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Caesarean sections will be free for all Nigerian women – Health Minister

By Helen Okechukwu

To reduce the mortality rate among expecting mothers and unborn children during childbirth, the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Pate, has declared that caesarean sections for women will come with no charges.

This development came shortly after the launch of the Maternal Mortality Reduction Initiative (MAMII) on the second day of the 3-day Health Sector Joint Annual Review (JAR), which commenced on November 6.

The health ministry described the gathering as its first-ever event among stakeholders, held between the government, development partners, civil society, and the private sector.

The Coordinating Minister of Health noted that “No woman should lose her life simply because she can’t afford a C-section.”

MAMII aims to address Nigeria’s critical maternal and neonatal mortality rates—among the highest globally—by prioritising mothers and newborns, focusing on primary health services, and encouraging community involvement, affordability, and access to quality healthcare.

The gathering focused on accountability, collaboration, and strategic planning with the goal of transforming healthcare delivery across Nigeria.

It aligns with the Nigeria Health Sector Strategic Renewal Investment Initiative (NHSRII), which emphasizes accessibility, affordability, and high-quality



healthcare for all.

During the launch, HRH Dr. Haliru Yahaya, Emir of Shonga, pledged full commitment, noting, “Traditional institutions and communities are at the heart of health reforms. We’re fully in!”

Oyebanji Filani, Chairman of the Nigeria Health Commissioners Forum, added, “MAMII is a marathon, not a sprint! Health commissioners are ALL IN for implementation.”

ALGON President, Hon. Engr. Bello Lawal, said, “We’re aligning with the Federal Government to ensure grassroots support. Full steam ahead!”

The World Health Organization (WHO) Country Representative noted, “If implemented right, this initiative will deliver. We’re here to support every step of the way!”

Trina Haque, Practice Manager for the World Bank Africa, also pledged full commitment, stating, “MAMII is a game-changer! We’re committed to funding and expertise. Let’s close the gaps!”

Adding to the list of supporters, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced their commitment: “Exciting progress! We’re dedicated to making maternal and child

health a priority.”

On November 3, The New Daily Prime reported that the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) pledged to prioritize healthcare and partner with stakeholders to achieve universal health coverage, aligning with President Bola Tinubu’s Renewed Hope Agenda.

“For the first time, we are conducting a Joint Annual Review and presenting Nigeria’s State of Health Report, symbolizing our dedication to transparency and measurable progress,” the Minister remarked.

“This is about improving lives and ensuring that our work in healthcare delivers tangible benefits to all Nigerians.”

Out of 41 key performance indicators (KPIs) reviewed, it was revealed that Nigeria is on track to achieve 31 of them, with over 2,600 facilities upgraded to increase access to care across rural and urban communities.

Nigerians to enjoy 20-hour daily power supply by 2027 – FG

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Government has promised to provide Nigerians with at least 20 hours of daily electricity by 2027.

The government, however, has conditioned this target on sufficient investment in Nigeria's oil and gas sector, which it has said is currently far below expectations.

Disclosing the plans at the Energy Week in Cape Town, South Africa, the Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Olu Verheijen, in a release by the State House Director of Information and Publicity, Abiodun Oladunjoye, on Thursday, stated, "By 2027, Nigeria aims to ensure 20 hours of electricity daily for consumers in urban areas and industrial hubs."

The statement is titled, 'At African Energy Week in Cape Town, Olu Verheijen Invites Global Players to Invest in Nigeria's Energy Sector.'

Verheijen's comments come amid the frequent collapse of Nigeria's national power grid, which has led to widespread blackouts across the country.

The grid collapsed on Thursday, marking the 11th such incident since January 2024. The Federal Government has attributed these recurring collapses to ageing infrastructure, inadequate maintenance, and insufficient investment in the power sector.

The Special Adviser said despite having an installed capacity of approximately 12,500 megawatts, Nigeria often generates only a fraction of this, leaving many areas without reliable electricity.

Verheijen told participants at the Energy Week about efforts by the Tinubu administration to revitalize



the nation's power sector, with plans to provide more reliable electricity access for the 86 million Nigerians currently underserved.

She said the scheme aims to improve revenue assurance and collection.

Other key measures include tackling legacy debt, deploying seven million smart meters to reduce losses, and expanding off-grid solutions for remote communities.

Highlighting recent macroeconomic reforms, such as the removal of the petrol subsidy and foreign exchange liberalisation, she expressed confidence that Nigeria is poised for unprecedented growth.

"Under President Tinubu's leadership, Nigeria is championing reforms to unlock its vast economic potential and create jobs," she said, inviting foreign partners to participate in Nigeria's next chapter of growth.

While discussing the recent reforms implemented by President Bola Tinubu's administration to attract investment, Verheijen noted that the country has historically underperformed in oil and

and gas production despite its wealth in the sector.

The Special Adviser referenced how countries like Brazil, which have only 30 per cent of Nigeria's oil reserves, have outperformed Nigeria by producing 131 per cent more than the country's current output.

"Despite our abundant resources, we have underperformed against our potential. For example, Brazil holds only 30 per cent of Nigeria's oil reserves but produces 131 per cent more. This is largely due to under-investment," she said.

She lamented that since 2016, Nigeria has attracted only 4 per cent of African oil and gas investments, while investment has surged in other, less resource-rich nations.

"Since 2016, Nigeria has managed to attract only 4 per cent of total investments in oil and gas, while less-resourced countries in Africa have enjoyed a larger share.

"When we analysed investment data, we also found that, between 2013, when Nigeria's last deepwater project reached FID, and now, International Oil Companies (IOCs) operating in Nigeria have committed more than \$82bn in deepwater investments in other countries they deemed to be more attractive destinations for their capital," she told the audience.

Recognising this trend, the presidential aide highlighted efforts by President Tinubu's administration to enact reforms aimed at reshaping Nigeria's investment landscape.

She cited the government's introduction of fiscal incentives targeting deep offshore and non-associated gas projects, marking the first time Nigeria has outlined a fiscal framework specifically for deepwater gas.

In efforts to enhance the upstream oil and gas sector, she said her office has collaborated closely with the office of the National Security Adviser to create and distribute focused Security Directives, leveraging insights gathered from on-the-ground operators.

Hardship: Save our industry, editors, publishers, others beg Tinubu

By Dave Oludare Oso

Editors, media owners, and other stakeholders have made a passionate plea to President Bola Tinubu to save the nation's media industry amid the ongoing economic hardship in the country.

