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FG plans to reduce cost of cooking gas

By Friday Omosola

Ostensibly to alleviate the suffering of Nigerians, the federal government has announced measures to reduce the cost of cooking gas via a zero import duty on machinery, equipment, and spare parts for gas utilisation in the country.

The announcement was made in a statement issued by Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Spokesman Abdullahi Maiwada on Wednesday in Abuja.

The initiative is part of the Presidential Gas for Growth Initiative, which aims to foster the development of the nation's gas sector.

The Presidential Gas for Growth Initiative was conceived to leverage Nigeria's vast natural gas resources to boost economic growth, create jobs, and reduce energy poverty.

Maiwada explained that the plan aligned with President Bola Tinubu's commitment to enhancing Nigeria's investment climate and increasing domestic gas utilisation.

"Pursuant to Part 1, Section 5 of the Customs and Excise Tariff Act, machinery, equipment, and spare parts imported for Nigerian gas utilisation are now subject to a zero per cent import duty rate.

"The exemption applies to all equipment related to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas



(LPG) imported into Nigeria

"In addition, several items have been zero-rated for Value Added Tax (VAT), including feed gas for all processed gas, CNG, imported LPG, CNG equipment components, conversion and installation services, LPG equipment components, and all infrastructure related to CNG, LPG, and the Presidential CNG Initiative.

However, Maiwada stated that importers seeking to benefit from these incentives must obtain an Import Duty Exemption Certificate (IDEC) from the Federal Ministry of Finance and a letter of support from the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Energy.

He also announced the exemption of import duty and VAT on LPG imported into Nigeria under specific

Harmonised System (HS) codes, including HS Codes 2711.12.00.00, 2711.13.00.00, and 2711.19.00.00.

According to him, this exemption is expected to reduce the cost of importing LPG, making it more affordable for businesses and consumers.

Maiwada further stated that all Debit Notes issued to petroleum marketers who imported LPG using these codes from August 26, 2019, to the present would be withdrawn by the NCS, in line with previous approvals.

He further stressed that these measures were designed to reduce the cost of living, strengthen energy security, and accelerate Nigeria's transition to cleaner energy sources.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		372,500.00
HALF PAGE	=		213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		106,500.00
14X2	=		118,000.00
10X6	=		261,585.50
10X5	=		255,238.00
10X4	=		206,890.50
10X3	=		179,608.00
9X6	=		254,977.00
9X5	=		225,738.00
9X4	=		193,500.00
9X3	=		166,223.50
8X6	=		225,368.50
8X3	=		106,934.50
7X4	=		180,173.50
6X4	=		100,434.50
6X3	=		82,750.00
6X2	=		52,499.50
5X6	=		123,749.50
5X5	=		110,000.00
5X4	=		76,833.00
5X3	=		66,875.00
5X2	=		42,916.50
4X4	=		60,166.50
4X3	=		36,499.50
4X2	=		29,333.50
3X3	=		28,000.00
3X2	=		17,400.00
2X2	=		13,000.00
2X1	=		8,600.00
1X1	=		4,400.00

PRODUCT COLOUR		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		329,868.50
HALF PAGE	=		192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		100,000.00
14X2	=		109,500.00
10X6	=		242,500.00
10X5	=		237,500.00
10X4	=		192,500.00
10X3	=		171,000.00
9X6	=		232,500.00
9X5	=		206,000.00
9X4	=		177,500.00
9X3	=		150,000.00
8X6	=		216,000.00
8X3	=		98,500.00
7X4	=		164,002.00
6X4	=		94,010.50
6X3	=		78,500.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR		SIZE	RATE
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FULL PAGE	=		420,000.00
HALF PAGE	=		213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	RATE
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FULL PAGE	=		315,777.50
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QUARTER PAGE	=		95,222.50

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8X6	=		179,368.00
8X5	=		143,500.00
8X4	=		93,500.00
8X3	=		82,434.50
7X4	=		111,173.50
6X4	=		82,434.50
6X3	=		59,250.00
6X2	=		40,000.00
5X6	=		98,749.50
5X4	=		65,833.00
5X3	=		49,375.00
5X2	=		32,916.50
4X4	=		52,666.50
4X3	=		39,499.50
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10X4	=		103,963.00
10X3	=		N/A
9X6	=		162,222.445
9X5	=		168,191.50
9X4	=		N/A
8X6	=		N/A
8X3	=		N/A
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6X4	=		65,000.00
6X3	=		41,124.50
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5X3	=		29,858.00
5X2	=		22,841.00
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SPECIAL POSITIONS		SIZE	RATE
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2X6 BACK PAGE	=		300,000.00
2X6 INSIDE PAGE	=		155,000.00
3X6 FRONT PAGE	=		1,200,000.00
4X6 FRONT PAGE	=		2,250,000.00
5X6 FRONT PAGE	=		3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	=		8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	=		246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	=		117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	=		236,796.50
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CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	=		929,000.00
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CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	=		575,000.00
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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	=		432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	=		144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	=		835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	=		550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	=		725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	=		425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	=		15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	=		8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	=		5,500,000.00

ALLURE RATE		SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
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ALLURE COVER	=			750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover	=			376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover	=			430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover	=			483,750.00
Full Page	=			430,000.00
10X5	=			295,625.00
Half Page	=			225,000.00
EVENT	=			250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION			
SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

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Wike revokes plots belonging to Buhari, Abbas, others in Abuja

By Friday Omosola

Citing the non payment of Certificates of Occupancy (C of O) fees, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, has revoked the allocation of lands in Abuja belonging to former President Muhammadu Buhari, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume.

In its today's report, Channels TV said the land's revocation was disclosed in a publication by the FCT Administration and shared by the Minister's Special Adviser, Lere Olayinka.

In addition to these high-profile individuals, Wike revoked lands allocated to 759 other prominent personalities and organisations in Maitama II, Abuja.

Wike also called on several other landowners, including the Minority Leader of the House of



Representatives, Kingsley Chinda; former Senate Presidents Iyorchia Ayu and Ameh Ebute; the Chief Whip of the Senate, Tahir Monguno; and 610 others to pay all their outstanding fees.

He demanded payment of outstanding fees within two weeks, threatening to revoke their land rights if they failed to comply.

This action follows months of warnings from Wike urging residents of the FCT, particularly those in high-end areas, to settle outstanding fees owed to the FCTA or face consequences, including the loss of their land.

Dangote Refinery reduces petrol price to N899

By Friday Omosola

Poised to ensure a hitch free Christmas /new year celebration for Nigerians, Dangote Petroleum Refinery, today announced reduced its fuel price to N899.50 per litre.

