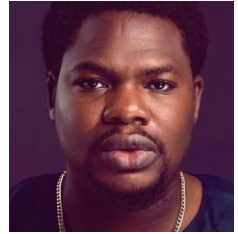


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Tinubu orders release of minors arraigned for #EndBadGovernance protest

By Friday Omosola

In response to widespread outrage over the arrest and arraignment of minors involved in the #EndBadGovernance protests in August, President Bola Tinubu has directed the immediate release of all detained minors.

Earlier, The New Daily reported that a minor, part of the group of 76 individuals arraigned by the Nigerian Police, collapsed in front of the Federal High Court in Abuja.

This incident sparked significant controversy and drew criticism from opposition parties and concerned citizens regarding the Mr Tinubu administration's handling of the situation.

However, on Monday, the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris announced that the President issued the release of the minors.

The Minister said this while briefing the State House correspondents after the sworn-in of the new seven Ministers.

He confirmed that the President's directive for the minors' release would occur regardless of ongoing legal proceedings.

Furthermore, President Tinubu instructed the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction to prioritize the welfare of the minors and facilitate their reunion with their parents or guardians across the country.

In addition, Mr Tinubu mandated the establishment of a committee led by the humanitarian affairs ministry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the minors' arrest,



detention, treatment, and eventual release.

The minors, some of whom appeared gaunt and malnourished, faced accusations of treason among other charges and were arrested in various states, including Kaduna, Abuja, Gombe, Jos, Katsina, and Kano.

The presiding judge, Obiora Ekwuatu, granted bail of N10 million to the 72 minors who were arraigned.

The public reacted with outrage when it was revealed that these minors had been detained for over eight weeks following the nationwide protests against hunger and the rising cost of living.

Prominent Nigerians, including former

presidential candidates, civil society organizations, human rights activists, and regional socio-political groups expressed their anger over the government's actions.

In the face of escalating public condemnation, Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) Lateef Fagbemi issued a statement indicating that his office would review the matter to make an informed decision.

He promptly directed the police to transfer the case file to his office and the Director of Public Prosecution of the Federation (DPPF).



Tinubu swears in 7 new ministers, urges them to embrace responsibilities without hesitation

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu swore in seven newly confirmed ministers on Monday at an event held in the Council Chambers of the State House, Abuja.

The new cabinet members took the oath of office in two batches: four ministers in the first batch and three in the second, following the reading of their citations by Abiodun Oladunjoye, the State House Director of Information.

The sworn-in ministers included Bianca Odinaka Odumegwu-Ojukwu as the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi as the Minister of Labour and Employment, and Nentawe Yilwatda as the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Reduction.

Others were Suwaiba Said Ahmad as

the Minister of State for Education; Yusuf Abdullahi Ata as the Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development; Idi Mukhtar Maiha as the Minister of Livestock Development; and Jumoke Oduwole as the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment.

Development; and Jumoke Oduwole as the Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment.

In his address to the ministers, Tinubu urged them to embrace their responsibilities without hesitation.

“Nigeria’s head is above the waters. This ship will not sink. We will not run away from our responsibilities.

“I am proud to lead you, and together, we will achieve success and prosperity. We have taken the bull by the horns. We have stopped the scavengers and profiteers.”

The swearing-in came just days after their

appointments by Tinubu and subsequent confirmation by the Senate.

The New Daily Prime reported in October that Tinubu dismissed five ministers and nominated the newly sworn-in ministers.

The dismissed ministers included Uju Kennedy-Ohanenye (Women Affairs); Lola Ade-John (Tourism); Tahir Mamman (Education); Abdullahi Gwarzo (State, Housing, and Urban Development); and Jamila Ibrahim (Youth Development).

These dismissals followed rising calls for a cabinet reshuffle as Nigeria’s economic downturn continued to impact the standard of living across the country.

Idris added that the federal government was still acquiring platforms and ensuring the welfare of security personnel to enhance the nation’s security architecture.

Wale Edun receives new Minister of State for Finance

By Friday Omosola

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, welcomed Doris Nkiruka Uzoka-Anite, the Minister of State for Finance, to the Finance headquarters in Abuja.

