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Former Kogi Governor Yahaya Bello Appears in Court Over Alleged N110bn Fraud

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The immediate former Governor of Kogi State, Yahaya Bello, has made a significant appearance at the Federal Capital Territory High Court in Abuja to face charges related to an alleged N110 billion fraud.

This marks his first public appearance in court following a lengthy period of legal proceedings.

Bello, who was declared wanted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in April 2024, reported to the anti-graft agency's headquarters in Abuja on Tuesday, November 26.

During his visit, he was interrogated by EFCC officials before being taken to court the following morning for the hearing.

The charges against Bello stem from a series of money laundering offences allegedly committed during his tenure as governor. Initially, the EFCC filed 19 charges, with the total amount of money involved exceeding N80 billion. However, the charges were later amended to 16 counts, with the sum now reportedly exceeding N110 billion.

Bello, alongside his nephews—Ali Bello, Dauda Suliman, and Abdulsalam Hudu—faces allegations of using illicit funds to acquire multiple properties in Abuja, among other financial crimes.

Despite the serious nature of the charges, the EFCC had struggled to bring the former governor to court until this recent development.

Since the charges were filed, the EFCC has faced numerous challenges in apprehending Bello for arraignment. Efforts to arrest him were obstructed on multiple occasions, with claims that his successor, Usman Ododo, facilitated his escape from EFCC operatives during a raid on his residence earlier in the year.

Bello's appearance in court is a key moment in the ongoing legal battle, with many closely watching how the case unfolds. As the hearing continues, the former governor faces the prospect of a lengthy trial, which could have significant implications for both his political future and the broader fight against corruption in Nigeria.

MMA2, others collaborate on Christmas festival

By Agency Reporter

The Murtala Muhammed Airport Terminal Two (MMA2) is collaborating with MBR Signatures and Optiva Capital Partners to thrill airport users to a 20-day Christmas festival.

The Managing Director of MBR Signature, Mr. Stanley Ezeani, made this known at a press conference at the premises of Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Ltd., operators of MMA2, on Wednesday in Lagos.

He said that the festival would start on Dec. 1 with activities lined up daily as from 4.00 p.m.

Ezeani said that the collaboration with Bi-Courtney would be for five years, adding that it was aimed to bring back the unique experience of what Christmas.

“MBR Christmas Festival is beyond the decorations, offering a 360-degree experience for travellers and other airport users.

“There will be Christmas carol from 4.00 p.m. daily, with a Santa Claus grotto where goodies will be given out,” he said.

A Chief Operating Officer/ Head of

Aeronautics and Cargo Services of Bi-Courtney, Mr Remi Jibodu, said that innovativeness had been the bedrock of the organisation.

“The 20 days will be a wonderful experience not only to adults but also to the youth and children at our terminal,” he said.

Jibodu promised that Bi-Courtney would continue to add value for airline operators, passengers and other airport users.

Mr Kola Bamigboye, another Chief Operating Officer of Bi-Courtney and the Head of the organisation’s Space and Premises, said that the collaboration showed that different brands could come together for a common purpose.

Bamigboye said space had been optimised at MMA2 for the festival.

He said that Optiva Capital had been a stakeholder at the terminal, adding that the collaboration would showcase the terminal more.

The Chief Executive Officer of Optiva Capital, Dr Jane Kimemia, expressed



delight at the collaboration, saying that the festival would bring out the unique experience of Christmas at the terminal.

She said that part of Optiva’s core mission was to create opportunities and platforms to foster connections, inspire joy and enrich lives which, she said, aligned with the spirit of Christmas.

She added that the festival symbolised celebration of cultures, investment in initiatives and creation of experiences that would bring lasting value for families, businesses and the community.

“This festival is our gift to travellers, families and stakeholders, a chance to experience the joy and wonder of the Christmas season even while on the go.

A Managing Partner at MBR Signature, Mrs Ezinne Ezeani, said that there would be different activities for each day, adding that a day would be dedicated to showcasing Nigeria’s cultural

Tinubu nominates 3 new members to CCB

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has nominated three individuals to fill vacant positions on the board of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB).

The nominations, aimed at strengthening the Bureau’s oversight functions, were disclosed in a letter addressed to Senate President Godswill Akpabio.

The nominees include Fatai Ibikunle from Oyo State, Kennedy Ikpeme from Cross River State, and retired Federal High Court judge, Justice Ibrahim Buba.

The Code of Conduct Bureau, established in 1979, plays a pivotal

role in promoting integrity and ethical conduct within Nigeria’s public service.

The Bureau operates with a 10-member board responsible for ensuring adherence to the nation’s code of conduct for public officers.

READ ALSO: Tinubu to depart Nigeria for France tomorrow

This development comes a month after President Tinubu swore in Dr Abdullahi Usman Bello as the chairman of the board on October 23, 2024.

The current board members include Barr. Muritala Aliyu Kankia, E. J.



Agbomayinma, Ben Umeano, Prof. Juwayriyya Badamasiyu, Bulus I. Zephaniah, and Abdulsalam Taofiq Olawale.

The nominations are subject to Senate approval, as part of the constitutional process for appointments to key public offices.

Lagos Taskforce raids criminal hideout, apprehends 53 drug peddlers

By Agency Reporter

Chairman, Lagos State Environmental and Special Offences Enforcement Unit (Taskforce), CSP Adetayo Akerele, said its operatives have apprehended 53 suspected criminals in the Gowon Estate area of the state.

Akerele made this known in a statement, signed by the agency's Director, Press and Public Affairs, Mr Gbadeyan Abdurraheem, on Tuesday in Lagos.

He said that the agency carried out the operation to enhance safety, security of lives, property and environmental decorum in the area.

"The agency apprehended drug peddlers, addicts; miscreants; street urchins; illegal street traders and

people of shady business dealings.

"We found several mix of different illicit drugs and narcotics, suspected to be Indian hemp, codeine syrup, colorado and several others that are not good or worthy of human consumption," he said.

According to him, the operation marks a critical step toward securing relief for residents around Gowon Estate, Ipaja; Egbeda; Idimu and its environs, who have been affected by the activities of these suspected criminals. "Residents have endured trauma and safety risks due to the presence of these unauthorised and waywards squatters.

