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Tinubu calls for global action to end Gaza conflict at Riyadh summit

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu while addressing the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh on Monday

opportunity to bring to bear new thinking on this most relentless challenge. We need to find new pathways to peace, without delay,” Tinubu said.

READ ALSO: Tinubu’s people-centric tax reforms and Ndume’s threat

Commending the leadership of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for convening the summit, Tinubu assured that Nigeria would continue to support efforts aimed at promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, drawing from the country’s own experience in conflict resolution.

President Tinubu also called for the establishment of a secretariat to oversee the implementation of the summit’s resolutions, urging leaders to select a group of heads of government to spearhead global advocacy and track progress towards permanent peace in the region.

In his opening remarks, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman condemned Israeli actions in Gaza and Lebanon, including attacks on civilians and the violation of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

He also condemned the Israeli ban on humanitarian aid and stressed Saudi Arabia’s commitment to advancing Palestinian statehood based on the 1967 borders.

The summit underscored the need for a unified international response to the ongoing crisis, with both President Tinubu and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman calling for renewed diplomatic efforts to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The Saudi-hosted summit continues to serve as a crucial platform for diplomatic engagement on the issue of Palestinian statehood and the broader Middle East conflict.

President Bola Tinubu has called for an end to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, stressing that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has caused immeasurable suffering for far too long.

Mr Tinubu while addressing the extraordinary Arab-Islamic Summit in Riyadh on Monday reaffirmed Nigeria’s strong support for a two-state solution as the most viable pathway to lasting peace in the region. The one-day summit, a follow-up to last year’s Riyadh summit, was attended by leaders of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the League of Arab States. President Tinubu voiced Nigeria’s concern about the dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza and reiterated the country’s call for an immediate ceasefire.

“The conflict in Palestine has persisted for far too long, inflicting immeasurable suffering on countless

lives.

“As representatives of nations that value justice, dignity, and the sanctity of human life, we have a moral obligation to collectively bring about an immediate end to this conflict.”

Highlighting the importance of proportionality in self-defence, he urged all parties involved to respect civilian rights and adhere to global legal and diplomatic frameworks.

“An entire civilian population, their dreams and futures, cannot be dismissed as collateral,” he said.

President Tinubu emphasised that the two-state solution, which envisions peaceful coexistence between Israelis and Palestinians in security and dignity, is a beacon of hope for both peoples.

He noted that achieving this vision would require dialogue, compromise, and mutual recognition, pointing out that the conflict’s roots go beyond the violence seen on 7 October 2023.

“The international community has the

NLC orders indefinite strike over N70,000 minimum wage

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has directed its state councils to commence an indefinite strike from December 1, 2024, in states where the new N70,000 minimum wage is not fully implemented. The directive was announced in a communiqué issued by NLC President Joe Ajaero following the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The NLC called on the Federal Government to reassess policies deemed anti-people, arguing that such measures have driven many Nigerians into poverty and economic hardship.

The communiqué read: "The NEC notes with deep frustration the persistent delay and outright refusal by some state governments to implement the 2024 National Minimum Wage Act. This betrayal by certain governors and government officials across the country flies in the face of both legality and morality, as workers continue to be denied their rightful wages amidst rising economic hardship. It is a blatant disregard for the law and the lives of millions of Nigerian workers, who are being exploited by the very leaders sworn to protect them.

"The NEC, therefore, resolves to set up a National Minimum Wage Implementation Committee that will among others commence a nationwide assessment, mobilization and sensitization campaign, educating workers and citizens on the need to resist this assault on their dignity and rights.

"Furthermore, the NLC shall initiate a series of industrial actions in all non-compliant states and shall not relent until the minimum wage is fully implemented across Nigeria. To this end, all state Councils where the National Minimum Wage has not been fully implemented by the last day of November, 2024 have been directed to proceed on strike beginning from December 1, 2024. Nigerian workers demand justice, and justice they shall have."

On the worsening economic hardship, "The NEC observes, with profound concern, the accelerating economic hardship inflicted upon Nigerian citizens. Inflation continues to rise unchecked, with the costs of necessities spiralling

beyond the reach of the average worker.

"Millions of Nigerians are being driven into poverty, forced to choose daily between feeding their families and seeking healthcare. Access to energy has become a mirage while workers become increasingly poorer even as they work longer hours to meet their other basic needs. As a result, nutritional diseases like Kwashiorkor and Marasmus have resurfaced in Nigeria.

"NLC demands immediate, concrete interventions from the Federal Government, not token measures, to relieve this suffering. We call for the implementation of comprehensive social protection policies that shield Nigerians from poverty, provide affordable healthcare, and ensure a wage that reflects the true cost of living. To this end, we call for a wage review across the nation including a review of all the policies that have rather emasculated Nigerian people."

On the political situation in Rivers State and unjust withholding of its revenue, the communiqué said: "The NEC condemns the disturbing political situation in Rivers State, where a recent court order seeks to block the disbursement of federally allocated revenue to the state. This punitive move, under the guise of legal recourse, may effectively cripple the state's capacity to meet its obligations to workers and the wider population.

"Such a development is nothing short of an attack on the rights and welfare of the people of Rivers State and a dangerous precedent that could destabilize governance in any other state.

"The NLC stands in solidarity with the workers and people of Rivers State. We demand an immediate resolution that allows the state to continue to have unfettered access to its rightful revenue allocations.

"Nigerian workers will not stand waiting while their livelihoods are threatened by political manoeuvrings and vindictive actions. We are not interested in the politics of who is right or wrong but only in protecting the interests of workers and the people. We must learn to separate



"politicking" from existential issues as politics that hurts workers and the people cannot be the best for our nation. The Congress warns that the failure of the various institutions and actors to rein in themselves may lead to our escalating our response."

On the growing threats to democracy and workers' rights, the communiqué said: "The NEC expresses grave alarm at the increasing erosion of democratic norms and blatant disregard for the rights of Nigerian people to freely organize, associate, and express dissent. Arrests, detention and trials on questionable grounds have become the order of the day. "We applaud the President of the federation for his recent interventions in this regard. However, NEC in session further calls on the President to release all remaining protesters in various jails across the nation as we had severally demanded earlier and create adequate safeguards to avert future occurrence. On the Compressed Natural Gas, CNG, "NEC -in- session expressed its appreciation to the Federal Government for providing CNG buses to Congress but noted that they are grossly inadequate to address the huge gap in transportation-focused on reducing costs for workers who daily commute to work. It also noted the apparent CNG infrastructure deficits around the country which may scuttle the entire CNG objectives.

"Consequently, NEC demanded the provision of more CNG buses to Congress and establish the needed infrastructure for fuelling and maintenance to provide cheaper transportation to Nigerian workers across the nation."

the communiqué added, "The Nigeria Labour Congress remains unwavering in its commitment to the wellbeing and dignity of Nigerian workers. The NEC reiterates its readiness to confront these injustices with every tool at our disposal. Our resolve is unshakeable, and our demand is clear: a Nigeria where workers are respected, their rights upheld, and their futures secure."

Analysis: Arab-Islamic summit, key role in global diplomacy

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Arab-Islamic Summit is a significant international gathering that brings together Arab and Islamic nations to discuss pressing issues and collaborate on strategies to promote peace and unity.

The summit is hosted by Saudi Arabia, which has positioned itself as a leader in the Arab world and the Islamic community.

Involvement of Countries:

The Arab-Islamic Summit includes member states of the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

This implies representation from several significant nations across the Middle East, North Africa, and beyond.

The exact number of participating countries can vary yearly, but typically it involves over 50 nations, encompassing a comprehensive geographical reach and diverse cultural perspectives.

The emergence of the Group

The concept of an Arab-Islamic Summit began to take shape in the 1970s, with Egypt's President Anwar Sadat advocating for closer cooperation among Arab states.

However, it was formally institutionalized under the auspices of the OIC, established in 1969, which aims to promote Islamic solidarity and cooperation among member states.

The formalization of the summit as a recurring event has made it a pivotal forum for discussing collaborative strategies on both political and socio-economic fronts.

Demographic Reach

Collectively, the countries within the Arab-Islamic grouping represent a significant portion of the global Muslim population.

The combined population of OIC member states is estimated to be over 1.8 billion, accounting for nearly 25% of the world's population.

This demographic weight provides substantial leverage in international discussions, particularly when it comes to matters of religion, cultural identity, and economic cooperation.

Aims and Objectives

The primary aims of the Arab-Islamic Summit encompass fostering solidarity among member nations and addressing concerns related to conflict, terrorism, economic development, and



humanitarian issues.

The objectives often include enhancing political unity, defending the rights of Muslim communities worldwide, and promoting sustainable development initiatives.

Key Issues on This Year's Agenda

This year's summit is expected to address several critical issues.

1. Regional Security Concerns: Instability in the Middle East, including crises in Syria, Yemen, and Libya.
2. Economic Cooperation: Strategies for boosting trade, investment, and economic resilience among member states.
3. Terrorism: Collective action against extremist ideologies and groups threatening stability.
4. Humanitarian Crises: Responding to humanitarian needs in conflict-affected regions, particularly Palestine and Yemen.
5. Climate Change: Joint efforts to combat climate challenges impacting member nations.

Unique Aspects of the Group

One unique aspect of this grouping is its dual identity as both an Arabic and Islamic forum, which allows for a broader scope of dialogue that transcends linguistic and cultural boundaries.

This aspect fosters inclusivity, bringing to the table a variety of perspectives traditionally absent in single-identity conferences.

Differences Within the Group

While united by religion and geography, there exist significant differences among member nations regarding political systems, economic development, governance styles, and foreign policies.

Countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran represent divergent ideological stances, which can complicate consensus on key issues.

Economic Output

The collective economic output of Arab

and Islamic nations is substantial, with countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Indonesia contributing significantly to global GDP.

In 2023, the combined GDP of OIC member states exceeded \$23 trillion, representing a significant portion of the global economy.

When juxtaposed with entities like the European Union, the economic potential of this group is increasingly relevant.

Nigeria's Relationship

Nigeria has historically had strong ties with several Arab and Islamic countries, particularly due to its large Muslim population and shared interests in trade, security, and cultural exchange.

While Nigeria is not an Arab; it is a key member of the OIC, often attending summits as a full participant rather than a guest state.

Nigeria's Participation and Benefits

As a member of the OIC, Nigeria stands to benefit from the collaborative initiatives and development programs discussed during the summit.

Opportunities for economic collaboration, investment in infrastructure, and mutual support in agriculture are potential areas of growth.

President Tinubu's Prospects Considering current policies and Nigeria's pivotal role within the OIC, President Tinubu has the opportunity to leverage the summit discussions to attract foreign investments and strengthen diplomatic relationships.

The collaborative environment can enhance Nigeria's standing in the global economy, offering new avenues for growth and development.

Conclusion

The Arab-Islamic Summit in Saudi Arabia stands as a crucial platform for fostering dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among diverse nations. With pressing issues on the agenda and varied

NNPC to collaborate with private refineries to boost product supply

By Helen Okechukwu

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has announced its plan to collaborate with private refineries to boost product supply in Nigeria.

The Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) of NNPC Ltd., Mele Kyari, said this on Monday in an opening event held in Lagos State.

The event, which marks the 42nd Nigeria Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) Annual International Conference and Exhibition, was titled: "Resolving the Nigeria Energy Trilemma: Energy Security, Sustainable Growth, and Affordability."

Kyari said the strategy aims to ensure energy security, sustainable growth, and energy affordability.

The Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NNPC Ltd., Mele Kyari, described the strategy as Naira-for-crude transactions with the aim to stabilize the local currency and regulate forex markets.

Kyari reaffirmed the company's commitment to resolving Nigeria's energy



trilemma.

While speaking at the event as the guest speaker, the GCEO emphasized their capacity to "deliver 12 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mother Stations and Mini LNG Plants soon, as part of efforts to boost the existing 1.6 billion standard cubic feet (bscf) of gas supply for the domestic market."

Kyari highlighted that the company aims to expand gas infrastructure at the

Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) Gas Pipeline and the Obiafu-Obrikom-Oben (OB3) Gas Pipeline projects with plans to develop cleaner energy options, such as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

Speaking on the energy company's efforts in enhancing domestic energy, he said that within the next 3-6 months, NNPC Ltd. will launch diverse projects, including CNG mother stations, mini-LNG plants, and additional CNG daughter stations.

Emphasizing the need for collaboration, innovation, and technology in achieving Nigeria's energy goals, Kyari praised President Bola Tinubu's efforts to strengthen Nigeria's local refining capacity and reduce fuel importation.

He added that since the Petroleum Industry Act, 2021 was implemented, the company has improved in partnerships and investments with the goal of enhancing local production and generating revenue for economic diversification.

Gov Abdulrazaq appoints La-Kadri as KW-IRS Director

By Friday Omosola

Kwara State Governor, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, has appointed Yusuf La-Kadri as the new Director of the Kwara State Internal Revenue Service (KW-IRS). In a statement issued by the KW-IRS Corporate Affairs Department, Governor AbdulRazaq announced that La-Kadri's appointment takes immediate effect as of November 11, 2024.

La-Kadri brings over 20 years of distinguished experience in International Trade Finance, Credit Control, Tax Policy, and Treasury Management.

He has held significant roles in leading private sector organizations in Nigeria, including Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc, Vodacom Business Africa, and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

La-Kadri holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the prestigious University of Ilorin.

He is a Fellow of the Chartered

Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), an Associate Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), and a Member of both the Association of Chartered Management Accountants (ACMA) and the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) in the United Kingdom.

He is also a member of several professional bodies, including the Institute of Credit Administration of Nigeria (MICA), the Association of Corporate Treasurers of Nigeria (ACTN), the Society for Corporate Governance Nigeria (SCGN), and is currently a student member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ICSAN).

The Management and Staff of Kwara State Internal Revenue Service extend their best wishes to the newly appointed director, confident that his



leadership will significantly contribute to the state's revenue mobilization and strategic development.

