

**Farotimi breaks down in tears, thanks Nigerians for support** **PAGE 7**



**NDDC earmarks N30bn for young entrepreneurs in Niger Delta** **PAGE 2**

# The New Daily Prime



# South Korean plane crash kills 179 people

**PAGE 25**

**WORLD** **PAGE 28**

**North Korea vows toughest anti-US policy before Trump's inauguration**



**I could have beaten Trump if I didn't withdraw – Biden** **PAGE 27**



**SPORTS** **PAGE 32**

**Ronaldo wins two awards at Globe Soccer**



**ENTERTAINMENT**

**I've recovered N78m of N180m stolen – VeryDarkMan** **PAGE 21**



**14 Simple ways to boost your life expectancy**

**PAGE 18**

# NDDC earmarks N30bn for young entrepreneurs in Niger Delta

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has announced a N30 billion fund aimed at fostering young entrepreneurship in the Niger Delta region.

NDDC, in a statement released on Saturday, disclosed that the funds will be channeled through the Niger Delta Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Trade, Mines, and Agriculture (NDCCITMA) to support the growth and development of young entrepreneurs in the region.

Disclosing this during a recent interview, NDDC Managing Director, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, emphasized the Commission's dedication to empowering youths through economic initiatives, including training and support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

Dr. Ogbuku underscored the importance of verifying and documenting support for genuine businesses, noting that while the government cannot employ everyone, it is committed to creating an enabling environment for entrepreneurship.

He also spoke about the NDDC Youth Internship Scheme, which aims to provide practical skills by connecting youths with organisations for on-the-job training.

"The consultant managing the application process is working to streamline entries and ensure a coordinated launch of the various skill areas by January 2025," the statement added.



According to the NDDC, successful applicants will be notified soon.

The initiative said to be is designed to foster economic growth and peace in the Niger Delta by engaging youths in meaningful ventures and promoting entrepreneurship through structured support from NDCCITMA.

The NDDC was established by the Federal Government in 2000 to drive development in the South-South region of the country.

One of its core mandates is youth training and empowerment.

The Commission has implemented various empowerment programmes over the years.

For instance, in April 2024, the NDDC announced its Foreign Postgraduate Scholarship Programme for applicants from the Niger Delta region for the 2024/2025 academic session.

In a statement published on its website, the NDDC explained that the scholarship aims to boost human resource development in the Niger Delta. It noted that the program is designed to "equip young people

with relevant training and skills for effective participation in the Federal Government's local content programme, as well as enable them to specialise in their fields of study and compete globally in various professional disciplines."

The scheme targets qualified applicants with Bachelor's Degrees from recognised universities in professional fields such as Agricultural Science, Engineering, Environmental Science, Geosciences, Information Technology, Medical Sciences, and Law.

In May 2024, the NDDC announced plans to inaugurate 92 infrastructure projects valued at over N84 billion across five states within two weeks.

This was disclosed by the Commission's Director of Corporate Affairs, Mr. Pius Ughakpoteni, in a statement issued in Akwa Ibom State.

According to Mr. Ughakpoteni, the Commission is equipped with an innovative and results-oriented roadmap to ensure the holistic and sustainable development of the Niger Delta, transforming it into a region of economic prosperity.



# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

**EFFECTIVE FROM  
DECEMBER 1, 2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		372,500.00
HALF PAGE	=		213,000.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		106,500.00
14X2	=		118,000.00
10X6	=		261,585.50
10X5	=		255,238.00
10X4	=		206,890.50
10X3	=		179,608.00
9X6	=		254,977.00
9X5	=		225,738.00
9X4	=		193,500.00
9X3	=		166,223.50
8X6	=		225,368.50
8X3	=		106,934.50
7X4	=		180,173.50
6X4	=		100,434.50
6X3	=		82,750.00
6X2	=		52,499.50
5X6	=		123,749.50
5X5	=		110,000.00
5X4	=		76,833.00
5X3	=		66,875.00
5X2	=		42,916.50
4X4	=		60,166.50
4X3	=		36,499.50
4X2	=		29,333.50
3X3	=		28,000.00
3X2	=		17,400.00
2X2	=		13,000.00
2X1	=		8,600.00
1X1	=		4,400.00

PRODUCT COLOUR		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		329,868.50
HALF PAGE	=		192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		100,000.00
14X2	=		109,500.00
10X6	=		242,500.00
10X5	=		237,500.00
10X4	=		192,500.00
10X3	=		171,000.00
9X6	=		232,500.00
9X5	=		206,000.00
9X4	=		177,500.00
9X3	=		150,000.00
8X6	=		216,000.00
8X3	=		98,500.00
7X4	=		164,002.00
6X4	=		94,010.50
6X3	=		78,500.00
6X2	=		47,500.00
5X5	=		100,000.00
5X4	=		61,500.00
5X3	=		57,819.00
5X2	=		40,379.50
4X4	=		55,000.00
4X3	=		31,000.00
4X2	=		22,003.50
3X2	=		17,260.00
2X2	=		12,945.00
2X1	=		8,630.00
1X1	=		4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR		SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	=		1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	=		885,000.00
FULL PAGE	=		420,000.00
HALF PAGE	=		213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	=		1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	=		745,000.00
FULL PAGE	=		315,777.50
HALF PAGE	=		184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		254,533.50
HALF PAGE	=		142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	=		80,706.50
14X2	=		78,222.50
10X6	=		217,830.00
10X5	=		192,305.50
10X4	=		142,787.50
10X3	=		121,355.50
9X6	=		192,305.50
9X3	=		107,757.50
8X6	=		170,725.00
8X3	=		70,390.00
7X4	=		58,666.50
6X4	=		67,048.00
6X3	=		53,361.50
6X2	=		37,694.00
5X6	=		83,850.00
5X4	=		55,900.00
5X3	=		43,705.00
5X2	=		27,938.00
4X4	=		44,493.00
4X3	=		33,524.00
4X2	=		22,350.00
3X2	=		16,763.00
2X2	=		10,877.00
2X1	=		5,588.50
1X1	=		2,795.50

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		280,690.00
HALF PAGE	=		164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		84,641.50
10X6	=		228,000.00
10X5	=		201,600.00
10X4	=		149,440.00
10X3	=		127,108.00
9X6	=		201,600.00
9X5	=		169,050.00
9X4	=		137,875.00
9X3	=		112,875.00
8X6	=		179,368.00
8X5	=		143,500.00
8X4	=		93,500.00
8X3	=		82,434.50
7X4	=		111,173.50
6X4	=		82,434.50
6X3	=		59,250.00
6X2	=		40,000.00
5X6	=		98,749.50
5X4	=		65,833.00
5X3	=		49,375.00
5X2	=		32,916.50
4X4	=		52,666.50
4X3	=		39,499.50
4X2	=		26,333.50
3X2	=		19,750.00
2X2	=		13,000.00
2X1	=		6,500.00
1X1	=		3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		210,795.50
HALF PAGE	=		124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		70,950.00
14X2	=		76,128.35
10X6	=		194,961.00
10X5	=		162,222.445
10X4	=		103,963.00
10X3	=		N/A
9X6	=		162,222.445
9X5	=		168,191.50
9X4	=		N/A
8X6	=		N/A
8X3	=		N/A
7X4	=		72,676.00
6X4	=		65,000.00
6X3	=		41,124.50
6X2	=		29,858.00
5X6	=		71,378.00
5X4	=		42,825.00
5X3	=		29,858.00
5X2	=		22,841.00
4x4	=		N/A
4X3	=		N/A
4X2	=		17,737.50
3x3	=		23,458.00
3X2	=		14,923.00
2X2	=		10,200.00
2X1	=		5,439.50
1X1	=		2,700.00

SPECIAL POSITIONS		SIZE	RATE
2X6 FRONT PAGE	=		700,000.00
2X6 BACK PAGE	=		300,000.00
2X6 INSIDE PAGE	=		155,000.00
3X6 FRONT PAGE	=		1,200,000.00
4X6 FRONT PAGE	=		2,250,000.00
5X6 FRONT PAGE	=		3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	=		8,250,000.00
EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	=		246,500.00
EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	=		117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	=		236,796.50
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	=		1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	=		929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	=		800,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	=		575,000.00
CENTRESPREAD STRIP COLOUR	=		191,668.50
DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	=		721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	=		432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	=		144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	=		835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	=		550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	=		725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	=		425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	=		15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	=		8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	=		5,500,000.00

ALLURE RATE		SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD	=			967,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	=			806,250.00
ALLURE COVER	=			750,000.00
(IBC) Inside Back Cover	=			376,250.00
(IFC) Inside Front Cover	=			430,000.00
(BC) Back Cover	=			483,750.00
Full Page	=			430,000.00
10X5	=			295,625.00
Half Page	=			225,000.00
EVENT	=			250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION			
SIZE	RATE	7.5% VAT	TOTAL
PHOTO NEWS PAGE 2	50,000.00	3,750.00	53,750.00
PHOTO NEWS (3X3)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
EVENT COVERAGE	100,000.00	7,500.00	107,500.00
FEATURES	200,000.00	15,000.00	215,000.00

GENERAL INFORMATION	
<b>SERIES DISCOUNT</b> 5 PAGES 2.5% 10 PAGES 5% 15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%	<b>LOOSE INSERT</b> LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) COPIES SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES
<b>SURCHARGE</b> PAGE 3 (100%) PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%) PAGE 2 (75%)	<b>CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES</b> CHANGE OF NAME 2,000.00 GUIDE BLACK & WHITE 3,750.00 GUIDE COLOUR 4,250.00
	25,000.00 45,000.00 30,000.00 75,000.00 100,000.00

**CONTACT US**  
Correspondent Address:  
Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu  
Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos  
Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

**E-mail Address:**  
[info@newdailyprime.news](mailto:info@newdailyprime.news)  
Terms and Conditions apply

**ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE**

# 'Publish your assets', direct others to do same, SERAP to Tinubu

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has called on President Bola Tinubu to direct the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) to publish his asset declaration.