"The taskforce remains fully committed to safeguarding all



residents, and we will continue our efforts to rid the metropolis of individuals who prey on law-abiding citizens," he said.

The chairman also reaffirmed the agency's commitment to systematically monitor other criminal hideouts, blackspots, abandoned buildings and properties that were not in active use.

Chinua Achebe airport lifts 400,000 passengers, 7,000 flights in 3 years

By Friday Omosola

The Chinua Achebe International Airport, Umueri in Anambra, says it has transported no fewer than 400,000 passengers in 7,000 flights since it began commercial flight operations in December 2021.

Mr Martins Nwafor, Managing Director of the airport, said this on Tuesday while playing host to Dr Law Mefor, Commissioner for Information in Anambra.

Nwafor, while taking the Commissioner and his team on a tour of the facility, said only two commercial airlines were using the airport at present, but that talks were on to bring more airlines on board. According to him, operations are largely during the daytime but airfield lighting systems are being installed to make it possible for night flight operations at the airport.

He said the airport had the best runway in Nigeria with a total distance of 3.7 kilometres, second longest in Nigeria with 45 metres width, which is the capacity for Boeing 748-800 series airbus.

"We have well calibrated Instrument Landing System including localizer and glide slope and very high frequency

omnidirectional radio range; these give the direction and bearing to flights".

He said: "When the lighting system are completed and approved, the volume of traffic will witness a significant increase as aeroplanes would be able to land and takeoff after sunset.

"We have been able to move about 400,000 passengers in 7,000 flights and we hope that we will do better when the lights come up because there are some people who would like to fly late in the evening.

Mr Martin Nwafor, MD Chinua Achebe Airport (L), Dr Law Mefor, Commissioner for Information, Anambra State (C) and an official

"Our Departure Hall can take about 400 passengers. Our Arrival Hall can take about 600 passengers at a time, with ICAO facilitation standard while our car park can take about 750 cars even though we don't see the cars," he said.

Nwafor said the Chinua Achebe



Airport was planning an Airport Trade Fair which would start from Dec. 1 and end on Dec. 7, which would be the third anniversary of commercial operations at the airport.

He said the fair would be an opportunity for flight operators, passengers and the general public to showcase their products and interact for economic and social benefits.

He said the anniversary would mark the unveiling of the airport name which came into existence on Oct. 1, 2023 and also the erection of a statue of Chinua Achebe, the world renowned literary icon.

In his response, Mefor said the airport was a priority project to Gov. Chukwuma Soludo as it was pivotal to his agenda of industrialisation and tourism development of the state.

Tax Reform bills 'll ensure sustainable economic growth – Oyedele

By Agency Reporter

Chairman of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee, Mr Taiwo Oyedele, says that the proposed tax reform bills are designed to address immediate fiscal challenges and lay sustainable framework for economic growth and development of Nigeria.

Oyedele said this in Abuja while presenting his committee's findings on the proposed tax reforms bills to the Senate on Wednesday.

The committee was constituted by the Federal Government to evolve measures of addressing the country's economic challenges, including high poverty rates, low government revenue and rising public debts.

Oyedele said the current economic situation in Nigeria had necessitated immediate and comprehensive tax reforms to address poverty, improve revenue collection and create a favorable business environment.

He said that the proposed reforms aimed to alleviate the tax burden on the poorest citizens, while ensuring that wealthier individuals and corporations contribute fairly to government revenue.

Oyedele said that the reforms would simplify the tax structure and reduce the number of taxes, make compliance easier for businesses and individuals, while potentially increasing overall tax revenue.

According to him, building trust between government and citizens is crucial to improving tax compliance, adding that this has resulted in the proposal for the establishment of a Tax Ombudsman.

He described the current VAT sharing formula as unfair, saying it only favoured state governments.

Oyedele further stated that the proposed tax reform would engender a more equitable distribution, based on consumption within states.

The four bills are: the Nigerian Tax Bill, Tax Administration Bill, Nigerian Revenue Service Establishment Bill and Joint Revenue Board Establishment



Bill.

Oyedele said that highlighted the key proposals of the tax reform bills to include: elimination of minimum tax for loss-making companies and introduction of a 15 per cent effective tax rate on profits for large companies.

Others are: removal of VAT on essential goods and services., increase in tax thresholds for personal income tax to exempt low income earners and simplification of the tax system by reducing the number of taxes and levies.

He urged the senate to consider the proposed bills favorably to create a more conducive environment for investments and business operations in Nigeria.

Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Dr Zacch Adedeji, also allayed the fears of Nigerians on possible introduction of new taxes through the proposed tax reform laws.

Adedeji thanked the leadership of the National Assembly for giving the committee the opportunity to explain to Nigerians the importance of the bills to Nigerian economic growth.

"First of all, we thank the senate leadership for allowing us. You know it is

unusual to be here at this time, but we are here today because of the critical and important nature of these bills and the transformative capacity that they all possess.

"This committee was set up more than a year ago; it has moved round the country, made consultations with the governors, commissioners, with everybody; the consultations will still continue until the bills are passed, and even after that, education will continue," he said.

He said that the essence of the bills was to stimulate the economy, adding: "don't forget that Mr President had said that he would not tax poverty but prosperity, fruits and not seeds, returns and not investments.

" This is the beginning of Mr President's commitment to fulfilling these so that we can have a solid foundation that will lead to the prosperity of this country," Adedeji said.

Share

Nigeria's First Lady to announce winner of "every home a garden" competition

By Friday Omosola

First Lady Oluremi Tinubu, is set to unveil the winner of the "Every Home A Garden" competition on December 5.

This initiative launched nearly a year ago, was designed to promote home gardening as a means of achieving food sufficiency and self-reliance in Nigerian households.

During a final selection review held in her office, Mrs Tinubu expressed her satisfaction with the success of the initiative.

"The objective of this competition has been achieved because people can now feed themselves and their neighbours," she said. "When we started this journey almost a year ago, nobody would have believed us that it was possible."

She highlighted the progress made, citing the productive garden at the State House as a prime example of the potential for homegrown food.