They spoke at the All Nigerian Editors Conference in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, with the theme: "Economic Growth and Development Strategies in a Resource-Rich Country."

This development came as President Tinubu urged media managers to focus on factual reporting and uphold professional integrity.

The President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Mr. Eze Anaba, highlighted that the unavailability of resource materials is one of the biggest threats to the media industry.

He said: "We are here because we recognize the critical role that both a strong economy and a resilient media sector play in fostering a prosperous, informed, and democratic society. Today, as editors, we stand at a crossroads where our decisions, priorities, and strategies will shape the future of our country and journalism."

"The growth of our nation's economy directly influences every sector, and our industry is no exception. A strong economy fuels consumer spending, drives innovation, and creates opportunities for media organizations to expand and thrive. Yet, with these opportunities come new challenges."

"Media organizations face mounting pressure to adapt to modern trends while staying financially viable and maintaining journalistic integrity. The biggest threat to media survival today is the availability of resource materials to produce our papers or broadcast on our TV stations."

He further noted that the Federal Government, through the Minister of Information, had promised to address the challenges faced by media organizations. He expressed hope that there would be a resolution that would allow newspapers to continue practising their profession effectively.

Anaba emphasized that sustainability in the media industry is not just about economic survival but about preserving the values that make journalism a pillar of democracy. He cited Section 22 of



L-R: the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris, Governor Douye Diri of Bayelsa State, The President of the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Mr. Eze Anaba, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, publisher of Thisday and Arise Television and former Ogun State governor, Olusegun Osoba at the editors' conference.

Nigeria's Constitution, which mandates the media to hold the government to account.

"The Constitution challenges us to hold the government accountable, even amid the poverty facing our profession," he said. "Our work is essential not only to our audiences but also to the economic and social fabric of our country."

Also speaking, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, the chairman of the conference and publisher of Thisday and Arise Television, lamented the challenges facing the media industry but expressed optimism for the future.

He said: "Nigeria is in a reset. We have reforms underway, and unlike others, I believe that the future can be better if we give these reforms a human face. We should support the reforms, stay the course, and ensure that the poor and vulnerable are supported."

Obaigbena also spoke about global changes, particularly with the rise of Donald Trump, and urged Nigerians to prepare for these changes by first addressing internal issues. He called for efforts to fix Nigeria and protect the country's industries.

The father of the day and publisher of Vanguard Newspaper, Mr. Sam Amuka, directly addressed the issue of the media's survival in the current economic climate.

He stated: "The truth is, there is no business right now. If the purpose of business is to make a profit, the newspaper business is dead. Everything, including prices, has gone up to the extent that publishing as we knew it has died. This week, I asked a financial controller

how things were going, and she said the money earned from the sale of hardcopy newspapers was only enough to pay for the transportation of the papers. That was all."

Amuka highlighted the dramatic rise in the cost of newsprint, from N600,000 two years ago to over N2 million today. "This means that every day we publish a hardcopy newspaper, we don't make any money; we lose," he said.

He called for government involvement in the media business, noting that the cost of newsprint is unsustainable, and it is crucial to support the media to continue publishing hard copies.

"The Minister has agreed to take up the fight for the newspapers, but we need government involvement to sustain this business," he stressed.

Former Governor of Ogun State, Chief Olusegun Osoba urged the media guild to intervene in the leadership crisis affecting the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ).

He said: "Before you leave, I want you to set up a committee to look into the crisis brewing in the NUJ. They are supposed to hold their annual conference, but some people are saying that the president has overstayed his tenure, and they have taken him to court. You are the only united group, after NPAN, that can intervene in this crisis."

National grid collapses again

By Dave Oludare Oso

Nigeria was on Thursday plunged into darkness as the country's national grid collapsed again.

According to reports, the bulk power supply was disrupted around 11:20am on Thursday.

This was confirmed on X by Nigeria National Grid via @NationalGridNg It tweeted: "BREAKING: Another Grid Setback Experienced."

This is the second time the grid has collapsed this week and the twelfth time in the last eleven months.

The development has stirred mixed reactions on social media among Nigerians.

Meanwhile, the Transmission Company of Nigeria has not issued an official statement on the reason the grid collapsed again on Thursday.



However, recall that TCN blamed the grid collapse on lines and generator trips on Tuesday.

This comes as the Minister of Power, Adebayo Adedunjo on Wednesday received an investigative report on the incessant grid collapse in Nigeria. Although, the details have not been

unveiled to the public.

Nigerians recently called for the sack of Adedunjo over incessant grid collapses.

Ondo gov poll: INEC accredits 111 organizations, 3,554 observers, 100 media houses

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu, has said the commission accredited 111 domestic and international organizations, and will deploy 3,554 observers for the Ondo State governorship poll.

Yakubu made this known on Thursday in Akure during a stakeholders' meeting organised by the commission ahead of the governorship election scheduled for November 16.

He said, "As you are aware, an election is a multi-stakeholder activity. INEC has a role to play and we have done so always in consultation with stakeholders."

The INEC chairman, who said that the commission's role had to be complemented by stakeholders, urged



political parties to continue to restrain their supporters from any disruptive behaviour.

He stated, "Accreditation tags have been produced for all your agents bearing their names, photographs, and location of deployment. We have also added a QR code to the tags that can be read even from mobile phone applications. We have also accredited over 100 radio, television, newspaper,

and online media organizations, deploying about 700 personnel, including 129 female journalists. The largest number for any off-cycle governorship election in Nigeria. We have also accredited thousands of agents representing candidates and political parties for all the polling and collation locations across the state."

Yakubu, therefore, assured that the accreditation cards for all categories of stakeholders were ready, saying the state office in Akure would soon commence the distribution of accreditation tags, including election duty vehicle stickers.

Also, Supervising National Commissioner in charge of Ondo, Oyo and Osun states, Prof. Kunle Ajayi, called on political parties and their candidates to conduct themselves with the highest level of decorum and responsibility.

Buhari mourns Lagbaja

By Helen Okechukwu

Former President Muhammadu Buhari has expressed his profound sorrow over the death of the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. General Taoreed Lagbaja.

He praised him as a patriot and an exceptional officer who dedicated his service to the nation with the highest level of diligence.

In a statement following the official announcement of General Lagbaja's passing, the former president conveyed his deep shock at the news, stating that the nation had lost one of its finest soldiers.

