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# Chief of Army Staff Lagbaja dies at 56

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has confirmed the passing of Lt. General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja, Nigeria's Chief of Army Staff and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

In a statement from Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu announced that Lagbaja passed away in Lagos on Tuesday night after an illness.

He was 56 years old.

Born on February 28, 1968, Lt. General Lagbaja's military journey began when he joined the Nigerian Defence Academy in 1987.

He was commissioned as a Second

Lieutenant in the Nigerian Infantry Corps on September 19, 1992, as part of the 39th Regular Course.

His career spanned decades of distinguished service, culminating in his appointment as Chief of Army Staff by President Tinubu on June 19, 2023.

Throughout his career, Lagbaja exemplified outstanding leadership and dedication, holding key positions including platoon commander in the 93 Battalion and the 72 Special Forces Battalion.

His contributions were pivotal in multiple security operations, such as Operation ZAKI in Benue State, Lafiya Dole in Borno, Udoka in Southeast Nigeria, and Operation Forest Sanity across Kaduna and Niger States.

A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Lagbaja earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies, underscoring his commitment to continuous professional development and excellence in military leadership.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Mariya, and their two children.

President Tinubu extended his heartfelt condolences to the family and the Nigerian Armed Forces, honoring Lt. General Lagbaja's remarkable service and legacy.

He wished him eternal peace, recognising the lasting impact of his contributions to Nigeria.

# Lagbaja: Tinubu postpones NEC meeting

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has ordered rescheduling the Federal Executive Council (NEC) meeting till further notice in honouring the late Chief of Army Staff, General Taoreed Lagbaja.

Earlier, The New Daily Prime reported that President Tinubu announced the death of Lagbaja on Wednesday. He died at 56-years-old after a brief illness on Tuesday night.

Tinubu disclosed this in a statement by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga on Wednesday.



General Lagbaja served as the Chief of Army Staff from June 19, 2023, till his death on November 5, 2024.

President Tinubu also ordered flags to be flown at half-staff nationwide for seven days in honour of the departed general.

Earlier today, President Tinubu expressed his heartfelt condolences to the Lagbaja family and the Nigerian Armed Forces.

He wished Lt. General Lagbaja eternal peace and honoured his significant contributions to the nation.

## Gov Makinde mourns Chief of Army Staff, commiserates with Tinubu, Army

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has described the death of the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja, as a sad loss to the country.

The governor described late Lt. General Lagbaja as a patriot and one of the finest military officers produced by the country.

Makinde's condolence message was contained in a statement released on Wednesday and signed by his Special Adviser on Media, Sulaimon Olanrewaju.

He also expressed his condolences to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Senator Bola Tinubu and the Nigerian Army.



The Oyo state governor equally commiserated with the immediate family of the deceased COAS as well as the Government and people of Osun State on the demise of their illustrious son, praying to Allah to grant repose to his soul.

The New Daily Prime reported that President Bola Tinubu announced Lagbaja's death in a statement signed by his spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga on Wednesday.

Born on February 28, 1968, Lagbaja served as the Chief of Army Staff for one year and four months following his appointment to the position by President Tinubu in June 2023.

His military career began when he enrolled in the Nigerian Defence Academy in 1987.

An alumnus of the prestigious U.S. Army War College, he earned a Master's degree in Strategic Studies, demonstrating his dedication to professional growth and excellence in military leadership.

Lt. General Lagbaja is survived by his beloved wife, Mariya, and their two children.



# Governor Makinde approves N80,000 minimum wage for workers

By Friday Omosola

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has approved a new minimum wage of ₦80,000 for state workers.

The announcement was made on Wednesday by Dotun Oyelade, the State Commissioner for Information and Orientation.

According to Oyelade, the wage increase comes following recommendations from a Technical Committee established by the state government.

The committee, composed of government officials and labor representatives gained Governor Makinde's approval to implement the new salary scale once all consequential adjustments are completed.

Highlighting the state's recent achievements, Oyelade noted that Oyo was recognised as the most worker-friendly state in Southern Nigeria.

This rating, provided by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in its latest employment statistics for 2024, he said was attributed to the state's significant reduction in unemployment through robust hiring initiatives across various sectors.

Further emphasising Oyo's commitment to its workforce,



Oyelade stated that under Governor Makinde's leadership since 2019, the state has consistently paid workers' salaries by the 25th of each month.

He added that Makinde introduced the previous ₦30,000 minimum wage and ensured regular payment of pensions, gratuities, and a 13th-month salary for both workers and retirees.

Oyelade also recalled that in November 2023, the governor initiated a welfare wage award of ₦25,000 for workers and ₦15,000 for pensioners to ease the impact of the federal fuel subsidy removal.

This additional payment Oyelade noted has been consistently maintained for over a year.

Additionally, he said the Makinde administration has made substantial progress in clearing outstanding pensions.

The Commissioner added that the governor has paid the backlog of gratuities owed to pensioners from 2008-2015, increasing payments for those under both the Local Government Staff Pensions Board and the Ministry of Establishment and Training.

Furthermore, he said pensioners previously removed from the payroll by the prior administration have been reinstated, with all retirees receiving an annual Christmas/New Year Chicken Bonus.

# Ondo Govt disburses N34m to offset medical bills of residents

By Friday Omosola

The Ondo State government has distributed N34 million to 46 individuals as part of a medical financial assistance programme.