Mr Edun hosted her in a gathering attended by senior management, marking a significant step in advancing economic reforms under President Bola Tinubu's administration.

The ministry revealed this event in a statement posted on its official X (formerly Twitter) page on Monday.

Expressing enthusiasm for Uzoka-Anite's arrival, Mr Edun praised her as a dedicated and hardworking addition to the team.

He highlighted the President's foresight in appointing a Minister of State, emphasising that Uzoka-Anite's expertise would be crucial in advancing ongoing economic initiatives.

He warmly welcomed her, encouraging her to approach her responsibilities with confidence and creativity.

Reflecting on recent achievements, Mr Edun cited progress in economic reforms, such as establishing a market-based foreign exchange rate and implementing market-driven petroleum pricing.

In response, Uzoka-Anite expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and collaborate closely with Mr Edun, with whom she has previously worked in various roles.

She thanked President Tinubu for entrusting her with this role and reaffirmed her commitment to advancing his economic vision.

The gathering also included Lydia S. Jafiya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance; Zacch Adedeji, Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); and other directors and staff, reflecting the ministry's unified vision for an economy grounded in productivity, investment, and equitable growth.



Gov Abdulrazaq approves bonus for Kwara workers

By Friday Omosola

Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq of Kwara State has approved a financial bonus for all civil servants in the state, including local government employees, equal to their monthly PAYE obligation.

The Press Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Babatunde Toyin Abdulrasheed, announced this in a statement on behalf of the Commissioner for Finance, Hauwa Nuru, on Monday.

The Commissioner explained that this emergency support initiative would continue for a minimum of three months.

“This bonus has been approved as a buffer to bridge the gap that the correct PAYE deduction may have wrought on the newly implemented minimum wage. It is meant to serve as a soothing balm as workers adjust to the PAYE that was just correctly implemented in line with the Personal Income Tax Act.



“The payment of the bonus is effective from October and will run till December 2024. This is a significant step by His Excellency to support workers,” she said.

Nuru emphasised that workers who haven’t registered with the Kwara State Residents Registration Agency (KWSRRA) should do so immediately, as only registered employees will receive the November and December bonuses.

She added that labour unions have also agreed to refund the special levy deducted from workers’ salaries and suspend further deductions until further notice.

“Governor AbdulRazaq’s directive to deliver this relief speaks volumes about his humanity and his commitment to the welfare of Kwara workforce,” Dr Nuru stated.

Court frees Ex-CJN Onnoghen of false assets declaration conviction

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Chief Justice of Nigeria, CJN, Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen has discharged and acquitted a from his conviction of false assets declaration charges by the Code of Conduct Tribuna by The Court of Appeal in Abuja.

Former President Muhammadu Buhari had in 2019 removed Onnoghen as the Chief Justice of Nigeria during the pendency of a charge against him at the Code of Conduct Tribunal.

The conviction of Onnoghen on April 18, 2019, and forfeiture of his bank accounts by the Umar Yakubu Danladi-led tribunal was struck down by the Appellate Court following the resolution of the issues that led to the trial and conviction.

Justice Abba Bello Mohammed in a



judgment on the terms of settlement adopted by the federal government and Onnoghen ordered that the bank accounts of Onnoghen frozen since 2019 be unfrozen.

The bank accounts are maintained by the former CJN at the Standard Chartered Bank in the Wuse area of Abuja.

In the terms of settlement of the matter, it

was unanimously agreed by parties that the Code of Conduct Tribunal was wrong in convicting Onnoghen without resorting to the National Judicial Council, NJC as a body Constitutionally empowered to discipline judicial officers in Nigeria.

The terms of the settlement were endorsed by Onnoghen, two of his lawyers, Chief Adegboyega Awomolo SAN and Dr Ogwu James Onoja SAN while the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, AGF Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi SAN signed for the federal government.

Onnoghen’s lead counsel, Awomolo announced the terms of settlement dated October 24 but filed on November 1, and was confirmed by Tijani Gazali SAN who stood for the federal government at Monday’s proceedings.

