

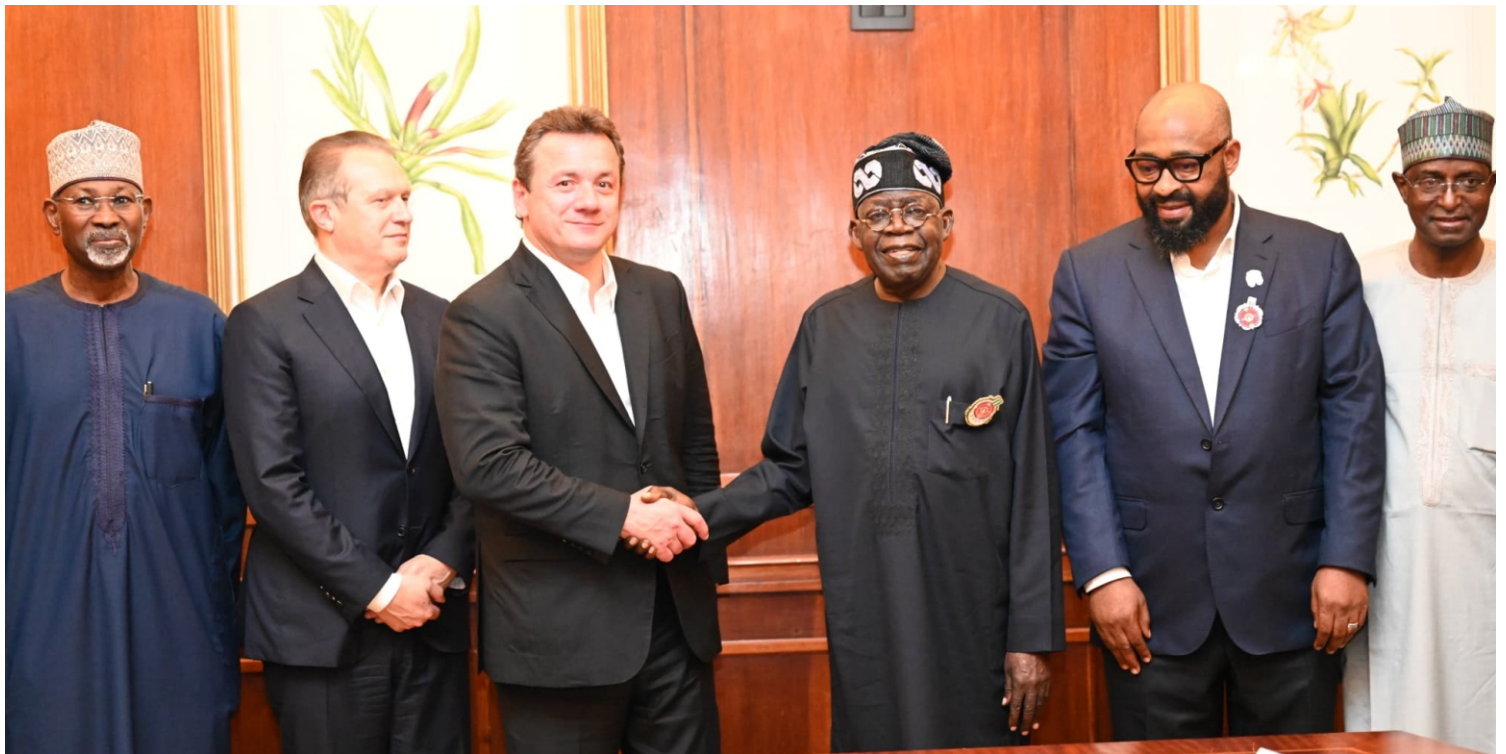
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FG, Nigerians seek Simon Ekpa's extradition

We don't know him – IPOB

By Dave Oludare Oso

Finland-based Biafran agitator, Simon Ekpa may soon find himself in his birth country as the Federal Government plans to apply for his extradition to Nigeria to face various criminal charges.

This was disclosed by the Director of Defence Information, Brig Gen Tukur Gusau, who gave indication on Thursday that the extradition of the leader of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the paramilitary wing of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) is top on the agenda of the government given the negative and criminal influence his actions and statements have unleashed on the country.

Ekpa, a self-proclaimed disciple of IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kanu, has been the one fueling the killings and sit-at-home in the South East, leading to a huge human and economic loss for the people and the region, in defiance of his boss, Kanu's order.

Also, many Nigerians online demanded his repatriation to Nigeria to face terrorism charges.

Interestingly, IPOB has dissociated itself from the embattled Biafran separatist, asserting it had no relationship with him.

Ekpa is one of the 97 individuals declared wanted by the Defence Headquarters in March 2024.

The Finland-based Biafran agitator used to be a close ally of the IPOB leader, Nnamdi Kanu, who is facing charges of terrorism, treasonable felony, and inciting violence through his Radio Biafra, amongst others.

He has been in the custody of the Department of State Services since 2021 when he was arrested in Kenya and brought back to Nigeria.



However, Daniel Bwala, a presidential spokesman, said President Bola Tinubu and the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, have yet to be briefed on the arrest of Ekpa.

Bwala said, "The procedure is that the (Nigerian) Embassy in Finland has to have the information and it would brief the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the minister might brief the NSA or the President."

Finland's Central Criminal Police arrested Ekpa and four others were arrested in Finland on charges related to terrorism on Thursday.

A report said the District Court of Pääjät-Häme, Finland, ordered that Ekpa be imprisoned "with probable cause on suspicion of public incitement to commit a crime with terrorist intent."

Speaking on the development in a statement on Thursday, Gusau said the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Chris Musa, was pleased with the trial of the ESN leader.

Gusau wrote, "CDS is happy with his

arrest in Finland, with the hope this will be a step towards his extradition to Nigeria so that he will face justice."

Ekpa, a Finnish citizen of Nigerian origin, was accused of inciting crimes with terrorist intent, while the other suspects face charges of financing terrorism.

He was arrested in February 2023 for his inciting comments and sit-at-home orders to the people of the South-East.

Before his arrest, thousands of Nigerians worldwide signed a petition appealing to the Finnish and Nigerian governments and the European Union to arrest Ekpa.

Ekpa had asked the people to boycott the 2023 general poll, insisting there would be no election in the region.

Worried by his activities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Finnish Ambassador to Nigeria, Leena Pylvanainen, over his threats to stop the 2023 general election in the South-East.

The ministry sought the Finnish government's cooperation to arrest Ekpa over threats to disrupt the exercise.

Moniepoint Management visits Shettima

Agency Reporter

The Vice President, Kashim Shettima on Friday received the leadership team of @moniepointng, led by its Chief Executive Officer, Tosin Eniolorunda, on a courtesy visit to the Presidential Villa.

The meeting highlighted @moniepointng's remarkable achievements in the financial technology sector, its commitment to advancing financial inclusion, and its ongoing collaborations with law enforcement agencies to combat financial fraud.

In his remarks, the Vice President congratulated the @moniepointng team on achieving unicorn status, lauding their innovative approach to leveraging technology to solve financial challenges.

He acknowledged the company's impressive growth trajectory, its workforce of over 3,000 employees, and its contribution to the country's vision of



building a \$1 trillion economy.