The announcement was made via a statement shared on the company's X page and signed by the Group's Chief Branding and Communications Officer, Anthony Chiejina.

The statement highlighted that this is the second price reduction within two months, aimed at easing transportation costs during the festive season.

Chiejina further disclosed that the company introduced a special offer to benefit consumers.

"For every litre purchased on a cash basis,

customers can now buy an additional litre on credit", he said.

"To alleviate transport costs during this holiday season, Dangote Refinery is offering a holiday discount on PMS. From today, our petrol will be available at N899.50 per litre at our truck loading gantry or SPM.

"Furthermore, for every litre purchased on a cash basis, consumers will have the opportunity to buy another litre on credit, backed by a bank guarantee from Access Bank, First Bank, or Zenith Bank," Chiejina added.

He added that the refinery appreciated Nigerians for their unwavering support as the nation prepares for the festive season.

Chiejina reaffirmed the refinery's



dedication to providing Nigerians with premium-quality petroleum products that are not only competitively priced but also environmentally friendly and engine-compatible.

He underscored that the refinery's operations have ended Nigeria's reliance on substandard and 'blended' imported products, which previously posed serious threats to human health, machinery, and the environment.

FG shifts focus to renewable energy to enhance key sectors

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The Federal Government has announced a strategic shift towards the renewable energy sector to address energy access challenges and enhance supply to critical sectors such as education, health, agriculture, rural communities, and transportation.

The move is part of efforts to meet the energy needs of millions of Nigerians, particularly in rural areas.

A key component of this initiative is the deployment of mini-grids through the e-HEART project, which aims to solve energy access issues in rural communities.

The project is expected to benefit over 80 million Nigerians, who are currently without electricity, and help in creating sustainable local economies while reducing the rural-urban migration.

In addition, the government has secured \$700 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the “Desert to Power” project, aimed at harnessing the abundant sunlight in northern Nigeria to generate renewable energy for communities in the region.

Speaking at a stakeholder engagement workshop hosted by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) in Abuja on Wednesday, December 18, the Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adelabu, underscored that off-grid electricity solutions have become essential in bridging the electricity supply gap in the country.

Adelabu, who was represented by Dr Sunday Owolabi, the Director of Renewable and Rural Power Access, expressed optimism that these projects will positively impact at least 13 million



Nigerians.

Adelabu highlighted the importance of both on-grid and off-grid solutions, stating that they should be viewed as complementary elements of a comprehensive energy strategy.

He noted that although Nigeria continues to face significant challenges with the national grid, the government has been actively working to transform these challenges into growth opportunities.

“At the recent Federal Executive Council meeting, €161 million worth of contracts were approved for the upgrade of power substations under the Presidential Power Initiative. We are confident that we are on track to deliver an additional 150MW to the grid, impacting 14 existing substations and establishing 21 new ones,” Adelabu said.

The Minister also touched upon the World Bank’s \$750 million investment in the Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) programme, which is set to impact millions of Nigerians.

The REA Managing Director/CEO, Engr. Abba Aliyu, gave an overview of the agency’s achievements, including the deployment of 124 mini-grids and 25,580 solar home systems, providing a combined capacity of 16.6MW.

He added that 195,198 connections have been made to 183 communities and 12 markets.

Aliyu also shared the agency’s plans to provide uninterrupted power supply to 3,700 primary healthcare centres, 25 schools per state and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), 25 communities in each state and the FCT, as well as solar-powered tricycles and charging stations across the country.

“We have never seen the level of attention and support for renewable energy that we are getting from this government,” Aliyu stated, emphasising that the newly signed Electricity Act is key to the government’s commitment to improving energy access.

He urged sub-national governments and the private sector to actively participate in these initiatives to ensure the provision of sustainable power supply.

State house allocates N15.09bn for vehicle tyres, office complex in 2025 budget

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The State House has earmarked a significant portion of the 2025 budget for various expenditures, including N15.09 billion for the purchase of tyres for bulletproof vehicles, Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs), operational vehicles, and plain cars.

Additionally, N5.49 billion has been proposed for the annual maintenance of the Presidential Villa.

These details were made public in the newly released 2025 Appropriation Bill, presented by the Budget Office of the Federation on Thursday, December 19.

The bill was introduced by President Bola Tinubu on Wednesday as part of his administration's ambitious N49.70 trillion spending plan, titled the "Budget of Restoration: Securing Peace, Rebuilding Prosperity."

As part of the allocation, N164 million will be spent on tyres for various vehicles including bulletproof ones, SUVs, and operational vehicles, while N1.1 billion is set aside for the replacement of SUVs.

Additionally, N3.66 billion is allocated for the purchase of operational vehicles for the State House.

The budget also outlines



N127.86 million for the procurement of SUVs for the President and Vice President, under the Office of the President.

The Chief of Staff will receive N285 million for the purchase of motor vehicles, and the Chief Security Officer to the President has been allocated N179.63 million for security and operational vehicles.

Further allocations in the budget include N2.12 billion for honorarium and sitting allowances, and N1.83 billion for the construction of an office complex for Special Advisers and Senior Special Assistants.

In line with its priorities, the 2025 budget places a strong emphasis on defence, infrastructure, and human capital development, with a projected N13.39 trillion deficit to be financed through borrowing.

Tinubu's administration has promised significant investments in these areas, as well as in education and healthcare, which are allocated N3.52 trillion and N2.48 trillion, respectively.

The defence sector is set to receive N4.91 trillion, with N4.06 trillion allocated to infrastructure projects, including the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and the Sokoto-Badagry Highway.

This budget is based on key economic assumptions, including a projected decline in inflation from 34.6% to 15%, and an improvement in the naira exchange rate from N1,700 per dollar to N1,500 per dollar.

Tinubu's reforms will drive economic growth – Speaker

By Friday Omosola

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, has expressed confidence that Nigeria's ongoing reforms under President Bola Tinubu-led administration will spur economic growth, alleviate poverty, and ensure long-term prosperity for the country.