Ondo Poll: Teachers rally behind Aiyedatiwa

By Friday Omosola

The Ondo State chapters of the Academic Staff Union of Secondary Schools (ASUSS) and the Association of Nigerian Conference of Principals of Secondary Schools (ANCOPSS) have endorsed Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa and the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the upcoming governorship election on Saturday.

In a powerful show of support, the groups hosted a public event in Akure, where hundreds of school teachers from across Ondo State joined a solidarity rally, expressing their unwavering support for the governor's leadership.

Comrade Tajudeen Balogun, Chairman of the Adhoc Committee on Public Affairs and Social Mobilization, conveyed the teachers' deep appreciation for Governor Aiyedatiwa's commitment to their welfare.

He commended the governor's prompt attention to teachers' needs since he took office ten months ago, citing it as a significant factor in their endorsement.

"We are gathered here this sunny



Monday morning to express our profound gratitude to our governor for his quick and rapid interventions in ameliorating the challenges faced by teachers in Ondo State. In ten months of his reign as governor, he has shown passion and support towards meeting the yearnings of teachers in Ondo State. I therefore stand here today with all members and executives of the various groups to rally support for your election

on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

"We ascribe our solidarity and goodwill to the natural doctrine which states that 'to whom much is given, much is expected'. We want to use this opportunity to call on all our members and their families to troop out en masse to cast their votes for Governor Aiyedatiwa on Saturday."

Addressing a gathering of teachers, Governor Aiyedatiwa expressed deep gratitude to the leadership and members of the teaching associations across Ondo's 18 local government areas, acknowledging their steadfast support at this pivotal moment.

The governor affirmed his awareness of teachers' needs, sharing that he was raised and educated by teachers and has educators within his own family.

Recognising the challenges they face, he assured them of his commitment to addressing their concerns openly and effectively.

Bayelsa Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy to drive job creation – Diri

By Friday Omosola

Bayelsa State Governor, Douye Diri, has announced that the establishment of the state's Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy aims to generate job opportunities and empower Bayelsa's youth within the maritime sector.

In a statement posted on his X page on Monday, Governor Diri described the ministry's formation as a forward-looking economic policy.

The governor made these remarks while attending an expanded stakeholders' validation session for the ministry's draft policy, held at the Chief DSP Alamieyeseigha Memorial Banquet Hall in Yenagoa.

Reaffirming his administration's commitment, Governor Diri emphasized his goal to develop the state's marine potential fully.

"We are not looking back in our move to diversify our economy away from oil and gas. We are open to support, and sustainable partnerships from the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue

Economy and other relevant agencies in actualising this vision.

"Also, to secure our waters and improve the safety of our coastlines, I am pleased to announce the establishment of a task force on marine safety. This task force will work in collaboration with federal agencies, local authorities and industry stakeholders to ensure safety in our maritime domain", said the governor.

Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for the genuine commitment shown by all stakeholders involved in the validation program.

He appreciated Dayo Mobereola, Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), who honoured the event with his presence.



Continued grid failures will paralyze Nigeria's economy, Oladeji warns

By Helen Okechukwu

The Nigerian national grid collapsed again on 8 November, immediately after the Federal Government set up a committee that submitted a report. This collapse came barely 24 hours after repair.

This recent collapse made it the 11th time in 2024, leaving millions in the dark and causing massive disruptions to businesses and daily life.

Several experts have argued that the issue is deeper than mere technical failures, resulting from a complex mix of supply-and-demand mismatches, widespread vandalism, outdated infrastructure, and flawed energy policies.

Meanwhile, stakeholders in the power sector have warned that further occurrences may continue if steps are not taken urgently.

However, experts warn that without immediate action, the continued grid failures could paralyze Nigeria's economy and leave an already struggling population in even greater distress, describing it as a barrier to economic growth and industrial productivity.

Recall that on 8 November, The New Daily Prime reported that the Minister for Power, Adebayo Adedun, ordered the immediate replacement of aged equipment, assuring that the replacement would be achieved in six months.

Speaking with The New Daily Prime in an exclusive interview, an expert, Engr. James Ajayi Oladeji, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Radius Intuitive Engineering Ltd, told our correspondent about the root causes of the national grid's frequent collapses.

Causes of National Grid Collapses

"In economics, we ask that in any equilibrium your supply must at least be higher than demand, which is to say that we have enough products for people to demand. This is applicable to the national grid. When the demand is higher than supply, there is going to be a problem. For example. When you have



about 500 megawatts or 5,000 megawatts and the customer demand is around 570 or 6000 megawatts, we should know that the demand of customers is so high and the central equipment cannot carry it, then there will be a problem," the expert explains.

Speaking further, he said, "The production of megawatts, if it is not enough for people to take, you can't get regular people to take it. They have appliances at home; they can turn on their fridges at any time. Today I can go anywhere and buy a machine and add it to the machines that I am using in my construction company. So the demand is increasing every day, and the supply is too low. That is the major cause of the system collapsing."

He noted that vandalism is another root cause of the system collapses that the country is grappling with, stressing that it must be addressed urgently by employing security agencies to monitor and protect the plants from theft.

His take, "Without proactive security measures, the threat of vandalism will continue to hinder any efforts toward achieving a balanced, reliable grid.

"Our equipment are not monitored by our security agencies. Today you will be hearing that some areas have been

vandalized, tomorrow you hear of other places. They vandalized cable and so on. All these things are contributing to the national grid collapsing because if national grid is not balanced or equal, there is going to be a problem with the one they are replacing in the transmission that is not enough. If one area is flowing with energy and the other area is being vandalized, the equilibrium is not going to be enough, and that will make us experience what we call higher supply, low demand

"Whenever they are experiencing low demand and higher supply, that means the equilibrium is not balanced. And when the situation is not balanced, the line will trip off, and that will lead to general failure. If your supply is lower than demands, there will also be a problem too."

"Using ageing equipment is causing another problem we can now identify. The infrastructure needs replacement and refurbishment."

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Adding to the causes of this surge, he acknowledged that low maintenance has its effect on the power system.

Explaining further, he said, “The maintenance of our system is poor because in so many ways there are no materials to even loose some equipment. The people that bought the companies are only focused on profits for the company. They are not discussing how to maintain the network that they depend on.”

The MD highlighted the consequences of ageing infrastructure as another reason for the power plant collapsing, describing the existing one as being unfit to handle the current demand.

He said, “There are some pieces of equipment we are having in our network today that are even older than our great-great-grandfathers, and we know the technology of the country is improving every day. Using ageing equipment is causing another problem we can now identify. The infrastructure needs replacement and refurbishment.”

Call for Decentralization and Policy Reform

Oladeji believes that decentralizing power generation could allow for regional stability and innovation, empowering smaller companies and even states to produce and distribute their own electricity.

He said, “There is supposed to be a room for small companies to generate little power for distribution. There might be a small firm where you generate for yourself and distribute.

“What we are saying is that if they can decentralize the national grid and they are not be connected to each other and have a small grid of generation to distribute to people to use, if they have problems, it’s going to affect only them and will not affect other parts of generation. If this is how it is, all these things we won’t be talking about them.”

Oladeji urged the policymakers to

create incentives and policies that encourage smaller power plants to enter the market, especially renewable sources like gas, solar, and wind energy, to diversify and stabilize Nigeria’s electricity supply, adding that it is a plus to the energy supply sector.

The Economic and Social Implications of Failure

However, he emphasized the consequences of continuous grid failure, which project Nigeria into a bad image, stating that manufacturers struggle to maintain operations without reliable power.

He stressed that the situation forces companies to either halt production or absorb the cost of backup generators, which further raises the price of goods.

The industry analyst said, “Revenue losses, damaged equipment, workers being laid off from their jobs, and compromised production processes are just some of the fallouts from Nigeria’s grid collapse.

“The result is stunted economic growth, as foreign investors shy away from a nation plagued by chronic power issues. “If power stability is not guaranteed, foreign businesses won’t come.

“No investor wants to rely on generators for 24/7 operations. It is a very bad view for our image.”

Solutions

Oladeji said to reverse the trend of grid failures, government must tackle insecurity, enforce maintenance, and enable new energy policies.

He proposed an independent technical committee comprising experienced industry professionals to evaluate and overhaul the grid’s management practices.

“The solution is here for us. If the government is ready to look into it to get rid of it, they should checkmate the investors.

“The energy network is suffering from power, transmission, and distribution,” he noted, advocating that there should be a more rigorous maintenance schedule to extend the life of existing equipment.

Additionally, he noted that policymakers should empower citizens with metered billing systems, which encourage transparency and efficiency in electricity usage.

He noted that decentralization, improved renewable energy strategies, and strict enforcement of maintenance

protocols could collectively stabilize the power supply, protecting Nigeria from further blackouts.

Alternative sources, a good idea

While speaking on alternative source usage in Nigeria, the analyst said it is a welcome development that needed to be applauded but only it should only serve as a backup and not as the main source of energy supply.

He bemoaned that the reverse is now the case in some areas, where some Nigerians solely depend on renewables like the solar system for power supply despite the high cost of purchase.

“Some people will put solar in their houses and now use electricity as a backup, but the renewable energy is supposed to be a backup, and electricity will become the major supply to their houses. But today you will see electricity as a backup in some areas,” he said.

A Call for Leadership

“Ultimately, it is up to the government to enforce these changes. Our population is growing, our industries are expanding, and our electricity needs are greater than ever. But if we don’t address the fundamental problems within our power sector, grid collapses will only increase,” he cautioned.

However, the expert calls for the setup of a committee that is made up of experienced experts to tackle the issue at the root cause of the aging equipment, warning that the selection process should not be “politicized.”

He said, “The committee needs to be set up, and it is not the one that they are setting up in Nigeria, where there is no result in their reports. The experts, i.e., people that have worked in electricity sectors, the grounded people, should come up and set a committee of very experienced people.

“Let us focus on this. I am quite sure if the technical committee can come up with good energy policy that will favour everybody, it will help the country.”

Way forward

He urged that meters should be given to residents to avoid further damages at the electricity firm.

“The issue of meter should be handled. They should give people a meter and light. This will begin to affect the equipment there,” he concluded.

Double salary awaits Akwa Ibom workers in December

By Helen Okechukwu

Governor Umo Eno of Akwa Ibom has pledged that double salary with the approved new minimum wage will be paid to public workers after the completion of the verification exercise in December.

Governor Eno said the 13th-month salary aims to bring a more joyful Yuletide to civil servants in the state.

This announcement was made during a church service held at the Eternity Mission International Church in Uyo on Sunday.

According to Ekerete Udoh, the Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, he revealed that the payment started last year and is widely known as “Eno-Mber” among the state’s civil servants.

Udoh in the document said, “The announcement of the planned payment again this year is expected to be massively received by the workers.”

The state governor added that the payment will be rolled into the N80,000 minimum wage as approved.

While explaining the reason for the undergoing rigorous verification, he said, “I am aware that quite a number of our civil servants have relocated within Nigeria while others have gone abroad. We have to be sure that those receiving payments are real civil servants.”



“My watchword since assuming office has been transparency and honesty in service deliverables, and we have to ensure that we carry this through this verification exercise, which will soon be completed.”

He warned government enemies to desist from the act of spoiling the relationship between the state government and the organized labour to have a rethink.

He acknowledged state government efforts in paying off debt, noting that N35 billion was paid in gratuities to retired pensioners, local government workers, and primary school teachers in the state.

Additionally, the sum of N1.1 billion was paid as a bonus to public servants.

Speaking further on the government enemies, he highlighted that he ensured the prompt payment of wage award for

three months to cushion the effect of economic hardship occasioned by fuel subsidy removal.

Highlighting further, he mentioned that in September, via raffle draw, about 150 homes located at the Grace Estate were given to civil servants from grade levels 1-8 free of charge.

Among other government efforts in ensuring the welfare of civil servants is met, he has approved the conduction of all service examinations in preparation for 2024 promotions, and the release of 2023 promotions and pensioners earnings who have retired before 2021 has been increased.

Other government dedication towards the welfare of its workers, also, he approved the release of an outstanding 7.5% contributory pension to contributors, including the appointment of 22 new permanent secretaries.

Udoh stated, “The governor has enjoyed a robust labor-government relationship, and he remains dedicated to deepening and expanding the relationship and hopes for reciprocity on the part of organs within the organized labour.”

Police arrest man for setting wife ablaze in Ogun

By Dave Oludare Oso

A 55-year-old man, identified as Olubunmi Johnson has been arrested by the Ogun State Police Command for allegedly setting his wife, Kikelomo on fire in their apartment on Fagbuyi Street, Ilogbo, in the Ota area of Ogun State.

According to Punch, an eyewitness on Saturday evening said the incident happened around 8:30 p.m. on Friday, following a domestic dispute though the exact circumstances leading to the confrontation has not been disclosed.

The spokesperson for the state police command, Omolola Odutola told journalists that the culprit has been detained in connection with the crime.

The report said a neighbour who witnessed the incident alerted the victim’s relatives, who then informed the police.

The spokesperson said police officers from the Ilogbo Division quickly took action, and arrested the suspect.

Odutola said, “The husband doused his wife’s body with petrol and set her on fire with a match. Witnesses to the incident immediately rushed her to the hospital.

“Upon receiving the report, our detectives quickly took action and arrested the husband, who has since been detained.”



Ogun State Police PRQ, Omolola Odutola

Rivers political crisis divinely purposed – Fubara

By Dave Oludare Oso

Governor Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers State has said the political crisis in the state is divinely orchestrated to allow God to perfect His purpose in granting the state political freedom and economic growth.

The governor spoke at the thanksgiving service to celebrate the appointment of His Royal Majesty, Eze Chike Worlu Wodo as the Chairman of Rivers State Traditional Rulers Council.

The event was held at the Shepard's Hill Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) at Mgbuoba Community in Obio/Akpor Local Government Area on Sunday.