The organisation in a statement on its website today said Tinubu's publication of his assets will set an example for his Vice-President Kashim Shettima, ministers, National Assembly leaders, state governors, and local government chairmen to do the same.

In the letter signed by SERAP Deputy Director Kolawole Oluwadare, the organisation praised Tinubu's statement during his first Presidential Media Chat, where he expressed a willingness to consider asking the CCB to release his assets.

SERAP described the move as a significant step toward fostering transparency and accountability but urged the president to take decisive action.

"Your 'consideration' would carry more weight if promptly translated into action," the letter stated. "Asking the CCB to publish your assets and encouraging others to follow suit would promote public trust and ensure transparency across all levels of government."



SERAP warned that secrecy surrounding asset declarations by high-ranking officials fuels corruption, particularly at the state and local government levels.

The organisation emphasised that publishing assets would curb opportunities for the misuse of public funds and enhance public confidence in the integrity of government officials.

The letter also highlighted the Supreme Court's July 2024 judgment prohibiting state governors from taking over local government funds.

SERAP urged Tinubu to ensure immediate implementation of the ruling and hold defaulters accountable.

"Ignoring this judgment undermines the rule of law and democracy," SERAP added, emphasising that transparency at the grassroots level is critical

to addressing allegations of corruption and restoring public trust.

SERAP cited constitutional provisions, including Paragraph 3© of Part 1 of the Third Schedule, which supports public access to asset declarations filed with the CCB.

It also referenced international treaties, such as the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, which Nigeria has ratified, as legal frameworks mandating asset disclosure by public officers.

"Publishing assets is not only a constitutional requirement but also a moral obligation," SERAP concluded, urging the president to lead by example and inspire a nationwide culture of transparency and accountability.



# Real reason Tinubu will be reelected in 2027 – Reno Omokri

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former presidential aide, Reno Omokri has expressed confidence in President Bola Tinubu's chances of securing a second term in the 2027 general elections.

In a video posted on his official X account, Omokri lauded Tinubu's exceptional emotional intelligence and strategic approach to building relationships, even with adversaries.

“President Tinubu is a highly emotionally intelligent individual who is strategic in his dealings with people.

He has a unique ability to turn even his enemies into friends,” Omokri stated.

He said, “A lot of people have enemies, and they maintain that enmity, they nurse that grudge, they keep up that vibe, that quarrel, and they don't realise that too often, it's a sign of low emotional intelligence.

“You see, people who are highly emotionally intelligent, what they do, except an enemy is for maybe an existential issue like faith, for instance maybe



you have a situation with the Jews and with some Arabs, and we believe diametrically opposed things and we want diametrically opposed things and so there's no really good chance for us reconciling except maybe we have a two-state solution,” Omokri said.

He further stated that in today's politics, one needs to be highly strategic and learn how to quickly reconcile with enemies in order to achieve a desired aim.

The former presidential aide said, “If you look for example the 2nd world war, the United States fought the war and they had allies, their biggest ally of course was the United

Kingdom and who was their enemy, we have Germany, Japan. If you look at the United States today, who is their biggest trading partner? If you go online, America's biggest trading partner number 4 you'd see Japan, number 5 Germany.

“Enemies that you've won over to your side are more reliable than friends, and that is why I am convinced that the president of Nigeria, Asiwaju Ahmed Tinubu, is going to be re-elected in 2027. I mean I'm so sure, as long as God spares his life, he's gonna be re-elected, because he is an expert that knows how to turn former enemies to friends.”

# Akpabio: Okpebholo's mandate divinely ordained by God

By Friday Omosola

Senate President Godswill Akpabio has hailed the mandate of Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, as a divine calling aimed at bringing relief and progress to the state.

In a statement issued today by Fred Itua, Okpebholo's Chief Press Secretary, Akpabio made the comments yesterday while receiving Governor Okpebholo at his residence in Uyo.

Praising Okpebholo's electoral triumph, Akpabio attributed his victory to divine intervention, declaring that God had appointed him to reshape the history of Edo State and steer it toward a future of growth and development..

He said: "Your excellency, every leadership comes from God, and God chooses whom He pleases. It pleases Him at this time to choose you and the APC to lead Edo people at a time like this.

"You are a man of few words but full of action. Edo people have not misplaced their votes in choosing you. You have the heart of the common man, and I am confident that your leadership will bring development and transformation to your State."

Akpabio commended the bold actions taken by Governor Okpebholo's administration, emphasising that his first month in office has "revived the hope of the Edo people."

He added that the governor has provided a clear vision of the current administration's commitment and readiness to usher in development and progress to the state.

Appreciating Edo people for voting



APC in the September 2024 governorship election, Akpabio highlighted that aligning the state with the federal government brings numerous benefits to both Edo and the South-South region.

He underscored that the region is now more powerful in its negotiations at the federal level.

"Edo State is one of the States in the South South, before Niger delta, and this is predominantly a minority area in Nigeria. There is always a need to link up with the federal government to be able to contribute our quota to nation building.

"Through the providence of God, most of the resources that have kept the country going for decades come from this area but in terms of representation at the national level, we are always found wanting except for the period that circumstances brought us Dr Goodluck Jonathan."

Akpabio stated that, under the APC administration, many politicians recognized the need to shift the political landscape, allowing them to represent Nigerians at the national

level and actively participate in the country's decision-making process.

"So, when I made that strong movement to the APC, it was to move our people in the South South region to the centre."

Predicting additional electoral victories for the APC in the South-South region, Akpabio stated that, based on current political dynamics and all available indicators, the ruling APC is set to expand its influence, potentially bringing more states into its fold.

He believed this shift will reshape the region's development trajectory.

Governor Okpebholo, on the other hand, explained that his visit to Akwa Ibom was aimed at exchanging ideas with Akpabio and benefiting from his vast experience.

He acknowledged that the impressive development in Akwa Ibom had inspired him to seek Akpabio's guidance, learn from his expertise, and gain valuable insights.



# Farotimi breaks down in tears, thanks Nigerians for support

By Dave Oludare Oso

A human rights advocate, who has been in the news for months, Dele Farotimi has thanked Nigerians for standing by him during his time in prison, regardless of his tribe or religion.

Farotimi was remanded by the Ekiti State magistrate court in Ado-Ekiti court for 21 days after he was accused of “criminally defaming” Afe Babalola, a senior advocate of Nigeria (SAN), in a book titled: ‘Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System.’

He regained his freedom on December 24, after being granted bail of N30 million by the court.

In a social media interview following his release, Farotimi broke down in tears while thanking Nigerians who rallied support for him.



“We stopped being humans because we became Nigerians. They divided us and we fell for it. Because you would not see me as a Yoruba man, you spoke for me,” he said.

“You would not see me as a Christian, you spoke for me. Because you spoke, Nigeria could not happen to me. You found your voices, I became you and in our collective, we could not be silenced.”

Meanwhile, the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) has rejected a request by Emmanuel Chambers, Afe Babalola’s law firm, to disbar Farotimi for alleged unethical conduct.

Isaq Bello, chairman of the LPDC, said the allegations pertained to Farotimi’s role as an author and not his practice as a lawyer.

# Mozambique unrest: Nigerian calls for FG's intervention

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

**A** Nigerian resident in Mozambique, Akinola Olunloyo has appealed to the Nigerian government to intervene in Mozambique's political crisis following the confirmation of the ruling party's victory in the October 9 elections.

Olunloyo urged President Bola Tinubu to use his influence within the African Union to mobilise efforts to restore peace and stability in Mozambique.

Olunloyo made the appeal in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Sunday.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that Mozambique's Frelimo has been the ruling party since 1975 when the country gained independence from Portugal.

Olunloyo claimed that the political unrest was fueled by actions of the opposition party, Podemos, through its candidate, Venâncio Mondlane.



Olunloyo, a businessman and resident of Mozambique's capital, Maputo, for over 13 years, said many Nigerians were stranded, with no means of escape.

“The incitement of violence by Podemos and its key figure, Venâncio Mondlane has escalated tensions resulting in the loss of lives, destruction of businesses, and targeted attacks on foreign nationals, including Nigerians.

“These actions are not only causing untold suffering to Mozambicans but also putting the lives of Nigerians in jeopardy.

“Immediate intervention is critical to prevent further loss of life and to secure the safety of Nigerians in Mozambique,”

he said.

He noted that the attack on foreigners and their businesses was because of the believe that the government benefited from foreigners.

Olunloyo urged the presidency to take actions including evacuation of Nigerians to ensure their safety, and diplomatic engagement with the Mozambican government to demand the protection of Nigerians and press for immediate de-escalation of violence.

He called on regional bodies and the African Union to demand accountability from Podemos and Mondlane for their role in inciting violence and destabilising the country.



# Competition between NNPC, Dangote brought down petrol price – IPMAN

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has declared that the fierce competition between Dangote refinery and NNPC Limited is responsible for the recent drop in the pump price of petrol in the country.

NEW DAILY PRIME observed yesterday that most petrol retail outlets have reduced their pump prices in response to drop in ex-depot prices by Dangote Refinery and the Port Harcourt Refinery.