“As Commander-in-Chief, General Lagbaja stood out as one of the bravest officers, capturing my attention for his unwavering devotion to duty.

“Throughout various frontlines of internal security operations—Operation Zaki in Benue State, Lafiya Dole in Borno, Udoka in Southeast Nigeria, and Operation Forest Sanity



across Kaduna and Niger States—General Lagbaja's military prowess was indisputable. He left an indelible mark as a professional soldier and an inspiring commander wherever he served.”

The former president prayed for the repose of General Lagbaja's soul, and for the Almighty to reward his courageous service to both the Nigerian Army and the nation.

President Buhari also extended his condolences to the late officer's family, the Nigerian Army, President Bola Tinubu, the government, and the people of Nigeria.

Peter Obi congratulates Trump, urges INEC to emulate US election practices

By Friday Omosola

Peter Obi, the Labour Party's 2023 presidential candidate, has commended the peaceful conduct of the United States presidential election, praising the efficient transmission and timely release of results.

He called on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to take inspiration from the US elections and adopt similar practices.

In a statement shared on his X page on Thursday, Obi urged INEC to abandon outdated methods such as electoral malpractice, vote-buying, election violence, and network disruptions—challenges that continue to undermine Nigeria's democratic process.

Obi also extended his congratulations to Donald Trump on his reelection, as well as to Vice President Kamala Harris for her unwavering resilience and dedication throughout the political journey.

The former Governor of Anambra State noted that Harris contested with remarkable courage and strength.

He said: “Yesterday, I extended my congratulations to President Donald Trump on his successful return as the 47th President of the United States. I am optimistic that his victory will reinforce democracy worldwide and contribute to fostering much-needed global peace.



“No democratic election is complete unless the people's will is genuinely reflected through the ballots. As a nation, let us collectively work to restore the integrity of our electoral system and ensure that our process for choosing leaders is free, fair, and reflective of the people's true desires. Congratulations to the United States of America.”

Minister blames vandalism for frequent grid collapse

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, has attributed frequent grid collapses to vandalism and lack of maintenance in the past.

Adelabu stressed that most 2024 incidents resulted from vandalism and theft of power equipment while receiving the report of the committee set up to address grid collapses in Abuja on Wednesday.

He said a lack of good maintenance and external factors also contributed to the collapses.

“The federal government is taking the issue seriously, requiring urgent attention,” he said.

Adelabu assured that the ministry would review the report, make amendments, and submit it to President Bola Tinubu.

The six-member committee, chaired by Nafisat Ali, executive director of the Independent System Operator (ISO),



identified specific causes for recent collapses.

Ms Ali said the causes for the recent collapse included the shattering of lightning arrestors in Jebba and Oshogbo transmission stations on October 14, and the explosion of a CT at Jebba Station, on October 19.

She said that the committee recommended reviewing relaying philosophy and settings within one month, enhancing capacity development

philosophy and settings within one month, enhancing capacity development for Maintenance and System Operator staff, and testing existing equipment at critical nodes.

Ms. Ali said the committee emphasized that recommendations with financial implications would be included in the 2025 budget or addressed through a supplementary budget.

Bandits abduct 100 people in Zamfara community

By Dave Oludare Oso

Gunmen have abducted 100 persons in Wanke, near Gusau, the capital of Zamfara State.

According to a source, a Chief Imam was among the abducted victims.

The source said, “This is the second time the Imam was abducted.”

According to Daily Post, the police and the state government are yet to react to the incident.

A survivor told the BBC Hausa Service in an interview that the affected communities were under siege and people were migrating for fear of further attacks.

He further explained that near Sabon Layi, over 50 persons were taken away, and near Dagon Hayi about 50 others were also abducted.

He stated that they were still counting those missing, adding that some of the locals were terribly frightened and have fled for safety.

He added that the terrorists were chasing people as if they were chasing animals, lamenting that it was quite a disturbing scenario watching how people were being chased away from their houses.

According to him, they (bandits) were chasing the people on motorbikes, stressing that they traced women to their houses and abducted them, while some were even intercepted while running away and were herded like animals to the bush.

“These terrorists attacked Gira, Ruwa



Kusa, Dogon Hayi and Gidan Kado communities, where they stole motorcycles, farm produce and phones. They burgled shops and stole provisions,” the source disclosed.

The source added that officials at Wanke were informed but no action was taken.

Efforts to get police reaction on the incidents were not successful.

TCN begins repair on collapsed national grid

By Helen Okechukwu



In an effort to address the continuing falling grid, The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has announced the commencement of repair work on the transmission line.

This was contained in a statement shared on X by the special adviser of information and strategy to President Bola Tinubu on Thursday.

In the disclosure, Ndidi Mbah, the General Manager and Public Affairs of TCN, said the blackout was caused by a sudden rise in frequency from 50.33 Hz to 51.44 Hz.

Furthermore, Mbah said as a result of the frequency spike in the transmission company, the team decided to shut the platform down to avert further complications.

However, the investigation report generated from the previous collapse noted that the occurrence of a collapsed national grid was a result of a weak transmission system, and repairs are ongoing to improve the working condition of the units.

The statement read, “The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) wishes to inform the public that the national grid experienced a disturbance at approximately 11:29 AM this morning, caused by a sudden rise in frequency from 50.33Hz to 51.44Hz. Recovery efforts began immediately, and the Abuja Axis was restored within ... minutes. Recovery is still ongoing.”

“The frequency spike was caused by issues encountered at one of TCN’s substations, which had to be shut down to prevent further complications. In addition to this, TCN is actively engaged in significant repair work on several critical transmission lines and substations. This includes the 330kV transmission line along the Shiroro-Mando axis, major upgrades at the Jebba Transmission Substation, and the restoration of the second Ugwuaji-Apir 330kV transmission line.”

“Furthermore, following the submission of the investigative report on the causes of previous grid collapses, TCN has begun addressing the identified weaknesses in the transmission system. Efforts are being

made to close the gaps highlighted in the report and to enhance the overall stability and resilience of the grid. These efforts include both technical upgrades and strategic interventions based on the committee’s recommendations.”

“However, it is important to note that while these repairs and improvements are underway, some degree of instability in the system is likely to persist until all major works are completed. TCN acknowledges the impact of these disruptions and kindly asks for the understanding and patience of the public during this challenging period.”