Other members of the delegation include, Babatunde Olofin, MD, Moniepoint MFB; @DidiUwem, VP, Corporate Affairs; Abdulmumin

Tijjani, Regional Manager, North West; Efemena Ogie, Head of Partnerships; @RossStrike, SVP, InvInvestor Relationship and M&A and Ravi Sharma, Partner, @LightrockGlobal (Investors in Moniepoint).

6-year single term bill: We won't give up – 34 Reps

By Dave Oludare Oso

The 34 members of House of Representatives who sponsored the rejected bill to amend the 1999 Constitution to provide for a six-year single term for the president have resolved to reintroduce the bill.

The bill sought the introduction of a six-year single term for the president, governors and local government chairmen, zonal rotation of presidential and governorship seats, as well as holding all elections in one day.

But the bill was rejected on Thursday November 21 during plenary.

However, Ikenga Ugochinyere (PDP-Imo) who is leading lawmakers championing the bill said in a statement in Abuja on Friday vowed that the bill would be represented.

Ugochinyere said that all hope was not



on the bill, as more consultations would be done.

According to the lawmaker, the rejection of the bill on the floor of the house would not put an end to agitation and hope, insisting that the objective behind the bill would be realized.

“The struggle to reform our constitutional democracy to be all-inclusive and provide an avenue for

justice, equity and fairness has not been lost.

“The decision on the floor of the house yesterday (Thursday) not to allow the bill for six-year single tenure and all elections to hold in one day will not end the agitation,” he said.

Ugochinyere described the rejection of the bill as a temporary setback that would not affect the campaign for an all-inclusive democratic process.

“We are going to review this decision and find possible ways of reintroducing it after, following due legislative procedures.

“All I can tell Nigerians is that we will continue the advocacy and convince our colleagues to see reason with us.

Tinubu seals livestock development deal with global meat giant JBS S.A

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to leveraging international and local investments in Nigeria's livestock sector to address farmer-herder conflicts, eradicate hunger, and drive economic growth.

Bayo Onanuga, the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy in a statement on Friday said he made this declaration on Thursday in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during the signing of a Letter of Intent between the Nigerian government and JBS S.A., one of the world's top three meat processing companies.

President Tinubu highlighted the transformative potential of this partnership, describing it as a solution to a long-standing crisis in Africa.

"We are solving a problem that has caused bloodshed and tragedy, turning it into an economic opportunity. This partnership symbolizes hope in the face of adversity," the President said.

He urged JBS S.A. to explore the vast \$2.5 billion livestock investment opportunities in Nigeria, emphasising the nation's large population and economic potential.

Mr Tinubu assured the company's executives of profitable returns on their investments, stating, "Food



security is critical. There is hunger now, but with partners like you, there is also hope."

Before the President's visit, a Nigerian delegation, led by the Minister of Livestock Development, Idi Muhktar Mahia, conducted a study tour in Sao Paulo.

The team explored livestock development, meat processing, and advanced agricultural technologies. Minister Mahia reported that JBS S.A. stood out among other companies due to its scale and zero-waste practices.

The company processes 33,000 cattle and over eight million birds daily and operates in over 50 countries, employing more than 200,000 people globally.

Wesley Batista, founder and President of JBS S.A., expressed enthusiasm about the partnership.

"We are excited to work with Nigeria to develop its livestock industry. We see Nigeria as a future hub for protein supply in Africa and are eager to begin operations soon," he said.

The Nigerian delegation included key stakeholders such as the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Aliyu Sabi Abdullahi; Co-chairman of the Presidential Livestock Reform Committee, Professor Attahiru Jega; the Committee's Secretary, Professor Mohammed Kuta Yahya; and the Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council, Aisha Rimi.

This initiative aligns with the Mr Tinubu administration's broader agenda to attract global partnerships and investments, ensuring sustainable solutions to food insecurity and agricultural challenges.

Why Nigerians must pay for new national ID card – NIMC

By Dave Oludare Oso

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has said Nigerians will have to pay for the new multipurpose national Identity card due to limited government revenue.

Explaining this at a two-day roundtable organised for journalists in Lagos, the Head of Card Management Services at NIMC, Dr Peter Iwegbu, said the payment was to ensure that it was produced for only those who needed it.

Iwegbu said the decision was made to avoid repeating the mistake of the past efforts to issue physical cards to Nigerians for free, which many did not collect.

Iwegbu said over two million cards were produced in a previous attempt to issue free national ID cards by the NIMC, but many of them had not been collected till date.



“The government’s limited revenue is also a major factor in the decision to make Nigerians pay for the new ID card,” he said.

Iwegbu explained that the government could not fund the production of ID cards due to limited revenue.

Also speaking, the Director of Information Technology at NIMC, Mr Lanre Yusuf, said the idea of a free national ID card did not turn out well in the past.

Yusuf described the new ID card as a post-paid identity card, which meant that individuals must need the card before initiating a request for it.

“To get the new national ID card, Nigerians will need to make a payment, select a pickup location, and then collect their card from the chosen location.

“The government has implemented programmes to make the card accessible to the less privileged Nigerians who cannot afford it but require it to access government support.

“This initiative demonstrates the government’s commitment to inclusivity and equality,” Yusuf said.

Finance Minister highlights civil service’s role in macroeconomic reforms

By Helen Okechukwu

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, has underscored the critical role of Nigeria’s civil service in implementing President Bola Tinubu’s ambitious macroeconomic reforms.

Speaking at the launch of the Federal Civil Service Policies and Guidelines and the commemoration of Didi Esther Walson-Jack’s 100 days in office as Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Mr Edun described the civil service as the backbone of national progress.

Addressing a gathering at the Federal Ministry of Finance auditorium, the Minister outlined the administration’s reform agenda, which aims to reduce inflation, spur economic growth, create jobs, and alleviate poverty.



He called on civil servants to rise to the challenge, noting that their competence, discipline, and determination are key to successfully executing these reforms.

“You are the implementers. Your role is central to the success of our economic transformation”, he said.

Mr Edun acknowledged the discomfort brought about by subsidy removal but

emphasised its long-term benefits, highlighting the significant resources—equivalent to 5% of Nigeria’s GDP—freed for reinvestment in infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

These areas, he noted, are critical for sustainable national development.

The Minister also spotlighted the shift in Nigeria’s economic structure from dependency on rent-seeking to genuine value creation.

He pointed to growth opportunities in agriculture, manufacturing, and exports, noting that Nigerian products are increasingly gaining traction across Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

Nigerian govt monitoring Simon Ekpa's trial in Finland

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigerian Government has spoken on the arrest and trial of Simon Ekpa, the self styled Prime Minister of the Biafra Republic Government-in-Exile.

Recall that Ekpa was arrested and remanded in prison on Thursday in Finland on suspicion of inciting terrorism and promoting violence.

Reacting, FG said it is closely monitoring legal proceedings.

Ekpa was taken into custody by Finnish authorities on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

The Finnish District Court of Päijät-Häme decided to keep Ekpa detained on probable cause, citing his alleged role in inciting violence in southeastern Nigeria through the social media.

In a statement issued on Friday by the spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kimiebi Ebienu, the Nigerian Government expressed its commitment to tracking the progress of Ekpa's legal case.



