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“Tinubu will transform Abuja satellite towns to cities”

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike has said President Bola Tinubu is on a mission to transform satellite towns in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to cities by taking governance to the grassroots.

Wike said this during the inauguration of the construction of Kabusa to Takushara road in Abuja on Tuesday.

He assured that Tinubu will not fail the people of the rural areas in the FCT.

The Minister said the Tinubu administration was committed to bringing development and governance to rural communities across the FCT.

“One of the promises Tinubu made is that look, all people in satellite towns, do not think that the government is about cities, we will also turn satellite towns to cities.

“One of the things to do, is to construct roads for you, and I can assure you, it is not about flagging up road projects, in the next six to seven months, I want to assure you we are going to commission this project.

“For the first time roads were being constructed in rural areas and are being fitted with streetlights.

“It has never happened before and I want to assure you that the government of President Tinubu will not fail you,” Wike said.

He added that the Kabusa to Takushara would be fitted with streetlights to light up the road at night, making life a bit more comfortable like those in the cities.

The minister thanked the residents of Kabusa for believing in Tinubu’s administration and assured them that the funds needed to complete the project had been made available.



Wike, who called for the continued support of the residents, disclosed that another contract would be awarded on Wednesday for the construction of Kabusa to Ketti road as part of the Tinubu rural transformation agenda.

“What we are doing today is what the Tinubu Renewed Hope Agenda is all about – give hope back to our people.

“I am happy that if not for the government of Tinubu, I wouldn’t have known Kabusa and Takushara,” he said.

Wike urged the contractor to employ the locals to enable them to feed their families.

Earlier, Mr Richard Dauda, Director Engineering Services, Federal Capital Development Authority, said that the project was in line with the FCT Administration mandate to provide infrastructure and services to the entire territory.

Dauda explained that the 9.8-kilometre road project, a 7-metre two lane carriageway with shoulders and streetlight, was awarded to Allied Technical and Construction Company Ltd, and expected to be completed in six months.

He explained that the road would connect several communities namely Kabusa, Teta, Tasha, Sauka and Takushara and enhance socio-economic activities in the area.

“The road, when completed, will provide a safe and comfortable road for both vehicles and pedestrians and allow free movement of agricultural products from the hinterland into the city.

“The project will also create direct and indirect jobs and provide quick and timely response to emergencies and quick access to health services,” he said.

The Kabusa to Takushara road was the third rural road to be constructed by the Wike-led FCT Administration in Abuja Municipal Area Council.

“The road, when completed, will provide a safe and comfortable road for both vehicles and pedestrians and allow free movement of agricultural products from the hinterland into the city.

“The project will also create direct and indirect jobs and provide quick and timely response to emergencies and quick access to health services,” he said.

Ondo LG poll: Aiyedatiwa advised on candidate selection

By **Olamilekan Botti**

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, urging him to ensure the selection of credible and capable candidates for the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the forthcoming local government elections, set to take place on January 18, 2025.

In an official statement released on Wednesday, Demehin Stephen, the Coordinator of the IPPM, expressed the group's strong desire for the governor, in his capacity as the state party leader, to prioritize qualities such as competence, resourcefulness, and intellectual acumen when choosing candidates for the upcoming polls.

The statement articulated a clear message: "We encourage the governor to place a significant emphasis on competence, which should be assessed through a candidate's sound administrative ability, exposure, resourcefulness, and intellectual proficiency. These traits are essential prerequisites for effectively steering the local government in Ondo State."

Highlighting the critical nature of the upcoming local government elections, the IPPM underscored the need to select a qualified candidate to represent the Ilaje Local Government Area. This area holds strategic importance, given its wealth of mineral and natural resources, which can significantly impact local and state development if properly managed.

"Choosing the right candidate, one who possesses the necessary competencies will facilitate the seamless integration of our local governments into the broader developmental agenda of the state," the statement further elaborated. "This, in turn, will lead to effective service delivery and the adequate implementation of government



policies at the grassroots level, ensuring that the benefits of development reach the local communities."

The group did not shy away from articulating the potential consequences of poor candidate selection. They warned that any miscalculation in this regard could prove "counter-productive, retrogressive, and detrimental to the developmental efforts initiated by the state government." Such outcomes could stall progress and exacerbate existing challenges facing the local government areas.

The call for competent leadership comes in light of the Ondo State Independent Electoral Commission's (OSIEC) track record of rescheduling the local council polls. The elections, originally slated for July 13, 2024, have now been postponed to January 18, 2025. This change has reignited discussions about the importance of preparedness and the qualifications of those who will possibly take on leadership roles within the various local governments across the state.

As the countdown to the elections continues, the Ilaje Progressive Political Movement is eager to see a

renewed focus on the attributes that truly matter in the selection of candidates. They advocate for a shift from mere political affiliations to a more meritocratic approach that emphasizes capabilities, experience, and the ability to effect positive change in the communities.

The IPPM's vision aligns with a growing sentiment among constituents who are demanding transparency and accountability in the political process. As Ondo State approaches this crucial electoral cycle, the emphasis on competence and effective governance may well dictate the future trajectory of local government administration, impacting the lives of residents for years to come.

In conclusion, the Ilaje Progressive Political Movement's appeal to Governor Aiyedatiwa serves as a poignant reminder of the pivotal role competent leadership plays in local governance. With the elections on the horizon, the stakes are higher than ever, and the call for qualified candidates resonates deeply within the framework of sustained development and community

12 feared dead as explosion rocks Zamfara community

By Dave Oludare Oso

A bomb suspected to be planted by bandits exploded, killing no fewer than twelve people in Yar Tasha village, Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State on Wednesday.

The incident, according to Daily Trust, occurred around 8am this morning after a commercial driver conveying passengers to Dansadau town ran on the device suspected to be planted by bandits.

This is the second time an explosive device would be planted along Dansadau Road within a week.

Last Sunday, a similar device suspected to also be planted by bandits exploded in an 18-seater bus, killing the driver, who was the sole occupant.

A resident of Yar Tasha village, who did not want to be named, said the driver of the car, a Volkswagen Golf Model, ran into the device and it instantly exploded, shattering the vehicle into



pieces.

He said, “We recently conducted community work on the road and the bandits used that opportunity to plant the device at one of the spots.

“The victims were rushed to Dansadau General Hospital and no body can ascertain whether they are dead or alive for now. Security personnel comprising soldiers and police have been deployed to the scene of the incident.

“It appears that the bandits in Zamfara State have developed a new strategy of operation especially in this

Dansadau axis. This is the second time they would plant an explosive device in this area within a week. They planted one on Sunday.

“Government should take decisive measures to stop this trend otherwise, travelling by road will now be a difficult thing among the people of the state. The security personnel and communities should be vigilant and always keep eyes on them. This is a terrible method deployed by the bandits and it needs to be tackled as soon as possible.”

Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina to benefit from German govt's €4.8m disability fund

By Agency Reporter

Kebbi, Sokoto and Katsina states will benefit from the Christian Blind Mission's 4.888 million Euros disability project funded by the German Government, through its Humanitarian Assistance.

Chief Executive Officer of the Mission, Dr Rainer Brockhaus, said this on Wednesday in Abuja at the launch of a five-year project, tagged: "Resilience Strengthening for an Inclusive Life in the Northwest Nigeria."

The project aims to enhance the resilience of the conflict-affected communities in the three states, starting from November 2024 to December 2028.

The target of the project is the vulnerable, particularly women and girls, with or without disabilities, who experience sexual, gender-based or disability-related violence.

"The project will bridge immediate assistance with long-term development and addresses the nexus discussion on global agenda.

"For many years now, humanitarian actions in Nigeria often focus on the Northeast because this area, sadly, makes the headlines in the press in so many countries.

"The northwest also faces many challenges that need attention; the region is dealing with insecurity, displacement and the lack of access to basic supports which are very important.



"It is crucial to ensure that aids reach all areas, including the northwest, to address these growing challenges and to build resilience," he said.

Brockhaus said that the five-year project would foster sustainable and long-lasting change, and strengthen the resilience of individuals and local structures to overcome and end crisis in the zone.

The mission's Country Director, Mr Samuel Omoi, said the project was beyond a development initiative but a reflection of the shared hope and ambition for a future where communities in the northwest were empowered, with no one left behind.

Omoi thanked Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, National Emergency Management Agency, Ministry of Women Affairs and others for paving the way for the project in the zone.

Mr Bright Ekweremadu, the Regional Hub Director for Africa, West and Central, urged the partners of the projects, both public and private, to put the funds to best use and remain open, accessible, transparent and accountable to the funders.

These, he said, were veritable tools useful for future project grants' application, implementation and execution.

Mrs Nike Abimbola, the Head, Development Programmes and Partnership, National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), lauded the initiative, saying it would address the plights of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

According to her, the project will also alleviate the poverty and other harmful and discriminatory acts being meted on the PWDs in the zone.

Banks raise withdrawal limit to N50,000

By Dave Oludare Oso

Deposit Money Banks in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have raised their maximum over-the-counter withdrawal limit to N50,000 per day, up from the previous N5,000.

This development follows improved cash availability, NEW DAILY PRIME has learnt.

It was observed on Tuesday that banks such as Guaranty Trust Bank (GTBank) and Zenith Bank have implemented the new limits.

At the GTBank branch along the airport road, customers can now withdraw N50,000 over the counter, while the Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) maintain a limit of N20,000.



A bank official confirmed the changes, attributing the increase to the availability of more cash. “We now have more cash, which is why the withdrawal limits have been adjusted,” the source explained.