The leadership of the church presented copies of the Holy Bible to the governor at the service.

Emphasizing that it is because God is wholesomely involved, the governor said what people thought would have overwhelmed him and his team has rather been a disappointment, as the government is more energized in steering the affairs of the state.

Governor Fubara said his commitment to governance and belief in God is unwavering, as he depends on Him for wisdom, and direction to ensure that posterity reckons his administration as one that stood on the side of God.

He said, "I also believe that what you are calling trouble is not trouble to me. I see it as God's purpose for a new direction for our state.

"He has taken us higher, right from the first day, which is why, rather than getting weak, we are getting stronger and bolder everyday.

"We want to finish our work, and our story will be those who led with the fear of God. We might not be perfect in everything, but in the end, there should be a reason why the angels should not allow our bodies to be taken by the devil."

The governor highlighted the importance of thanksgiving to God because it brings assurance of abiding presence, and offers a clearer picture of what pathway to navigate through any situation.

He particularly expressed delight to have joined with the family of the royal father to present their thanksgiving to God, as according to him, it aligns with



Rivers State Governor: Siminalayi Fubara

the commitment of his administration.

He noted the energy with which Eze Chike Worlu Wodo had danced in gratitude before God, and likened it to how King David in the Bible danced before God without being ashamed.

He said, "It is one of the credits that made God to love King David so much. He glorified God in a special way. He was not ashamed, and God loved him. I am happy and honestly speaking, I am really humbled that at this age and as a traditional ruler, you still reverence God highly. God will continue to lift you above human imagination.

"I am happy being in the presence of God today, more especially worshipping in one of the living churches in Nigeria and the world.

"I have to say that there is nothing as important like thanking God. Even when the situation looks unclear, thanksgiving brings assurance and a clearer picture of the situation.

"And I join this family this morning to thank God with you and to assure our people that because God is what we have kept in front, our story will end in praises."

Governor Fubara enjoined the church to continue to pray for his administration and the entire peace of the State without relenting.

He insisted that things might look tough from a physical perspective, but God does not work like men. His purpose will prevail, notwithstanding the time it takes.

"And the secret of our administration is just one thing: your prayers. The quiet and secret prayers that you give for us in your closets count.

"I can tell you, there is no prayer that God does not answer. It is like depositing

money in the bank. So, I want to thank you, assure you that we will continue to uphold the fear of God in everything we do. We can assure you that," he stated.

Governor Fubara donated ₦100 million to the church to support their work of evangelism, which will serve as a memorial in honour of Eze Chike Worlu Wodo in the parish.

In his speech, the Chairman of Rivers State Traditional Rulers' Council (RSTRC) and Eze Oha Apará IV, His Royal Majesty, Eze Chike Worlu Wodo, said since his birth 78 years ago, God has led him through one victory to another amidst the challenges of life, adding that he was in church to thank God for such benevolence.

Eze Wodo particularly thanked Governor Fubara for giving him the appointment and several levels of support to him, which he said, today, counts as part of the blessings enjoyed in life.

He pledged to sustain support for Governor Fubara to ensure the success of his administration.

In his sermon captioned "We are ambassadors for Christ", Pastor David Adewuye of Region 33 of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), said no one can truly represent God on earth without first yielding to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

It is such saved persons, Pastor Adewuye stated, who can eventually understand their destiny imperative, and be empowered to fulfil the wholesome plan of God in their lives, because according to him, the newness of life they live in Christ serves as an enduring credential for ceaseless triumphs.

Nigeria's VAT revenue could double in 2 years with proposed tax reforms, says Oyedele

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Chairman of the Presidential Tax Reform Committee, Mr. Taiwo Oyedele, has forecasted a dramatic increase in Nigeria's VAT revenue, suggesting that it could double in less than two years if a proposed tax reform bill passes through the National Assembly.

He argued that the reform, which would streamline tax collection processes and allocate more responsibility to states, would not only boost national revenue but also incentivize state governments to actively support economic activities within their jurisdictions.

Speaking at a public engagement on the proposed tax reforms, Oyedele emphasised that the reforms were designed to shift the balance of revenue collection away from federal agencies and allow states to become more involved in managing and collecting Value-Added Tax (VAT).

This, he believes, would result in both immediate and long-term fiscal benefits for the country.

Under the new tax reform proposals, federal bodies such as the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) would have their roles in revenue collection suspended.

The reform intends to streamline the tax process and place greater responsibility on state governments to collect and manage VAT within their territories. In return, states would be incentivized to focus more on the economic activities within their regions, potentially driving more efficient tax collection and fostering local business growth.

"We've looked at it closely and we believe that, within two years, VAT revenue could actually double if this reform goes through," Oyedele stated.

"The reason is simple: When states have a stake in VAT collection, they will be more motivated to develop and support the economic activities



Mr. Taiwo Oyedele, Chairman of the Presidential Tax Reform Committee.

within their jurisdiction. It's a win-win situation."

He also explained that the new approach would empower state governments to boost local economic development by directly linking their fiscal health to the growth of businesses and trade within their borders.

This shift in responsibility would encourage states to actively promote a business-friendly environment to maximize their tax revenues.

One of the key aspects of the proposed reforms is the principle of fiscal equalisation, designed to ensure that no state loses out on revenue in the transition to a more decentralised system.

Oyedele highlighted that states would be guaranteed a minimum level of revenue, with a buffer to prevent any immediate financial shortfalls.

"We've worked with the federal government to ensure that states face zero risk," Oyedele said.

"We're proposing that the federal government reduces its share of the revenue pool by five percent, which will be reallocated to the states. This ensures that no state will collect less

than it would under the old formula."

The reform aims to ensure that while states gain greater control over their VAT revenue, they will not face any financial loss during the transition period.

With this mechanism in place, the federal government's share of VAT revenue would be reduced from 15 per cent to 10 per cent, with the additional funds directed to state governments.

As part of the broader reform package, Mr. Oyedele also emphasised the importance of reducing the number of federal agencies involved in tax collection.

He revealed that the legislation would seek to remove about 60 federal agencies from the tax collection process, allowing them to focus on their core responsibilities.

"We believe that by limiting the number of agencies involved in tax collection, we can reduce inefficiencies, improve oversight, and ultimately enhance the overall performance of the tax system," Oyedele explained.

Repeated vandalism of transmission lines, towers worries TCN

By Agency Reporter

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) expressed deep concern over the rising number of cases of vandalism targeting transmission lines and towers, warning that this trend is severely disrupting the nation's power grid and infrastructure. TCN's General Manager Public Affairs Mrs Ndidi Mbah, made this known in a statement while reacting to the weekend destruction of the 330kV Lokoja-Gwagwalada transmission line. "The TCN hereby reports that vandals have once again attacked its 330kV Lokoja-Gwagwalada transmission line one in the early hours of Saturday. "Early on Saturday, TCN engineers attempted to re-energise the 330kV Lokoja-Gwagwalada transmission line one, but the line tripped. "After efforts to reclose the line failed, a patrol team of TCN linesmen was dispatched to trace the line for faults. "Upon inspection, they discovered that transmission towers T306, T307 and T308 along line one had been vandalised, disrupting bulk power transmission along the route." The company added that two spans of



aluminium conductors from the line were stolen, with efforts underway to replace them.

Further examination, the TCN said, revealed that vandals had stolen two spans of aluminium conductor from line one.

The Lokoja-Gwagwalada line, it added, is a double-circuit transmission line, and while TCN is still supplying bulk power through line two, efforts are underway to source replacement aluminium conductors for the two spans stolen from line one.

"The growing trend of vandalism targeting transmission lines and towers has become a serious challenge, severely

impacting the country's power infrastructure and hindering the expansion and stability of the national grid.

"This recent incident adds to an alarming pattern of attacks on the transmission network nationwide.

"In the Gwagwalada area alone, recent acts of vandalism include the attack on the Gwagwalada-Kukuwaba-Apo transmission line on Dec. 10, 2023, the Gwagwalada-Katampe line on Feb. 26, and several others in that axis.

"Such acts of vandalism continue to disrupt the stability and growth of Nigeria's national grid," the company said.

The company further appealed to members of host communities to work with TCN and security operatives to combat this threat.

"We once again appeal to members of the public, especially residents of communities hosting transmission lines and towers, to collaborate with TCN and security operatives in combating this menace.

"Vandalism of power installations is a disservice to us all and undermines efforts to strengthen the nation's transmission system."

Obi donates N60 million to tertiary institutions in Anambra

By Friday Omosola

The 2023 Labour Party (LP) presidential candidate, Peter Obi, has donated N60 million to tertiary institutions in Anambra State. In a statement on his X page, Mr Obi announced a donation of N50 million to Eter University, Achina, Anambra State, and an additional N10 million to the College of Nursing Sciences in Adazi Nnukwu. The former Anambra State Governor explained that these contributions, made during his visit to the institutions, reflect his dedication to building a productive nation. He emphasised his ongoing support for critical sectors like health, education, and poverty eradication as key to achieving this vision. The statement read: "In tune with my unwavering belief that health and

education are veritable ways of pulling people out of poverty and that these sectors are critical to development in a New Nigeria, yesterday, I paid a visit to the Peter University, Achina, Anambra State, where I gave them my financial support of N50 million.

"Thereafter, I visited the College of Nursing Sciences in Adazi Nnukwu, where I made an additional donation of N10 million. These visits and support gestures are in line with our unwavering commitment to building a productive nation, through encouragement and support in the critical sectors of health, education and poverty eradication.

"I have constantly maintained that no nation develops without a healthy and educated workforce. With Nigeria having a predominantly youthful population, we must continue to prioritize the future of our youths by investing in these critical areas.

"By so doing, we will build a nation of healthy and educated citizens who are



productively contributing to the growth and development of the nation. I extend my gratitude to the Proprietors, Management, Staff, and Students of both Peter University and the College of Nursing Sciences for their contributions to our health and education sectors. I remain confident that a New and Productive Nigeria is Possible."

Human rights group to Reuters: Apologise to Nigerian military over false allegation

By Agency Reporter

A Human Rights advocacy group, Women Concerns, has called on Reuters News Agency to apologise to the Nigerian military over unsubstantiated allegations of forced abortion in its counter-insurgency operations in the North East.

Convener of the group, Aishatu Balarabe, made the call in a statement on Monday in Abuja.

Balarabe said that the international news agency falsely alleged that the military deliberately attacked women and children or carried out secret abortions in its fight against Islamist insurgency.

She said that the Reuters report had been discredited by the Nigeria's Human Rights Commission (NHRC) after it carried out thorough investigation which found "no evidence" of the allegations.

"According to the NHRC there is no evidence to establish that the Nigerian military conducted a secret abortion programme in the north-east, ending pregnancies of thousands of women and girls freed from insurgent captivity," she said.

Balarabe urged Reuters not to continue to hold on to a report that could not be proven, but apologise to the military instead, adding that the NHRC report was an indictment of the Reuters report. She condemned the deliberate attempts to malign the Armed Forces of Nigeria, saying the news organisation should use its channels to support ongoing operations in affected areas in Nigeria.

"Reuters should stop carrying unbalanced stories, which can mar the efforts of the Nigerian military.

"Women Concerns have done its investigation, using the local people in the North East Nigeria.

"Our investigation showed that Reuters report cannot be substantiated and rather than holding on to this, we call on Reuters to apologise to the Military.

"What Nigeria, especially the military



needs right now is support and moral boosters to bring the security challenges to an end.

"We are confident that despite the activities of war mongers, the Armed Forces of Nigeria under the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Christopher Musa, will continue to deal with those who don't want peace and progress," the Group added.

The Defence Headquarters had in a statement on Saturday, commended the commission for carrying out a painstaking investigation and exonerating the military.

The CDS commended the 7- man panel led by retired Justice Abdu Aboki for painstakingly carrying out a thorough job since its inauguration in March 2023 by the Nigerian Human Rights Commission. He reaffirms the commitment of the armed forces to the defence of human rights and resolve to ensure that peace reigns in the country.

According to him, no amount of false accusations will distract the armed forces

from exercising its constitutional mandate of protecting the territorial integrity of the nation.

NAN reports that the National Human Rights Commission's (NHRC) special investigative panel on human rights violations, in counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast exonerated the Nigerian military of alleged gross human violation in the northeast.

The seven-member panel chaired by a former Supreme Court judge, Justice Abdul Aboki investigated the allegations leveled against the Nigerian military by Reuters.

Reuters had alleged that the military committed human rights violations and abuses in the northeast such as forced abortions on women, extrajudicial killings.

In February 2023 a panel was inaugurated by the NHRC to investigate the allegations.

Black mother takes DNA test after people said her fair-skinned child isn't really hers

By Agency Reporter

A black mother with a fair-skinned daughter had to get a DNA test after naysayers questioned if the child was really hers. Mom-of-three Alex, whose husband Rob is white, welcomed daughter Pudge Pudge, 2, via IVF.

The couple said they were 'surprised' by how 'different' Pudge Pudge looked, especially compared to their other two children, who are darker.

'I was super surprised,' Alex told Truly. 'Her ears weren't even dark. They were really, really white!'

Due to the difference in their skin tones, Alex said that she gets 'a lot of negativity' from both trolls online and people in real life.

Recalling one instance, Alex said that she was shopping at the mall with Pudge Pudge when she was stopped by a staffer, who said 'things didn't look right' and threatened to call security on her.

'Rob ended up handling the whole thing for me and essentially telling her to leave us alone,' she said.

'I should be able to hang out with my child the way I want to!'

Alex said that she's even received criticism from other black people, who have attacked her for being in an interracial relationship.



Left- Husband Rob, Alex carrying Pudge Pudge & other children



Alex, with the controversial white baby, Pudge Pudge

'I've seen people that appear to be black online that say I shouldn't have that white man's child, all kinds of things,' she said. Alex has also been accused of 'renting' Pudge Pudge as a 'content baby' for social media.