"Even as of yesterday, I was still harvesting. The tea I took this

morning is so medicinal. I am really happy; this would not have been possible without God and the dedicated team He has equipped this office with," the First Lady added.

The final phase of the competition involved presentations by three finalists, who were assessed by Mrs Tinubu and the Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) Governing Board, assisted by friends of the initiative.

The panel evaluated their efforts before selecting the winner.

Hajiya Nana Shettima, the Wife of the Vice President and Vice-Chairman of RHI, commended the First Lady for her vision and dedication.

"This initiative has encouraged women to plant gardens within their homes, ensuring food sufficiency," she noted.

The grand prize of N20 million will be awarded to the winner during the



official unveiling ceremony. The competition, spearheaded by Mrs Tinubu under the Renewed Hope Initiative, aims to inspire Nigerians to embrace home gardening as a sustainable solution to food insecurity

I—R—O—N—I—C: So, OBJ STILL HAS MOUTH TO ABUSE OTHERS? By Agency Reporter

Sheer hypocrisy is what makes Chief Olusegun Obasanjo to accuse today's INEC of malpractices when the same INEC under him in 2007 organised what was popularly adjudged the worst election in Nigeria's history through Professor Maurice Iwu (Wuruwuru). So much that the beneficiary of the ill-gotten mandate, President Umar Yar'Adua, openly admitted the glaring irregularities and, as his own atonement, instituted the Uwais Panel to come up with electoral reforms.

Back in 2003, so brazen was the electoral fraud perpetrated by Obasanjo that in his native Ogun State, the court ruled that the figures announced by INEC for PDP were far more than the number of accredited voters! Obasanjo apparently forgot his calculator.

So autocratic in behaviour, Obasanjo during his second term infamously tore the results of the selection exercise

undertaken by the council of kingmakers in his native Owuland simply because his favourite candidate did not come first.

Who has forgotten how Obasanjo orchestrated the kidnap of elected Governor (e.g Chris Ngige of Anambra) or the illegal impeachment of others with few compromised lawmakers as was witnessed in Oyo, Plateau, Bayelsa and Ekiti. In some cases, such illegality was later reversed by the Supreme Court.

So depraved and shameless was OBJ in corruption that the vice president, Atiku Abubakar, once told a senate committee panel that Obasanjo often sent him hand notes to release PTDF funds to buy brand new SUVs for some of his (Obasanjo's) menopausal concubines.

Another of Obasanjo's brazen misuse

of public funds early in his first term was the award of a Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) contract for the Port Harcourt refinery to one of his cronies, Emeka Offor, at a whopping \$1b. It was another money down the drain as the refinery never worked thereafter.

A princely \$16b was also splashed on phoney electricity contracts under Obasanjo without any tangible change in the nation's energy condition, according to the House of Representatives report under Speaker Dimeji Bankole.

While public tertiary institutions were often shut down over FG's refusal to meet ASUU demands, Obasanjo floated and funded his privately owned Bell University in Otta. It is public knowledge that to win government jobs in Abuja, contractors were often cajoled to go and "donate handsomely"

Gov Adeleke marks second year in office, highlights achievements across sectors

By Friday Omosola

Osun State Governor Ademola Adeleke on Wednesday marked his administration's second anniversary, highlighting a series of accomplishments aimed at transforming the state's infrastructure, economy, and social sectors.

In a broadcast to residents, Mr Adeleke expressed gratitude for the unwavering support and prayers from the people of Osun, acknowledging the challenges inherited by his administration.

He outlined a five-point agenda that has guided his government's efforts to address critical issues and deliver on good governance.

Governor Adeleke revealed significant strides in healthcare, including the upgrade of 200 primary healthcare centres with modern facilities and renewable energy solutions.

Adeleke

He said two major medical outreaches benefiting over 100,000 people have been conducted, and 29,000 pensioners have been enrolled in the state health insurance scheme.

Tackling acute water shortages, the governor said his administration has delivered 332 boreholes across the state, with another 332 underway. "Major waterworks rehabilitation and the revival of 10 mini-waterworks are also in progress."

To boost agriculture, Mr Adeleke added that his administration launched a farm mechanization plan, purchasing 31 tractors and distributing farm inputs.

He added that a youth agropreneur programme is set to commence across all local governments, alongside initiatives to expand



cocoa and cashew production.

"Key milestones in education include the successful establishment of the University of Ilesa and the rehabilitation of 99 secondary schools. The administration completed four previously abandoned projects at Osun State University and launched a new anatomy laboratory", he said.

Governor Adeleke emphasised his pro-worker policies, including the payment of N12 billion in pension debts, approval of a new minimum wage, and phased repayment of salary arrears.

According to him, regular promotions and appointments have been reinstated in the public service. "Over 120 kilometres of roads have been constructed, with additional projects like flyovers in Osogbo and dualization of major roads underway. The Iwo-Osogbo road is set to receive priority attention."

To empower local businesses, Mr Adeleke noted that his government disbursed millions of naira in

revolving loans to artisans and small businesses.

He further stated his administration's commitment to using local content and blocking financial leakages which he said has enabled these achievements without incurring new loans.

As the administration enters its second half, Governor Adeleke promised to complete ongoing projects and continue balancing infrastructure and social development.

He reaffirmed his commitment to transparency, consultation, and responsiveness to citizens' needs.

The anniversary celebrations will include town hall meetings and project commissioning, demonstrating the governor's dedication to inclusive governance. "Together, we are building a better Osun State," Mr Adeleke concluded, urging residents to sustain their support and prayers.

Davido reveals fifth album release set for early 2025

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian Afrobeats artist Davido has unveiled his plans to release his much-anticipated fifth studio album in early 2025.

The announcement came during an engaging interview on the popular podcast, *The Baller Alert Show*, where the chart-topping artist disclosed that fans can look forward to the new project dropping in the first quarter of the year.

The 32-year-old singer confirmed the timeline for the album's release, he opted to keep fans on the edge of their seats by withholding specific details about the project.

Essential elements such as the precise release date, title, and the esteemed guest artists featured on the album remain under wraps, fueling speculation and excitement among his devoted followers.

This forthcoming album is particularly significant for Davido as it will continue to showcase the artist's evolution and dedication to his musical roots.