This increase is expected to ease cash flow challenges for customers, particularly in a period of heightened demand for liquidity.

“We now have more cash and that is why we are giving out more money. Simple.”

Meanwhile, Point of Sales operators have stated that an increase in the withdrawal limit would not reduce their service charge.

Currently, POS operators charge N800 for a withdrawal of N20,000 and N2,000 for a withdrawal of N50,000.

An operator, Faith, said a steady supply of cash would reduce service charges and not a one-time compliance by banks.

He said, “How will I reduce my charges because banks are now giving N50,000? Let it be stable first, then it would reduce.”

Alleged Defamation: Court remands Dele Farotimi

By Dave Oludare Oso

A Magistrate Court sitting in Ado Ekiti on Wednesday ordered the remand of human rights lawyer, Dele Farotimi, in prison custody over an alleged defamation case against the founder of Afe Babalola University, Aare Afe Babalola.

Farotimi was arrested by officers from the Ekiti State Police Command on Tuesday at his Lagos chamber—was arraigned for allegedly publishing a book titled “Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System.”

In the book, Farotimi alleged Babalola of corrupting the judiciary and procuring judgments in the Supreme Court.

The allegations was said to have exposed Babalola to public hatred, ridicule, and damaged his professional reputation.

The Vanguard reported that Farotimi pleaded not guilty to all sixteen counts

brought against him. Police prosecutor, Samson Osun,



requested that Farotimi be remanded in prison custody pending further investigations and the outcome of the case, citing the need to maintain national security.

However, Dayo Akeredolu, counsel for Farotimi, opposed the remand request, urging the court to grant bail on liberal terms. Akeredolu argued that Farotimi, a well-known figure,

posed no threat to public order and should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Presiding Magistrate Abayomi Adeosun ruled in favour of the remand, directing that Farotimi be held in custody. The case was adjourned to December 10 for further proceedings.

The human rights advocate said he was questioned at the zone 2 headquarters owing to a petition filed by Tony Elumelu, chairman of the United Bank for Africa (UBA).

The activist said the police officers from Ekiti command were acting on another petition allegedly filed by Afe Babalola, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

Farotimi added that his comments about Babalola were in a book published in Lagos and not Ekiti.

Kwara govt demotes teacher for beating corps member over 'not greeting properly'

By Friday Omosola

The Kwara State Government has taken disciplinary action against a school teacher, Hamzat Fatimoh, accused of assaulting a National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) member at Government Day Junior Secondary School, Kulende, Ilorin.

Earlier, The New Daily Prime reported the assault of the female corps member (name withheld) when she visited the school to collect her clearance letter.

She was accused of failing to greet the teachers properly—was scolded, physically assaulted, and had her NYSC white T-shirt torn by a teacher.

Another teacher allegedly joined in the attack by slapping her. The incident ignited widespread outrage, with Nigerians demanding justice and raising concerns about respect, professionalism, and abuse of authority within educational institutions.

In response to the public outcry, the NYSC's Head of Information and Public Relations in Kwara State, Morakinyo Oladipo, confirmed that the scheme would seek legal redress for the assault.

Oladipo added that the state government had been promptly informed of the matter to ensure justice was served.

Kwara State Commissioner for Education and Human Capital Development, Sa'adatu Modibbo-Kawu, had earlier condemned the



alleged assault in a statement, describing the act as unprofessional and unacceptable.

In a recent development, a joint statement by Modibbo-Kawu and the Executive Chairman of the Kwara State Teaching Service Commission (TESCOM), Bello Abubakar, revealed the findings of an investigative panel set up to address the allegations.

The panel confirmed that the accused teacher, Fatimoh, engaged in inappropriate conduct, including fighting on duty, using foul language, and disrespecting the national identity represented by the NYSC uniform.

The statement added that in line with public service regulations, the teacher has been demoted by two grade levels, transferred out of her current school, and mandated to undergo counselling sessions.

"The State Government will not tolerate such abuse under any guise," the statement emphasised.

"We deeply regret the teacher's actions and reassure the NYSC management that this behaviour does not represent the values of the state. Measures have been put in place to ensure such incidents do not recur."

The government also reminded teachers across the state to abide by public service rules and adhere to professional teaching ethics.

"It pledged continued investment in training programs to uphold teaching standards and improve service delivery."

Tax reform bills will end financial recklessness among elites – Kukah

By Dave Oludare Oso

Catholic Bishop of Sokoto Diocese, Matthew Kukah, has said that the tax reform bills proposed by President Bola Tinubu will end “financial recklessness” among the elites.

The cleric spoke on Tuesday when he featured on Morning Brief, a Channels Television’s programme.

He expressed support for the bills, adding that he is educating himself on the provisions of proposed legislations.

The clergyman said, “I am excited about the issue of tax reform bills because, first, I know nothing about it, but I have started educating myself.

“It is important to get this thoroughly dysfunctional country working again through any form of reform at all.

“So I am excited because hopefully, we can take the time to listen to the conversation about how to avoid and end this financial recklessness, and the irony of Nigerians living by the seaside and washing their faces with saliva.

“The reforms should end the narrative of Nigerians living in a country that is so richly endowed but are spectators to the rascality and irresponsibility of the elites who continue to mismanage our resources.

“So, I’m hopeful that this is the beginning of a very long journey of fiscal management and efficiency



that can lead to the growth and development of the kind of country that we envision.”

Kukah said Nigerians need is effective communication about the ongoing reforms, as the citizens are battling high-level poverty.

He added, “What I can say is that this government must respond urgently to the issues of the day. They are issues of massive impoverishment in Nigeria. You can see the frustration on the faces of people, husbands, wives and children.

“I am convinced that this government has lofty ideas, but there is a total absence of a constructive strategy of engagement.

“This government needs communication strategies. The

Nigerian government needs to convince Nigerians that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and encourage them to be a little patient.

“I see the conversation around local government autonomy, tax reform bills and others. But the government has to communicate with the people.

“So when people call themselves government spokespersons, it is not about insulting people, or thinking others can’t have different views.

“But their job is how the ideas of the government are communicated. We need to have an idea of the government reforms.”

PSC urges vigilance against bribery in police academy admissions

By Olamilekan Botti

The Police Academy in Wudil, Kano, the Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), DIG Hashimu Argungu (retd.), has unequivocally stated that any candidate found attempting to bribe or otherwise compromise the ongoing admission procedure will be swiftly disqualified. This announcement underscores the commission's commitment to maintaining a transparent and fair recruitment process.

DIG Argungu made these remarks during a supervisory visit to the Police Academy, where he was accompanied by a distinguished delegation tasked with overseeing the 2024 Post-JAMB admission screening process. The visit is part of the commission's broader mandate to ensure that all admission exercises are conducted with the utmost integrity and fairness, principles that are vital for the reputation of the police force and the trust of the public it serves.

"In our efforts to uphold the values of justice and equity, we must ensure that the admission process is free from any unethical behaviours," stated Argungu. This statement was echoed in a communication released by the commission's spokesperson, Ikehukwu Ani, on Wednesday. The PSC chairman emphasized that any candidate who engages in discussions to pay bribes for admission consideration will be promptly eliminated from the selection process. "The process must run on merit and transparency," he asserted, further reinforcing the commitment to uphold ethical standards throughout the admissions.

During the inspection of the academy's facilities and procedures, Argungu also noted several



complaints concerning malfunctioning computers which could potentially hinder the smooth conduct of the screening exercise. He promptly directed that the necessary rectifications be made to ensure that all technical issues are resolved quickly, ensuring a seamless experience for the candidates.

DIG Argungu acknowledged and commended the leadership of the Police Academy, particularly highlighting the innovative measures implemented by its commandant, AIG Abubakar Sadiq, in enhancing the screening process. Among the improvements noted was the adoption of computer-based testing, which represents a significant leap towards modernizing the admissions framework. This method not only streamlines the assessment process but also enhances the efficiency with which candidates can be evaluated.

A particularly noteworthy aspect of this modernized approach is the system's allowance for immediate results viewing. Argungu pointed out that this transparency enables candidates to view their examination results instantly after submission, promoting accountability in a process that has historically been vulnerable to

manipulation. The integration of technology is aimed not only at improving speed but also at enhancing trust in the integrity of the admissions process.

The Chairman's visit and comments come at a crucial time, as the Police Service Commission seeks to reinforce its commitment to ethical standards and transparency in an environment often marred by allegations of corruption and unfair practices. As the admission process progresses, the PSC is determined to ensure that only the most qualified and deserving candidates are admitted to serve in the police force, thereby maintaining public confidence in the institution.

In conclusion, the vigilance exhibited by the Police Service Commission under the leadership of DIG Hashimu Argungu signifies a robust approach towards combatting corruption and irregularities in the admission process. As the academy moves forward with the 2024 screenings, all eyes will be on the implementation of these measures, which are crucial for fostering a police force that is not only competent but also trustworthy.

Tinubu seeks establishment of anti-illegal mining group of African nations

By Dave Oludare Oso

President Bola Tinubu, on Tuesday, in South Africa called for the potential establishment of an anti-illegal mining group among African nations.

Speaking at the 11th Session of the Nigeria-South Africa Bi-National Commission (BNC) in Cape Town, the president stressed that the continent's natural resources should be mined for the betterment of its people, not exploited illegally.

He said, "One thing I would like this edition of the BNC to explore is the possible need to establish an anti-illegal mining group of African nations. Our natural resources are supposed to be mined for the betterment of our people. However, there seems to be a concerted effort flowing in the opposite direction."