She eventually ended up getting a DNA test to prove that Pudge Pudge was her child.

'We decided to do the DNA test because she was so white and we did use IVF to get pregnant with her and mistakes do happen,' she explained.

Despite some backlash and awkward moments, the couple have received an outpouring of support since sharing their story.

'As a black mom with a "white passing" child living in a primarily white area in Georgia, this happens every day,' wrote one.

'Being followed to listen in on our

conversations, asking where her mom is, suggesting I'm a nanny, etc. Keep your head up momma. Your family is beautiful.'

Another wrote, 'I can understand people being confused, but being rude is crossing the line. This is a sweet and beautiful family!'

A third added, 'People are so weird. They have no idea how mixed children work. You two are doing amazing. Don't listen to the weirdos.'

Many others pointed out how Pudge Pudge looks exactly like her father.

'She looks like daddy. People are so ignorant,' commented one supportive fan, while another wrote, 'She looks EXACTLY like her dad! That's so sweet. Some strong genes for sure.'

NiMet forecasts 3-day dust haze, rain across Nigeria

By Agency Reporter

The Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet) has predicted dust haze and rain across the country from Monday to Wednesday. NiMet's weather outlook released on Sunday in Abuja envisaged slight dust haze on Monday with localised visibility of 2 km to 5km in the northern region during the forecast hours.

'In the North Central region, slight dust haze with localised visibility of 2km to 5km is expected during the forecast period.

'In the South, sunny skies in a hazy atmosphere are expected over the

inland, with prospects of thunderstorms with slight rains anticipated over parts of Lagos, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States in the morning.

'Towards the afternoon/evening hours thunderstorms with slight rains are expected over parts of southern Ondo, Ogun, Lagos, Edo, Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Rivers, and Delta States,' it said.

The agency predicted slight dust haze on Tuesday with localised visibility of 2km to 5km during the forecast hours in the northern region.

According to NiMet, slight dust haze with localised visibility of 2km 5km is expected during the forecast period in

the North Central region.

It anticipated sunny and hazy skies over the inland and patches of clouds over the coastal states during the forecast period in the southern region.

The agency forecast slight dust haze with localised visibility of 2km to 5km during the forecast hours in the northern region on Wednesday.

'In the North Central region, slight dust haze with localised visibility of 2km to 5km is expected during the forecast period.

'In the southern region, sunny and hazy skies are anticipated over the Inland while patches of clouds are expected over the coastal States.

Petrol landing cost drops to N971/litre – Report

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The estimated landing cost of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), commonly known as petrol, in Nigeria has decreased significantly, offering a glimpse of potential relief for consumers.

The cost of bringing petrol to the country dropped by 20.34%, falling to N971.57 per litre over the past three months, according to recent data released by the Major Energy Marketers Association (MEMA).

However, despite this decline in the cost of importing and distributing the fuel, Nigerians are facing higher petrol prices at the pump. As of November 8, 2024, the retail price of petrol has increased by a staggering N443 per litre, or 71.79%, rising from N617 per litre on August 1, 2024, to N1,060 per litre in the past week.

Independent marketers are selling the product at even higher prices, with some stations charging N1,180 per litre.

The fluctuation in petrol pricing is a reflection of global market conditions, domestic economic factors, and the ongoing deregulation of Nigeria's fuel market.

While the falling landing cost suggests a moderation in international pricing, the rising retail costs highlight the complex dynamics at play within the country's energy sector.

The reported decrease in landing cost from N1,219 per litre in August to N971.57 per litre in November comes at a time when international oil prices have also dropped.

The price of Brent crude, Nigeria's benchmark, has dipped from \$80.72 per barrel in August to \$75.57 per barrel in November.

The exchange rate has also seen fluctuations, with the Naira trading at N1,611 per dollar in August compared to N1,665.84 per dollar in November.

Despite these improvements in import costs, the retail price has continued to rise. According to MEMA's Competency Centre daily energy bulletin, petrol sold at N617

per litre in August when oil was priced at \$80.72 per barrel and the exchange rate stood at N1,611 per dollar.

By contrast, in November, with a lower oil price and a slight increase in exchange rates, the retail price has surged to N1,060.

In September and October, the landing cost of petrol was N945.63 per litre and N903.64 per litre, respectively, indicating a consistent decline in import costs. However, the retail price has continued its upward trend, prompting growing concerns about the reasons behind the disparity.

Experts point to multiple factors contributing to the continued rise in petrol prices despite falling landing costs.

These include the ongoing deregulation of the fuel sector, currency depreciation, rising inflation, and the broader economic challenges Nigeria is grappling with, such as reduced government subsidies and fluctuations in global oil prices.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has voiced strong concerns over the situation, accusing fuel marketers of inflating petrol prices.

In a statement released following its National Executive Council meeting, the NLC claimed that Nigerians are being exploited, noting that the retail price of petrol is much higher than the actual market value.

The union argued that the current price is exacerbating the suffering of ordinary Nigerians, many of whom are already struggling with the economic fallout of inflation and the removal of fuel subsidies.

"The Nigerian people are facing severe hardships due to the increase in fuel

prices," the NLC said in its statement.

"While the government and marketers claim to be adjusting to market forces, Nigerians are being pushed further into poverty, with food prices and transport costs skyrocketing."

The NLC has demanded greater accountability from both the government and fuel marketers, urging a review of petrol pricing and an investigation into possible price manipulation.

The union's stance is that the continued rise in petrol prices is not in line with the actual market conditions and is contributing to the economic distress faced by millions of Nigerians.

While experts acknowledge that deregulation and market liberalization are essential for the long-term sustainability of the Nigerian fuel sector, they also stress the need for effective mechanisms to protect consumers from price hikes that are not linked to actual cost structures.

There is growing pressure on the government to find ways to stabilise the sector and ensure that the benefits of falling import costs are passed down to the Nigerian people.

As the situation develops, many Nigerians remain hopeful that the reduction in landing costs will eventually translate into lower pump prices, bringing much-needed relief to a population struggling with the high cost of living.

However, with the ongoing economic challenges and the complexities of the deregulated fuel market, it remains to be seen whether this reduction will lead to any substantial change at the pump.

Yobe govt implements solar energy in secondary school

By Olamilekan Botti

The Yobe State Government has announced plans to suspend the use of fossil fuels and instead harness solar energy to power public secondary schools across the state by 2025. Alhaji Baba Malam-Wali, the Secretary to the State Government, made this significant declaration during a media briefing that coincided with an inspection of several ongoing government projects in schools located in Nguru on Monday.

The schools that were part of the inspection included notable institutions such as the Government Higher Islamic College, Nguru, Government Day Secondary School Gashua, Nigerian Tulip International College (NTIC) Yobe Campus, and Government Girls Unity College Damaturu, among others.

This initiative illustrates the government's commitment to promoting clean energy solutions while enhancing educational environments for students. Malam-Wali emphasized that this solar energy initiative is not an isolated effort but is rather a component of the state government's comprehensive plan aimed at elevating the quality of education within Yobe.

He outlined a multi-faceted strategy geared towards educational reform, highlighting a range of initiatives that have been rolled out since 2019, which include efforts to decongest schools in urban centres deeply affected by overcrowding.

As part of these endeavours, the Yobe State Government has constructed several new model schools specifically designed to mitigate overcrowding, and they are partnering with traditional rulers and community leaders to boost enrollment in rural primary schools. Malam-Wali remarked, "Our vision is to foster an educational landscape where every child has access to quality schooling, regardless of their geographical background."

To alleviate the financial burdens faced by parents, the Yobe



Government has also committed to covering examination fees for candidates participating in the 2025 West African School Certificate Examination (WASCE) and the National Examination Council (NECO).

This groundbreaking decision underscores the administration's commitment to making education accessible and affordable for all. Moreover, the government has taken substantial steps to promote gender equality in education by establishing additional secondary schools exclusively for girls.

This initiative strives to empower young women in the state, ensuring they have the opportunity to pursue their academic dreams without interruption. Malam-Wali further elaborated on investments made in rehabilitating schools, which include the provision of much-needed furniture and other essential facilities.

He highlighted that the state's free feeding program for secondary school students is already in action, with expenditures amounting to approximately N500 million each month, demonstrating the government's dedication to nourishing students' bodies while fostering their minds.

During the inspection, principals from the schools visited expressed their profound gratitude towards the Yobe

State Government for its continued support and commitment to education. They acknowledged the positive outcomes of these initiatives on student enrollment, academic performance, and overall school infrastructure, illustrating the transformative effects being felt across the educational landscape.

Mr Hasibullahi Jogi, the principal of NTIC Yobe Campus, articulated his appreciation for the ongoing support from the state government, stating that the administration's proactive measures are critical in enhancing the education sector's performance.

Mr. Rajab Ismail, Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Yobe, who led the team of journalists on the site visit, emphasized the importance of responsible journalism. He called on members of the press to commit to accurate and unbiased reporting, urging them to prioritize national unity and the development of the state by putting aside personal biases and affiliations.

With these ambitions, the Yobe State Government not only seeks to improve the current state of education but also aims to foster a sustainable future that harnesses clean energy while empowering its youth. The commitment to education and sustainability is a testament to Yobe's dedication towards making a positive difference in the lives of its citizens.

Ondo secures key materials for upcoming gov election

By Olamilekan Botti

In a period of significant growth, the sensitive materials necessary for the upcoming governorship election in Ondo State have officially arrived in the state capital, Akure. Scheduled for Saturday, 16th November 2024, this election is poised to be a pivotal event in the region's political landscape.

The timely delivery of these crucial materials was facilitated by the Nigerian Air Force, underscoring the urgent and strategic measures taken to ensure a smooth electoral process. Upon arrival, these items were promptly received by officials from the Central Bank of Nigeria, who are entrusted with overseeing the election preparations.

This announcement was made public through a brief message shared on the Independent National Electoral Commission's (INEC) official X page on Monday, capturing the immediate attention of the public and political stakeholders.

The message reiterated the importance of these materials, which are vital for conducting a free and fair election, and highlighted the collaborative efforts between various



institutions aimed at ensuring the integrity of the electoral process. As the electoral day approaches, the anticipation among the electorate is palpable, with many looking forward to exercising their democratic rights in what is expected to be a highly contested race.

However, the arrival of these sensitive materials marks a crucial step in the election timeline, reinforcing INEC's commitment to transparency and accountability.

In conclusion, the efficient handling and delivery of these essential materials not only reflect the preparedness of electoral authorities but also serve as a pivotal moment in Ondo State's democratic journey. Voters can now look ahead with confidence as the date draws near, hopeful for a well-organized electoral process that will ultimately shape the governance of their state for the years to come.

No salary, bonus for workers without KWSRRA number – Kwara Govt

By Friday Omosola

The Kwara State Government announced that public sector employees without valid Kwara State Residents Registration Agency (KWSRRA) numbers will not receive salaries or bonuses starting in November.

In a statement issued by the Ministry Press Secretary, Babatunde Toyin Abdulrasheed, Commissioner for Finance Hauwa Nuru highlighted that the registration process began several months ago.

KWSRRA is legally authorized to gather essential data on all residents in the state, assigning unique identification numbers to each individual to enhance planning, resource management, service

delivery, public safety, and more. "In line with the administration's commitment to accountability and transparency in resource administration, a directive had since been issued mandating all state employees, including those across the 16 local government areas, to complete their registration KWSRRA. "Effective November 2024, workers who have not registered will not receive salary payments or bonuses. The KWSRRA registration is a vital step toward establishing a comprehensive and accurate database that enables us to serve Kwara State residents more effectively. "Ensuring that every state worker is registered strengthens our payroll system, enhances service delivery, and



builds trust in our processes," said Nuru. Nuru stated that the initiative would play a crucial role in resource management and planning across the state. The Commissioner encouraged state employees who had not yet registered to promptly visit the nearest KWSRRA registration centre to complete their enrollment, the statement added.

Chelsea puts further strain on Arsenal's title hopes

By Kayode Akinwumi

Arsenal's hopes for a Premier League title took another hit as they drew 1-1 with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The draw leaves Arsenal winless in their last three league matches.

Chelsea's Pedro Neto scored a stunning goal from 25 yards out to equalize for the home side, canceling out Gabriel Martinelli's opener for Arsenal. Neto, who joined Chelsea from Wolves, has become a key player for the Blues, particularly on the left wing. His crossing created several chances for Chelsea in the first half.

Before Neto's equalizer, Chelsea had controlled the game, playing with energy and bite. Cole Palmer, who had been recovering from a knee injury, nearly scored early in the match with a long-range shot that was saved by Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya.

Arsenal's best chance of the first half fell to Martinelli, who shot straight at



Chelsea goalkeeper Robert Sanchez after Bukayo Saka's shot was blocked. Former Chelsea player Kai Havertz thought he had scored against his old club in the 33rd minute, but the goal was ruled offside after a VAR review.

Martinelli finally broke the deadlock for Arsenal in the 60th minute, finishing cleverly at the near post after receiving a cross from Martin Odegaard. Odegaard, who was making his first start since September after recovering from injury, found Martinelli at the back post, where Arsenal had outnumbered the Chelsea defense.

Arsenal looked to capitalize on their lead, with Jurrien Timber coming close with a low shot. However, Neto's stunning goal swung the momentum back to Chelsea. The draw moves Chelsea up to third in the Premier League table

Barca's streak ends as Napoli shares points with Inter

By Kayode Akinwumi

Barcelona missed the chance to extend their lead atop La Liga after losing 1-0 to Real Sociedad at the Reale Arena. Sheraldo Becker scored the only goal of the game in the 33rd minute, handing Barcelona their second league defeat of the season. Barcelona failed to score in a La Liga match for the first time this season.

Barcelona manager Hansi Flick was dealt a blow before the match when Lamine Yamal was ruled out due to injury. Yamal, a rising star for Barcelona, had also missed international duty with Spain due to the injury. Barcelona remain six points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table, although Real Madrid have a game in hand.