The government emphasized the significance of the proceedings in addressing the influence of the Indigenous People of Biafra, IPOB, and transnational actors on Nigeria's national security.

Previously, Nigerian authorities had applied diplomatic pressure on Finland to take action against Ekpa's activities, which have been associated with violent incidents in Nigeria's South-East region.

According to the statement, the Nigerian Government will continue to provide further updates on the legal process as the

case unfolds, and also ensure that Ekpa's actions, which have contributed to unrest in Nigeria, are properly addressed under Finnish law.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to confirm the arrest of Mr Simon Njoku Ekpa, a Nigerian-Finnish citizen and prominent leader of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), by Finnish authorities on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

"He was charged with inciting terrorism and promoting violence. The Finnish District Court of Päijät-Häme ruled to detain him on probable cause for publicly inciting crimes with terrorist intent.

"The Ministry wishes to affirm that the arrest of Mr Simon Ekpa is a significant development in addressing the activities of IPOB, and also neutralising the influence of transnational actors and their impact on our national security.

"The Ministry will continue to monitor the legal proceedings and provide further updates as the case progresses," the statement read.

Bank of Industry Set to Disburse N120 Billion to MSMEs by Year-End

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALAYE

The Bank of Industry (BoI) has revealed plans to disburse N120 billion to two million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) across Nigeria by the end of 2024. This initiative forms part of the bank's ongoing strategy to stimulate economic growth by providing affordable capital to businesses.

BoI provides loans to MSMEs at single-digit interest rates, offering a significant contrast to the 35% interest rates charged by commercial banks, particularly in light of the recent increase in the Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) Monetary Policy Rate (MPR).

At a press conference in Lagos marking the bank's 65th anniversary, Olasupo Olusi, the Managing Director and CEO of BoI, discussed the bank's achievements. He disclosed that BoI had raised €2 billion (approximately N3.4 trillion) from international institutions, bolstering its capacity to support Nigerian businesses.

Shekarau Omar, BoI's Executive Director for MSMEs, highlighted the crucial role MSMEs play in Nigeria's economic development. Estimated at 40 million in number, MSMEs contribute 46.32% to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and account for 87.9% of employment, despite 89.4% of them operating within the informal sector.

Omar further emphasised BoI's continued support for the sector, pointing out that in 2023, the bank exceeded its target by disbursing N64 billion to 1,000,250 MSMEs, surpassing its original goal of N54 billion. In 2024, BoI has already disbursed N107 billion to over 1.5 million MSMEs and is on track to reach N115-120 billion by December.



2027: Step aside for younger candidates, Bode George tells Atiku

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former Deputy National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Bode George, has urged Atiku Abubakar, the party's presidential candidate in the 2023 election, to abandon any plans of running for president again in 2027.

In a video that surfaced online, George reminded Atiku of his numerous attempts to clinch the presidency since 1993, advising him to step aside for younger candidates.

“You’ve been contesting since 1993, don’t waste your time again in 2027. Give others a chance. Nigeria needs fresh faces and ideas,” George said in the video.

The PDP chieftain, who was addressing a press conference at his Ikoyi, Lagos office on Thursday, urged Atiku to assume the position of an elder in the nation and leave his bid to posterity.

George said, “To Atiku, my advice is this, you will be 81 years old in 2027, and you have been contesting for the presidency since 1993. This is the time for you to calm down and act like an elder. I appeal to you in the name of the Almighty Allah that you serve, to take it easy and leave everything for posterity.”

George decried that the PDP was on the verge of crumbling because people uplifted their personal interest and individual ambition above national interest.

He criticized the “divisive, arrogant, haughty” members of the party romancing the ruling All Progressives Congress yet failed to defect from the PDP, describing them as cowards.



on disaster management policies, developing a national strategy with immediate, medium, and long-term goals, and increasing public awareness of climate resilience.

Shettima stressed the importance of rapid response, noting that ‘each agency must be prepared for urgent action as environmental crises demand swift responses.’

Confident in the council’s capacity, the Vice President said, “The path forward is challenging, but with our team’s expertise and determination, we can build a more resilient Nigeria.”

Shettima will chair the council, joined by the Governors of Kogi, Bayelsa, Oyo, Ebonyi, Bauchi, and Jigawa States.

Other members include the Ministers of State for Water Resources & Sanitation and Environment, as well as the Directors-General of the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, Nigeria Meteorological Agency, National Water Resources Institute, and National Emergency Management Agency.

The council also includes the Managing Directors of the National Inland Waterways Authority, Niger Delta Development Commission, and North East Development Commission, along with representatives from development partners.

“We are where we are today because of

NERC orders immediate downgrading of customers in Band A

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has instructed electricity distribution companies (Discos) to immediately downgrade customers in the Band A category if they are unable to meet the promised 20 hours of power supply.

This directive was issued by the Commissioner for Licensing and Legal Affairs at NERC, Dafe Apkeneye, during an appearance on Channels Television's Morning Brief on Friday.

Apkeneye explained that if a Disco cannot deliver the promised 20 hours of electricity to Band A customers, those customers must be downgraded to a level that matches the Disco's ability to supply power.

He emphasised that this migration is not voluntary for customers but is a necessary adjustment based on the Disco's capacity to deliver consistent power.

"If the Discos can't supply such customers, the discos have to downgrade such customers to meet



meet what they can provide," Apkeneye stated. He noted that Discos are limited by the power available on the grid, meaning that if there is insufficient supply to the grid, Discos cannot meet their commitments to customers.

The NERC Commissioner further explained that, while the situation has been challenging, there is hope for improved supply as the grid stabilises.

However, he cautioned that when Discos cannot meet their obligations, they must take necessary steps to adjust customers' categories to align with their actual supply capacity.

On the matter of regulatory oversight, Apkeneye clarified that states have been empowered by the Nigerian constitution to generate, transmit, and distribute electricity. He pointed out that this development allows states to create their own electricity markets and regulate them independently.

"States now have powers for electricity generation, transmission, and distribution within the states without restrictions," Apkeneye said.

He further noted that states, such as Oyo State, are already building capacity to exercise these powers and are working closely with NERC to learn and grow in their regulatory capabilities.

For customers seeking redress for unresolved issues with Discos, Apkeneye reaffirmed NERC's commitment to consumer protection. He explained that customers must first lodge complaints with their Discos.

Turji collects N6m ransom from Sokoto community

By Agency Reporter

Armed bandit leader, Jiya Turji, has reportedly received a ransom payment of N6 million from residents of Sardauna village in Sabon Birni Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

Intelligence sources disclosed that the payment was made by the villagers to secure the release of five of their community members who had been abducted by Turji's gang during an earlier attack.



According to locals, the ransom negotiations were intense, with the bandits initially demanding a higher sum before settling for N6 million.

The victims, who have been in captivity for several weeks, were reportedly freed after the payment was made.

'We're ready for business' – Gov Aiyedatiwa to investors

By Friday Omosola

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has reaffirmed the state's commitment to fostering a thriving business environment, offering various incentives to investors during the official opening of the Global Entrepreneurship Festival.

The event, held at the International Centre for Culture and Events (The Dome) in Akure, marks a significant step in the state's efforts to position itself as a hub for innovation and economic growth.