He went on to outline the detrimental effects of illegal mining, which, he said, not only deprives nations of precious income but also fosters instability across the continent.

The President added, "Throughout Africa, illegal mining is not only robbing our nations of precious income, which could foster development. Sponsored by powerful outside forces, such mining is fomenting strife, servitude, poverty, environmental degradation, and undermining the writ of legitimate government."

Tinubu stressed the urgency of addressing this issue, describing illegal mining as a form of "inland piracy" that cannot be allowed to undermine the continent's aspirations.

"We cannot allow this inland piracy to become a scourge to our good and healthy designs for our people. South Africa and Nigeria should and must



take the lead in placing this issue before the global community and in resolving it for the good of our continent and its people," he said.

The president also addressed Nigeria's growing partnership with South Africa and reiterated the importance of strengthening Africa's presence on the global stage.

As South Africa assumed the presidency of the G20, he called on both nations to leverage this leadership role for the advancement of the continent.

"Nigeria would like to join South Africa and the African Union in the G20 so as to strengthen the African voice in the group and globally. We urge that the position be leveraged for the development of our continent."

Tinubu underscored the importance of collaboration between Nigeria and South Africa, calling for a shared vision that would foster prosperity and development across Africa.

He referred to the relationship between the two nations as a model of leadership, one that could inspire a brighter and greater future for the

continent.

"This high-level strategic partnership between South Africa and Nigeria must become a model of leadership and shared vision that will inspire and take our people into a brighter and greater future of prosperity and development, an Africa That We Want."

The president's address also touched on the long-standing and historic relationship between the two nations, noting Nigeria's role in supporting South Africa during the struggle against apartheid.

Tinubu reaffirmed that both countries would continue to stand together in the pursuit of democratic values, non-discrimination, and good governance.

The session further discussed a variety of issues, including youth development, economic integration, and the role of both countries in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), with Tinubu emphasising the importance of addressing challenges to ensure the success of these initiatives.

Wike warns criminals, says 'We go show them pepper'

By Dave Oludare Oso

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Ezenwo Nyesom Wike, has reiterated his commitment to tackling criminal activities in Abuja, emphasizing that improved security will lower the cost of living by enabling farmers to return to their fields.

Speaking on Tuesday during the flag-off of the 9.8-kilometer Kabusa-Takushara road project, Wike assured residents that the road, featuring a two-lane, seven-meter carriageway with solar-powered streetlights, will be completed within six months.

He also addressed school administrators, cautioning against subjecting students to harsh conditions during official visits.

"FCT school children must never be lined up under the sun to receive me," Wike stated, highlighting the need for humane treatment of students.

"On insecurity, without roads, if someone comes to attack you, can security agencies come down immediately? No. So, we have started. Every problem cannot be solved at the same time. What is important is that there is hope.

"The hunger is because of insecurity. You cannot go to the farm because kidnappers and bandits will not allow you. Now,



we are fighting them. We go show them pepper. So, don't worry. I know what you have suffered, I know how impatient you are. Now we have started. Just know that hope has come back," he stated.

Wike encouraged the people to trust in President Bola Tinubu's administration, saying he would never be a party to anything that would not bring smiles to the people.

The minister said, "Let me state here that once a government has made a promise, the government is obliged to fulfill the promise.

"One of the president's promises is that those of you in the satellite towns, don't think developments will be only in the city. It will be in the satellite towns and one of

the ways of doing it is by constructing roads and providing street lights. I want to assure you that in the next six to seven months, we will commission this project. It is not just about flag-off.

"Don't allow anybody to come and tell you stories. When they come, ask them, when they were there, did they remember Kabusa-Takushara or Kabusa-Ketti?"

The minister also ordered an immediate upgrade of facilities at a secondary school in the area, which premises is housing the road construction equipment.

Nigeria tops list of African countries with highest number of refineries

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

Nigeria stands as the African leader in oil refining infrastructure, with nine refineries, more than any other nation on the continent.

Africa's role in the global energy market is significant, producing nearly 10 million barrels of oil daily as of 2024. Yet, the continent's refining capacity has struggled to meet its fuel demands.

Five nations which include Nigeria, South Africa, Ghana, Angola, and Sudan boast the highest number of oil refineries. These countries have made substantial investments to meet domestic demand, create jobs, and reduce reliance on imported petroleum products.

However, several other African nations operate only one refinery each, such as Zambia, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Additional contributors to the continent's refining landscape include Chad, Gabon, Cameroon, Congo, and Kenya.

West Africa emerges as the sub-region with the largest refining capacity. However, only about 30% of this capacity is operational. The newly inaugurated Dangote Refinery in Nigeria, with a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day (bpd), is expected to transform the region's refining sector.

African countries with most refineries

1. Nigeria

Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer, leads with the highest number of refineries, spanning both public and private sectors. However, public facilities often face operational challenges. Key refineries include:



i. Port Harcourt Refinery: Two facilities with a combined capacity of 210,000 bpd.

ii. Warri Refinery: Located in Delta State, with a capacity of 125,000 bpd.

iii. Kaduna Refinery: Situated in northern Nigeria, processing 110,000 bpd.

iv. Dangote Refinery: A private mega-project in Lagos with a capacity of 650,000 bpd, making it the largest single-train refinery globally.

Smaller private facilities such as Ogbede, Ibigwe, Edo, OPAC, and Dupont serve niche markets and local demands.

2. South Africa

South Africa maintains a sophisticated oil refining industry, addressing both local and regional demand. Notable facilities include:

i. ENGEN Refinery: Located in Durban, processing 135,000 bpd.

ii. SAPREF: The largest in South Africa, also in Durban, with a capacity of 180,000 bpd.

iii. CALTEX Refinery: Situated in Cape Town, handling 100,000 bpd.

iv. NATREF: Based in Sasolburg, specialising in synthetic fuels with a capacity of 108,000 bpd.

Mossel Bay Refinery: Operated by PetroSA, utilising gas-to-liquid (GTL) technology.

3. Ghana

Ghana's refining sector has grown due to domestic oil production and strategic investments. Its refineries include:

i. Tema Oil Refinery (TOR): The largest and oldest refinery, processing 45,000 bpd.

ii. Platon Gas Refinery: A private facility with a capacity of 15,000 bpd.

iii. Akwaaba Refinery: Specialising in niche petroleum products.

iv. Sentuo Refinery: A new addition, boosting the nation's refining capacity.

Dele Farotimi's remand runs foul of democracy – Obi

By Friday Omosola

Peter Obi, the 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party, has raised concerns over the handling of the case involving human rights lawyer Dele Farotimi.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that a Magistrate Court sitting in Ado Ekiti remanded Farotimi, in prison custody over an alleged defamation case against the founder of Afe Babalola University, Aare Afe Babalola.

Reacting to the development on his X page on Wednesday, the former Anambra State Governor described Farotimi's remand in prison as a violation of democratic principles, emphasising the importance of freedom of expression and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

“It is disheartening to hear that Dele Farotimi has been remanded in prison over a defamation allegation. This development raises serious concerns about justice and freedom of expression in our country,” Obi said, adding that such cases undermine the rule of law and democratic norms.

Obi criticised the Nigeria Police for prioritising what he termed a civil matter over the rising wave of criminal activities across the country.

“It is curious that the police, who are grappling with a barrage of crimes, now rush to court at the speed of light over civil complaints,” he said.

Highlighting the challenges facing Nigeria, Obi pointed out that national attention should focus on



pressing issues such as insecurity, corruption, and economic difficulties.

He decried the use of defamation cases as tools for intimidation, stressing that such matters should remain civil and not be weaponized to suppress dissent.

“The strength of any democracy lies in its ability to tolerate differing opinions and uphold the rule of law without bias. Matters of defamation should be handled as civil issues, not as a means to erode fundamental rights,” he said.

He called on authorities to ensure impartial justice and prioritise addressing Nigeria's pressing security and socio-economic challenges.

Energy expert Professor Wumi Iledare questioned why such a large sum remained unresolved and

suggested that the audit should also address the funds collected by NNPCCL on behalf of the government.

Similarly, Professor Dayo Ayoade, an energy expert at the University of Lagos, raised concerns about the lack of transparency in the relationship between the government and NNPCCL, describing it as historically shrouded in secrecy. He called for greater scrutiny of the financial dealings to ensure accountability.

The investigation into the N2.7 trillion subsidy refund claim remains a crucial element in the ongoing efforts to bring clarity to Nigeria's energy sector finances.

Following that, the house agreed to transmit the resolution to the senate for concurrence.

South Africa eyes Nigeria's lithium for EV revolution, supports Nigeria's G20 bid

By Friday Omosola

South Africa has expressed keen interest in collaborating with Nigeria to tap into its lithium reserves as part of efforts to drive the global electric vehicle (EV) revolution and green energy transition.

Bayo Onanuga, President Bola Tinubu spokesperson in a statement said the announcement came during the Nigeria-South Africa Business Roundtable held on Tuesday in Cape Town.

President Cyril Ramaphosa highlighted Nigeria's vast lithium resources as a cornerstone for industrialisation in the EV sector.

He urged private sector players and development finance institutions to work together in building infrastructure and scaling up manufacturing capabilities for EV batteries.

"There is much opportunity for cooperation on pharmaceuticals and clean energy manufacturing industries. South Africa has developed a Just Transition Framework and an Investment Plan to drive renewable energy and green economy investments in the coming years.