Millions lost as fire razes Lagos market

By Helen Okechukwu

The Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) has said that shops housing goods worth millions of naira have been razed down by fire in Lagos State.

The fire that broke out on Sunday night occurred at Ajah Market by Alesh bus stop in Lekki.

Investigations carried out failed to reveal the actual cost of the fire accident.

LASEMA Permanent Secretary, Dr. Olufemi Oke-Osanyintolu, said no casualty or injury was recorded during the fire outbreak.

He said, "LASEMA, in response to distress calls from the 767 and 112 toll-free lines at 09.30 hrs, activated its Emergency Response Team from Lekki Base.

On arrival at the incident scene at 22.10 hrs, it was discovered that several shops and stores housing combustible materials were engulfed by fire.



"The LASEMA Response Team, alongside Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, were able to curtail the fire from escalating to adjoining buildings."

He added that, "The LRT and Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service, while fighting the fire, are simultaneously trying to manage the hostile crowd as the two are the only primary responders at the incident scene."

As of 1:28 a.m., in News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) report, the agency announced that the "fire has been successfully extinguished by the emergency responders at the incident scene, and operation has been concluded."

Recall that on August 16, several shops within a seven-story building located at Sanni Adewale Street, Lagos Island, were razed down by fire.

LG boss commiserate with family of late Onigbongbo LCDA chairman

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

After the demise of the Executive Chairman of Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Hon. Dotun Olakanle, the Lagos State Commissioner for Local Government, Chieftaincy Affairs, and Rural Development, Mr. Bolaji Robert has commiserated with his family.

In the early hours of November 2, the late chairman passes on after a brief illness.

The Permanent Secretary for the Ministry, Mrs. Kikelomo Bolarinwa, spearheaded the State Government officials' delegation on a condolence visit to the family of the deceased Chairman.

The Commissioner for Local Government, Mr. Robert disclosed to The New Daily Prime on Monday in a statement, expressed sadness and shock over Olakanle's departure.

Describing the late Chairman of Onigbongbo LCDA as a humanist and leader, he noted that the deceased was dedicated to the development of his council after assuming office.

"We lost a gem, an extraordinary chairman who has dedicated his life to the development of the Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area and, by extension, Lagos State," Mr. Robert stated.

He prayed that the soul of the deceased find eternal rest, as he sympathised with the family of the late Olakanle, including the well wisher, loved ones, and entire Onigbongbo LCDA team.

Other figures during the condolences visit include the Director of the Local Government Administration Department, APC Chairperson, Onigbongbo Local Council Development Area, Alhaja Iyabo Aminat Akerele, and among other top officials.

We sell PMS at N960/litre to ships, N990 for trucks — Dangote Refinery

By Dave Oludare Oso

After facing a barrage of criticism from Nigerians over the non-disclosure of its petrol prices, and claims made by IPMAN, PETROAN, and other associations regarding the import and pricing of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Dangote Refinery has addressed the issues.

In a statement released Sunday night and signed by the Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer, Anthony Chiejina, Dangote Refinery noted that it followed the pricing benchmark by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), adding that it went lower in pricing for selling into ships.

The company revealed that its PMS prices align with international standards, suggesting that any competitor claiming lower import prices might be introducing substandard products into Nigeria, potentially harming vehicle longevity and consumer health.

It cited the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited's (NNPCL) recent PMS pricing, noting that NNPCL set a benchmark of ₦971 per liter for ships and ₦990 per liter for trucks, which the refinery has since reduced to ₦960 and ₦990, respectively.

The refinery also expressed concern over a nearby depot facility blending potentially inferior products to compete with Dangote's offerings, warning of potential risks to Nigeria's domestic industry and economy.



The statement reads, “Both organizations claim that they can import PMS at lower prices than what is being sold by the Dangote Refinery. We benchmark our prices against international prices and we believe our prices are competitive relative to the price of imports.

“If anyone claims they can land PMS at a price cheaper than what we are selling, then they are importing substandard products and conniving with international traders to dump low-quality products into the country, without concern for the health of Nigerians or the longevity of their vehicles. Unfortunately, the regulator (NMDPRA) does not even have laboratory facilities that can be used to detect substandard products when imported into the country.

