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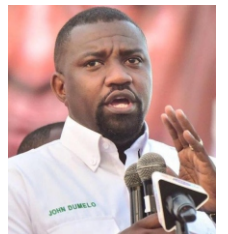
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Terrorists storm Sokoto wedding, abduct bride, 4 bridesmaids

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Terrorists, suspected to belong to the dreaded Bello Turji's gang on Saturday abducted a newly wedded bride and four bridesmaids in the Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

The incident happened at Kwaren Gamba, near Kuka Teke, a village plagued by repeated attacks from armed groups linked to notorious bandits leader, Bello Turji.

According to eyewitnesses, the gunmen stormed the area and forcefully took the victims, causing widespread panic, leaving residents helpless as the assailants disappeared into the night.

Zagazola Makama, a security expert revealed that the community remains in shock, with families of the abductees devastated, and many

expressing despair over the growing insecurity in the region.

"The situation is unbearable, and our people are losing hope," said a local elder who spoke anonymously.

NEW DAILY PRIME had reported days ago that at least 10 persons had were killed by bandits in same Sokoto State.

During that attack, the terrorists stormed Dantudu Lajinge village in the Sabon Birni Local Government Area and slit the throat of nine persons, identified as members of the community's local security outfit, known as vigilante.

The wives of the slain persons were reportedly abducted while the remains of their spouses lay in the pool of blood.

The incident happened on Monday, according to some villagers who escaped the mayhem.

Bello Dan-Tudu, a resident of the village told SaharaReporters that, "they targeted members of our vigilante group and slaughtered nine of them like ordinary rams."

However, another resident, who pleaded to be anonymous, said the 10 persons were shot in the neck at close range, adding that the tenth person survived and was receiving medication at a hospital.

The Chairman of Sabon Birni Local Government Council, Ayuba Hamisu, also confirmed the attack and fatalities.



Tinubu congratulates Ghana's President-elect, Mahama, lauds Ghanaians

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has congratulated Ghana's President-elect, John Dramani Mahama, following his victory in the December 7, 2024 general elections.

In a statement on Sunday by Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, the President extended his best wishes to Mahama after his opponent, Vice President Mahamudu Bawumia conceded defeat in a speech.

During a telephone conversation with the President-elect, Tinubu expressed optimism that Mahama's return to power would foster greater stability within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), where Tinubu currently serves as chairman.

He commended the Ghanaian people for their unwavering commitment to democracy, demonstrated through the peaceful

and transparent conduct of the presidential and parliamentary elections.

"Once again, Ghanaians have shown the world that democracy is the cornerstone of political stability, economic growth, and social justice in Africa," Tinubu said.

Tinubu also lauded Vice President Bawumia for his dignified decision to concede defeat, describing it as a testament to Ghana's deeply rooted democratic ethos.

He further acknowledged Mahama's leadership qualities, noting that his return to Jubilee House, after serving as President from 2012 to 2017, signifies the trust Ghanaians have in his vision to lead the country towards greater progress.

Highlighting Mahama's extensive political career—including his time as Vice President from 2009-

2012, Member of Parliament from 1997-2009, and as a deputy minister—Tinubu expressed confidence in his ability to steer Ghana to new heights.

President Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to deepening its fraternal ties with Ghana, built on shared history, cultural affinity, and a mutual dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and regional economic integration.

Tinubu also praised outgoing President Nana Akufo-Addo for his exemplary leadership and contributions to Ghana's development and regional stability.

He expressed enthusiasm about working with Mahama's administration to strengthen bilateral relations and advance shared goals for a prosperous West Africa.

NYCN @ 60: FG plans national youth development bank

By Agency Reporter

Vice President Kashim Shettima says the Federal Government is working to establish a national youth development bank and a youth data bank.

He said this at the 60th anniversary celebration of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) in Port Harcourt.

Shettima, represented by his Technical Adviser on Women and Youth Engagement, Hauwa Liman, said that the youth development and data bank would ensure that young Nigerians had the resources, information and access they needed to succeed.

He said that the celebration was a moment to reflect on the opportunities before the youths and affirm a commitment to a Nigeria where the youths are not merely bystanders in the journey but participants in shared future.

“This celebration is a privilege and more importantly a responsibility to harness the energy, creativity and talents of the youths to build a prosperous and inclusive nation,” he said.

Shettima said that President Bola Tinubu had assembled some of the finest young people in the country to form the back bone of his government based on his conviction that the future cannot be planned without the young ones at the decision making table.



He said that youth inclusion by Tinubu’s administration was not just a policy but a cornerstone of the administration’s vision for Nigeria.

“Many of the ministers are youths, and for the first time in our political history, the leader of the ruling-All Progressive Congress is fully a representative of the young generation.

“The present administration had prioritised initiatives that empower young Nigerians to excel in education, entrepreneurship and creative and digital industries,” he said.

Shettima stated that the administration had laid transformative programmes, like the Presidential Initiative for Youth Enterprise Clusters backed by N110 billion to support young entrepreneurs across agriculture, technology and industry.

“The youths investment funds continue to provide critical finance

support for startups and small businesses, ensuring that young Nigerians can coin their ideas into driving ventures.

“Education remains a critical area of focus, we recognise that no society can progress without equipment needed, skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a competitive world.

“The student loan scheme and the Nigeria education loan fund are breaking down financial barriers for higher education, ensuring that every Nigerian student has the opportunity to pursue their dreams,” he said.

He urged the youths to use the vast opportunity before them to transform the world, dominate digital economy, creative industry and entrepreneur space.

In a speech, Gov.Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers, said his administration is investing in programmes, projects and policies that intend to showcase the raw talents of Rivers youths and empower them meaningfully.

Nigeria's pension assets surge by N4.26tn in 1 year, reaching N21.92tn

By Gbenga Oluranti **OLALEYE**

Nigeria's contributory pension assets have experienced a significant growth of N4.26 trillion between October 2023 and October 2024, representing a 24.14% increase.

