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Creative economy key to economic diversification – Tinubu

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to harnessing Nigeria's creative economy as a pivotal driver of economic diversification and global influence.

Speaking through Vice President Kashim Shettima at the launch of the 2024 Abuja International Carnival, Tinubu emphasised the sector's growing contribution to Nigeria's non-oil GDP and its role in showcasing the nation's cultural richness.

"We are not here just to celebrate a carnival but to reaffirm the essence of who we are as Nigerians—a people of culture, art, colour, and shared values," the President said at Eagle Square, Abuja, during the event-themed "Carnival of Renewed Hope: A Pledge to My Country."

Tinubu highlighted the carnival as a platform for cultural diplomacy and economic empowerment, adding, "Over the years, this carnival has revitalized local industries, fostered cultural exchange, and solidified Nigeria's position as a cultural powerhouse on the global stage."

The event featured performances from across Nigeria and beyond, reinforcing the administration's vision of leveraging culture as a unifying force.

Tinubu also urged international participants to view the carnival as a bridge for fostering understanding and shared humanity.

The President commended the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, and the Creative Economy,

alongside the Federal Capital Territory Administration, for their roles in organizing the event, describing the carnival as a celebration of Nigeria's diversity and resilience.

Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musawa, represented by Oraelumo Obi Raphael, hailed the carnival as a unique platform for artistic expression, innovation, and national unity.

FCT Minister Nyesom Wike, represented by the Director of Social Welfare in the FCTA, echoed similar sentiments, noting that the event underscores the nation's resilience and collective hope for a brighter future.

Year-end gift: Dangote refinery crashes petrol price

Dave Oludare Oso

A good news has come the way of Nigerians as the Dangote Petroleum Refinery announced on Sunday that it has reduced the price of its Premium Motor Spirit from N990 per litre to N970/litre.

According to a Punch report, this is the amount marketers would buy the product from the refinery.

The Group Chief Branding and Communications Officer of the Dangote Group, Anthony Chiejina, in a statement released on Sunday, said the reduction was to appreciate Nigerians as the year ends.

The statement read, "As the year comes to an end, this is our way of appreciating the good people of Nigeria for their unwavering support in making the refinery a dream come true. In addition, this is to thank the government for their support as this will complement the measures put in place to encourage domestic enterprise for our collective well-being."

Chiejina said the refinery would not compromise on the quality of its petroleum products while assuring Nigerians of the best quality products that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

"We are determined to keep ramping up production to meet and surpass our domestic fuel consumption; thus, dispelling any fear of a shortfall in supply," the statement concluded.

The Major Energies Marketers Association of Nigeria said on Friday that the landing cost of imported petrol is now N971/litre.

Recently, both independent and major marketers confirmed that the pump prices of petrol had started reducing in many parts of the country due to the competition that the deregulation of the downstream sector has caused.



The spokesman, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria, Chinedu Ukadike, said the agreement between IPMAN and the Dangote refinery is gradually pushing down the price of PMS.

"By just the announcement that IPMAN and Dangote have met and are ready to transact business, the prices of products have crashed. You would have noticed the drop in prices by N10, N15, or so, and this is due to competition.

"Independent marketers are no longer buying from middlemen. We are going to be buying directly from the producer. So, the competition is setting in. I also want to tell you that before the end of this year, the price will not be as high as what you see now.

"You can see how our meeting with Dangote has significantly removed about N10 from the prices of refined petroleum products. It is a good development. We have not even started. Remember I once told you that prices would drop once IPMAN started lifting from Dangote," Ukadike stated.

Also confirming the drop in prices, a major oil marketer stated that this was due to the deregulation of the downstream oil sector.

"People are not noticing that prices are going down, primarily because there are no big announcements. Deregulation is in full swing and competition is the order of the day," the major oil marketer, who spoke in confidence due to lack of authorization to speak on the matter, stated.

When told that the cost of petrol was still above N1,000/litre and was N1,070/litre in filling stations operated by his company, the dealer replied, "Last week it was N1,080 (in some filling stations) if you were observant.

"You may not see N900; that is below cost. Just stop expecting a permanent fixed price. It can come down and it can go up."

Removal of subsidies saved Nigeria \$20bn – FG

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun, has said that the country has saved \$20bn by abolishing the petrol subsidy and adopting market-based foreign exchange pricing.

Edun said this at an event in Abuja marking the first 100 days in office of Esther Walsio-Jack, Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

President Bola Tinubu had in May last year announced the removal of fuel subsidy effective June. This led to an increase in petrol prices across states in the country.