“Post deregulation, NNPC set the pace by selling PMS to domestic marketers at N971 per litre for sale into ships and at N990 for sale into trucks. This set the benchmark for our pricing and we have even gone lower to sell at N960 per litre for sale into ships while maintaining N990 per litre for sale into trucks.

“In good faith, and in the interest of the country, we commenced sales at these prices without clarity on the exchange rate that we will use to pay for the crude purchased.

Amorim faces herculean task to revive struggling Manchester United

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Ruben Amorim's upcoming tenure as Manchester United manager is set to be one of the most challenging managerial assignments in recent history. Watching United's 1-1 draw against Chelsea from Lisbon, Amorim would have seen a stark reminder of the deep-rooted issues he must confront at Old Trafford. Despite their hard work under caretaker manager Ruud van Nistelrooy, United's performance lacked the creativity and cohesion needed to compete at the Premier League's top level.

With a measly 13th-place standing and 12 points from their first 10 games—United's worst start since the 1986-87 season—it is evident that the team's problems go beyond simple tactics. In a display that saw few quality chances created, Bruno Fernandes' penalty was the only breakthrough for United.

Chelsea's Moises Caicedo, whose goal brought Chelsea level, epitomized the robust midfield presence United are

currently missing, highlighting the club's lack of effective recruitment over recent years.

United's forward line is another area of concern for Amorim. Between Alejandro Garnacho, Marcus Rashford, and Rasmus Hojlund, they managed only four league goals this season, underscoring the lack of finishing quality.

Rashford's erratic shot conversion rate, coupled with Hojlund's lack of touches in the penalty area, only further emphasizes the urgency of a tactical overhaul in the attacking department.

Amorim's reputation for structured, three-man defensive systems might provide stability at the back, but finding players fit for this setup may prove difficult. Despite recent signings, defensive fragility remains a recurring theme, and Lisandro Martinez's reckless challenge late in the match further underscored the lack of discipline.

Midfield stability, meanwhile, is almost

meanwhile, is almost non-existent, exposing United's defense to swift opposition counters. Amorim's task of rebuilding a coherent midfield will likely require both patience and a significant budget to bring in players capable of providing consistent support.

Recruitment, an ongoing issue for the club, will need a fresh approach. Antony's underwhelming performances following his £82 million move from Ajax, and the similarly lackluster form of Joshua Zirkzee after his £36 million transfer from Bologna, demonstrate the costly mistakes that have hindered United's progress.

In contrast, Chelsea's Moises Caicedo, whose commanding display at Old Trafford underscored what United could have had for a fraction of his eventual transfer fee, is a sobering example of the club's missed opportunities.

Mourinho slams Turkish refereeing as Fenerbahce edge Trabzonspor in dramatic finish

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

In a nail-biting match that extended well into stoppage time, Fenerbahce clinched a thrilling 3-2 victory over Trabzonspor on Sunday with a 102nd-minute goal by Sofyan Amrabat. However, the post-match discussions were dominated not by the result, but by Fenerbahce manager Jose Mourinho's blistering criticism of the officiating.

The Portuguese manager, a celebrated figure for his stints at Chelsea, Manchester United, and Tottenham, was visibly elated when Amrabat scored the late winner, even attempting a celebratory knee slide. But in his post-match interview with beIN Sports, Mourinho expressed deep frustration, questioning both the refereeing standards and his decision to join Turkish football.

"I blame the Fenerbahce people that brought me here," Mourinho said. "They only told me half the truth. They didn't tell me the whole truth because if they did, I wouldn't have come. But,

with half of the truth and my boys, we fight opponents and the system."

Central to Mourinho's complaints were two penalties awarded to Trabzonspor following VAR consultations. He also argued that his side was denied a penalty that could have changed the game's trajectory. Mourinho was scathing about the role of VAR official Atilla Karaoglan, whom he accused of playing a more decisive role than the on-field referee, Oguzhan Cakir.