In Italy, Napoli maintained their lead in Serie A after a 1-1 draw with Inter



Milan. Scott McTominay opened the scoring for Napoli, before Hakan Çalhanoğlu equalised for Inter with a spectacular 30-yard strike. Çalhanoğlu then missed a penalty in the 74th minute, striking the post. The draw keeps Napoli top

of the table, one point ahead of fourth-place Inter.

Atalanta moved up to second place in Serie A with a 2-1 win over Udinese, their sixth straight victory. Mario Pašalić scored for Atalanta, with an own goal from Isaak Touré securing the three points.

Fiorentina joined Atalanta on 25 points after a Moise Kean hat-trick led them to a 3-1 win over Hellas Verona.

Roma lost 3-2 to Bologna, a result which led to the sacking of manager Ivan Jurić after less than two months in charge.

Jurić was appointed on September 18th but only won two of his nine matches in charge.

In Germany, Eintracht Frankfurt remained third in the Bunde

Real Madrid seeking defensive reinforcements after injuries

By Kayode Akinwumi

Following the recent anterior cruciate ligament injuries to both Dani Carvajal and Eder Militao, Real Madrid are actively searching for defensive reinforcements in the upcoming January transfer market. The club is reportedly considering three main options: Aymeric Laporte from Al-Nassr, Castello Lukeba from RB Leipzig, and Jonathan Tah from Bayer Leverkusen. Real Madrid's top choice is Aymeric Laporte, a left-footed center-back currently playing for Al-Nassr in Saudi Arabia. Laporte is seen as a reliable defender who can make an immediate impact. However, his high wages (€8 million net per season) and transfer fee (€15-20 million) present potential obstacles.

The second option is Castello Lukeba, a 21-year-old French defender who recently signed a five-year deal with RB Leipzig. Lukeba is highly regarded by Real Madrid but would be a costly acquisition due to his €90 million release



Bayer Leverkusen centre-back Jonathan Tah

clause.

Bayer Leverkusen centre-back Jonathan Tah

Jonathan Tah from Bayer Leverkusen is Real Madrid's third choice. While the sources don't elaborate on Tah's potential transfer fee or his suitability for Real Madrid's needs, it's clear that the club is considering multiple

options to bolster their defense.

Interestingly, Real Madrid have ruled out a return for former captain Sergio Ramos, indicating that the relationship between the club and the player is beyond repair. Additionally, Real Madrid are monitoring young talents Valentin Gomez and Vitor Reis, though they are not considered primary targets for January.

Real Madrid's pursuit of a new central defender highlights the club's determination to address the defensive vulnerabilities exposed by the recent injuries to key players. The club's preferred choice, Laporte, offers experience and immediate quality but comes at a significant financial cost. Lukeba represents a long-term investment but would require a substantial transfer fee. Tah remains a viable alternative, but further details about his potential move are scarce.

Barcelona star doubtful for Spain's Nations League matches

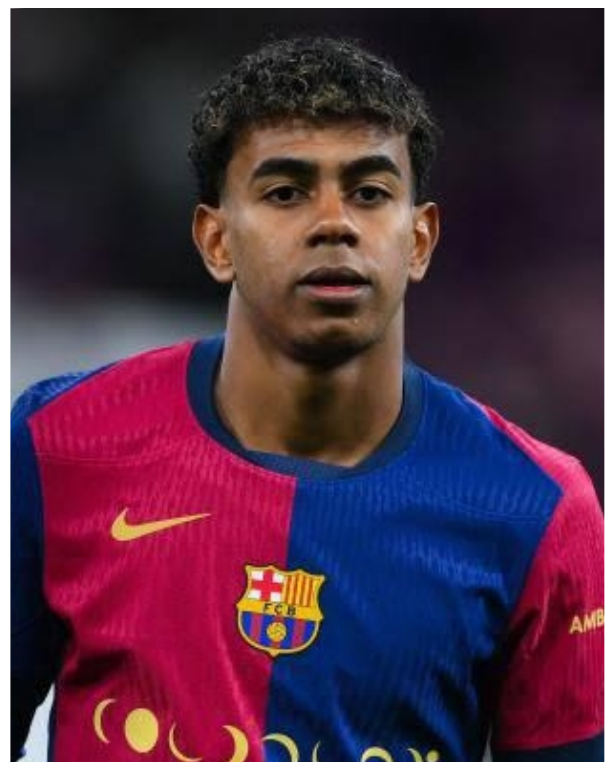
By Kayode Akinwumi

Barcelona manager Hansi Flick has confirmed that the club has requested Lamine Yamal be released from the Spain national team due to injury. The 17-year-old winger suffered a "severe contusion" during Barcelona's 5-2 Champions League victory over Red Star Belgrade. Yamal missed Barcelona's 1-0 La Liga loss to Real Sociedad on Sunday. He was replaced by Fermin Lopez, who unsuccessfully filled in on the right wing. Barcelona ultimately lost the game 1-0, their second league defeat of the season. The Blaugranas also notably failed to register a goal for the first time this season.

Yamal has been called up to the Spain squad for their upcoming UEFA Nations League matches against Denmark and Switzerland.

His injury has caused a stir in both the Barcelona and Spanish national team camps. Manager Flick stated that Barcelona has asked for Yamal to be released from the national team. He said, "We will miss now Lamine Yamal... I don't know if he will return after the international break. We've asked for him not to travel to the national team".

Yamal has been a key player for Barcelona this season, scoring six goals and providing eight assists in 16 appearances across all competitions.



Barcelona forward Lamine Yamal

Davido's influence on my career- HYCE

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

A rising star has emerged in the Afrobeats scene: Favor Ekah Ernest, better recognized by his stage name, HYCE.

The young artist recently shared his thoughts on a significant milestone in his career the collaboration with Afrobeats legend Davido on the highly anticipated remix of his hit single, "Ogechi."

This partnership, in collaboration with fellow artist Boypee, not only represents a high point in his musical journey but also signifies a transformative moment for this budding talent.

HYCE delves into the story behind the remix of "Ogechi," revealing that its genesis occurred during a campus tour in Enugu.

"I performed alongside Topboy Zyno, where I first met Boypee and reconnected with Brown Joel from Lagos," HYCE recalls.

This reunion sparked an unmistakable creative energy among the artists. "Our instant chemistry ignited a fire of creativity. Following the show, we agreed it was time to collaborate formally," he elaborated. "Once we returned to Lagos, we rushed to Dawie's studio to record 'Ogechi,' aware that we were onto something special."

In the rapid pace of the digital age, they chose to tease their creation on TikTok, releasing a snippet video that generated an overwhelming response.

The buzz surrounding "Ogechi" exploded, resulting in hundreds of thousands of user-generated posts within just days of its announcement. But HYCE and his collaborators felt they needed an even more significant element to elevate the track.

"We had always envisioned a feature with Davido, knowing it could take the song to new heights," he explained.

Thankfully, their mutual connection, Cubana Chief Priest who serves as a mentor to Boypee and is a vocal admirer of "Ogechi" facilitated the introduction.



The fateful night arrived when Boypee placed a call to share the exciting news: Davido wanted to lend his esteemed voice to "Ogechi."

The artists met at Davido's residence mere nights before his wedding to Chioma. "Davido was incredibly enthusiastic.

He said, 'This will be released on my wedding day,'" HYCE said, recalling the feverish excitement of the moment.

The remix was expedited into production, leading to what would become a global anthem.

Reflecting on the experience, HYCE acknowledged, "It was a dream come true, a prayer manifested." The journey toward this pivotal moment began in 2023 with the initial release of "Ogechi." Its irresistible beat and catchy hooks resonated with listeners, but HYCE understood that to truly elevate the track, he needed something extraordinary particularly, the involvement of someone like Davido, renowned for his ability to amplify musical ventures.

"Cubana Chief Priest believed in 'Ogechi' from day one and recognized its potential, which made all the difference," HYCE explained.

When the "Ogechi" remix was officially released in 2024, HYCE found himself launched into a new stratosphere of fame. The track garnered international acclaim, attracting a broader audience and leading

to multiple award nominations.

"Working with Davido opened doors I never thought possible," he reflected on the impact of the collaboration. "It validated my craft, giving me the confidence to push my boundaries. He recognized talents within me I never even saw."

Beyond the commercial success that followed, HYCE treasures the valuable insights and mentorship he received from Davido during their time together.

"He provided crucial guidance about navigating the music industry and encouraged me to stay authentic to my artistic vision," HYCE noted.

One of the most unforgettable experiences he encountered was performing at Davido's Timeless concert in 2023.

"Taking the stage in front of a sea of eager faces tested my resolve. The outpouring of love and support was overwhelming and solidified my confidence," he explained.

"It revealed new heights to strive for while also highlighting areas for improvement."

Since the remix, HYCE has embarked on a whirlwind of global tours, bringing his electrifying performances to countries such as Ghana, Tanzania, and Kenya.

Mummy Wa exposes nollywood harassment

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kemi Ikuseedun, widely recognized as Mummy Wa, has courageously spoken out about her encounters with unwanted advances in the movie industry.

The talented Nigerian skit maker and actress made these statements during her recent guest appearance on 'WithChude Podcast,' hosted by Chude Jideonwo.

New Daily Prime recalls that Mummy Wa's rise to popularity came in 2023, particularly following her notable performances alongside Mr Macaroni in various skits.

As her star began to shine, she also faced dark realities that many aspiring actresses encounter behind the scenes

During her podcast interview, she shared candidly about her journey in the industry and the pressure she felt to comply with inappropriate demands from influential figures.

Reflecting on her experiences, Mummy Wa disclosed that numerous industry insiders attempted to solicit sexual favours in exchange for professional opportunities.

She articulated the inherent struggles that come with pursuing a career in a field fraught with such challenges: "Behind the scenes, a lot of people are asking for things

They are requesting for a whole lot of things that I cannot do." Her poignant words resonate with the frustrations many women face in the entertainment realm, where the line between talent and exploitation can often become blurred.

The actress emphasized the emotional toll of these predatory behaviours, sharing her thoughts on the demanding and often degrading choices that aspiring actresses are faced with.

"Where do I want to start from? I'm already coming from a place where they tell me 'This thing will not work'. How many people do I want to sleep with?"

Her raw honesty sheds light on the complex dynamics of power and vulnerability that exist in the industry. During her discussion, Mummy Wa



also highlighted the grim reality that succumbing to such requests does not guarantee success: "To be honest, you might sleep with somebody in the industry and you will still not blow with the role they will give you."

This startling admission reflects a harsh truth; that women may find themselves objectified, yet still not gain the recognition they seek despite compromising their principles or integrity.

Even more alarming is Mummy Wa's assertion that sexual exploitation is a pervasive issue affecting all women in the industry, regardless of their stature or the roles they play.

"I saw a lot of men. But guess what? Even the slim ones that don't have anything, they are still asking for things from them," she remarked, illustrating that the battle against harassment is not confined to a specific demographic but is a widespread epidemic.

With her revelations, Mummy Wa emphasizes the pressing need for a cultural shift within the entertainment industry, one that prioritizes respect

over-exploitation and genuine talent over transactional relationships.

"No woman is free. No woman is immune. But I can't do it," she concluded, standing firm in her convictions despite the challenges she faces.

However, Kemi Ikuseedun's bravery in sharing her experiences serves as a beacon of hope for others, encouraging them to speak out against harassment and uphold their dignity in a landscape where exploitation has unfortunately been normalized for too long.

Her words resonate not only with those directly involved in the film industry but also with a broader audience, rallying for a more equitable and respectful space for all artists.

As conversations surrounding consent and women's rights continue to gain momentum, Mummy Wa's testimony underscores the critical need for systemic change to combat sexual harassment in every sphere of society, including the arts and entertainment.

Tyla triumphs at 2024 MTV EMAs, Nigerians left out

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

South African singer Tyla made a significant impact at the 30th MTV Europe Music Awards, held in Manchester, United Kingdom, on Sunday night.

With an exceptional performance, Tyla captured the spotlight by winning a remarkable three awards, further solidifying her status as a rising star on the global music stage.

Among her notable achievements, Tyla triumphed in the fiercely competitive category of Best Afrobeats Artist.

She overcame an impressive lineup of talented Nigerian artists, including Asake, Tems, Rema, Burna Boy, and Ayra Starr, to clinch this prestigious title.

Tyla's victory not only highlights her talent but also underscores the growing influence of South African artists in the Afrobeats genre, a category traditionally dominated by Nigerian musicians.

The accolades did not stop there. Tyla also secured the coveted Best African Act award, once again besting Ayra Starr, Asake, DBN Gogo, TitoM & Yuppe, and Diamond Platnumz, showcasing her versatility and appeal across diverse audiences.

This win is particularly significant as it reflects her hard work and dedication to her craft, emphasizing the rising prominence of African music on the world stage.

Tyla's third accolade of the night, Best R&B Artist, was another momentous achievement, placing her in competition with a host of American music luminaries, including Kehlani, SZA, Tinashe, Usher, and Victoria Monét.

Her ability to emerge victorious in categories dominated by established international names demonstrates her profound artistry and the increasing recognition of African musicians in the global music arena.

The evening was not just about receiving accolades; Tyla also showcased her incredible performance skills by wrapping up

the night with an enchanting acoustic rendition of her hit song "Water."

This performance resonated with attendees, further cementing her reputation as not only a talented artist but also a captivating performer who connects with her audience emotionally.

Meanwhile, fellow Nigerian songstress Ayra Starr faced a challenging night as she was left empty-handed after receiving four nominations.

Ayra was vying for Best African Act, Best New Artist, Best Afrobeats Artist, and Best Push but, unfortunately, did not secure any awards this time.

This outcome highlights the fierce competition within the industry and the fluctuating dynamics among emerging artists as they navigate the competitive landscape of global recognition.

Tyla's remarkable achievements at the MTV Europe Music Awards come on the heels of her earlier triumphs this year.