Expressing his enthusiasm for this new effort, he stated, "My album will be coming out early next year. It will be a real African record."

This proclamation underscores Davido's intent to highlight the rich cultural essence of Africa through his music, promising listeners an authentic auditory experience that reflects his heritage.

In addition to his album announcement, the artist, whose full name is David Adeleke, shared thrilling news about an upcoming collaborative project with fellow Nigerian artists Chike and Odumodublvck.

Set to be released in just a few days, this collaboration has generated considerable buzz as fans eagerly await the track titled "Funds."

During the interview, Davido highlighted his admiration for his collaborators. He praised Odumodublvck, referring to him as



the "biggest Nigerian rapper," a title that certainly reflects the rising star's growing influence in the industry.

He also likened Chike to American singer Bryson Tiller, noting, "Girls love him." The anticipation for "Funds" is palpable, as the combination of these three talented artists is expected to produce a compelling and dynamic sound.

Since bursting onto the music scene in 2012 with his hit single "Dami Duro," which was part of his debut album *Omo Baba Olowo*, Davido has established himself as a powerhouse in the Afrobeats genre.

Over the years, he has released a string of successful albums, including *A Good Time* in 2019, *A Better Time* in 2020, and his most recent project, *Timeless*, which dropped earlier this year.

Each of these albums has contributed to his stature not only as a prominent figure in Nigerian music but also as an influential artist on the global stage.

Davido expressed his unwavering commitment to staying in Nigeria, despite the allure of opportunities abroad

He remarked, "I have to stay tapped in because why run away from home when

others are running there now."

This statement resonates with many artists and fans alike, as it emphasizes the importance of roots and the cultural landscape that shapes an artist's identity.

Davido's choice to remain in Nigeria showcases his dedication to the local music scene and highlights the significant role that his home country plays in his artistry.

His influence extends beyond music, as he has become an emblem of African culture and creativity, championing the importance of celebrating one's heritage.

As fans eagerly await both the release of "Funds" and his fifth studio album, the buzz surrounding Davido continues to grow.

His ability to blend traditional African sounds with contemporary elements of Afrobeats makes him a standout figure in the industry, and his forthcoming projects promise to deliver the authenticity and innovation that his listeners have come to love.

With his sights set on early 2025 for the album release, Davido is undoubtedly poised to make a significant impact in the world of music once again.

Collaboration is a new competition – Basketmouth reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigeria stand-up comedian and filmmaker Basketmouth divulged his recent experience while attempting to collaborate with Nollywood sensation Funke Akindele on his film project, “A Ghetto Love Story.”

His revelations, shared during an interview with Arise TV, spotlight the inherent challenges faced by creatives in the rapidly evolving Nigerian film industry.

Basketmouth, whose real name is Bright Okpocha, is no stranger to the realm of entertainment and has carved a niche for himself through his unique blend of comedy and film production. When conceptualizing “A Ghetto Love Story,” he identified Funke Akindele an actress celebrated for her dynamic roles and impressive achievements in Nollywood as his primary choice for mentorship on the project.

This decision stemmed from not only her immense talent but also her significant influence in the industry, which Basketmouth believed would greatly enrich his film.

In August, Basketmouth recounted, he had a promising discussion with Akindele, which left him optimistic about their potential collaboration.

However, as the weeks passed, communication seemed to dry up. “I called Funke, and she was initially excited about the project. But then, one day I found myself in a silence that felt all too loud. She just stopped picking up my calls and responding to my messages,” he stated.

While Basketmouth could have easily felt disheartened by this turn of events, he maintained a pragmatic outlook.

Understanding that Akindele is an immensely busy figure in the industry, he speculated that she might have been preoccupied with personal projects, or perhaps experiencing technical difficulties with her phone.

Read Also: AY and Basketmouth reflect on 18-year feud’s damage

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

“Maybe she was working on her own movie, or her phone was on silent, or it could even be broken. I really hope she eventually picks up or responds to my messages,” he expressed.

Over time, however, it became increasingly clear to Basketmouth that he needed to recalibrate his approach.

After attempting to connect with Akindele on multiple occasions reporting that he had sent over 25 messages he decided to pivot.

Recognizing the urgent need to advance his film project, Basketmouth reached out to Mo Abudu, a formidable force in the Nigerian entertainment landscape and the founder of EbonyLife Films.

“Normally, Mo doesn’t usually involve herself in projects like this,” Basketmouth remarked. “But when I reached out to her, she jumped at the opportunity to lend her support. It was a game changer for me.”

Abudu’s eagerness to assist was a testament to her commitment to fostering talent within the industry, and it underscored a growing trend among filmmakers to band together for mutual benefit.

However, as he reflected on this rollercoaster experience, Basketmouth underscored a fundamental truth that he believes will shape the future of Nollywood.

“This journey has reinforced my belief that collaboration holds the key to growth within the Nigerian film industry,” he asserted.

“We must embrace a mindset where collaboration is considered the new competition. When filmmakers collaborate, they amplify their strengths and drive the industry forward.”



As the film industry continues to evolve, collaborations between established figures such as Basketmouth and Abudu signal a promising trajectory toward a united creative front.

The synergy created through collaboration not only enhances the quality of films being produced but also broadens the storytelling landscape, allowing for diverse narratives that resonate with audiences both locally and globally.

Furthermore, Basketmouth’s experience sheds light on the challenges that creatives often face in forging partnerships.

Navigating the busy schedules and priorities of fellow filmmakers can often result in unforeseen obstacles, but as Basketmouth’s story illustrates, perseverance and adaptability can lead to unexpected avenues of success.

Basketmouth’s journey with “A Ghetto Love Story” serves as an inspiring reminder of the importance of resilience within the entertainment industry.

Nigerian singer Speed Darlington arrested again

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigeria Police Force apprehended the popular Nigerian singer Darlington Okoye, widely known by his stage name Speed Darlington, just two months after his previous release from custody.

According to a report from New Daily Prime, the arrest took place on October 4, 2023, shortly after Speed Darlington released a provocative video.

In this video, he appeared to mock his fellow artist Burna Boy regarding the latter's association with American rapper Diddy.