Governor Aiyedatiwa's Chief Press Secretary, Ebenezer Adeniyi, announced this in a statement on Wednesday, revealing that the governor personally handed over cheques to the beneficiaries.

Speaking through the state's health commissioner, Banji Ajaka, Governor Aiyedatiwa emphasised that financial aid was provided to individuals facing various medical challenges but unable to afford treatment.

The commissioner urged the recipients to use the funds exclusively for their intended purpose.

Ajaka further highlighted that the administration has consistently prioritized the health and well-being of its citizens.

He mentioned that the Ministry had requested over N200 million for the initiative, but due to budgetary constraints, only N34 million was allocated to support the 46 beneficiaries.

In closing, the commissioner encouraged the recipients to



In closing, the commissioner encouraged the recipients to enrol in the state's health insurance scheme to ensure continued access to affordable healthcare.

"We are distributing these cheques to people with various ailments and sicknesses. They are unable to take care of their medical bills. Medical assisted programme sought approval for N230m for various people across the state.

"But the budgetary approval is limited. We looked at their level of indices and 46 persons benefited N34m. We appreciate Mr. Governor for the approval. He was compassionate. We implored them to use the money judiciously. We are advising everybody to key into

health insurance. In years to come we will know the importance of health insurance schemes."

The Commissioner urged the beneficiaries to enrol in the state's health insurance scheme to gain access to affordable healthcare.

In response, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the state governor for bringing relief to them.

They also commended Health Commissioner Ajaka for his contributions to the development of the health sector and the policies he has implemented since his appointment by the governor.



# Atiku: Trump's victory offers lesson for Nigeria on 'democratic process'

By Friday Omosola

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has stated that Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election serves as a valuable lesson for Nigeria on the importance of maintaining an electoral process with integrity to achieve credible outcomes.

In a statement shared on his X (formerly Twitter) page on Wednesday, Atiku expressed hope that the Trump administration would be steadfast in supporting free and fair elections in Nigeria and across the globe.

He further emphasised that Trump's victory stands as a powerful testament to the resilience and strength of democracy.

Atiku described the win as a timeless reminder of democracy's enduring potential as a force for good, despite its inherent challenges.

Reflecting on the election, he noted his close attention to the process, watching



eagerly as the American people decided the future direction of their country.

"It is with even greater satisfaction that I now reflect on the result, which heralds a resounding victory for President Donald Trump, and the Republican Party.

"The narrative of President Trump's political journey, marked by his struggles and triumphs, shall serve as an inspiring parable of courage in the face of adversity — a lesson in the art of rising after every fall, and ultimately, emerging victorious", he said.

Atiku noted that as the world celebrates President Trump's remarkable comeback, there is hope he will persist in championing credible elections worldwide and continue his efforts to dismantle anti-democratic forces wherever they are found.

He also expressed his expectation that the Trump administration would remain resolute in advocating for free and fair elections both in Nigeria and globally.

## KADSIR Launches Taskforce to Tackle Fake License Plates, Registration Irregularities

By Helen Okechukwu

To address issues with unvalidated vehicle particulars, the Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) has inaugurated a special task force to tackle fake license plates and registration irregularities.

This was disclosed on Wednesday in a notice titled "Routine Enforcement Exercise on Motor Vehicle Particulars, Old/Fake Number Plates, Fake and Expired Vehicle Particulars, and Driver's License."

The enforcement exercise is scheduled to take place from 18 November to 30th, advising drivers of buses, taxis, tricycles (keke), and trucks to take note.



The task force will target both private and commercial drivers.

"The Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service wishes to inform the general public that the Service has constituted a special task force for the enforcement of motor vehicle particulars, old/fake number plates, and commercial vehicle sticker registration," the notice stated.

The notice further specified that the task force will focus on old and fake number plates, fake and expired vehicle particulars, driver's licenses, and commercial vehicles without stickers.

The team includes the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Kaduna Traffic Law Enforcement Authority (KASTLEA), and others, with operations planned in the Northern Kaduna Senatorial District, Kaduna Central Senatorial District, and Southern Kaduna Senatorial District.

The Executive Chairman expressed appreciation and urged motorists to use the official website, [www.paykaduna.com](http://www.paykaduna.com), or visit KADIRS offices across the state for vehicle particulars renewal, sticker registration, and other related services.

# Hike in Fuel Price: We need more prayers to avert famine – Mbaka warns

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Spiritual Director of Adoration Ministry, Enugu State, Rev. Fr. Ejike Mbaka, has issued a dire warning regarding the recent spike in fuel prices in Nigeria, urging citizens and government officials alike to seek divine intervention through prayer to avert a potential famine crisis.

Mbaka's comments came during the commissioning of the newly established Blessed Omemma Oil and Gas Limited filling station in Abakpa, Enugu East Local Government Area.

The cleric expressed deep concern over the growing economic hardships faced by Nigerians, particularly the rising hunger rates, which, if left unchecked, could spiral into a full-scale famine.

"We need more prayers for Nigeria to be well," Mbaka emphasised, stressing that the country is already grappling with significant food scarcity.

He warned that without urgent action and divine help, the nation could face even more severe consequences.

"What we are facing now is hunger, but if we're not careful, we could face famine," he added.

In addition to the call for spiritual intervention, Mbaka encouraged Nigerians to be proactive with their finances.