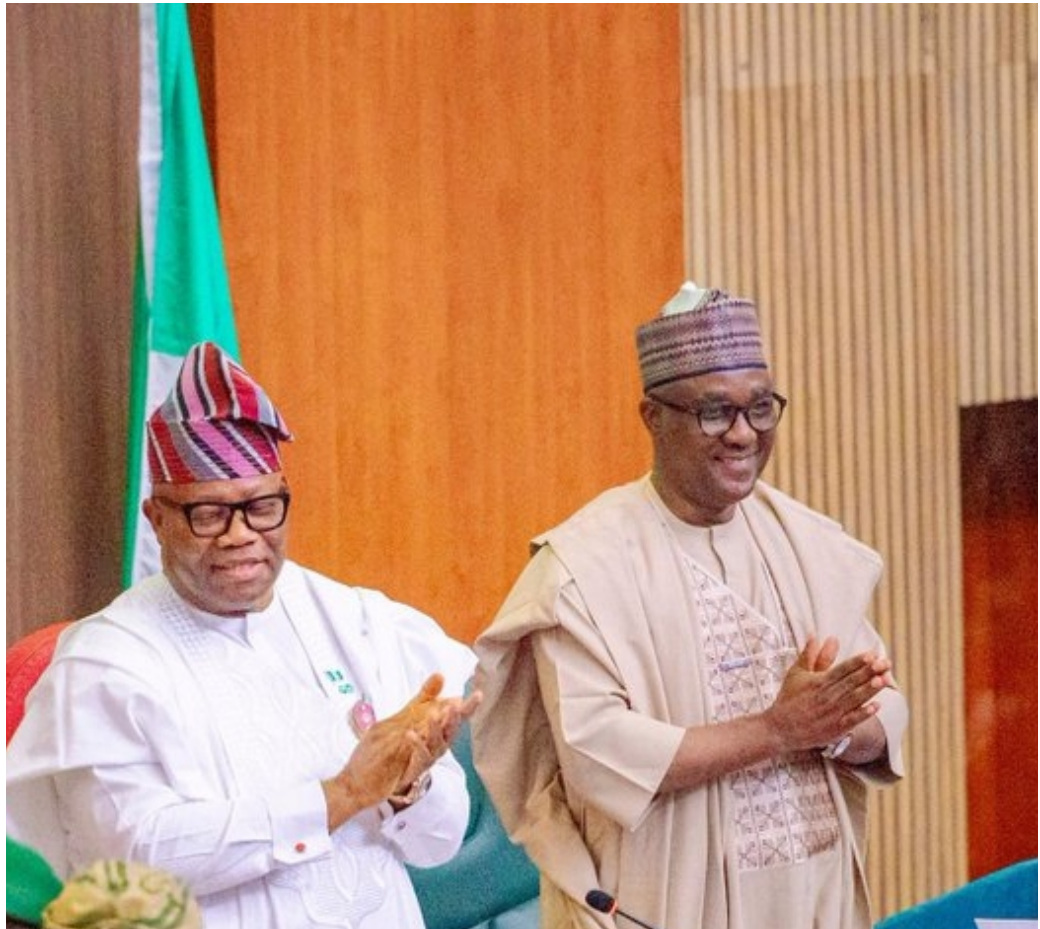
In a statement shared on his X page yesterday, Abbas commended the administration for implementing bold reforms over the past eighteen months.

He highlighted measures such as the removal of fuel subsidies, the unification of foreign exchange rates, and the introduction of innovative economic policies, which he described as laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and development.

“While these reforms have required short-term sacrifices, they reflect courage and patriotism. History teaches us that transformative progress often stems from difficult decisions, as seen in the market reforms of China, India's liberalisation, and South Korea's industrialisation,” Abbas said.

He acknowledged the resistance these reforms have triggered from vested interests but lauded President Tinubu's resolve to prioritise Nigerians' welfare.

Abbas further noted that the National Assembly remains committed to supporting these



reforms through legislative backing and public engagement to enhance understanding and acceptance.

The Speaker outlined the economic progress recorded in 2024, citing a 3.46 per cent GDP growth in the third quarter, up from 3.19 per cent in the second quarter, driven largely by the services sector.

He also explained the critical contribution of agriculture, which accounted for 17.22 per cent of nominal GDP in the first quarter and 22.61 per cent in the second quarter, despite challenges such as climate change and insecurity.

However, he expressed concerns over rising inflation, which reached 33.88 per cent in October, along with

escalating food and energy costs that have strained households.

Despite these challenges, Abbas pointed to the International Monetary Fund's projection of a 3.2 per cent growth rate for 2025 as an indication of a positive trajectory, provided reforms are sustained and structural issues addressed.

On the global stage, Abbas commended President Tinubu's international engagements, noting that agreements from his visit to China in September 2024 are expected to transform rail transport, boost agriculture, enhance digital literacy, and strengthen national security.

Nigeria customs removes VAT, zero import duty on LPG, CNG products

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has announced the removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), also known as cooking gas, and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG). Additionally, the service has introduced zero per cent import duty on these products.

This decision is in line with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's commitment to improving Nigeria's investment climate and increasing domestic gas utilization.

The announcement was made by the NCS's National Public Relations Officer, Mr. Abdullahi Maiwada, in a statement issued on Wednesday.

In the statement, the NCS explained that, under the Presidential Gas for Growth Initiative, fiscal incentives were being introduced to support the gas sector.

According to Part 1, Section 5 of the Customs and Excise Tariff Act, machinery, equipment, and spare parts imported for Nigerian gas utilization will now be subject to a zero per cent import duty rate. This exemption covers all equipment related to both Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) imported into Nigeria.

Furthermore, the following items are now exempted from VAT: feed gas for all processed gas, Compressed Natural Gas, imported Liquefied Petroleum Gas, CNG equipment components, conversion and installation services, LPG equipment



components, and all equipment and infrastructure related to the expansion of CNG and LPG, including conversion kits.

The NCS also highlighted that importers who wish to benefit from these incentives must obtain an Import Duty Exemption Certificate (IDEC) from the Federal Ministry of Finance and a letter of support from the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Energy.

Additionally, the NCS clarified that importation of LPG under HS Codes 2711.12.00.00, 2711.13.00.00, and 2711.19.00.00 is exempted from both Import Duty and VAT.

The Customs service also stated that all Debit Notes issued to petroleum marketers who have imported LPG under these codes from August 26, 2019, to the present will be withdrawn in line with prior approvals.

Meanwhile, the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas Initiative (P-CNGI) expressed optimism about its

progress. The initiative, which aims to expand the use of CNG in the country, has seen the establishment of 170 CNG conversion centres across Nigeria.

Michael Oluwagbemi, the CEO of P-CNGI, confirmed that this number would increase to 200 by the end of the year, doubling their target. He added that the initiative plans to expand to 500 conversion centres in the coming year.

Oluwagbemi also emphasized the success of the initiative in meeting its targets, noting that the goal for this time last year was 100 centres, but they had exceeded this figure.

The P-CNGI aims to continue growing the number of CNG conversion centres to further reduce fuel dependency and promote the use of natural gas as a cleaner, alternative energy source.

