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Tragedy strikes Katsina: Bandits kill 21, burn corpses in Baure village

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi



A devastating attack by suspected bandits has left 21 people dead and several others missing in Baure village, Safana Local Government Area of Katsina State. The village, notorious for being a bandits' den, witnessed a rampage by the hoodlums on Tuesday, with the attackers visiting house to house, leaving a trail of death and destruction in their wake.

According to eyewitnesses, about 15 people died on the spot, while others were burnt beyond recognition. A resident, who spoke to Channels TV on condition of anonymity, revealed that the bandits also set some of the corpses ablaze, further exacerbating the horror of the situation.

The Katsina Police Command has confirmed the incident, with spokesperson DSP Abubakar Aliyu stating that the attack occurred on January 7, 2025, at around 4:30 p.m.

Aliyu explained that a joint team of the Katsina State Community Watch Corps and vigilante members were returning from a condolence visit whe

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Shocking theft rocks EFCC: 10 officers arrested over missing N600 million

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

In a stunning turn of events, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested 10 of its officers in connection with the disappearance of jewelry and cash valued at over N600 million from its Lagos office. The arrests, made last week on the orders of Executive Chairman Ola Olukoyede, are linked to the theft of operational items that the officers could not account for.

According to the EFCC, investigators are making progress, and those found culpable will face internal disciplinary action. While the EFCC has not disclosed the names of the officers involved or further details, sources indicate that between \$350,000 and \$400,000 has gone missing, along with expensive jewelry and other high-value items.

This incident comes on the heels of the dismissal of 27 EFCC officers for

misconduct and fraudulent behavior. The officers were fired after a review by the EFCC's Staff Disciplinary Committee, with the decision approved by Chairman Olukoyede. The dismissals have raised concerns about the agency's oversight and accountability, particularly in light of the latest incident.

The EFCC, renowned for its role in combating financial crimes in Nigeria, now faces intense scrutiny over potential weaknesses in its internal control systems. Despite launching an investigation into the missing funds and valuables, the agency's reputation has taken a hit.

As the investigation unfolds, questions are being raised about the measures the EFCC will take to prevent such incidents in the future and restore public trust in its ability to fight corruption. This scandal serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing



challenges the agency faces in maintaining its integrity and credibility in the fight against financial crimes.

Efforts to reach EFCC spokesperson Dele Oyewale for comment on this latest debacle have been unsuccessful. The agency's silence has only fueled speculation and concern among Nigerians, who demand accountability and transparency from the EFCC.

The incident has also sparked debate about the need for greater oversight and accountability within the EFCC. Many are calling for a comprehensive review of the agency's internal controls and procedures to prevent similar incidents in the future.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

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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
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4X3	36,499.50
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3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
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PHOTO NEWS (4X4)	53,333.30	4,250.00	57,583.30
PRESS RELEASE (4X4)	30,000.00	2,250.00	32,250.00
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Makinde appoints Prince Owoade as new Alaafin of Oyo

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has approved the appointment of Prince Abimbola Owoade as the new Alaafin of Oyo, after thorough consultations and divinations, has been recommended by the Oyomesi.

Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Dotun Oyelade, made the announcement in a statement released on Friday.

He explained that Owoade was chosen after extensive consultations and traditional divinations.

“Prince Abimbola Akeem Owoade, after thorough consultations and divinations, has been recommended by the Oyomesi and approved by Governor Seyi Makinde as the new Alaafin of Oyo,” the statement read.

Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ademola Ojo, noted that the appointment resolves the legal and social disputes that followed the former Alaafin Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III’s death on April 22, 2022

“This decision has put to rest all the socio-legal controversies that have arisen since the transition of the late Oba Adeyemi. We urge the people of Oyo State to support the new Alaafin and join the government in celebrating this historic moment,” Ojo said.

The government expressed hope that the reign of Prince Abimbola Owoade would bring peace, unity and prosperity to Oyo Kingdom.

“We pray that his reign brings progress and harmony to the people of Oyo and strengthens the historic legacy of the Alaafin institution,” he added.