He advised people to consider investing their money rather than keeping it in banks, where it continues to lose value due to inflation and the ongoing economic challenges.

"The value of savings is diminishing. You need to be wise with your money invest it instead of letting it sit idle in



in the bank," Mbaka urged, urging the public to be more financially strategic in these trying times.

The priest also addressed the fuel price crisis, which has seen sharp increases in recent months, putting a strain on the average Nigerian household.

He called on the government to take immediate, decisive action to address the fuel price hikes, noting that a well-coordinated response could alleviate the current hardships.

"The government knows what they need to do about the fuel hike," Mbaka said.

"One solution from them can overcome these toxic situations, and that's why I emphasise the power of prayer. We need divine help, and we need action from the government."

The event also saw the official opening of the Blessed Omemma Oil and Gas Ultra-Modern Station, owned by Chief Mathias

Ukaigwe. The station, which offers refined petroleum products, including Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Automotive Gas Oil (AGO), and Dual-Purpose Kerosene (DPK), aims to provide residents in Enugu East and surrounding areas with reliable access to essential fuels at competitive prices.

In his remarks, Chinedu Anyaso, Chairman of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) Enugu Unit, commended Chief Ukaigwe for his investment in the community.

"This filling station will help ensure the availability and accessibility of petroleum products for the residents of Enugu East Local Government and beyond," Anyaso said.

"It will also contribute to the local and national economy by creating jobs and improving economic activities."



# We're dedicated in promoting economic environment for development of Lagos -Gov. Sanwo-Olu

By Helen Okechukwu

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu stated that his administration is committed to creating an economic environment that fosters development in Lagos State by promoting trade, encouraging investment, and supporting local enterprises.

Represented by his Deputy, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, Governor Sanwo-Olu made this statement today at the opening ceremony of the 2024 China Commodities EXPO Nigeria (CCE), held from November 5 to November 8 at the Landmark Event Centre on Water Corporation Drive, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Speaking at the event, Governor Sanwo-Olu emphasized the importance of bilateral relationships in attracting foreign investment to enhance infrastructure development and create jobs in Lagos.

He highlighted the event's significance in a rapidly advancing global economy and noted its potential to create opportunities for Nigerian businesses, provide innovative solutions, and expand networks.

Governor Sanwo-Olu further explained that the collaboration aims to boost critical sectors such as manufacturing, energy, infrastructure, and technology.

He described Lagos State as a hub for commerce, innovation, and culture.

Praising Chinese partners, exhibitors, and organizers for their commitment to this meeting, he reaffirmed the state's openness to collaboration and its potential to become a gateway for global trade and investment.



The Acting Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Lagos, Jin Mingyu, remarked on the event's role in fostering deeper understanding and cooperation between the two parties.

Reflecting on the previous partnership at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit, he noted that both sides signed a cooperation plan for the 'Belt and Road Initiative,' which has strengthened mutual trust and brought new heights to China-Nigeria economic and trade relations.

The Acting Consul General added that over the next three years, the Chinese government plans to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest no less than 70 billion RMB in Africa, reinforcing China-Africa and China-Nigeria economic cooperation.

Dr. Muda Yusuf, Founder and CEO of the Centre for the Promotion of Private Enterprise (CPPE), emphasized the need to enhance trade complementarity between Nigeria and China, focusing on production capabilities, export of value-added products, and export competitiveness.

He highlighted the benefits of trade in machinery, power generation equipment, and ICT, advising that Nigeria should not be overly dependent on imports for essential goods.

In a statement, Yusuf said, "The expo shows that the Chinese have a long-term investment perspective and confidence in the resilience of the Nigerian economy. The Nigerian economy will turn the corner sooner than later. I want to assure Chinese investors that their confidence is not misplaced."



# Novak Djokovic withdraws from ATP Finals due to injury, ending era of big three at year-end event

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**

**F**ormer Manchester City defender Benjamin Mendy will receive most of his withheld salary after a tribunal ruled in his favor. The decision marks a significant step in the legal proceedings that began after Mendy's suspension in September 2021, when he was charged with rape and sexual assault. Although he was cleared of all charges in 2023, Mendy had been seeking approximately £11 million in unpaid wages.

Judge Joanne Dunlop ruled that Manchester City could withhold Mendy's salary only for the five months he was in custody. However, for the remaining time, when he was under Football Association (FA) suspension but not detained, City did not have grounds to withhold his salary since his contract lacked specific provisions addressing such situations.

"The fact that Mr. Mendy's contract contained no provision permitting the club to withhold wages where an

FA suspension and/or bail conditions prevented the player from performing his obligations was an important part of the reason for this decision," read a summary judgement.

Judge Dunlop emphasized that



Mendy was "ready and willing" to work during the periods he was not in custody but was prevented from doing so by circumstances outside his control. His wages will now be calculated between the two parties, with a future hearing scheduled if they cannot agree on the amount.

Mendy joined Manchester

City from Monaco in a £52 million transfer in 2017 and won three Premier League titles with the club. After his final appearance for City in August 2021, he joined Lorient in Ligue 1 when his contract expired.

This decision comes as a notable example of contract law within football, particularly regarding player rights under suspension.

# Legend tips Mourinho's Premier League return

By Kayode Akinwumi



Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been named as a potential replacement for embattled Everton manager Sean Dyche.

Newcastle United legend Alan Shearer made the suggestion in an interview with Betfair, pointing out that the three-time Premier League winning manager has been exhibiting a desire to return to the English top-flight.