"Together, we must leverage the abundant natural resources in our countries to promote green industrialisation," Ramaphosa stated.

He emphasised the importance of



processing critical minerals locally, calling on businesses to participate in initiatives aimed at achieving this goal.

President Ramaphosa also announced South Africa's strong support for Nigeria's bid to join the G20, describing the country as a "valued sister nation."

He made the declaration at the official launch of South Africa's G20 presidency in Cape Town, shortly before hosting President Tinubu at Tuynhuys for the 11th Bi-National Commission (BNC) between the two nations.

During bilateral discussions, Ramaphosa reiterated that Nigeria's inclusion in the G20 would amplify Africa's voice on the global stage.

South Africa and the African Union are currently the only

African representatives in the G20, with the AU gaining membership last year following South Africa's advocacy.

"We have been the lone voice for Africa in the G20 for a long time. With the admission of the African Union, and now potentially Nigeria, we can ensure our continent is better represented. Africa is poised to be a major growth story, and it's time for our big voice to be recognised," Ramaphosa remarked.

The two presidents also discussed strategies to deepen economic cooperation and address mutual challenges as Africa seeks to leverage its resources for sustainable development.

FG planning Climate Division, groundbreaking initiatives

By Helen Okechukwu

The Federal Government has unveiled plans to establish a Climate Division within the Ministry of Women's Affairs to lead sustainable, gender-responsive, and age-inclusive climate actions.

Additionally, the ministry is set to launch a groundbreaking initiative, the Women in Green Economy Project, in 2025.

This programme aims to empower one million women through climate-smart agricultural practices and train 2,000 female climate champions at the grassroots level.

Speaking at the ongoing United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Riyadh, the Minister of Women's Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, shared the ministry's vision.

"We have committed to establishing a Climate Division in the Ministry to coordinate and drive sustainable gender-responsive and age-sensitive climate actions. Furthermore, we will introduce a Women in Green Economy Programme in 2025.

The Women in Green Economy Project will engage women in planting 10 million economic trees and crops, including the Nopal Cactus Cladodes, a species renowned for combating desertification and enhancing soil health.

The program also targets several impactful outcomes: Empowering 1 million women in climate-smart agriculture, Transitioning one million households to clean cooking energy and Supporting 1,000 female-owned climate-friendly startups.

Others include Training 500,000 women in agro-processing and Equipping 2,000 community-based



female climate champions to assist with data collection and community education.

Minister Sulaiman-Ibrahim highlighted Nigeria's progress in tackling climate challenges, citing the enactment of the Climate Change Bill, the establishment of the National Council on Climate Change, and the launch of the Energy Transition Plan as key milestones.

She also underscored the vital role of women in addressing environmental issues, describing climate change as a "women's issue."

"If we are to win this fight and reverse the effects of climate change, we must provide women with platforms and tools to participate, contribute, and drive the solutions the world urgently needs to meet the Sustainable Development Goals."

The Minister noted President Bola Tinubu's strong commitment to combating climate change, including forming a committee to oversee the Green Economic Initiative, a strategic plan designed to address Nigeria's climate challenges.

The Minister said, "We remain

steadfastly committed to the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and will ensure full alignment with existing policy frameworks."

The Senate Committee had last Wednesday screened Oluyede behind closed doors.

Sen. Yar'adua, before the screening, recalled that the senate, had, at its sitting on Tuesday, read President Bola Tinubu's request urging them to confirm Oluyede's appointment as chief of army staff.

Yar'adua said that the screening was to bring to bear Oluyede's professional skills, experiences and expertise.

This, he said, was based on his strategic knowledge and vision toward defending Nigeria from external aggression, maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land.

"Your abilities to offer proposals toward finding solutions to military funding and welfare of personnel will be of interest to this country," the senator said.

Nigeria, South Africa operationalise joint advisory council to boost trade, investment

By Friday Omosola

In a significant move to strengthen economic ties, Nigeria and South Africa have operationalised the Joint Ministerial Advisory Council on Industry, Trade, and Investment.

Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Information and Strategy said the announcement was made by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Nigeria-South Africa Business Roundtable held on Tuesday in Cape Town.

The council, first launched in 2021 during President Ramaphosa's State Visit to Nigeria, aims to resolve trade and investment challenges, foster policy alignment, and create a conducive environment for business growth in both nations.

The full activation of this council is expected to enhance cooperation between the two largest economies in Africa.

Nigeria President Bola Tinubu and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during the Nigeria-South Africa Business Roundtable held on Tuesday in Cape Town [PHOTO CREDIT: Facebook]

President Tinubu, representing Nigeria at the event, assured investors that Nigeria is open for business.

He emphasised the country's commitment to ensuring stability, security, and the rule of law to create a favorable environment for businesses.

"We are implementing stringent but positive economic reforms to serve our people and drive prosperity across Africa. You will not find better returns on investment elsewhere than in Nigeria", Tinubu stated.



The Nigerian leader further pledged to address barriers that have discouraged South African investors in Nigeria and urged South Africa to reciprocate by providing a welcoming environment for Nigerian businesses.

He reiterated the commitment of Nigerian and South African officials to collaborate on the mandates of the Bi-National Commission.

Highlighting the interconnected destinies of the two nations, Tinubu said, "Nigeria and South Africa are co-joined twins tied by the hips not only for survival but for the prosperity of our people."

President Ramaphosa expressed optimism about the operationalisation of the advisory council, noting its potential to resolve trade-related challenges and diversify economic ties beyond oil and gas.

"South Africa runs a significant trade deficit with Nigeria, primarily due to oil and gas imports. Diversifying our trade relations will ensure a mutually beneficial partnership," Ramaphosa said.

He also acknowledged the presence of South African companies in Nigeria and welcomed the growth of Nigerian businesses in South Africa.

Both leaders recognised lingering operational challenges for companies in their respective countries but

affirmed their commitment to addressing these issues to foster a more robust economic partnership.

The roundtable, attended by business leaders, government officials, and trade stakeholders, marks a renewed effort to deepen cooperation between Nigeria and South Africa, aiming to unlock opportunities for growth and development across the continent.

"It was during the investigation that I contacted Amotekun in Igbotako, and Edet was tracked to where he was hiding. Two accomplices were arrested in Edo State, and we discovered that it was a self-kidnap to extort money from the company."

Yar'adua said that the screening was to bring to bear Oluyede's professional skills, experiences and expertise.

This, he said, was based on his strategic knowledge and vision toward defending Nigeria from external aggression, maintaining its territorial integrity and securing its borders from violation on land.

"Your abilities to offer proposals toward finding solutions to military funding and welfare of personnel will be of interest to this country," the senator said.

Okpembholo to revive abandoned Edo line transport company

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpembholo, has announced plans to revive the long-abandoned Edo Line, the state-owned transport company, as part of his administration's efforts to restore public assets for economic growth.

Fred Itua, Chief Press Secretary to the governor in a statement on Wednesday said the governor revealed this during an inspection visit to the Edo Line facilities on Mission Road, Benin City.

He was accompanied by his deputy, Dennis Idahosa and assessed the premises, which have been neglected for years.

The guided tour, led by Jaffar Inegbedion, Fleet Manager of Move Monkey, allowed the governor to



gather firsthand information on the state of the company.

Expressing disappointment over the abandonment of the facility under the previous administration of Godwin Obaseki, Okpembholo lamented the overgrown premises and deteriorated fleet.

"This place is bushy and completely abandoned. I am here to assess the situation and determine how we can revive this company to profitability."

The governor highlighted the need to recover missing assets of the transport company, including over 200 vehicles that were reportedly part of the fleet but are now unaccounted for.

"The few vehicles you see here are far less than what Edo Line once owned. We will track down those vehicles and use them to revive this place," he asserted.

The governor added that the initiative to restore Edo Line is a significant step toward revitalising public infrastructure and improving transportation in the state.

Makinde supports Adeleke, rejects APC ambitions in Oyo

By Olamilekan Botti

Oyo State's Governor, Mr. Seyi Makinde, fervently expressed his unwavering support for his Osun State counterpart, Ademola Adeleke, amid looming political challenges presented by the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Speaking on Wednesday in Osogbo, the capital of Osun State, Makinde boldly asserted that the APC will not succeed in its ambitions within both Oyo and Osun states, reaffirming the resilience of progressives in the region.

The backdrop of Makinde's remarks stemmed from a previous statement made by the APC National Chairman, Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje, who triumphantly proclaimed the party's aspirations to secure further victories following their wins in Edo and Ondo states.

Following the re-election of Ondo's

Governor, Lucky Ayedatiwa, Ganduje candidly articulated the party's strategic focus on capturing the South-West geopolitical zone, with specific eyes set on Osun and Oyo.



He claimed, "Our next target now is the South-West geopolitical zone, and you know we are good at hitting the target."

However, Makinde challenges this narrative, suggesting that Ganduje's statements stem from a disconnect

with the electorate's realities. Using the occasion of the commissioning of the Stadium Roundabout/Oke Baale Roundabout/Ilesa Garage Roundabout dual carriageway to deliver his message, Makinde urged the citizens of Osun State to remain steadfast and committed to Adeleke's leadership.

"The people of Osun State must come first, and they have been put first," he proclaimed, reminding attendees that voters had made a conscious choice to transition to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) two years prior.

Makinde delivered a pointed critique aimed at the APC's misguided optimism, stating, "Do not let their victories in Edo and Ondo fool you; we are contesting those results in court." He reassured attendees of the PDP's commitment to legal avenues, asserting,

Gov Abiodun presents N1.05tn 2025 budget to House of Assembly

By Friday Omosola

Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, has presented a 2025 budget proposal of N1.05 trillion to the State House of Assembly, emphasising hope, prosperity, and sustainable development.

