news... The Spirit of Africa DR MICHAEL ADENIYI AGBOLADE ISHOLA ADENUGA is hale and hearty. He’s right now at his desk working round the clock in support of the Nigerian economy... He just called me to thank everyone for their concern.”

Adenuga, who made his first million in 1979 at age 26 through trading lace and distributing soft drinks, is celebrated as one of Africa’s most prominent



entrepreneurs.

In 2007, he was named African Entrepreneur of the Year at the inaugural African Telecoms Awards (ATA). Additionally, in 2015, he made headlines with a \$600 million bid to acquire Ivorian telecom operator, Comium Côte d’Ivoire.

# Osun Shooting: Gov Adeleke calls for peace

By Friday Omosola

Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke has called for calm following the shooting of Alowonle Iyanda, Chairman of the State Motor Transport System.

Speaking on the shooting which caused tensions, the governor said authorities are conducting their investigation into the attempted murder.

Governor Adeleke appealed to transport workers across the state not to take matters into their own hands but to allow the relevant state and federal authorities to ensure justice is served.

He emphasised that he had already taken swift action by contacting the Inspector General of Police (IGP), who has directed the immediate arrest of those responsible for the shooting.

"I call on Osun transport workers to maintain peace and not to take laws into their own hands. I have acted on this sad incident. I spoke with the police chief and had a closed-door meeting with the Commissioner of Police. Justice will be served," the governor said.



He further assured the public that the government would not allow violent actions to destabilize the peace of the state, urging all citizens to continue with their regular activities while the situation is being handled.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, has ordered the immediate arrest and prosecution of Moses Lohor, head of the Police Anti-Kidnapping Squad in the state, and his team for their involvement in the shooting.

Lohor allegedly shot Mr Iyanda in the abdomen at the police station following the Chairman's arrest over a domestic dispute. The shooting has left Mr Iyanda in critical condition, and he is currently on life support at the Osun State Teaching Hospital in Osogbo.

Samuel Ojo, Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, confirmed that the police authorities have condemned the actions of Lohor and his team, labeling them as unprofessional and illegal.

## Enugu LG boss appoints Special Assistants on "pepper, garden egg, yam"

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Executive Chairman of Igbo Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State, Hon. Dr. Eric Ogbonna Odo has appointed two Senior Special Assistants on garden egg, pepper and yam.

According to the appointment letters making the rounds on social media, Odo appointed Ezeugwu Frederick Ogbonna, as an SSA on Yam and Pepper.

He also appointed Nwodo Everestus Ugonna as SSA on Garden Egg and Pepper.

"I am pleased to inform you that the executive chairman Igbo Etiti LGA has approved your appointment as

SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT to the Local Government chairman on AGRICULTURE (GARDEN EGG & PEPPER)," Nwodo's appointment letter partly read.

"I am pleased to inform you that the executive chairman Igbo Etiti LGA has approved your appointment as SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT to the Local Government chairman on AGRICULTURE (YAM & PEPPER)," Ezeugwu's letter reads.

Meanwhile, in Odo's mission statement sighted by LIB, he pledged to administer the "most progressive local government area in sub Saharan Africa."

"My vision: To administer the most



progressive local government area in sub Saharan Africa. My mission : To create an efficient local government system that respects, honour and develop the various communities in all ramifications according to the limit of resources available if elected,"

# Oil Revenue: Governor Bala Mohammed calls for transparency

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

**B**auchy State Governor, Bala Mohammed, has raised concerns over the failure of state governments to benefit from the improved revenue generated by Nigeria's oil sector.

Despite the rise in oil revenue, the governor claims that funds are not being properly credited to the Federation Account for distribution among the three tiers of government.

The governor, who also serves as the Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) Governors Forum, made these comments during a visit by the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, ahead of the 2024 Conference for the National Council on Finance and Economic Development held in Bauchi State.

He urged the Federal Government to provide a clear explanation to the public about why oil revenues have not been adequately remitted for distribution, as mandated by law.

"It's a miracle that we are one of the biggest oil-producing nations, but we have not benefited for some time since you came on board," Mohammed said.

"You have to explain that this is what you are going through. That is inclusion. And if you don't say it, nobody will know. But some of us know. We call this leadership and responsibility."

He emphasised the importance of ensuring that the country's oil and gas sector not only produces but also contributes significantly to the national Treasury for equitable sharing among federal, state, and local governments.

"You must provide financial services to us at the subnational level. Financial services that will help us enhance our productivity," he added.



Governor Mohammed's remarks come amid ongoing concerns over the state of revenue generation and distribution, particularly in the oil sector.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited (NNPCL), the country's key revenue-generating agency, has faced challenges in remitting funds to the Federation Account, especially during the period when fuel subsidies were in place.

In recent years, NNPCL struggled to contribute to the Federation Account, with no remittances made in 2022. This was largely due to the massive subsidies on Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), which drained much of the oil revenue.

However, following the removal of fuel subsidies, the NNPCL has been able to start remitting funds again, contributing N4.5 trillion between January and September 2023.

Despite this, Governor Mohammed expressed frustration that the expected improvements in disbursement have not yet been felt at the state level. He urged the Federal Government to ensure more transparency in the process, as stakeholders anticipated better distribution after subsidy removal and the deregulation of the sector, which led to an increase in petrol prices.

In response to the governor's

remarks, the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) criticised PDP governors, including Mohammed, for making claims without providing concrete evidence. Nze Chidi Duru, Deputy National Organizing Secretary of the APC, urged the Bauchi governor to offer specific details to substantiate his claims.

"Senator Mohammed must put down those evidence on the table for further elaboration. It is only at that point that we can then, as a political party, venture to take on the issues in a very objective manner," Duru stated.

He also emphasised that under the current administration, the distribution of revenue has improved significantly, benefiting states and local governments more than ever before.

Duru noted that state governments should focus on identifying and addressing any inefficiencies in the system to ensure that all funds are properly accounted for and used effectively.

The debate highlights ongoing tensions between the federal government and state leaders regarding the management and allocation of Nigeria's oil wealth, with both sides calling for greater transparency and accountability in the system.

Share

# Dangote refinery's fuel export to W'African countries begins

By Dave Oludare Oso



**A**fter a long wait, the Dangote Petroleum Refinery has flagged off exporting refined petroleum products to neighbouring West African countries.

According to a report by Bloomberg on Tuesday, quoting data sourced from Vortexa, Kpler, Precise Intelligence, and ship-tracking platform, a tanker has hauled a shipment of gasoline from the Dangote Petroleum Refinery to waters off the coast of Togo, a neighbouring country.

The report said a CL Jane Austen recently loaded more than 300,000 barrels from Dangote and sailed west. Last month, the chairman of the Ghana National Petroleum Authority, Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, said the country is considering buying petroleum products from the Dangote refinery to help the country cut more expensive exports from Europe which cost the country about \$400m monthly.

Abdul-Hamid, who spoke at the OTL Africa Downstream Oil Conference in Lagos, said importing from Nigeria rather than Europe would reduce the prices of other goods and services by

removing freight costs.

He said, "If the refinery reaches 650,000bpd a day capacity, all that volume cannot be consumed by Nigeria alone, so instead of us importing as we do right now from Rotterdam, it will be much easier for us to import from Nigeria and I believe that will bring down our prices."

Reports had it two weeks ago, the refinery was set to begin fuel exports to South Africa, Angola, and Namibia.

It added that four other African countries – Niger Republic, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Central Africa Republic – had also started negotiations with the refinery.

A highly credible source, who confirmed the development, said the management of the 650,000bpd capacity refinery was at the advanced stages of talks with the countries to start lifting fuel.

"I can confirm to you that talks are actually at the advanced stage with Ghana, Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, while the initial discussion is coming up with Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic," the source said.

The report further stated that the

petroleum product shipment is now floating off the coast of Lome, a popular area for ship-to-ship transfers. However, it is not also not certain where the CL Jane Austen's cargo will ultimately end up.