According to the latest data from the National Pension Commission (PenCom), the value of pension assets stood at N21.92 trillion by the end of October 2024, up from N17.66 trillion during the same period in 2023.

PenCom's monthly report highlights that while the overall value of pension assets rose sharply, the asset mix composition remained largely unchanged, with the majority of assets still concentrated in government securities.

Notably, investments in Federal Government securities grew from N11.42 trillion in 2023 to N13.57 trillion in 2024, reflecting a continued preference for secure, government-backed investments.

Other notable increases include funds invested in corporate debt securities, which rose to N2.29 trillion, and money market instruments, which reached N2.20 trillion.

However, investments in mutual funds saw a slight decline, dropping by 5.04% from N112.52 billion in 2023 to N106.85 billion in 2024.



PenCom also reported an increase in the number of retirement savings accounts (RSAs) over the past year, with an additional 394,679 accounts, bringing the total number of RSAs to 10,535,608.

On a month-on-month basis, pension assets grew by N541 billion, from N21.38 trillion in September 2024 to N21.92 trillion in October 2024.

In a related development, PenCom lifted the suspension it had previously placed on pension fund administrators (PFAs) regarding investments in commercial papers.

The suspension was removed following the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) development of new rules to regulate the issuance of commercial

papers. The amendment aims to bring non-bank Institutional Portfolio Administrators (IPAs) under regulatory oversight and ensure capital market stability.

PenCom has urged pension fund administrators to conduct thorough legal and financial due diligence on all commercial paper investments, in line with the commission's regulations.

These developments reflect the continued growth of Nigeria's pension industry, with PenCom's oversight aimed at maintaining stability and ensuring that pension funds are invested prudently to benefit the nation's retirees in the future.

FG rejects claims that tax reform bills marginalise the North

By **Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE**

The federal government has firmly rejected claims that the proposed tax reform bills are designed to marginalise Nigeria's northern region, stressing that the bills are intended to foster national growth and fiscal sustainability.

Speaking on Politics on Sunday, December 8, a TVC programme, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, described the reforms as "pro-poor" and "nationalistic." He urged critics to assess the bills' intent objectively instead of politicising them.

"These bills are not targeted at any section of the country," Akume said.

"I am from the north, and I am 100% supportive of these bills. They followed a proper legislative process, from the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), and finally to the National Assembly."

Akume highlighted several provisions of the reform that aim to benefit the most vulnerable sectors of society. Individuals earning below ₦800,000 annually, along with small businesses with revenues under ₦550 million, will be exempt from taxes. Additionally, sectors such as education and healthcare will remain exempt from Value-Added Tax (VAT).

"These provisions clearly show that the bills are designed to support the poor and encourage economic growth," Akume explained.

The SGF also criticised the opposition for misrepresenting the purpose of the reforms.

He pointed out that many of those opposing the bills had likely not read them and were simply attacking the



legislation for political gain.

"Some are arguing against these bills purely from an opposition perspective, hoping to rally support by spreading misinformation," he said.

Akume further stressed that the reforms would ensure more equitable revenue distribution, particularly benefiting northern states and local governments. Under the new arrangement, states will receive 55% of generated revenues, while local governments will get 35%. With the northern region having a larger number of states and local governments, it stands to gain significantly from these reforms.

"States and local governments in the north will particularly benefit from the new revenue-sharing framework," he said.

The SGF reiterated the importance of the bills in modernising the country's tax system, which has remained largely unchanged for over five decades. He urged Nigerians to focus on the broader objectives of the reforms, including enhancing fiscal stability and promoting economic growth.

"For over 50 years, no attempt has been made to reform our tax system despite its outdated nature. These bills aim to ensure maximum value for the people and move the economy towards prosperity," Akume stated.

While acknowledging the growing resistance to the reforms, Akume attributed it partly to ineffective communication and urged critics to raise concerns through proper channels such as public hearings, rather than resorting to protests.

"Protests do not advance the cause of peace or discourage those who support these reforms," he said.

Reaffirming his faith in the democratic process, Akume expressed confidence that a consensus would eventually emerge to address any outstanding issues with the bills.

"Democracy allows for dialogue, and I believe the circumstances will lead to a consensus. Let's give these bills a chance and see how they can enhance our fiscal sustainability and drive economic growth," he concluded.

FG urges citizens to patronize Nigerian made goods

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Nigerian government has restated the need for citizens to patronize and promote goods made in Nigeria for the sustainable economic development of the country.

The Permanent Secretary, Special Services Office and the Supervising Permanent Secretary, Political and Economic Affairs Office in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mohammed Sanusi Danjuma made the call Saturday at the Regional and State Coordinators Conference of Made-in-Nigeria in Abuja.

Danjuma, who was represented by the Director, International Organization Department, Musiliu Oladunjoye, stated that the conference is a crucial step in Nigeria's journey towards economic growth and development noting that effective collaboration, innovative solutions and capacity building will serve as a booster to the Made-in-Nigeria project.

The Permanent Secretary said, "Today, we gather to strengthen our collective efforts in promoting Made in Nigeria goods and Services.

"This Conference is very crucial step in our journey towards economic growth and development which is in line with the Renewed Hope agenda of the administration of President Bola Tinubu."



The National Coordinator of the Made in Nigeria Project, under the International Organization Department in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, George Nwabueze said that the "Made in Nigeria" project is beyond a slogan, but a movement that has the capacity to boost Nigeria's economic fortune.

He, therefore, urged all Nigerians to take pride in patronising products and services that are homegrown, crafted, and delivered by talented entrepreneurs, artisans and innovators in the country.

He said, "This initiative is a celebration of Nigerian creativity, resilience and the vast potential that lies within our borders.