Mourinho currently holds the role of manager at Fenerbahce where he moved in the summer after a stint at Roma.

He recently made headlines for his comment that nobody watches the Turkish league and has also openly criticized VAR. Shearer is of the opinion that Mourinho's

He recently made headlines for his comment that nobody watches the Turkish league and has also openly criticized VAR.

Shearer is of the opinion that Mourinho's recent antics are a way of telling Premier League clubs that he's available.

The Premier League all-time top scorer also hinted at the link between Mourinho's former employers at AS Roma, who have reached an agreement to acquire Everton. He said,

"He is box office, and I think there's always a message he's trying to get across in the background, so it wouldn't surprise me if this was him edging for a move back to the Premier League.

"Where could he go? Let us not forget he was recently at Roma, who are now close to their purchase of Everton – is there a subliminal message in there for what his future holds?"

Everton are having a bad start to the season under Dyche, with five losses in the first 10 games. The club is under a lot of pressure added by the search for a new ownership which has been on for more than a year. Whereas Mourinho is one of the most successful managers to have coached in the Premier League, making him an ideal candidate for the Everton role.

Notwithstanding, Shearer acknowledged his penchant for being dramatic and staying in the headlines for reasons other than success on the pitch. However, he said he wouldn't find it surprising if the Portuguese is back in the Premier League within the next one year.



# Adin Ross wins \$1.6 million betting on Trump

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Prominent American streamer and social media influencer Adin Ross has secured a staggering \$1.6 million profit after placing bold bets on Donald Trump's candidacy in the the2024 presidential election.

The influencer took to Instagram to divulge the details of his high-stakes wager, revealing that he had staked an impressive \$1 million on Trump before the election day.

This audacious move has not only demonstrated Ross's confidence in the former president's chances but also highlighted the lucrative potential of politically themed betting in today's digital age.

As the election unfolded, Trump triumphed over his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, thus generating a resounding victory that has set the stage for a dramatic political landscape in the United States.

With the election results firmly in Trump's favour, Ross's calculated gamble paid off handsomely, netting him an eye-popping \$1.6 million.

This unexpected windfall adds to Ross's already notable influence as a streamer, celebrated for his engaging content and charismatic presence online.

Ross's connection to Trump extends beyond mere financial interests; in a notable livestream event that took place just weeks before the election, he hosted Trump as a special guest.

During this memorable session, Ross publicly endorsed the former president, stating his strong belief in Trump's vision for the country.

This endorsement not only amplified Ross's status as a prominent proxy for Trump in the digital sphere but also showcased the evolving dynamic where political figures increasingly engage with influencers to reach younger audiences.

The significance of Trump's victory cannot be understated, as he has now made history by becoming the oldest individual to be elected President of the United States at the age of 78.

His age has been a topic of discussion and debate, especially in a political climate

that often scrutinizes the vitality and vigour of its leaders.

Trump's election signifies a return to the political arena after losing the presidency in 2020 and indicates a continued appeal among a segment of the American electorate.

As Adin Ross revels in his substantial financial gain, his experiences encapsulate the blend of entertainment, culture, and politics shaping modern America.

His ability to leverage his platform for both political endorsement and financial gain illustrates a new paradigm in which influencers can directly engage with and influence significant political events and figures.

The rise of social media influencers like Ross has altered not only how politicians campaign but also how voters, especially younger demographics, engage with the electoral process.

# Equatorial Guinea: Baltasar Engonga's sexy tapes- Davido reacts

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**R**enowned Nigerian Afrobeats singer Davido has made headlines with his reaction to the recently surfaced videos involving Baltasar Engonga, the Director General of the National Financial Investigation Agency in Equatorial Guinea.

Reports from New Daily Prime indicate that these leaked intimate tapes, which have taken social media by storm, feature several prominent figures, including the sister of the country's president and numerous ministerial spouses.

The scandal has ignited discussions and controversies across various platforms, plunging social media users into a frenzy as they dissect the implications of the videos and the individuals involved.

As the scandal continues to unfold, it has not only drawn public attention but has also stirred the pot amongst various social media influencers.

One particular individual, Tunde Ednut, a popular Nigerian celebrity blogger, has set social media ablaze with an audacious and provocative commentary on the incident.

In a bold move, Ednut selected what he termed his favourite clip from the plethora of explicit videos reportedly numbering around 400 that have emerged in the wake of the scandal.

His post, which quickly went viral on Instagram, included a video caption that sparked outrage and amusement alike.

He proclaimed, "Make l no lie, na this video be the best out of all. I lie? I just dey hear Kpor, Kpor, Kpor. Better meat Oo. Very beautiful, sweet lady! GOD BLESS AFRICA, Everywhere KPAGBUZAAAA, E FULL."



Ednut's rather unrestrained enthusiastic endorsement of the video ignited a wave of reactions not only from fans but also from fellow celebrities, including Davido.

The acclaimed singer did not hold back in expressing his thoughts on the affair, leaving a succinct but impactful comment in the thread,

"That nigga wiped out the whole govt cabinet."

This phrase struck a chord among the artist's followers, illustrating the gravity of Engonga's situation while hinting at the chaotic implications of the scandal within the political landscape of Equatorial Guinea.

Davido's words highlight the intertwining of entertainment and politics, as public figures grapple with the fallout from such scandals that extend beyond mere personal indiscretions and may have far-reaching consequences.