Although it's off Togo, the area is often used for Ship-to-ship transfers, meaning the fuel could subsequently be taken elsewhere.

aid, "While the shipment is tiny in the context of the global gasoline market, it signals the ramp-up of Dangote's production and the potential to export significant volumes of gasoline beyond Nigeria, which could upend regional markets."

The refinery last month shipped its first seaborne gasoline cargo to the nearby commercial hub of Lagos.

Whether large amounts of Dangote's gasoline output end up being exported remains to be seen.

Last month, the Federal Government ended its state-owned oil company's monopoly on buying the fuel from the plant for domestic use but has allowed the continued importation of fuel from Europe and the US in line with the regulatory act.

# Five soldiers, 30 terrorists killed as B/Haram attacks troops in Borno

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Defence Headquarters has confirmed a surprise attack by Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists targeting troops engaged in stabilisation operations in Gubio Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno State.

Major General Edward Buba, the Director of Defence Media Operations, in a statement, said five soldiers were killed, ten wounded, and four declared missing during the assault.

He, however, said the troops eliminated several terrorists and recovered weapons. "The attack resulted in the destruction of equipment, including one gun truck, three TCVs, and an excavator," the statement said.

He said a reinforcement team, supported by an air component, was dispatched to pursue the attackers.

A military source told journalists that the insurgents launched multiple assaults in

an attempt to overrun a special military force stationed in the Kareto community of Gubio LGA.

"Yesterday, five soldiers were killed in another attack, while over 30 terrorists were eliminated in subsequent engagements today without further casualties on our side," the source said.

The special forces had recently arrived in Kareto and begun preparations, such as digging trenches, to facilitate the return of displaced villagers when the insurgents launched their attacks.

These incidents are part of a resurgence of violence in the Lake Chad region, where insurgents have launched frequent assaults despite recent successful operations by the Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

Last month, 40 soldiers were killed during an attack on a military base, prompting Chadian President Mahamat Déby Itno to initiate an operation that neutralised many terrorists and forced their remnants to

retreat into Niger Republic.

Meanwhile, the Borno State Government has expressed its condolences to the military following the loss of soldiers during the Boko Haram attack in Kareto, Gubio LGA.

In a statement by the Commissioner for Information and Internal Security, Usman Tar, the government described the incident as a painful reminder of the cruelty of Boko Haram terrorists.

"On behalf of the government and good people of Borno, I convey our heartfelt condolences to the armed forces and families of the deceased over the demise of our fellow compatriots. May Allah rest their souls and grant fortitude to the affected families," the statement read. The government reaffirmed its solidarity with the armed forces and its commitment to supporting efforts to end insurgency in the region.

# CAC partners with Indian professionals, business community to enhance company registration

By Friday Omosola

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has partnered with Indian professionals and entrepreneurs to improve its operations and streamline company registration processes in Nigeria.

This initiative was announced by the Registrar-General/CEO of the Commission, Hussaini Ishaq Magaji, during a meeting with the Indian delegation that accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his state visit to Nigeria earlier this week.

Magaji, who hosted the delegation led by Rekha Sharma at the CAC office, expressed optimism that the collaboration would provide valuable insights and opportunities to enhance the Commission's processes.

He noted that the CAC currently oversees the registration of over seven million businesses and emphasised the importance of continuous improvements to make business registration more seamless for Nigerians and foreign investors alike.

Sharma, the leader of the Indian delegation, highlighted the pivotal



role the CAC plays as the first point of contact for starting a business in Nigeria.

She also emphasised that Indian businesses are the second-largest employers in the country, contributing over N7 billion in investment with a potential of over N200 billion.

However, Rahi, the Financial Secretary of the Nigeria-India Business Council, stressed the timeliness of the visit, which offers an

opportunity to explore Nigeria's business formation and regulatory landscape.

Rahi called for further collaboration with the CAC to expedite business formation processes, particularly for Indian investors in Nigeria.

This visit follows President Bola Tinubu's hosting of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 17, during which Modi was conferred with Nigeria's second-highest national honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON).

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# Teenager brutalized, locked inside cage for visiting female classmate in Delta

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Samuel Onyeme, aged 17, was allegedly beaten and locked inside a dog cage for visiting a female classmate, Miss Anastasia Celestine on Sunday.

According to Punch, the incident happened when Onyeme visited his female classmate in her residence around 6:pm.

On Monday, Mrs Onyeme, the victim's mother, narrated the unsavoury experience she received at Mr Celestine's house.

Part of her statement read, "My son, Samuel, a 17-year-old Senior Secondary student of Redeemers International High School, Asaba, Delta State, on Sunday, visited his classmate, Anastasia Celestine, at her residence after she invited him.

"My son said they were having a discussion outside the house of Mr Celestine when he was brutally assaulted by her father and his two sons.

"They attacked him on the street, dragged him into their compound, and inflicted severe physical injuries on him. You see his head, he said they used wooden planks and locked him inside a dog cage.

"During the assault, they confiscated his mobile phone and called me, deceiving me into coming to the scene. Upon my arrival, I was deprived of seeing him for two hours." She said her daughter, Jessica, who was outside attempting to seek help, was also assaulted by members of the Celestine family when she tried to re-enter the compound.

"The situation escalated when Ben, the other of my sons, who is the elder brother to Samuel, contacted a family friend, who then reached out to a human rights organization before they mobilized police, officers were mobilized to rescue Samuel from the dog cage around 10:00 pm that night." Speaking further, a human rights activist, Mr Victor Ojei, who reported the incident to the Delta State Police



Command, on Tuesday said he mobilized the police before Samuel was rescued from the dog cage, and described the act as barbaric and inhumane.

Ojei, in a petition addressed to the Commissioner of Police, Delta State Police Command, demanded the immediate investigation and prosecution of Mr Celestine and his sons for kidnapping, unlawful detention, assault, and attempted murder in line with the provisions of Nigerian Criminal Law and the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Laws.

The petition, copied the Attorney General, Ministry of Justice, Asaba, Delta State and the State Coordinator, National Human Rights Commission, Asaba, Delta State, called for justice.

"One Onyeme Ben contacted a family friend, who then reached out to our organisation. Following our report to the Delta State Police, officers were mobilised, and Master Onyeme Samuel was rescued from the dog cage around 10:00 pm that night.

"Based on the above facts, Mr Celestine

and his sons have committed criminal offences which include unlawful detention of Mrs. Onyeme Onome for two hours against her will, and the forcible confinement of Master Onyeme Samuel in a dog cage from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm which contravenes Section 364 of the Criminal Code Act.

"The brutal assault on Master Onyeme Samuel using wooden planks, resulting in multiple injuries and psychological trauma, is a violation of Section 355 of the Criminal Code Act.

"Attempted murder; threats to pour fuel and set Master Onyeme Samuel ablaze amount to attempted murder under Section 320 of the Criminal Code Act."

It was learnt that the victim, Samuel, is currently receiving treatment at the Asaba Specialist Hospital as a result of physical injuries and psychological suffered during the incident.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, SP Bright Edafe, said he hadn't received the report of the incident as of the time of filling this report.

# N4.6bn unapproved spending uncovered in Works ministry – Report

By Dave Oludare Oso

Financial irregularities totalling over N4.64bn in the Federal Ministry of Works (Housing Sector) were discovered after an audit report, raising concerns about systemic non-compliance with financial regulations and procurement laws.

This development was revealed in the Auditor-General for the Federation's (AGF's) Annual Report, which covers activities between 2020 and 2021 and reveals significant lapses in internal controls under Babatunde Fashola, the former Minister of Works and Housing.

The report details several issues, including payments made without proper documentation, extra-budgetary expenditures, mobilization fees exceeding approved thresholds, and contracts awarded without following due process.

According to the report, N1.08bn was paid from the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System account without the requisite payment vouchers, violating Paragraph 601 of the Financial Regulations, 2009.

Also, N546m was transferred to project accounts without adequate documentation or budgetary provision.

The Auditor-General's report attributed these anomalies to weak internal control mechanisms in the Ministry and warned of risks such as fund misappropriation and loss.

Despite queries, the ministry failed to respond to these issues.

The Auditor-General recommended that the Permanent Secretary justify the payments, recover the funds, and remit them to the Treasury.