Residents of Oyo State have been called upon to rally behind the new monarch as he begins his reign over the ancient kingdom.

After the death of the previous Alaafin, Oba Lamidi Adeyemi III, the selection process for his successor sparked controversy.



Makinde recently directed a fresh selection process, but five prominent kingmakers rejected this move on Thursday.

The kingmakers include the Basorun of Oyo, High Chief Yusuf Akinade; the Lagunna of Oyo, High Chief Wakeel Akindele; the Akinniku of Oyo, High Chief Hamzat Yusuf; a warrant chief standing in for Asipa of Oyo, Chief Wahab Oyetunji; and a warrant chief standing in for Alapinni of Oyo, Chief Gbadebo Mufutau.

Read also: Bandits fleeing N’West seek refuge in Oyo, says Makinde

They asserted that Prince Lukman Gbadegesin is already the Alaafin-elect, citing ongoing legal proceedings regarding the selection process.

The kingmakers’ legal counsel, Adekunle Sobalaju, described the governor’s actions as illegal and urged that the process be suspended until the court resolves the matter.

“We pray that his reign brings progress and harmony to the people of Oyo and strengthens the historic legacy of the Alaafin institution,” he added.

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Makinde vows to tackle land grabbing, cattle grazing

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde, has issued a stern warning to individuals engaging in land grabbing and unlawful cattle grazing within the state. The Governor announced that anyone forcibly encroaching on land or property will now face the full force of the law, as stipulated under the Rule of Law Enforcement Authority and the newly established Anti-Land Grabbing Agency.

Makinde, who was represented by his Deputy, Adebayo Lawal, made this pronouncement on Wednesday at a one-day stakeholders' engagement hosted by the Oyo State Mobilisation Agency for Socio-Economic Development (OYMASED) at Omolayole Hall, University of Ibadan. The event was focused on reviving the core values of the Yoruba people, particularly the Omoluabi ethos, which has been diminishing in recent times.

"The era of forcefully taking possession of someone's land is over," Makinde declared, emphasising that land grabbers will now be treated as criminals under the new legislation. He also revealed that the Anti-Land Grabbing Agency has been set up to address the alarming increase in land encroachment incidents across the state.

In his speech, the Governor highlighted the ongoing socio-economic challenges within the state and expressed confidence that OYMASED, working alongside other government bodies, would help address these issues effectively. He also underscored the importance of not only infrastructure development but also institutional strengthening, with OYMASED playing a key role in socio-economic progress.

Makinde warned of severe consequences for those caught engaging in illegal cattle grazing, particularly in restricted areas such as government offices and public spaces. Offenders, he affirmed, would be prosecuted by the Rule of Law Enforcement Authority, which is led by retired Hon. Justice Aderonke Aderemi.



The Governor stated, "Forceful occupation of land is no longer acceptable. In the past, conquering land was seen as a triumph, but today it is a crime. Anyone attempting this must be prepared to face the consequences."

In addition to land issues, Makinde stressed the need for adherence to environmental laws and public space regulations, citing the recent cases of cattle grazing in inappropriate locations, including the state secretariat.

During the event, the Director-General of OYMASED spoke about the importance of re-establishing the traditional values of integrity, respect for elders, and hospitality within the Yoruba community. These values, he pointed out, have been gradually eroded and require urgent revival.

Also speaking at the event, the Commissioner for Information and Orientation, Dotun Oyelade, commended OYMASED for its initiatives, revealing plans for public awareness campaigns to support the agency's goals.

Justice Aderemi also praised the Governor's commitment to restoring law and order in the state, particularly through the efforts of the Rule of Law Enforcement Authority and OYMASED. She emphasised the importance of upholding societal values and ensuring that regulations are adhered to by all.

Notable dignitaries at the event included former deputy governors, legal officials, traditional leaders, and representatives of various organisations. The gathering also featured experts such as Dr. Sybil Olufunmilayo Akinfenwa, Prof. Oludayo Tade, and Dr. (Mrs) Olukemi Akinyemi, who discussed pressing issues ranging from crowd control to drug abuse and traffic management.