Speaking on the development, Edun said that subsidies were costing the country about five per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

He said, “An amount of five per cent of GDP is what those two subsidies were costing. When there was a subsidy on PMS and on foreign exchange, they collectively cost five percent of GDP. Assuming GDP was \$400bn on average, five percent of that is \$20bn—funds that could now go into infrastructure, health, social services, and education.”

He further explained that the savings are being redirected into developmental projects.

“The real change is that no one can wake up and target cheap funding or forex from the central bank to enrich themselves without adding value. Similarly, profiteering from the inefficient petrol subsidy regime is no longer possible,” he added.

Fuel subsidies in Nigeria have been a significant and contentious issue for decades. The subsidies were introduced to make petroleum products, particularly petrol, more affordable for citizens by offsetting a



portion of the cost for consumers.

However, they have often been criticized for inefficiency, corruption, and straining government finances.

While the removal freed up government funds, it led to increased costs for transportation, goods, and services, worsening inflation.

The decision was met with protests and criticism due to its immediate impact on the cost of living, particularly for low-income households.

The government had proposed initiatives like cash transfers and investments in public transportation to cushion the effects of subsidy removal.

The debate on whether the removal will lead to long-term economic benefits remains ongoing. While it allows the government to save funds previously spent on subsidies, the success of the policy hinges on how effectively the savings are reinvested to benefit the population.

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The meeting brought together leaders from the world’s top 20 economies, including the European Union, the African Union, and multilateral financial institutions, among others.

Nigeria, Brazil sign agreement to boost agribusiness

By Friday Omosola

In a major stride towards advancing agribusiness in Nigeria, the Federal Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brazil's Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV) to foster private-sector investment in fertiliser production, hybrid seed technology, and agricultural finance.

The MoU was signed by Nigeria's Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS), Temitope Fashedemi, and FGV President Professor Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal during the G20 Leaders' Summit.

This collaboration builds on the Green Imperative Project (GIP), a \$1.2 billion agricultural modernization initiative launched in 2018 to leverage Brazil's expertise in tropical agriculture for Nigeria's benefit.

Over the next five years, the project will identify and support agribusinesses across Nigeria's 774 local government areas, providing technical and financial resources for sustainable development.



"This partnership paves the way for Brazil to engage with Nigeria's dynamic and rapidly growing agricultural sector," said Fashedemi. "Together with FGV, we are poised to unlock the potential of private-sector investment in critical areas for food security."

The project, supported by Deutsche Bank, aims to attract \$4.3 billion in private-sector investment and drive

transformative agricultural technologies and knowledge transfer.

Senior officials from Nigeria's presidency, FMAFS, and FGV leadership attended the signing ceremony, reinforcing the significance of this collaboration in strengthening Nigeria's agricultural landscape.

Nigeria's oldest cleric is dead, aged 104

By Dave Oludare Oso

The oldest cleric in Nigeria, Thomas Oleghe, is dead.

Oleghe, a Catholic priest, died at the age of 104.

According to a statement by Gabriel Dunia, the Bishop of Auchi, Oleghe passed away at approximately 2:30 am on Sunday and will be buried on Wednesday, November 27, 2024.

The statement read: "With gratitude to God for a life well lived on earth, I hereby inform you of the passing of the Rf. Rev. MSGR Thomas Oleghe, the oldest Catholic priest in Nigeria

as of today, to the great beyond at approximately 2:30 am this morning, November 24, 2024.

"He was of the Diocese of Auchi. He died at the age of 104. May his lovely and gentle soul continue to rest in perfect peace. Amen.

"We have resolved to celebrate his funeral on Wednesday, November 27, 2024."

In his address, Dr Shehu emphasised the critical need for Nigeria to diversify its revenue base to ensure fiscal independence and enhance economic resilience.



We're solid, indivisible, PDP govts say amid crisis

By Dave Oludare Oso

Despite ongoing internal disputes within the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Bauchi State governor, Bala Mohammed has reaffirmed the party's unity, describing it as an indivisible entity dedicated to delivering good governance in Nigeria.

Speaking during a strategic meeting of PDP governors held in Jos, Plateau State, on Friday, Mohammed, who also serves as the Chairman of the PDP Governors' Forum, praised party stakeholders for their steadfast support.

He emphasized that despite challenges, the PDP remains united and positioned to offer Nigerians hope and effective leadership.