Court grants Yahaya Bello N500m bail

By Friday Omosola

A Federal Capital Territory High Court has granted bail to Yahaya Bello, the immediate past governor of Kogi State, in the sum of N500 million.

Justice Maryanne Anenih, who delivered the ruling, ordered Bello to produce three sureties of the same amount.

The sureties must be prominent Nigerians with landed properties in Maitama, Jabi, Utako, Apo, Guzape, Garki, or Asokoro.

Bello was also required to surrender his international passport and other travel documents to the court.

The court ruled that Bello would remain at the Kuje Correctional Centre until he fulfills the bail conditions.

The former governor, alongside two others, is facing trial over alleged money laundering to the tune of N110 billion.

He pleaded not guilty to the 16-count charges brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that Justice Anenih had rejected Bello's bail



application on December 10, citing that it was filed prematurely as Bello was neither in custody nor before the court at the time.

However, the defence later filed a fresh application for bail.

At today's hearing, Bello's counsel, Joseph Daudu, informed the court that discussions with the prosecution team led to an agreement to expedite the trial.

He urged the court to consider granting bail and requested the conditions be broadened to include properties across the Federal Capital Territory, rather than limiting them to Maitama.

Prosecution counsel Olukayode Enitan confirmed these discussions, assuring the court of the EFCC's cooperation in ensuring a speedy trial.

"We have decided not to make this contentious, leaving the matter to your lordship's discretion," Enitan said.

In her ruling, Justice Anenih stated that the charges against Bello were bailable and exercised her discretion to grant his application.

The court emphasised strict compliance with the bail conditions, warning against any delay in their fulfillment.

World Bank urges People-Centered action to tackle poverty, climate change

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The World Bank has called for urgent, people-centred action to address the intertwined challenges of poverty and climate change.

The institution stressed the need for countries to prioritise investments in resilience, adaptation, and low-emission development to mitigate the impacts of these crises.

This recommendation was outlined in the bank's latest report, *People in a Changing Climate: From Vulnerability to Action*, released on Wednesday, December 18.

The report summarises the findings from the first three years of Country Climate and Development Reports (CCDRs), focusing on the importance of placing people at the heart of climate policy.

The World Bank's findings cover 72 countries and economies and highlight that while climate change poses a threat to all nations, it is poorer populations that are most at risk of long-term, irreversible damage.

According to the report, lower-income countries could face labour productivity losses of up to 6 per cent by 2050 due to the impacts of climate change, compared to just 0.2 per cent in higher-income nations.

"People are both the most vulnerable to climate change and the most essential in driving solutions," the report states, underscoring the crucial role that individuals and communities must play in mitigating and adapting to climate impacts.



The World Bank advocates for increased investments in education, health, reskilling, labour markets, and social protection to help vulnerable populations adapt to the changing climate.

These investments, the bank argues, will be key in enhancing the resilience of people, communities, and economies. "Placing people at the center of climate-development policies enhances policy effectiveness and fosters more inclusive growth," the report highlights.

The CCDRs also stress the importance of developing resilient infrastructure systems—including power, water, transport, and digital networks—which are essential for both well-being and economic productivity.

Notably, the report identifies significant benefits from improving access to electricity, expanding renewable energy sources, and enhancing public transportation systems.

The bank asserts that every dollar invested in resilient infrastructure could yield benefits worth twice the original investment.

The World Bank also pointed to rapid urbanisation as an opportunity to build resilient, low-emission cities capable of driving economic growth. However, the report warned that delaying action on this front could lock countries into unsustainable development pathways.

Despite the urgency for climate action, the report noted that poorer nations are especially vulnerable due to limited capacity for adaptation. For every \$1,000 increase in GDP per capita, climate-induced GDP losses in 2050 could be reduced by 0.5 to 0.7 percentage points.

However, small island nations remain particularly exposed due to their geographic and economic constraints.

In terms of emission reductions, the World Bank maintains that cutting greenhouse gas emissions remains a global priority, particularly for high-income nations and major emitters.

Buhari not owner of seized land by FCT Minister – Aide

By Friday Omosola

Former President Muhammadu Buhari, through his aide, has reacted to the recent revocation of lands by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, clarifying that the affected land does not belong to him.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that parcels of land linked to Buhari, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Akume, and others, were seized due to non-payment for Certificates of Occupancy (C of O).

In a statement released today, Garba Shehu, Buhari's aide, stated that the land in question is not owned by the former president.

He noted that the plot was allocated in the name of the "Muhammadu Buhari Foundation" and not to Buhari personally.



"As with anything Buhari—and there is no surprise in this at all—there is a lot of buzz in the media on the reported seizure of a piece of land by the authorities of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, FCTA, allegedly belonging to former President Muhammadu Buhari", he said.

Shehu stated that the Foundation was established by some practical-minded individuals around him who, he emphasised, followed lawful procedures with the backing of several well-meaning

supporters.

He highlighted that the Foundation faced a major hurdle in the FCDA's land department, which issued them an excessively high bill for the certificate of occupancy—far greater than what was charged to similar organisations.

"It may have been that this was not erroneous, but a deliberate mistake, making the revocation of the land no surprise to anyone.

"As a person, the former President has a plot of land to his name in Abuja. When he and his cabinet members were invited to fill the forms and obtain land during his tenure in office, he returned the form without filling it, saying that he already had a plot of land in the FCT, that those who did not have should be given. He, therefore, turned down the offer."

Shehu encouraged the public to seek accurate information and cautioned against spreading what he described as falsehoods in the digital space.

Ibadan funfair tragedy: police arrest former queen of Ife, others as death toll hits 35

By Olamilekan Botti

The Oyo State Police Command has confirmed the arrest of former Ooni of Ife's ex-wife, Naomi Silekunola; the Principal of Islamic High School, Ibadan, Fasasi Abdulahi; and six others in connection with the tragic stampede that claimed multiple young lives during a funfair in Ibadan on Wednesday.

Silekunola, identified as the primary sponsor of the event, is among those under investigation.

According to a statement issued on Thursday by the Police Public



Relations Officer, Adewale Osifeso, the death toll from the incident has

risen to 35, with six other children critically injured.

The event, hosted at Islamic High School, Basorun, Ibadan, was reportedly intended for 5,000 children. However, investigations by NEW DAILY PRIME revealed that over 7,500 attendees overwhelmed the venue, leading to the chaotic stampede.