While NNPC Retail reduced its price from N1,030 to N965 per litre, other retailers like AA Rano and AYM Sharfa dropped their pump price from N1,070 to N1,020 per litre.

However despite these reductions, it was observed that pump price at Conoil remained at N1,090 per litre, the same as it was in November.

IPMAN's Public Relations Officer, Chinedu Ukadike said competition between the local refineries and the smooth flow of the product have resulted in the



reduction in prices.

According to him, "It is a good development for independent marketers and for consumers too. Now, because of increased demand, price normally goes up during this period but right now the opposite is the case. Availability has been taken care of and we are now seeing price war among the gladiators, NNPC and Dangote.

"By next year when the Warri and Kaduna refineries are expected to come onstream, things will even be more interesting."

Ukadike noted that independent marketers were now able to buy directly from both refineries

because "there is a slight increase in turnover. When the price was around N1,300/litre most of our members barely sold 5,000 litres daily but we are doing far better than this.

"We are also now able to get products directly. NNPC portal is open now for marketers to take as much product as they want. Dangote has also heeded our call and reduced the volume for bulk purchase eligibility.

"Initially it was limited to 10 million litres but now they sell at two million litres which is about N2 billion. This is more bearable for independent marketers who are now able to come together to place orders for the product."

# Police storm kidnappers' den, rescue three victims

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nasarawa State Police Command says its operatives stormed a kidnappers' hideout in the state and rescued three victims.

In a statement by its Public Relations Officer, Rahman Nansel, the Command said the rescued victims were Abdulsalam Shuaibu, Sani Shaibu, and Blessing Okorie.

Nansel said police operatives from the Gitata Division in Karu Local Government Area swung into action after getting the information that a Volkswagen Sharon vehicle with three occupants was attacked along the Kaduna-Keffi highway.

He said, "Upon receipt of the information, the Divisional Police



Officer, SP Zaks Wambai, swiftly mobilized his team to the scene and combed the vicinity.

"Consequently, the kidnapper's

hideout was burst, and they were dislodged, paving the way for the rescue of the victims unhurt" he said.

# Paris-bound bizman excretes 74 wraps of heroin, cocaine

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA), have arrested a 48-year-old businessman, Ifeanyi Orizu for ingesting 74 wraps of heroin and cocaine.

NDLEA spokesman, Mr Femi Babafemi, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday in Abuja.

Babafemi said that Orizu was intercepted while attempting to board an Air France flight 844 from the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, (NAIA) Abuja to Paris, France.

He said that the suspect was arrested at the boarding gate of the Abuja airport on Sunday, Dec. 22 during the outward clearance of passengers on



Air France.

"When he was pulled aside for a body

scan, he turned down the request claiming his medical condition won't allow him.

"He was thereafter taken into custody for excretion observation during which he excreted a total of 74 wraps of the Class A drugs over a period of seven days.

"In his statement, Orizu claimed he owns a shop at Balogun market, Lagos Island where he sells school and travel bags, adding that he was promised 3,000 Euros upon successful delivery of the consignment in Paris.

"He left his base in Lagos for the Abuja airport to connect his Air France flight to Paris, hoping to escape detection," he said.



# Reno Omokri fires back at El-Rufai over 'Yorubanisation' claims under Tinubu

By Dave Oludare Oso

Former presidential aide, Reno Omokri has criticised ex-Kaduna State governor, Nasir el-Rufai over what he describes as a deliberate attempt to destabilise Nigeria through divisive propaganda.

In a fiery statement shared via social media, Omokri accused el-Rufai of recycling tactics allegedly used against former President Goodluck Jonathan to now target President Bola Tinubu.

Omokri questioned el-Rufai's motives, suggesting that his criticisms of Tinubu's administration are part of a calculated effort to sow discord between Nigeria's northern and southwestern regions.

He challenged el-Rufai's claims of a supposed "Yorubanisation" of the government, calling them baseless and misleading.

"Why does he only do this when we have a Southern President? The lies he is peddling about President



Tinubu's Yorubanisation of the government are coordinated," Omokri stated, drawing parallels to the Nigerien junta leader Abdourahamane Tchiani's recent assertions.

Omokri urged Nigerians not to accept such accusations without evidence, calling for data-backed analyses instead of broad generalisations.

"If they cite a sector, they should give Nigerians a regional breakdown of everybody in that sector rather than making broad statements to paint a manipulative narrative," he said.

Warning of the potential consequences, Omokri cautioned against actions that could fracture the unity between the North and Southwest.

"People like el-Rufai should think twice before destabilising Nigeria," he advised, highlighting the importance of preserving the bonds that hold the country together.

The remarks come amidst growing debates over regional representation in Tinubu's government, further intensifying the political discourse in Nigeria.

# Police rescue kidnapped victims, arrest five suspects

By Friday Omosola

In a renewed effort to combat criminal activities across Nigeria, the Police have rescued 13 kidnapped victims, arrested five suspected armed robbers, and recovered firearms and ammunition.

In a statement, today, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, Police spokesperson, said the achievements underlined the police's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of Nigerians.

He said the operatives of the Kwara State Police Command stormed a kidnappers' den in the Idofin-Igbana area following a distress call regarding the abduction of 13 individuals.

According to him, despite resistance from the kidnappers, the operatives overpowered them, forcing the criminals to flee with injuries and rescuing all the victims.

Similarly, Adejobi added that yesterday, the Lagos State Police Command operatives responded to a report of a public disturbance at Pinnacle Depot, Lekki, where they apprehended two individuals, Lawan Mustapha, 38, and Aina Daniel, 38.



He said a thorough search led to the recovery of a double-barrel rifle, 90 live cartridges, and five model rifles. The suspects are in custody and under investigation.

Furthermore, he said on the same day, police operatives in GRA Ikeja arrested three suspected armed robbers.

“A search uncovered a locally made pistol, four live cartridges, and two cutlasses. The suspects are also in custody and will be prosecuted upon the conclusion of investigations”, said Adejobi.

He said the Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, reaffirmed the police commitment to eradicating kidnapping, armed robbery, and other forms of criminality.

Adejobi noted that Egbetokun assured Nigerians that the police would leverage all available resources to create a safer environment for all.

Adejobi emphasised that the police remained steadfast in its mission to protect lives and property, urging citizens to continue supporting the police in the fight against crime.



# Lagos challenges judgment freeing Dr Olaleye at Supreme Court

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Lagos State Government has approached the Supreme Court in its bid to overturn the judgment of the Court of Appeal which quashed the conviction of Femi Olaleye, the Managing Director Optimal Cancer Care Foundation, on a two-count charge of defilement of a child and sexual assault by penetration

The notice of appeal, which was filed on December 27, 2024, was sighted by NEW DAILY PRIME.

The notice which was filed the Lagos State Director of Public Prosecutions, (DPP), Dr. Babajide Martins, another Director in the Ministry of Justice, Mr Adebayo Haroun, and Deputy Director, Mr Babajide Boye alongside 3 other counsel, contained 3 Grounds of Appeal.

The grounds challenged the whole decision of the court of appeal, particularly the requirement that the evidence of the alleged survivor of the crime (names withheld) required corroboration, the failure of the trial court to conduct trial within trial on the confessional statements of the defendant and the failure of prosecution to call the DPO to testify in the matter.

The Lagos State Government therefore asked the Supreme Court to make an order allowing the appeal and setting aside the judgment of the Court of Appeal delivered on the 29th of November, 2024 AND an ORDER affirming the conviction and sentence of Dr. Olaleye by the Trial Court.

In ground one of the notice of appeal, the complainant specifically said that the learned Justices of the Court of Appeal erred in law when they held in total disregard of Section 209 (2) of the Evidence Act, 2011 and the decision of the Apex Court in DAGAYA V. STATE when it held that sworn evidence of a child above 14 years requires corroboration.



The appellant noted that in the instant case, the prosecution witness 2, the victim in this suit was not a child, and the appellate court was wrong to have held that her sworn evidence still requires corroboration in total disregard to the provisions of Section 209 (2) of the Evidence Act, 2011.

In ground two, the appellant held that the Justices of the Court of Appeal erred in Law when they held that the confessional statements of the defendant, Exhibits H, HI & H2 were wrongly admitted and relied upon by the trial court having failed to conduct trial within trial for their admissibility.

The Lagos government noted that the factors guiding admissibility of confessional statements are well laid down in Sections 28 and 29 of the Evidence Act, 2011 and objection of such admissibility must be raised at the time the statement is sought to be tendered not after it has been admitted without objection.

“Where an objection to the admissibility of a document on ground of voluntariness of the statement has been withdrawn by the Defendant there is no requirement to conduct trial within a trial hence Exhibits H, H1 & H2 were properly admitted.

“After the close of the Prosecution’s case, a defendant called as a witness

may be cross examined on his earlier statement with a view to contradict him by the writing or discredit him as in the instant appeal and this is permitted under Section 232 of the Evidence Act, 2011 and such statement does not require trial within trial.”

In ground three, the complainants stated that the Justices of the Court of Appeal erred in Law when they held that failure of the Prosecution to call DPO Patricia Amadi and Aunty Tessa was fatal to the case of the Prosecution in the trial court.

According to the Lagos State Government, the law is settled that the Prosecution is not obliged to call all the witnesses listed in the information nor is a host of witnesses required to prove the allegations beyond reasonable doubt. A single witness who gives cogent eye witness account on a vital point will suffice.