Governor Makinde's administration remains committed to strengthening the legal and social frameworks necessary for the advancement of Oyo State, ensuring that all citizens respect the rule of law and the state's values.

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Nigeria records 100 fire-related deaths in 2024

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The Federal Fire Service (FFS) has revealed that Nigeria suffered the loss of 100 lives and property worth a staggering N67.1 billion due to fire outbreaks in 2024. However, the service also highlighted its significant success in mitigating the damage, saving 30,890 lives and property valued at N1.94 trillion.

The Controller General of the Federal Fire Service, Abdulganiyu Jaji, made these disclosures during a press briefing held in Abuja on Friday. According to Jaji, the FFS's efforts have been pivotal in responding to fire outbreaks and other emergencies across the nation.

"In the year 2024, the Federal Fire Service successfully saved property worth N1.94 trillion and recorded an estimated property loss of N67.1 billion," Jaji stated.

He further noted that, despite the challenges, the FFS was able to save 30,890 lives, although it was also a year of mourning for 23 families who lost loved ones. Jaji extended his condolences

to the bereaved, emphasising that the service shares in their grief.

The Controller General attributed many of the fires to negligence and non-compliance with safety regulations, urging Nigerians to exercise greater caution, particularly during the ongoing harmattan season. The dry and dusty weather, coupled with low humidity, increases the risk of fire outbreaks.

"As we are currently in the harmattan season, the risk of fire outbreaks is heightened due to low humidity, which can lead to static sparks and even gas explosions," Jaji warned. He appealed to operators of fuel stations, gas refilling plants, and consumers of gas cylinders to adhere strictly to safety protocols, emphasising that small lapses could lead to significant disasters.

In light of these concerns, the FFS is committed to improving public safety in the coming year. Jaji outlined plans to enhance the agency's response capabilities through advanced

technology and public awareness initiatives. The introduction of the National Fire Detection and Alarm System, along with the Fire Alarm App, N-Alert, is expected to significantly boost operational efficiency and improve service delivery.

Looking ahead to 2025, Jaji reiterated the Federal Fire Service's dedication to saving lives, protecting property, and ensuring environmental safety. "As we begin 2025, our focus remains on enhancing our capacity to safeguard Nigerians. We will continue to prioritise public trust and ensure that investments in fire safety yield positive results," he affirmed.

The Federal Fire Service's commitment to public safety and its proactive stance in addressing fire hazards are crucial in mitigating the risks posed by fire outbreaks, especially as the country faces another year of potential challenges.

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Raheem Okoya apologises over viral naira abuse video, police officer detained

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



Raheem Okoya, son of billionaire businessman Chief Razaq Okoya, has issued a public apology to Nigerians following his involvement in a viral video that showed the abuse of naira notes.

The video, which also featured his brother Wahab and an unidentified police officer, has sparked outrage across the country and led to the detention of the officer.

In a statement shared on Friday via X (formerly Twitter), Raheem expressed regret, saying, "To the Nigerian people, my actions were not to cause any trouble or harm.

My intentions were pure and naive. I ask for your forgiveness and support in this situation, as I had no intention to raise such an alarm. I wasn't fully aware of the consequences of my action."

The video, which quickly spread

across social media last week, shows Raheem and Wahab dressed in traditional agbada outfits, displaying stacks of crisp N1000 notes.

The brothers were promoting Raheem's new song "Credit Alert," while a mobile police officer in uniform can be seen holding bundles of cash, with the pair tossing the naira notes into the air as they danced.

The incident quickly drew widespread condemnation, with many Nigerians criticising the disrespect shown towards the national currency. The police officer involved in the video was subsequently detained by the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), who confirmed that disciplinary action was underway.

Force Public Relations Officer, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, addressed the situation on his X handle on Friday, stating, "The policeman captured in the recent viral video shared by the sons of Lagos businessman, Chief Okoya, where they were abusing the naira, has

been identified and detained for disciplinary action. The involvement of the policeman has been condemned, as it's unethical. We will always strive hard to uphold the sanctity, credibility, and core values of the police."