The audit report also recommended that evidence of compliance should be submitted to the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committees, failing which sanctions under Paragraph 3106 of the Financial Regulations should apply.

The audit unearthed extra-budgetary expenditures amounting to N2.89bn, including N1.88bn spent without legislative appropriation.

Also, over N1bn was paid to contractors for road projects in Katsina State, which were only included in the 2017 Appropriation Act.

These expenditures contravene Section 80(4) of the 1999 Constitution, which mandates legislative approval for all withdrawals from public funds.

The audit report read, "The sum of N1,883,795,670.51 (One billion, eight hundred and eighty-three million, seven hundred and ninety-five thousand, six hundred and seventy naira, fifty-one kobo) was expended by the Ministry without evidence of appropriation.

"The sum of N1,003,039,708.79 (One billion, three million, thirty-nine thousand, seven hundred and eight naira, seventy-nine kobo) was paid to four contractors for the construction of roads in Daura, Katsina State. The project was budgeted for in the 2017 Appropriation Act, and;

"Approval for the extra-budgetary expenditures in (i) and (ii) above, totalling N2,886,835,379.30 (Two billion, eight hundred and eighty-six million, eight hundred and thirty-five thousand, three hundred and seventy-nine naira, thirty kobo) by the National Assembly was not presented for audit.

"The above anomalies could be attributed to weaknesses in the internal control system at the Federal Ministry of Works (Housing Sector)."

The lack of adherence to financial accountability standards raises concerns about the potential diversion of public funds.

No response was provided by the Ministry to clarify these expenditures.

The report called for the recovery of the unauthorised funds and recommended sanctions for those responsible under relevant financial regulations.

The report further revealed contracts worth N493.97m were awarded to



companies not registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

Of this amount, N170.36m was paid to unregistered entities, and a company awarded a contract in 2016 was only registered in 2019, contravening the Public Procurement Act, 2007, and the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

The absence of legal registration increases the risk of contract non-execution, fund mismanagement, and payment to ghost entities.

The audit report noted, "Payment for Contracts totalling N493,967,484.24 (Four hundred and ninety-three million, nine hundred and sixty-seven thousand, four hundred and eighty-four naira, twenty-four kobo) were made to non-existing companies.

"The sum of N5,825,989.28 (Five million, eight hundred and twenty-five thousand, nine hundred and eighty-nine naira, twenty-eight kobo) was paid to a contractor vide payment voucher with Ref. No PROC/PBHD/CAP1345/2020 dated 30th December, 2020, out of the total contract sum of N493,967,484.24 without the company being incorporated

"Three contractors were paid a total of N170,355,961.05 without evidence of incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

"A company that was awarded a contract on the 25th of November, 2016 was incorporated with CAC on the 16th of August, 2019.

# Ondo Poll: Aiyedatiwa, deputy receive Certificates of Return

By Friday Omosola

**G**overnor Lucky Aiyedatiwa and his deputy, Olayide Adelami, have received their Certificates of Return following their victory in the recently concluded Ondo State governorship election.

The certificates were presented by Kunle Ajayi, the Supervising National Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for Ondo, Ogun, and Osun states.

Ajayi made the presentation on behalf of INEC Chairman, Mahmud Yakubu, at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja.

Ajayi commended the people of Ondo State for their peaceful participation in the election and reaffirmed INEC's dedication to delivering credible and transparent electoral processes.

"This celebration marks the culmination of a democratic process that reflects the will and aspiration of the good people of Ondo state. First, I would like to commend and congratulate the good people of Ondo state on the way and manner in which they conducted themselves in the just concluded governorship election. The voter's attitude was generally impressive and there was no major electoral violence incident recorded.

"INEC remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring free, fair, credible, inclusive, and conclusive elections. The recently concluded Ondo state governorship election is a testament to our dedication to upholding these values. I would like to thank every stakeholder that contributed toward the successful conduct of this election from the voters, for coming out", Ajayi said.

Governor Aiyedatiwa pledged to deliver greater developmental strides across the state as a gesture of appreciation for the overwhelming



support he received in the recently concluded election.

He expressed gratitude to the people for their unwavering trust and confidence, reflected in the unprecedented number of votes cast in his favor.

"I cannot but express my overwhelming gratitude to the people of Ondo state who came out en masse on the 16th of November, 2024 to cast their votes for our party, the APC, and by extension, for myself and my deputy in that governorship election.

"The mandate you have just renewed via your huge votes across the 18 local governments of Ondo state, where we won convincingly, has placed a burden on me to serve you better than I have done in the last ten months", Governor Aiyedatiwa said.

The governor commended INEC for organizing one of the most peaceful elections in the country and praised President Bola Tinubu for ensuring a level playing field for all contestants.

"I cannot but also thank the leader of our party, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, for the leadership he has provided for our nation and our party.

"He was very unbiased in his approach.

He did not favour one person over the other, irrespective of political party. He provided a level playing ground for all of us during that contest.

"I will also like to thank the National Chairman of our party, who is also here with me today to identify with this success story, His Excellency, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, for the leadership he has provided for our party since he came on board as national chairman.

"I also like to commend the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for conducting a fair, transparent, credible and conclusive election that returned myself and my deputy as the winners of that election. We commend you for your efforts", the governor added.

The governor, his deputy, and APC leaders from Ondo State, who were part of the entourage, later visited the APC National Secretariat. During the visit, the governor expressed gratitude to the APC National Chairman, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, and other members of the National Working Committee for their unwavering support.



# Gov Okpebholo dissolves AAU Governing Council

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has dissolved the governing councils of all state-owned tertiary institutions.

He also ordered the immediate disengagement of the management staff of Edo Specialist Hospital and Stella Obasanjo Hospital in Benin City.

The governor made these decisions known through a statement issued on Wednesday by his Chief Press

The directives were outlined in a "Government Special Announcement" dated November 20.

"It is hereby announced for the information of the General Public that the Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo has approved the dissolution of the Governing Councils of all State owned Tertiary Institutions

in Edo State with immediate effect.

READ ALSO:

Gov Okpebholo freezes state bank accounts

"Accordingly, all affected members of the Governing Councils of all State owned Tertiary Institutions are to handover all Government properties in their possession to their respective Heads of the Institutions.

"It is hereby announced for the information of the General Public that the Governor of Edo State, His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo has



approved the disengagement of the Management Staff of Edo Specialist Hospital and Stella Obasanjo Hospital, Benin City with immediate effect.

"In view of the above, the Management Staff of the aforementioned hospitals are to handover all Government properties in their possession to the most senior officer in their various Institutions," he announced.

# Gov Okpebholo suspends market unions over price hikes

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo has suspended all market unions and associations in the state, with immediate effect.

The governor in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua suspended the unions over what he described as disturbing activities that have negatively impacted the local economy.

The suspension followed reports of price manipulation and market disruption by union executives.

According to the governor, the leadership of the unions has been obstructing farmers from selling directly to consumers, while also arbitrarily setting prices for staple foods, leading to unaffordable food prices for the average citizen.

Monday Okpebholo Governor Monday Okpebholo [PHOTO CREDIT: Google]

Governor Okpebholo condemned the actions, calling them extortionist and detrimental to the welfare of low-income earners in the state.

"Their actions have led to an astronomical rise in food prices, making life unbearable for the

common Edo man," said Governor Okpebholo.

READ ALSO: Gov Okpebholo dissolves board

The governor stressed that while the government recognises the vital role of market traders in the state's economy, it will not tolerate the exploitation of the public under the guise of market union activities.

To enforce the suspension, the governor has directed security agencies to arrest any union leaders who continue to flout the order.

The governor made it clear that anyone found violating this directive will be held accountable.

Governor Okpebholo said the move was part of broader efforts to restore order and protect the interests of everyday citizens in the face of rising living costs.



# Guber Campaign: Gov Aiyedatiwa visits accident victims

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, on Tuesday, visited victims of a recent road accident receiving treatment at the University of Medical Sciences Teaching Hospital (UNIMEDTH) in Ondo.