Acknowledging the significant role of providing stable power in Nigeria’s socio-economic development, TCN reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining and improving the reliability of electricity supply.

Lagbaja: IGP directs police officers to wear black bands

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has directed all officers and personnel of the Nigeria Police Force to wear black bands for a seven-day mourning period following the passing of the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja.

This gesture is to pay tribute to the late general's outstanding service and leadership in the fight against insurgency and violent crimes in Nigeria.

The directive was issued in a statement released by the Force Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

According to the statement, the IGP emphasised that the black bands are a mark of respect and honor for the late General Lagbaja, who served as the Chief of Army Staff until his death on November 5, 2024, at the age of 56, after battling a prolonged illness.

The IGP's statement read, "Following the demise of the late Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Taoreed Lagbaja, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun has ordered officers and men of the Nigeria Police Force to wear black bands throughout the seven-day mourning period. This directive is to pay tribute and honor the late General, who demonstrated gallantry, dedication, and passion in combating violent crimes and insurgency in Nigeria. He was a great leader who

deserves to be honored by all means."

The statement concluded with a prayer for the late General: "May the soul of the late COAS rest in peace."

The death of Lt. Gen. Lagbaja has deeply saddened the nation, with President Bola Tinubu expressing his condolences and directing that flags be flown at half-mast across the country for the next seven days.

The presidential directive, announced on November 6, was communicated through a statement from Bayo Onanuga, the Special Adviser on Information and Strategy. Lagbaja, appointed as Chief of Army Staff by President Tinubu on June 19, 2023, was known for his leadership and decisive actions in Nigeria's ongoing fight against terrorism, insurgency, and other forms of violent extremism.

His death has left a significant void in the country's military leadership.

Tribute from the Police Force

In addition to the police officers' display of mourning through black bands, the Nigeria Police Force has also expressed its condolences for the loss of a national hero. Many within the force hailed the late general's commitment to the country's security, noting that his leadership had a profound impact on the stability of Nigeria's military operations.

The seven-day mourning period will serve as a time of reflection on the late general's contributions to the country, especially his tireless efforts in securing Nigeria from internal threats.



Gov Oyebanji approves N1bn for gratuities, pays pension arrears

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has approved the release of one billion naira in gratuity payments for state pensioners.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Yinka Oyebode, the governor also confirmed the disbursement of two months' worth of pension arrears to local government pensioners.

This approval comes just a month after the governor distributed a total of N3.5 billion in gratuity checks to retirees across the state, showcasing his administration's commitment to clearing the backlog of unpaid gratuities.

Furthermore, Governor Oyebanji approved the payment of two months' outstanding subventions for Ekiti State



University, Ado-Ekiti, as well as one month of outstanding subventions for Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital (EKSUTH), Bamidele Olomilua University of Education, Science and Technology, and the College of Health Science and Technology, Ijero-Ekiti.

Additionally, the judiciary will receive

one month's outstanding subvention.

These payments, he noted, fulfil his promise to prioritize the welfare of workers and retirees and to clear all unpaid entitlements owed by past administrations.

This commitment aligns with his administration's continuity and shared prosperity agenda.

Governor Oyebanji encouraged state workers to remain dedicated to service excellence, assuring them of his administration's commitment to their welfare and timely payment of all entitlements.

Local govt must be allowed to generate revenue independently – Oyo Speaker, Ogundoyin

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The Speaker of Oyo State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Adebo Ogundoyin, has said local governments must be allowed to generate revenue independently to unlock true autonomy that will empower local communities to respond better to community needs.

Ogundoyin emphasised that Local Government (LG) financial autonomy can be achieved in Nigeria if the surrounding complexities and ambiguities are addressed.

Oyo speaker spoke at the Oyo South Senatorial District meeting of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) held at Ido Local Government Secretariat, Ibadan.

Rt. Hon. Ogundoyin noted that resolving these issues would enhance service delivery, governance, community engagement, and



economic development at the local government level.

"There is the need to clarify the Concurrent and Exclusive lists in Nigeria's Constitution for effective LG financial autonomy. Unlocking true LG autonomy will empower local communities, enabling them to respond better to community needs.

"Recall that, Oyo State House of Assembly passed the Administrative autonomy bill for Local Government.

Local governments must be allowed to generate revenue independently among other issues."

Ogundoyin also urged PDP members to intensify their membership drive and mobilization efforts, citing unity and cooperation as crucial for the party's success in future elections.

"I will like to welcome everyone to Oyo South Senatorial District Meeting of our great party here in Ido Local Government Secretariat, Ibadan. This is another opportunity for us to deliberate on ways of moving the Senatorial District forward. We need to amplify the vision of PDP, attracting new supporters and members to our fold.

"However, we must also continue to foster unity and cooperation amongst all members irrespective of our status in the party." Oyo Speaker said.

DHQ confirms emergence of new terror group 'Lukarawas'

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has confirmed the emergence of a new terrorist group known as 'Lukarawas,' heightening security challenges in the northwestern region of Nigeria.

Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Edward Buba, disclosed this during a military operations briefing on Thursday in Abuja.

According to him, the newly formed terror group reportedly infiltrated northern Sokoto and Kebbi States from the Republic of Niger, following the breakdown in military cooperation caused by Niger's recent coup.

Buba explained that prior to the coup, joint border operations between Nigerian and Nigerien security forces had



successfully kept terrorist activities in check.

He noted that the Lukarawas terrorists exploited the suspended border collaborations and used difficult terrains for incursions.

Buba stated, "The terrorists took advantage of the gaps in cooperation

between both countries and exploited difficult terrains to make incursions in remote areas in some Northwestern states to spread their ideology."

He revealed that the group was initially welcomed by local communities, who mistakenly believed the terrorists had good intentions and failed to report their movements to authorities.

Despite the challenge, Buba assured that military forces are employing sustained intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations to weaken and eliminate the threat. He added that the Lukarawas continue to use under-governed and remote regions to evade security forces and harass local populations.

RSUTH health facility emerges as Nigeria's South-South region Mpox testing lab

By Helen Okechukwu

In a tremendous achievement, the Rivers State University Teaching Hospital (RSUTH) announced that its state-of-the-art Molecular Laboratory in the state has emerged as the South-South region for testing Mpox.

Announcing its selection through their X page on Thursday, the management said the health facilities have successfully completed the first two Mpox samples.

Acknowledging its significant move to combat the outbreak of zoonotic disease variants in Nigeria, RSUTH said on October 14, 2024, the Nigerian Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)-Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) made the declaration.