The situation surrounding Diddy has been fraught with tension, particularly due to ongoing legal troubles involving allegations of sexual exploitation brought against the rapper by the FBI.

The timing of Speed Darlington's video, which many interpreted as a direct jab at Burna Boy, has added layers of complexity and controversy to his latest legal woes. Speed Darlington's outspoken nature has always been part of his brand, but this recent incident seems to have crossed a line that attracted the attention of law enforcement.

After spending five days in detention, he was granted bail on October 9, much to the relief of his supporters. However, it appears the legal troubles didn't end there.

On Wednesday, November 27, Darlington's lawyer, Deji Adeyanju, took to his official Facebook page to announce the latest developments in his client's ongoing legal saga. Adeyanju stated, "Our client Speed Darlington, a.k.a AKPI has been arrested by the Nigerian police in Owerri at his show upon return to Nigeria."

This announcement has reignited discussions about the pressures faced by artists in Nigeria, especially those who tend to push boundaries in their artistry.

Speed Darlington's latest legal predicament has raised various



questions concerning freedom of expression and the implications of public figures engaging in controversial discourse.

As a performer who has made a name for himself with catchy tunes and provocative online presence, many are left wondering if his creative liberties are being stifled by legal interventions.

Moreover, his frequent clashes with the law seem to reflect broader tensions in Nigerian society regarding celebrity culture and lawful conduct.

The singer, who initially gained fame through his catchy songs and engaging personality on social media, has become synonymous with flamboyance and controversy.

His willingness to share personal anecdotes and creative opinions often puts him in the spotlight sometimes for the right reasons and other times for the

wrong ones.

However, this ongoing back-and-forth with law enforcement suggests that his persona may come with significant risks.

Fans and critics alike are now left to ponder the future of Speed Darlington's career amid these escalating legal issues.

What will this mean for his artistic expression, and how will it impact his relationships within the Nigerian music scene, especially with peers like Burna Boy?

As the legal proceedings unfold and the public awaits more information, the narrative surrounding Speed Darlington is a poignant reminder of the sometimes volatile intersection between art, celebrity, and the law in Nigeria.

Drake sues UMG, Spotify over Kendrick Lamar's diss song

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned Afrobeats artist Davido extolled the remarkable contributions of Africans to the medical and entertainment sectors, underscoring the global impact of individuals from the continent.

The singer, who has made a name for himself internationally, emphasized that many of the most esteemed medical professionals practising in the United States hail from Nigeria.

This highlights not only the academic rigour and dedication of these physicians but also points to a broader narrative of African excellence in highly regarded fields.

Davido's assertion is a testament to the capability and talent prevalent among Nigerians, illustrating the strength of the African diaspora in driving innovation and advancing healthcare.

Moreover, Davido delved into the burgeoning influence of African creatives in the international music scene, revealing a changing dynamic where Western filmmakers and artists are increasingly drawing inspiration from African culture.

This, he believes, represents a significant shift in how African artistry is perceived globally, asserting that the continent is becoming a wellspring of creativity that is both unique and powerful.

Drawing from his own experiences managing his record label within the framework of Sony Music, Davido pointed out that African artists are contributing some of the most innovative ideas in the industry.

"Even in my record label, Africans bring the best ideas. That shows that our imagination is off the grid," he declared confidently.

His statement underscores the need for recognition of African talent, acknowledging that the continent offers a fresh perspective that enhances the global narrative.

His passion for Africa's potential is palpable as he articulates his hopes for the future, stating that the



continent is on the brink of a significant breakthrough.

Davido confidently asserted that Africa is "next" in terms of yielding global influence, an assertion that resonates with many young creators and entrepreneurs who are beginning to forge their paths in various industries.

The singer noted a tangible interest from major streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime, which are actively seeking African narratives for their cinematic projects.

He stated, "Netflix and Amazon Prime come to Africa to get movie ideas. Now, when you come on Netflix, you will see about two Nigerian movies in the top 10."

This statement reflects a notable trend where Nigerian cinema and storytelling are gaining traction, effectively positioning African narratives at the forefront of worldwide entertainment.

Davido's vision for Africa's future is one

rooted in potential and abundance. "I feel like we have everything but just missing a couple of things," he said, suggesting that while there is an abundance of talent and ideas, further support and resources are crucial to elevating African voices on the global stage.

However, Davido's comments serve as a powerful reminder of the underappreciated roles that Africans play across various sectors.

His optimism about Africa's trajectory in the global arena paints a hopeful picture of a continent rich with opportunities and creativity.

As Afrobeats continues to break boundaries and African filmmakers captivate audiences worldwide, the time is ripe for Africa to emerge as a formidable player in shaping the future of global entertainment and beyond.

Beyoncé crowned greatest 21st-century pop star

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

American singer Beyoncé has been crowned the greatest popstar of the 21st century by Billboard, a prominent authority in the realm of music rankings and analysis.

This recognition comes as no surprise, given Beyoncé's unparalleled influence and artistic achievements throughout her illustrious career.

Billboard placed the Grammy-winning diva at the pinnacle of its illustrious list.

Coming in at a close second is the multi-talented Taylor Swift, who has captivated global audiences with her storytelling prowess and adept musical evolution.

Swift's capability to transition seamlessly from country roots to pop power has solidified her status as one of the defining artists of the modern era

Completing the top five is a lineup of extraordinary talent. The third spot is claimed by the billionaire Barbadian sensation Rihanna, whose ventures in both music and fashion have revolutionized the entertainment landscape.

Canadian rapper Drake follows closely in fourth place, known for his genre-defying music and blockbuster hits that have left an indelible mark on the hip-hop scene.

Rounding out the top five is Lady Gaga, whose avant-garde approach to pop and powerful vocal performances have redefined the boundaries of contemporary music.

The Billboard ranking not only highlights these remarkable artists but also showcases a formidable top ten that includes a mix of iconic figures.

In sixth place is the once-rebellious pop queen Britney Spears, who remains a significant cultural figure despite her tumultuous relationship with fame.

Not far behind, Kanye West claims the seventh position, known for his innovative production and boundary-



pushing artistry that has sparked both admiration and controversy.

Justin Bieber, a pop phenomenon since his teenage years, occupies the eighth spot, showcasing his growth and evolution as an artist.