"The world is watching and the future is ours to build a greater Nigeria. Let us make Nigeria proud as we embark on this viable venture which will eventually transform Nigeria into a paradise."

While delivering his keynote address, Barrister Promise Ogadinma Mbani, the Eastern Coordinator of Made-in-Nigeria Products observed that one of the major setbacks for the 'Made in Nigeria' products is the cultural preference for foreign products.

He advocated for registration, standardisation and promotion of Made-in-Nigeria products and services in the country in order to improve patronage within and outside the shores of the country.

He further emphasized the need to educate, sensitize and create awareness among Nigerians.

Highlights of the event was the inauguration and presentation of state coordinators of the Made in Nigeria project.

Akume urges northern presidential aspirants to wait until 2031

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, has called on Northern politicians with presidential ambitions in 2027 to wait until 2031, when President Bola Tinubu is expected to complete his second term.

Akume made the remarks during an appearance on Television Continental's Politics on Sunday, December 8 programme, hosted by Femi Akande.

The SGF emphasised that those eyeing the presidency in the upcoming election should respect the constitutional mandate of President Tinubu, asserting that his second term should be allowed to run its course.

He stated, "President Tinubu, as a Southerner, should be allowed to have a second term. Those from the North who are looking towards 2027 should look beyond that year and wait until 2031, when the incumbent president has completed his tenure."

In a broader discussion on the government's recent reforms, Akume also urged Nigerians to support the proposed bills currently before the National Assembly, stressing that these reforms, particularly the tax measures, were crucial for the country's long-term economic recovery.

He defended the Tax Reform Bills as well-designed and necessary

for Nigeria's future, and reassured the public that President Tinubu had not lost the goodwill of the people, despite some opposition to recent economic decisions.

"The reforms, including the removal of the fuel subsidy and the harmonisation of foreign exchange windows, are all part of a broader strategy to reposition Nigeria's economy," Akume explained.

"It is easy to destroy, but difficult to build. The changes being introduced are aimed at rebuilding the country after the setbacks caused by previous administrations."

He expressed confidence that Nigerians would soon begin to see the positive effects of these policies.

Akume further addressed speculation regarding the future leadership of the country,

particularly the ambition of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar and other Northern leaders.

While acknowledging that the outcome of the 2027 election is ultimately in God's hands, he stressed that those currently vying for the presidency should focus on the longer term.

"If it is God's will for Alhaji Atiku Abubakar to become President, even at the age of 90, he can achieve it," Akume concluded.

"But for now, those from the North seeking the presidency should look beyond 2027."

This statement underscores the ongoing debate around Nigeria's political landscape as the country looks towards the 2027 presidential elections.



Kidnapped NAN editor regains freedom, narrates ordeal

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An Assistant Editor-in-Chief with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Owerri Office, Mr Gregory Maduakolam, who was reportedly kidnapped on Thursday, has regained his freedom.

Maduakolam announced his release through phone calls to some of his colleagues at about 11:51 p.m. on Saturday.

He explained that he was released after his family had paid an undisclosed amount as ransom to the kidnappers.

He said that he was manhandled by the hoodlums while in their custody.



Maduakolam, who was recently transferred from NAN Abuja to Owerri, narrated that he was ambushed by the hoodlums.

He said he was kidnapped at Irete, near Owerri, where he had gone with a friend and a house agent to inspect an accommodation.

“After inspecting the house, I agreed with the agent on the part payment and other fees I will pay.

“As I was about to board a commercial motorcycle to go back to Owerri, five young men surfaced from the neighbourhood and took me away,” he said.

Mmaduaklom further narrated that the hoodlums seized his cell phone and used it to collect all the money in his bank account.

He expressed gratitude to God and all those who showed concern over the incident, including the management and staff members of NAN.

Lawyer, niece rescued from kidnappers' den in Akwa Ibom forest

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A lawyer and his niece have been rescued from kidnappers by operatives of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command.

According to a trending video, the victims were rescued when the operatives stormed an underground tunnel in a forest, where the victims were held hostage.

The operatives, acting on a tip-off closed in on the place where the lawyer and his niece were kept and strenuously lifted a slab which was rolled over them by their captors, to bring them out of the tunnel.

“Come out all of you, you are saved in Jesus name,” a Police officer’s voice could be heard



saying during the rescue operation.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Akwa Ibom State Command, ASP Timfon John, confirmed the development, adding that the

victims are undergoing medical examination.

“There was rescue oppression by the Command, which was very successful. The victims are undergoing medical examination,” she said.

Reps to Tinubu: Reduce ministers to 37

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Bola Tinubu may soon have to trim his cabinet if the plans by the House of Representatives comes to fruition with the House Committee on Constitution review presently considering a bill to amend the 1999 Constitution to limit the number of ministers appointed by the president to 37.

The bill titled, “A Bill for an Act to Amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Streamline the Number of Ministers to be Appointed to the Federal Executive Council,” is now before the constitution review committee chaired by the Deputy Speaker, Benjamin Kalu.

Sponsored by the members representing Darazo/Ganjuwa and Kaga/Gubio/Magumeri Federal Constituencies of Bauchi and Borno states respectively, the bill seeks to amend Section 147 (1) of the Constitution to read, “There shall be such offices of Ministers of the Government of the Federation, not exceeding 37, as may be established by the President.”

The Federal Executive Council under President Bola Tinubu currently comprises 45 ministers, including substantive ones and Ministers of State.

For ages, the Nigerian president appoints a minister from each of the 36 states of the federation and



also leaves room for other reasons in the composition of his cabinet.

In an interview with Sunday PUNCH, the Bauchi lawmaker, Mansur Soro, highlighted the gap the proposed legislation sought to address.

He said, “The bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to specify the maximum number of ministers to be appointed to the Federal Executive Council to address duplication of duties, minimise the cost of governance, and enhance efficiency to service at the federal level.