“The absence of Aunty Tessa was not in any way fatal to the case of Prosecution where evidence of PW2 and that of other witnesses have already established the ingredients of the offence against the Defendant/ Respondent.

“The absence of DPO Patricia Amadi who was not the Investigating Police Officer was not in any way fatal to the case of the Prosecution more so when PW6 who investigated the case gave evidence of investigation and this was

## Cont from page 13

### Background

In November 2022, the Lagos State Government had arraigned Dr Olufemi Olaleye before the State's Domestic and Sexual Violence Court sitting in Ikeja, on a two-count charge of defilement of a child and sexual assault by penetration.

At his arraignment, the doctor pleaded not guilty to the charge preferred against him.

In October 2023, trial judge, Justice Rahman Oshodi convicted and sentenced him to life imprisonment.

Having evaluated all the evidence before him, Justice Oshodi noted that it was "compelling."

According to the judge, Olaleye's confessional statement before his former counsel, Mr Olalekan Buruji, and the Divisional Police Officer at the Anthony Police Station, Lagos State, proved that he committed the offences.

The judge held that Olaleye said in the statement that he regretted his act. The judge also held that Olaleye's denial of the statement during trial did not hold water.

Justice Oshodi described the medical director as a dangerous offender who did not show any sign of remorse during trial.

In the words of the judge, "You acknowledged that you are a sex addict in your confession, but came to this court and told lies.

"You showed no remorse, and it shows that you are a dangerous man.

"The survivor, to your knowledge, is a child but you forced her to watch pornography, rub her breasts and put your penis in her mouth.

"You penetrated her repeatedly," Oshodi said.

The court found the defendant guilty of the offence.

In sentencing, Justice Oshodi said, "By the laws of Lagos State, I am compelled to hand you a sentence of life imprisonment on each count of your offence, but your counsel has said that you are a first-time offender and a doctor of cancer patients.

"I hereby sentence you to life imprisonment on both counts one and two."

The judge also directed that Olaleye should have his name written in the Sexual Offences Register of the Lagos State Government.

During the trial, the convict's wife, Aderemi Olaleye, had told the court in her testimony that her husband had been sexually abusing her niece during her stay in their house.

Mrs Olaleye said she got to know about the alleged crimes after the survivor confessed to her aunt and the family's driver that the doctor had been sleeping with her and threatening to kill her if she tells anyone.

The mother of two, who was the complainant said on oath, "My lord, on November 27, 2021, my second cousin told my aunty who is my mother's sister that since March 2020, Femi has been sexually abusing her and introduced her to pornography, from there he graduated to oral sex with her, that he does this in different places in the house where there are no cameras."

The offences were said to have contravened the provision of Sections 137 and 261 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

Dissatisfied with the verdict, Dr Olaleye headed to the Court of Appeal and in November 2024, the Lagos Division of the Court discharged and acquitted him, citing errors in the

lower court's judgment.

Justice Olukayode Bada, who read the lead judgment which was adopted by the two other justices on the panel held that the trial court erred in convicting Dr Olaleye based on "tainted" and 'unreliable' evidence of his estranged wife, Oluremi and the alleged survivor (names withheld).

The appellate court said there were material contradictions in the evidence gathered by the prosecution which should not have been relied on by the lower court.

The court also faulted some other part of the evidence of the prosecution during trial, which were from a child forensic specialist, a medical doctor from the Mirabel centre and the investigating officer, which were found to be "worthless."

For the appellate court, the trial judge, Justice Rahman Oshodi also descended in the arena and interfered in the proceedings to bridge what it described as "the yawning gaps in the prosecution's case."

In the judgment, the court of appeal also queried why the prosecution failed to present material witnesses such as two family members who were said to have witnessed the appellants alleged confession.

The court added that a trial within trial ought to have been conducted during trial to verify the voluntariness of the appellant's confessional statements while in police custody, especially as he said he made it under duress after he had been detained for six days.

The court of appeal determined all five issues of appeal against the prosecution and in favour of the appellant, Dr Olaleye.



# PHOTOS: Customs to auction seized petrol at N400/litre

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has announced the seizure of 15,325 litres of petrol to be auctioned off at N400 per litre.

The National Coordinator of Operation Whirlwind, ACG Hussein Ejibunu, said the petrol, when auctioned, will ease transportation hardship during the festive season.

Ejibunu announced during a press briefing held at the Customs Training College, Ikeja, on Saturday, December 28, 2024.

He highlighted the recent seizure of 613 Jerrycans of petrol with a Duty Paid Value of N27,565,000 by operatives in the Lagos-Ogun axis.

“This operation has been on since 27 May 2024 and has yielded positive results, as the CGC has urged the operatives to continue sustaining the tempo until the activities of these economic saboteurs are stamped out of this country,” he said.



seized PMS, a court condemnation order and all legal processes have been finalised by the office of the Legal Adviser.

“On this note, the CGC has directed Auctions of the seized product to members of the public at the rate of N10,000 per 25 litres. This will ease the transportation hardship during this festive period,” he concluded.

The Coordinator disclosed that, as directed by the CGC to auction the



# Mozambique crisis escalates as government accused of brutal crackdown

By David Pilling

Human rights activists say at least 130 people killed after ruling party's Daniel Chapo confirmed winner of election

Human rights activists in Mozambique have accused the ruling Frelimo party of orchestrating looting and violence, including organising mass prison breakouts, as cover for a brutal crackdown they say has killed at least 130 people since Christmas Day.

"The strategy of Frelimo now is to create a state of terror," said Quitéria Guirengane, a political activist and head of the Young Women Leaders' Network in the capital Maputo. "Their tactic is the release of dangerous prisoners to create public panic. But we know they are the ones who opened the gates."

The country is facing its worst political crisis — and the most serious threat to the ruling party's power — since independence in 1975.

"People are worried that Mozambique is about to go back to civil war," said Alex Vines, Africa programme director at Chatham House, a UK think-tank. "There is a climate of fear. Everybody is afraid and nobody knows where things are going."

Mozambicans have been demonstrating since Frelimo declared itself the winner of presidential elections that took place on October 9. Independent observers say the elections were seriously flawed and many in the country believe they were stolen outright.

Protests reached a new level after December 23 when the constitutional council, the highest electoral body, confirmed the victory of Frelimo's presidential candidate, Daniel Chapo, with what it said was 65 per cent of the vote. Violence escalated further after up to 6,000 prisoners, some from high-



security jails, escaped on December 25.

Human rights activists say security forces have been going door to door to round up protesters in the guise of looking for escaped prisoners. "They say that these people who escaped are very dangerous and they are in neighbourhoods robbing people," said Edson Cortez of the Public Integrity Centre in Maputo. "But I think it is an excuse to distract people from the anti-government demonstrations."

The Centre for Democracy and Human Rights said that at least 100 recaptured prisoners had been "massacred" by security forces. "This episode strongly underscores the gravity of human rights violations and the systematic brutality employed by the security forces during and after the mass escape," it said in a statement.

No spokespeople for Frelimo were available for comment.

Videos have circulated on social media of mainly young men being rounded up in pick up trucks with subsequent images showing some of them turning up dead, according to numerous accounts from human rights activists.

Paula Cristina Roque, executive director of Intelwatch, said there was strong evidence that security forces had infiltrated the protesters and carried out "summary executions" and kidnappings. "I believe this is organised chaos that constitutes a false-flag operation justifying a clampdown," she said.

Chapo, the president-elect, is due to be inaugurated on January 15. However, Venâncio Mondlane, the opposition candidate who claims to have won the election, has vowed to return to the country from exile on the same day to be inaugurated himself.

Mondlane, who ran his campaign in association with the Podemos party, has been leading various phases of protests through daily broadcasts on Facebook.

He has called for a new phase of the protests to begin on Monday. Known as "point of the spear", it is believed to be code for a march on the presidential palace. "Point is also the name of the presidential palace," said Roque. "Monday could be a turning point."

Protests after the election began with the banging of pots and pans and the singing of the national anthem and have gradually escalated. Demonstrators have since blockaded roads, including border crossings with neighbouring South Africa, and there has been looting of shops and burning of government buildings.

Civil rights leaders insisted that the most serious violence was the work of agent provocateurs. "Frelimo is orchestrating this violence to distract and suppress dissent," Mondlane said in a live broadcast on Facebook this week. "This is not the work of protesters. It is manipulation by those in power to shift the narrative from electoral fraud to terrorism."



# Husbands who take on more housework improve their wives' mental health

By New Daily Prime

**H**usbands who help around the house aren't just pulling their weight – they're improving their wives' mental health.

Research shows that when men take on more cooking, cleaning and ironing duties, their female partners are less likely to suffer with depression.

The study, by scientists in South Korea, found that for every extra hour of housework a husband does, his wife's chances of suffering low mood or depression drops by 12 per cent.

But the latest study, published in *Social Science and Medicine*, suggests it also has serious implications for women's psychological well-being.

Traditional gender roles used to dictate that men go out to work while women take responsibility for running the home.

Even though these ideas are now out-dated, other polls suggest the bulk of the workload still rests with women.



The 2023 British Social Attitudes Survey – a poll of 3,000 men and women – found two-thirds of women still do most of the cooking and cleaning and more than their fair share of washing and ironing.

Meanwhile, only 22 per cent of men shouldered most of the burden and almost a third admitted that they did less than they should.

Researchers from Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, quizzed 7,000 married women every two years over a six-year period.

They found that women spent an average of just over two-and-a-half hours a day doing routine chores, while men averaged only 35 minutes.