"The man of the match was Atilla Karaoglan," Mourinho said bluntly. "We didn't see him, but he was the referee. The referee was just a little boy on the pitch. We don't want him as a VAR. We don't want him on the pitch, but on the VAR, even less."

Trabzonspor's head coach, Senol Gunes, dismissed Mourinho's comments, suggesting that Mourinho's criticisms were overblown. "I don't need to talk about them," Gunes said. "What

happened? Penalty or not? A goal scored? Isn't it a goal? Many things can be talked about. I stay away from them anyway."

Mourinho's criticisms come amid a heightened focus on officiating standards in Turkey. Last season saw several high-profile incidents, including a league-wide suspension after referee Halil Umut Meler was attacked by a club president. In another case, Istanbulspor's president withdrew his team from the pitch in protest at a controversial decision against Trabzonspor.

Despite the tension, Fenerbahce's win lifts them to second place in the Turkish Süper Lig, five points behind rivals Galatasaray. The drama surrounding this match will likely linger as Fenerbahce and their fiery manager look to narrow that gap while grappling with Turkey's officiating controversies.



Edu's sudden departure shocks Arsenal as Sporting Director eyes new role with Marinakis Group

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Arsenal's sporting director, Edu, has surprised the club by deciding to leave, potentially to join Evangelos Marinakis's group, which includes Nottingham Forest, Olympiacos, and Rio Ave.

Although Edu's exact future remains uncertain, his departure has shaken Arsenal's hierarchy, who were unaware of his plans to exit.

Edu, a former Arsenal midfielder, joined the club's management in 2019 as technical director before being promoted to sporting director in 2022.

Alongside manager Mikel Arteta,

Edu played a vital role in transforming Arsenal into Premier League title contenders.

Under his leadership, Arsenal executed high-profile signings, including Declan Rice and Martin Ødegaard, and managed strategic departures such as Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mesut Özil.

Edu's bond with Arteta has been instrumental in Arsenal's recent success. The two established a clear long-term strategy for the club, and Edu's departure has sparked speculation about his motivations. Some insiders suggest Edu may have been looking for greater authority—a role the Marinakis group could offer.

The timing of Edu's exit has added complexity to Arsenal's current setup. Arteta has already expanded his influence beyond coaching, taking on a managerial role with significant control over signings and team direction.

Still, Arsenal faces the challenge of filling Edu's position effectively to ensure continuity and stability in the team's upward trajectory.

With Arsenal seeking a swift and strategic response, the next steps will be critical as the club looks to maintain its progress and compete at the highest levels.

Bobrisky exits Nigeria after two law enforcement encounters

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian social media sensation Bobrisky has confirmed that he has officially left Nigeria. This announcement comes after a tumultuous series of events, marked by two failed attempts to exit the country that were thwarted by law enforcement.

Just ten days after a dramatic incident on November 1, 2024, where he was famously dragged off an aircraft bound for London, Bobrisky took to Instagram on November 11 to share an image from mid-air.

The post, which featured a picture of him on a plane en route to an undisclosed destination, was accompanied by the caption: "See you soon, Nigeria."

This post not only marks a significant moment in Bobrisky's life but has also reignited discussions among his followers, as well as critics.

As the news spread, a wave of passionate reactions flooded Bobrisky's Instagram. Many of his followers expressed anger and frustration over what they perceived as the influencer's incessant need for attention.

One user remarked, "90 per cent of Bobrisky's problems are caused by his mouth! Man can't stay low-key or discreet to save her life."

Another user echoed these sentiments, stating, "Just shut up Bobrisky, Internet obsession is a real disease. Chai, na you be your village people."

Such comments highlight a broader societal concern regarding the relationship between public figures and their use of social media to document their lives.



This sentiment was mirrored by yet another follower who expressed frustration over Bobrisky's habit of sharing his every move online, asserting, "My problem with Bobrisky is the fact that he posts every single thing on social media. Stay low-key, especially when you have a lot of enemies watching you, sigh!"

This kind of backlash reveals a growing trend where public figures, particularly those as controversial as Bobrisky, navigate the fine line between personal branding and privacy.

The journey leading to Bobrisky's departure has been anything but smooth. His recent run-ins with law enforcement add a layer of complexity to his story.