While the police have acted swiftly, there has been some public backlash, with many questioning whether the Okoya brothers will face any consequences for their role in the video. As of now, no further details have emerged regarding possible sanctions for the billionaire's sons.

The controversy has prompted a wider conversation about the abuse of naira notes and the need for more respect for the national currency, particularly by public figures.

As the matter unfolds, Nigerians await further updates on the disciplinary actions against the officer and any potential repercussions for the Okoya family.

FG announces minimum wage review in less than two years

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, has revealed that the new minimum wage will be reviewed in less than two years.

Speaking in Umuahia, Abia State capital, on Thursday, she made this announcement after meeting with labour leaders in the state.

Onyejeocha assured that President Bola Tinubu is committed to fulfilling his promise to Nigerian workers by ensuring a review of the minimum wage within three years. She expressed that the President remains deeply concerned about workers' welfare and would stand by his pledges to them.

"We are not going to allow the minimum wage review to be forever," Onyejeocha stated. "It used to be about five years, but now, in three years' time, which is less than two years, we will also review the

minimum wage."

The Minister emphasised that this commitment had been documented and that Nigerians can expect the review to take place promptly.

In July 2024, President Tinubu had approved a new minimum wage of N70,000, with the intention to review it every three years.

Onyejeocha, who hails from Abia State, explained that she had convened the meeting with the labour leaders, whom she considers her constituents, to wish them well after spending her Christmas and New Year holidays in the state. She also reminded them of the crucial role that labour plays in ensuring national stability and peace, not only in the workplace but across the country.

"I reminded them that we should have a strike-free year, where we will be able to work with the government in



partnership, knowing that if we are at peace, we will be more productive," Onyejeocha added.

The Abia Chairman of the Nigeria Labour Congress, Mr. Ogbomna Okoro, praised Onyejeocha for her significant efforts in office, noting that the labour body is proud of her achievements and is committed to collaborating with her moving forward.

Okpebholo pledges resolution of delayed induction for AAU medical graduates

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has assured 167 medical graduates of Ambrose Alli University (AAU), Ekpoma, that his administration will resolve the issues delaying their induction into the medical profession.

The governor addressed the 2015 set of medical students during a stopover at the institution's gate on his way from Irrua. The students, who graduated in August 2024 after spending 10 years in medical school, had been protesting the delay in their induction.

Speaking to journalists, Governor Okpebholo expressed empathy for the students, stating, "I feel your pain as a father. I will invite the acting Vice Chancellor to discuss and resolve this matter promptly. Please be patient; everything will be fine."

The students' spokesperson,

Precious Omohegbele, appealed to the Governor for swift intervention, highlighting their plight.

"We graduated five months ago and should be halfway into our horsemanship by now. Spending 10 years in medical school is already a heavy burden. We appeal to Your Excellency to help us," she said.

READ ALSO: Gov Okpebholo freezes state bank accounts

The delay is linked to challenges under the previous administration of Godwin Obaseki, including non-accreditation of courses, lack of funding, unpaid



salaries, and structural mismanagement.

Governor Okpebholo said since assuming office, he has taken steps to reposition the university, including reinstating staff dismissed for protesting against unfavourable labour practices.

Victims of Okija stampede buried in emotional service

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The victims of the tragic stampede that occurred during a Christmas rice distribution in Okija, Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State, have been laid to rest.

The incident, which took place on December 21, 2024, claimed the lives of at least 21 people, primarily women and children, during a palliative distribution organised by Chief Ernest Azudialu Obiejesi through his Obijackson Foundation.

An inter-denominational burial service was held on Friday at St. Mary's Field, Okija, with families of the victims, survivors, community members, and other dignitaries in attendance. The event, though low-key, was organised by the Obijackson Foundation in collaboration with the royal palace of Okija.

During the service, the Very Rev. Donald Chukwudolue led the congregation in a prayer, urging God to console those who had lost loved ones and asking for divine

intervention to prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

He quoted from the Book of Revelation 21:1-8, stating, "We ask God to wipe away every tear and console the families of the deceased. We pray such an accident will not occur in Okija again. Okija mourns, Anambra mourns, and Nigeria mourns."