Following him in the 9th position is the extraordinarily talented Ariana Grande, celebrated for her powerful vocal range and emotive performances that continue to resonate with fans worldwide.

Completing the impressive roster is the British powerhouse Adele, who has touched millions with her soulful ballads and heartfelt lyrics, firmly securing her place in the annals of music history.

Beyoncé's crowning as the greatest popstar of the 21st century is further emphasized by her unparalleled achievements at the Grammy Awards.

Holding the record for the most nominations in the awards' history, Beyoncé boasts an outstanding 99 nominations, an impressive feat that

reflects her consistent excellence and artistry.

Moreover, she has set a remarkable benchmark by being the most-awarded artist ever, with an astonishing 32 Grammy wins to her name.

These accomplishments not only highlight her peerless standing within the industry but also her ability to connect with audiences across generations.

As she continues to captivate fans with her music and dynamic performances, Beyoncé's legacy as the greatest popstar of the 21st century is firmly cemented.

Billboard's recognition is a testament to her extraordinary contributions to music and culture, and it paves the way for the next generation of artists who aspire to follow in her illustrious footsteps.

Funke Akindele unveils Real Estate venture

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Celebrated actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has taken a significant step in her illustrious career by officially unveiling her latest venture into real estate development.

The announcement, which she shared via a captivating video on her Instagram account, highlights her ambitious project that has captured the imagination of many.

In the video, Akindele provides a glimpse of the stunning real estate development, which boasts an exquisitely designed garden that draws inspiration from her renowned television series.

Her joy is palpable as she reflects on the fulfilment of a lifelong dream to create a luxurious, world-class living environment for discerning residents.

The development is meticulously crafted, featuring top-tier infrastructure that promises an unforgettable living experience.

Each home is surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens adorned with vibrant flowers, and residents will enjoy the added luxury of serene pools, creating an

oasis of tranquillity.

With this venture, Akindele not only solidifies her position in the entertainment industry but also demonstrates her multifaceted talent as a businesswoman.

As she embarks on this exciting new chapter, her fans and followers eagerly anticipate the transformative impact her real estate project will bring to the community.

She wrote on Instagram: "I'm excited to share a transformative chapter of my life! After years of hard work, I've turned my dream of owning a real estate development with world class infrastructure into reality. From the drainage system, the tarred roads, top notch security and uninterrupted power supply, beautified by flowers and pools in every home. I proudly



present Jenifa Gardens, a place where dreams come true. This real estate venture embodies the belief that everyone deserves a home that reflects their style and personality..."

Laide Bakare celebrates Adeleke's achievements on 2nd anniversary

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Liverpool legend Jamie Carragher has labeled Mohamed Salah "selfish" following the forward's public expression of frustration over Liverpool's failure to offer him a new contract. Salah, 32, has been a key player for the Reds, with 12 goals in all competitions this season, yet his current deal is set to expire at the end of the campaign.

Speaking after Liverpool's commanding 3-1 victory over Southampton, Salah revealed to reporters that he is "probably more out than in," hinting at his dissatisfaction with the lack of movement on a new contract. The comments have sparked a flurry of opinions, with Carragher, a former Liverpool defender, expressing his disappointment on Sky Sports' Monday Night Football.

"I must say I am very disappointed with Mo Salah," Carragher said. "Liverpool have Real Madrid midweek [in the Champions League] and Man City at the weekend. That's the story right now. If he keeps putting out comments and his

agent keeps dropping cryptic messages, that's selfish. He's thinking about himself and not the club."

Divisive Reaction

Salah's remarks have divided fans and pundits alike. Chris Sutton, speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live's Monday Night Club, suggested Salah's decision to speak out indicates his desire to remain at Anfield.

"It wasn't one of those situations where he was cornered. Salah approached the press to get things off his chest. To me, that says he wants to stay," said the former striker.

Rory Smith of The Athletic echoed this sentiment but pointed out Liverpool's potential hesitation to commit to a lucrative deal for a player in his 30s. "The club is likely looking at the long-term risks. At some point, performances dip in your mid-30s. It's a gamble whether Salah can maintain this level for another year, two, or perhaps longer."



Key Decisions Loom

The debate comes at a crucial moment for Liverpool, who sit eight points clear at the top of the Premier League and face a decisive Champions League clash against Real Madrid. With defender Trent Alexander-Arnold and captain Virgil van Dijk also out of contract this summer, the club is under immense pressure to secure the futures of its star players while focusing on winning silverware.

Carragher emphasized that Liverpool's priority must remain on winning titles. "The most important thing for Liverpool Football Club this season isn't the future of Mo Salah, Virgil van Dijk, or Trent Alexander-Arnold. It's Liverpool winning the Premier League," he said.

World leaders react to Lebanon war ceasefire

By Agency Reporter

World leaders have welcomed a ceasefire deal between Israel and Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which came into force on Wednesday morning (0200 GMT). Here are key reactions from around the world.

UNITED STATES AND FRANCE

The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon will protect Israel from the threat of Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah and create the conditions for a “lasting calm”, US President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron said ahead of the truce coming into force.

“The announcement today will cease the fighting in Lebanon, and secure Israel from the threat of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations operating from Lebanon,” the leaders said in a joint statement.

The United States and France will work “to ensure this arrangement is fully implemented” and lead international efforts for “capacity-building” of the Lebanese army, they added.

Biden welcomed the deal as “good news” and also said the US would lead a fresh effort to secure a truce between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza.

Macron said the Lebanon ceasefire should “open the path” for an ending to the war in Gaza.

ISRAEL

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked the US president for his “involvement in securing the ceasefire agreement”.

He told Biden in a call that he appreciated the US leader’s “understanding that Israel will maintain its freedom of action in enforcing it”, according to Netanyahu’s office.

Ahead of Israel’s approval of the deal, Netanyahu said the “length of the ceasefire depends on what happens in Lebanon” and the truce would allow Israel to “intensify” pressure on Hamas and focus on the “Iranian threat”.



LEBANON –

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said the ceasefire was a “fundamental step” towards restoring stability in the region.

Thanking France and the US for their involvement, Mikati also reiterated his government’s commitment to “strengthen the army’s presence in the south”.