Governor Aiyedatiwa, in his keynote address, emphasised the transformative power of entrepreneurship as a means to eradicate poverty and drive sustainable development.

"Entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of innovation, the catalyst for economic growth, and the driving force behind social progress. It is the entrepreneurs among us who dare to dream, who take risks, and who push boundaries to create new opportunities and solve real-world problems", he said.

The governor declared the three-day festival open, underscoring its importance in shaping the socio-economic future of Ondo State.

He highlighted the multifaceted goals of the festival, which include celebrating entrepreneurial achievements, fostering collaboration, inspiring future entrepreneurs, and stimulating the local economy.

Governor Aiyedatiwa also took the opportunity to showcase the state's vast economic potential, pointing to its strategic location, rich natural resources, and ongoing infrastructure projects.



He noted that Ondo is Nigeria's fifth-largest producer of hydrocarbons and contributes 40% to the nation's cocoa exports.

Additionally, the proposed Ondo Deep Seaport promises to open new frontiers for business and investment in the region.

"Ondo State is uniquely positioned for investment, with opportunities in oil and gas, agriculture, tourism, and infrastructure development. The ongoing Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway project will also enhance connectivity, making Ondo an attractive destination for economic activities," he said.

The governor commended the Ondo State Entrepreneurship Development Agency (ONDEA) for its efforts in job creation and the promotion of entrepreneurial activities, urging participants to embrace the spirit of entrepreneurship and work together to

to create a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world.

Dan Walkovitz, Chairman of the Entrepreneurship Village Board, also spoke about the transformative role of the Entrepreneurship Village, a new initiative designed to provide mentorship, funding, and support to entrepreneurs.

"The Entrepreneurship Village in Ondo State will help entrepreneurs bring their ideas to life and turn dreams into reality," Walkovitz said. "This initiative aims to foster creativity, collaboration, and business growth, positioning Ondo as a leading business hub."

UI immortalizes Wole Soyinka with new institute

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

As part of its 76th Foundation Day Anniversary, the University of Ibadan has established the Wole Soyinka Institute in honour of one of its distinguished alumni, Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka.

Renowned as a poet, dramatist, essayist, and human and civil rights activist, Soyinka is often referred to as the Global Humanist.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kayode Adebawale, announced the university council's decision on Tuesday, 19th November, after a special command performance of Soyinka's latest play, "Canticles: A Pyre Foretold," staged at the Wole Soyinka Theatre (formerly the Arts Theatre).

The production, featuring a 50-man cast and directed by Dr Tunde Awosanmi, a former Head of the Department of Theatre Arts, had premiered on 17th November as the year's Convocation Play.

According to Adebawale, the institute was designed to "serve the global community in research, performance,



teaching, and exchange endeavours on Soyinka's life, works, and ideas related to him."

He described the initiative as the university's way of celebrating and immortalizing one of its most illustrious alumni.

He said: "For our institution, the Wole Soyinka Institute shall function as a window of seeing the world through new prisms. The institute shall be a platform for renegotiating global status for our nation, the African continent, and the entire black humanity.

"It shall midwife global discourses that are as fierce and at the same time as humanizing as the politics, ideology, philosophy, and ideas of the legend, Wole Soyinka. Through the gravitation of the minds and psyche of young thinkers and researchers across races, the institute shall be Africa's major contribution to the intellectual understanding of the human race into centuries to come."

"I inspected the dualisation and overhead bridges privately this week. With opinions from the Nigerian Society of Engineers and experts who have worked on similar flyovers all over the world, I am proud of the quality of the job done by our local engineers", the state governor noted.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded Soyinka's exceptional contributions as a creative thinker, philosopher, and advocate for civil and human rights.

Ahoada-Yenagoa transmission repairs disrupted by vandals – TCN

By Helen Okechukwu

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has said that the ongoing repairs of the transmission line of Ahoada-Yenagoa has been disrupted by vandals.

The announcement noted that about three towers were pulled down and one-third of conductors were equally stolen.

Local security personnel have been deployed to Ula Ikata in Ahoada East Local Government Area to secure the site until repairs are completed.

According to TCN, efforts to replace the stolen conductors are ongoing as the transmission line will be energized from the Ahoada end for further theft.

TCN revealed that despite the climate effect and environmental terrain, the repair surpasses 85% to be completed.

Explaining the previous attack, it noted that, "Earlier in the month, vandals had attacked transmission towers in the Okada and Ofosu communities along the Benin-Egbin and Benin-transmission lines, with a total of thirty-one towers affected.

Addressing the issue of vandalism in Nigeria power sectors, TCN seeks the public's urgent support in combating the growing problem, which has negatively affected the expansion and stability of the national grid.

"TCN, while emphasising the urgent need to combat the growing problem of vandalism and theft of Nigeria's power infrastructure, calls on the public to support efforts to address these crimes, which have significantly hampered the expansion and stability of the national grid."

2027: Middle-Belt Forum backs Seyi Tinubu for Lagos governor

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Middle-Belt Forum has commended the leadership qualities of Seyi Tinubu, stating that his record of inclusivity and empowerment mirrors that of his father, President Bola Tinubu.

In a statement, the group emphasized that Sey Tinubu's efforts in fostering unity among various tribes and religions in Lagos make him uniquely positioned to govern a state characterized by its diversity.

The forum noted, "Only a detribalized and accommodating individual like Seyi Tinubu can successfully manage Lagos State, home to people of different ethnicities and faiths.

"Who else will the people in Lagos support if Seyi Tinubu accepts to run for the highest office in Lagos State? Seyi knows no tribe, no religion and no gender. He believes in all people irrespective of their tribe and religion.



Those of us from the middle belt are mostly at a disadvantage in mix-tribal state such as Lagos. With Seyi Tinubu in the saddle, there is no doubt that our interest will be protected."

Speaking on the unique personality of Mr Tinubu, the group said, "There are many sons and daughters of presidents across the country whom we have carefully assessed. Many of them have been scored very low in terms of inter-personal

relations. Most of them don't come close to people but Seyi is exceptionally different.

"His limitless link to other tribes makes it possible for us to adjudge him as one of the most detribalized young persons in Nigeria currently. He will surely address the tribal sentiments and grudges many of us bear in Lagos. To crown it, he has firm roots to the south east as he is married to a South Easterner. This is a plus.

"In the wake of the massive flood in Borno, Seyi was quick in his response. We saw how he mobilized his friends and colleagues to the flood-ravaged state and donated massively. How many president's sons or daughters have been actively involved in such a rescue mission? He is exceptionally good.

"His office is for all tribes and religion. There is no tribe or religion from what we have gathered that is not found working with him.

Herdsmen kill three Enugu farmers in fresh attacks

By Dave Oludare Oso

Tension has gripped the Mgbuji community in Eha-Amufu, Isi-Uzo Local Government Area of Enugu State, following a violent attack by armed herdsmen on Friday, News360 Nigeria reports.

The assault claimed the lives of three farmers, left several others injured, and caused extensive damage to rice farms awaiting harvest.

Shocking photo from the scene showed one victim slaughtered in his rice field, a basket of freshly harvested cassava nearby. The attack is part of a recurring crisis in Eha-Amufu, where between 2017 and 2022, suspected Fulani militias reportedly destroyed over 20 farm settlements and killed at least 123 residents.