The appropriation bill tagged the 'Budget of Hope and Prosperity', comprises N600.98 billion for capital expenditure and N453.56 billion for recurrent expenditure.

Announcing the development on his X page, Governor Abiodun highlighted the budget's focus on infrastructure, health, education, and fiscal responsibility.

He said key allocations include N120.14 billion for personnel costs, N76.07 billion for public debt charges, and N219.86 billion for overhead expenses.

The 2025 budget outlines several major projects, including the renovation and equipping of hospitals and 80 primary health centres and, the construction and rehabilitation of roads across Ogun State.

Others are the extension of metro rail lines of Redline (Agbado-Kajola), blueline (Okokomaiko-Agbara/Lusada), and purpleline, rehabilitation of 150 kilometres of feeder roads, construction of Ogun Lodge in Abuja, OGIRS Revenue House, and a modern Court of Appeal.

The governor said infrastructure received the largest share, N284.46 billion (27%), followed by health



with N134.54 billion (13%), and education with N117.83 billion (11%).

Additionally, he said agriculture and industry were allocated N65.39 billion (6%), while housing and community development received N66.38 billion (6%).

Furthermore, the proposed revenue breakdown includes: internally generated revenue (IGR) of N314.82 billion (N120.97 billion from the State IRS and N193.85 billion from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies).

Federal Allocations and VAT are N228.06 billion, and capital receipts, loans, and grants: are N472.66 billion.

Governor Abiodun expressed pride in the state's fiscal performance, noting a 79% achievement of the 2024 revenue target.

He reaffirmed his administration's

commitment to transparency and the completion of ongoing projects under the ISEYA (Infrastructure, Social Welfare and Wellbeing, Education, Youth Empowerment, and Agriculture) pillars.

He said the proposed budget aligns with the medium-term national development plan (2021-2025), aiming to drive sustainable development and improve the quality of life for all the state residents.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Oludaisi Elemide, promised the governor that the House would do all it could to ensure a successful passage.

Elemide maintained that the House is ready to cooperate and support both the executive and the judiciary arms of government.

Kwara govt launches mass Anthrax vaccination campaign, target 330,000 livestock

By Friday Omosola

The Kwara State Government has announced plans to vaccinate over 330,000 cattle, sheep, and goats in a state-wide Mass Anthrax Vaccination Campaign.

The initiative aims to safeguard livestock and public health against the deadly anthrax disease and other zoonotic infections.

This was disclosed by the State Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Oloruntoyosi Thomas, during a training workshop for veterinary personnel organised by the Kwara State Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support Project (L-PRES) in collaboration with the State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ilorin.

Represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Funke Sokoya, the Commissioner highlighted the significance of the training in achieving the state government's goal of eradicating anthrax.

She lauded Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq for his support, including the timely payment of counterpart funds for L-PRES and other agricultural projects.

Mrs Thomas also revealed that Kwara State had received over 330,000 doses of anthrax vaccines from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security through the L-PRES Project.



She urged vaccinators to prioritise safety and professionalism during the exercise, emphasizing the hazards associated with fieldwork.

Abdullateef Olugbon, the Director of Veterinary Services at the Ministry, underscored the importance of the campaign in mitigating the threats posed by anthrax to livestock and public health.

He also called for proper disposal of materials used during the vaccination to prevent environmental contamination.

Mr Olusoji Oyawoye, the State Project Coordinator for L-PRES, noted that the exercise aligns with the project's objective of improving livestock productivity and resilience.

Represented by Bukola Richards, the Animal Health Officer for L-

PRES, he confirmed that the vaccination campaign would cover all 16 Local Government Areas of the state.

Participants at the workshop, including Timothy Gana, a private veterinary surgeon and former State Chairman of the Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association (NVMA), expressed gratitude for the training. Gana described it as a valuable refresher for vaccinators as they prepare to carry out the exercise in their localities.

The workshop featured presentations by Bukola Arinola Richards and Muftaudeen Oyewo from the Kwara State Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

What you should know about liver cancer

By Helen Okechukwu

Liver cancer is a life-threatening sickness that affects the human organ, which leads to deterioration of the vital organs. Liver cancer is also known as hepatic cancer.

The vital organ is located in the upper right quadrant of the abdomen, leading to the purification of blood, producing bile for digestion, and storing nutrients.

When the human enemy strikes the vital organs, it disrupts these life-sustaining functions.

Understanding Liver Cancer

Liver cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the liver grow uncontrollably. It can either originate in the liver (primary liver cancer) or spread from other parts of the body (secondary or metastatic liver cancer).

A report from the National Library of Medicine in 2023 stated that globally, liver cancer ranks as the fourth most common cause of death, amounting to 800,000 deaths annually. The most vulnerable gender affected is said to be male when compared to the female gender.

Types of Liver Cancer

Primary liver cancer originates within the liver itself and includes several subtypes:

Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC): HCC accounts for approximately 75-80% of all liver cancers. It originates from hepatocytes, the main functional cells of the liver. This type is closely linked to chronic liver diseases such as hepatitis and cirrhosis.

Intrahepatic Cholangiocarcinoma (Bile Duct Cancer): This cancer starts in the bile ducts, which are responsible for transporting bile from the liver to the gallbladder and small intestine.

Angiosarcoma and Hemangiosarcoma: These rare types arise from the blood vessels in the liver. Their growth



usually affects the skin and may appear as a bruise lesion.

Hepatoblastoma: A rare liver cancer that primarily affects children under the age of three, hepatoblastoma has a high treatment success rate when detected early.

Secondary liver cancer is more common than primary liver cancer. It occurs when cancer cells from other organs, such as the colon, lungs, or breasts, metastasise to the liver. The liver's rich blood supply makes it a frequent target for metastasis.

Causes and Risk Factors

Liver cancer does not develop in isolation; it is often influenced by underlying conditions and environmental factors:

Chronic Liver Diseases Hepatitis B and C:

Chronic viral infections cause inflammation and scarring (fibrosis) of the liver, increasing the risk of HCC. Hepatitis C, in particular, is a leading cause of liver cancer in Western countries.

Cirrhosis: Scarring of the liver from prolonged damage, caused by alcoholism, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), or viral hepatitis, raises the risk significantly.

Lifestyle Factors

Alcohol Abuse: Prolonged alcohol consumption can lead to alcoholic liver disease and cirrhosis, both major risk factors.

Obesity and Diabetes:

These conditions contribute to fatty liver disease, increasing the likelihood of liver cancer.

Environmental Toxins Aflatoxins:

These toxins, produced by mould on improperly stored grains and nuts, are potent carcinogens linked to liver cancer.

Chemical Exposure:

Prolonged exposure to certain industrial chemicals, such as vinyl chloride and arsenic, increases risk.

Symptoms of Liver Cancer

When you observed a lump below your rib cage or pain on the right side of your abdomen, or pain near your right shoulder.

Jaundice (a disease that causes skin and eyes to yellow).

Unexplained weight loss, nausea, or loss of appetite.

Fatigue.

Nigerians hating Nigeria(ns)

By Reno Omokri

There has been very heavy reporting on my social media accounts after my posts praising Wizkid as the king of Afrobeats and urging Africans to stream his album Morayo. To those who felt attacked, do not see this as an insult to you or those you hold dear.

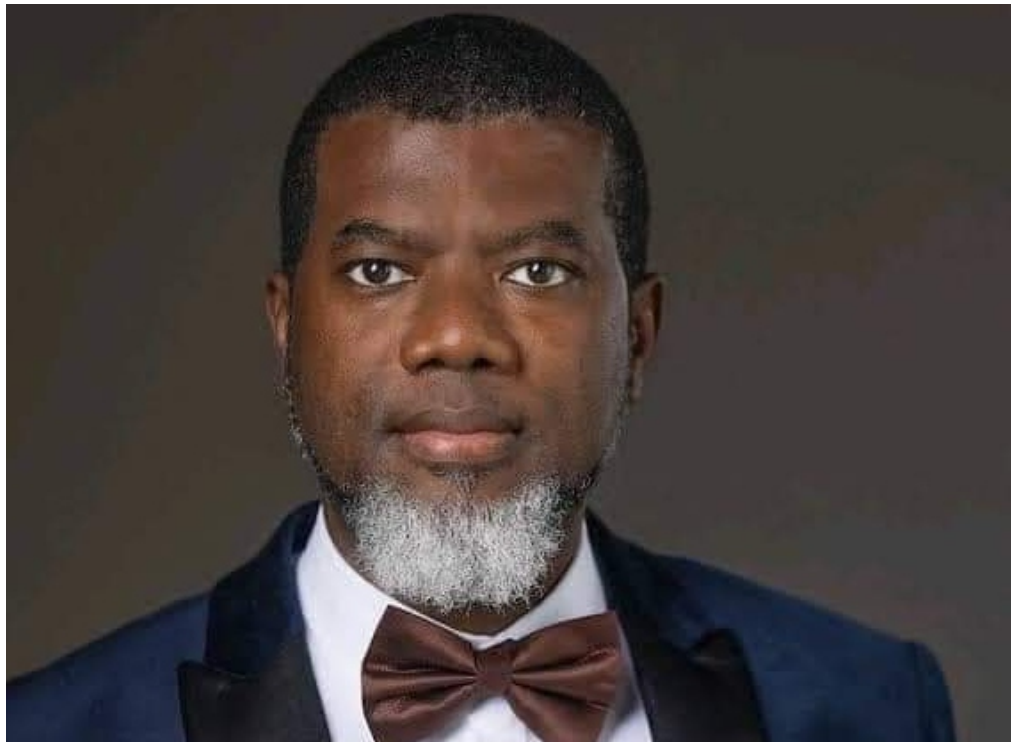
I am a patriot and pan-African. I saw that Nigeria and Africa had an opportunity to break global album streaming records, so I promoted Ayodeji Ibrahim Balogun and his album, Morayo.