Just before his departure, he was reportedly apprehended by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In an alarming turn of events during that critical week, Bobrisky was detained at the Seme border while attempting to

flee Nigeria for the neighbouring Benin Republic.

Photos circulated on social media showed him sitting in the back of a patrol vehicle, highlighting the gravity of the situation.

Isaac Fayose, the brother of former Ekiti State Governor Ayo Fayose, confirmed the initial incident at the airport, sharing images of himself alongside Bobrisky before their flight.

Fayose publicly condemned how Bobrisky was treated by Nigerian authorities. He was particularly vocal about the timing of the arrest, expressing concern over what could be interpreted as a targeted move against the popular crossdresser.

Bobrisky, whose real name is Idris Okuneye, has often found himself at the centre of Nigeria's contentious conversations regarding gender identity and sexuality.

Mr Macaroni challenges Sanwo-Olu on dangerous Lagos roads

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Prominent Nigerian content creator and activist Mr Macaroni has publicly challenged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu regarding the deteriorating state of roads across the bustling metropolis.

Known for his significant social media presence and advocacy for accountability, Mr Macaroni's comments have sparked conversations about the urgent need for infrastructural improvements in one of Africa's largest cities.

In a scathing yet heartfelt open letter shared on his X handle on Monday, Mr Macaroni expressed deep concern over what he perceives as a threat to the safety of Lagos residents caused by the poor state of highways and byways.

He emphasized that the majority of roads in Lagos are in deplorable condition, posing severe risks to motorists and pedestrians alike.

"Hello Mr. Governor @jidesanwoolu," he wrote, setting a tone of direct engagement. "One of these days when you are not too busy with the very serious task of going to the Airport in Abuja to welcome Mr President from an International trip, kindly take a drive around Lagos roads and let us know why the government continues to risk the lives of Lagosians."

With this rhetoric, Mr. Macaroni's words carry a mix of sarcasm and genuine concern, highlighting a perceived disconnect between the governor's priorities and the pressing issues faced by residents.

The content creator elaborated on the dangers posed by numerous potholes scattered across the roads, a common sight for many who traverse Lagos daily.



These potholes not only complicate travel but also lead to a significant rate of accidents that could endanger lives and damage property. His plea was clear: the governor should take immediate action to address these hazardous conditions before they lead to further tragedies.

In his letter, Mr Macaroni also posed a critical question about accountability and governance: why is the safety of the citizens being jeopardized?

He urged the Sanwo-Olu administration to prioritize infrastructural development and demonstrate a commitment to the welfare of all Lagosians.

With a population exceeding 20 million, Lagos is a city that requires urgent attention to its infrastructural challenges, particularly in light of the rapid urbanization and population growth it has experienced in recent years.

Community leaders and residents have echoed Mr. Macaroni's concerns, sharing their own stories of accidents and near misses on the city's tumultuous roads.

Many have taken to social media to share images of the dangerous driving conditions

and to discuss the impact of poor infrastructure on their daily lives.

The conversation around this topic is gaining traction, with citizens calling for the governor to take decisive steps to remedy the situation.

As the dialogue continues, Mr. Macaroni's bold stand serves as a reminder of the power of social media in advocating for change and holding public officials accountable.

His call to action goes beyond mere criticism; it emphasizes the collective responsibility of citizens and leaders to work together for a safer, more functional Lagos.

Mr Macaroni's open letter to Governor Sanwo-Olu sheds light on a critical issue affecting thousands of residents in Lagos.

England raises tuition fees for first time in 8 Years

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

UK Education Secretary, Bridget Phillipson, announced a significant policy shift for English universities, marking the first rise in tuition fees in eight years.

The increase, set to take effect in April 2025, will raise annual tuition costs from £9,250 to £9,535, a move intended to bolster universities amid mounting financial challenges, including a freeze on domestic fees, declining international student numbers, and the strain of inflation.

The last tuition hike occurred in 2017, under Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government, when fees rose from £9,000 to £9,250.