In a groundbreaking win at the Grammy Awards, she was recognized in the newly established Best African Music Performance category, where she once again triumphed over a host of talented Nigerian artists.

This win marked a significant moment in her career, as it represented an opportunity to showcase the rich musical heritage of Africa on such an esteemed platform.

Moreover, Tyla's successful stint continued at the recent 2024 MTV Music Video Awards, where she again emerged as the Best Afrobeats Artist, reiterating her impressive ability to distinguish herself among her peers in a category often dominated by Nigerian artists.

Her journey reflects the evolving landscape of African music and its increasing acceptance and appreciation on international platforms.



As the music industry continues to evolve, Tyla's achievements illuminate the path for future artists, illustrating that talent knows no boundaries.

Her impressive accolades are not purely a reflection of her hard work; they also signify a shift in the music industry's dynamics, as diverse talents from across the African continent gain recognition in mainstream markets.

As Tyla's star continues to rise, she stands as an inspiration to many aspiring artists. Her story serves as a testament to the power of creativity, perseverance, and the unwavering determination to carve a niche in the global music scene.

The 30th MTV Europe Music Awards was more than just a night of celebration; it was a celebration of African artistry, and Tyla was undoubtedly the brightest star of the evening.

Kanye West and Bianca Censori take 'risky' \$35m loan to buy Beverly Hills mansion

By Agency Reporter

Kanye West raided his pension pot and used high risk mortgage lenders to fund a \$35 million Beverly Hills mansion – a property he does not intend to live in with wife Bianca Censori, DailyMail.com can exclusively reveal.

The rapper, 47, and his wife, 29, borrowed a total of \$15.5 million, DailyMail.com can reveal – including a \$2.7 million loan from a fitness entrepreneur.

The couple closed on the home with 11 bedrooms and 18 bathrooms in the uber-exclusive Beverly Park gated community last month. Neighbors include Adele and Justin Bieber.

But the property, jointly owned with his wife Bianca Censori through their firm Shore Drive Holdings LLC, was purchased purely for investment purposes and will likely be rented out.

Kanye had to use various lenders to finance the purchase, including a private money lender whose motto is 'when the banks say no, private money is the only way to go'.

The deal also involved a firm that offers risky mortgages to people who wouldn't qualify for one based on their credit history and score.

The largest loan amount was \$12.5 million with Lone Oak Fund, and its investment arm Lone Oak Industries.

Lone Oak offers bridging loans for investment properties – a loan that provides immediate cash flow by using short-term financing until a person or company secures permanent funds.

Kanye signed an 'assignment of rents and leases' trust deed – which means that if he defaults on the mortgage, the lender can take profits from any future rent.

He's also taken a further \$3 million mortgage from two sources – RGGL LLC and pension firm Provident Trust Group.

RGGL is owned by Richard and Lucy Glassman, fitness entrepreneurs who live in Albuquerque, New Mexico. They handed over \$2,693,000 using their broker Private Money Solutions [PMS].

The home has 11 bedrooms and 18 bathrooms, nestled in the uber-exclusive Beverly Park gated community, where his new neighbors will include Adele and Justin Bieber

PMS is a 'hard money lender' meaning

they have individuals willing to invest huge sums in a hurry as short-term loans secured by real property.

The Glassmans have no connection to Kanye personally, but Richard told DailyMail.com why he got involved in the deal where Kanye still had to front \$19.5 million of his cash to fund the purchase – totaling 55 percent of the asking price.

'When you have a total of 40 percent loan to value, it's a good investment. This is the great creativity of the broker, it's not the creativity of Kanye West, they do all the due diligence, I'm just the little guy,' Richard explained.

'To be totally honest, sometimes when investors look at celebrities, they don't want to do it. Well, it definitely is, because if they don't pay, we get a \$35 million property.

'But we would prefer they just pay, we don't want to hurt nobody, we're just investors. We want to get a return on our money.

The couple have bought numerous properties in California and New Mexico. Richard owned eight gyms in New Mexico as part of Planet Fitness' franchise group before selling them off, according to public records.

He's linked to other fitness firms with his wife Lucy.

The investor surmised that Kanye was able to raise the \$19.5 million by using the capital he received when he recently sold his rotting Malibu home in September.

Kanye famously stripped it down to make a 'bomb shelter', which was sold for approximately \$21 million – 60 percent less than the \$57.3 million purchase price in 2021 after his divorce from Kim Kardashian. Richard said: 'He just sold a \$57 million property for \$21 million – what happened was, he took the \$21 million to buy this property.'

'So we financed the difference. He didn't want to use his cash, it's not like he lives in this property.

'I mean, the guy's got tons of properties, I guess properties to him are like you and I would have a car, or a watch, or a pair of pants.'

Kanye additionally borrowed \$307,000 against a 'cash balance pension plan' with Provident Trust Group, which a financial



expert claimed could be from the rapper's

retirement fund.

The loans from RGGL and Provident Trust were wrapped up in one \$3 million mortgage contract and arranged by PMS. The mortgage trustee is California TD Specialists, based in Anaheim Hills, who are experts at finalizing complex real estate deals.

They are also an arm of FCI Services, which on their website claims to be a 'leading national non-QM and Private Money Servicer'. Non-QM loans are aimed at borrowers who don't meet the usual criteria to buy a home and don't qualify for conventional financing.

Kanye signed the \$12.5 million and \$3 million loan agreements under the official name 'Ye' on October 16. This was able to happen while the rapper was in Tokyo due to using a notary under Richard Smith, who is registered in Virginia.

Doug Perry is the strategic financing advisor at Real Estate Bees who provided an analysis of Kanye's borrowing.

Perry says that while Kanye put in a substantial \$19.5M down payment, his home loans are huge and come with risk.

Perry says: 'There aren't many lenders that make loans that large, the risk is simply too great. Kanye's first mortgage is from Lone Oak, a recognized Business

US man kills 4 family members, commits suicide after Trump's election

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Minnesota, United States (US) man, Anthony Nephew, who shared anti-Trump posts and struggled with mental health issues, killed his ex-partner, wife, two sons, and then himself.

Anthony Nephew wrote several posts against President-elect Donald Trump, shot dead four members of his family and died by suicide later.

According to a report with the New York Post, the incident came to light on November 7 after authorities in the state recovered the bodies of the man's ex-partner Erin Abramson (47) and their son Jacob Nephew (15) from an apartment.

Later, the bodies of the man's wife Kathryn Nephew (45) and their son Oliver Nephew (7) were recovered from another apartment close by.

The man was identified as 46-year-old Anthony Nephew, who was also found dead inside the home from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the report stated.

The Associated Press quoted Duluth Police Chief Mike Ceynowa and stated that Nephew had a "pattern of mental health issues."

In a series of posts on social media, Nephew had expressed left-wing and anti-Trump thoughts.

"My mental health and the world can no longer peacefully coexist, and a lot of the reason is religion," one of Anthony Nephew's social media post in July read.

Another of his posts read, "I am terrified of religious zealots inflicting their misguided beliefs on me and my family. I have intrusive thoughts of being burned at the stake as a witch or crucified on a burning cross. Having people actually believe that I or my child are Satan or, the anti-Christ or whatever their favourite colour of boogie man they are afraid are this week."

In yet another post, he accused Republicans of "making it harder for women to leave" abusive relationships.

Anthony Nephew shared other political posts, including an image of former



president Barack Obama, Trump, President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. The word "hate" was mentioned under Trump's face, while the words "hope", "heal" and "grow" correspond with the Democratic politicians.

Nephew had previously been issuing a chilling warning about his mental health battles, writing in an op-ed in the local Duluth News Tribune in 2021, "For millions of Americans, a breakdown leads to suicide — or homicide before suicide," the report added.

Meanwhile, the police were yet to determine the motive behind the killings.

Trump warns Putin over Ukraine in 1st phone call

By Dave Oludare Oso

In his first phone call as President-elect, Donald Trump spoke with Russian President Vladimir Putin, warning him (Putin) not to escalate the war in Ukraine.

According to a report by Washington post, quoting sources familiar with the matter who wished to remain anonymous due to the sensitivity of the topic, Trump made the call from his resort in Florida, reminding Putin of Washington's significant military presence in Europe.

Trump's relationship with Putin has been under scrutiny, particularly given the ongoing investigation into potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign.

Trump has previously praised Putin, calling him "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine, and has also commended Russia's military record in historical conflicts.

The two leaders recently discussed achieving peace in Europe, with Trump expressing interest in follow-up conversations to resolve the Ukraine conflict soon.

This aligns with Trump's presidential campaign promise to promptly end the war in Ukraine, although he hasn't provided specific details on how he plans to accomplish this.

Notably, Trump has privately indicated support for a deal allowing Russia to maintain control over some captured territories, and he briefly mentioned the land issue during the call, according to people familiar with the matter.

Ukraine's government was informed about the Putin call and didn't object to it. Ukrainian officials were already aware that Trump planned to engage with Putin to find a diplomatic solution for Ukraine.

However, Trump's initial calls with world leaders are deviating from standard procedure, as they're not being conducted with the support of the State Department



and U.S. government interpreters.

This unconventional approach might be linked to Trump's distrust of career government officials, stemming from leaked transcripts of presidential calls during his first term. As a result, world leaders are directly contacting Trump, bypassing traditional channels.

Steven Cheung, Trump's communications director, in an email, stated, "President Trump won a historic election decisively and leaders from around the world know America will return to prominence on the world stage. That is why leaders have begun the process of developing stronger relationships with the 45th and 47th President because he represents global peace and stability."

Trump plans mass deportation of immigrants 1st day in office

By Dave Oludare Oso

Incoming US president, Donald Trump's plans for his first day in the White House are quite ambitious, to say the least.

After being asked if he'd be a dictator if re-elected, Trump responded that he wouldn't be, "except for Day 1".

His agenda includes mass deportation of migrants, rolling back Biden administration policies on education, reshaping the federal government by firing potentially thousands of federal employees he believes are secretly working against him, and pardoning people who were arrested for their role in the riot at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

According to AP report, Trump plans to kick-start the mass deportation of migrants on his first day.

Those arrested for participating in the January 6, 2021, Capitol riot can expect pardons from Trump.

Trump also mentioned his intentions to "drill, drill, drill" and close the borders.

"I want to close the border, and I want to drill, drill, drill," he said of his Day 1 plans.

When he took office in 2017, he also had a long list which included immediately renegotiating trade deals, deporting migrants and putting in place measures to root out government corruption. However, those things didn't happen all at once.

Trump had said in his second term, "within two seconds" of taking office, he would fire Jack Smith, the special counsel who has been prosecuting two federal cases against him.

Smith charged Trump last year with plotting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

Trump's options for handling his state



conviction in New York are limited. For instance, he cannot pardon himself for state convictions, as Article II, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution only allows presidential pardons for federal offences.

However, as president-elect, Trump may try to leverage his status to expunge his felony conviction or avoid a prison sentence.

Trump's presidential win has put the spotlight on his campaign promise to pardon over 1,500 individuals charged in connection with the January 6, 2021, US Capitol attack.

This violent siege, sparked by Trump's supporters, was an attempt to overturn the 2020 election results.

During his campaign, Trump referred to the rioters as "unbelievable patriots" and vowed to assist them on his first day in office.

As president, Trump has the authority to pardon anyone convicted in federal court, District of Columbia Superior Court, or military court-martial.

He can also halt ongoing prosecutions by instructing his attorney general to drop the cases. This move has sparked concerns about accountability and the potential consequences of such pardons.

Critics argue that pardoning the rioters would undermine the rule of law and send a worrying message about the consequences of violent actions.

Judges handling these cases have condemned Trump's depiction of the event as a "day of love," emphasizing the severity of the crimes committed.

"I am inclined to pardon many of them," Trump said on his social media platform in March when announcing the promise. "I can't say for every single one, because a couple of them, probably they got out of control."

Why Iran wanted to kill Trump on US soil and how Donald could wreak vengeance

By Agency Reporter

It was not the only plot to assassinate Trump during the US election but, had it succeeded, it could have changed the world more than any other event of the past six months.

That's because it was not the act of some lone wolf but a state-sponsored conspiracy by Iran concocted as an act of cold-blooded revenge – at least, that's according to US Department of Justice charging documents unveiled by a New York court last week.

Farhad Shakeri, an Afghan-born fixer who once lived in the US but is now based in Tehran, is accused of accepting money from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the private army of the Iranian regime, to surveil and then plot Trump's killing in early October.

The Revolutionary Guard are Iran's increasingly aggressive and sophisticated intelligence and guerilla warfare arm whose nefarious influence extends to many Western countries including the UK and United States.

Their apparent attempt to assassinate a US Presidential candidate on American soil will be interpreted in many quarters as an act of war.

Had the plot succeeded, it would have sent shockwaves not just through US politics but around the world, possibly dragging America directly into the war already raging between close ally Israel, Iran's proxy network, and the puppet-masters in Tehran.

On the face of it, it would be easy to assume Iran's motivation for attempting to kill Trump last month was out of fear of what his impending election would mean for the Iranian regime.

Trump was no friend of Tehran during his first term, ripping up the nuclear deal signed by predecessor Barack Obama – which gave sanctions relief in return for not developing a nuclear bomb – and pursuing a 'maximum pressure' campaign instead.

That meant crippling sanctions on Iranian oil which the regime uses to finance its activities, which is thought to

have deprived the ayatollah and his mullahs of tens of billions of dollars of income per year.

Trump's team had made no secret of 'maximum pressure' returning if he won the election, briefing journalists that foreign ports and traders who handle Iranian oil would be hit hard.

As one former staffer told Politico, reimposing sanctions are 'a day one foreign policy priority' for Trump.

But, as the court documents reveal, the IRGC expected Trump to lose.

Indeed, Shakeri was told that, if he couldn't have Trump killed by October 14, he should wait until after voting was finished because he would be easier to get once out of power.