“We need to reduce the cost of governance, to address inequality in the number of ministers to be appointed from each state and cases of overlapping mandate of ministers. In my opinion, a minister per state is enough while also considering the Federal Capital Territory.”

The Peoples Democratic Party lawmaker disagreed on the argument that the president may decide to appoint more than two ministers from a state to accommodate technocrats.

Soro added, “The President has tens of other prime agencies of government and extra ministerial parastatals to accommodate technocrats or politicians. Now, Ogun has four ministers against other states that have one each. Is that fair?”

Similarly, the Kalu-led committee is considering a bill seeking to amend Section 62 of the Constitution to allow for the observance of the federal character principle in the composition of the body of principal officers of the National Assembly.

Real reason Emir of Kano's palace was sealed

By Dave Oludare Oso



More facts have emerged on the reasons behind the sealing-off of the entrance gate leading to the palace of the Emir of Kano, Muhammad Sanusi II, on Friday.

Though the Nigeria Police were yet to speak on the matter, a reliable source disclosed that the action carried out by law enforcement agencies was aimed at preventing the breakdown of law and orders in Bichi town, where Emir Sanusi was scheduled to install a district head for the town.

A source, who preferred anonymity, said residents of Bichi town had allegedly mapped out plans to prevent the installation from taking place.

The feelers were, however, not favourable to security operatives, as they swept into action to prevent the Emir of Kano from attending the programme.

It was also believed that the move was taken to prevent invited eminent personalities from visiting Bichi town to attend the same event.

It was learnt that many residents of Bichi town were not happy about the planned installation, querying the rationale behind the idea of a district head.

Some residents, who spoke with our correspondent felt that the planned installation was to demote the town.

According to them, when the five Emirate councils established by former Governor Abdullahi Ganduje were sacked by current Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, he (Governor Yusuf) went ahead to appoint second-class emirs for three of the sacked Emirate councils and excluded Bichi town.

Some of the residents said the reason for their planned resistance to the

Friday's installation was because the governor demoted their kingdom to be ruled by an ordinary district head while the others towns that were sacked alongside are now being ruled by second-class emirs.

Some stakeholders, who spoke under confidence said the police action was a blessing in disguise as the situation could have caused a serious crisis in Bichi town which could have escalated to many communities and even the state capital.

It will be recalled that as of 7 a.m. on Friday, heavily armed policemen took over the entrance leading to Emir Sanusi's Kofar Kudu palace, preventing inward and outward flow of humans and vehicles.

Brazilian meat processing firm to visit Kebbi for livestock investment

By Agency Reporter

JBS S.A. a Brazilian multinational company, one of the largest meat processing firm, will visit Kebbi on Dec. 9, to evaluate potential areas of collaboration and investment on livestock enterprise.

The Kebbi Commissioner for Animal Health, Husbandry and Fisheries, Alhaji Kabiru Usman-Alaramma, made this known while briefing newsmen in Birnin Kebbi on Sunday.

“Today, I am here to share exciting development, which is a result of a trip earlier this year to Brazil by a delegation from Kebbi, led by our Deputy Governor, Sen. Umar Abubakar-Tafida.

During that trip, discussions centered on investment opportunities in livestock development.

“We are now poised to bring those conversations to fruition. The Brazilian delegation, accompanied by officials from the Nigeria In Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), will explore avenues for investment and collaboration in livestock development, meat processing, and animal health in the state,” he said.

Usman-Alaramma explained that, with its vast reputation as a key hub for livestock activities in Africa, the state was emerging to be seen worldwide as a priority destination for serious investors.

“During the visit, the team from NIPC to be headed by the Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Hajiya Aisha Rimi and the Brazilian investors will pay a courtesy call on Gov. Nasir Idris and also visit key areas of livestock development to look at areas of interest and do the

necessary evaluation.

“The visit underscores the ongoing success of Gov. Idris’ leadership, which has focused on fostering partnerships and securing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), that attracts both local and international investment,” he said.

The commissioner called on the people of the state to continue supporting Gov. Idris’ administration, saying, “Your prayers and support are crucial as we continue working toward sustainable growth and development for the state.”

On Nov. 30, there was similar visit to Kebbi by Indonesian Ambassador to Nigeria, Dr. Usra Harahap, aimed at assisting Nigeria achieve 60 and 40 per cent increase in milk and meat production respectively, in the next five years.



Crisis brews in Osun PDP as Oke accuses Adeleke of neglecting Ijesa North

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

A crisis seems to be brewing within the Osun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as Oluwole Oke, a member of the House of Representatives for Ijesa North Federal Constituency, has accused Governor Ademola Adeleke of neglecting the people of Ijesa North since his election in 2022.

Oke, a fifth-term lawmaker and Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, took to Facebook on Sunday, December 8 evening to express his frustration.

In a post titled "Ijesa North People Are Not Stupid," Oke criticised the governor for what he described as a lack of meaningful development in the region, which comprises the Obokun and Oriade local governments.

The lawmaker, who has represented the area for several years, pointed to past administrations, including that of Chief Bisi Akande, who he credited with fixing roads, and Olagunsoye Oyinlola's tenure, which saw the establishment of a university in the region.

He also referenced federal projects initiated during the presidencies of Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan, such as the Armed Forces Games Village and Armed Forces Physical Education Institute in Esa Oke, and the Air Safety Training Institute in Ipetu Ijesa.

Oke acknowledged the contributions of former Governors Rauf Aregbesola and Gboyega Oyetola, citing their development projects, including the Bola Ige Mechatronics Institute in Esa Oke and strategic



appointments of Ijesa natives to key roles.

However, the lawmaker expressed discontent with the current administration, stating that Adeleke's government had delivered minimal development to his constituency.

According to Oke, the only visible impact has been the construction of a 1.5-kilometre road in both Obokun and Oriade local governments.

"The only thing I have seen is 1.5 km of road in each local government, and that's it," Oke lamented.