Agidigbo FM boss, Oriyomi Hamzat, hospitalised over Ibadan funfair stampede

By Agency Reporters

A Broadcast journalist and Chairman of Agidigbo 88.7 FM, Ibadan, Oyo State, Oriyomi Hamzat, has been reportedly hospitalised following a stampede at a funfair that claimed multiple lives.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that the tragic incident occurred during a children's Christmas party organised by Queen Naomi Silekunola Ogunwusi, the former wife of the Ooni of Ife.

According to a source who requested anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the matter, Oriyomi has remained unconscious since yesterday, overwhelmed by the shock of the tragic incident.

The source further disclosed that he is currently receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital in Ibadan.

Yesterday, Agidigbo 88.7 FM issued a statement distancing itself from the event.

Signed by the station's Director of Programmes, Olayinka Abdulwahab, the statement urged the public to refrain from spreading misinformation about the incident.

Meanwhile, Governor Seyi



Makinde has ordered a probe into the circumstances surrounding the multiple deaths

He disclosed that the primary organisers of the event responsible for the stampede have been taken into custody.

The governor assured that anyone found culpable, either directly or indirectly, would face the full weight of the law. Makinde also appealed for

calm, stating that security agencies were diligently working to uncover the cause of the tragic incident.

NAFDAC shut down 150 shops, destroy goods worth N5b

By Helen Okechukwu

In a major crackdown, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has shut down 150 shops and destroyed fake and expired products worth N5 billion at Eziukwu Market, Aba, Abia State.

The agency disclosed this via its social media page yesterday, stating that the operation was carried out from December 16 to 17, 2024.

According to the anti-drug agency, its team discovered large-scale production and distribution of fake and expired goods, terming the market as a hub for counterfeit and substandard products.

The uncovered items are beverages, carbonated drinks, wines, spirits,



vegetable oils, and revalidated food items such as noodles, powdered milk, and yoghurt.

Despite their previous visit to the market leader, who signed an undertaking in 2023, the Director of the South-East Zone, Dr. Martins Iluyomade, expressed shock at illegal activities still going on there.

Meanwhile, the Director-General of NAFDAC, Prof. Mojisola Adeyeye, has vowed to continue the fight against illegal activities on public health and provide a permanent solution as the agency reaffirms its zero tolerance to fake and substandard products.

Expert canvasses medical care for men suffering from erectile dysfunction

By Agency Reporter

Consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Dr Moses Mafowosofo, has advised those suffering from erectile dysfunction to seek medical and psychological attention fast to rebuild their confidence.

Mafowosofo, a Co-founder of M2 Specialist Hospital, made the call yesterday during an interview with journalists in Lagos.

He added that erectile dysfunction could create a huge psychological problem on patients with regard to sexual activities.

He said that many patients with erectile dysfunction had fear of initiating sex. The consultant said that erectile dysfunction could attack self-confidence.



“What we have seen in most patients is that when they start medication, they tend to get their confidence back,” he said.

According to the expert, patients

suffering from erectile dysfunction should first be checked for any underlying physical or psychological conditions to know the exact cause.

He said that hypertension, diabetes or cholesterol issues could cause erectile dysfunction and added that depression and anxiety could cause the condition. According to him, once the cause is detected, it should be treated and urged proper diagnosis and treatment to avoid complicating the problem.

“If treatment of underlying conditions doesn’t help, medication and assistive devices, such as pumps, can be prescribed,” he said.

According to him, those with psychological conditions could be sent for psychotherapy or sex therapy.

Tonto Dikeh bags international diplomat

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Tonto Dikeh, a Nigerian entertainment star, begins a new chapter in her career as she steps into the prestigious role of an international diplomat.

After completing rigorous training at the prestigious College of Diplomatic Studies, the actress was formally inducted into the International Society of Diplomats.

Testament to resilience and growth

In a celebratory Instagram post, Dikeh shared images and videos from the induction ceremony, expressing her immense pride and gratitude for this remarkable achievement. She described the honor as a testament to the transformative power of resilience, growth, and unwavering dedication to meaningful causes.

She wrote: Celebrating a Remarkable Milestone!

I am deeply honored to announce my induction into the International Society of Diplomats following months of intensive training at the esteemed College of Diplomatic Studies.

This achievement represents more than a personal triumph—it is a testament to the transformative power of resilience, growth, and unwavering commitment to meaningful causes. Advocating for diplomacy, peace, and sustainable development has always been my passion, and I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to contribute on a global stage.

To my mentors, the institution, and all who supported me throughout this journey—your belief in me has been my greatest strength.

As I embark on this new chapter, I pledge to uphold the principles of diplomacy with integrity, purpose, and a steadfast dedication to creating impactful change in our world. The journey continues, and the best is yet to come!

Passion for diplomacy and global impact



Dikeh's journey to diplomacy is a testament to her versatility and commitment to making a positive impact on the world. Known for her philanthropic efforts and outspoken nature, the actress has always been passionate about advocating for diplomacy, peace, and sustainable development.

In her heartfelt post, Dikeh acknowledged the support and guidance of her mentors and the institution that played a crucial role in her journey. She pledged to uphold the principles of diplomacy with integrity, purpose, and a steadfast dedication to creating impactful change.

Wave of congratulations

The news of Dikeh's induction has been met with widespread congratulations from fans, colleagues, and well-wishers alike. Social media platforms have been flooded with messages of support and admiration for the actress's latest accomplishment.

Role model for aspiring individuals

As Dikeh embarks on this new chapter in her life, her fans and supporters eagerly anticipate the positive contributions she will make to the international diplomatic community. Her journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring individuals who dream of

making a difference on a global scale.

A closer look at the international society of diplomats

The International Society of Diplomats is a prestigious organization dedicated to fostering international cooperation and understanding. Its members are drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds, including government officials, diplomats, academics, and business leaders.

The Society offers a platform for its members to network, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects that address global challenges. By joining this esteemed organization, Tonto Dikeh has positioned herself to make a significant impact on the international stage.

Actress Tonto Dikeh shares her new certificate from International Society of Diplomats. Photo Credit: Tontolet Source: Instagram

Tonto Dikeh's impact on the entertainment industry

Before her foray into diplomacy, Tonto Dikeh was a prominent figure in the Nigerian entertainment industry. She is known for her acting skills, her philanthropic work, and her outspoken nature.

Dikeh's involvement in various social causes has earned her the respect and admiration of many. She has used her platform to raise awareness about issues such as domestic violence, child abuse, and poverty.

A bright future ahead

As Tonto Dikeh transitions from the world of entertainment to the world of diplomacy, her fans and supporters are confident that she will continue to make a positive impact on society. With her intelligence, passion, and determination, she is poised to achieve great things in her new role.