As social media remains a breeding ground for discussions around the incident, the implications stretch far beyond simple gossip.

The revelations surrounding Baltasar

Engonga's scandal underscore the societal challenges facing Equatorial Guinea, as well as the cultural perceptions surrounding intimate relationships among those in power.

Moving forward, it will be intriguing to observe how this situation develops, both in the public eye and in the political realm.

With celebrities and social media influencers entering the conversation, the scrutiny surrounding Engonga's actions is likely to intensify, bringing forth debates on accountability and morality within political circles.

The ongoing discussions will undoubtedly serve as a case study on the intersection of fame, power, and the complexities of human behaviour.

Amid the swirling controversies, artists like Davido continue to make their presence felt, reminding the public that the line between the political and the personal is often blurred in today's interconnected world.



# Jesse Jagz claims He's better than MI Abaga

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

In a recent episode of the renowned Big Talk108 podcast, celebrated hip-hop artist Jesse Jagz engaged in a dynamic conversation regarding the state of rap in Africa and the artists who have shaped its landscape.

Without hesitation, Jagz honoured his brother, the eminent rapper MI Abaga, as the standout rapper on the continent.

“MI is the greatest MC ever in Africa,” Jagz stated with conviction, adding, “but I pass am,” a confident assertion of his artistry that immediately sparked conversation among fans and critics alike.

Jesse Jagz, known for his unique style and impactful lyrics, did not shy away from sharing his thoughts on the legacy of MI Abaga, a figure who has been instrumental in the rise of hip-hop in Nigeria and beyond.

Jagz emphasized the profound influence MI has had on his career, citing him as a source of inspiration who motivated him to reach new heights in the competitive world of rap.

This acknowledgement underscores the strong bond between the two artists, who share not only familial ties but also a mutual respect for one another's talents.

“MI taught me how to be Jesse Jagz...” he elaborated, recognizing the formative impact his brother had on his development as an artist.

The respect Jagz holds for MI is palpable, as he reminisces about their early days in the industry when MI was a guiding force for both him and Ice Prince.

“He taught us how to become an MC



hat will be respected forever,” Jagz reflected, underscoring MI's pivotal role in shaping the sound and style of contemporary African hip-hop.

The conversation veered into the broader context of hip-hop in Africa, where Jagz and MI have both made significant contributions.

The hip-hop scene on the continent has evolved tremendously over the years, with artists from various backgrounds blending diverse musical influences to create a unique sound.

Jagz pointed out that the landscape is richer and more dynamic thanks to the pioneering efforts of artists like MI, who have laid the groundwork for future generations of Mcs.

Furthermore, the cultural significance of hip-hop in Africa cannot be overstated. It serves not just as a musical genre, but as a powerful medium for expressing social issues, personal struggles, and aspirations.

Artists like Jagz and MI have used their platforms to address the realities faced by their communities, inspiring countless fans along the way.

Jesse Jagz's confidence in his abilities is noteworthy. While he regards MI as the greatest MC, he is also aware of his artistry and the impact it has made.

This blend of humility and confidence is refreshing in an industry that often focuses on competition.

Rather than viewing MI as merely a rival, Jagz embraces their relationship as one that fosters growth and innovation within the genre.

Listeners of the podcast can expect a nuanced and engaging discussion on the evolution of hip-hop in Africa, filled with anecdotes and insights from two of the industry's leading figures.

The exchange between the brothers serves as a reminder of the importance of mentorship and collaboration in achieving excellence within any artistic endeavour.

# Taymesan's humour secrets unveiled

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



**M**edia personality and actor Taymesan shared his deeply personal experiences of growing up without the nurturing presence of both parents. Raised by his grandmother, Taymesan initially perceived his upbringing as typical.

However, as he entered his twenties, he began to recognize the profound impact of not having a conventional family structure on his emotional well-being and personal development.

During the interview with Pulse, Taymesan provided insight into the challenges he faced while navigating adulthood.

He candidly discussed how the absence of his parents led to significant trauma and a series of abandonment issues that complicated his ability to engage with the world around him.

“My grandmother was a strong figure in my life,” Taymesan explained. “She provided for me and made sure I had the best education.

It wasn't until I grew older that I began to realize the void created by the lack of a traditional family environment.”

Growing up, Taymesan felt a sense of normalcy in his situation, attributing his initial indifference to the absence of his parents to the stability provided by his grandmother.

However, as he transitioned into adulthood, he became increasingly aware of the emotional repercussions of his upbringing.

“It was only when I reached my twenties that I started grappling with the reality of my circumstances,” he reflected.

The trauma of abandonment, Taymesan revealed, permeated his life and contributed to a defensive demeanour that he adopted as a coping mechanism.

“I became very guarded,” he admitted. “I didn't want to be vulnerable, and the independence I developed came too soon. I realized that I was turning inward, missing out on vital emotional support that typically comes from having both parents in one's life.”

As he ventured into adulthood, Taymesan discovered that not everyone possessed the kindness and support that his grandmother had given him.

He faced the harsh realities of life, which prompted him to create emotional barriers for self-protection. “People in the real world weren't as warm or understanding, so I sought ways to shield myself,” he recalled.