The researchers then analysed

rates of depression among the women, compared to their husbands' input.

This showed that wives dissatisfied with their spouses' efforts were 15 per cent more prone to mental health issues, while those happy with how much their partner did were 18 per cent less likely to suffer low mood.

But the risks were reduced by 12 per cent if husbands started to do their share and take on half the workload.

The researchers concluded: 'Husbands' participation in household work was associated with a reduced risk of depression among married women.'

# 14 Simple ways to boost your life expectancy

By New Daily Prime

Simple lifestyle changes, like regular exercise, balanced diets, stress management, and strong social ties, can boost life expectancy and improve overall health and well-being.

As the world becomes increasingly health-conscious, simple and practical steps to extend life expectancy are gaining attention. From adopting healthier habits to nurturing emotional well-being, these actions can significantly enhance both longevity and quality of life. Here are 14 easy-to-follow tips to help you live longer and healthier:

## 1. Stay Physically Active

Regular exercise, such as walking, cycling, or strength training, not only boosts cardiovascular health but also reduces the risk of chronic diseases. A mere 30 minutes of daily activity can add years to your life.

## 2. Eat a Balanced Diet

A diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats is essential. Avoiding processed foods and excessive sugar can prevent obesity and related health conditions.

## 3. Maintain a Healthy Weight

Sustaining an optimal weight for your body type reduces the risks of diabetes, heart disease, and other life-shortening illnesses.

## 4. Get Quality Sleep

Sleep is crucial for overall health. Aim for 7–9 hours of restful sleep each night to allow your body to repair and regulate essential functions.

## 5. Stay Hydrated

Drinking sufficient water daily helps maintain energy, supports digestion, and ensures efficient organ function.

## 6. Manage Stress Effectively

Chronic stress can take a toll on physical



and mental health. Techniques like mindfulness, meditation, and breathing exercises can reduce stress and its harmful effects.

## 7. Avoid Smoking and Limit Alcohol

Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death, while excessive alcohol consumption can damage the liver and other organs. Quitting smoking and moderating alcohol intake can add years to your life.

## 8. Foster Strong Relationships

Healthy social connections reduce loneliness and promote emotional well-being. Studies show that strong relationships can have a profound impact on longevity.

## 9. Keep Your Brain Active

Mental stimulation through puzzles, reading, learning new skills, or engaging in hobbies lowers the risk of cognitive decline and conditions like dementia.

## 10. Spend Time Outdoors

Regular exposure to sunlight boosts vitamin D production, which is vital for bone health and immune function. Just 15 minutes a day can make a difference.

## 11. Get Regular Health Screenings

Routine check-ups with your doctor help detect and address potential health issues early, improving outcomes and extending

life expectancy.

## 12. Prioritize Heart Health

Monitoring and managing blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar levels are key to reducing the risk of heart disease, the leading cause of death worldwide.

## 13. Laugh More

Laughter is a natural stress reliever that strengthens the immune system and enhances mental well-being.

## 14. Embrace a Purposeful Life

Having meaningful goals and maintaining a positive outlook are linked to better mental and physical health, contributing to a longer, more fulfilling life.

Experts emphasize that small, consistent changes in daily habits can yield significant long-term benefits. While genetics play a role in life expectancy, these practical steps empower individuals to take control of their health and longevity.

As we prioritize self-care in a fast-paced world, these 14 strategies remind us that living longer starts with simple, intentional actions.



# Top highlights from Calabar Carnival 2024: vibrant costumes, culture

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Once again, the annual Calabar Carnival, famously known as “Africa’s Largest Street Party,” lit up the vibrant streets of Nigeria with a dazzling display of culture, music, and entertainment. Held every December, this spectacular event has firmly established itself as one of Africa’s top tourist attractions, drawing visitors from around the world to experience the colorful celebration of Nigerian heritage.

The 2024 edition was nothing short of breathtaking. Thousands of revelers dressed in elaborate, eye-catching costumes flooded the streets, moving to the infectious rhythms of Afrobeat, highlife, and other traditional Nigerian music. The carnival boasted

The below image captures a lively moment of preparation at the Calabar Carnival, as two women perfect their



a packed schedule of activities, including the prestigious Carnival Kings and Queens competition, a lively parade of bands, and

looks with vibrant face paint and makeup. Their traditional patterned attire, adorned with golden accents, reflects cultural

electrifying street performances that kept the audience enthralled.

pride and elegance, while their radiant smiles exude the excitement of the festival. It’s a beautiful blend of tradition



The below image radiates the joy and vibrancy of the Calabar Carnival, featuring a captivating participant adorned in a stunning costume of bold red feathers and shimmering gold embellishments. Her radiant smile,

framed by intricate face art and sparkling jewels, reflects the festive spirit and energy of Africa’s largest street party. The vivid red hues symbolize passion and celebration, perfectly complementing the electric



atmosphere of the carnival as others in similar dazzling attire join in the background, adding depth to this exuberant scene.



Cont from page 18

The two women headpieces, crafted with a cascade of fiery orange and pink feathers accented by sparkling silver

embellishments, crown them like queens of celebration. The intricate patterns of their outfits, combined with shimmering glitter on their skin,

reflect the artistic excellence and cultural pride synonymous with Africa's largest street party.



The two women headpieces, crafted with a cascade of fiery orange and pink feathers accented by sparkling silver

embellishments, crown them like queens of celebration. The intricate patterns of their outfits, combined with shimmering glitter on their

skin, reflect the artistic excellence and cultural pride synonymous with Africa's largest street party.



This breathtaking scene captures the heart of the Calabar Carnival, where a sea of fiery red feathers sways in perfect rhythm, radiating energy and elegance. The dancers, adorned in intricately designed costumes

shimmering with golden accents, exude an aura of confidence and joy as they move in unison. Their headpieces, majestic and towering, command attention, evoking the regal essence of African heritage. Each step

they take is a celebration of life, culture, and unity, reflecting the passion and artistry that define this magnificent event



# I've recovered N78m of N180m stolen – VeryDarkMan

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Activist Verydarkman announces recovery of N78m from N180m allegedly stolen in a hacking of his NGO's account, just days after raising the alarm on Instagram.

On Friday, Verydarkman took to Instagram to disclose the theft, claiming that the organization's account had been hacked and a staggering N180 million was missing. The announcement sent shockwaves through social media, with his followers expressing a mix of concern and scepticism.

## Public reactions raise doubts

Following his initial disclosure, Verydarkman faced criticism and doubt from some members of the public. Many questioned the authenticity of his claims, speculating about the circumstances surrounding the alleged theft.

Critics took to various platforms to express their concerns, with some demanding more transparency in the unfolding situation.

Despite the backlash, Verydarkman remained resolute, vowing to keep the public informed about the investigation and recovery efforts. In a follow-up statement on Sunday, he shared an update that shed light on the progress made so far.

## Progress in recovery efforts

Speaking again via Instagram, Verydarkman revealed that investigators had successfully recovered N78 million. He expressed gratitude for the support he had received and reassured his audience that efforts were ongoing to recover the remaining funds.

"Thanks to the people who called to check up on me," he said in the update. "I also want to thank God for the process so far. We have been able to recover N78 million."

He also mentioned a critical lead in the



investigation, stating that one of the suspects involved in the theft had fled to Ghana. This development has prompted plans for further action.

"The suspect pointed out that the person he worked with has run to Ghana, so hopefully, we will be going to Ghana very soon," Verydarkman added.

Moving forward with the investigation The recovery of N78 million is a significant step, but the journey to reclaim the full amount continues. Verydarkman emphasized his commitment to ensuring that justice is served. He assured his followers that he is working closely with law enforcement agencies and financial institutions to trace the remaining funds.

His determination reflects a broader call for accountability and transparency in handling NGO funds. The case has reignited conversations about financial security and the risks faced by non-profit organizations in the digital age.

## Public trust and social media impact

Verydarkman's choice to publicize the theft and subsequent recovery on Instagram highlights the growing role of social media in addressing critical issues. While some praised his openness, others argued that such sensitive matters should be handled

privately. The mixed reactions underscore the challenges faced by public figures navigating crises in the digital age.

## Verydarkman

Supporters of the activist have rallied behind him, offering words of encouragement and prayers for the successful recovery of the remaining funds. However, skeptics continue to call for greater transparency, urging him to provide detailed evidence to back his claims.

## Broader implications for NGOs

The incident has also sparked discussions about the vulnerability of NGOs to cyberattacks. Experts have pointed out that organizations handling large sums of money are increasingly targeted by hackers. They emphasize the need for robust security measures, including multi-factor authentication and regular audits, to protect against such threats.

For Verydarkman's organization, the incident serves as a wake-up call. It highlights the importance of safeguarding financial resources to maintain public trust and ensure the continuation of critical work.

## Conclusion

As the investigation unfolds, Verydarkman's commitment to recovering the stolen funds remains unwavering. The partial recovery of N78 million is a positive development, but the journey is far from over. With plans to extend the investigation to Ghana, the activist is determined to see the matter through to the end.

In the meantime, his case serves as a stark reminder of the challenges faced by NGOs and the importance of financial accountability. While opinions about his handling of the situation may differ, the need for stronger safeguards in the non-profit sector is a lesson that resonates widely.

# RMD, wife celebrate 24th anniversary, fans gush

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**ollywood legend Richard Mofe-Damijo, widely known as RMD, and his wife, Jumobi Adegbesan, are marking an incredible milestone — 24 years of marriage.

Amid frequent celebrity breakups, their enduring union is a beacon of hope and inspiration for fans.