"No significant development, no key appointments for Ijesa North people."

He also highlighted the electoral importance of Ipetu Ijesa, which he stated is home to over 10,000 voters spread across 54 villages.

Oke warned that the Ijesa North region is crucial to winning any election in the state, urging the

governor and his allies to take the concerns of the people seriously.

Oke went on to criticise some younger politicians in the region, accusing them of pandering to the governor for personal gain.

"For our upcoming young politicians who are playing eye service to Governor Adeleke, I pity you. Ijesa North people will speak, and they will speak louder at the appropriate time," he asserted.

"I have won elections five times through the support of my people, and I will not be silenced."

In a direct address to Governor Adeleke, Oke urged the governor to correct his governance style, noting that Sunday Bisi, the state party chairman, is from Ijesa land, and thus has an opportunity to address these concerns.

"I won't keep quiet," Oke declared.

"We must get what belongs to us."

CNG adoption, key to Lagos' sustainable future, says Sanwo-Olu

By Friday Omosola

Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has reiterated his led administration's commitment to advancing clean energy in Lagos through the adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

In a statement shared on the state government's X page yesterday, the governor disclosed this at the Lagos State Government Pilot CNG Vehicle Conversion Training, organised by IBILE Oil & Gas Corporation (IOGC) at the Lagos Bus Service Limited Workshop in Yaba.

The governor represented by his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, echoed the importance of transitioning to cleaner, safer, and more affordable energy systems.

Sanwo-Olu further explained that the initiative aligns with the state's vision of an energy-secure, environmentally sustainable, and economically thriving Lagos.

He added that CNG adoption is not just an energy solution but a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality, and creating new job opportunities.

"Adopting CNG is a declaration of our resolve to prioritize the well-being of our people and preserve the environment. This initiative exemplifies our Greater Lagos Vision by driving energy security, environmental sustainability, and job creation," Sanwo-Olu said.

Also, the IOGC Managing Director, Doyin Akinyanju

described the project as a significant step towards a greener Lagos.

She stated that the "Train the Trainers" programme is designed to build local capacity for CNG vehicle conversions, ensuring a smooth transition to cleaner energy.

According to Akinyanju, the programme will run through March 2025, with technical support from partner company Landirengo, to provide continuous assistance to trained technicians and workshop partners for up to 18 months.

She revealed that four CNG refuelling stations are set to be operational by March 2025 at the LAMATA Ojota and Ajah terminals, the LAWMA Ijora Depot, and a location in Yaba.

These facilities, she said will

service the state's incoming fleet of 2,000 CNG-powered buses, as well as converted public vehicles and trucks.

Akinyanju noted that plans are underway to establish 11 more stations across Lagos by early 2026.

The IBILE Oil & Gas Corporation is tasked with spearheading the state's exploration of alternative fueling options, aiming for efficiency, safety, and environmental sustainability.

The launch of this initiative signifies a bold move towards a cleaner and more efficient transportation sector, paving the way for a sustainable future in Lagos.



New COVID variant not in Nigeria – FG

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Federal Government has declared that there is no evidence of new COVID variant, XEC in Nigeria.

NEW DAILY PRIME recalls that the variant, first reported in Australia, has spread to 29 countries, raising alarms over its heightened virulence.

However, the Ministry of Health, in a statement on Saturday by the Deputy Director of Information and Public Relations, Alabi Balogun, said Nigerians should not panic but continue taking precautions by observing personal hygiene.

Balogun said the government had also taken precautionary measures by establishing molecular laboratories, isolation

centres, and intensive care units equipped with ventilators at the federal tertiary hospitals.

He advised Nigerians not to panic but to continue with the universal precautions of observing personal hygiene, including regular washing of hands.

“You may recall that a newly detected COVID variant, XEC, was reported in Australia and has spread to about 29 countries globally and has shown a more virulence over other circulating strains with concern over its possible impact on service delivery in our federal tertiary hospitals.

“However, the good news is that there is no evidence of COVID variant XEC in Nigeria.

“The federal ministry of health and social welfare, through her agencies, has stepped up surveillance, including at all entry points to Nigeria.

“The federal government has proactively upgraded our federal tertiary hospitals by establishing molecular laboratories, isolation centres, and intensive care units equipped with ventilators.

“Since the COVID variant XEC has not been detected in Nigeria, it has therefore become imperative to correct the misinformation and fear of the general public concerning the resurgence of COVID-19 in Nigeria,” the statement read.



Katsina Police rescue 20 victims, foil two kidnap attempts

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



The Police Command of Katsina State has announced that it has foiled two separate kidnap attempts in Jibia and Faskari local government areas of the state.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Abubakar Sadiq, who spoke during a briefing newsmen on Sunday, said the command also rescued 20 kidnapped victims during the operations on Saturday in these areas.

ASP Abubakar Sadiq said the first incident occurred on December 7th, 2024, at about 19:00 hours at Kwanar Makera along the Katsina–Magamar Jibia road in Jibia LGA.

A group of armed bandits, wielding dangerous weapons such as AK-47 rifles, opened fire on a moving

vehicle, attempting to abduct the occupants.

“However, operatives of the command attached to the Jibia Divisional Police Headquarters, acting on a tip-off, swiftly responded and engaged the bandits in a gun duel, forcing them to abandon their mission and flee the scene with gunshot injuries. All 10 occupants of the vehicle were successfully rescued unharmed.

“In a similar incident, on the same date at about 20:30 hours at Marabar Bangori, along the Funtua–Gusau road in Faskari LGA, suspected armed bandits laid an ambush on a motor vehicle carrying passengers. The command’s operatives, alerted to the situation, quickly mobilised and stormed the scene, engaging the bandits in a fierce gun duel. Due

to superior firepower, the bandits abandoned their heinous plan and fled the scene, with all the passengers successfully rescued.