One such mechanism Taymesan adopted was humour. While he excelled at making others laugh during his university days, he gradually acknowledged that his humorous disposition often served as a barrier between him and those around him. “It was like a shield,” he stated. “I used humour to create an inviting atmosphere, to make others feel happy being around me, but in doing so, I pushed them away from truly knowing me.” He openly described his struggle with validation, admitting, “I was a chronic people pleaser.”

Taymesan often relied on the laughter of others as a form of acceptance, hoping to compensate for the emotional void left by his parent's absence.



## Niniola explains early career connection with Sarz

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

In a candid interview with Pulse NG, talented singer Niniola opened up about the pivotal reasons that led her to connect with the esteemed music producer Sarz at the outset of her budding career.

Reflecting on her journey, Niniola shared that her passion for music became increasingly evident as she participated in numerous competitions.

These platforms not only honed her skills but also instilled in her a deeper commitment to pursuing music professionally.

Her turning point came when she clinched a remarkable prize of N2 million on the popular talent show Project Fame.

Determined to carve out a niche in the music industry, the vibrant songstress took the initiative to explore influential Nigerian producers.

It was during her research that she discovered Sarz, a name synonymous with extraordinary musical talent and innovation in the industry.

His unparalleled reputation caught her attention, compelling her to reach out with hopes of collaboration.

Niniola emphasized the significance of finding a sound that resonated with her artistic identity, as both a singer and dancer.

During the interview, she expressed, "After jumping from one music competition to another, I landed on Project Fame, where I was fortunate enough to win N2 million.

This victory solidified my resolve to pursue a music career."

The 36-year-old musician went on to explain her thought process when it came to selecting a producer: "I sought out the top Nigerian music producers, and Sarz was at the top of the list when I checked Google. That's how I reached out to him."



Her aspirations were not purely financial; Niniola had a burning desire to create music that truly reflected her personality and passions.

She continued, "I wanted a sound that could accommodate singing and dancing because I love to dance and sing. It gives me the freedom to be who I am on my terms."

This journey not only highlights Niniola's determination and entrepreneurial spirit but also showcases the importance of collaboration in the music industry.

Connecting with a visionary like Sarz was instrumental in her pursuit of authenticity and artistic expression.

The singer's trajectory serves as an inspiration to aspiring musicians who look up to her. Her story illustrates that perseverance, hard work, and strategic partnerships can lead to success.

As she continues to make waves in the industry, Niniola's narrative is a testament to the power of resilience in the face of challenges and the importance of staying true to one's self.

Niniola's enchanting blend of Afrobeat, R&B, and contemporary sounds has garnered her a growing fanbase and

and recognition on both local and international stages.

Collaborating with Sarz, known for his outstanding production skills, is expected to elevate her work to even greater heights.

As she embarks on this promising phase of her career, fans eagerly await more from the incredibly talented Niniola and her future collaborations.

Her journey is one of hope, innovation, and artistic freedom, casting a spotlight on the dynamic world of Nigerian music.

Through her experiences, she inspires others to chase their dreams, reminding them that with grit and creativity, they too can make their mark on the music scene and beyond.

# Trump secures over 270 votes to win U.S. presidential election

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

**D**onald Trump has made a stunning political comeback, winning the 2024 U.S. presidential election after securing more than the 270 Electoral College votes needed to reclaim the White House.

The victory, officially projected by Edison Research on Wednesday, November 6, follows a contentious campaign marked by dark rhetoric that intensified national polarization.

Trump's win in the pivotal swing state of Wisconsin pushed him past the threshold, effectively sealing his return to the presidency after his 2020 defeat.

Speaking to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center in Florida early on Wednesday, November 6, Trump declared, "America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate."

This victory represents a dramatic turn of events for Trump, who had appeared politically defeated following the January 6th Capitol insurrection, when a mob of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Despite this, Trump managed to consolidate power within the Republican Party, sweeping aside challengers and defeating Democratic nominee Kamala Harris by capitalizing on voter concerns about inflation and crime.

Trump's return to the White House marks the end of a polarizing election season. While Harris, the vice president-elect, refrained from addressing the press or her supporters at Howard University, campaign co-chair Cedric Richmond told the crowd that "there are still votes to count." Harris is expected to speak publicly later on Wednesday as more results come in.

The election also saw Republicans taking control of the U.S. Senate, though control of the House of Representatives remains



uncertain with both parties vying for the majority.

Economic issues, particularly inflation and job security, dominated the election cycle, with voters expressing frustration over rising prices despite a growing economy and historically low unemployment.

According to Reuters/Ipsos exit polls, many Americans, particularly Hispanic and lower-income voters who have been hit hard by inflation, showed significant support for Trump. His base of rural, white, non-college-educated voters also turned out in full force, helping propel him to victory.

Trump's victory comes despite his contentious history. Impeached twice, indicted four times on criminal charges, and found civilly liable for sexual abuse and defamation, his record has remained a focal point for critics. In May, Trump was convicted of falsifying business records to cover up hush-money payments to a porn star.

Nevertheless, Trump's political

resilience has been unmatched, with his unorthodox approach to campaigning and his staunch opposition to the Biden administration resonating with a significant portion of the electorate. His victory promises to have far-reaching implications for both domestic and foreign policy.

As president, Trump is expected to lead a policy shift that could have profound effects on U.S. trade, tax, and climate policies. His stance on tariffs could lead to an even fiercer trade war with China, while his proposals to cut corporate taxes may exacerbate the national debt, economists warn. Trump has also vowed to crack down on illegal immigration, launching a mass deportation campaign and possibly targeting those in the country illegally.