Ogenyi Odoh, a community leader, expressed deep concern over the

escalating violence. Speaking with SaharaReporters, he decried the killing of the farmers and the destruction of farmlands, emphasizing that attacks on rice farms have been ongoing for two weeks.

Further complicating the crisis, injured victims seeking medical help have been turned away by the Enugu State University Teaching Hospital (ESUT Parklane) due to an ongoing workers' strike.

Odoh also revealed that soldiers previously deployed to strategic locations in Eha-Amufu had been withdrawn without explanation, leaving the community vulnerable to renewed attacks. He has called on both the federal and state governments to urgently address the situation and restore security to the area.

He said, "Today three people who went to their farms were killed in a most savagery

brutality. What is their offence? They went to their farms and while they were in their farms, herdsmen entered the farms and start eating it. They were asked to leave and the next thing was to kill them. As you can see in one of the video clips, the man was killed in his rice farm.

"You can also see in the video the large rice farm that Fulani herdsmen maliciously destroyed after four months hard work.

"Is there a conspiracy, otherwise, how come after the Nigerian Army withdrew soldiers deployed to Eha-Amufu prior to the election and attacks and killings resumed?"

Relocation: Wike queries inflated list

...Threatens to arrest fraudulent traders in Apo mechanic village

By Agency Reporter

The Federal Capital Territory Minister, Nyesom Wike, has queried the inflated list and has threatened to arrest individuals involved in fraudulent activities during the relocation of traders from the Apo Mechanic Village to Wasa.

Speaking at a meeting aimed at updating traders on the enumeration process, the minister condemned those collecting excessive fees from unsuspecting traders, stating, "Individuals collecting amounts ranging from N600,000 to N1 million under false pretences will be handed over to security agencies."

Represented by the Coordinator, Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC), Felix Obih, the Minister clarified that the approved fee for land registration is N300,000, emphasizing that, "Many individuals are exploiting this situation for fraud, charging over N650,000 while the government only collects N300,000. People are desperate, which is why I'm here to clarify our



actions. I will ensure transparency throughout the process, and the names of those allocated shops will be made public."

He also warned that those not trading along designated corridors would not be eligible for relocation.

According to the minister, 11,000 individuals have so far registered for the relocation exercise of traders on the road corridor along APO mechanics village to Wasa District.

Coordinator, who stood in for the minister acknowledged significant challenges in managing the relocation process. He revealed that over 45,000 names had initially been submitted by various unions, which he described as inflated. He said this discrepancy prompted the council to conduct physical enumerations of the affected traders.

"The purpose of this meeting was to update stakeholders on our progress in relocating them to Wasa," he explained.

"We invited heads of associations to discuss how far we've come, the importance of the enumeration process, and the number of individuals who have paid."

He emphasized that the registration forms are strictly for those operating within designated road corridors and buffer zones, stating, "These forms are not intended for individuals not trading along the corridor."

Enugu Police arrest man, girlfriend for 70yo woman's murder

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Enugu State Police Command has arrested a 33-year-old man, Ikechukwu Okoye, and his 39-year-old girlfriend, Juliet Ogbodo, for allegedly kidnapping and murdering a 70-year-old woman, Mrs. Mary Nwatu.

The command's spokesperson, DSP Daniel Ndukwe, in a statement issued Thursday night, disclosed that the arrest was carried out by the command's Anti-Kidnapping Tactical Squad following credible intelligence.

Ndukwe said the suspects, both from Onuorie-Obuno in Akpugo Community, Nkanu West Local Government Area of the state, killed the victim and buried her in a shallow grave before demanding a ransom of N6 million from her children.

They were apprehended after receiving N20,000 from the family, ostensibly to



facilitate a phone call with the victim.

According to Ndukwe, preliminary investigations revealed that Mrs. Nwatu was reported missing on September 15, 2024.

Ndukwe stated, "On October 5, 2024, the principal suspect, Ikechukwu Okoye, who is also a kinsman of the victim, contacted her

children, demanding a ransom of N6 million."

Okoye was subsequently arrested and reportedly confessed to the crime.

The police spokesman said, "He admitted abducting Mrs. Nwatu on September 14, 2024, at about 8 am when she came to their house to look for his mother.

"He further confessed to killing her and burying her in a shallow grave inside an uncompleted building in the compound."

The suspect also admitted to demanding a ransom from the victim's children, initially requesting N6 million before negotiating down to N3 million.

However, he accepted an initial payment of N20,000 on the condition that the family would hear their mother's voice over the phone before making further payments.

Enugu to host 23rd Edition of National Sports Festival in 2026

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

The National Sports Commission (NSC) has officially announced Enugu State as the host for the 23rd edition of the National Sports Festival (NSF) in 2026. The decision was revealed by the NSC Director-General, Bukola Olopade, in a statement on Friday, November 22 in Abuja.

Olopade explained that the selection of Enugu followed a competitive bidding process, with the state emerging as the top contender. He expressed confidence that Enugu will deliver a world-class event, building on the legacy of previous festivals.

The National Sports Festival is a biennial multi-sports event that brings together athletes from across Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to celebrate sportsmanship, national unity, and sporting excellence.



Before Enugu takes the spotlight in 2026, the 22nd edition of the NSF is scheduled to be held in January 2025 in Ogun State. Olopade, a former chairman of the Local Organizing Committee for the Ogun 2025 NSF, highlighted that over 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in the upcoming event, with Ogun State committed to delivering a top-tier tournament.

The announcement of Enugu as the host for the 23rd edition aligns with international best practices, according to Olopade. He emphasized that this marks the first time the southeastern state will host the event since the festival's inception in 1973.

The NSC's early selection of Enugu is designed to give the state ample time to prepare for the event, while also enhancing the corporate image of the National Sports Festival. The 21st edition of the Games, held in Asaba, Delta, saw over 11,000 athletes participating.

With the 23rd NSF set to take place in Enugu, anticipation is already building as the state prepares to showcase Nigeria's sporting talent and continue the tradition of excellence that the National Sports Festival represents.

Eight Ogun teenagers arrested for gang-raping 14-yr-old girl

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Ogun State Command has arrested one Matthew Omotayo, male, 17 years, and seven other teenagers for alleged sexual abuse, unlawful sexual intercourse, exploitation, and assault of a 14-year-old girl at the Ijebu-Mushin, Ijebu East Local Government Area of Ogun State on Friday, November 15th, 2024.

A statement by the Public Relations Officer of the command, Mr Dyke Ogbonnaya, says the offence of the eight suspects contravene Sections 32 and 33 of the Child Rights Law of Ogun State 2006 for allegedly assaulting and gang raping a minor while also filming same in a permanent form for possible blackmail.

The suspects, who claimed to be students of St. Anthony Grammar School, Esure, Ijebu-Mushin, Ijebu East Local Government Area of the State, took the said teenager without consent to a



secluded room and had violent sexual intercourse with her and putting the same event in a video form.

The other remaining suspects include: Mojeeb Solomon, male, 16 years; Olamilekan Adefuye, male, 18 years; Damilola Ismail, male, 19 years; Emmanuel George, 17 years; Aborisade Paul Ayomide, male, 17

years; Paul Chukwuchebe, male, 19 years and Lateef Adeoye, male, 16 years respectively.