IRAN –

Iran, a backer of both Hezbollah and Hamas, welcomed the end of Israel’s “aggression” in Lebanon, after the ceasefire came into force.

“Welcoming the news” of the end of Israel’s “aggression against Lebanon”, foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said, stressing Iran’s “firm support for the Lebanese government, nation and resistance”.

CHINA –

China said it was “paying close attention to the current situation in Lebanon and Israel”.

“We support all efforts conducive to easing tensions and achieving peace and welcome the agreement reached by relevant parties on a ceasefire,” foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning said.

GERMANY –

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock welcomed the deal, hailing it as “a ray of hope for the entire region”.

“People on both sides of the border want to live in genuine and lasting security,” Baerbock said, calling the deal “a success for diplomacy”.

UNITED KINGDOM

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer praised a “long overdue” ceasefire that would “provide some measure of relief to the civilian populations” of both Israel and Lebanon.

Calling for the truce to be “turned into a lasting political solution in Lebanon”, Starmer vowed to be at the “forefront of efforts to break the ongoing cycle of violence in pursuit of a long-term, sustainable peace in the Middle East”.

EUROPEAN UNION –

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen hailed the “very encouraging news” of the ceasefire, saying it would increase Lebanon’s “internal security and stability”.

The announcement was welcome news “first and foremost for the Lebanese and Israeli people affected by the fighting”, Von der Leyen said.

“Lebanon will have an opportunity to increase internal security and stability thanks to Hezbollah’s reduced influence,” she said.

UNITED NATIONS

A top UN official welcomed the ceasefire agreement, but warned that “considerable work lies ahead” to implement the deal.

“Nothing less than the full and unwavering commitment of both parties is required,” said UN special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert.

[9:51 am, 27/11/2024] +234 803 862 6524: Google Benjamin Netanyahu picture & use to illustrate this story above

Putin hails Kazakhstan alliance ahead of visit By Agency Reporter

Russian President Vladimir Putin was expected Wednesday in Kazakhstan for talks on energy projects in the central Asian state which he called a strong ally ahead of his arrival.

While Putin's international travels have been limited since Russia's all-out military offensive in Ukraine in 2022, he has been a regular visitor to Central Asia.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev has highlighted the friendship between the two countries while also making wary comments about the Ukraine war.

Kazakhstan, which has denied Western accusations that it has not applied sanctions against Russia, has not condemned the invasion but has defended Ukraine's territorial integrity.

In a speech reported Wednesday by the Pravda of Kazakhstan newspaper,

Putin hailed the "alliance tested by li and turned towards the future."

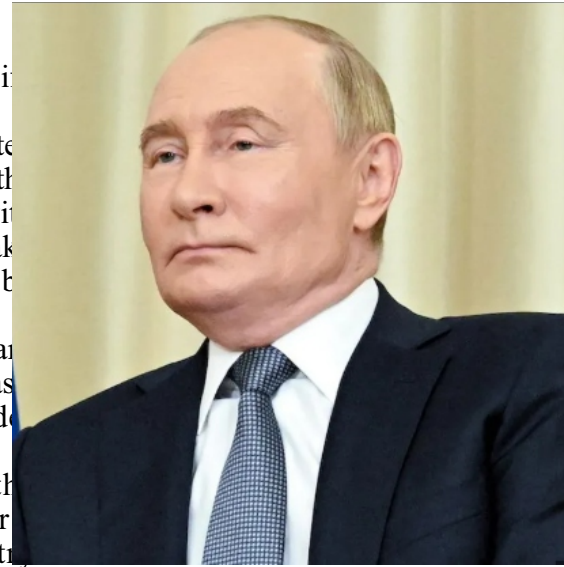
"We have been and remain a trusted strategic partner and ally of Russia in the difficult period of history, filled with conflicts and catastrophes," the Kazakh leader said in a letter published by Russian media Izvestia.

Kazakhstan is a longstanding military and economic partner of Russia and has a 7,500-kilometer (4,650-mile) border with its giant neighbour.

The two leaders could discuss the construction of Kazakhstan's first nuclear power station. The country accounts for about 43 percent of world uranium production but has a chronic electricity shortage.

Russia's state-owned Rosatom Company is one of the candidates for the project, along with South Korean and French entities.

Putin said Wednesday that Rosatom was "ready to launch into large scale



projects" in Kazakhstan.

Putin also praised cooperation in the key oil and gas sector. Kazakhstan, which exports 80 percent of its oil through Russia, has however been seeking alternative routes for the key revenue earner, notably through the Caspian Sea.

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.

They also determined he had taken out a \$375,000 life insurance policy months earlier, transferred money into a foreign bank and was in contact with a woman living in Uzbekistan. Podoll says they were eventually able to contact Borgwardt via a Russian-speaking



woman.

Podoll became emotional during Thursday's press conference, saying Borgwardt's family wants him to return home. He implored Borgwardt to "clean up the mess that he has created."

"Christmas is coming, and what better gift he could give his kids is to be there for Christmas with them," Podoll said.

Pep Guardiola Slams Manchester City's Defensive Fragility After Feyenoord Collapse

By Gbenga Oluranti OLALEYE

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has described his side's 3-3 draw in the Champions League against Feyenoord on Tuesday as feeling like another defeat, after his team squandered a commanding 3-0 lead in the final 15 minutes.

The result ended City's five-game losing streak, but it did little to lift the mood ahead of their upcoming Premier League clash against leaders Liverpool on Sunday.

For Guardiola, the collapse against Feyenoord marked an alarming continuation of defensive vulnerabilities that have plagued his team in recent weeks. Despite a dominant performance for much of the match, including two goals from Erling Haaland and a deflected strike from Ilkay Gundogan, City allowed Feyenoord to come back in dramatic fashion. Anis Hadj Moussa, Santiago Gimenez, and David Hancko scored in quick succession for the Dutch

side, forcing the English champions to settle for a draw.

"We concede a lot of goals because we are not stable," Guardiola said, reflecting on the defensive lapses.

"We give them the first and the other ones and that is why it is difficult."