On December 29, 2024, RMD took to Instagram to share the joyous occasion. The veteran actor posted romantic photos with his wife, captioned with heartfelt words that reflected their enduring love story.

Heartfelt words from RMD

“24 and counting... Thanking God for His grace and mercy, which are sufficient to overcome it all. Happy Wedding Anniversary, Abiks,” he wrote, lovingly referencing his wife by her nickname.

The post sparked an outpouring of love and congratulations. Fans and colleagues filled the comments with warm messages, celebrating the couple’s inspiring journey.

Fans and celebrities send warm wishes  
The comment section became a hub of celebration.

Mary Akpobome wrote: “Happy wedding anniversary to my people. May God continue to bless and uphold your union. I raise a glass to FOREVER”

Another fan, mr\_\_mett, added: “Happy wedding anniversary! Here’s to the next 24! ❤️❤️”

Others, like toluasanu and Vianniepr, echoed the sentiment, sending love and admiration to “Papa and Mama.”

Love that stands the test of time

Richard and Jumobi’s love story began in 2000 when they tied the knot. Over two decades later, their bond remains unshaken, defying the odds faced by many celebrity couples.



RMD is known for his charisma and acting talent, while Jumobi, a former television personality, chose to step away from the spotlight to focus on their family. Together, they’ve built a partnership founded on love, respect, and unwavering support.

The challenges of celebrity marriages  
Celebrity marriages often face intense public scrutiny, which can strain relationships. Yet, RMD and Jumobi have consistently proven that lasting love is possible. Their union has become a model of resilience and commitment in an industry where relationships are often fleeting.

In his Instagram post, RMD highlighted the role of faith in their marriage. He expressed gratitude for God’s grace and mercy, which he credits as the foundation of their enduring bond.

Source of inspiration

The couple’s story continues to inspire fans and colleagues alike. By sharing their journey, RMD and Jumobi offer a glimpse of what is possible when two people prioritize love and mutual respect. Their relationship is a powerful reminder that strong marriages require effort, communication, and shared

values.

Celebrating 24 years of love

For RMD, whose career spans decades of success in Nollywood, his marriage is one of his most cherished achievements. Balancing fame and family life, he has shown that lasting love is not only possible but profoundly rewarding.

As they celebrate this milestone, their story serves as a shining example of enduring love. It’s not just the number of years they’ve been together but the strength of their bond that inspires admiration.

Testament to grace and commitment  
Richard Mofe-Damijo and Jumobi Adegbesan’s love story is a testament to the power of grace, perseverance, and unwavering support. Their journey offers hope and a reminder that love can withstand the test of time.

As fans and well-wishers celebrate alongside the couple, one thing is certain: their story is far from over. Here’s to RMD and Jumobi—24 years down, and a lifetime of love ahead. Happy anniversary!



# Toke Makinwa: Single people are not miserable, lonely

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**T**oke Makinwa, a renowned media personality and entrepreneur, has boldly confronted the age-old belief that being single equates to being lonely or unhappy.

Through a thought-provoking post on the social media platform X, Makinwa questioned society's fixation on relationships as the cornerstone of a fulfilling life.

Her comments have sparked widespread discussion, offering a fresh perspective on singlehood and self-contentment.

Makinwa's post challenged the flawed assumption that happiness is tied to having a romantic partner.

She highlighted how many single individuals lead deeply satisfying lives, far removed from the stereotype of loneliness. "Beats me how some people think that every single person is lonely," she wrote. "It'll shock you how content and happy single people are. Don't get me wrong, it's good to do life with someone, but if you don't find your own purpose, you can be with someone and still be lonely."

Her words struck a chord with many who feel societal pressures to be in relationships, especially as the New Year approaches. Makinwa urged her audience to embrace a new mindset—one that prioritizes personal growth and fulfillment over conforming to external expectations.

**Breaking the link between happiness and relationships**  
Makinwa's message underscores the importance of individual purpose and self-worth. She emphasized that relationships, while valuable, are not the sole path to happiness. By pointing out that some people in unhappy relationships secretly yearn for solitude, she dismantled the notion that coupling up is always better.

Her statement serves as a reminder that loneliness is not exclusive to single



people. In fact, many individuals feel lonely even while in relationships. This perspective challenges the traditional narrative and highlights the need for a more nuanced understanding of happiness and companionship.

## Call for a shift in attitudes

Makinwa's post went beyond just pointing out societal flaws—it was a call to action. She encouraged people to leave behind outdated assumptions about singlehood as the world steps into 2024. "Let that rubbish behavior of thinking single people are miserable or lonely or sad be left in 2024," she wrote. Her call for a shift in mindset resonated with her followers, many of whom applauded her for speaking out.

Her words highlight the need for empathy and understanding. Instead of projecting their own beliefs onto others, Makinwa urged people to respect individual choices and circumstances. This approach fosters a healthier and more inclusive environment for everyone, regardless of their relationship status.

## Why Makinwa's message matters

Makinwa's perspective is particularly important in a world where societal expectations often dictate personal choices. The idea that single people must be unhappy can lead to unnecessary pressure and self-doubt. By challenging this notion, Makinwa

empowers individuals to focus on their personal journeys rather than conform to societal norms.

Her message also resonates with a growing movement that values self-love and independence. In recent years, more people have embraced the idea that happiness comes from within, rather than being tied to external factors like relationships. Makinwa's post aligns with this shift, offering encouragement to those who choose to prioritize their own well-being.

## New approach to singlehood

As conversations around relationships evolve, Makinwa's insights serve as a valuable contribution. She reminds us that life is not a one-size-fits-all journey. For some, happiness may come from a loving partnership, while for others, it may stem from personal achievements or meaningful connections outside of romance.

Makinwa's message encourages everyone to reframe their thinking. By recognizing that single people can lead fulfilling lives, society can move toward a more inclusive understanding of happiness. Her words inspire individuals to focus on what truly matters—whether that's finding purpose, building meaningful connections, or simply enjoying their own company.

## Looking ahead

As 2024 approaches, Makinwa's call for change is both timely and relevant. Her message urges us to let go of stereotypes and embrace a more compassionate view of singlehood. By doing so, we can create a world where everyone feels valued and supported, regardless of their relationship status.

Toke Makinwa's post is a powerful reminder that happiness is not one-size-fits-all. Whether single or in a relationship, what truly matters is finding fulfillment on your own terms. Her words challenge us all to rethink our assumptions and celebrate the diverse paths to happiness.

# Rapper OG Maco Dies at 32

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Rapper OG Maco, famous for “U Gussed It,” has died at 32 from complications of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, family and media confirm.

## Tragic incident

On December 12, OG Maco was hospitalized after sustaining a gunshot wound. Authorities and family members revealed the injury was self-inflicted, although specific details surrounding the incident remain unclear. The rapper was found unresponsive at his home and rushed to the hospital, where he was placed on life support.

Maco’s condition remained critical for several weeks. Despite medical efforts, his health deteriorated, leading to his untimely death.

## Family confirms the news

His family confirmed the news of his passing through an emotional post on his official Instagram account on Friday. “With heavy hearts, we share the heartbreaking news of the passing of our beloved OG Maco,” the statement began.

The family described him as a figure of resilience and creativity. They praised his legacy and expressed their deep sorrow over the loss. “His life was a testament to resilience, creativity, and boundless love,” the post continued.

## Remembering OG Maco

Born and raised in Atlanta, OG



Maco gained fame in 2014 with his viral single “U Gussed It.” The track quickly became a cultural phenomenon, earning millions of streams and solidifying his place in hip-hop.

Known for his energetic performances and unique sound, Maco was a prominent voice in the Atlanta rap scene.

Throughout his career, Maco released several projects, collaborating with artists like Migos and Key!. While his mainstream success waned in later years, he continued to create music, sharing personal and experimental tracks with his fans.

The rapper was also open about his struggles. In recent years, he faced health challenges, including a severe skin condition that he documented on social media. His transparency about his battles with physical and mental health earned him respect and admiration from his supporters.

## Fans and fellow artists react

News of Maco’s death sent

shockwaves through the music industry and his fanbase. Many fans took to social media to express their grief and share memories of the rapper’s influence on their lives.

Fellow artists and collaborators also paid tribute. “Gone too soon,” one musician wrote. “Maco was a true original. His energy and creativity were unmatched.”

## Legacy of resilience

Despite his struggles, OG Maco remained a symbol of resilience. His music and story inspired countless individuals to persevere through life’s challenges. As fans mourn his loss, they celebrate his contributions to music and his unwavering spirit.

OG Maco’s death serves as a reminder of the importance of mental health awareness. While his life ended too soon, his impact will be felt for years to come.

Funeral arrangements and memorial details have not yet been announced by the family.



# South Korean plane crash kills 179 people

By New Daily Prime

A South Korean plane crash at Muan Airport killed 179 people after failing to deploy landing gear. Investigations are underway as the nation mourns one of its worst aviation disasters in decades.

Muan, South Korea — A devastating aviation disaster unfolded Sunday morning as a South Korean passenger jet crashed while landing, claiming the lives of 179 people. The Jeju Air flight, returning from Bangkok, carried 181 passengers and crew when it failed to deploy its landing gear, skidding down the runway at Muan International Airport before striking a wall and erupting into flames, local authorities confirmed.

Emergency responders rescued two crew members from the aircraft's tail, but all other passengers and crew aboard the flight were later confirmed dead, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. Among the 175 passengers were 173 South Koreans and two Thai nationals, along with six crew members, the transportation ministry reported.