Appreciating the Governor Siminalayi Fubara and Hon. Commissioner for Health, Rivers State, Dr. Adaeze Oreh,



the Chief Medical Director of RSUTH, Prof. Chizindu Alikor, expressed delight as he highlighted the efforts of the health team and the importance of this development to the state and region.

The statement read, "The successful completion of the first tests marks a key moment in the hospital's growing reputation as a hub for cutting-edge medical research and diagnostics. The results, which have already been released to the State Epidemiologist,

were sent from the Ministry of Health for testing at the newly established RSUTH Molecular Lab," the notice disclosed.

He pledged the management's dedication to delivering innovative and excellence in medical care.

"He also commended the Hon. Commissioner for Health, Rivers State, Dr. Adaeze C. Oreh @Adaeze_Oreh, for her leadership and commitment to public health, which has been instrumental in making this breakthrough possible."

"This latest development underscores the hospital's dedication to providing high-quality healthcare and its important contribution to the national effort in combating Mpox, a virus that has become a significant public health concern in recent years," the RSUTH management noted.

Northern governors mourn late COAS, Lagbaja

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF) has conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, over the demise of Lt. General Taoreed Lagbaja, the Chief of Army Staff, who died on November 5, 2024, from a protracted illness.

The Chairman of the forum, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, of Gombe State, described the late COAS as a distinguished officer, who served the nation with remarkable courage and dedication.

Governor Yahaya remarked, "General Lagbaja's life and career were defined by a commitment to the Nigerian Armed Forces and an exceptional dedication to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty



The NSGF Chairman also noted that the late Lagbaja embodied the values of discipline, bravery, and integrity that characterize the finest traditions of military service, adding that his leadership played a significant role in strengthening the nation's defence framework and upholding peace and stability.

between both countries and exploited difficult terrains to make incursions in remote areas in some Northwestern states to spread their ideology."

He revealed that the group was initially welcomed by local communities, who mistakenly believed the terrorists had good intentions and failed to report their movements to authorities.

Despite the challenge, Buba assured that military forces are employing sustained intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations to weaken and eliminate the threat. He added that the Lukarawas continue to use under-governed and remote regions to evade security forces and harass local populations.

Military unveils new list of wanted terrorist leaders

By Helen Okechukwu

In a decisive effort to combat terrorism in Nigeria's North-East, the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has released a fresh list of wanted terrorist leaders.

The Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Edward Buba, made the announcement during a press briefing on Thursday in Abuja.

The list features several high-profile figures accused of masterminding attacks and spreading insecurity across the region.

Major names include Abdurraman, Dadi Gumba (also known as Abbu Muhammel), Usman Kanin Shehu, Abu Yusuf, Abu Khadijah, Musa Wa'a, Ba Sulhu, Idris Takleksa and Ibrahim Suyeka.

Urging the public to assist in identifying and reporting information about these suspects, Major General Buba highlighted the importance of local community involvement, noting that public cooperation could be crucial in the effort to eliminate terrorist threats.

He stressed that the publication reinforces the government's determination to enhance security and restore peace in insurgency-affected areas.

The general noted that security forces are stepping up their operations to apprehend these individuals and dismantle the networks fueling violence and instability.



Northern governors mourn late COAS, Lagbaja

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF) has conveyed its heartfelt condolences to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, over the demise of Lt. General Taoreed Lagbaja, the Chief of Army Staff, who died on November 5, 2024, from a protracted illness.

The Chairman of the forum, Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, of Gombe State, described the late COAS as a distinguished officer, who served the nation with remarkable courage and dedication.

Governor Yahaya remarked, "General Lagbaja's life and career were defined by a commitment to the Nigerian Armed Forces and an exceptional dedication to safeguarding the nation's sovereignty



The NSGF Chairman also noted that the late Lagbaja embodied the values of discipline, bravery, and integrity that characterize the finest traditions of military service, adding that his leadership played a significant role in strengthening the nation's defence framework and upholding peace and stability.

between both countries and exploited difficult terrains to make incursions in remote areas in some Northwestern states to spread their ideology."

He revealed that the group was initially welcomed by local communities, who mistakenly believed the terrorists had good intentions and failed to report their movements to authorities.

Despite the challenge, Buba assured that military forces are employing sustained intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) operations to weaken and eliminate the threat. He added that the Lukarawas continue to use under-governed and remote regions to evade security forces and harass local populations.

Military unveils new list of wanted terrorist leaders

By Helen Okechukwu

In a decisive effort to combat terrorism in Nigeria's North-East, the Defence Headquarters (DHQ) has released a fresh list of wanted terrorist leaders.

The Director of Defence Media Operations, Major General Edward Buba, made the announcement during a press briefing on Thursday in Abuja.

The list features several high-profile figures accused of masterminding attacks and spreading insecurity across the region.

Major names include Abdurraman, Dadi Gumba (also known as Abbu Muhammel), Usman Kanin Shehu, Abu Yusuf, Abu Khadijah, Musa Wa'a, Ba Sulhu, Idris Takleksa and Ibrahim Suyeka.

Urging the public to assist in identifying and reporting information about these suspects, Major General Buba highlighted the importance of local community involvement, noting that public cooperation could be crucial in the effort to eliminate terrorist threats.

He stressed that the publication reinforces the government's determination to enhance security and restore peace in insurgency-affected areas.

The general noted that security forces are stepping up their operations to apprehend these individuals and dismantle the networks fueling violence and instability.



N80,000 Minimum Wage: Oyo Assembly applauds Makinde's worker-centric approach

By Oluwatosin Ologun

The Oyo State House of Assembly has commended Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State for his continuous worker-friendly policies and approach, following the announcement of the N80,000 minimum wage for workers in the state.

The commendation came in a statement issued and signed by the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Adebayo Ogundoyin on Thursday.

The Speaker said with this announcement, Oyo State leaps to the second spot, trailing only Lagos and Rivers States, which approved N85,000.

He said Oyo State now surpasses other leading states like Delta, Ogun, Ondo, Edo, and others in the amount approved as minimum wage.

“It is a good news that Governor Seyi Makinde has once again demonstrated its commitment to the welfare of workers in the state. The approval of



of N80,000 as the minimum wage for Oyo workers is a laudable decision that underscores the governor's worker-centric approach to governance.