“Unfortunately, one of the rescued victims was rushed to the hospital due to severe assault inflicted on him by the assailants. The victim is currently responding to medical treatment.

“The Commissioner of Police, Katsina State Command, CP Aliyu Abubakar Musa, psc†, while commending the gallantry and professionalism displayed by the officers, charged them to sustain the tempo in the ongoing fight against all forms of crime and criminality in the state, reiterating the command’s commitment to ensuring the safety and security of the people of the state,” Sadiq said.

Types of houses N50m can buy in Lagos

By Friday Omosola

Over the years, Nigeria's economic challenges have deepened, yet Lagos remains a beacon of opportunity. Known as one of Africa's most developing cities, it continues to lure people nationwide seeking investment, business prospects, and a place to call home.

Lagos boasts of a thriving real estate market, offering a variety of choices for potential homeowners.

With a budget of N50 million, options range from stylish apartments in bustling hubs to spacious duplexes in tranquil neighbourhoods.

But how far does N50 million go in this high-demand, diverse housing market?

In this article, New Daily Prime examines the kinds of properties N50 million can buy in Lagos, identifying the neighbourhoods they're found in, as listed on popular real estate platforms.

3-Bedroom Semi-Detached Duplex with BQ

Location: Vantage Court, Richland Garden, Beachwood Estate, Bogije, Ibeju Lekki, Lagos.

Situated near Omu Resort, Lakowe Lakes & Golf Country, Eleko Beach, Beachwood Estate, and Amen Estate, this duplex offers modern comfort with a 1-minute tiled access from the road and double security clearance. The property includes a swimming pool, gym, restaurant, mini-stadium, and a well-structured drainage system for convenience and luxury.

Selling Price: ₦45 million
Agent: Property Centre

Luxury Carcass 3-Bedroom Semi-Detached Duplex with Boys' Quarters

Location: Richland Estate, Ibeju Lekki, Lagos.

Nestled in a serene, access-controlled estate, this semi-detached duplex boasts spacious, en-suite rooms and is strategically located near attractions like Omu Resort, Lakowe Golf Course, and Eleko Beach.

The property also features a recreational centre, security surveillance, and a fenced, gated estate to ensure privacy and safety.

Price: ₦50 million
Agent: Property Centre

2 Bedroom Bungalow

Location: Morekete, Off Bayeku Road, Igbogbo, Ikorodu, Lagos.

This charming 2-bedroom bungalow sits on a half plot of land and features a gated and fenced perimeter.

It includes two bathrooms, two toilets, and ample parking for two cars, providing a comfortable and practical living space for families.

Price: ₦20 million
Agent: Property Centre



Luxury Serviced 1-Bedroom Apartment

Location: Ologolo, Lekki, Lagos.

It is located in a serene environment, this fully serviced 1-bedroom apartment comes with all rooms ensuite and is finished with stamped concrete floors and a POP ceiling.

It includes a fitted open-plan kitchen, water heater, and water treatment system, and offers 24-hour electricity and security for a stress-free lifestyle.

Price: ₦44 million
Agent: Property Pro

Exotic 2-Bedroom Apartment with BQ & Pool

Location: Abraham Adesanya Estate, Ajah,

Lagos.

This premium 2-bedroom apartment comes with boys' quarters and features a swimming pool, a spacious compound, a stylish kitchen, and a balcony that complements its serene location.

The property also boasts of clean water, ample parking space, and high-quality finishes, making it a desirable choice for urban living.

Price: ₦43 million
Agent: Property Pro

Exotic 1-Bedroom Apartment with Pool

Location: Ologolo, Lekki, Lagos.

This luxurious 1-bedroom apartment is designed for elegance and comfort, featuring a swimming pool, spacious layout, all ensuite rooms, a dining area, and a balcony.

The fully fitted kitchen and built-in speakers add a modern touch, while 24/7 security ensures safety in this serene environment.

Price: ₦45 million
Agent: Property Pro

Exotic Block of 1-Bedroom Ensuite Apartments

This is located at Ologolo, Lekki, Lagos.

This block of 1-bedroom ensuite apartments is located in a gated and secure estate.

Each apartment features a fitted kitchen, one bedroom with a bathroom, a guest toilet, and a balcony, making it a functional and attractive investment opportunity.

Price: ₦45 million
Agent: Property Pro

These and many more properties, as listed on other real estate platforms, offer diverse options for homebuyers and investors in Lagos.

Investing in real estate in Lagos is not just about owning a property but also securing a valuable asset in a city where demand consistently drives appreciation.

Given the unpredictability of Nigeria's economic landscape, real estate stands out as a relatively stable and resilient investment.

Tacha erases Davido's tattoo over rift as fans differ

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Tacha, the popular star from the reality show Big Brother Naija, has officially removed Davido's tattoo from her chest. This bold move marks the latest chapter in their lingering disagreement which has captured the attention of their fans and the media alike.

The fallout between Tacha and Davido began earlier this year. According to reports from the New Daily Prime, tensions escalated in October 2023 when Tacha confronted Davido over a controversial tweet.

The reality star took issue with Davido liking a tweet that many deemed shady, particularly because it involved her colleague, Phyna. Tacha felt that Davido's endorsement of the tweet was a slight against her and her team.

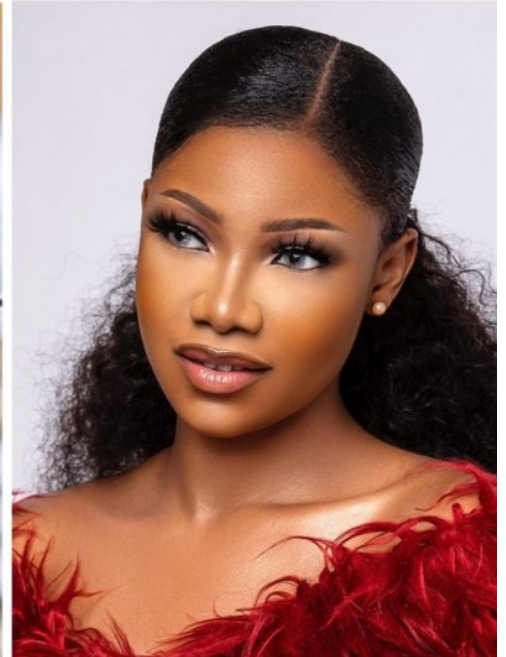
In response to Tacha's criticism, Davido retaliated by liking another tweet that subtly criticized Tacha.