Similarly, Plateau State Governor Caleb Mutfwang reassured party supporters that PDP governors and key stakeholders are working tirelessly to stabilize the party. He highlighted ongoing efforts to re-strategize and rebuild confidence among Nigerians, ensuring the party remains a viable alternative for national governance.

The meeting underscored the party's commitment to overcoming internal disagreements while reinforcing its resolve to restore faith in its leadership and policies.

The Plateau governor said, "We are here on the Plateau, and Governor Mutfwang has shown us that Plateau is indeed a melting pot where everyone is welcome. The PDP remains an indivisible party. Despite minor hiccups, we are united with all organs and leaders of the party. We will continue to work together to provide Nigerians with opportunities for better governance."

He expressed gratitude to the



governors and party faithful who travelled from across the country to "The Home of Peace and Tourism" to support the forum and emphasised the importance of the gathering in charting a way forward for the PDP and restoring its reputation as the party of choice for Nigerians.

Mutfwang, in his remarks, stated, "Even though this is primarily a meeting of governors, it is gratifying to see party leaders and stakeholders from various states filling this room to support the governors as we strategise to ensure not only the stability of our party but also its ability to continue providing hope to Nigerians."

Governor Mutfwang highlighted Plateau's historical significance to the PDP, recalling that it hosted the Party's first convention to elect the inaugural President of the Fourth Republic, produced the PDP's first national chairman, and referred to Plateau as the "home of the PDP."

He also reflected on the successes of his administration, asserting that peace and trust have been restored to the state following years of challenges.

"By the grace of God, after years of miserable leadership by the opposition on the Plateau, the people have welcomed their party back. The PDP and I are determined to improve the lives of our people and fulfil the party's mandate of social justice and empowerment," he added.

Also, the Oyo State Governor and Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Governors' Forum, Seyi Makinde, reassured PDP supporters of the Governors' determination to reform the Party and restore its leadership role in Nigeria.

Other dignitaries at the event included Governor Ahmadu Fintiri (Adamawa), Governor Kefas Agbu (Taraba), Governor Dauda Lawal (Zamfara), and the Deputy Governors of Bayelsa, Enugu, and Plateau States and the PDP Acting National Chairman, Illiya Damagum; former Plateau Governor, Senator Jonah Jang; former Kaduna State Governor, Ahmed Makarfi; former Niger State Governor, Mu'azu Aliyu; and Chairman of the PDP Ministers' Forum, Kabiru Turaki, as well as other stakeholders.

FG audit exposes N197bn contract fraud in MDAs

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Auditor-General of the Federation's 'Annual Report on Non-Compliance and Internal Control Weaknesses' has exposed irregular payments for contracts totalling over N197.72 billion across various ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs), raising serious concerns about systemic lapses in financial compliance and procurement processes.

The report covers activities between 2020 and 2021.

They reveal violations of established financial regulations and procurement laws, with irregularities affecting multiple MDAs.

The report was released to assist stakeholders, including the Public Accounts Committees of the National Assembly, in addressing these lapses and recovering the lost funds.

One of the key findings in the report revealed irregularities in the award of contracts totalling N7.39 billion.

The breaches occurred in 32 MDAs and contravened Paragraph 2921(I) of the Financial Regulations (2009), which mandates open competitive bidding for all procurement processes.

The Rural Electrification Agency in Abuja recorded the highest irregularity in this category, amounting to N2.12bn, while the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Plc had the least irregularity, at N11.72m.

The audit report read, "The sum of N7,386,551,051.09 (seven billion, three hundred and eighty-six million, five hundred and fifty-one thousand, fifty-one naira, nine kobo) was the amount of irregularities in the award of contracts by 32 ministries, departments and agencies.

"The Rural Electrification Agency, Abuja, has the highest amount of N2,117,143,168.09 (two billion, one hundred and seventeen million, one hundred and three thousand, one hundred and sixty-eight naira, nine kobo), while the Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company Plc (NSPM) has the least amount of N11,720,000 (Eleven million, seven hundred and twenty thousand naira)."

Another alarming revelation in the report was the sum of N167.59bn paid for jobs or contracts that were either partially executed or not executed at all.

This contravenes Paragraph 708 of the Financial Regulations,

which prohibits payments for services or goods not yet delivered.

The Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc in Abuja accounted for N100bn of these irregular payments, making it the highest in this category.

The National Centre for Women Development recorded the lowest irregularity at N2.17m.

The report read, "The sum of

N167,592,177,559.40 (one hundred and sixty-seven billion, five hundred and ninety-two million, one hundred and seventy-seven thousand, five hundred and fifty-nine naira, forty kobo) was the amount of payments for jobs/contracts not executed by 31 ministries, departments and agencies.