“This development is a significant milestone in His Excellency's quest to improve the standard of living of our workers and promote industrial harmony in the state. The N80,000 minimum wage is not just a monetary incentive; it's a statement of our administration's resolve to recognise the invaluable contributions of our workers to the development of Oyo

to the development of Oyo State. We believe that a motivated workforce is essential to driving economic growth and prosperity in our state.”

The Speaker said despite not being among the States with the highest allocation from the federation account, Governor Seyi Makinde's gesture will serve as a model for other States to follow.

Bandits kill 10 in Niger, rape women

By Dave Oludare Oso

Bandits numbering about 50 have killed no fewer than 10 residents, including women and children at an agrarian community in Niger State.

Riding on motorcycles, the bandits were said to have slaughtered some of the women who refused to be raped by the gunmen.

According to The Punch, the incident happened in the early hours of Tuesday when the residents were preparing for their farms.

A source who did not want to be identified because of fear of attack by the bandits, said the incident occurred in the Wayam community of Sabon-Gari District in the Rafi Local Government Area of the state.

The source said the bandits were shooting sporadically to scare away intruders and that some of the bandits who tried to rape the victims but were denied went ahead and slaughtered the women while others proceeded to set houses, shops and barns ablaze.

The source said, “The bandits came into the village very early in the morning. They were riding on motorcycles in large numbers and shooting sporadically to scare the villagers.

“Some of them burnt houses and barns. At least 10 people were killed. Some died from bullet wounds.

“Some women who refused to be



raped were slaughtered. They attacked us for several hours and there was no security presence throughout the time.”

A source in the community who also pleaded anonymity for fear of attack told The PUNCH that the community was currently deserted following the attack.

Europa League: Osimhen grabs brace as Galatasaray beat Tottenham 3-2

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

Victor Osimhen scored twice as Galatasaray handed Tottenham Hotspur their first defeat of the Europa League season, securing a 3-2 victory in Istanbul on Thursday that propelled the Turkish champions to the top of Group D.

Osimhen's brace, combined with an early stunner from Yunus Akgun, helped Galatasaray extend their perfect record in the competition to four matches, leaving them with 10 points and all but guaranteeing their qualification for the knockout stage. In contrast, Spurs dropped to fifth place after losing their 100% record in the group.

The match kicked off in explosive fashion, with Galatasaray taking the lead in the sixth minute through a sensational long-range volley by Yunus Akgun. The Turkish winger rifled the ball into the top corner, leaving Tottenham goalkeeper Fraser Forster with no chance. But Spurs responded quickly. Just 12 minutes later, teenage striker Will

Lankshear—making only his second appearance for the senior team—slotted home from close range after Brennan Johnson's perfectly placed pass across the goal.

However, Galatasaray regained control before halftime, with Osimhen taking center stage. The Nigerian striker put his side back in front after 32 minutes, finishing a rebound from a corner. Just eight minutes later, Osimhen doubled his tally with a clever volley from Dries Mertens' cross, sending the home crowd into raptures.

Since joining Galatasaray on loan from Napoli, Osimhen has been in outstanding form, now boasting six goals in eight appearances for the Turkish side.

Despite some promising moments, Galatasaray's dominance continued in the second half. Spurs, however, were handed a further setback when Lankshear was sent off for two quick yellow cards, leaving Tottenham a

man down for much of the final half hour.

Spurs' hopes were briefly revived when Dominic Solanke, introduced as a substitute by manager Ange Postecoglou, pulled one back in the 69th minute with a clinical strike. But the visitors' chances of completing a comeback were slim, and Galatasaray saw out the remaining minutes with relative comfort.

With the win, Galatasaray moved to the top of Group D, ahead of Eintracht Frankfurt on goal difference. The German side also recorded a win on Thursday, with Omar Marmoush scoring a superb free-kick to give them a 1-0 victory over Slavia Prague. Marmoush's 13th goal of the season came shortly after the break, helping Frankfurt keep pace with the group leaders.



F1 Drivers demand to be treated like adults after FIA swearing controversy

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



Formula 1 drivers have called on the sport's governing body, the FIA, to treat them with more respect and maturity after a series of punishments for swearing, with the Grand Prix Drivers' Association (GPDA) speaking out in a rare collective statement.

The drivers, including current world champion Max Verstappen and Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, have expressed frustration over fines imposed for using swear words in public settings, and have taken issue with FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem's language and tone when addressing the issue. The GPDA's open letter, which was made public recently, asks the FIA to reconsider its stance on the matter, highlighting the difference between swearing meant to insult others and more casual exclamations, such as those made by drivers in the heat of competition.

"We urge the FIA president to consider his own tone and language when talking to our member drivers, or indeed about them, whether in a public forum or otherwise," the letter reads. "Our members are adults. They do not need to be given instructions by the media about matters as trivial as the wearing of jewellery or underpants."

The drivers' comments come after Verstappen was ordered by FIA stewards at the Singapore Grand Prix to "accomplish some work of public interest" after using a swear word to describe his car during a news conference. Verstappen, who is no stranger to speaking his mind, had been frustrated by his car's performance. The FIA decision followed an earlier incident in which Charles Leclerc was fined for swearing in a post-race interview at the Mexican Grand Prix.

The GPDA's frustration is not limited to fines for swearing. In their letter, the drivers criticized the FIA for its recent focus on regulating non-sporting matters like driver attire, specifically the controversial rules on jewellery and underwear that Ben Sulayem introduced during his presidency. These rules, which require drivers to wear specific types of underwear and prohibit wearing jewellery during races, have been seen by many as overly restrictive and unnecessary.

The letter also raises concerns about the FIA's use of monetary fines as a form of punishment. The drivers have long argued that financial penalties are not an effective way to promote discipline and that there is a lack of transparency regarding how the fines are allocated.

Kylian Mbappé omitted from France squad for Nations League games

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Kylian Mbappé has been left out of the France squad for their upcoming Nations League fixtures against Israel and Italy, with national team coach Didier Deschamps describing the decision as a “one-off.” Despite Mbappé expressing his desire to join the squad, Deschamps chose to omit the Real Madrid forward for this international window.

The 25-year-old, who has been in good form for Real Madrid, scoring eight goals in 15 appearances this season, has not been at his best in recent outings. He has scored only once in his past six games, which has led to some scrutiny of his performances. In particular, Mbappé’s struggles in high-profile matches have raised questions, especially as his preferred position on

the left wing has seen him sometimes overshadowed by teammate Vinícius Júnior.