The victims, members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), were injured while traveling from Ilaje Local Government Area to Akure for the party's mega campaign rally last week.

The New Daily Prime reported that Governor Aiyedatiwa was declared winner of the governorship election on Sunday defeating his closest opponent, Agboola Ajayi of People Democratic Party (PDP).

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa during his visit to the victims

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa during his

Accompanied by the Commissioner for Health, Banji Ajaka, the governor was guided around the hospital by the Chief Medical Director, Gbala Michael Olumide, to inspect the patients' conditions.

READ ALSO: BREAKING: Aiyedatiwa wins Ondo election

Among the injured were Oroyo Opeloye Josephine, Oroyo Tale, Odolo Omosaye, and Elumalero Temidire, some of whom were already preparing to be discharged.

Speaking on behalf of the victims, Elumalero expressed gratitude for the governor's visit and the care they had received.

He briefed the governor on the accident's



details and thanked him for the support provided to them during their recovery.

In addition to visiting the patients, the governor conducted an impromptu inspection of the hospital's facilities.

He assured that his administration would prioritize the improvement of the hospital's infrastructure and services to better serve the people of the state.

# Osun govt approves N75,000 minimum wage

By Friday Omosola

The Osun State government has unveiled the new minimum wage of N75,000 for its civil servants, following approval by Governor Ademola Adeleke.

The government said the wage increase aims to enhance the welfare of the state's workforce, comes after careful deliberations by the Public Service Negotiation Committee.

In a statement released from Osogbo on Wednesday, the state Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, Oluomo Alimi, confirmed that the new wage received the executive approval of Governor Adeleke after reviewing the committee's comprehensive

Alimi, a member of the negotiation committee, detailed the collaborative efforts between the state government and the labour team, led by Osun NLC Chairman, Comrade Christopher Arapasopo.

He emphasised that the new wage structure reflects the state's commitment to social justice, economic growth, and the overall improvement of living standards for Osun's workers.

"Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration is deeply committed to prioritizing the welfare of civil servants, who tirelessly provide efficient services to the state, despite the limited resources," the statement read.

The government also urged civil servants to continue to innovate and improve public service delivery, ensuring transparency and accountability in the growth of Osun State.

The Chief of Staff to the Governor, Kazeem Akinleye, praised the smooth execution of the wage negotiations, noting that the committee carried out its responsibilities without hindrance from the government.

Meanwhile, Comrade Arapasopo, speaking on behalf of the labour team, expressed satisfaction with the new wage structure.

He assured that the increase was carefully crafted to align with the current economic conditions of Osun State.

READ ALSO: Osun govt clarifies appointment of climate change consultant



Arapasopo further reiterated the workforce's strong support for Governor Adeleke's administration, emphasizing that the new wage would have a positive impact on the financial well-being of all civil servants.

The members of the negotiation committee, which included key figures from both the government and the labour team, were acknowledged for their efforts in reaching a fair and sustainable wage agreement.

# Senate set to approve Tinubu's \$2.2bn loan request

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The Nigerian Senate is expected to approve President Bola Tinubu's \$2.2 billion loan request today, Wednesday, November 20, as part of the government's strategy to address the N9.7 trillion deficit in the 2024 fiscal year budget.

The loan is a crucial component of the external borrowing plan tied to the N28.7 trillion budget proposal for the upcoming year.

President Tinubu formally submitted the loan request to the Senate and House of Representatives in separate letters read during the plenary sessions on Tuesday, November 19.

The funds will contribute to financing a portion of the budget deficit, which the government has outlined as a priority for the fiscal year 2024.

Senate President Godswill Akpabio promptly tasked the Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debts to review the loan request and submit a report within 24 hours.

Akpabio emphasised the need for swift approval, stating, "The Presidential request for \$2.2 billion, equivalent to N1.77 trillion, is already enshrined in the external borrowing plan for the 2024 fiscal year."

The Senate is expected to consider the request with urgency, paving the way

for approval of the much-needed loan.

The loan is part of a broader strategy to address Nigeria's growing fiscal deficit, as the government aims to balance its budget and stimulate economic growth in the face of rising expenditures.

In addition to the loan request, President Tinubu also submitted the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Fiscal Strategy Paper (FSP) for the period 2025–2027.

The MTEF/FSP documents, which include key parameters for the country's future economic planning, will be examined by the Senate Committee on Finance, National Planning, and Economic Affairs. A report on these documents is expected within one week.

The proposed framework includes a \$75 oil price benchmark per barrel, a daily oil production target of 2.06 million barrels, and an exchange rate of N1,400 to \$1.

The government is also targeting a GDP growth rate of 6.4 percent, which forms the foundation for the proposed N47.9 trillion budget for 2025.

In related news, President Tinubu forwarded the Social Investment Programme Amendment Bill to the National Assembly. The bill aims to strengthen the framework for social

welfare programs in Nigeria, promoting greater transparency and efficiency in the delivery of social protection to vulnerable citizens.

The proposed amendment seeks to establish the National Investment Register as the primary tool for targeting beneficiaries of these welfare programs.

"The amendment will make our social and welfare programs more transparent, efficient, and impactful in addressing the needs of vulnerable Nigerians," President Tinubu said in his submission.

If approved, the bill is expected to enhance the effectiveness of the country's social welfare initiatives, helping to alleviate poverty and reduce inequality across the nation.

The Senate has referred the bill to the relevant committees for further review, with deliberations expected in subsequent sessions.

This series of legislative moves highlights President Tinubu's administration's focus on fiscal responsibility, social welfare reform, and economic growth as it moves to address the country's financial challenges in the coming years.

# The concept of body autonomy as a fundamental human right

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi

**B**ody autonomy is a fundamental human right that has not yet found its grounding. This concept in its simple terms means that we have a right to do whatever we like with our bodies. As extreme this concept might sound, it has its pros and cons.

Body autonomy is an important determinant in deciding what reproductive rights are. Reports have it that the concept of reproductive rights have been deteriorating over the years because of the factors of religion, culture and even education. The opposite of body autonomy is reproductive coercion.

While this concept might sound extreme, its pros are really essential to women for their total freedom. Some women are coerced into reproductive implications they want no part of.

Body autonomy as a fundamental human right

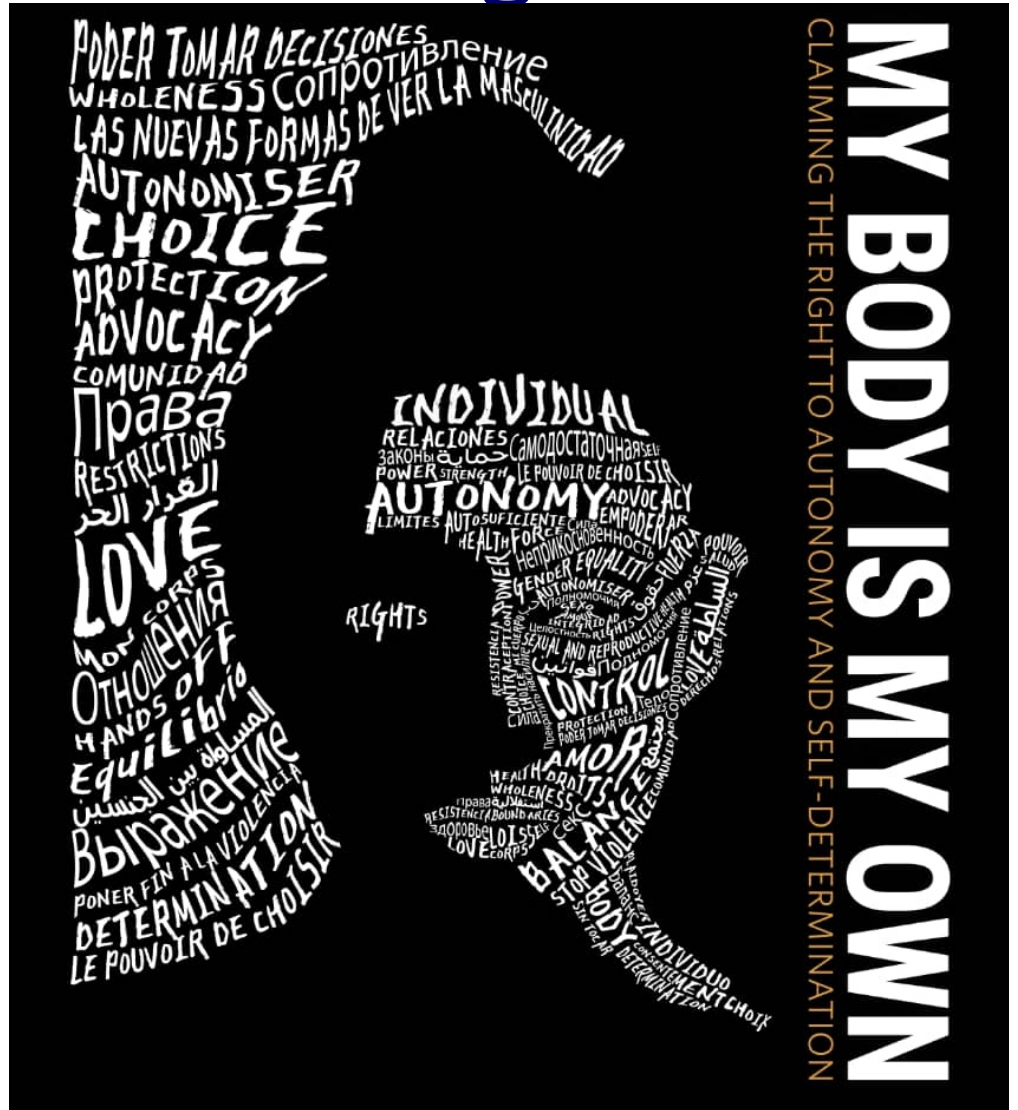
Bodily autonomy is the fundamental right to govern one's own body, life, and future, free from coercion, violence, and external control. This inherent right encompasses the freedom to make choices regarding one's physical and reproductive well-being.