We need to begin to think group interests. Our economy needs all the help it can get as we move from consumption to production. And when people buy your culture, they will also buy your products. I should know. By the grace of God, I am one of the most travelled Nigerians on Earth.

Please fact-check me: The music group ABBA helped launch Sweden as a major global economy. Volvo became an international brand that rivalled Mercedes-Benz because people wanted to buy a Swedish car due to their love for ABBA.

ABBA brought Swedish culture and commerce to the mainstream, increasing tourism to the country by over 25%, which helped the Scandinavian nation come out of a recession.

I urge you to fact-check this: After selling 400 million records, the Swedish government did not give ABBA a music award. No. They gave them an award as one of their biggest exports. You know like the awards that President Tinubu would



give to Dangote Industries or Globacom? That is what the Swedish government gave to ABBA.

Music is serious business!

Do not underestimate the big difference one artiste can make. Bob Marley is one artiste. Rihanna is one entertainer. However, individually, they help sustain their country's economy by being the Numero Uno in their genre.

Morayo was and is going places. By promoting Wizkid and his album, we are helping to rebrand Nigeria by projecting something positive coming out of our country, which is breaking records. It is not just Wizkid we are promoting. We are promoting brand Nigeria, which is good for you and I.

I am not interested in your beefs. I am a salesman for Nigeria. I sell Nigeria to the world. Because of Nigeria, I gave out almost \$20,000 worth of designer clothes and started dressing in made in Nigeria

clothes.

Just yesterday, Samuel Ademola, an up-and-coming Hollywood starlet of Nigerian origin, who just finished a movie with Tom Hanks, invited me to his premier, and I arrived with Aso-Oke in one of the most glamorous places on Earth. I was the cynosure of all eyes!

And when I look at talent and sales, right now, we have no bigger or better brand ambassador as a country than Wizkid.

So, if you want to keep reporting my account in the hope that I will be banned from some social media platforms, please be my guest. But it will not stop me from saying Wizkid is the king of Afrobeats and the 001 of music of African origin.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

The Religious Dimension of President Tinubu's Tax Bills: Need for Further Amendment

By Umar Ardo, Ph.D

As the debate rages in the public domain on President Bola Tinubu's proposed tax reforms, and as Nigeria's National Assembly deliberates on the tax bills before its floors, an essential religious concern has emerged on the matter that demands urgent attention. Within provisions of the proposed bills is a clause introducing taxes on inheritance wealth in a way that conflicts with religious teachings. Nigeria is a multi religious country whose laws should accommodate and support religious injunctions and not repeal them.

2.As a Muslim, I know that Islamic law (Sharia) unequivocally governs the distribution of inheritance through clearly prescribed shares. Islam decreed a maximum of 25 inheritors of deceased persons and ratios of their inheritance, and government is not on the list. Therefore taxing inheritance wealth effectively alters this formula, diminishes the value passed to heirs and contradicts Islamic injunction.

3.But the tax bills submitted by President Tinubu have added government on the list of inheritors. Within the provisions of the four bills sent by the president to the National Assembly, there are some provisions that make government an inheritor. For example, Chapter 2, Part 1, Section 4 (sub-section 3) of the National Tax Bill provides as follows: "Income of a family recognized under any law or custom in Nigeria as family income in which the several interests of individual members of the family cannot be separately determined is chargeable to tax". This is in direct conflict with Islamic law of inheritance.

4.Under Sharia, if a father leaves an estate of ₦10 million, for instance, a legislated inheritance tax reducing



the sum would inadvertently disrupt the ordained shares for his divinely prescribed inheritors. This alteration is not just financial but religious, raising concerns about overstepping divine jurisdiction.

5.As a multi-religious state, Islam and Christianity dominate the cultural and legal landscape of Nigeria. The constitution guarantees freedom of religion and safeguards practices integral to faith. Mandating inheritance taxation under the proposed bills is a direct infringement on Muslims' right to practice their religion fully. Such legislation alienates a significant portion of the population, potentially stoking religious tensions in an already polarized society.

6.Proponents of inheritance tax may argue that it promotes economic equity and curbing wealth concentration. While this is practiced in secular economies, it is critical to recognize that Nigeria is not a secular but a multi religious society. Legislators must therefore strike a balance between fiscal reforms and religious principles, ensuring inclusivity without undermining constitutional rights.

7.Consequently, I call upon the National Assembly to amend the tax bills submitted to exempt inheritance wealth from taxation, as the matter has already been divinely preordained. This amendment would not only uphold religious freedom but also foster national unity by respecting the cultural and spiritual diversity that defines Nigeria. This is not to say that income from inheritance cannot be taxed; it can, but after distribution to lawful heirs as per the acceptable Islamic sharing formula. But as individual beneficiaries injects their share allocations into the process of trade, business, profession or vocation for income, profit or capital gains then the proceeds become taxable.

8.In seeking to broaden its tax base, government must explore alternative revenue sources that do not conflict with religious doctrines. Wealth taxes, capital gains taxes and luxury levies offer viable options without encroaching on sacred grounds. I advise the president to engage religious leaders and scholars in policy formulation on this issue in order to achieve reforms that are economically sound and socially harmonious.

9.In conclusion, it needs pointing out that central to legislators' roles is to bridge the gap between governance and the people's values. The expunging of the inheritance tax provisions from the tax bills is not just a religious necessity but a political one as well. Proponents and supporters of the Muslim/Muslim ticket need to raise their voices on this religious infringement. Only through such sensitivity can Nigeria build an inclusive, equitable and spiritually aligned society.

Why Mohbad will never get justice – VeryDarkMan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Controversial critic, Vincent Martin Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan has offered an insight into the quest for justice regarding Mohbad's death, citing the conspicuous silence of parties involved.

NEW DAILY PRIME recalls that Mohbad, real name Ilerioluwa Aloba, a singer passed away in September 2023, a devastating loss for Nigeria's entertainment industry.

Despite multiple court hearings and investigations, the cause of his death remains a mystery.

In a recent Instagram post, VeryDarkMan expressed frustration



that individuals privy to the truth about Mohbad's death have chosen to remain silent.

He claimed to have warned about this outcome, lamenting that the late singer may never receive justice.

His post on Tuesday reads, "Mohbad case don end, make una no vex. Na una sentiment give the real people when know wetin do the boy passage to hide the truth just like I warned. So, it has happened. Mohbad will never get justice."

Baba Suwe was a victim of injustice – Yomi Fabiyi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Nollywood actor, Yomi Fabiyi has shed light on the painful experiences of the late comedy legend, Babatunde Omidina, popularly known as Baba Suwe, in a video shared on social media.

Fabiyi recounted the injustice and human rights abuse the late actor endured during his lifetime, reflecting on the lessons he learned from Baba Suwe's struggles.

Fabiyi captioned the video: "Late Alhaji Babatunde Omidina, a.k.a Baba Suwe was a victim of human rights abuse and injustice. I have too many lessons to learn from his life and saga. When you are alive, reigning without problem or sickness, don't ever assume that your colleagues/friends loved you. Until you are faced with a career or life-threatening problem, don't count your friends. IT IS OFTEN BETTER TO WALK ALONE."



In fact, start teaching yourself to perch alone. Keep relationships but often reflect the energy to walk the lonely road. It is not PRIDE, in fact, you get stronger that way. NOBODY IS IMMUNE TO DEATH. Continue to RIP boss and father in the industry. We miss you."

In the emotional video, Fabiyi narrated in Yoruba how Baba Suwe broke into tears while recounting his ordeal during a meeting.

According to Fabiyi, the late actor lamented that the allegations against him felt like a deliberate attack, knowing he might lack the means to defend himself.

"When the issue first happened, and I spoke out, I went to meet him as my boss," Fabiyi said. "As he was talking, he broke into tears. He said he was not really after the money but that what broke him most was the thought that they did it because they believed he wouldn't know how to defend himself or cry out. Even if someone said sorry to him, it would have been enough to relieve him of his sickness."

Fabiyi revealed that during their conversation, he called his lawyer in an attempt to secure justice for Baba Suwe.

Baba Suwe, a popular comic actor in Nollywood, died on November 22, 2021.

Mr Macaroni: Politics turns civil matters criminal

By **Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Mr. Macaroni condemns politicization of justice in Nigeria.

Mr Macaroni decries the trend of treating civil disputes as crimes, accusing Nigerian police of aiding elites in suppressing dissent and intimidating citizens.

In a statement shared on his X (formerly Twitter) account on Wednesday, Mr. Macaroni highlighted how these actions undermine justice and embolden the misuse of power by the wealthy and influential.

Police allegedly used for political oppression

The controversy began when Dele Farotimi, a lawyer and political activist, was arrested following a defamation petition by prominent legal luminary Afe Babalola. According to Mr. Macaroni, Farotimi's arrest illustrates how civil disagreements are increasingly treated as criminal offenses. This, he argued, is a dangerous precedent that erodes the rule of law.