The Bishop of Ihiala Diocese, Anglican Communion, Rt. Ralph Okafor, also delivered a sermon based on Psalms 23, encouraging the bereaved families to find solace in their faith. "The past is past, we must move on," he urged, offering his condolences and support.

The founder of the Obijackson Foundation, Chief Ernest Azudialu-Obiejesi, expressed his deep sorrow for the tragic loss and thanked the community for their support. "Today, we gather here with heavy hearts to honour the memory of those we lost in the tragedy. I sincerely express my

deepest condolences to the families of the victims and the entire Okija community," Azudialu-Obiejesi said.

He reaffirmed his foundation's commitment to human development, vowing to work towards preventing such incidents in the future. "This incident has strengthened our resolve to ensure that no such tragedy will occur again. Let this bring us closer as a community, and we will continue to serve Okija with the same dedication we always have."

The traditional ruler of Okija, Emeka Okezie, also offered his condolences and urged the Obijackson Foundation to continue its philanthropic work, which has had a positive impact on the community. "Do not be discouraged by this unfortunate incident," Okezie advised.

In a show of support, Chief Daniel Chukwudozie, Chairman of Dozzy Group of Companies, donated a generous sum of N10 million to the victims' families.

Some of the victims, who attended the service, expressed their grief and called on God to grant the souls of the departed eternal rest. The service concluded with the community coming together in remembrance of those lost, united in their shared sorrow and commitment to moving forward.

As the community mourns the loss, there is a renewed resolve to ensure that Okija remains a place of unity, safety, and continued support for one another.

NYSC: Why 200 corps members were queried- Oyo NYSC

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

NYSC denies claims of issuing queries to 200 Oyo corps members, clarifying allegations about a Christmas carol are false and baseless.

The organization clarified that the accusations are baseless and unrelated to religious activities.

Recent reports, particularly from some online platforms, claimed that the corps members serving in Atiba Local Government Area were penalized for not attending a Christmas carol held on December 20, 2024.

However, NYSC spokesperson Eddy Megwa dismissed these claims in a statement issued on Friday, describing them as false and misleading.

Clarification on the queries

Megwa explained that the issued queries were not connected to the Christmas carol. Instead, they addressed the failure of the corps members to fulfill mandatory duties.

These duties include participation in their Community Development Service (CDS) activities and presence during the December 2024 headcount.

The headcount was conducted to verify the number of corps members available during the holiday season.

“For clarity, the affected corps members in Atiba did not participate in their scheduled CDS activities and were absent during the December 2024 headcount. They were also not present at their respective places of primary assignment,” Megwa stated.

Furthermore, she noted that the corps members traveled outside the state without obtaining prior written permission from the NYSC Oyo State Coordinator.

This violation occurred between December 16, 2024, and January 6, 2025. According to Megwa, the NYSC’s rules and regulations require proper authorization for travel during service.

Adherence to NYSC bylaws Megwa emphasized that the scheme operates strictly within the boundaries of its bylaws. These rules guide corps members’ conduct throughout their service year.

She explained that the queries issued by the Local Government Inspector were corrective measures intended to ensure compliance with the scheme’s regulations. The organization does not discriminate against religious practices or beliefs.

“The NYSC respects the religious rights of all corps members and remains committed to fostering unity and tolerance,” she added.

Mandatory service activities

Megwa reiterated the importance of mandatory weekly and monthly CDS activities for corps members.