"The Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc., Abuja, has the highest amount of N100,000,000,000.00 (one hundred billion naira), while the National Centre for Women Development has the least amount of N2,171,766.44 (two million, one hundred and seventy-one thousand,



seven hundred and sixty-six naira, forty-four kobo)."

The report also uncovered violations of due process in contract awards amounting to N20.33bn across 24 MDAs.

Section 16(21) of the Public Procurement Act (PPA) 2007 requires strict adherence to procurement plans and mandatory approvals before contract awards.

Shettima pays tribute to late Kurfi, Zakari

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has paid glowing tributes to two distinguished elder statesmen from Katsina State, Alhaji Ahmadu Kurfi, former Executive Secretary of the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO), and Ambassador Ibrahim Zakari, former Director General of the Nigerian Intelligence Agency (NIA), both of whom passed away recently.

During a condolence visit to the families on behalf of President Bola Tinubu, Shettima described the deceased as titans of their generation whose contributions to Nigeria's development remain indelible.

Reflecting on Kurfi's passing, Shettima stated, "He is the last of the great titans. In African folktale, when such an elderly person dies, a part of history goes with them."

The Vice President also honoured

Zakari, describing his life as eventful and worthy of emulation.

"This is not a celebration of death but a celebration of a life well-lived. May Allah grant his soul eternal rest and reward him with Aljannah Firdaus," Shettima said.

Both men were praised for their

respective contributions—Kurfi in electoral administration during the Second Republic and Zakari in diplomacy and national security.

He extended condolences to their families and the people of Katsina State, urging them to draw inspiration from the exemplary lives of the deceased.



Terrorists planning to kidnap Emirs – Primate Ayodele

By Dave Oludare Oso

The founder of INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church, Primate Elijah Ayodele has alerted Nigerian security operatives about an impending attack on traditional rulers in the country.

In a statement signed by his media aide, Osho Oluwatosin, Primate Ayodele revealed that the terrorists are planning to kidnap Emirs and attack palaces across the country between December and February 2025.

He added that there would also be a high influx of attacks on farmers.

"There will be attacks against

Emirs, farmers, and palaces across the country. They are planning to kidnap Emirs and farmers between December and February next year," the cleric stated.

Primate Ayodele also predicted victory for the Nigerian military over the leaders of terrorist groups.

"Nigerian army will do so well in combating these bandits. I see some Boko Haram, ESN, ISWAP leaders being taken out by the

military. Some of them will be arrested within this period too."



Beauty queen, Chidimma Adetshina relocates to Nigeria

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Beauty queen, Chidimma Adetshina, who pulled out of the Miss South Africa competition when her nationality was questioned, said she wants to relocate to Nigeria, after coming second in the Miss Universe pageant while representing the West African country.

Chidimma Adetshina, whose father is Nigerian, was crowned Miss Universe Africa and Oceania and was runner-up to Denmark's Victoria Kjar Theilvig in Mexico on Saturday night.

The 23-year-old law student withdrew from the Miss South Africa competition in August, saying that she needed to protect herself and her family after the government alleged that her mother had stolen the identity of a South African woman.

The matter is being investigated by South African police.

"I have already decided that I want to relocate to Nigeria," Adetshina said, adding that she did not know whether she could go back to South Africa and that she would work with a lawyer in the hope of getting the situation resolved by the end of the year.

As Adetshina progressed through the Miss South Africa competition, she faced relentless abuse from South Africans who questioned her citizenship because of her Nigerian name and father. She was then invited



to compete in Miss Universe Nigeria in August, and won.

Last month, the South African Department of Home Affairs director

Abuja female journalist abducted, freed

By Dave Oludare Oso

Business Day newspaper's defence correspondent was on Friday abducted.

She was abducted by kidnappers commonly called "one chance operators" on her way from office in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