Revealed: Iran plot to kill Trump was in revenge for US strike that killed military chief Soleimani
article image

The real reason for the plot, the FBI says, was as revenge for the killing of General Qassem Soleimani, head of the IRGC's feared Quds Force who was blown to bits in a US airstrike on Baghdad Airport back in January 2020.

Trump ordered the strike amidst spiralling tensions between US forces in Iraq and Iran-backed proxy groups that had already killed an American contractor in a rocket attack on the Iraqi capital. It was feared Soleimani was in Iraq to orchestrate more strikes.

The grey-haired Iranian general was widely seen as the second-most powerful man in Iran at the time, behind only the ayatollah.

He was the architect of Iran's proxy network – which includes Hamas and Hezbollah – and orchestrated almost every significant attack on US forces in the Middle East over the preceding two decades.

In revenge for his death, Iran fired a clutch of rockets at a US airbase as a show-of-force that failed to kill any American soldiers, but vowed greater vengeance on an unspecified date some time in the future.

It seems they intended that date to fall



between October 7 and October 14 this year and were willing to pay a high price to make it happen.

Shakeri allegedly told the IRGC that killing Trump would cost a lot of money, and they responded 'we have already spent a lot of money... the money's not an issue.'

It implies this is not the first time they put a price on Trump's head, and it is certainly not the first time they have tried to carry out the assassination of perceived foes in the West.

Back in 2018, an Iranian diplomat working in Austria was accused of orchestrating a plot to bomb a rally in Paris organised by an exiled opposition group – the National Council of Resistance Iran – and which was due to be attended by Trump ally Rudi Guiliani.

Assadollah Assadi was accused of using his diplomatic position to smuggle bomb components to Luxembourg on the orders of Iranian intelligence, where he passed them to a couple to carry out the attack.

Fortunately the trio were arrested before the plan went ahead, and Assadi was eventually sentenced to 20 years in jail in what became a major political embarrassment for Tehran.

That did not stop the regime's plotting, however, it merely caused them to change tactics.

Former Hijab-Wearing Porn Star Mia Khalifa On 9/11, Being a 'Feminist Icon' and How She's Desperately 'Rebranding' Herself on OnlyFans

By Agency Reporter

Former porn actress Mia Khalifa has told how she became a global adult star by “accident” but walked away from the industry to become an OnlyFans model and “feminist icon”.

Her world was turned upside down after a stint as a sex worker in the adult film industry, RadarOnline can reveal.

Khalifa has told how she became a global adult star by ‘accident’ but walked away from the industry to become an OnlyFans model.

She explained she left the trade shortly after being persuaded to do an explicit scene cosplaying as a Muslim woman, but couldn't turn the clock back on her past.

The Lebanese-American shot to fame as a 21-year-old when she performed in the viral video dressed in the hijab, a headcovering and piece of modest clothing sacred to Muslim women.

The footage went viral within hours, with Khalifa receiving death threats from both Islamophobes and ISIS alike, after being ranked the number one actor on Pornhub.

Now 31-years-old, Khalifa – who was

raised as a Catholic – recalls the experience and why it pushed her to walk away from pornography.

“My brand at the beginning wasn't something that was much in my control. I became infamous by accident. I was working at a law office, and I started to feel like a distraction in the office.

“Anyone who would come in, I, there would be whispers in the waiting room. And if other attorneys came to visit from other firms, there would be whispers within that.

“And I just started to feel very much like a distraction, and uncomfortable. And that's when I realized, like, this isn't going to change. This isn't going to go anywhere. This isn't going to get better. I don't like feeling this way. I don't like the women that I work with looking at me a certain way, and I especially don't like the men looking at me a certain way.

“Because it's a bit of, like, a zoo animal. It's that type of fascination and those type of whispers. Not necessarily to say that it was abusive or disrespectful, but it was just like, that's not something that I wanted to keep dealing with.

“And I reopened social media and I



decided to actually try to be an influencer and to be someone who was a public person, if that was the fate that I had sealed for myself.”

She added: “I entered the adult industry in October of 2014, and very quickly I was pressured to perform in a video where the context was that I was an Arab veiled woman.

“The intent was to exploit the fact that I was Arabic and spoke Arabic, and I went through with it. Not long after, I would say maybe a couple hours after it premiered, the avalanche started.

Trump picks Elise Stefanik as UN ambassador

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In another fresh appointment coming after that of the ‘border czar’ Tom Homan, President-elect, Donald Trump has selected Rep. Elise Stefanik to be his U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Trump said in a statement to ABC News on Monday afternoon, “I am honored to nominate Chairwoman Elise Stefanik to serve in my Cabinet as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Elise is an incredibly strong, tough, and smart America First fighter.”

Stefanik, a Republican congresswoman from New York's 21st District, was elected last week to her sixth term in the House. Born

in 1984, she was at time of her 2014 election the youngest woman to ever win a seat in Congress.

She joined House leadership in May 2021, when she was elected as chair of the House Republican Conference.

This is a developing story. Please check back for updates.



“Crimea is Gone”: Ex-Trump adviser hints at Ukraine policy shift

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

“Crimea is Gone,” says Former Trump Adviser Bryan Lanza, hinting at a possible shift in U.S. policy on Ukraine. The incoming administration may prioritize peace negotiations over Ukraine’s territorial goals.

A former adviser to President-elect Donald Trump has revealed insights into the incoming administration’s intended approach to the conflict in Ukraine. According to Bryan Lanza, a senior campaign adviser for Trump’s 2024 presidential run, the new administration will prioritize achieving peace over the reclamation of Ukrainian territories currently occupied by Russia, including Crimea. In an interview with the BBC, Lanza emphasized that the administration would seek a “realistic vision for peace” from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. He remarked, “And if President Zelensky comes to the table and says, well, we can only have peace if we have Crimea, he shows to us that he’s not serious. Crimea is gone.” His comments suggest a stance that regaining Crimea is not feasible, calling into question the U.S. role in supporting Ukraine’s efforts to reclaim lost territory.

The Trump camp, however, quickly clarified Lanza’s remarks, with a spokesperson noting that he “does not speak for [Trump],” and is a contractor, not an official spokesperson for the president-elect. This move appears to distance the president-elect from Lanza’s statements as Trump’s team gears up for office.

Crimea, annexed by Russia in 2014, remains a contentious region. In 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, resulting in further occupations in eastern Ukraine. Throughout the campaign, Trump has indicated that his top priority is ending the war, pointing to military aid as a



drain on U.S. resources. However, Trump has yet to specify how he would pursue peace, leaving many to wonder about the administration’s official stance.

While Lanza refrained from discussing other occupied areas in Ukraine’s east, he did stress that “getting Crimea back” is not the U.S.’s goal. Speaking on the BBC World Service, Lanza commented that if Zelensky’s goal is to see Crimea returned to Ukraine with American involvement, “you’re on your own.”

Historically, the U.S. has refrained from deploying soldiers to Ukraine, focusing on providing military aid. This support has allowed Ukraine to bolster its defenses but has not included American troops on the ground.

Despite his remarks on Crimea, Lanza expressed admiration for Ukraine’s resilience, saying, “Their hearts are made of lions.” Yet, he reiterated that the U.S. objective is to “stop the killing,” suggesting that America’s role may shift toward diplomatic support rather than prolonged military involvement.

Ukraine, however, continues to hold that peace must be driven by Russia’s willingness to end hostilities. Dmytro Lytvyn, an adviser to Zelensky, countered Lanza’s comments by asserting that the pressure should be on Russia, which “wants more war.” Lytvyn pointed to President Putin’s continued aggressive stance, which, he argued, signifies that Moscow, not Kyiv, must be persuaded to stop.

Lytvyn emphasized that Ukraine has been seeking peace since 2022 and has provided “realistic proposals.” He argued that Russia, not Ukraine, should be pressed to guarantee peace and prevent further escalations.

Amidst the differing perspectives on the path to peace, a spokesperson for Trump’s transition team clarified that Lanza’s comments do not reflect Trump’s official stance and that decisions on Ukraine would be managed by a select group of trusted aides once in office. Additionally, an unnamed National Security Council aide highlighted Trump’s reputation for making national security decisions independently, often relying on his instincts rather than external influence.

In a recent call with Zelensky, Trump was reportedly joined by billionaire Elon Musk, signaling a potentially unorthodox approach to shaping future diplomacy.

As Trump prepares to take office, all eyes remain on how the administration will navigate its approach to peace in Ukraine. With competing visions for Ukraine’s future, the world is watching to see whether Trump’s focus will be solely on diplomatic resolutions or if his administration will find new strategies for supporting the Ukrainian cause without prolonged military engagement.

COP29 opens after Trump win with call for cooperation

By Agency Reporter

The COP29 climate talks opened Monday in Azerbaijan with a call to show global cooperation was not “down for the count”, as Donald Trump’s re-election hangs over the key discussions.

Countries come to Baku after new warnings that 2024 is on track to break temperature records, adding urgency to a fractious debate over funding for climate action in poorer countries.

Trump has pledged to once again withdraw the United States from the landmark Paris climate agreement, and there are concerns the move could weaken ambition around the negotiating table.

As the talks opened, UN climate chief Simon Stiell told countries: “Now is the time to show that global cooperation is not down for the count.”

And he warned wealthy countries who are struggling to agree a new funding target to “dispense with any idea that climate finance is charity.”

“An ambitious new climate finance goal is entirely in the self-interest of every nation, including the largest and wealthiest.”

Negotiators must increase a \$100 billion-a-year target to help developing nations prepare for worsening climate impacts and wean their economies off fossil fuels.

How much will be on offer, who will pay, and who can access the funds are some of the major points of contention.

Developing countries are pushing for trillions of dollars and insist money should be mostly grants rather than loans, but negotiators are tight-lipped over what final figure might emerge.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev acknowledged the need was “in the trillions” but said a more “realistic goal” was somewhere in the hundreds of billions.

“These negotiations are complex and difficult,” the former executive of Azerbaijan’s national oil company said at the opening of the summit.

Developing countries warn that without

adequate finance, they will struggle to offer ambitious updates to their climate goals, which countries are required to submit by early next year.

“Bring some money to the table so that you show your leadership,” said Evans Njewa, chair of the LDC Climate Group, whose members are home to 1.1 billion people.

Few G20 leaders –

The small group of developed countries that currently contributes the money wants the donor pool expanded to include other rich nations and top emitters, including China and the Gulf states.

That is firmly rejected by Beijing, with one Chinese official warning Sunday during a closed-door session that the talks should not aim to “renegotiate” existing agreements.

Just a handful of leaders from the Group of 20, whose countries account for nearly 80 percent of global emissions, are attending. US President Joe Biden is staying away.

Afghanistan will however be sending a delegation for the first time since the Taliban took power. They are expected to have observer status.

Diplomats have insisted that the absences, and Trump’s win, will not detract from the serious work at hand.

The talks come with fresh warnings that the world is far off track to meet the goals of the Paris agreement.

Babayev warned the talks were “a moment of truth for the Paris agreement.”

The climate deal commits to keep warming below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, preferably below 1.5C.



‘Worth it’ –

But the world is likely to top that level in 2024, according to the European Union climate monitor.

That would not be an immediate breach of the Paris deal, which measures temperatures over decades, but it suggests much greater climate action is needed.

Last month, the UN warned the world is on a path towards a catastrophic 3.1C of warming this century based on current actions.

“Everyone knows that these negotiations will not be easy,” said Germany’s Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on Sunday.

“But they are worth it: each tenth of a degree of warming avoided means fewer crises, less suffering, less displacement.”

More than 51,000 people are expected at the talks, which run from November 11 to 22.

For the second year running the talks will be hosted by a country heavily reliant on fossil fuels, after the United Arab Emirates last year.

Azerbaijan has also been accused of stifling dissent by persecuting political opponents, detaining activists and suffocating independent media.

Moscow targeted as Ukraine and Russia trade huge drone attacks

By Agency Reporter

Russia and Ukraine have carried out their largest drone attacks against each other since the start of the war.

Russia's defence ministry said it intercepted 84 Ukrainian drones over six regions, including some approaching Moscow, which forced flights to be diverted from three of the capital's major airports.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 145 drones towards every part of the country on Saturday night, with most shot down.

The barrages come amid expectations that US president-elect Donald Trump may put pressure on both sides to end the conflict.

Ukraine's attempted strike on Moscow was also its biggest attack on the capital since the war began, and was described as "massive" by the region's governor.

Most of the drones were downed in the Ramenskoye, Kolonna and Domodedovo districts, officials said.

In Ramenskoye, south-west of Moscow, five people were injured and four houses caught fire due to falling debris, the Russian Ministry of Defense said. It added that 34 drones had been shot down over the town.

In September, a woman was killed in a drone attack that hit Ramenskoye. In May last year, two drones were destroyed near the Kremlin in central Moscow and there were several drone attacks on the Moscow City business district.

In Ukraine, at least two people were injured after a drone hit the Odesa region. Images showed flames rising from some buildings, as well as aftermath damage.

The Ukrainian air force said 62 of Russia's Iranian-made drones were shot down, while 67 were "lost". A further 10 left Ukraine's airspace heading back towards Russia, as well as neighbouring



Belarus and Moldova, it added.

Further strikes were reported overnight into Monday, with Russia saying it had destroyed 13 Ukrainian drones near the regions of Kursk and Belgorod.

Meanwhile, five people were killed in Mykolaiv, southern Ukraine, following an air attack that left residential buildings on fire, according to regional governor Vitaliy Kim.

He said a 45-year-old woman had also been injured and was in hospital.

It comes as Russian troops reportedly made their largest territorial gains in October since March 2022, according to analysis of Institute for the Study of War data by the AFP news agency.

However, Sir Tony Radakin, the UK's chief of defence staff, told the BBC's Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg programme that Russia had suffered its worst month for casualties since the start of the war.

Russian forces suffered an average of about 1,500 dead and injured "every single day" in October, he said.