The concept of bodily autonomy has deep roots in human rights history. Pioneering suffragist Susan B. Anthony eloquently articulated this principle, asserting "the sacred right of a woman to her own person."

This foundational right is essential for individuals, particularly women, to exercise self-determination and agency over their lives.

Bodily autonomy allows individuals to decide whether to engage in sexual activity, choose family planning methods, and access healthcare services and medical care.

Recognizing and protecting this right is crucial for promoting human dignity, equality, and overall well-being.



Why does body autonomy mostly concern women?

The concept of body autonomy, predominantly advocated for by women, is crucial for ensuring women's control over their reproductive choices. Women bear the physical and emotional burden of pregnancy, making body autonomy essential for deciding whether to carry a pregnancy to term.

Restrictive reproductive rights, including abortion bans, infringe upon this autonomy, exposing women to forced pregnancies, reproductive coercion, and violence.

For survivors of rape, restrictive rights deny them the agency to eliminate reminders of their trauma. Moreover, societal pressures against birth control perpetuate women's dependence on men, limiting financial independence

and trapping them in potentially abusive relationships.

Body autonomy is also closely tied to sexual agency, allowing individuals to choose their intimate partners and consent to sexual activity. This fundamental right makes rape and marital rape recognizable offences.

Access to quality healthcare is another vital aspect of body autonomy. Women deserve competent care during childbirth, especially in developing countries where maternal mortality rates remain alarmingly high.

Ultimately, body autonomy is fundamental to women's empowerment, well-being, and equality. Denying women control over their bodies perpetuates inequality, violence, and preventable maternal mortality.

# Kenya, US forge strong anti-drug partnership

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

As the fight against illegal drug usage continues, the authority of Kenya and its United State (US) partners has united to fight against narcotic abuse among Kenyans.

Kenya's Delegation on Cooperation and Partnership in combating drug abuse, led by Mr. Mohamed Amin, Director of Criminal Investigations, met with Mr. George Papadopoulos, Principal Deputy Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), to discuss strategies for tackling narcotics.

The meeting was held on Wednesday. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to addressing the challenges of drug sale, distribution, and consumption.

The U.S. pledged to support Kenya by

providing training, resources, and strategic guidance to enhance its fight against drug trafficking.

Kenya thanked the U.S. for its ongoing partnership and highlighted the importance of joint initiatives.

These efforts strengthen law enforcement, improve intelligence-sharing, and promote grassroots awareness campaigns to curb drug abuse.

The collaboration also boosts forensic capabilities, equips local officers with specialized training, and launches



youth-focused outreach programs targeting vulnerable communities.

This meeting solidified the partnership between Kenya and the U.S. as both nations reinforced their shared vision of creating a safer, drug-free society through collective action and community engagement.

# FG sacks FUHSO Pro-Chancellor over misconduct

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

The Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, has issued a dismissal letter to Ohieku Salami, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Federal University of Health Sciences (FUHSO), Otukpo, Benue State over misconduct.

This decision came after Salami allegedly took illegal actions, "including the suspension of the Vice-Chancellor without following the prescribed procedures."

The announcement of the sacked Pro-Chancellor was dated on Wednesday. According to Punch, the Director of Press at the Federal Ministry of Education, Folashade Boriowo, noted that despite calls for the unlawful suspension to be revoked, Salami refused to comply.

Moreover, Salami resorted to abusive and threatening behavior toward the

ministry's directors, including the Permanent Secretary.

The Federal Government underscored that the responsibility of the university governing council is to ensure the university operates smoothly in accordance with the principles of law, due process, and accountability.

Alausa has directed the appointment of a new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council for FUHSO, urging them to restore proper governance.

President Bola Tinubu has called for progressive governance among universities, as his administration focuses on making improvements.

In a separate incident, President Tinubu has called for the dissolution of the Governing Council of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, in Anambra State, and the removal of the new Vice-



Chancellor, Prof. Bernard Odoh, along with the Registrar, Mrs. Rosemary Nwokike.

The dissolution and removals came after a controversy escalated, with the FG being asked to address the situation following the alleged illegal appointment and selection process of the council.

# VDM meets with Don Jazzy after N100m donation

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



**S**ocial media commentator Martins Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan (VDM), has recently had a much-anticipated meeting with the acclaimed Mavin Records founder, Don Jazzy.

This encounter comes on the heels of Don Jazzy's profound gesture, which involved a staggering donation of N100 million to VDM's non-profit organization (NGO).

The relationship between VDM and Don Jazzy took a significant step forward after the social media critic publicly acknowledged the renowned music mogul as the anonymous benefactor behind the substantial financial contribution. VDM's organization, which focuses on philanthropic initiatives, aims to support various community-driven projects, and

the donation marks a pivotal moment in its mission.

In an Instagram post that quickly garnered widespread attention, VDM shared a heartfelt video detailing his experience during the meeting.

The footage captures a candid moment of genuine surprise and overwhelming gratitude, as VDM expressed his heartfelt prayers and appreciation for Don Jazzy's unwavering support.

His emotional response resonates with followers and admirers alike, showcasing the human side of both figures involved.

The video has since gone viral, igniting discussions across various social media platforms.

Fans of both VDM and Don Jazzy have applauded the collaboration, highlighting the significant impact of such contributions on society.

This meeting not only strengthens the

bond between the social media influencer and the music executive but also serves as a shining example of how public figures can positively influence their communities.

As VDM's NGO continues to grow, the partnership with Don Jazzy promises to pave the way for further initiatives aimed at uplifting those in need.

With their combined efforts, there's no telling how far this collaboration can go in making a meaningful difference.

# Kendrick Lamar Crowned Apple Music's rap artist of the year

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

In an exciting turn of events, Kendrick Lamar has officially been named Apple Music's Rap Artist of the Year, following his impressive nominations for the 2025 Grammy Awards.

With nods in prestigious categories including Song of the Year, Record of the Year, Rap Record of the Year, and Rap Performance of the Year, Lamar's recognition highlights his significant impact on the music industry.

Hailing from Compton, California, Kendrick Lamar has carved a niche for himself as one of the most influential and celebrated rappers in the world.

His artistry is not only defined by numerous Grammy victories but also by his ability to produce multi-million-selling albums that resonate deeply with both fans and critics alike.