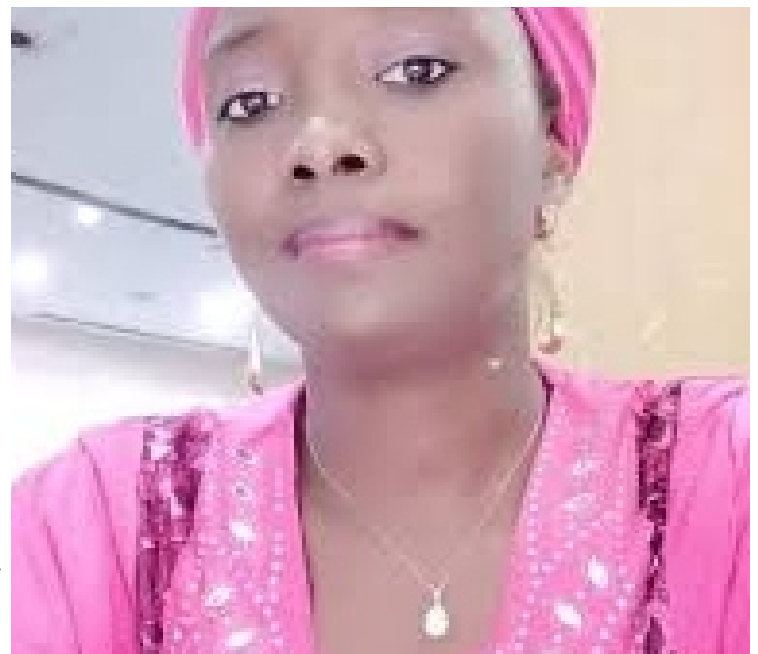
Meanwhile, she has regained her freedom from the kidnappers.

The female journalist's freedom was confirmed on

Saturday morning by some of her colleagues.

Though, it is not clear whether any ransom was paid to secure her release.

No statement on the development from authorities as at the time of filing this report.



Ministry seeks EFCC's support in fighting illegal mining in Port Harcourt

By Friday Omosola

The Ministry of Solid Minerals, under the aegis of the Federal Mines Officers, has called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to join the fight against illegal mining activities in Port Harcourt and beyond.

The appeal was made during a courtesy visit to the EFCC's Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, the President of the ministry's Port Harcourt branch, Engr. Naku Romos highlighted the detrimental effects of illegal mining on the nation's economy and the already compromised Niger Delta environment.

Romos, who assumed office in September 2024, emphasised the need for collaboration between the Ministry and law enforcement agencies, noting that the ministry alone cannot combat the menace.

"Illegal mining constitutes economic crimes and causes significant damage to the ecosystem. The federal government is losing substantial resources due to these activities," he stated.

He further explained that the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, tasked with regulating the mining sector, traditionally engages relevant agencies like the EFCC, Police, and DSS to strengthen efforts



against illegal mining.

Romos also stressed the importance of preventive measures and enforcement to safeguard the country's natural resources.

However, the Acting Director of the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate, Adebayo Adeniyi, assured the delegation of the EFCC's readiness to collaborate on tackling illegal mining.

He noted that addressing the issue is a top priority for the Commission's Executive Chairman, Ola Olukoyede, who has established a Special Task Force across EFCC directorates for this purpose.

Adeniyi revealed that the Port Harcourt Directorate is already investigating several cases of illegal mining and encouraged the

ministry to pursue public enlightenment campaigns to educate miners about the legal requirements and environmental impacts of their activities.

"Enlightenment is key to ensuring that miners understand their responsibilities. For those who refuse to comply, submit a formal petition to us. We will take decisive action to stop the illegal exploitation of our natural resources and environmental degradation," Adeniyi assured.

He added that the EFCC would adopt an aggressive approach to curbing illegal mining in the Niger Delta, reiterating its commitment to preserving the region's resources and ecological balance.

NDLEA nabs cocaine kingpin in Lagos

... Dismantles drug syndicate run by Chinese man **By Dave Oludare Oso**

The head of a cocaine distribution cartel, Ndive Maxwell Obinna, has been arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA.

The 42-year-old was arrested with five of his associates at Ago Palace Way in Okota, Isolo, Lagos.

A total of 2.412 kilograms of cocaine were recovered from them.

Other members of the drug trafficking organization arrested along Obinna include: Okeke Gloria Ifeoma who is the syndicate's stash keeper; Ikechebelu Emmanuel Chibuzor; Okorie Onyedikachi; Okonkwo Nnabugo Prince; and Okafor Blessing Anita.

Chinese man's cartel dismantled

In a related development, another drug syndicate operated by a Chinese man, 58-year-old Tianzhen Yen (alias Jackie) has been dismantled by



NDLEA operatives.

The NDLEA operatives achieved their goals after arresting Jackie at his hotel in Ikeja area of Lagos.

Officers of the Seme Special Area Command of the Agency had on Thursday 21st November intercepted a 40-year-old suspect, Yakubu Emmanuel Mark in a commercial bus going to Ghana at the Gbaji checkpoint along Badagry-Seme

expressway based on credible intelligence.