This was preceded by a major increase in 2012, during David Cameron's administration, which controversially raised fees from £3,375 to £9,000. Since 2017, fees have been frozen, prompting recent calls from educational leaders for urgent adjustments to sustain institutions.

Phillipson emphasized that this difficult decision aims to secure higher education's future. "It is no use keeping tuition fees down for future students if the universities are not there for them to attend," she stated before the House of Commons.

The adjustment is intended to address immediate funding shortfalls without increasing monthly loan repayments for graduates, which are income-based. In addition, student maintenance loans will be raised in line with inflation, providing students with an extra £414 annually starting in the 2025–26 academic year to help cover rising living costs.

The fee increase also introduces a lower cap of £5,760 for foundation degrees, an attempt to make these shorter programs more affordable. This move aligns with recommendations from Universities UK (UUK), which represents 141 universities and recently advocated for



UUK also pressed the government to reintroduce grants for low-income students to offset costs beyond tuition fees.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies projected that, without intervention, fees would need to increase to £10,500 by 2029, while leaders at institutions such as King's College London suggested an optimal range of £12,000 to £13,000 annually to meet operating costs.

International student enrollment, a critical revenue source for many UK universities, has also dropped due to recent visa restrictions.

The Home Office reported a 16% decrease in student visa applications between July and September, which it attributed to new limits on international students bringing family members unless enrolled in postgraduate research or government-funded programs. Since international students pay significantly higher tuition fees, this reduction poses additional financial risks for

institutions.

Adding to these challenges, the Office for Students (OfS) warned in May that nearly 40% of English universities could be operating at a financial loss in the 2023/24 academic year, raising concerns about the sector's viability.

Phillipson framed the tuition increase as part of a broader vision to "fix the foundations" of English higher education, ensuring that institutions remain sustainable for future generations. While likely to provoke debate among students and university leaders, the government views these measures as essential to maintaining the quality and accessibility of English education.

For now, universities and students alike are bracing for change, with many hoping that the adjustments will ultimately enhance stability and continue to make the UK a competitive destination for global higher education.

World stands still as Americans elect next president today

By Dave Oludare Oso

The world watches with bated breath as Americans vote for their next president in a general election that is underway across the nation.

Widely perceived as the world's most powerful nation, and leading democracy, it is unsurprising that all nations, states, organizations, and personalities, whether political, government, or private, will be monitoring the blow-by-blow, minute-by-minute goings-on in the election that could decide the fate of the whole world for the next four years.

And, once polls close, depending on how close the contest is, it is possible a winner will not be projected for several hours, days, or even weeks.

Here's what you need to know.

When is the 2024 presidential election result expected?

Democrat Kamala Harris, the current vice-president, and Republican Donald Trump, a former president, have been running neck-and-neck for

for weeks.

National and swing state polls have tightened in the weeks leading to the election, so there could be very narrow margins of victory in several places, which may require votes to be recounted.

It is also possible that some results may come in more slowly this year due to changes in how individual states – including all seven swing states that will ultimately decide the race – have administered their elections since 2020.

On the other hand, vote-counting has been sped up in places like Michigan, and far fewer votes will be cast by mail this time than in the last election, which was held during the Covid pandemic.

This means there are several possible outcomes – a winner declared on election night, the next morning, or possibly days or weeks later.

When are presidential election results usually announced?

Generally, voters have become used to the idea that they will know who

the next president is going to be by the time they go to bed late on election night or at least in the early morning hours of the next day.

In 2016, for example, when Trump first won the presidency, he was declared the winner shortly before 03:00 EST (08:00 GMT) the day after the election.

In 2012, when Barack Obama secured a second term, his victory was projected before midnight on polling day itself. But one notable recent exception was the 2000 election between George W Bush and Al Gore.

The two campaigns went to war over a tight contest in Florida, and the race was not decided until 12 December when the US Supreme Court voted to end the state's recount process, keeping Bush in place as the certified winner and thus handing him the keys to the White House.

What are the key states to watch?

Across the country, the first polls will close at 18:00 EST (23:00 GMT) on Tuesday evening and the last polls will close at 01:00 EST (06:00 GMT) early on Wednesday.