According to the narrative of the assaulted teenager, she was sexually abused the first time and was recorded and the alleged suspects threatened to upload the video on social media if she did not allow them to have her again which she also consented to until she resolved to.

Incredible story of Nigerian with 97 wives, 180 children

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Nigerian man has left many people in shock after marrying about 97 wives who have now given him over 180 children. He insists that he is healthy and can satisfy his wives.

Bello Abubakar Masaba is an exceptional Nigerian man from Niger State. Masaba is popular because he has 97 wives and about 185 children.

In an interview with a foreign newspaper, Masaba disclosed how he continues to write his name into the Guinness Book of Records, as Nigeria's most prolific man, by marrying even more wives.

How does Masaba satisfy his women sexually?

The octogenarian ascribed his sexual power to the Unseen God, saying, "In his wisdom, God has given me the power and strength to give them the sexual portion they need, he says. If I didn't satisfy them, they would leave."

So far, Masaba's record is unmatched by men in Nigeria. But his prowess in attracting women pales into a distant second to the polygamous record of King Lukengu of the Bakuba tribe in Congo.

Meanwhile, Masaba has condemned reports making the rounds in some media that he is dead, saying "it is the work of my detractors."

The media had rumoured that Masaba, who had worked as a teacher and Imam, died after a brief sickness in Bida, Niger State but, the octogenarian, said the rumour was baseless, adding that "I'm neither sick nor dead."

He added, "My dear, I am very much alive, hale and hearty. The rumour is baseless. It is the work of my detractors because they are envious of what God is using me to do in the lives



of the people. I am talking with you live and direct from my house in Bida.

"What I am doing is divine. It is an assignment and I will keep doing it till the end of time. I just want to advise those fighting against me to stop because such people are waging war against God, their Creator."

Masaba had earlier married 107 women but later divorced 10 of them. Out of his 185 children, only 133 are still alive.

Here is how The Los Angeles Times detailed Masaba's story: "He fell in love with his first wife because she was sincere and eager to please. His second wife, a cousin, was irresistible because she did everything he wished and nothing he didn't."

That alone made me love her.

His third wife won him because she

submitted to his every request.

"I saw her, I liked her. I went to her parents and asked for her hand in marriage," he said.

Wife No. 4 was very obedient. So was wife No. 5. Wife No. 6, the same. As were wives 7 and 8 and 9.

Well, by then "it was the late 1980s" things had taken off for Bello Masaba, an Islamic faith healer in this city (Bida) in Niger State. He went from a wedding every few months to one every few weeks.

He begins with his family history, almost singing the story of his roots.

Kenya plans new regional centres to boost cancer treatment

By Helen Okechukwu

To tackle the rising cancer rate in the country, the Kenyan Ministry of Health has announced plans to expand the cancer care network within four regions to boost treatment.

Dr. Deborah Barasa, the Cabinet Secretary for Health at the 8th Kenya International Cancer Conference in Kisumu, announced this development on Friday.

The conference was hosted by the Kenya Society of Haematology and Oncology (KESHO) with the theme “Advancing Cancer Care in Africa in a Rapidly Changing World.”

The regional cancer centres are to be established in Kisumu, Kakamega, Meru, and Nyeri.

The aims of the four centres are to assist the existing working facilities in Nakuru, Mombasa, and Garissa.

However, describing the goal of this development, its objective was to strategise in decentralising cancer treatment, decongest referral hospitals, and improve access to care for communities across the country.

Addressing this issue, Dr. Barasa reaffirmed the government’s commitment, noting that early detection, improved infrastructure, and the



integration of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) framework will improve the fight against cancerous growth.

The Health Commissioner said implementing the cancer care packages in the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHA) will improve patient financial expenses, oncology workforce, and diagnostic and treatment capacity.

Key attendees at the conference include KESHO Interim President Dr. Helena Musau, Conference Chair Dr. Njoki Njirani, National Cancer Institute of Kenya Chair Dr. Timothy Olweny, and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dr. Elias Melly, among others.

Among other attendees are health experts, policymakers, and stakeholders.

In another event, health leaders met to discuss advancing primary healthcare

programme and improving service delivery within primary healthcare facilities in Kiambu County.

Mary Muthoni, the Principal Secretary for Public Health and Professional Standards, paid a courtesy visit to the Kiambu Assistant County Commissioner, Mr. Wilson Mwangi, along with the County Executive Committee Member for Health, Dr. Elias Maina.

Muthoni hailed Kiambu for their effort in ranking the top five counties in Social Health Insurance (SHI) registration and emphasized its commitment to sustain UHC.

Wizkid releases sixth album 'Morayo' a tribute album to late mother

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Aclaimed Nigerian musician Ayodeji Balogun, popularly known as Wizkid, has unveiled his sixth studio album titled "Morayo."

This deeply personal project serves as a poignant homage to his mother, Jane Balogun, who tragically passed away in August 2023.

The album, which arrived on various streaming platforms on Friday, has been eagerly awaited by fans and music lovers alike.

Comprising 16 tracks, "Morayo" not only showcases Wizkid's remarkable musical talent but also encapsulates the emotional journey he undertook to honour his beloved mother.

Each song in the album resonates with personal anecdotes, profound lyricism, and a distinct blend of genres that is characteristic of Wizkid's artistry.

Among the standout tracks are the infectious songs "Troubled Mind," "Karamo," "Kese (Dance)," "Bad Girl," "Time," "Piece of My Heart," and "Pray."

The album features collaborations with some of the music industry's brightest talents, including Asake, Brent Faiyaz, Jazmine Sullivan, Anaïs, and Tiakola, adding to the album's rich and diverse soundscape.

In a heartfelt message shared with his fans via social media back in June, Wizkid expressed the significance of "Morayo," stating, "My album 'Morayo', dedicated to my mum, the love of my life, drops very soon. Don't dull. Don't sleep."

This message not only stirred excitement among his fanbase but also provided a glimpse into the emotional weight this project carried



for the artist.

Earlier this year, he also announced the album's release date, posting on his X handle, "Morayo! Friday, 22 November."

This announcement fueled the anticipation surrounding the album even further, with fans eagerly marking their calendars.

Moreover, in a strategic move to generate buzz, Wizkid released a single from the album, "Piece of My Heart," featuring American R&B sensation Brent Faiyaz, in October.

The song has captured the attention of audiences and critics alike, quickly achieving remarkable success.

In a record-breaking feat, "Piece of My Heart" amassed an astonishing 1.01 million streams on Spotify on its first day of release, setting a new benchmark

for the platform.

As "Morayo" unfolds, listeners can expect a sonic journey that weaves together themes of love, loss, and remembrance.

Each track serves as a testament to the unique bond between mother and son, reflecting Wizkid's vulnerability and artistry.

The album promises to resonate not only with those who have experienced similar loss but also with anyone who cherishes the love and memories of their parents.

Wizkid's commitment to honouring his mother's legacy through his music is evident throughout "Morayo."

Wumi Toriola brags as she surpasses Toyin Abraham's box office record

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

Nollywood actress Wumi Toriola has made history with her latest film 'Queen Lateefah', which has quickly become one of the highest-grossing Nollywood films of all time.