# What Trump's presidency could mean for Africa's Economy

By New Daily Prime

With Donald Trump's return to the White House looking increasingly likely, questions are swirling over what his presidency could mean for Africa's economic landscape. From trade policies to foreign aid, a Trump administration could bring both challenges and opportunities for African nations navigating a shifting global economy.

## Trade Relations: New Focus on Bilateral Deals

Under Trump's "America First" approach, the U.S. may prioritize agreements that directly benefit American interests, potentially impacting African trade agreements like the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). AGOA, which allows certain African exports duty-free access to the U.S. market, has been critical for industries like textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing in Africa.

Trump's stance could lead to a push for more reciprocal trade agreements, requiring African countries to offer similar benefits to U.S. goods in return. This shift could challenge economies heavily dependent on exports to the U.S. and force them to renegotiate terms that had previously been favorable.

## Preference for Bilateral Agreements Over Regional Trade

During his previous administration, Trump often favored bilateral trade deals over multilateral agreements. This approach may lead to individual African nations negotiating directly with the U.S. instead of benefiting from collective regional agreements. While larger economies like South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya may attract direct U.S. engagement, smaller nations could face a struggle to

maintain significant trade ties.

Such a shift could also slow down the momentum of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a major regional initiative to boost intra-African trade. If the U.S. demands individual agreements with African nations, it could reduce the incentive for countries to prioritize regional trade development.

## Potential Cuts to Development Aid

Trump's previous tenure saw attempts to reduce the U.S. foreign aid budget, and a second term may bring further cuts. For African nations, particularly those relying on U.S. aid for healthcare, education, and infrastructure, reduced aid could have serious implications. U.S. foreign assistance programs like the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have historically provided critical support in these areas.

Trump's emphasis on "self-reliance" may pressure African countries to rely more on their domestic resources or seek alternative partnerships with China, the European Union, or regional development banks.

## Heightened Competition with China: A Double-Edged Sword

Trump's hawkish stance on China

could indirectly affect Africa, as the U.S. may increase investments in Africa to counter China's economic influence. China has been Africa's largest trading partner, with significant investments in infrastructure, mining, and technology. Increased U.S. presence could provide African countries with more financing options, potentially improving terms and creating healthy competition in infrastructure and technology investment.

However, African nations may find



themselves in a delicate balancing act, as they navigate relationships with both the U.S. and China. Should Trump's administration pressure countries to align with U.S. interests, this could complicate existing arrangements and place African governments in challenging positions.

## Security and Counterterrorism: An Area of Continued Focus

Trump has consistently emphasized security cooperation, and African countries—particularly those in the Sahel and Horn of Africa—may continue to receive counterterrorism support. The Sahel, with its persistent threat from groups like Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, could benefit from U.S. security funding and training.

# Kamala Harris concedes to Trump

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Vice President Kamala Harris officially conceded the 2024 presidential race to Donald Trump on Wednesday evening, addressing a crowd of supporters at her alma mater, Howard University, in Washington, DC.

“My heart is full today,” she began, expressing gratitude, love for the country, and a deep resolve despite the unexpected outcome.

In her heartfelt remarks, Harris admitted that the election outcome was not what her campaign had hoped for.

“The light of America’s promise will always burn bright,” she affirmed, calling on her supporters to stay resilient and committed to their causes.

Harris noted that she had spoken with Trump earlier in the day, congratulating him on what his team described as a “historic victory.”



Trump, according to his communications director Steven Cheung, acknowledged Harris’s “strength, professionalism, and tenacity,” underscoring the need for unity in the country.

As Harris pledged a “peaceful transfer of power,” she implicitly contrasted this moment with the turbulent 2020 election aftermath. She highlighted the importance of accepting electoral

results, calling it a “fundamental principle of American democracy.” Her words served as a reminder of the Constitution’s primacy over any individual or party.

Although she conceded the race, Harris encouraged supporters to remain hopeful, especially young Americans watching her journey. “To the young people... it is OK to feel sad and disappointed. But please know it’s going to be OK,” she said. Harris, who would have been the first woman president, urged her audience not to give up on what seems difficult or unprecedented.

Harris concluded her speech with her campaign anthem, “Freedom” by Beyoncé, as a testament to her unyielding spirit and to inspire those who had stood by her. In her 12-minute address, she expressed an unwavering commitment to continue the fight for the causes she championed during her campaign.

## Putin confirms readiness to begin negotiations with US President-Elect Trump

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

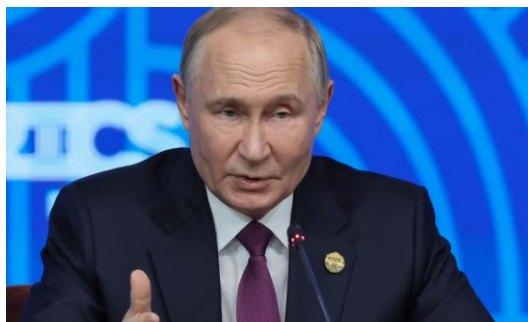
Russian President Vladimir Putin has confirmed his willingness to engage in negotiations with US President-elect Donald Trump.

The announcement comes amid growing anticipation of the upcoming leadership transition in the United States.

In a statement issued earlier today, Putin expressed his readiness to work with the incoming American administration, signaling an openness to dialogue on a range of global issues, including security, trade, and bilateral relations.