Mr. Macaroni expressed his outrage, stating, "Dele Farotimi wrote a book titled 'Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System,' and the very impunity the book critiques is now playing out in real time. This is insanity."

He went on to question the methods employed by the police, describing how Farotimi was allegedly transported across state lines, his staff harassed, and their phones confiscated. These actions, he pointed out, involve multiple violations of legal and ethical standards.

"Brazen impunity" in the justice system

Mr. Macaroni criticized the police for their willingness to serve the interests of the "high and mighty." He lamented



that powerful individuals now exploit their influence to punish perceived critics, reducing the justice system to a tool of oppression.

"How many crimes have been committed in the process of investigating whether Mr. Farotimi committed a crime? For how long will the Nigerian police allow themselves to be used by the powerful to oppress Nigerians?" he asked.

Mr Macaroni warned that this trend creates an environment where anyone can face police harassment simply for criticizing influential figures. "We have entered a season where the rich can have someone arrested because they made an unflattering remark about them. Even those who should know better now abuse power with impunity because there are no consequences," he added.

Call for accountability

Mr. Macaroni emphasized that the lack of accountability in Nigeria's justice system is fueling corruption and abuse of power. He argued that the system often punishes innocent individuals while enabling the guilty to escape justice.

"Our system allows an innocent man who hasn't been proven guilty to suffer, while the guilty person—who commits numerous crimes in the name of

proving the innocent man wrong—walks free," Mr Macaroni said.

The activist's comments have sparked widespread discussions online, with many Nigerians sharing their frustrations about the state of the justice system.

Civil cases turned criminal

Observers note that this issue is not isolated but part of a broader pattern in Nigeria, where civil disputes are increasingly criminalized. This development, they argue, undermines the country's democratic principles and erodes public trust in law enforcement.

Legal experts have weighed in, stressing that such practices violate fundamental rights and contradict the principles of justice. They have called on the police to adhere strictly to their constitutional duties and resist being used as tools of oppression.

Public outcry grows

Farotimi's arrest has reignited conversations about the misuse of state institutions by the political elite. Many Nigerians have called for reforms to ensure that law enforcement agencies remain impartial and uphold the rule of law.

Civil society organizations have also condemned the incident, urging the government to protect citizens from arbitrary arrests and harassment.

System in need of reform

Mr. Macaroni's statements highlight the urgent need for reforms within Nigeria's justice system. He called on citizens to resist supporting such abuses, warning that silence and complicity only empower those who misuse their authority.

Timaya on why he's single

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Timaya speaks on why he avoided marriage

Timaya, Nigerian music star, shares his decision to stay unmarried, discussing marriage, relationships, and fatherhood in a candid Naija FM interview.

Timaya, whose real name is Inetimi Timaya Odon, admitted that he has never been drawn to the idea of marriage. "I've never fancied being married," he said. "It's not something I've ever been drawn to." However, he didn't completely dismiss the possibility of tying the knot someday. "Things can change. You never know," he added with a thoughtful tone.

Desire for freedom

The singer explained that his reluctance to settle down stems from his desire for personal freedom. Timaya revealed that he enjoys living life on his own terms and avoids situations that bring unnecessary stress. Reflecting on past relationships, he said, "In all my previous relationships, I was the one who walked away because I don't like stress."

Timaya expressed his skepticism about marriage, questioning its potential constraints. "Marriage dey craze? If I marry today, will I be able to get out if it's not working?" he mused, laughing lightly. His remarks suggest a cautious approach to lifelong commitments, rooted in his preference for maintaining control over his life.

Communication matters

While marriage may not be on his radar, Timaya highlighted the importance of open communication



in relationships. For him, transparency and honesty are non-negotiable. "If you have a problem with me, let's talk about it," he said. "I don't like going to bed with unresolved issues. It stresses me out, and I don't want anything bothering me."

His emphasis on clear communication reflects his practical outlook on relationships. He believes that talking through issues helps maintain peace of mind and strengthens connections.

Balancing fatherhood and music

Beyond relationships, Timaya delved into his experience as a father. The singer has four children with different women, and he takes pride in the bond he shares with them. Despite not living with his children full-time, Timaya ensures they maintain close ties. "My children live with their mothers, but we're all connected. They visit me often and spend extended periods with me," he said.

Timaya acknowledged that fatherhood can be both challenging and rewarding. "Being a father is stressful, but it's also enjoyable," he admitted with a smile. His commitment to being present in his

children's lives underscores his dedication to their well-being.

Respectful co-parenting

When asked about his relationships with the mothers of his children, he stressed that mutual respect is key. Although he's not romantically involved with them, he maintains a healthy and familial dynamic. "We're not in relationships, but we respect each other," he said. This respectful approach allows them to co-parent effectively and ensures a positive environment for their children.

'They tried to kill me' - Timaya

A balanced outlook

Timaya's perspective on marriage, relationships, and fatherhood offers a glimpse into his personal values. His candidness reveals a man who prioritizes peace of mind, freedom, and honesty. While he remains open to the possibility of marriage in the future, for now, he seems content with his choices.

The singer's journey highlights the evolving nature of modern relationships and the importance of finding a balance that works for each individual. As he continues to thrive in his music career and personal life, his reflections remind us that happiness comes in many forms.

In the end, his words resonate with anyone navigating the complexities of love, commitment, and parenthood. Timaya's story is a testament to staying true to oneself while embracing life's challenges with an open heart.

Eminem's mum is dead, aged 69

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The mother of American rapper, Marshall Mathers, popularly known as Eminem, has died at age 69.

Debbie Nelson's death was confirmed by Eminem's spokesperson on Tuesday.

The rapper's representative said she died on Monday night in St. Joseph, Missouri after battling with lung cancer for many years.

However, Eminem has not publicly commented on his mother's death.

Nelson gained public recognition through Eminem's song lyrics, which highlighted their turbulent relationship.

The rapper spotlighted their rocky relationship for several years in songs including 'My

Name Is', 'Headlights' and 'Cleanin' Out my Closet'.

Nelson filed a \$10 million lawsuit against Eminem for defamation and emotional distress.

She had cited 25 remarks he had made in various interviews accusing her of drug abuse and violent behaviour during his upbringing.

However, the rapper revealed the suit was later settled out of court in his song 'Without Me'.

In 2008, Nelson published a memoir, 'My Son Marshall, My Son Eminem,' with the subtitle "Setting the record straight on my life as Eminem's mother."

She provided details about the

rapper's early life, the good times they had while asserting that Eminem still loves her but "just confused."

"In my heart I know Marshall still loves me. He's just confused," she wrote.

Nelson was born in 1955 on a US air force base in Kansas.

She got married to Bruce Mathers in 1970 at age 15. In 1972, she gave birth to Eminem in St. Joseph.

In 1974, she divorced him citing physical abuse.

She eventually relocated back to St Joseph where she spent her final years after living at Metro Detroit for a while.



Nandi-Ndaitwah elected as Namibia's 1st female president

By Dave Oludare Oso

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has been elected as Namibia's first female president following a disputed election.

72-year-old Nandi-Ndaitwah is the incumbent Vice-President and would become the first woman to rule the southern African country governed by the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) since independence in 1990.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) announced that she won with over 57 percent of ballots cast.

Panduleni Itula, candidate for the main opposition Independent Patriots for Change (IPC), polled second with 25.5 percent of the votes.

The presidential election was extended twice because of logistical and technical challenges which led to a shortage of ballot papers and long queues.

Some voters gave up on the first day of voting after waiting



for up to 12 hours.

The IPC said the extension of voting was a deliberate attempt to frustrate voters, adding that it would not accept the results of the poll.

Itula said there was a "multitude of irregularities," adding that "the IPC shall not recognize the outcome of that election."

He added that the IPC would "fight to nullify the elections through the processes that are established within our electoral process."

An organization of southern African human rights lawyers serving as election monitors said the delays at polling units were intentional and widespread.

The electoral authority admitted to failures in the conduct of the election, including a shortage of ballot papers and the overheating of electronic tablets used to register voters.

Hunter Biden's federal gun case dismissed

....After being pardoned by his father

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A federal judge dismissed the gun case against Hunter Biden on Tuesday after President Biden issued a sweeping pardon for his son.

U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika closed the case the week before Hunter Biden was to be sentenced. He could have faced up to 25 years in prison, though as a first-time offender he likely would have gotten far less time or avoided prison entirely.

Prosecutors opposed dismissing the case, arguing in court documents that a pardon shouldn't wipe away the case "as if it never occurred."

Hunter Biden was convicted on three felonies after he lied on a federal form to purchase a gun in Delaware by saying he wasn't a drug user in 2018, a period when he has acknowledged being addicted.

The Justice Department special counsel is also opposed to dismissing a case filed in California after Hunter Biden failed to pay \$1.4 million in taxes. U.S. District Judge Mark Scarsi in Los Angeles indicated he would dismiss the case once the pardon is formally received.

Still, Scarsi was critical of the president's assertion that his son was singled out for political reasons, saying two judges had rejected similar arguments from his defence attorneys.

The president's Sunday decision to go back on previous pledges and issue his son a blanket federal



pardon for actions over the past 11 years has sparked a political uproar in Washington, drawing criticism from many Democrats as well as Republicans and threatening to cloud Mr. Biden's legacy as he prepares to leave office on Jan. 20.

In their own motion Tuesday, lawyers for President-elect Donald Trump cited the pardon in a request that Trump's conviction in the New York "hush money" case be dismissed.