Since its release in September, the film has grossed an impressive N350 million in just two months, surpassing Toyin Abraham's 'Malaika', which earned N302 million.

This remarkable achievement places Queen Lateefah among the top 7 highest-grossing Nollywood films, making Toriola a standout figure in the industry.

The film is now poised to challenge the records set by Funke

Akindele with her blockbuster films: A Tribe Called Judah, Battle On Buka Street, and Omo Ghetto: The Saga.

Toriola shared her excitement on social media, expressing her gratitude for the overwhelming support from fans.

She wrote, "No 7 0000000000. Queen Lateefah still waxing strong and shining bright! Grossing 350M and 7th Highest Grossing Nollywood Title of All Time. Big thank you to everyone who has seen this masterpiece. You guys are the best. If you haven't seen #QueenLateefah yet, today is a great day to see this beautiful story. Lateefanzzzzzzz, you guys rock."

Fans and colleagues have taken to social media to congratulate her on the milestone. One fan, Jidegoldalaga,

reflected on Toriola's past ambition, recalling a comment she made on Funke Akindele's page about aiming for N500 million at the box office. "See now, she's approaching that figure, Insha Allah," he wrote.

Another admirer, Habeebalagbe, praised Toriola for her achievement, saying, "7th highest-grossing Nollywood of all time. Wow, congratulations, beautiful."

Supporters like Ayosojumiadeniyi have also expressed their admiration for Toriola's work ethic and humility, saying, "WE LOVE YOU!!! You are a smart moviemaker!!! Beyond that, you are full of honor. You recognize the impact of those that have gone before you, so why will you not join the winning league? This is just the beginning o. Brace up!!! More wins, QL."



The economy is in shambles – Davido

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeats sensation David Adeleke, widely recognized as Davido, has issued a cautionary message to African-Americans considering a move to Africa in the wake of Donald Trump's recent electoral victory in the United States.

According to New Daily Prime, a growing number of influential individuals, particularly within the African-American community, have expressed intentions to leave the U.S. following Trump's reelection as President.

Addressing these concerns during a conversation on the Big Homies House podcast, Davido strongly advised those contemplating relocation to reconsider their plans.

The renowned artist articulated that, contrary to popular belief, the current situation in Africa is far from idyllic, with many economies across the continent in disarray. "It's not cool back home. The economy is currently in shambles," he remarked.

His comments highlight the challenges that many African nations continue to face, despite perceptions of



of prosperity often conveyed through various means.

Davido emphasized that his remarks were not intended to diminish Africa's value or portray it negatively.

Instead, he aims to uplift the continent and showcase its rich culture and talents through his music.

He reiterated the idea that while entertainment can create an appealing façade, the underlying realities often tell a different story.

In the face of these challenges,

Davido's intention is clear he seeks to promote a more authentic representation of Africa, one that acknowledges both the struggles and the resilience of its people.

As conversations surrounding migration and identity continue to evolve, the Afrobeats star's perspective serves as a reminder of the complexities involved in such decisions, urging individuals to consider the realities of life back home before leaping.

Phyna drops surname, disowns family

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Big Brother Naija Season 7 winner, Josephine Ijeoma Otabor, popularly known as Phyna, has taken the bold step of publicly disowning her family, a revelation that underscores the complexities of her personal life.

The Edo-born reality star announced her verified social media account on X late Thursday night, stirring a wave of reactions from fans and followers alike.

In her emotional post, Phyna disclosed her decision to abandon her family surname, Otabor, signalling a significant shift in her identity and familial ties.

She expressed that she has been grappling with difficult times recently, a sentiment that has resonated with many of her supporters.

Phyna's candid admission sheds light on a tumultuous upbringing, during which she felt a profound lack of support from her family.

Reflecting on her past, she wrote, "I am publicly dropping my family surname Otabor... It has been proven that I have no family and nobody knows how I came about... I'm still searching for answers though."

The anguish in her words paints a vivid picture of her inner turmoil and struggle for belonging.

Continuing her heartfelt message, the reality star shared, "It's been rough with me lately... I'm in a place where I can't even describe how I feel or what to call what I'm going through right now. Growing up and the way I was tossed around among relatives should have been a clue, but I guess I was too young to understand... omo my head wan



tear!!"

The expression of her feelings highlights the challenges she has faced during her formative years, where instability and uncertainty have seemingly been constant companions.

This revelation from Phyna comes just months after her father, Mr Otabor, publicly criticized her in a national newspaper, alleging that she had failed to support him and her family after gaining fame.

This public family dispute adds layers to the complexity of Phyna's situation and sheds light on the pressures that often accompany sudden celebrity status.

In the world of reality television, where public personas can dramatically shift overnight, Phyna's story stands out as a poignant reminder of the human experience behind the curtain.

Her struggle for genuine connections and the desire for familial acceptance resonate deeply with many individuals facing similar dilemmas.

Phyna's decision to renounce her family name is not merely a symbolic act; it represents a reclamation of her identity.

In a society where names often carry significant weight, shedding a surname that has been associated with feelings of abandonment and alienation can be seen as a powerful declaration of self-determination.

As Phyna navigates this challenging chapter of her life, her fans have rallied around her, offering support and encouragement as she seeks to redefine her path.

The reality star has taken an important step towards healing and self-discovery, aiming to carve out a space for herself that is free from the burdens of her past.

Ultimately, Phyna's journey illustrates the complexities of family dynamics and the profound impact they can have on one's mental health and sense of self.

While the road ahead may be fraught with challenges, her brave proclamation of independence serves as an inspiring testament to the strength of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

As the world watches this unfolding narrative, it becomes increasingly clear that the saga of Phyna is not just a tale of fame but a profound exploration of identity, resilience, and the everlasting quest for belonging. The complexities surrounding this case will undoubtedly contribute to ongoing discussions about how the legal system handles allegations of sexual misconduct in the years to come.

HUSH MONEY TRIAL: Trump sentencing postponed indefinitely

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In what appears a legal win for the President-elect Donald Trump as he prepares to return to the White House, the judge in his criminal hush money case ordered on Friday that sentencing be delayed indefinitely.

The incoming president was convicted of 34 felony counts in May after a jury found he had fraudulently manipulated business records to cover up an alleged sexual encounter with a porn star ahead of the 2016 election.

Prosecutors argued that concealing the alleged tryst was intended to help him win his first run for the White House.

Trump, who had been scheduled to be sentenced on November 26, had fought against any effort to sentence him before his return to the presidency in January.

Judge Juan Merchan in an order said, “It is ordered that the joint application for a stay of sentencing is granted to the extent that the November 26, 2024 date is adjourned.”

Trump’s legal team have cited a Supreme Court ruling giving presidents sweeping immunity for official acts.

That landmark ruling saw the court, with a 6-3 conservative majority, decide that presidents have sweeping immunity from prosecution for a range of official acts committed while in office.

Ahead of the election, Trump’s lawyers moved to have the case thrown out in light of the Supreme Court decision, a move which prosecutors have firmly rejected.

On Friday the judge granted Trump leave to seek to have the conviction thrown out, likely meaning several further hearings that could be delayed



once Trump is sworn in.