The Russian leader emphasized the importance of dialogue between the two countries, highlighting that such discussions are crucial for fostering stability and cooperation on the world stage.

“Russia is ready to engage in



constructive negotiations with the incoming U.S. leadership, and we are hopeful that this new chapter can bring about positive change in our bilateral relations,” Putin said.

The news follows months of speculation regarding the nature of the relationship between Russia and the United States under Trump’s presidency. Despite tensions over a variety of issues, including the situation in Ukraine, NATO expansion, and cyber-security, Putin’s remarks suggest that both countries may be looking to reset their diplomatic ties.

The confirmation of Putin’s stance has already drawn reactions from Washington. Although President-elect Trump has not yet formally commented on the Russian leader’s statement, members of his transition team have expressed interest in building stronger ties with Moscow, signaling that negotiations may be on the horizon.

The global community is now closely watching how this potential shift in US-Russia relations will unfold in the coming months. Experts are speculating that renewed discussions between the two nuclear powers could have significant implications for geopolitics, particularly in Europe and the Middle East.



# Lammy stays as foreign secretary despite Trump criticisms

By **Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi**

Despite past criticisms of Donald Trump, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer confirmed that David Lammy will remain in his post as Foreign Secretary, even as Trump returns to the White House. Lammy, known for his outspoken remarks on Trump, previously referred to the former president as a “woman-hating, neo-Nazi-sympathising sociopath” during his tenure as a backbencher in 2018. He also labeled Trump a “profound threat to the international order,” a statement that has since drawn scrutiny as Lammy prepares to lead UK foreign relations under a Trump presidency.

There had been speculation that Lammy, a frequent Trump critic, might be reshuffled following Trump’s win. But in a clear show of support, the Prime Minister’s press secretary announced Wednesday that Lammy would continue as Foreign Secretary through the next general election, expected in 2029.

If Starmer maintains his stance, Lammy would oversee UK foreign policy for the entirety of Trump’s second term. In a strategic move to reinforce diplomatic ties with the incoming U.S. administration, Starmer publicly congratulated Trump on his victory, praising the “historic election” and expressing a desire to work closely with the new administration.

## Lammy’s past criticisms of Trump have covered multiple areas:

### Division and Racial Tensions

Lammy has criticized Trump’s rhetoric for inciting racial tensions, particularly after events like the Charlottesville incident, which he argues empowered extremist groups and influenced right-wing movements globally.

### Immigration Policies

Lammy condemned Trump’s immigration policies, including the family separation policy at the U.S.-Mexico border and the travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries, which he called discriminatory.

### Environmental Policies and Climate Change

Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and environmental deregulations drew Lammy’s ire, as he viewed these as setbacks to global climate action and threats to progress.

### Democratic Norms

Lammy was critical of Trump’s claims of election fraud in 2020, warning that undermining election integrity could harm public trust in democratic institutions worldwide. Global Populism and Right-Wing Influence

Lammy has argued that Trump’s nationalism and isolationism fueled similar movements abroad, impacting Brexit sentiments and right-wing group dynamics across Europe.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Lammy took issue with Trump’s response to COVID-19, calling it poorly managed and suggesting that it contributed to preventable loss of life.

As Starmer moves to build a constructive relationship with the incoming Trump administration, he



faces the challenge of reconciling Lammy’s history of criticisms with the necessity of cooperation. To ease tensions, Starmer met with Trump in September, an effort to build rapport as his government prepared for Trump’s potential return to power. However, those efforts were complicated by reports of a former senior Labour aide organizing 100 activists to support Trump’s opponent, Kamala Harris.

With Lammy now at the helm of UK foreign policy, public anticipation grows over how he will navigate his relationship with Trump’s administration.

# NHS Nurse wins tribunal two years suspension over false claim

By **Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi**

Jessica Thorpe, an NHS nurse, has won an employment tribunal after enduring a two-year suspension due to a false claim by a patient. The patient, housed in Ward Z—a secure unit for men with mental health disorders linked to the criminal justice system—alleged that Ms. Thorpe was in an “inappropriate relationship” with him and claimed she was pregnant with his child. Despite no conclusive evidence to support these allegations, Ms. Thorpe was kept from work for 29 months.

Ms. Thorpe, who worked for Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, was suspended in April 2020. A disciplinary hearing was delayed until July 2021, partly due to the patient’s death, but ultimately found no misconduct. However, she remained suspended, with the trust citing police investigations as justification.

Employment Judge Simon

Loy ruled in Ms. Thorpe’s favor, condemning the trust’s decision to keep her suspended after the disciplinary hearing, stating there was “no reasonable and proper cause.” The tribunal upheld her claims of unfair constructive dismissal, breach of contract, and unlawful deduction of wages.

During her suspension, Ms. Thorpe began a food influencer account, “Slice of Jess,” amassing 50,000 Instagram followers and earning through YouTube, where she gained 25,000 subscribers. Tax documents showed her influencer income grew significantly, from £4,211 in 2021 to £19,222 in 2023. The trust argued her resignation was due to her desire to pursue social media; however, the

tribunal found that her prolonged suspension and lack of support influenced her decision to leave.

Judge Loy noted the “oddity” of her resignation but ultimately ruled in her favor, acknowledging that her suspension had created



an opportunity to explore social media work. Ms. Thorpe’s compensation will be determined at a later hearing.