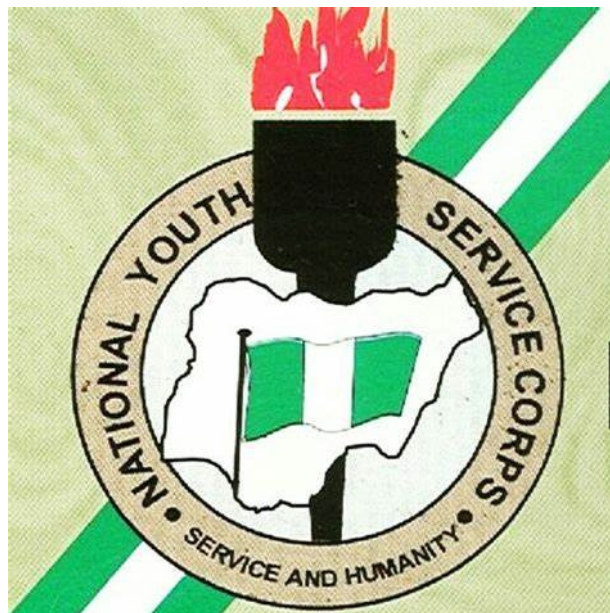
Participation in these activities is a critical requirement for obtaining the Certificate of National Service.

The NYSC considers these engagements essential to fostering community involvement and national development.

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

“The activities are designed to instill discipline, responsibility, and a sense of service among corps members,” Megwa explained. Failure to adhere to these obligations attracts penalties, as outlined in the NYSC’s guidelines.



NYSC calls for balanced reporting In addressing the reports, Megwa criticized the online publications for their inaccurate and sensationalized content. She urged the public to disregard such misleading information, which she described as an attempt to stir unnecessary religious tension.

“The NYSC has an open-door policy with the press and encourages balanced and factual reporting of its activities,” she said.

Megwa also appealed to journalists and media outlets to verify their information before publication. She stressed the importance of accurate reporting in preserving the integrity of the NYSC and its role in national unity.

Conclusion

The NYSC has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting unity and tolerance among corps members.

It called on the public to trust its procedures and policies, which are designed to support the personal and professional growth of corps members.

Gov Abiodun to expand Ogun Teach interns

By Friday Omosola



Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, has announced plans to expand the Ogun Teach initiative by increasing the number of interns from 4,000 to 6,000.

The governor said the move was aimed at addressing the gap in the student-to-teacher ratio across the state.

He disclosed this at his Oke-Mosan office while receiving the management team of Teach For All and Teach For Nigeria, who were in the state for their retreat.

The governor revealed that his administration had raised the monthly stipends for Ogun Teach interns to N80,000 in line with current economic realities.

Abiodun
Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun and others (PHOTO CREDIT: X)

The governor added that the

initiative since its introduction has been extremely successful with 2,000 out of the 4,000 interns recruited being given permanent employment.

He said that currently Ogun Teach has employed over 4,000 teachers, and is set to employ another batch, bringing the number to 5,000.

The governor also highlighted the state's efforts in revitalizing education, including the implementation of the Learners Identification Number to track students in public schools and the Education Revitalization Agenda, which has streamlined education delivery in Ogun State.

READ ALSO: Gov Abiodun appoints Anthony Joshua as Sports Ambassador

He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to absorbing qualified fellows from the Teach For Nigeria program to ensure education equity and quality across the state.

Governor Abiodun reiterated his administration's commitment to making Ogun State a model for educational excellence in Nigeria, assuring continued collaboration with education stakeholders to tackle inequities and ensure access to quality education for all students.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer of Teach For Nigeria, Molade Adeniyi, commended the Ogun State Government for its unwavering support and partnership, which has created an enabling environment for the Teach For Nigeria program to thrive.

She added that Teach For Nigeria recruits highly qualified young professionals who undergo a two-year fellowship, building a generation of leaders passionate about tackling educational inequities.

Nigeria Police Force detains officer in viral video, sparking outrage over double standards

By Friday Omosola



The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) has identified and detained a police officer who appeared in a viral video with Wahab and Raheem Okoya, sons of billionaire businessman Razaq Okoya. The officer was seen holding stacks of naira notes as the Okoya brothers sprayed the currency, an offense under Section 21(3) of the Central Bank of Nigeria 2007.

The video, which sparked widespread outrage on social media, showed the Okoya brothers recklessly spraying naira notes, while the police officer stood by, holding the currency. The NPF, in a bid to address the controversy, detained the police officer, citing unethical behavior.