Hunter Biden was originally supposed to strike a plea deal with prosecutors last year that would have spared him prison time, but the agreement fell apart after Noreika questioned unusual aspects of it.

In his statement announcing the pardon, Mr. Biden said that "from the day I took office, I said I would not interfere with the Justice Department's decision-making, and I kept my word even as I have watched my son being selectively, and unfairly, prosecuted."

Biden alleged that his son "was treated differently" than others in similar circumstances and that the

charges were brought after "several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election."

The pardon applies to any crimes Hunter may have committed between Jan. 1, 2014, through Dec. 1, 2024.

Hunter Biden was accused of lying on paperwork in order to purchase a gun in October 2018 while he was addicted to illegal drugs. Federal law prohibits users of illegal drugs from owning firearms.

In June, a Delaware jury found him guilty of one count each of making a false statement in the purchase of a firearm, making a false statement related to information required to be kept by a federally licensed firearms dealer, and possession of a firearm by a person who is an unlawful user of or addicted to a controlled substance.

Then in September, Hunter reached a plea deal on nine counts in a federal tax evasion case in Los Angeles. He faced up to 17 years in prison in that case prior to the pardon.

Israel threatens to attack Lebanon if truce with Hezbollah collapses

By Dave Oludare Oso



Israel last (Tuesday) night threatened to return to war in Lebanon and target the state itself if its truce with Hezbollah collapses after the deadliest day since a ceasefire was agreed.

In its strongest threat since last week's deal to end 14 months of conflict, Israel said it would hold Lebanon responsible for failing to disarm militants who violate the ceasefire.

'If we return to war we will act strongly... there will no longer be an exemption for the state of Lebanon,' said defence minister, Israel Katz.

Israeli forces have continued

strikes against what they claim are Hezbollah fighters ignoring the agreement to halt attacks and withdraw beyond the Litani River, about 18 miles from the border.

Smoke rises over Beirut following an Israeli strike on November 26.

On Monday, Hezbollah shelled an Israeli military post, while Lebanese authorities said 12 people were killed in Israeli air strikes on Lebanon. Another person was killed yesterday by a drone strike, Lebanon said.

Israeli prime minister Benjamin

Netanyahu said any infraction of the truce would be punished. 'We are enforcing this ceasefire with an iron fist,' he said. 'We are currently in a ceasefire, I note, a ceasefire, not the end of the war.'

Beirut officials urged the US and France to press Israel to uphold the ceasefire. Caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati, quoted by a Lebanese news agency, said diplomatic communications had intensified since Monday to stop Israeli 'violations'.

The US State Department said on Monday the truce 'is holding'.

Sancho scores as Chelsea thrash hapless Southampton

By Dave Oludare Oso

Jason Sancho scored his first goal for Chelsea as they ruthlessly capitalized on a series of Southampton errors to run out comfortable winners.

Sancho wrapped up the scoring for the Blues after goals from Axel Disasi, Christopher Nkunku, Noni Madueke and Cole Palmer had put them in control.

Saints briefly levelled at 1-1 through Joe Aribo but their capacity to self-destruct was underlined when, after falling 3-1 down, captain Jack Stephens was sent off by referee Tony Harrington for pulling Marc Cucurella's hair after a lengthy VAR check.

With Chelsea flying high and their hosts bottom of the table, there was no doubting who the favourites were going into the match.

And when goalkeeper Joe Lumley failed to clear Enzo Fernandez's near-post corner, Disasi headed home from two yards out to put the visitors in front.

The lead lasted just four minutes, though, as Joe Aribo made up for squandering an earlier chance by turning home an excellent cross from full-back Kyle Walker-Peters for a deserved equaliser.

But another Lumley mistake – this time while playing out from



the back – allowed Nkunku to score in an empty net and restore Chelsea's lead.

They doubled that advantage just after the half-hour as Madueke's tricky dribbling took him past Ryan Manning before stroking the ball into the far corner.

And what already looked an uphill battle became even harder for Saints when Stephens was dismissed.

Palmer and Tosin Adarabioyo hit the woodwork as Chelsea continued to dominate – and the second half brought further trouble for Russell Martin's struggling side.

Joao Felix headed a simple

chance wide immediately after the break, Tosin again hit the woodwork in the 53rd minute and Palmer, Madueke, and Nkunku all had chances to extend the lead.

It was Palmer who finally did so, scoring his ninth of the season after Nkunku's initial effort had been blocked.

Substitute Sancho then opened his Chelsea account by finishing in a one-on-one chance from Malo Gusto's through ball.

Man City end 7-game winless streak by thumping Forest

By Dave Oludare Oso

Manchester City put their recent disastrous spell behind them as they ended a seven-game winless streak by beating Nottingham Forest.

First-half goals from Bernardo Silva and star man Kevin de Bruyne put Pep Guardiola's side in command by the break, with Jeremy Doku adding a third 12 minutes after the interval.

After six defeats and a 3-3 draw with Feyenoord that must have felt like a loss given City were 3-0 up with 20 minutes left, the delight at successfully reaching the finish line on this occasion was obvious.

It wasn't perfect from the hosts. There were too many miscontrols and stray passes for that.

And if Chris Wood had finished – as it felt the whole stadium expected – when he ran clear from De Bruyne's wayward pass back into his own half instead of rolling the shot wide, Forest would have levelled Silva's eighth-minute tap-in and home nerves would have frayed.

But De Bruyne struck at the other end almost immediately as he edged away from Doku to find enough space to collect his fellow Belgian's short pass and apply the perfect finish.

When Doku found the corner with his own excellent strike from the edge of the area to complete City's joint-biggest margin of victory in the league, in what has turned into a tortuous season, Guardiola's celebration was one of pure relief.

Pep's faith in Ortega rewarded. In his programme notes, Guardiola said it was his job to find solutions to his side's present plight and ominously added: "And I will."



That calls for bold and radical thinking.

In addition to restoring De Bruyne to his starting line-up, Guardiola made a couple of other decisions that turned out to be quite significant.

Firstly, he plonked Jack Grealish into a central spot alongside the Belgian, which allowed him to carry the ball into dangerous positions in the middle of the pitch, creating more space out wide for Doku and Silva and forcing the Forest defence to drop off, opening up room for De Bruyne.

Secondly, he stuck with Stefan Ortega in goal.

Guardiola did say in the build-up Ederson remained his number one pick. But this was the first time since May 2023, when he was manipulating his team for their final push towards a historic Treble, that Ortega started successive Premier League games.

And after ending that long 39-day wait for a victory, there has to be a question over when Ederson will return.

The German made a couple of priceless contributions between City's first-half goals.

It could be argued that by standing his ground, he helped force Wood into the miss on which the entire contest swung.

But before that Ortega had produced a magnificent one-handed stop low to his right to ensure Morgan Gibbs-White did not sweep Jota Silva's cutback into the bottom corner with his sweetly-struck first-time effort.

Ortega wasn't a passenger, even after City had given themselves a three-goal cushion, gathering at the second attempt in a crowded penalty area after blocking Elliot Anderson's powerful effort.

Raphinha double powers Barcelona to dominant win over Mallorca

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Barcelona ended a three-game winless streak with a commanding 4-1 victory over Mallorca, thanks to a brilliant second-half performance led by Raphinha.

After a goalless first half, Raphinha opened the scoring in the 56th minute with a penalty, awarded after Lamine Yamal was fouled in the box. The teenager then turned provider, delivering a stunning cross to Raphinha, who slotted in his second goal of the match, taking his tally to 11 league goals this season.

Frenkie de Jong and Pau Victor completed the dominant win with goals in quick succession, sealing the three points for Barcelona.

The match was marred by a defensive blunder in the 12th minute, allowing



Mallorca to take an early lead through Ferran Torres' strike. However, Mallorca responded late in the first half with Vedat Muriqi's goal, but Barcelona's second-half firepower proved too much.

With Robert Lewandowski starting on the bench, Xavi's tactical

adjustments, including Torres' inclusion, paid off, as the Catalan club moved four points clear of Real Madrid at the top of La Liga.

Barcelona now looks ahead to a crucial trip to Real Betis on Saturday, while Mallorca prepares for a visit to Celta Vigo.

Guardiola denies rift with De Bruyne amid injury struggles

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has rubbished claims of a rift with star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne, affirming his commitment to seeing the Belgian return to his best after an injury-hit campaign.

De Bruyne, 33, has struggled for game time this season, starting just four Premier League matches. Following an abdominal injury, he has managed only 72 minutes across five substitute appearances since his return last month.

During Sunday's 2-0 defeat to Liverpool, De Bruyne entered with 12 minutes remaining and nearly scored, only to be thwarted by goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher. This prompted pundits Jamie Carragher and Gary Neville to question Guardiola's treatment of the midfielder, suggesting tensions between the pair.

Speaking ahead of City's clash with



Nottingham Forest, Guardiola dismissed the speculation.

"People say I've got a problem with Kevin. Do you think I don't want Kevin to play? He's delivered the biggest success in this club's history," said Guardiola.

De Bruyne has endured recurring injuries, including a significant hamstring issue that sidelined him for months last season. With his contract expiring next summer and no talks of an extension yet, De

Bruyne's focus remains on regaining fitness.

"I'd love to have Kevin at his peak, but he's not 26 anymore," Guardiola admitted. "He needs time to find his rhythm after injuries. He's desperate to help us, and his moments of brilliance remind us what he's capable of."

Guardiola's reassurances come as City looks to recover from a challenging run of six defeats and one draw in their last seven games.