## A National Tragedy

South Korea's acting president, Choi Sang-mok, who recently assumed office, called the crash a "grave situation" and pledged to uncover its cause and prevent future accidents. "We will do our utmost to cope with the damage," he said at the crash site.

Local television footage showed thick plumes of smoke billowing from the wreckage of the Boeing 737-800, a twin-engine jet used extensively for short-haul flights. The transport ministry disclosed that the airport control tower had issued a bird strike warning shortly before the pilots declared a mayday. The crash occurred five minutes later.

Investigators have retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders, while



the pilot, a veteran with over 6,800 hours of flight experience, is being scrutinized as part of the investigation.

## Airline and Manufacturer Responses

Jeju Air, a budget airline established in 2005, activated emergency protocols following the tragedy. In a televised statement, the airline's president, Kim E-bae, expressed condolences to the victims' families. He emphasized the company's commitment to identifying the cause, stating that the 15-year-old plane had undergone regular maintenance with no reported issues prior to its departure from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Boeing, the manufacturer of the aircraft, said it was working closely with Jeju Air and South Korean authorities to understand the incident. The 737-800 model has been a mainstay of global air travel since its introduction in the 1990s, but recent scrutiny of Boeing's safety protocols has renewed concerns about the company's practices.

## A Troubled Aviation History

South Korea's aviation industry has seen significant safety improvements in recent years, yet the nation has endured several catastrophic air disasters. In 1983, a Korean Air flight was shot down by the Soviet Union, killing 269 people. In 1997,

another Korean Air flight crashed in Guam, resulting in 228 fatalities. More recently, in 2013, an Asiana Airlines flight crash-landed in San Francisco, leaving three dead and 187 injured.

This latest tragedy is one of the deadliest in South Korea's history and comes amid other aviation incidents worldwide. On Wednesday, an Azerbaijan Airlines flight crash-landed in Kazakhstan, killing 38 people. U.S. and Ukrainian officials have suggested Russian interference, while Moscow attributed the crash to fog and bird strikes.

## Ongoing Investigations

The South Korean transport ministry announced that Muan International Airport would remain closed until January 1 as investigations continue. The disaster has left the nation in mourning, with calls for improved aviation safety measures and stricter protocols to prevent future tragedies.

This catastrophic event underscores the fragility of air travel safety and serves as a stark reminder of the potential consequences of mechanical or operational failures. South Koreans, and the world, now await answers as investigators work to determine the precise cause of this tragedy.

# Pope Francis mourns deaths from South Korean plane crash

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Pope Francis expressed his condolences on Sunday to those who lost loved ones in the crash of a Boeing 737-800 plane during landing at the international airport of the city of Muan in South Korea.

On Sunday noon, after praying the Angelus from the window of his study, in the Vatican Apostolic Palace, before more than 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square, Francis said that "my thoughts are directed to the numerous families of South Korea who are today in mourning after the dramatic plane crash."



"I join in the prayer for the survivors and the dead," added the supreme pontiff, according to a statement from the Holy See's press office.

A report on the Bishop of Rome's statements about the tragedy, which occurred a few hours ago, was published on the digital site of the Vatican New and says that the Pope was dismayed by the deaths of at least 177 people after the fire of the aircraft, which belonged to Jeju Airlines.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported earlier that on the flight from Bangkok, Thailand, 181 people were traveling, including 175 passengers and six crew members, and only two of them have been rescued alive so far, according to a report from the South Korean news agency, Yonhap.

# New Israeli attack kills 11 in Syria

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

At least 11 people lost their lives on Sunday, after another Israeli attack in the industrial zone of Adra, located about 15 kilometers northeast of the capital of Syria.

Local sources quoted by the press indicate that the bombing involved two missiles and targeted several shops and a warehouse, causing powerful blasts and great destruction in the place.

According to sources, estimated life losses may rise as operations to recover bodies from the rubble continue, indicating all the victims are civilians. There has still been no reaction from the current authorities in power regarding this Zionist aggression.



After the overthrow of the government of Bashar Al-Assad on the eighth of this month, Israel intensified its air raids, seeking to destroy the military infrastructure and the remaining installations of the Syrian army and expanded its occupation of the Golan.

The Tel Aviv government announced the collapse of the 1974 separation of forces agreement with Syria and occupied the Golan Heights demilitarized buffer zone as well as Mount Hermon, after which its army penetrated into the rural areas of Deraa and Quneitra.



# I could have beaten Trump if I didn't withdraw – Biden

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

President Joe Biden believes he could have beaten Donald Trump in last month's US presidential election if he had stayed in the race, it has been reported.

The White House incumbent, who is set to hand over the keys to Trump next month – withdrew from the race in July amid pressure over his low polling numbers and rocky performance in a televised debate against his Republican rival.

He was replaced as the Democratic Party's candidate by Kamala Harris, who later lost to Mr Trump in November's election.

Now it is being reported by The Washington Post that Biden and some of his aides believe the 82-year-old should have stayed in the race.

Biden and these aides have reportedly told people in recent days that he could have defeated Trump, according to people familiar with their comments, who spoke to the paper under the condition of anonymity.

Mr Biden beat Mr Trump in the 2020 election with a record number of votes, securing his first term in the White House and



denying his opponent a second.

But throughout his time in the White House, there was speculation about whether he would run again in 2024, or whether he would opt for a one-term presidency.

In April last year, he announced that he would be re-running for election and entered the race for the 2024 Democratic Party nomination.

He made a case that he had beaten Trump once and that, despite questions about his age, he could do it again.

But despite securing the Democratic Party nomination, pressure mounted after a series of embarrassing public gaffes, including in July when he introduced Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

In February, he also mistakenly claimed to have met Francois Mitterand, who died in 1996, at the G7 summit in 2021.

However, it was a jumbled performance in a television debate against Trump that ultimately cost Biden, with Democrats labelling it an "unmitigated disaster", "a meltdown", and "a slow-motion car crash."

Ten days later, he announced he was withdrawing his candidacy, and throwing his support behind his vice president, Ms Harris.

But Harris lost to Trump in November's election, with the Republican claiming a second term by clinching victory in all of the key battleground states, as well as winning the popular vote.

Trump will now take office on 20 January.

# North Korea vows toughest anti-US policy before Trump's inauguration

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un vowed to implement the "toughest" anti-U.S. policy, state media reported Sunday, less than a month before Donald Trump takes office as U.S. president.

Trump's return to the White House raises prospects for high-profile diplomacy with North Korea. During his first term, Trump met Kim three times for talks on the North's nuclear programme.

Many experts however say a quick resumption of Kim-Trump summitry is unlikely as Trump would first focus on conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. North Korea's support for Russia's war against Ukraine also poses a challenge to efforts to revive diplomacy, experts say.

During a five-day plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party that ended Friday, Kim called the U.S. "the most reactionary state that regards anti-communism as its invariable state policy."

Kim said that the U.S.-South Korea-Japan security partnership is expanding into "a nuclear military bloc for aggression."

"This reality clearly shows to which direction we should advance and what we should do and how," Kim said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

It said Kim's speech "clarified the strategy for the toughest anti-U.S. counteraction to be launched aggressively" by North Korea for its long-term national interests and security.

KCNA didn't elaborate on the anti-U.S. strategy. But it said Kim set forth tasks



to bolster military capability through defence technology advancements and stressed the need to improve the mental toughness of North Korean soldiers.

The previous meetings between Trump and Kim had not only put an end to their exchanges of fiery rhetoric and threats of destruction, but they developed personal connections. Trump once famously said he and Kim "fell in love." But their talks eventually collapsed in 2019, as they wrangled over U.S.-led sanctions on the North.

North Korea has since sharply increased the pace of its weapons testing activities to build more reliable nuclear missiles targeting the U.S. and its allies.

The U.S. and South Korea have responded by expanding their military bilateral drills and also trilateral ones involving Japan, drawing strong rebukes from the North, which views such U.S.-led exercises as invasion rehearsals.

Further complicating efforts to convince North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons in return for economic and political benefits is its deepening military cooperation with Russia.

According to U.S., Ukrainian and South

Korean assessments, North Korea has sent more than 10,000 troops and conventional weapons systems to support Moscow's war against Ukraine.

There are concerns that Russia could give North Korea advanced weapons technology in return, including help to build more powerful nuclear missiles.

Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy said last week that 3,000 North Korean troops have been killed and wounded in the fighting in Russia's Kursk region. It was the first significant estimate by Ukraine of North Korean casualties since the North Korean troop deployment to Russia began in October.

Russia and China, locked in separate disputes with the U.S., have repeatedly blocked U.S.-led pushes to levy more U.N. sanctions on North Korea despite its repeated missile tests in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Last month, Kim said that his past negotiations with the United States only confirmed Washington's "unchangeable" hostility toward his country and described his nuclear buildup as the only way to counter external threats.



# US to send \$1.25bn in weapons to Ukraine

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The United States is expected to announce that it will send \$1.25 billion in military assistance to Ukraine, U.S. officials said Friday, as the Biden administration pushes to get as much aid to Kyiv as possible before leaving office on January 20.

The large package of aid includes a significant amount of munitions, including for the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems and the HAWK air defence system. It also will provide Stinger missiles and 155 mm- and 105 mm artillery rounds, officials said.

The officials, who said they expect the announcement to be made on Monday, spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details not yet made public.