This exchange sparked a public altercation between the two, leading to widespread speculation about the state of their relationship. Fans were quick to take sides, igniting discussions across various social media platforms.

Amid the growing tension, Tacha made a significant announcement. She vowed to remove the tattoo of Davido's face that she had proudly displayed on her chest.

The tattoo, which became a symbol of their relationship, was a constant reminder of the bond they once shared. However, with their friendship in tatters, Tacha decided it was time to make a clear statement by getting the tattoo removed.

The removal process was documented in a trending video on Tacha's Instagram page. In the video, Tacha,



who has recently moved to the United Kingdom(UK) shares the detailed procedure of how she had the tattoo taken out.

The video has garnered millions of views, reflecting the public's keen interest in the saga between the two celebrities.

Tacha's decision to remove the tattoo is not just a personal choice but also a public declaration of her feelings towards Davido. By sharing the removal process on Instagram, she has allowed her fans to witness this significant change in her life.

The video has sparked numerous discussions, with many applauding her for taking control of her narrative and making bold decisions in the face of adversity.

The origins of the tattoo date back to 2019 when Tacha first entered the Big Brother Naija house. Before joining the show, she got a tattoo of Davido's face, symbolizing her admiration and the budding friendship between them. At the time, the tattoo was a testament to their close bond and mutual respect.

However, as time passed, misunderstandings and disagreements led to the deterioration of their

relationship.

Since the fallout, both Tacha and Davido have remained in the public eye, each continuing to build their respective careers. Tacha has been focusing on her endeavours in the UK, while Davido continues to dominate the Nigerian music scene. Despite their professional successes, the personal rift between them remains a topic of interest for many.

Fans of both stars have expressed their opinions on the situation. Many support Tacha's decision, seeing it as a necessary step towards healing and moving forward. Others sympathize with Davido, believing that misunderstandings can be resolved through open communication. Social media is abuzz with debates, memes, and heartfelt messages from fans on both sides.

Industry experts have weighed in on the matter, highlighting the impact of public disputes on celebrity relationships. Dr. Adeola Johnson, a media analyst, stated, "Public feuds like this can significantly affect the personal and professional lives of the individuals involved. It's important for celebrities to handle such situations with care to maintain their public image and personal well-being."

Popular actor, John Dumelo wins Parliamentary seat in Ghana

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Ghanaian actor, businessman and politician, John Dumelo has won parliamentary seat in West Wuogon, Ghana.

John is the first NDC candidate to win a seat in the Ayawaso West of Ghana after 24 years.

Dumelo won by defeating his opponent from the New Patriotic Party (NPP) in a closely contested race.

The actor first attempted to win the seat in 2020 but narrowly lost to Mrs. Lydia Alhassan of the NPP.

In this year's election, Dumelo garnered 47,560 votes, defeating incumbent Alhassan, who

secured 39,214 votes.

His campaign this time around captivated youths as it reflected a desire for social change, job creation, and empowerment for youth and women.

Some key areas he promised to touch if elected include local infrastructure, education, and any sector that would provide opportunities for young people in the constituency.

Speaking after he was declared winner, the actor said, "This victory is not just for me, but for the people of Ayawaso West. I am committed to ensuring that we build a stronger, more prosperous community together."

Dumelo has starred in so many movies and is a prominent face in Nollywood and Ghollywood.

Some of his movies include 4Play, 40 Looks Good on You, A Northern Affair, Adams Apples, A Private Storm, A Night with Her, After the Wedding, Black Men Rock, Blackmoney, and Beautiful Ruins, to mention a few.

Mr. Dumelo is one of the biggest producers of coco yam in Ghana.



Trump vows to end birthright citizenship in US

By Dave Oludare Oso

In what would be a piece of distressing news to people, including Nigerians, who flock to the United States to give birth, with the sole purpose of bestowing American citizenship on the babies, the President-elect, Donald Trump said in an interview aired Sunday he would end birthright citizenship, calling the policy ‘ridiculous.’

Trump also said he would “have to” deport all undocumented immigrants in the US.

The former president spoke during NBC’s “Meet the Press” just as he doubled down on his campaign promises which included ending birthright citizenship.

The programme, moderated by

Kristen Welker, touched on just about every major policy he has proposed for his second term, including imposing new tariffs, tackling inflation and mass deportations.

This was Trump’s first network interview since defeating Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 election, giving people the clearest idea yet of how he plans to govern once he takes office.

According to NBC News, Trump said he would end birthright citizenship “If we can, through executive action,” he stated, calling the policy “ridiculous.”

He opined that he might use

executive action on his first day but also mentioned the possibility of a constitutional amendment. “We have to end it,” Trump said.

Trump also threatened to leave NATO “absolutely” if allies didn’t “pay their bills.”

“They have to pay their bills,” Trump told reporters,” saying he would “absolutely” consider taking the United States out of the alliance unless members are “treating us fairly.”

Trump has been stating hard positions since he got elected for a second non-consecutive term as the President of the United States.



PICTORIAL: Ex-Syrian President, Assad in Moscow, granted asylum

By Dave Oludare Oso

Syria's former President, Bashar al-Assad and his family have arrived in Russia and have been granted asylum by the Russian authorities, Russian news agencies reported on Sunday, citing a Kremlin source.