When he was searched, a total of 750grams of cocaine were found in his bag.

A swift follow up operation was organized to trace and arrest the kingpin behind the trans-border drug trafficking syndicate, who turned out to be a Chinese citizen, Tianzhen Yen.

12 internet fraudsters jailed in Adamawa

By Friday Omosola

The Adamawa State High Court has convicted and sentenced twelve internet fraudsters to various jail terms following their arraignment by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The sentencing, delivered by Justices Kayanson Samuel Lawson, Hamed Isha, Benjamin Manji Lawal, and Mohammed Ibrahim Tola, followed the defendants' guilty pleas to charges of cheating and impersonation.

The convicts include Oladele Pius, Emmanuel Bulus, Elijah Elisha, Alamin Mohammed Bappa, Jamilu Usman, Enoch Solomon, Emmanuel Anthony, Enebeli Samuel Israel, Dimas Hyellabulatin, Emmanuel Dike, Joshua Umoru, and Dan Eden Sunday. Each convict was arraigned

between November 6 and 7 on separate charges. One charge against Alamin Muhammad Bappa revealed he had created fake Gmail and Facebook accounts under the name "Jacob Sermon" to pose as a cybersecurity professional, defrauding unsuspecting foreign nationals of \$20 per service fee.

Another charge against Oladele Pius accused him of impersonating a foreign national, "Legit Hassan Abbadin," using WhatsApp for fraudulent financial transactions.

Upon arraignment, all defendants pleaded guilty. Prosecution counsels Saad H. Sa'ad and M.D. Aliyu urged the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, defence counsels pleaded for leniency.

Justice Lawson sentenced Bulus, Elisha, Usman, and Israel to ten years

imprisonment or a fine of ₦200,000 each. Hyellabulatin received five years imprisonment or a fine of ₦200,000.



Famous singer, Helen Ukpabio sues 'Bloody Civilian' for N200bn in defamation suit

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The President and founder of Liberty Foundation Gospel Ministries, Helen Ukpabio, has threatened to sue singer Emoseh Khamofu, popularly known as Bloody Civilian, for alleged defamation, demanding N200 billion in damages.

This was stated in a letter dated November 25, 2024, which Bloody Civilian retweeted on Saturday, November 23, 2025.

In the letter, the Akwa Ibom-born pastor, through her legal counsel—Victor Ukutt and Co. Legal Practitioners—issued the demand under the title, “Demand for Public Apology and Compensation for the Libel of Imaobong Elijah Ukpabio and Apostle Helen Ukpabio.”

According to PUNCH Online on Sunday, the controversy began when an X (formerly Twitter) user identified as #OneJoblessBoy posted the pastor’s photo on Friday with the caption, “Pastor Helen Ukpabio turns

60 today.” The tweet garnered significant attention, amassing 4.6 million views and a flurry of reactions.

Bloody Civilian later retweeted the post with the claim, “She literally made people burn their children alive.”

This comment sparked a response from the pastor’s daughter, Imaobong Ukpabio, who tweeted under the handle #ima_Elijah, demanding that Bloody Civilian delete the post within five hours or face legal action.

“I give you the next five hours to take this down, or I will educate you in court!” Imaobong warned.

In the letter, signed on behalf of the firm by its General Counsel, Victor Ukutt, Bloody Civilian’s tweets were described as “reckless, satanic, and libellous.”

The firm maintained that the allegations were “grossly false and

devoid of any iota of truth,” accusing the singer of intending to “ridicule” their clients.

The letter partly read: “Our clients’ attention has been drawn to your reckless, satanic, and libellous posts on X (formerly Twitter), one of the world’s largest social media platforms. Using your verified account, #bloody__civ, on 22 November 2024, you wrote: ‘She



Jnr Pope didn't pay due before his death - AGN reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The president of the Actors Guild of Nigeria (AGN) Emeka Rollas, shed light on the guild’s decision regarding potential legal action against actress and producer Adanma Luke in the wake of the tragic death of actor Junior Pope.

The incident, which shook the Nigerian film industry, occurred on April 10, 2024, when Junior Pope, alongside four crew members, lost their life after a boat capsized in the River Niger, near Asaba in Delta State.

The group was en route to a movie location for the film entitled “The Other Side of Life,” which featured Junior Pope in a leading role, under the production of Adanma Luke.

Following the harrowing event, the AGN swiftly suspended Adanma Luke as part of their investigation into

the circumstances surrounding the accident.

However, Rollas has now revealed why the guild opted not to pursue legal action against the producer.