Her journey serves as a reminder that with hard work, dedication, and a strong belief in oneself, anything is possible.

Mr. Eazi denies 'stream farming' in Nigeria

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned singer and entrepreneur, Mr. Eazi, has vehemently refuted allegations of "stream farming" within the Nigerian music industry.

The artist took to social media platform X to defend the authenticity of the country's impressive music streaming numbers.

The controversy erupted after a user suggested that Apple Music should scrutinize music streams originating from Nigeria.

In response, Mr. Eazi emphatically stated, "There is nothing like stream farming in Nigeria, please! No need for investigations, we are a vibrant music-consuming people hence the numbers you see!"

The artist's assertion, however, ignited a heated debate among social media users.

Many disagreed with Mr. Eazi's stance, arguing that while he may not be involved in such practices, it does not negate the possibility of others manipulating streaming numbers to boost artist popularity and earnings.

Stream farming is a deceptive practice where individuals artificially inflate streaming numbers by repeatedly playing songs on various devices and platforms.

This dishonest tactic can mislead industry stakeholders and distort the true picture of an artist's popularity and commercial success.

Nigeria has emerged as a global music powerhouse, with a burgeoning music industry that has produced numerous international



stars.

The country's vibrant music scene has led to a significant increase in music consumption, particularly through streaming platforms.

However, the rapid growth of the industry has also raised concerns about the potential for fraudulent activities, such as stream farming.

To combat such practices, music streaming platforms have implemented various measures to detect and prevent fraudulent activity.

These measures include analyzing IP addresses, user behavior, and other data points to identify suspicious patterns.

Additionally, record labels and artists are working closely with streaming platforms to ensure the integrity of their data.

Despite the controversy surrounding stream farming,

Nigeria's music industry continues to thrive.

The country's talented artists are producing high-quality music that resonates with audiences worldwide.

As the industry evolves, it is crucial to maintain transparency, accountability, and ethical practices to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Mr. Eazi's defense of Nigeria's music streaming numbers highlights the passion and enthusiasm of the country's music fans.

However, it is important to address the issue of stream farming to protect the integrity of the industry and prevent the exploitation of artists.

By working together, the music industry can ensure that the success of Nigerian music is built on genuine fan support and merit.

Kanayo: Broke or busy men, choose wisely

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood veteran Kanayo O. Kanayo, a prominent figure in Nigerian cinema, recently shared relationship advice that has sparked a lively online debate.

The award-winning actor, known for his roles in numerous films, offered a pragmatic perspective on the trade-offs women might encounter when seeking a partner.

In a concise Instagram post, Kanayo stated, “The gentleman’s code: If you don’t want a man who is broke, you are going to have to put up with a busy one.”

This statement has been interpreted as a suggestion that women may need to choose between a financially stable partner who may have limited time for a relationship, or a partner with more time but fewer financial resources.

Mixed reception

Kanayo’s advice has elicited a wide range of reactions from his followers. Some have agreed, citing the realities of modern relationships. They argue that many successful individuals, particularly those in demanding careers, may have limited time for personal relationships.

However, others have criticized the statement, arguing that it perpetuates harmful stereotypes and unrealistic expectations. They contend that financial stability and emotional availability are not mutually exclusive and that both qualities should be sought in a partner.

The role of societal expectations

The debate surrounding Kanayo’s advice highlights the complex interplay of societal expectations and personal desires. In many cultures, there is a strong emphasis on financial security as a desirable quality in a partner. This can lead to pressure on individuals to prioritize financial success, even at the expense of personal relationships.



However, it is important to recognize that individual needs and priorities vary. While some may prioritize financial stability, others may value emotional connection and shared experiences. A healthy relationship should be built on mutual respect, understanding, and open communication.

These are the reactions compiled by New Daily Prime:

@chimoneyinterior30.84: “Fact.”

@nelsoomendoza: “The elder has spoken.”

@henrykorieiwandile: “I’m definitely sure you are coming to Abiriba this festive.”

@riskydonaldayer: “More respect boss I’m an up coming artist. I would like it if I had a chance to meet you boss.”

@_emekanwokocha: “This dressing and the staff belongs to the damanzie title holders of Oguta Amaeshi.”

@chukwuebuka_ugwuoke: “Odogwu one power.”

@maya_elixir: “The outfit looks good.” official_bigref: “Legend.”

Anayo Modestus Onyekwere, also known as Kanayo O Kanayo Navigating the modern dating landscape

In today’s fast-paced world, navigating the complexities of dating can be challenging. It is essential to approach relationships with realistic expectations and a willingness to compromise. By understanding one’s own needs and values, individuals can make informed decisions about who they choose to spend their time with.

Ultimately, the key to a successful relationship is finding a partner who aligns with your values and goals. Whether that partner is financially stable or has ample free time is a personal choice that should be based on individual preferences and priorities.

Kanayo’s advice, while thought-provoking, has sparked a much-needed conversation about the trade-offs and compromises that may be necessary in the pursuit of love and happiness.

Lateef Adedimeji, Mo Bimpe mark 3rd anniversary

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Lateef Adedimeji and Bimpe Oyeade celebrate their third traditional wedding anniversary, sharing love, joy, and a bond cherished by fans.

Known to many as Lateef and Mo Bimpe, this dynamic duo has captivated the hearts of their audience both on and off the screen.

Their journey from colleagues in Nollywood to life partners is nothing short of extraordinary, embodying a blend of love, mutual respect, and shared dreams.

To mark this significant milestone, the couple took to social media to share heartfelt messages, nostalgic photos, and videos.

These glimpses into their life showcase the beauty and strength of their union. The posts also serve as a reminder of the cultural significance of traditional weddings in Yoruba culture, emphasizing the blend of modern love stories with age-old customs.

Lateef's tribute to Mo Bimpe on this special occasion was both poetic and emotional. Reflecting on their journey together, he expressed his gratitude for her unwavering support and her role in his life as a confidant, partner, and critic.

His message resonated deeply with fans who admire their partnership.

"Like the sun, thought of you rises with me every morning, only to rest with me as I lay my head to sleep in the middle of the night," Lateef wrote. "My baby, my fight buddy, my confidant, my number one critic. I keep counting my blessings every day with you. Thank you for all that you are. I am glad we made it. It can only get better, my love. Happy traditional wedding anniversary, my love



@mo_bimpe. 3 YEARS feels just like yesterday! I love you more and more with each passing day."

This heartfelt declaration highlights the deep emotional connection between the two. It also underscores the importance of communication, gratitude, and intentionality in sustaining a marriage.

Mo Bimpe, known for her charm and romantic nature, reciprocated with an equally touching tribute.