Deschamps, speaking to the media on Thursday, did not indicate whether Mbappé was injured but confirmed that the decision was a deliberate and temporary one. The French coach made it clear that it was a “one-off decision,” suggesting that it was not a permanent exclusion.

The French national team will face Israel on November 14 and Italy on November 17, as part of their Nations League campaign. Mbappé’s omission from the squad is surprising, given his status as one of the team’s key players, and follows a somewhat challenging start to the season with Real Madrid.

Though Mbappé’s performances with Madrid have been solid overall, his recent lack of impact in crucial games, including a 3-1 Champions League loss to AC Milan earlier this week, may have influenced Deschamps’ choice. Despite this, Mbappé’s desire to be included in the France squad indicates his commitment to representing his country.

The decision not to call up Mbappé for these two Nations League matches leaves a question mark over his future in the upcoming international windows, although Deschamps has emphasized that this decision is isolated to these fixtures and does not necessarily reflect a shift in Mbappé’s long-term role with the national team.



England drawn against Spain in 2025 Women's Nations League Group

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi



England will face Spain in a highly anticipated rematch at the 2025 Women's Nations League after the two sides were drawn into the same group. The draw, held today, placed Sarina Wiegman's Lionesses in Group A3 alongside the world champions from Spain, Belgium, and Portugal.

The match-up sets the stage for a thrilling encounter between the two teams, who recently met in the 2023 Women's World Cup final in Sydney. Spain triumphed 1-0 in that final, securing their first-ever major women's tournament victory, with Olga Carmona's stunning goal proving the difference. Now, less than five months later, England will have a chance to avenge that loss in the new-look Nations League, which will run through 2025.

In a competitive and tightly balanced group, Spain enters as the reigning

Nations League champions, having defeated England in the final of the inaugural tournament in 2023. Both teams will be looking to build momentum ahead of next summer's European Championship in Switzerland, where England will aim to defend their title as the reigning Euro 2022 champions.

The format of the Nations League remains largely unchanged from its first edition, with 53 European nations divided into three leagues based on their rankings. The four group winners from League A will compete in semi-finals, with the final and third-place play-off taking place over two legs in October and November 2025. However, a key change this year will see all knockout ties, including the semi-finals and final, played over two legs.

The tournament also serves as a vital qualification route for the 2027 FIFA

Women's World Cup in Brazil. The top two teams in each League A group will secure their place in the European qualifiers for the World Cup, while the bottom teams face relegation to League B.

In other significant draws, Scotland have been placed in Group A1 alongside Euro 2022 finalists Germany, as well as the Netherlands and Austria. This will be a challenging group for the Scots, who will be aiming to prove their competitive strength after a solid performance in the 2023 World Cup qualifiers.

Wales, who are looking to build on their recent progress, will face Italy, Denmark, and Sweden in Group A4. Their task will not be easy, as they face some of the most formidable teams in Europe.

Hit songs don't guarantee career success – Ruger

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Michael Adebayo Olayinka, widely recognized by his stage name, Ruger, has shed light on the factors contributing to his rising demand for live performances.

As a captivating figure in the music industry, Ruger attributes his popularity not solely to his chart-topping hits, but rather to his exceptional stage presence and engaging personality.

Emerging from the vibrant Nigerian music scene, Ruger has quickly distinguished himself from his contemporaries.

He firmly believes that the ability to connect with an audience is an essential skill that transcends mere musical talent.

During an online discussion, he emphasized, "Being a successful performer requires more than just having hit songs. It's about creating an experience that resonates with fans."

This profound insight encapsulates his dedication to delivering memorable performances that leave a lasting impact.

Ruger elaborated on this notion by asserting that possessing a catalogue of popular songs does not guarantee a successful performance.

"You can have a million hit songs and still be clueless on stage at a 200-capacity venue," he stated.

This statement underscores the importance of stage charisma and the ability to engage with a crowd, demonstrating Ruger's deep understanding of what it takes to be an entertainer.



In a recent post on his X handle, he elaborated on his approach to live shows. "Let me explain to you why I get booked so much. I don't come on stage to sing which I know I'm so good at I bring my whole personality on stage. It's not a joke."

Ruger's insistence on the importance of authenticity and enthusiasm in his performances reflects a growing trend in the music industry, where the connection between artist and audience is vital for success.

Beyond just musical talent, Ruger highlights the significance of personality in performance. He recognizes that an artist's ability to captivate their audience often hinges on their charisma and how well they engage with those in attendance.

By bringing his entire self to the stage, Ruger creates an immersive experience that fans appreciate and remember.

Furthermore, Ruger took to social media to share his thoughts on a common practice among performers

over-reliance on autotune during live shows.

He playfully criticized fellow artists by saying, "Now, let's talk about the gaddamn autotunes on the mic when y'all perform. Next time, tell your engineer to shut it down when you're about to speak coz you be speaking in Tunez wahalaaaaaa."

His candid commentary serves as a reminder that authenticity in live performance is valued by fans, who appreciate the raw talent of an artist without the embellishments of technology.

Referring to his approach, Ruger stated, "Well, Ruger doesn't need that sh*t. Thank you."

This declaration reinforces his commitment to delivering genuine performances that resonate with his audience, unhindered by artificial enhancements.

I was once spiritually monitored through pair of shoes – Seyi Law

By Dave Oludare Oso

Nigerian comedian, Seyi Law has recalled an interesting story about how he found out that he was being spiritually monitored through a pair of shoes that someone gifted him.

On November 6, 2024, an X user posted a warning to the public to refrain from accepting mirrors as gifts, stressing that people use them to spiritually monitor others.

“One of the gifts you should never accept from anybody is MIRROR.. Yes, you heard me... Whether small, big or fancy ones.. DO NOT ACCEPT MIRRORASAGIFT!”

Her post was meant with scepticism from other social media users who did not believe the validity of her claims. Part of

the people who believed her warning was the comedian Seyi Law, who wrote about his experience.

He wrote, “I wish it was only a mirror they could use to monitor someone sha. One must be very careful of gifts.”

The opinionated comic recalled the times things were revealed to him, once during a prayer session and the other in his sleep.

He wrote, “On the 2nd March 2016, I had a vigil in my room, and as I prayed, God told me there was something in my house that they were using to monitor me and I found out it was a pair of shoes someone gifted me. My wife took it out and burnt it. Prior to that day, I always doubted people who said God spoke to them.”