There has been intense speculation about how Trump will approach the conflict since his election win in the US. The president-elect regularly said in his election campaign that he could end the war "in a day", but has not offered details on how he would do that.

A former adviser to Trump, Bryan

Lanza, told the BBC that the incoming administration would focus on achieving peace rather than enabling Ukraine to gain back territory from Russia.

In response, a spokesperson for Trump distanced the president-elect from the remarks, saying Mr Lanza "does not speak for him".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov spoke via state media on Sunday of "positive" signals from the incoming US administration.

He claimed that Trump spoke during his election campaign about wanting peace and not a desire to inflict defeat on Russia.

Trump has spoken to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky since his election win, a source telling the BBC that the conversation lasted "about half an hour".

Zelensky has previously warned against conceding land to Russia and has said that without US aid, Ukraine would lose the war.

In his regular evening address to Ukrainians on Sunday, Zelensky said "the only way to secure a lasting peace" is for strength and diplomacy to work hand in hand.

Keir Starmer, Emmanuel Macron hold crisis summit

By Agency Reporter

How to deal with Trump

- PM and French leader plan for US trade war
- End of Pentagon defence handouts and Ukraine peace deal

Keir Starmer is holding talks with Emmanuel Macron about Trump, Ukraine and tariffs today ahead of Armistice Day events in France.

The PM was warmly welcomed by the President as he arrived in Paris – with the looming handover in the US high on the agenda.

They are expected to consider whether outgoing commander-in-chief Joe Biden can be convinced to give Kyiv permission to use Storm Shadow missiles against Russia, as well as Donald Trump's approach to the conflict.

The prospect of the Republican imposing sweeping tariffs on imports is also bound to come up, as world leaders brace for him to shake up the world order.

During the morning Sir Keir will host veterans, defence charities and British military personnel at the ambassador's

residence, and is also expected to meet the new French PM Michel Barnier.

Sir Keir will be the first UK premier to attend Armistice Day commemorations in France since Winston Churchill was hosted by General de Gaulle in 1944.

Trump issued a stern warning to Putin in their first phone call since the Republican won the presidency. In a call that reportedly took place on Thursday, the incoming president advised Putin not to escalate the war in Ukraine and reminded him of 'Washington's sizeable military presence in Europe'.

Sources also told the Washington Post that Trump expressed an interest in follow-up conversations to discuss 'the resolution of Ukraine's war soon'.

In a round of interviews this morning, Defence Secretary John Healey said if that message was conveyed it was 'absolutely right'.

'We'll have to wait and see what President Trump really proposes... but if the reports of his call with (Vladimir) Putin last week are right then President Trump is exactly right to warn Putin against escalation of the conflict in Ukraine,' he told BBC Breakfast.

'And our task as a nation supporting Ukraine, one of its leading supporters, alongside allies like France, is to step up our support to reinforce the position that



Ukraine has at this period where it's under great pressure from Russia.

Sir Keir has pledged to work closely with Trump, despite cabinet ministers including Foreign Secretary David Lammy and Deputy PM Angela Rayner criticising the president-elect in the past.

Last week the White House said Mr Biden will continue 'surging' humanitarian and military aid for Ukraine using funds already authorised by Congress.

However, a recent report claimed Trump's transition office is considering a proposal that would seek to freeze the conflict in Ukraine with an '800-mile demilitarised zone'

Mr Biden is said to have blocked the UK from authorising Ukraine to use Storm Shadows at targets

No role for Pompeo, Haley in my govt – Trump

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The United States President-elect, Donald Trump has announced that he would not reappoint Mike Pompeo, former Secretary of State, or Nikki Haley, former UN Ambassador, to positions in his incoming administration.

The statement came amid speculation about who would join Trump's new team.

In a post on his Truth Social platform on Saturday, Trump expressed gratitude for their prior service but confirmed he would not be inviting them back.

Pompeo had earlier presented a hardline approach to Ukraine, which contrasted with Trump's campaign

promises to resolve the conflict swiftly and reduce U.S. involvement. Haley, who had challenged Trump in this year's Republican primary before ultimately endorsing him, had provided candid advice during her campaign, including telling Trump to "quit whining" about opponent Kamala Harris.

Despite previous collaborations, it appears that Trump's new cabinet will take a different direction.

So far, Trump has announced one key appointment: his campaign manager,



Susie Wiles, who will serve as White House chief of staff. Wiles, nicknamed "ice baby" by Trump for her composed demeanor, is the first woman to hold this vital position under his leadership.

Trump wins 2024 election: What's next for the president-elect?

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Following a historic 2024 election win, Trump begins his transition back to the White House, focusing on cabinet selections, policy priorities, and national security prep. His January 20 inauguration marks his second term start. Following a historic comeback victory in the 2024 presidential election, Donald Trump has become president-elect of the United States, having defeated current vice president Kamala Harris in a highly contested race. This election marks a rare return to power, positioning Trump to serve his second non-consecutive term as president. Here's what happens next as Trump prepares to take office and what this transition period will entail.

Trump's victory was announced after securing key battleground states, including Pennsylvania and Georgia, which solidified his path to the White House. Traditionally, a victory speech follows as a symbolic gesture of unity and a way for the president-elect to communicate initial priorities to the American public. For Trump, this speech included promises to re-establish a strong economy, prioritize national security, and address domestic policy changes.

With Election Day behind him, Trump now enters a rigorous transition period leading up to Inauguration Day. This time is essential for laying the groundwork for his new administration, enabling a smooth shift in power as the incoming team readies itself for office.

One of the primary tasks for Trump as president-elect is to assemble his Cabinet and appoint key advisers. This includes selecting leaders for critical departments like State, Defense, Treasury, and Homeland Security, as well as choosing top White House staff who will advise him on domestic and foreign policy. Given his past experience, Trump is expected to draw from a seasoned group of former officials and loyalists, while also introducing new figures aligned with his current vision for America.

In addition to assembling his team, Trump will now begin receiving classified intelligence briefings to prepare for pressing national security matters. The president-elect will be briefed on issues ranging from foreign conflicts to cyber threats, gaining insight into the nation's most sensitive information. This is a crucial step, as Trump will need to be fully informed on national security when he takes on the role of commander-in-chief in January.

Trump's transition team will focus on shaping policy priorities that reflect his campaign promises, including economic revitalization, immigration reform, and strengthening international trade relationships. His return to the White House is anticipated to bring back some of the key principles from his first administration, though specific strategies may be adjusted to reflect the current global landscape. Working closely with Congress, the president-elect will push forward with legislative initiatives,



especially as the Republicans have regained control of the Senate in the recent election.

The pinnacle of the transition is Inauguration Day on January 20, when Trump will be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States. His inauguration speech is expected to outline the main pillars of his administration's policy, setting the stage for the years to come. The first 100 days of his term will be a critical period, as Trump aims to take swift action on campaign promises, likely including executive orders and policy changes that require immediate attention.

In the weeks following the election, Trump's transition team will be hard at work ensuring that the incoming administration is equipped to address national priorities from day one. His return to the White House will undoubtedly shape the future of U.S. policies, both at home and abroad.

No role for Pompeo, Haley in my govt – Trump

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

US President-elect Donald Trump said late Sunday he was bringing back hardline immigration official, Tom Homan to oversee the country's borders in the incoming administration.

Trump posted on his social network Truth Social, "I am pleased to announce that the Former ICE Director, and stalwart on Border Control, Tom Homan, will be joining the Trump Administration, in charge of our Nation's Borders ("The Border Czar").

"I've known Tom for a long time,

and there is nobody better at policing and controlling our borders."

Trump said Homan will be in charge of "all deportation of illegal aliens back to their country of origin."

The 78-year-old Republican has pledged to launch — on day one of his presidency — the largest deportation operation of undocumented immigrants in US history.

He repeatedly railed against irregular immigrants during his campaign, employing violent rhetoric about those who "poison the blood" of the United States.



FAKE NEWS ALERT: Trump didn't say he'd restore electoral integrity in Nigeria

By Agency Reporter

Donald Trump, president-elect of the United States, didn't say he would restore electoral integrity in Nigeria.

On Sunday, in a post on X, former President Goodluck Jonathan congratulated Trump on his election victory.

"Dear President Trump. I extend my warmest felicitations to you on your election as the 47th President of the United States. Your impressive victory is a testament to the American people's faith in your leadership and vision for the future," Jonathan wrote.

"I am optimistic that your Presidency will not only advance the American dream but also promote the cause for global peace, stability and progress.

"Please accept my heartfelt congratulations, once again."

In response to the post, a user with the handle — Donald Trump Campaign Updates — appreciated Jonathan for the felicitation, saying electoral integrity will be restored in Nigeria and Africa.

The post was made around 11:37am on Sunday.

"Thanks for your goodwill words together we will make America great again and restore electoral integrity in

Nigeria and across the African continent," the post reads.

Thanks for your goodwill words together we will make America great again and restore electoral integrity in Nigeria and across the African continent.

Some social media users have assumed the X account belongs to Trump, with some Nigerians commending the US president-elect for pledging to improve the nation's electoral system.

"God bless you, sir," a user with the handle, Yoruba Obedient, replied to the post. God bless you sir.

— Yoruba Obidient

(@DebbyDimension) November 10, 2024

Another user with the name, Emmanuel Udoh, said: "Nigerians will be most delighted if the US under the watch of DT will restore the integrity of our electoral process and hold accountable elections riggers; especially the present crop of @inecnigeria that have made a mess of our electoral system."

Nigerians will be most delighted if the US under the watch of DT will restore the integrity of our electoral process and hold accountable elections riggers; especially the present crop of @inecnigeria that have made a mess of our electoral system.



— Emmanuel Udoh (@emmanuely2020) November 10, 2024

Checks by TheCable showed that the account, which has over 1,700 followers, largely reposts pro-Trump news and events.

The account is not Trump's official X handle, and the post should not be interpreted as coming from the US president-elect.

Here is Trump's official X handle: <https://x.com/realDonaldTrump>.

Further checks showed that Trump's official X account did not post the message.

Haiti sacks Prime Minister Conille after six months

By Agency Reporter

A transitional council created to re-establish democratic order in Haiti signed a decree on Sunday firing interim Prime Minister Garry Conille and replacing him with Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, a businessman who was previously considered for the job.

The decree, set to be published on Monday, was provided to The Associated Press by a government source.

It marks even more turmoil in an already rocky democratic transition process for Haiti, which hasn't held democratic elections in years in a large part due to the soaring levels of gang violence plaguing the Caribbean nation.

Fils-Aimé is the former president of

Haiti's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and, in 2015, ran an unsuccessful campaign for Senate.

'Politics and infighting'

The businessman studied at Boston University and was previously considered for the position as a private sector candidate for the post before Conille took the seat.

Conille, a long-time civil servant who has worked with the United Nations, served as prime minister for only six months.

The AP on Sunday couldn't reach Conille or a spokesperson for him. The transitional presidential council was established in April and tasked with choosing Haiti's next prime minister and cabinet with the hope that it would help quell turmoil in Haiti.

But the council has been plagued with politics and infighting and has long been at



odds with Conille. Fragile transition
Organisations like the Organization of American States tried and failed last week to mediate disagreements in an attempt to save the fragile transition, according to The Miami Herald.

New study sets human lifespan limit at 115 for women, 114 for men

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A new study suggests the human lifespan may cap at 115.7 years for women and 114.1 for men. Despite rising average life expectancies, scientists identify a biological ceiling for maximum age.

Despite advances in medicine and lifestyle that allow people to live longer than ever, scientists now believe there's a hard ceiling to human lifespan. According to groundbreaking research from the Netherlands, statisticians at Tilburg and Rotterdam's Erasmus University have analyzed data from 75,000 people who died over the last 30 years, concluding that while humans are living longer on average, the maximum lifespan has likely hit a plateau.

The study suggests that for women, the ultimate age cap is 115.7 years, while for men it's slightly lower at 114.1 years. "On average, people live longer, but the very oldest among us have not gotten older over the last thirty years," said Professor John Einmahl, one of the lead researchers, in an interview with Medical Express. "There is certainly some kind of a wall here."

Einmahl's findings add weight to similar studies, including research from the United States that found human lifespan levels off in the nineties, with few individuals reaching beyond 115. Jeanne Calment of France, who lived to be 122 years and 164 days, holds the record for the longest verified lifespan, having passed away in 1997. Her exceptional age remains unmatched, despite the hope that better healthcare, nutrition, and genetics might one day allow us to live longer.

Aging research indicates that cellular degradation and diseases related to aging, like heart disease and cancer, continue to limit our lifespan. Studies of supercentenarians (people who live past 110) reveal that cellular aging mechanisms, such as telomere shortening, contribute to an upper age limit. Telomeres, protective caps at the ends of chromosomes, shorten as cells divide, eventually leading to cellular



failure. While diet, exercise, and medical care may extend the number of healthy years, they cannot completely prevent cellular degradation.

Scientists remain cautiously optimistic about expanding the "healthspan"—the years in which a person enjoys good health—even if the lifespan remains capped. Researchers are exploring genetic factors that contribute to extreme longevity, hoping to identify markers that could one day extend lifespan. Experimental therapies in cellular reprogramming and anti-aging drugs aim to combat cellular aging, though these treatments are still in their infancy and unlikely to move lifespan beyond 125 years in the near future.

Living Healthier, Not Just Longer
While the possibility of breaking the 125-year barrier is intriguing, experts stress the importance of focusing on

quality of life rather than absolute lifespan. Jeanne Calment, for instance, enjoyed a high quality of life throughout her later years, attributed to her active lifestyle and good health habits. As research continues to shed light on human aging, the goal shifts from living longer to ensuring a fulfilling, healthy life at any age.

The findings from the Netherlands reinforce a growing scientific consensus: though humans may live longer with advancements in health and technology, a natural limit exists that may never be surpassed. This cap leaves researchers pondering one crucial question—if living forever is impossible, how can we live better in the years we do have?