Accompanying her message were stunning photos of the couple in traditional Yoruba attire, symbolizing the cultural heritage they honour.

In her post, she reflected on their growth as partners and the joy they have shared over the years.

"It's my wedding tradi-versary today. This lyrics of our favorite song best describes our love story! Look how far we've come B! Happy traditional wedding anniversary my king @adedimejilateef. 3 YEARS feels just like yesterday! I love you more and more with each passing day," she wrote.

Their posts were met with an outpouring of love and congratulatory messages from fans, colleagues, and well-wishers.

Admirers commended their ability to balance the demands of their careers with their commitment to their marriage.

Many noted how their relationship serves as an inspiration, not just for married couples but for anyone seeking a meaningful connection built on trust and understanding.

The couple's love story is a reminder of the beauty of celebrating milestones and cherishing shared moments.

It also emphasizes the role of tradition in anchoring relationships. For Lateef and Mo Bimpe, their traditional wedding anniversary isn't just a personal celebration—it's a reflection of their values and a nod to the rich cultural heritage that shaped their union.

Traditional Yoruba weddings hold immense cultural and symbolic significance. They are marked by vibrant colors, music, and rituals that honor the couple's families and community.

Lateef and Mo Bimpe's choice to publicly celebrate this milestone reaffirms their appreciation for these traditions while serving as a bridge between the past and the present.

Pasuma marks 40 years on stage

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The Nigerian music scene was buzzed with excitement on December 18, 2024, as legendary Fuji musician Wasiu Alabi Pasuma celebrated his 40th year on stage.

Star-studded celebration

The grand event was a gathering of Nigerian celebrities, with luminaries such as Fuji Maestro K1 De Ultimate and renowned actress Faithia Balogun and other celebrities gracing the occasion. The night was filled with electrifying performances, heartfelt tributes, and nostalgic moments.

Heartwarming tribute

One particular moment that captured the hearts of fans was a heartwarming tribute from K1 De Ultimate. In a video that went viral on social media, K1 was seen showering Pasuma with praises and prayers. As a sign of respect and admiration, Pasuma humbly bowed his head, acknowledging the influence of his mentor.

Musical journey spanning decades

Born in 1967, Pasuma embarked on his musical journey in 1984, inspired by the legendary K1 De Ultimate. Over the past four decades, he has consistently pushed the boundaries of Fuji music, blending traditional elements with contemporary sounds to create a unique and captivating style.

Pasuma's distinctive voice,



energetic stage presence, and ability to connect with audiences have made him a beloved figure in the Nigerian music industry. His songs often explore themes of love, heartbreak, social issues, and spirituality, resonating with listeners from all walks of life.

K1 was seen showering Pasuma with praises and prayers, Versatile talent

In addition to his musical accomplishments, Pasuma has also made a significant impact in the Nigerian film industry. He has starred in numerous Nollywood films, showcasing his versatility as an actor.

Lasting legacy

As Pasuma celebrates 40 years of entertaining audiences, his impact on the Nigerian music industry is undeniable. His contributions to Fuji music have

not only shaped the genre but have also elevated its status on the global stage.

His dedication to his craft, his ability to adapt to changing times, and his unwavering passion for music have solidified his position as one of Nigeria's most iconic musicians. As he continues to inspire and entertain, his legacy as a musical legend is sure to endure for generations to come.

Social Media Reactions:

@yemostic1: "Why am I getting emotional?"

@jummie_04: "I love Wasiu Ayinde so much."

@alomoneyyy: "The Maestro has spoken with his beautiful voice. This is what haters detest, but the undisputed King of Fuji has no time for them."

Timi Dakolo: chance made me musician

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Timi Dakolo, famed for hits like “Iyawo Mi,” started music as a hobby. Now, the Nigerian singer-songwriter graces stages locally and globally.

Pivotal moment: winning idols West Africa

Dakolo’s life took a dramatic turn in 2007 when he emerged victorious in the inaugural season of Idols West Africa. This groundbreaking win propelled him from obscurity to stardom, igniting a passion that would forever shape his destiny.

From choirboy to chart-topper

Reflecting on his journey, Dakolo shared his candid thoughts on the “On The Record” podcast. He revealed that his early experiences with music were rooted in simple joy and youthful exuberance. “I used to sing in the choir,” he recalled, “and I just loved the feeling of it. Music was always a part of my life, but it wasn’t something I ever imagined pursuing professionally.”

From street songs to stardom

As a young man, Dakolo and his friends would often gather to pen songs, inspired by the desire to impress the ladies. These early compositions, while perhaps naive, laid the foundation for his future artistic endeavors. “We’d write songs and sing them on the streets,” he explained, “just for fun. It was a carefree time, and music was simply a way to express ourselves.”

Embracing the spotlight



However, fate had other plans for the talented singer. Winning Idols West Africa marked a turning point, forcing him to confront a life-altering decision. “I had to decide if I was ready to take the leap and pursue music full-time,” he admitted. “It was a daunting prospect, but I knew I couldn’t ignore the opportunity.”

From local hero to international icon

With newfound determination, Dakolo embraced his newfound fame and embarked on a musical journey that would solidify his place in the Nigerian music industry. His soulful voice, combined with his heartfelt lyrics, resonated with audiences across the nation. Hits like “Kokoro,” “Iyawo Mi,” and “Wish Me Well” became anthems, catapulting him to the forefront of the Nigerian music scene.

Beyond the music

Beyond his musical accomplishments, Dakolo has also emerged as a vocal advocate for social justice and human rights. He uses his platform to raise awareness about important issues, inspiring countless fans with his unwavering commitment to positive change.

Lasting Legacy

As he continues to evolve as an artist and activist, Timi Dakolo’s story serves as an inspiration to aspiring musicians and dreamers alike. His journey from humble beginnings to international stardom is a testament to the power of passion, perseverance, and the pursuit of one’s dreams.

UK supply £225M military aid to Ukraine

By Olamilekan Botti

Britain on Thursday unveiled a package of £225 million (\$286 million) in new military aid to Ukraine for next year, including drones, boats, and air defence systems.

The move came after the UK's Defence Secretary John Healey visited Kyiv on Wednesday, holding talks with his Ukrainian counterpart Rustem Umerov and vowing to step up British support to Ukraine in 2025.

Three years since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine, "the depths of his miscalculation are clearer than ever, as the brave people of Ukraine continue to defy all expectations with their unbreakable spirit," Healey said.

"But they cannot go it alone," Healey added, vowing the UK's support for Kyiv was "ironclad" and Britain would always stand "shoulder to shoulder to ensure Putin cannot win".