The new aid comes as Russia has launched a barrage of attacks against Ukraine's power facilities in recent days, although Ukraine has said it intercepted a significant number of the missiles and drones. Russian and Ukrainian forces are also still in a bitter battle around the Russian border region of Kursk, where Moscow has sent thousands of North Korean troops to help reclaim territory taken by Ukraine.

Earlier this month, senior defence officials acknowledged that the Defense Department may not be able to send all of the



remaining \$5.6 billion in Pentagon weapons and equipment stocks passed by Congress for Ukraine before President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in.

Trump has talked about getting some type of negotiated settlement between Ukraine and Russia, and spoken about his relationship with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Many U.S. and European leaders are concerned that it might result in a poor deal for Ukraine and they worry that he won't provide Ukraine with all the weapons funding approved by Congress.

The aid in the new package is in presidential drawdown authority, which allows the Pentagon to take weapons off the shelves and send them quickly to Ukraine. This latest assistance would reduce the remaining amount to about \$4.35 billion.

Officials have said they hope that an influx of aid will help

strengthen Ukraine's hand, should Zelenskyy decide it's time to negotiate.

One senior defence official said that while the U.S. will continue to provide weapons to Ukraine until January 20, there may well be funds remaining that will be available for the incoming Trump administration to spend.

According to the Pentagon, there is also about \$1.2 billion remaining in longer-term funding through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which is used to pay for weapons contracts that would not be delivered for a year or more.

Officials have said the administration anticipates releasing all of that money before the end of the calendar year.

If the new package is included, the U.S. has provided more than \$64 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022.

# Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S president dies at 100

By Emmanuel Nwagboniwe

After a protracted battle with cancer, the sun set yesterday for one of the world's most impactful leaders in recent history, Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States (U.S), as he passed at the ripe age of 100 years

Carter's demise was announced Sunday by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

His death is coming about six weeks after the passing of his wife Rosalynn on Nov. 19, 2023 at the age of 96 years

The late former president himself had entered hospice care in February 2023. Carter survived for years after he had a "small mass" removed from his liver in early August 2015 and later that month announced he had liver cancer that had spread throughout his body.

The Carter family had a history of cancer and the former president lost his father, brother, and two sisters to pancreatic cancer. His mother had breast cancer, which later spread to her pancreas.

Jason Carter, Carter's grandson, had announced in May that he believed the former president was "coming to the end" of his life's journey. But the former president hung on much longer

The soft-spoken leader with a signature Georgia drawl saw his single term in the Oval Office clouded by an economic downturn at home and a hostage crisis abroad.



His post-presidency life was marked by a very visible dedication to service, but also a series of sometimes controversial moves as he continued to intervene into foreign affairs, particularly as it related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Carter met with the leadership of terrorist group and Palestinian representative Hamas in 2009 and 2015. He reprimanded Israel for its operations against Hamas in 2014, saying there was "no justification in the world for what Israel is doing."

James Earl Carter Jr. was born in 1924 in Plains, Georgia. Plains was a farming town and Carter's father was a farmer, a background that helped instill in him a love of the land – and the working and lower class people who tilled it – that would follow him throughout his personal and professional life.

But Carter initially sought a path outside the dirt of Plains and, after attending the U.S. Naval Academy, he served as a submariner in the

post-World War II navy, eventually attaining the rank of lieutenant.

Carter married Rosalynn Smith, a fellow native of Plains, in 1946, the same year he graduated from the Academy.

After Carter's father died in 1953, Carter resigned his naval commission and returned to his and Rosalynn's roots in Plains. Carter took the lead at the family farm while Rosalynn operated a farm supply company in their small Georgia town.

It wasn't long, however, before Carter again left the farm fields behind, this time beginning a career in politics that would land him the nation's highest office in just 14 years.

Carter won election to the Georgia Senate in 1962 and, following a failed gubernatorial bid in 1966, he became the state's governor in 1971.



# Divorced couples face jail time under new North Korean Law

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

North Korea's new law punishes divorcing couples with labor camp sentences, targeting both spouses. This move follows rising divorce rates linked to economic hardships since the pandemic.

North Korea has implemented a strict new policy targeting divorcing couples, marking a significant shift in the nation's legal approach to marriage dissolution. Previously, only the spouse initiating the divorce faced punitive measures.

Under the updated law, both individuals in a divorcing couple will be imprisoned in labor camps for up to six months immediately after their divorce is finalized.

The decision follows a marked rise in divorce rates since 2020, a trend attributed to economic hardships exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Struggling families, facing mounting financial pressures, have increasingly sought separation as a means of alleviating personal or household burdens.

The North Korean government has long viewed divorce as a threat to traditional family structures and, by extension, to the socialist ideals underpinning the nation.

In response to the rise in separations, authorities initially launched educational campaigns



aimed at discouraging divorce, with a particular focus on women.

These campaigns sought to emphasize the importance of family cohesion and promote loyalty to socialist values.

However, the government has now moved beyond persuasion to punishment, underscoring its determination to deter marital separations.

The new policy serves as a stark warning to couples considering divorce, with the labor camp sentence framed as a form of atonement for what the state deems an "anti-socialist" act.

Critics argue that the new policy imposes undue suffering on individuals already grappling with personal and economic difficulties.

It also raises concerns about human rights violations and the broader implications of using labor camps

as a tool of social control.

This development highlights the growing tensions within North Korean society as it struggles to reconcile traditional values with the realities of modern economic and social challenges.

By enforcing such measures, the regime aims to reinforce its ideological foundations, but at a significant cost to personal freedoms and individual well-being.

As divorce rates continue to climb globally, North Korea's draconian response stands in sharp contrast to evolving attitudes in much of the world, where governments increasingly recognize the need for supportive policies to address the root causes of marital breakdowns.

# Ronaldo wins two awards at Globe Soccer

By Dave Oludare Oso

**...Shares a special night with Georgina and Cristiano Jr  
...Named best player in the Middle East**

## WHAT HAPPENED?

Ronaldo was awarded the Best Middle East Player award at the Globe Soccer Awards and was also given a honorary award to celebrate him becoming the highest official goalscorer of all time.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner made a number of comments during the awards gala taking on the authenticity of the prize given to the best player in the world and also claiming that the Saudi Pro League was better than Ligue 1.

## WHAT RONALDO POSTED

Ronaldo made his way to the Globe Soccer Award ceremony with partner Georgina Rodriguez and his eldest son Crisitiano Jr. The Portugal captain posted a photo on Instagram with the two and captioned the photo: "A special night with the family."

## THE GOSSIP

Ronaldo and Rodriguez have been together for over eight years and the pair share two children together. The pair are reportedly not married officially, but Ronaldo has referred to Georgina as his 'wife' before, and did so



again during his acceptance speech.

He said: "It's a big pleasure to win this trophy. My oldest son is here, my wife (Georgina) is here. She's my lovely support all the time to carry on to play. In one month I'm gonna be 40 years old but I'm not finished yet. I will continue because I want to win titles, I want to be a champion, I want to score

more goals, I want to try to win for the national team."

## WHAT NEXT FOR RONALDO?

The Portuguese superstar will be back in action when Al-Nassr return to action against Al-Okhdood on January 9 when the Saudi Pro League returns to action.



# 'We need help' – Guardiola targets January, says 'no chance' of title

By Dave Oludare Oso

**P**ep Guardiola says Manchester City "need help" during the January transfer window after admitting his side have "no chance" of winning the Premier League title this season.

The City boss celebrated 500 games in charge of the club with a nervy 2-0 win over Leicester on Sunday.

City's victory – just their second in their last 10 Premier League games – lifts them up to fifth, but they are 14 points behind leaders Liverpool.

"We are far away from winning the Premier League," Guardiola told BBC's Match of the Day.

"We accept there's already no chance of that but we have other things to fight for: FA Cup, top four... and winning games helps."

City have won six of the last seven Premier League titles, but before the win over Leicester, the club had won just one of their previous 13 league games – losing nine.

Guardiola admitted he was relieved to end a five-game winless run.

"Just relief, that is the word to express how all of us feel," he said.

"We have done incredible things and now we struggle to win games so now it's just relief."

Will City be busy in January & how bad is their injury list?

Guardiola believes injuries are the primary reason behind City's poor form but says there are areas the club need to target in the upcoming transfer window.

"In some positions we need help,"



Guardiola said.

"When we're all together we're the team we were but with important players out for weeks and months it's so difficult."

Ballon d'Or-winning midfielder Rodri is out for the season with a knee injury, while Ruben Dias, John Stones, Ederson, Oscar Bobb and Matheus Nunes also missed the Leicester game.

Guardiola added: "I thought central defenders would be fit all season but we have struggled – holding midfield and central defenders we need help.

"The market is the market – it's not easy, it's expensive so we will see what the club can do."

Are City lacking in intensity?

The scoreline at King Power Stadium on Sunday does not tell the full story.

Against a lively Leicester side, Manchester City were still below par and for the first time this season they had less possession than their opponents (46.4%).

It is just the 14th time Guardiola's side have had less possession during his 323-game reign in the Premier League.

"It was not the ideal performance but hopefully the victories will give our mood a better position," Guardiola said.

"We didn't have enough energy to sustain 90 minutes but hopefully in the new year we can bounce back a bit from a bad moment."

The stats also show City are lacking the intensity we have become accustomed to seeing in Guardiola's teams.

Against Leicester, the club won possession in the final third just twice. Last season, City nicked possession in the final third 7.5 times on average per game.

Former Manchester United defender Gary Neville told Sky Sports: "They got the win and the clean sheet but it has been a struggle for them.

"To watch them today it is still unusual, you're not getting carried away."