It was the first time City had failed to win a match they led by three goals since 1989, and the first time it had happened in the final 15 minutes of a Champions League game. Guardiola acknowledged that his side's fragility was evident, especially after the promising 3-0 lead.

"We lost a lot of games lately. We are fragile and of course, we need a victory," he added. "The game (at 3-0) was good for the confidence, playing at a good level, and the first time something happens, we have problems."

City now find themselves in a precarious position in the Champions League group stage. With just two wins from their opening five matches,



they are 15th in the 36-team table, one point ahead of Feyenoord in 20th. With crucial away games against Juventus and Paris Saint-Germain still to come, City must now fight for qualification. Guardiola's side also face an uphill battle in the Premier League, where they are already eight points behind leaders Liverpool. The City manager had previously acknowledged that an 11-point gap would be too much to overcome, even for a team that has dominated English football with four consecutive titles.

Tottenham's Vicario undergoes surgery after heroic performance

Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Tottenham Hotspur goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario has undergone surgery following a remarkable display against Manchester City in which he played 60 minutes with a broken ankle. Despite the injury, the 28-year-old Italian completed the game, helping Spurs secure a stunning 4-0 victory over the reigning Premier League champions at the Etihad Stadium.

A Selfless Performance

The incident occurred in the first half when Vicario collided with City winger Savinho. After receiving medical attention, the keeper chose to continue playing, a decision that underscored his commitment but ultimately revealed the severity of his injury.

In a heartfelt message posted on social media, Vicario reflected on the highs and lows of football:

"Sometimes football gives you its highs, and sometimes it challenges you in ways you don't expect. I played 60 minutes at the Etihad with a broken bone in my ankle, giving absolutely everything I had for the team. Unfortunately, there was no

way around this one. I needed surgery."

He added that he was disappointed to be sidelined but expressed confidence in his team moving forward.

Uncertain Recovery Timeline

Tottenham have not provided a specific timeline for Vicario's return, stating that his recovery will depend on assessments by the club's medical staff. His absence creates a significant challenge for Spurs, as the Italian international has been a cornerstone of the team since his arrival from Empoli in June 2023.

Vicario has made 55 appearances for the club, missing just four matches across all competitions, none in the Premier League.

Forster Steps In

Veteran goalkeeper Fraser Forster, 36, is expected to fill the void. Forster has deputized for Vicario on four occasions this season, including a Carabao Cup



win over Coventry and Europa League outings against AZ Alkmaar and Galatasaray. However, his performances have drawn mixed reviews, raising concerns about whether he is still capable of handling the demands of top-flight football.

Challenges Ahead for Spurs

The loss of Vicario is a significant blow for Ange Postecoglou's side, especially during a crucial period in the season. Tottenham are sixth in the Premier League and seventh in their Europa League group, making the next few weeks pivotal.

Leon Edwards eyes UFC Title redemption by 2025

Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Former UFC welterweight champion Leon Edwards is determined to reclaim his title by the end of 2025, following his July loss to Belal Muhammad. The 33-year-old fighter from Birmingham, who held the belt for nearly a year and defended it twice, is now focused on his path back to the top of the division.

“My goal right now is to get the belt back,” Edwards shared on Instagram. “For me, it’s more about what’s next and how to get back to where you want to be. My goal is to be a two-time world champion.”

If successful, Edwards would make history as the first British fighter to win a UFC championship twice, a feat not achieved by Michael Bisping or Tom Aspinall, the only other UK fighters to hold UFC titles.

A Long Unbeaten Streak Ends

Edwards’ defeat to Muhammad at UFC 304 marked the end of a remarkable 13-fight unbeaten streak stretching back to

2015. Before that, his only other UFC loss was to Kamaru Usman, whom Edwards later defeated in back-to-back bouts to claim and defend the welterweight title.

The loss to Muhammad was particularly disheartening for Edwards, as it occurred in front of his home fans in Manchester during an event tailored for a US audience. The overnight timing meant Edwards entered the octagon at 05:30 local time, which some speculated could have impacted his performance.

“I haven’t lost a fight in like nine years,” Edwards said. “It’s getting used to that feeling again, but I feel like I hate losing more than I love winning.”

What’s Next for “Rocky”?

Though no official bout has been announced, there’s speculation about a possible matchup with Jorge Masvidal at UFC Fight Night in London on 22 March. The two fighters have a storied history, with their



infamous backstage altercation in 2019 creating ongoing tension.

Masvidal, now retired, would need to re-enter the testing pool and confirm his return to professional fighting for the matchup to materialize. Other top contenders in the welterweight division could also be on Edwards’ radar, including rising stars and established veterans vying for a shot at the belt.

Obi congratulates Ugo Ugochukwu on FIA World Cup victory

By Friday Omosola

The 2023 presidential candidate of the the Labour Party, LP, Peter Obi, has congratulated Ugo Ugochukwu Orlandi following his historic victory at the 71st Macau Grand Prix, where he clinched the 2024 FIA World Cup title.

Ugo’s achievement makes him the first American driver in over four decades to win the prestigious championship.

In a statement on his X, Obi praised Ugo’s extraordinary talent, dedication, and hard work, emphasizing that his victory serves as a powerful reminder of the potential that can be unlocked when youth are provided with the right support and guidance.

Peter Obi, has congratulated Ugo Ugochukwu Orlandi
Peter Obi congratulated Ugo Ugochukwu Orlandi

The former governor of Anambra State noted that Ugo’s triumph is not only a source of pride but also an inspiration to young Nigerians, illustrating that

anything is possible with passion and opportunity.

Ugo, who is of Nigerian heritage through his mother, renowned supermodel Oluchi Onweagba Orlandi, and Italian descent through his father, former fashion designer Luca Orlandi, embodies a rich, multicultural background.

His success, Obi said, serves as a shining example for Nigerian youth, inspiring them to pursue their dreams and break barriers.

READ ALSO: Obi urges unity as national grid collapses again

He also commended McLaren for their foresight in recognizing Ugo’s potential and their ongoing support in developing young talent.

Obi expressed excitement for Ugo’s future, looking forward to watching him continue to break new ground in motorsport.



“Congratulations once again, Ugo, for making history and inspiring millions. I look forward to witnessing your continued success,” Obi added.