The Interfax news agency quoted the unnamed source as saying: "President Assad of Syria has arrived in Moscow. Russia has granted them (him and his family) asylum on humanitarian grounds."



198,000 Russians, 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed on battlefield – Report

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An unsavoury report has revealed that since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, at least 43,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed on the battlefield.

According to the reports, updated figures also reveal that Russia has suffered over 750,000 casualties, including 198,000 killed and more than 550,000 wounded.

This comes as Volodymyr Zelensky, the Ukrainian President, in a post via his verified X account on Sunday, said that the war had also resulted in over 370,000 cases of medical assistance for wounded Ukrainian troops.

“Our people are defending their homes at the cost of their lives, and every life of our soldiers and our civilians is precious to us,” Zelensky said, according to AFP.

Zelensky emphasized that the Russian army's losses have been significantly higher in recent months.

“Since September this year, Russia has been losing troops on the battlefield at a ratio of 5-to-1, or even 6-to-1, compared to us,” he stated.

Despite the immense toll, Zelensky highlighted a critical difference between the two forces.

“One of the key distinctions between the Russian army and Ukraine's Defence Forces is the level of frontline medicine, which is significantly higher in our forces.



Approximately half of our soldiers wounded in action are later returning to the battlefield,” he said.

Zelensky also addressed the humanitarian crisis caused by the war, noting that thousands of Ukrainians remain in Russian captivity.

“Since February 24, 2022, we have already managed to bring 3,935 of our people home—3,767 soldiers and 168 civilians. But we must bring everyone back, and much work remains to be done.”

He expressed particular concern for children abducted by Russia, stating, “Russians themselves admit that these abducted children number in the hundreds of thousands, dispersed across their territory. Returning them is the most challenging task.”

During meetings with global leaders, including a visit to French President Emmanuel Macron and discussions with U.S. President-

elect Donald Trump, Zelensky reiterated the need for lasting peace.

“We need a just and enduring peace—one that the Russians will not be able to destroy in a few years, as they have done repeatedly in the past.”

Zelensky warned against trusting Russian intentions without guarantees.

He said, “A ceasefire without guarantees can be reignited at any moment, as Putin has already done before.

”We must guarantee the reliability of peace and not turn a blind eye to occupation.”

He concluded by urging global unity to counter Russian aggression, saying “Putin can only be stopped by strength—the strength of world leaders who can become leaders of peace.”

Burkina Faso junta names new PM after sacking government

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A day after dissolving government, Burkina Faso's military junta has announced a new premier. Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo served as communication minister and spokesman of the previous government.

The head of Burkina Faso's military junta named former communications minister Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo as prime minister late on Saturday.

The appointment comes one day after the country's ruling military leader Captain Ibrahim Traore dismissed outgoing premier Apollinaire Joachim Kyelem de Tambela and dissolved the government.

No reason was given for his removal. Tambela had headed three

successive governments since Traore seized power in a 2022 coup.

Who is Rimalba Jean Emmanuel Ouedraogo?

Ouedraogo, who served in Tambela's cabinet, is a journalist by trade.

He was formerly editor-in-chief and later director of the Sahel country's state television network.

Ouedraogo is also a close ally of Traore.

After the September 2022 coup, Traore tapped Ouedraogo to serve as communications minister and government spokesperson.

He remained key civilian figure in the military administration and remained in the role across three

cabinet reshuffles.

Political instability in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso country has been grappling with instability since a January 2022 coup led by Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba.

Damiba was then overthrown by Traore around eight months later.

Under Traore, the West African country, along with its fellow junta-led neighbors in Mali and Niger, has distanced itself from former colonial ruler France and pivoted towards Russia instead.

Palmer's panenka seals Chelsea comeback win at Spurs

By Dave Oludare Oso

Cole Palmer's ice-cool 'Panenka' penalty sealed Chelsea's stunning comeback as they came from two goals behind to win at Tottenham.

Strikes from Jadon Sancho and Enzo Fernandez and two spot-kicks from Palmer sank Spurs, who made a fast start but then fell apart and suffered a defeat that adds to the recent agony for under-fire manager Ange Postecoglou.

Dominic Solanke and Dejan Kulusevski had put Tottenham 2-0 up in 11 minutes, but by the time Son Heung-min added their third in stoppage time the game had slipped away from them.

Chelsea's win moves them to just four points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool, whose game at Everton on Saturday was postponed because of Storm Darragh.

Spurs dominated the early proceedings in a breathless start at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

Summer signing Solanke poked home the opening goal inside five minutes after Brennan Johnson capitalised on a slip from Marc Cucurella.

Spain international Cucurella slipped again six minutes later to allow Kulusevski to drive at the Chelsea defence and finish inside Robert Sanchez's near post.

That was the cue for Cucurella to gesture to the bench that he needed substitute boots, having struggled to stay on his feet, at great cost.

Momentum gradually began to shift, and Chelsea winger Sancho dribbled past Pedro Porro and Radu Dragusin before curling a terrific low shot in off the right post.

The comeback was under way, but Chelsea had an escape when Pape Matar Sarr headed against the bar from a corner.

Chelsea's second-half surge came amid a spate of injuries for Tottenham. They lost key defenders Cristian

Romero and Micky van de Ven – who both returned for this important game but could not last the distance – and winger Johnson.

Palmer profited as the Spurs defence hopelessly lost their focus.

The England forward converted his first penalty just after the hour mark as Yves Bissouma brought down Moises Caicedo with a wild lunge, and the second was won by Palmer when Sarr needlessly shoved him over.

Palmer's cheekily chipped finish from that second spot-kick rubbed salt into Spurs wounds.

Between the two penalties, Fernandez had cracked in a thumping shot after Palmer's initial effort was blocked. It all meant that Son's late goal from a short corner routine was merely a consolation.

Spurs sit 11th, while Chelsea march on into a title race, Palmer leading the way.