Lamar's lyrical brilliance and innovative sound have made him a standout figure in contemporary hip-hop.

This accolade from Apple Music comes on the heels of Lamar's well-publicized rivalry with fellow artist Drake, an ongoing saga that has captivated fans and defined a significant chapter in the current music landscape.

Their competitive exchanges have led to powerful releases from both artists, with Kendrick's track "Not Like Us" emerging as a hallmark moment.

The song soared to the top of the Billboard Hot100, establishing itself as a cultural touchstone while simultaneously breaking numerous streaming records.

Lamar's critical acclaim has only intensified as we move into 2024. Standing alongside Drake as a frontrunner in the industry, Kendrick secured his place against a competitive field of nominees that included notable names like Future, Kanye West, TY Dolla \$ign, and Tyler, The Creator.

Each contender brought their unique strengths to the table, making



Lamar's victory an even more remarkable achievement.

While many celebrate his win, some fans have voiced opinions regarding Future, who has also made headlines with three consecutive Billboard200 chart-topping albums.

Critics argue that Future, with his prolific output and consistent success, might have deserved the title of Rap Artist of the Year instead of Kendrick, who, according to them, capitalized on the drama of a high-profile rap feud.

Despite the differing opinions, Lamar's consistent excellence and ability to push boundaries within his genre cannot be overlooked.

His body of work reflects not only his personal experiences and artistic vision but also the broader cultural conversations happening in society today.

The depth of his lyrics and the production quality of his music have set a new standard in rap, influencing a generation of artists who strive to follow in his footsteps.

As we look ahead to the 2025 Grammy

Awards, all eyes will be on Kendrick Lamar to see if he can add to his already impressive collection of accolades.

With the momentum he has built, the anticipation for his performance and potential wins is palpable.

The significance of being named Apple Music's Rap Artist of the Year cannot be understated, as it underscores the artist's influential role in shaping modern hip-hop.

Kendrick Lamar continues to prove his mettle, solidifying his legacy as a titan of the industry. With fans eagerly awaiting his next move, one thing is clear Kendrick Lamar remains a force to be reckoned with in the world of music.

As the landscape of hip-hop evolves, Lamar's artistry promises to lead the charge, inspiring countless others along the way.

## I wasn't feeling him- Tiwa Savage explains return of Range Rover gift

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music sensation, Tiwa Savage, recently shared an intriguing revelation about a lavish gift she once received a Range Rover, which she described as the most expensive present she has ever been offered.

However, what is particularly notable about this luxury vehicle is that she ultimately decided to return it.

In an engaging interview with The Beat 99.9 FM, based in Lagos, Tiwa opened up about the circumstances surrounding this extraordinary gift.

She recounted that a well-meaning man had presented her with the Range Rover for her birthday, but the gesture did not resonate with her emotionally. "I once got a Range Rover for my birthday," she explained. "But I returned it because I wasn't feeling the guy."

Her candid admission underscores the complexities of relationships in the spotlight, further illustrating that material gifts do not necessarily equate to emotional connections.

Tiwa went on to elaborate on her rationale for returning the car. Concerned that accepting such an extravagant gift from someone she did not reciprocate feelings for might complicate matters, she opted for a practical approach. "I also didn't want to keep it because he might decide to

retrieve the car if I kept snubbing his calls," she stated, emphasizing her desire to maintain control over her situation and avoid any potential awkwardness arising from the gift.

This revelation not only sheds light on Tiwa Savage's personal experiences but also reflects broader themes within the world of celebrity culture and the sometimes transactional nature of relationships.

In an industry where gestures often come with implicit expectations, Savage's story resonates with fans who appreciate her autonomy and decision-making.

Moreover, during the same interview, Tiwa shared another fascinating tidbit about her illustrious contact list, revealing that the most famous person she knows is none other than globally renowned rapper Nicki Minaj.

Tiwa's connection with Nicki highlights the relationships she has fostered throughout her successful career as an artist and signals her influential presence within the international music scene.

As one of Nigeria's leading artists, Tiwa Savage has experienced her fair share of highs and lows, deftly navigating the challenges of fame while staying true to her values.

The singer's willingness to speak openly about her experiences with gifts and relationships demonstrates her authenticity as a public figure.

In addition to her anecdotes, Tiwa Savage continues to resonate with fans through her



music, advocating for empowerment and self-respect in her lyrics.

Her ability to balance her career with personal integrity positions her as a role model for many aspiring artists, especially young women looking to make their mark in the industry.

However, Tiwa Savage's revelation about returning the Range Rover serves as a compelling reminder that in a world often driven by materialism, genuine connections and self-awareness remain of paramount importance.

Her openness about this experience not only highlights her values but also invites fans to reflect on their relationships, reminding us that love and appreciation cannot be measured by material possessions alone.

## Foluke Daramola shares an update on Tope Osoba's health

Renowned actress Foluke Daramola-Salako has shared encouraging news regarding her colleague, Tope Osoba, who is currently on the road to recovery following a recent breast cancer surgery.

Sharing a poignant video on social media, Tope expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the public for their overwhelming support and financial assistance throughout her health ordeal.

The emotional message resonated deeply with her fans and well-wishers

alike. "Hello, everybody. Thank you for the love. I appreciate you all. I am alive, and I am stronger than ever," Tope stated, her voice filled with optimism and resilience.

Her words emphasize her fighting spirit and determination to regain her strength after facing such a significant challenge.

In her post, Foluke Daramola-Salako took a moment to thank everyone who rallied around Tope during this trying time.

She wrote, "Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you to everyone. @osobatemitope appreciates you all.



She's recuperating just fine. God bless you all. Ani shey aisan o. Amin."

Foluke's heartfelt message highlights the strong bond of camaraderie and support within the acting community, as well as the importance of collective strength in the face of adversity.



# NBA YoungBoy pleads guilty in major fraud case

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

US rapper NBA YoungBoy, whose real name is Kentrell Gaulden, has entered a guilty plea in a case involving serious charges of drug fraud.

The proceedings unfolded during a courtroom appearance on Monday, drawing considerable attention from fans and legal observers alike.

During an estimated hour-long hearing in Logan, Utah, YoungBoy confessed to two counts of third-degree felony identity fraud, two counts of third-degree felony forgery, and six counts of misdemeanor unlawful pharmacy conduct.

Initially, the Grammy-nominated artist found himself entangled in a web of 46 state charges, a staggering figure showcasing the breadth of the allegations against him.

The plea arrangement that YoungBoy has secured marks a substantial reduction in the severity of the charges he faced.

While the rapper is currently serving a 27-month sentence on unrelated federal charges, he opted for a no-contest plea regarding an additional 36 counts, a strategic move that ultimately downgraded his felony charges to Class A misdemeanours.

This turn of events, while still serious, illustrates the complexities and negotiations typically involved in high-stakes criminal cases.

Following YoungBoy's admission of guilt, Judge Spencer Walsh, who presided over the case, made a significant ruling.

Instead of imposing a lengthy prison sentence, the judge



suspended the incarceration period, allowing the rapper to potentially avoid time behind bars for these specific charges.

Instead, a hefty fine of \$25,000 was levied as part of the sentence, reflecting both the severity of the offences and the court's desire to deter future unlawful activities.

During the hearing, Judge Walsh expressed cautious optimism about YoungBoy's future, stating, "I'm sure that in your future, once you are done with your federal prison time, you can be successful on federal probation and have a bright future where you can reach full potential in every aspect of your life."

This remark was viewed as both a warning and a hopeful note, emphasizing the importance of rehabilitation and personal growth.

Despite this respite, NBA YoungBoy faces additional legal challenges. He is currently confronted with an unresolved federal gun case in Louisiana, which could further complicate his legal narrative in the coming months.

This ongoing situation adds another layer of uncertainty to his future, potentially impacting his career and

personal life.

NBA YoungBoy has amassed a massive following and is recognized for his prolific output in the music industry.

However, his legal troubles have overshadowed his artistic achievements in recent times. The rapper's journey has been tumultuous, marked by both commercial success and encounters with the law.