“I was awakened from my sleep around 5 am on the 3rd March by a voice that told me to write down what I was hearing. I wrote them, and when my eyes cleared and I read what I wrote, I turned and told my wife that she was pregnant. She doubted it until days later when we confirmed,” he added.

He stressed that when he got rid of the shoes, the person monitoring him never showed up in his house again.

“Fast forward, we had my daughter and on the day of her dedication, a prophet told me God has removed what they were using to monitor me in my home and that the person would never step in my house again. The person hasn’t stepped a foot in my house ever again, no matter my invitations,” he wrote.



Shahrukh Khan receives death threat following Salman incident

By New Daily Prime

The legendary actor Shahrukh Khan has reportedly received a death threat, prompting a swift response from the Mumbai Police.

The intimidating threat, which was conveyed through a phone call, has been traced back to Raipur, the capital of the Indian state of Chhattisgarh.

This alarming incident underscores the increasingly precarious environment in which high-profile celebrities operate, raising questions regarding their safety amidst mounting tensions within the entertainment industry.

Mumbai Police have taken immediate action by registering a case against the individual behind the threat. Authorities have identified the suspect as Faizan, a resident of Raipur.

In a coordinated effort with local law enforcement, the Mumbai Police are working diligently to facilitate Faizan's transfer to Mumbai for interrogation.

The aim is to ascertain the motives behind this menacing communication and to ensure that justice is served.

While the investigation is still in its nascent stages, police officials are exploring the possibility that this incident may not be an isolated case.

There are concerns that Faizan's actions could be part of a larger conspiracy targeting prominent figures in the film industry.

The recent surge in threats against fellow actor Salman Khan adds to the prevailing atmosphere of fear and uncertainty that now looms over Bollywood, further heightening the urgency of the investigation.



In the wake of the threat against Shahrukh Khan, law enforcement agencies have confirmed that they successfully traced Faizan's details through a meticulous inquiry into the threatening phone call.

Authorities have committed themselves to leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of the truth, including promptly informing the police in Raipur about the situation at hand.

However, the situation is not without complications. Raipur Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Santosh Kumar Singh has indicated that he has yet to receive any official notification regarding the threat from Mumbai Police.

This communication gap has raised concerns about the efficacy of cross-jurisdictional coordination in dealing with threats of this nature.

In light of the grave nature of the threat, the Bandra Police in Mumbai have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against the suspect under several

pertinent sections of the Indian Penal Code.

This legal framework is designed to address acts of intimidation and threats to life, ensuring that appropriate legal action is taken against those who seek to instil fear in the hearts of others.

Authorities are moving rapidly, and Faizan is anticipated to be taken into custody shortly. Upon his transfer to Mumbai, law enforcement officials will conduct a thorough interrogation to extract crucial information regarding the intent and potential affiliations of the suspect.

As the investigation unfolds, police are stepping up efforts to ensure Shahrukh Khan's safety while delving into the underlying motives that may have prompted this latest threat.

Joe Biden calls for calm following election results

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi



Washington D.C.—In a Rose Garden address on Thursday, President Joe Biden urged Americans to “bring down the temperature” and assured the nation of a peaceful transition of power following Republican Donald Trump’s victory in the U.S. presidential election.

Addressing the nation amidst a deeply divided political climate, Biden called on Americans to see each other as “fellow Americans” rather than adversaries, regardless of political leanings.

“You can’t love your country only when you win. You can’t love your neighbor only when you agree,” Biden remarked, imploring Americans to lower hostilities and foster unity after one of the nation’s most contentious elections.

The address came in the wake of a disappointing outcome for the Democratic Party, with Vice President Kamala Harris losing her bid for the presidency and Republicans gaining control of the Senate. Biden, whose message struck a tone of reflection mixed with optimism, emphasized the

importance of respecting the democratic process and expressed confidence in the integrity of the American electoral system. “It is honest, it is fair, and it is transparent. It can be trusted, win or lose,” he stated.

Biden revealed he had spoken with President-elect Trump to offer his congratulations and pledge his administration’s full cooperation for a seamless transition, saying, “That’s what the American people deserve.” His comments were met with extended applause from senior administration officials and family members, including his granddaughter Finn, as he took to the podium.

Turning to his former running mate, Biden praised Kamala Harris for her “inspiring campaign” and unwavering dedication to public service. “She gave her wholehearted effort,” Biden said, commending Harris and her team for a campaign that represented strength and integrity, despite her defeat.

Biden also acknowledged the sorrow among Democrats, who saw not only a

presidential loss but also the Senate slip into Republican hands. With the House of Representatives yet to be called, Republicans remain optimistic about securing a narrow majority. “I know it’s a difficult time. You’re hurting. I hear you and I see you,” Biden told his party members, while urging them to remember their accomplishments over the past term.

Reflecting on his administration’s policies, Biden defended the achievements made under his tenure, particularly those expected to have long-term impacts. “Much of the work we’ve done is already being felt by the American people,” he said, referencing infrastructure legislation set to transform struggling communities over the next decade. Biden warned that Republicans may seek to undo some of these legislative gains, adding, “The road ahead is clear, assuming we sustain it.”

Nigerian-American Oye Owolewa re-elected to US congress

By Dave Oludare Oso

A Nigerian-American Democrat, Oye Owolewa, has been re-elected as the shadow representative for the District of Columbia (DC).

Born and raised in Newton, Massachusetts, Owolewa attended Boston Latin School, graduating in 2008.

His academic journey led him to Northeastern University, where he earned his PhD in pharmacy in 2014 before relocating to Washington, DC, to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Owolewa, who earned a

doctorate in pharmacy from Northeastern University, first made headlines in November 2020 as the first Nigerian-American to be elected to Congress.

This year, he was re-elected with a remarkable 164,026 votes, capturing 82.84% of the total votes cast in DC.

Though his position as shadow representative does not grant him official voting rights in Congress, Owolewa plays a crucial role as an advocate for the district's interests, particularly in DC's ongoing push for statehood.

Alongside his professional career, Oye Owolewa's dedication to public service grew, leading him to politics as a platform for his advocacy work.

As a politician, pharmacist, and committed advocate, Owolewa focuses on issues vital to his community, including fighting climate change, addressing prescription drug costs, and enhancing community resources.

He aims to amplify DC's voice, emphasizing equity and policy changes that would benefit not only his constituents but also the broader American landscape.