“The defendant’s request for leave to file a motion to dismiss... is granted,” added Merchan’s order.

In a separate 2020 election interference case, Special Counsel Jack Smith moved to vacate deadlines, delaying the case indefinitely — but not yet dropping it outright.

The move was in line with long-standing Department of Justice policy not to prosecute sitting US presidents.

The Manhattan prosecutor previously acknowledged in correspondence with the court that “these are unprecedented circumstances” and called for the competing interests of the jury’s verdict and Trump’s election to be balanced.

Trump’s former attorney general Bill Barr previously said that both the New York case as well as others around the

country had been “plainly brought for political purposes (and) have now been extensively aired and rejected in the court of public opinion.”

Trump has repeatedly derided the hush money case as a witch hunt, saying it “should be rightfully terminated.” Alongside the New York case, brought by state-level prosecutors, Trump faces two active federal cases: one related to his effort to overturn the 2020 election and the other connected to classified documents he allegedly mishandled after leaving office.

However, as president, he would be able to intervene to end those cases, and Smith, the special counsel handling both cases, has reportedly begun to wind them down.

Islamic militants kill 5 Wagner mercenaries in Mali ambush

By Agency Reporter

At least five Russian Wagner mercenaries were killed on November 21 when a patrol was ambushed by militants from the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (JNIM) near Djiguibombo, between Bandiagara and Bankass in the Mopti region.

Zagazola understand that the ambush occurred along the strategic “Snake Road” and resulted in the loss of two light armoured vehicles, which were seized by the attackers.

The JNIM has claimed responsibility for the assault, releasing graphic images and videos of the aftermath, further underscoring their operational presence in the area.



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Police begs Wisconsin man who faked his death, fled to Europe to return home

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Authorities are urging a Wisconsin man accused of faking his death and fleeing to Europe to come home to spend the Christmas holidays with his wife and three children.

Ryan Borgwardt, 45, went missing on Aug. 12 while kayaking in Green Lake, about 50 miles northeast of Wisconsin Dells. Crews spent 54 days searching the lake, which is more than 200 feet deep at points, to no avail.

The entire search effort cost nearly \$40,000, according to Green Lake County Sheriff Mark Podoll.

“Great news, we know that he’s alive and well,” Podoll said in a press conference on Thursday. “And, well, the bad news is that we don’t know



where Ryan exactly is, and he has not decided to return home.”

Podoll says investigators have been in

email contact with Borgwardt since earlier this month and played a cellphone video he had sent them on Nov. 11.

“I’m in my apartment. I am safe, secure,” Borgwardt said in the video.

Podoll says Borgwardt has since admitted to staging his disappearance by overturning his kayak, padding back to shore in a smaller boat, riding his e-bike to a bus station, bussing from Detroit to Canada and then flying to Europe.

Podoll says his investigators discovered in early October that Borgwardt had entered Canada a day after his disappearance. He synced his laptop to the cloud a few days earlier, swapped out his hard drive and cleared his search history.

NETANYAHU: US rejects ICC warrants, Biden calls move 'outrageous'

...Says it's working with Israel on next steps

The White House said Thursday that it "fundamentally rejects" the International Criminal Court's decision to issue arrest warrants against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant for alleged war crimes in Gaza.

This is as some lawmakers, including US President-elect Donald Trump's pick for national security adviser, urged sanctions against The Hague-based ICC over the decision, and Israel was said to be working with the incoming administration on punitive measures against the court.

One Republican senator hinted the US should invade The Hague in retaliation for the warrants.

"Let me be clear once again: whatever the ICC might imply, there is no equivalence — none — between Israel and Hamas. We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security," US

with equating Netanyahu and Gallant with Hamas but acknowledged Italy's obligation as an ICC member to act on the warrants.

Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani echoed support for the ICC while emphasizing that its role must remain legal, not political. Tajani added that Italy would consult with allies on how to proceed.

This marks the first time a sitting leader from a major Western country has been accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity by an international tribunal.

The ICC panel alleged Netanyahu and Gallant are responsible for war crimes, including starvation, and crimes against humanity such as murder, persecution, and inhumane acts.

The war in Gaza has caused widespread devastation, displacing nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million residents and leaving most reliant on aid.

Over 44,000 Palestinians, predominantly women and children, have been killed

By Dave Oludare Oso

during the conflict, according to local health authorities.

The war began after Hamas launched a cross-border attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killing approximately 1,200 people.

Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldkamp confirmed that the Netherlands would arrest Netanyahu if he entered Dutch territory.

He emphasized that the government would fully comply with the ICC, as mandated by the Rome Statute.

The EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell described the arrest warrants as legal, not political, and binding for all EU member states.

Speaking in Jordan, Borrell urged an end to the tragedy in Gaza, stressing that the ICC's decision must be respected and implemented.



Canada, Italy, Netherlands to enforce ICC arrest warrant against Netanyahu

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Italy, the Netherlands, and Canada have announced that they would comply with the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

The ICC issued the warrants on Thursday, accusing Netanyahu and Gallant of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the war in Gaza.

A warrant was also issued for Mohammed Deif, the military chief of the Palestinian resistance group, Hamas.

According to Turkish Newspaper, Daily Sabah, Italian Defense Minister Guido Crosetto stated that Italy would be obliged to arrest Netanyahu if he visited.

Speaking on RAI's Porta a Porta program, Crosetto said he disagreed with equating Netanyahu and Gallant with Hamas but acknowledged Italy's obligation as an ICC member to act on the warrants.

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implemented.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau also affirmed Canada's support for the ICC warrants, stating that Canada, as a founding member of the ICC, would uphold international law.

Addressing reporters near Toronto, Trudeau confirmed that Canada would comply with the ICC rulings and reiterated the need for a ceasefire and a two-state solution.

He also called for the release of hostages and increased humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) praised Trudeau's statement, calling it a significant step toward justice for Gaza and Palestine.

Libya pulls out of CHAN 2024

By Agency Reporter

With the qualifier set to commence, countries continue to pull out of the 2024 Championship of African Nations qualifier, BSNSports.com.ng reports.

Egypt and DR Congo are among the countries that have pulled out of the competition.

Libya on Thursday announced that they will not take part in the qualifier, which automatically rule them out of the competition.

The reason for their withdrawal was not revealed and it means the number of withdrawals has increased.

Libya is among the few countries that have lifted the trophy in the past.



Hamilton fastest as Verstappen struggles in Las Vegas practice

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Lewis Hamilton led both practice sessions on the opening day of the Las Vegas Grand Prix, ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and his Mercedes teammate George Russell.

Hamilton was just 0.011 seconds faster than Norris in the second session, and 0.396 seconds clear of Russell in the first.

However, reigning champion Max Verstappen had a challenging day, ending up 17th in his Red Bull, struggling with tire grip and over one-lap pace.

The Dutchman, who can clinch his fourth title this weekend, acknowledged the team's difficulties, stating, "It feels massively tire-related... it is like driving on ice."



Verstappen's title hopes remain intact as long as he does not lose more than two points to Norris in Saturday's race.

Mercedes' Toto Wolff played down the significance of their performance, but Russell remained optimistic about their form. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc were also competitive during race simulations.