As he navigates this complex landscape, fans continue to watch closely, hopeful for his eventual redemption.

Furthermore, NBA YoungBoy's plea deal represents a critical juncture in his legal saga. With the possibility of avoiding significant prison time, he may have an opportunity to rehabilitate and refocus on his music career.

However, the challenges ahead, including a pending federal gun case, serve as a reminder of the precarious nature of fame and its accompanying pressures.

As he embarks on this new chapter, the rapper will undoubtedly be scrutinized, not just for his music but for the choices he makes in the months to come.

# Ukraine criticizes closure of Western embassies

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Ukraine has urged Western embassies, which closed today over fears of Russian shelling, not to stoke tensions, stressing that since Russia's invasion began, the threat of Russian strikes it is "everyday" in the country, France Press reported, BTA reported.

At least five Western embassies – of the US, Spain, Italy, Hungary and Greece announced they were temporarily closing today due to the threat of an air strike amid increasingly harsh rhetoric from Russia.

The air raid warning system sounded in Kiev several times last night and today during the day. Russian drones were shot down and there were no reports of casualties, AFP notes.

The closure of diplomatic missions today followed a US embassy warning of a "possible significant air attack" against Ukraine.

"The threat of strikes [...], unfortunately, has been a daily reality for Ukrainians for more than a thousand days," said a spokesman for the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry.

The ministry urged the West not to fuel the "tensions" maintained by Moscow for several days. Russia once again resorted to its nuclear rhetoric after Kiev received a "green light" to use American long-range missiles to strike deep into Russian territory.

Ukrainian military intelligence said Russia was carrying out a "massive psychological and information attack" against Ukraine through false messages circulating on social networks warning of impending bombings.

The latest massive strikes against Ukraine four days ago again targeted the country's energy system, causing blackouts. Since then, across Ukraine, several



residential buildings have also been hit, causing many deaths.

Ukraine's first long-range US missile attack was a strike on a military facility in Russia's Bryansk region, using US ATAKMS missiles with a range of 300 kilometers, Moscow and Kiev confirmed.

Also, the administration of American President Joe Biden, which in January will pass the baton to that of Donald Trump, announced today that it intends to supply Ukraine with anti-personnel mines – a weapon that has been heavily criticized for the number of civilian casualties it causes, including long after the conflict has ended. However, this weapon could help slow the Russian troop advance, which is accelerating.

The United States "is fully committed to prolonging the war in Ukraine and is doing everything possible to that end," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

According to a US official, the mines supplied to Ukraine will be "unsustainable", i.e. equipped with a self-destruct or self-disabling device. They aim to bolster Ukraine's defenses at a time when its troops are on the retreat.

In response to this US support for Kiev, Russia again issued warnings about using nuclear weapons, while accusing the West of "seeking escalation".

According to the new Russian doctrine on the use of nuclear weapons, officially announced yesterday, Russia can now use them in the event of a "massive" attack by a non-nuclear state but backed by a nuclear power.

This change "de facto precludes the possibility of defeating the Russian armed forces on the battlefield," Russian foreign intelligence chief Sergei Naryshkin said today, hinting that Russia would resort to a nuclear bomb rather than risk defeat in a conventional war.

Washington, Paris, London and the European Union condemned the "irresponsible" attitude of Moscow. Ukraine called on its allies "not to give in to fear".

China, a key partner of Moscow, called on "all countries" to "calm down" and "contain".

The Russian army continues to advance on land, saying today that it has captured a new town on the eastern front, near Kurakhovo.

Russia itself has been accused by Kiev and the West of escalating the conflict after receiving the support of at least 10,000 North Korean troops. In addition, North Korea is accused of supplying large quantities of shells and missiles to Moscow.

# Migrant who raped, impregnated 15yo virgin jailed 10 years in UK

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**A** 41-year-old migrant, Anicet Mayela, who sexually defiled a 15-year-old girl in a drunken attack and impregnated her has been sentenced to ten years and ten months imprisonment.

Mayela had been granted asylum in the UK after repeated attempts to deport him reportedly failed.

A court on Tuesday heard how he forced the girl to remove her clothes before launching the assault.

Judge Maria Lamb was told an investigation began when a 'pregnancy termination note' was discovered, and the victim eventually revealed what had happened to her.

Prosecutor Edward Lucas said that Mayela initially 'made admissions' as to what he had done and went on to plead guilty to the offence. But the barrister said 'matters took a different course thereafter when the defendant started to deny that he was guilty'.

The court heard an application to vacate his guilty plea was rejected by a judge in September, and Mayela 'continues to deny his guilt'.

Mr Lucas said aggravating features of the case included the victim's age and the fact that she became pregnant as a result of the attack.

In a brief extract from a victim impact statement read out by the prosecutor, the girl said: 'I know you're getting sentenced today... I'm so ready for it.'

Oxford Crown Court heard a report into the Congolese national – who had no previous convictions – judged that he posed a risk of serious harm to pubescent girls.

Lucas told Judge Lamb: 'I submit the defendant is dangerous, for sentencing purposes'.

Peter Du Feu, defending, said Mayela had 'spiralled into alcohol abuse and depression' following the death of his wife from cancer. He described the December 2023 rape as a 'one-off'.

Sentencing Mayela for what she said was a 'terrible offence committed in guilt', Judge Lamb told him: 'It was her (the victim's) first sexual

experience and the misery you caused that child, who became pregnant as a result, must have been extreme.

'You continued to deny your offence. Your sentence will be no longer for that, but you don't have the benefit of remorse, and she doesn't have the support and assistance of knowing that you acknowledge your guilt.'

Judge Lamb, commenting on the victim impact statement, added: 'She is a remarkable young woman who, despite everything that has happened to her and everything that you did to her, has found it possible to forgive you.'

The judge told him the victim 'does not have the succour of knowing that you acknowledge your guilt'.

Mayela sobbed in the dock as the sentence was handed down.

He admitted to a single count of rape in April and will serve two-thirds of his sentence before being released on licence.

He will be on the sex offenders' register for life and was also ordered to comply with requirements of the Sexual Offences Act for life. Mayela, of Oxford, was joined in the dock today by a French interpreter. He will also be barred from working with children.

At the hearing in September, Judge Nigel Daly said Mayela had made an 'unequivocal plea of guilty' at the previous hearing which he could 'see no reason to vacate'.

After his initial court appearance earlier this year, The Sun reported several unsuccessful attempts had previously been made to remove him from the UK before he was given permission to stay in the country.

It is understood the Home Office initially refused Mayela's asylum claim in 2004 but he successfully challenged the decision in the courts and was eventually granted leave to remain on appeal in



Thames Valley Police/PA Wire

2010.

According to an article published by the Institute of Race Relations (IRR), which has described itself as an 'anti-racist think tank', he was served three removal notices and left with a broken hand during one deportation attempt.

The IRR report, from 2005, said Mayela paid an agent to help him flee his home country in 2004 because his life was in danger. He settled in Plymouth, South Devon, where his initial asylum claim was considered and refused. An appeal was dismissed by the courts later that year.

Mayela was then held at Campsfield House Detention Centre in Kidlington, Oxfordshire. But a planned deportation flight back to the Congo capital Brazzaville in May 2005 was grounded after Air France cabin crew refused to carry him.

A month later, he won leave to remain after lawyers said that deportation would be against his human rights while police were investigating an alleged assault on him by immigration handlers

# Trump appoints former wrestler, Linda McMahon as education secretary

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

US President-elect, Donald Trump has picked World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) co-founder and his transition co-chair, Linda McMahon as his nominee for education secretary.

McMahon, a retired professional wrestler, led the Small Business Administration during Trump's first presidency and donated millions of dollars to his presidential campaign.

Announcing his pick on Truth Social, Trump said McMahon would "use her decades of leadership experience, and deep understanding of both Education and Business, to empower the next generation of American Students and Workers."

"For the past four years, as the Chair of the Board at the America First Policy Institute, Linda has been a fierce advocate for Parents' Rights," Trump said in his statement.