In July, the new Labour government vowed to commit £3 billion a year in military aid to Ukraine until 2030-2031.

The new package will include £92 million for equipment to bolster Ukraine's navy, including small boats, reconnaissance drones, and uncrewed surface vessels, the defence ministry said in a statement.

A further £68 million will be used for air defence equipment, including radars, and 1,000 counter-drone electronic warfare systems at a cost of £39 million would be supplied to the Ukrainian army.

Healey said the UK would also boost a training programme for Ukrainian soldiers run with key allies on British



soil known as Operation Interflex, under which 51,000 recruits have been trained since mid-2022.

"With Putin resorting to sending as many as 2,000 Russian soldiers to their deaths on the battlefield each day, it is critical that Ukraine is supported with a supply of properly trained and equipped soldiers," the ministry statement said.

Healey suggested to The Times Daily that UK troops could also be sent to the country to help train Ukrainian forces. Britain needed to "make the training a better fit for what the Ukrainians need," he said, raising the possibility of training to take place in Ukraine rather than Britain as previously.

Asked directly if this meant training Ukrainian troops in Ukraine, he said, "We will look wherever we can to respond to what the Ukrainians want. They are the ones fighting."

Umerov thanked the UK for its new package of support and said in a statement that the "stable delivery of ammunition, especially for artillery, is critically important for our defence efforts."

He added the two men had reviewed the results of the use of Storm Shadow missiles without providing details.

London gave Kyiv the green light to launch the UK-supplied, long-range missiles into Russia for the first time in November. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky was due to meet NATO chief Mark Rutte and key European leaders in Brussels late Wednesday to strategise over Russia's war ahead of Donald Trump's return to power in the United States.

Western backers are seeking to shore up Ukraine's forces as Kyiv's fatigued troops are losing ground across the frontline, and Moscow has deployed North Koreans to the battlefield

Israeli military strikes Yemen hours after Houthi attack targets Israel

By New Daily Prime

Israel's military yesterday launched deadly strikes on Houthi targets in Yemen, just hours after the Iran-backed militant group's latest attack on Israel.

Nine people were killed and three others injured in Israeli airstrikes on a port and oil facility near the capital Sanaa, said Nasruddin Amer, deputy head of the Houthi media office, in a post on X.

Earlier, Houthi-run Al-Masirah TV said the Israeli strikes targeted the Heyzaz and Dhahban power stations near the capital, and the Hodeidah port and Ras Isa oil facility.

Israel's military said the airstrikes were retaliation for Houthi missile and drone attacks on Israel over the past year, most of which were intercepted.

"Israel's long hand will reach you as well," Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a warning to Houthi leaders following the strikes.

"Whoever raises a hand against the State of Israel – his hand will be cut off, whoever harms us – will be harmed sevenfold."

Tensions between Israel and the Houthis have escalated for months as Israel wages its war on Hamas in Gaza following the Palestinian militant group's October 7 attacks – with world leaders warning of the potential for a wider Middle East conflict.

Earlier Thursday, sirens were heard in central Israel after the Israeli military intercepted a missile launched from Yemen, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said. A school was damaged and no injuries were



reported, the IDF said.

The Houthis later claimed they had achieved their goals in twin missile attacks on Israeli military targets in the Tel Aviv area.

The Houthis have attacked Israel, its allies and vital Red Sea shipping lines in rejection of Israel's military campaign in Gaza that has killed more than 45,000 Palestinians.

The group, which controls Yemen's most populous regions, say they won't stop striking Israel and its allies until a ceasefire is reached in the Palestinian enclave.

In July, the Houthis claimed responsibility for a deadly drone attack in Tel Aviv, Israel's commercial center – the first such strike on the city by the group.

Israeli police bomb squad members work near a damaged site after a projectile fired from Yemen was

intercepted, in Ramat Gan, Israel on December 19, 2024.

Israeli police bomb squad members work near a damaged site after a projectile fired from Yemen was intercepted, in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Israel hit back the next day with deadly airstrikes on a Yemeni port in the first such Israeli strike on Yemen, according to Israeli officials.

In September, the Houthis fired a missile deep into Israel, and earlier this month, they claimed to have fired a drone that hit a building in central Israel. No injuries were reported in either attack.

Israel's key ally, the United States has also struck Houthi targets in Yemen multiple times over the past year, including consecutive nights of strikes last month.

Tottenham 4 -3 Man Utd: Spurs secure semi-finals spot in Carabao Cup

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Tottenham Hotspur has secured a semi-finals spot in the Carabao Cup after surviving a furious Manchester United comeback with a 4-3 victory in a chaotic tie.

During the Thursday night clash at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Ange Postecoglou's side were cruising against a lacklustre United with Dominic Solanke's double and a goal for Dejan Kulusevski putting them 3-0 up after 54 minutes.

But the home crowd were left chewing their fingernails as two terrible mistakes by goalkeeper Fraser Forster allowed substitutes Joshua Zirkzee and Amad Diallo to give United hope.

There were still 20 minutes left when Diallo made it 3-2 and United were close to equalising on several occasions before Son Heung-min deceived United keeper Altay Bayindir directly from a corner to seemingly seal it. Jonny Evans ensured a nervy finish by heading a third goal for the visitors in stoppage time but Spurs clung on.

Former Tottenham midfielder and now Sky Sports pundit Jamie Redknapp described it as a "masterclass on how not to see a game out" from Spurs.

"I do not know how the manager does it at times, he must be pulling his hair out, but some of the things are his fault, like passing the ball back to the goalkeeper - Forster is the worst player on the pitch with



the ball, so stop giving it to him," Redknapp said.

"Absolute madness at times, but the chaos was so enjoyable."

As for who Tottenham plays in its two-legged semi-final next month, the draw took place shortly after Friday's game, with Spurs to play Liverpool and Arsenal to face Newcastle.

The League Cup semi-final ties will take place over two legs across the week commencing 6 January and the week commencing 3 February.

The big news before kick-off was that Marcus Rashford was not in the United squad just days after he gave an interview saying he is ready for a "new challenge" away from the club.

Amorim dropped Rashford and

Alejandro Garnacho from his squad to face Manchester City last weekend and although Garnacho appeared from the bench against Spurs, Rashford didn't travel to London for the clash.

Tottenham now prepare for this weekend's Premier League fixtures where they welcome Liverpool to North London.

Having drawn each other in the Carabao Cup, it looks like this pair are guaranteed at least four games against each other this season.

This will be a tough test for Ange Postecoglou as he looks to derail the fantastic start Arne Slot has made to life at Anfield.