According to him, the keys to taking such a step were hindered by contractual obligations and membership requirements.

It has been confirmed that Junior Pope was not a dues-paying member of the AGN at the time of his unfortunate demise.

Instead, the guild’s regulations stipulate that only direct family members or the spouse of the deceased have the standing to sue in cases like this.

During a candid discussion on Arise

TV, Rollas emphasized the importance of clear contractual guidelines, noting that the advisement of AGN’s legal team pointed to a significant limitation in their ability to take legal action.



Yemi Alade leads campaign for feminine wellbeing

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Population Services International (PSI) Nigeria, a leading global non-profit organization, has joined forces with acclaimed Afrobeats artist Yemi Alade.

Together, they have launched a dynamic campaign, marked by the release of a poignant short film, an emotive music single, and a captivating music video.

This multi-faceted campaign seeks to shatter the silence and combat the long-standing stigma surrounding menstruation, while simultaneously driving meaningful change across communities.

The centrepiece of this initiative is the short film titled “Time of the Month,” which artfully intertwines storytelling and music to elevate awareness, reshape societal perceptions, and dispel the many myths associated with menstruation.

This compelling cinematic piece not only entertains but also empowers women and girls, encouraging them to embrace their menstrual health without the burden of shame.

The film features an impressive cast, showcasing some of Nollywood’s most talented actors, including Aisha Lawal, Liquorose Afije, Mary Njoku, Ibrahim Suleiman, Mike Ezuruonye, and Femi Branch.

Their performances are poised to resonate with audiences, making a profound impact on the conversations surrounding menstruation.

At the launch of this important campaign, Pritpal Marjara, a representative from PSI Nigeria, elaborated on the thought process that guided their choice of artists.



He emphasized that the credibility, relatability, and unwavering commitment to women’s health exhibited by these artists made them the perfect partners for this project.

“We believe that a collaboration of this magnitude will significantly shift public perception regarding menstrual health in Nigeria,” Marjara stated.

He continued by highlighting the influential role of Nigerian celebrities in shaping societal attitudes.

“Nigerian celebrities are renowned for their ability to impact narratives. Time and again, they have played a crucial role in shaping the views of their fans and followers,” Marjara noted.

“By partnering with these renowned artists, we are confident that we can elevate the discourse around menstrual health, thereby fostering a more informed and supportive environment.”

The campaign aims to reach

audiences not only through the artistry of Yemi Alade and her co-stars but also through the powerful message embedded in their work.

By leveraging music and film, PSI Nigeria is taking innovative strides towards normalizing discussions on menstruation and creating a culture of openness and understanding.

It is a call to action for women and girls to prioritize their health, seek the education they deserve, and challenge the societal norms that have long plagued discussions about menstruation.

As the campaign unfolds, it is expected to spark critical conversations within communities, schools, and households, driving home the message that menstrual health is a fundamental aspect of women’s health and should be treated with respect and dignity.

The launch of “Time of the Month” represents not just a cultural milestone, but a significant step towards empowering women and dismantling the stigma surrounding menstruation.

I'm still into comedy, I will not stop - Basketmouth

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Nigerian comedian, Bright Okpocha, widely known as Basketmouth, has provided clarity on his future in the entertainment industry.

The comedian firmly stated that he has no plans to abandon his comedic roots in favour of filmmaking, despite the lucrative nature of the film industry.

During the premiere event an exclusive gathering that brought together fans and industry

professionals alike Basketmouth addressed the speculation surrounding his career choices.

He expressed his determination to maintain a strong presence in the world of stand-up comedy, emphasizing that the success of his film will not divert his attention away from the art form that has defined his career.

"I am still deeply involved in comedy, and I have exciting plans for the future," Basketmouth



conveyed to the audience.

Why I featured Davido on 'If It's Okay' – Nicki Minaj

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Trinidadian rapper Nicki Minaj has revealed why she collaborated with Davido, the Afrobeats star, on her latest single 'If It's Okay'.

In an X post on Friday, a user asked what inspired the rapper's collaboration with Davido.

"What drew you to Davido for the

song 'If It's Okay'? In my opinion, he was an ideal choice for this incredible masterpiece! He was speaking that ish," the user wrote.

Reacting to the tweet in another post, Minaj said she featured Davido because she wanted to infuse "Afrobeats feeling" into the

song.

She said working with Davido is an enjoyable experience because of the "mutual respect" while lauding him for being an "incredible writer and melody maker".