He said McMahon would "spearhead" the effort to "send Education back to the States", in reference to his pledge to close the department.

Earlier, Trump criticized the Department of Education and has promised to close it down, a job McMahon could be tasked with.

Her nomination came shortly after Trump chose Mehmet Oz, a celebrity doctor and former television host, to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The two selections on Tuesday, along with Trump's choice of Howard Lutnick for commerce secretary, follow a pattern of the president-elect nominating loyal supporters to top roles in his cabinet.

McMahon has a long history with the WWE and Trump, who used to make occasional appearances at wrestling matches. She co-founded the wrestling league with her husband in 1980, resigning as CEO in 2009 to undertake a failed bid to run for the Senate.



She has little background in education but did serve on Connecticut State's Board of Education from 2009 until 2010.

She is the board chair of the pro-Trump think tank the America First Policy Institute, meaning her confirmation in the Republican-majority Senate is likely.

Share

## 4 Nigerian students jailed in UK for street brawl

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Four Nigerian students have been jailed in the United Kingdom (UK) over a violent street brawl in Leicester City centre.

Destiny Ojo, Joshua Davies-Ero, Ridwanulahi Raheem, and Habib Lawal, all aged 21, used knives, a baseball bat, and a crutch as weapons during the fight that took place at about 03:00 GMT on November 4, 2021.

The defendants were found guilty of various offences at the Leicester Crown court on Thursday after a six-week trial.

"A man, who was 18 at the time, suffered stab wound injuries in the incident requiring hospital treatment," the Leicestershire police said in a statement on Monday.

"After the suspects left the scene, police enquiries carried out over the following

few months included CCTV analysis, phone work, and public appeals which led to identifications being made."

The Leicestershire police said CCTV footage showed that the men, all from London, were spotted with several weapons.

"Davies-Ero was seen carrying a crutch and Ojo a baseball bat, while Lawal was seen with what was believed to be a large knife. Raheem carried a large knife," the police said.

The court sentenced Ojo to seven years in prison for violent disorder, attempted grievous bodily harm, and committing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Lawal was jailed for five years for



violent disorder, attempted grievous bodily harm, and committing grievous bodily harm with intent.

The court also sentenced Raheem to a three-year prison sentence for violent disorder and possession of a bladed article.

The fifth person, who was identified as Asamoah, who in the past pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article, is due to be sentenced on Friday.

# Russia arrests German citizen on sabotage allegations

By Agency Reporter

The Russian domestic intelligence service, the FSB, has reportedly arrested a German citizen in Kaliningrad on Wednesday for allegedly planning acts of sabotage.

Upon entering the Russian Baltic Sea exclave from Poland, 50 grams of liquid explosives were allegedly seized in his car, which he had driven from his home in Hamburg.

According to the Russian news agency, the FSB alleged that the man had received orders from a Ukrainian man who also lives in Hamburg to carry out some sort of attack. Russian authorities also suspect the German man of having carried out an explosives attack on a gas distribution station in the Kaliningrad region in March. According to Russian media reports, the FSB alleges that the man again intended to

damage Russian energy facilities when he re-entered Russia.

He has been remanded in custody on charges of terrorism and smuggling explosives, and Russian authorities are searching for suspected accomplices in the alleged plot.

However, there was no independent confirmation of these accusations by the Russian intelligence service.

Russian news agencies reported that the man in question is a German national who was born in 1967 in Hamburg.

The German Foreign Office in Berlin said it is keeping itself informed of the case but did not have immediate comment on the allegations and the man's arrest.

Relations between Russia and NATO countries, including Germany, have been



at their worst point in decades since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

During the conflict, Russian authorities have repeatedly arrested foreign citizens on hotly disputed charges, including in several incidents which Western governments have denounced as false or trumped-up cases.

Russia has been accused of trying to use foreign citizens as bargaining chips for possible prisoner exchanges.

# Brazil hands over G20 leadership to South Africa

By Dave Oludare Oso

The leadership of the G20 has changed with South Africa taking over from Brazil during a handover ceremony at the Rio de Janeiro summit in Brazil.

President Luiz Lula da Silva of Brazilian handed over the reins of leadership to South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, on Tuesday.

South Africa is the only African country in the G20 and will be the host of the 2025 summit.

Ramaphosa told his counterparts at the summit, "We will use this moment to bring the development priorities of the African continent and the Global South more firmly onto the agenda of the G20."

The South African president said his administration would prioritize inclusive economic growth, industrialisation, employment, and inequality.

Ramaphosa added, "The second priority is food security. The third priority is

artificial intelligence and innovation for sustainable development.

"At South Africa, we undertake to advance the work of the G20 towards achieving greater global economic growth and sustainable development. We will work to ensure that no one is left behind."

Ramaphosa said he is looking forward to welcoming global leaders to South Africa next year.

## WHO IS IN THE G20?

The G20, originally a collection of 20 of the world's largest economies, was conceived as a bloc that would bring the most important industrialized and developing economies together to discuss international economic and financial stability.

Since 2008, the G20's annual summit has evolved into a major forum for discussing economics as well as other pressing global issues.



Bilateral meetings on the summit's sidelines have occasionally led to major international agreements.

The forum comprises 19 countries, the European Union (EU) and, as of 2023, the African Union (AU).

Member countries include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom (UK), and the United States.

Spain is invited as a permanent guest.

# Osimhen hails Rashidi Yekini as Nigeria's G.O.A.T.

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

Galatasaray striker Victor Osimhen has hailed the late Rashidi Yekini as Nigeria's greatest striker, despite being on the verge of breaking the legendary forward's long-standing goalscoring record for the Super Eagles.

Osimhen recently equaled Segun Odegbami as Nigeria's joint second-highest goalscorer with 23 goals, following his strike in the 1-1 draw against Benin Republic last Thursday.

However, the 25-year-old still trails Yekini's impressive tally of 37 goals from 62 appearances for Nigeria, a record that has stood for nearly three decades.

In a video posted on social media, Osimhen made it clear that surpassing Yekini's record would not diminish the former Olympiakos star's legacy.

"No, no. I really don't care about this. I just want to do my job and try to win games, score goals, and provide a lot of assists for my team," Osimhen said.

"Then if I equal it, I equal it, if I surpass it, I surpass it, but that doesn't take away the fact that Rashidi Yekini is the greatest striker the Super Eagles have ever had. This record stood for a very, very long time and it still stands, so I think we should give him his flowers and also celebrate him."

Yekini, who etched his name in Nigerian football history by scoring the country's first-ever World Cup goal in 1994, dominated African football in his prime. He won the Africa Cup of Nations top scorer award in consecutive tournaments in 1992 and 1994, establishing himself as one of the continent's all-time greats. His 37-goal tally has remained untouched for nearly 30 years, underscoring the magnitude of his achievement.

Osimhen, who has become one of Africa's most feared strikers, has scored the majority of his 23 international goals in AFCON qualification matches, highlighting



his key role in Nigeria's national team success.

Despite his rising profile, Osimhen's attempt to close the gap on Yekini's record suffered a setback when he failed to find the net in Nigeria's surprise 2-1 defeat to Rwanda in Uyo on Monday, after coming on as a 77th-minute substitute.

## Why I joined Manchester United – Amorim

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

New Manchester United boss, Ruben Amorim, has revealed his reason for joining the top Premier League club.

Amorim, who left his Portuguese top-flight side, Sporting CP, to move to Old Trafford, claimed he felt a connection with the Red Devils, which pushed him to join the club.

The 39-year-old former Portugal international added that Manchester United's history also drove him, and he wanted to ensure they were back to their best.

He told United's official website that it was important for him to connect with the people at the club.

"First of all, I think I felt a connection with the club. And when I say with the club, everybody knows Man United," the Portuguese said.

"But I feel the connection with the people in the club and that is very important for me because I want to work with people that I like and I feel a connection.

"The second point is the history of this club. All the people are hungry for

success and I feel that this is the place that I want to be also because of that, because you can be part of something special, not just one more. And that is something that I really like.

"But when you see the games here, when you see the games, the interaction with the managers, with the players, even in difficult moments, I think it is a special club," he added.