Why I reconciled with my brother at our mother's burial – Kunle Afolayan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Legendary actor cum movie producer, Kunle Afolayan, has spoken about the reasons for ending a longtime fight with his sibling, Aremu.

The two sons of the late iconic filmmaker and theatre legend, Ade Love, have been at odds for a long time.

In 2018, the duo's feud attracted public attention after Aremu claimed their father lived in poverty despite fame.

Reacting to Aremu's remarks during a viral interview, Kunle called Aremu stupid.

However, the siblings finally

ended their rift during the wake-keep ceremony for their mother in Oyo State on Friday, November 22 2024.

Speaking at the event, Kunle said he was not Aremu's brother but his father, emphasizing that he is 10 years older than him.

He said, "One thing I want to tell all Aremu's friends is that I am not his brother but his father. I trained him and I'm 10 years older than him, but you, his female friends push him. But love conquers all.

Similarly, Aremu apologised to Kunle; "My greatest joy

today is that my mother made us talk. She didn't stop praying because I was the black sheep in the family. I disagree with my brother Kunle; he has no excuses because they said we resemble each other.

"I'm sorry for putting brother Kunle through the Instagram backlash. It's because I love you."

It was learnt that the incident was escalated to the Nigerian police and the military.



Nigerian woman arrested with 2kg of cocaine in Libya

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A Nigerian woman has been arrested by the 444th Combat Brigade in Tripoli, Libya, during a sting operation for allegedly possessing approximately 2 kilograms of cocaine.

It was gathered that the woman, in collaboration with foreign accomplices, attempted to distribute the drugs on the local market.

Migrant Rescue Watch, a

humanitarian monitoring group, disclosed the arrest on Saturday via their X (formerly Twitter) account.

According to the report, the woman was apprehended during a targeted operation aimed at dismantling drug networks in the Libyan capital.

The suspect is currently in custody following the completion of preliminary criminal investigations.

The statement read, “Units of 444th Combat Brig. during sting-operation in Tripoli arrested a female of Nigerian nationality in possession of est. 2 kg of cocaine. The accused in collaboration with foreign accomplices attempted to sell the drugs on the local market.



PICTORIAL: Historic moment world's tallest, shortest women meet in London

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In honour of the 20th Guinness World Records Day, Rumeysa Gelgi, the world's tallest woman, and Jyoti Amge, the shortest woman, met for the first time at the Savoy Hotel in London.

Jyoti Amge, shortest woman, and Rumeysa Gelgi, tallest woman, meet for the first time and share afternoon tea.

They shared tea and were presented with Icon certificates by Guinness World Records.

In a video shared on Friday, November 22, Rumeysa, a researcher from Turkey, towers at 215.16 cm (7 ft 0.7 in), while Jyoti, an actor from India, stands at just 62.8 cm (2 ft 0.7 in).

Jyoti Amge, shortest woman, and Rumeysa Gelgi, tallest woman, meet for the first time and share afternoon tea.

Rumeysa holds the title of the tallest woman living, while Jyoti has proudly held her record as the shortest woman living (mobile) for over a decade. The heartwarming encounter marks a significant milestone in Guinness World Records' celebration of extraordinary individuals.



Guardiola warns of title hopes dashing with defeat to Liverpool

By Gbenga Oluranti **OLALEYE**

Manchester City manager, Pep Guardiola, has acknowledged that his side's aspirations to win a fifth consecutive Premier League title could be shattered if they suffer another defeat to table-toppers Liverpool next Sunday.

Guardiola made the statement after watching his team endure a 4-0 loss to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday, marking their fifth defeat across all competitions and their third consecutive league defeat.

The loss leaves City with a daunting 11-point deficit behind Liverpool, who can extend their lead to eight points if they secure a victory against Southampton on Sunday.

In an interview with ESPN, Guardiola conceded that an 11-point gap would be difficult to close, even with the majority of the season still to play. "Yeah, it's true," he said when asked if the gap would be insurmountable. "We're not thinking about winning or losing the title. We are not in the situation to think about what is going to happen at the end of the season."



The City boss continued, "If in the end we don't win it, it's because we don't deserve it. We won it in the past because we deserved it."

Guardiola's comments reflect the gravity of the situation for City, who, despite their past dominance, are now facing a significant challenge to retain their Premier League crown.

The defeat to Tottenham was another setback in a difficult stretch for City, raising concerns over their ability to maintain their competitive

edge in the league.

As the pressure mounts, the upcoming match against Liverpool could prove crucial to Manchester City's title hopes this season.