Force Public Relations Officer (FPRO), ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, disclosed the detention on X, stating that the policeman's involvement was "unethical" and would face disciplinary action. However, the move has sparked

outrage on social media, with many accusing the NPF of double standards.

Critics argue that the Okoya brothers, who actually committed the offense, have not been punished, while the police officer, who was seemingly pressured into participating, is facing disciplinary action. Many have taken to social media to express their frustration over the perceived leniency towards the wealthy and powerful.

"This is a clear case of double standards," said one user. "The police officer is being punished for simply being present, while the Okoya brothers, who actually committed the offense, are walking free."

Others have expressed concern over the message this sends to the general public. "If the rich and powerful can get away with breaking the law, while the poor and vulnerable are punished, then what kind of society are we building?" asked another user.

The incident has raised questions about the fairness and accountability

of the Nigerian justice system. While the police officer's detention may be seen as a necessary measure to uphold discipline within the force, many feel that the Okoya brothers should also face consequences for their actions.

As of now, it remains unclear whether the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arrested the primary suspects in the case. The controversy surrounding the viral video continues to spark heated debates about privilege, accountability, and justice in Nigeria.

The NPF has been urged to take a more holistic approach to addressing the issue, rather than simply punishing the police officer. Many are calling for the Okoya brothers to be held accountable for their actions, and for the NPF to demonstrate a commitment to fairness and justice.

Borno Attack: IGP orders crackdown on perpetrators

By Friday Omosola



In a decisive response to the recent explosion at the Nganzai Divisional Police Headquarters in Borno State, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has condemned the attack and ordered an immediate stop.

The incident which occurred yesterday at about 12:10 a.m. and claimed the lives of two police officers—Inspector Bartholomew Kalawa and Corporal Mustapha Huzaifat—

He also ordered a thorough crackdown on the culprits, affirming that no cop-killer will go unpunished.

Inspector-General of Police (IGP),

Kayode Egbetokun, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun (PHOTO CREDIT: Google)

In a statement issued by the police spokesperson, the IGP extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased officers.

Egbetokun assured them that the sacrifices made by their loved ones in the line of duty will not be forgotten.

READ ALSO: IGP strengthens policing efforts, community partnerships in Delta

He directed the immediate payment of all benefits and entitlements to the bereaved families.

To ensure swift action, Egbetokun instructed the Zone 15 Assistant Inspector-General of Police, AIG Kenechukwu Onwuemeli, to mobilize adequate resources and personnel and collaborate with other security agencies to track down the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

The IGP further reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the Nigeria Police Force to safeguarding the nation's security and holding accountable all those who disrupt public peace and endanger lives.

Share

Gov Eno dissolves cabinet, appoints new commissioners

By Friday Omosola



Akwa Ibom Governor Umo Eno has disbanded his cabinet, citing the need for a fresh perspective and energy to drive his administration forward.

He made the announcement on Friday during a valedictory session held at the Executive Council chamber in Uyo, the state capital.

The governor emphasised that the decision was not a result of underperformance, but rather a strategic move to bring in new professionals to support his governance.

He further clarified that while the outgoing commissioners had

delivered on their responsibilities, the time had come to inject new talent into his administration.

READ ALSO: Funke Akindele's Jenifa

legacy: A global phenomenon

The governor also announced that a special dinner would take place on Friday evening at the Banquet Hall, Government House, Uyo, in honour of the outgoing cabinet members.

Sources confirm that many of the commissioners served under the previous administration of Governor Udom Emmanuel for eight years.

FG confirms return of \$52.88m Diezani loot from US

By Friday Omosola



The Federal Government (FG) has revealed that the United States handed over \$52.88 million in assets linked to former Petroleum Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke.

Alison-Madueke fled to London

shortly after leaving office in May 2015 and has remained abroad ever since, facing numerous allegations of embezzlement during her tenure.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, announced this during a formal asset recovery agreement signing held in Abuja on Friday.

former Petroleum Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke
Former Petroleum Minister Diezani Alison-Madueke (PHOTO CREDIT: Google)

Fagbemi revealed that \$50 million of the recovered funds would be allocated through the World Bank to support rural electrification projects across Nigeria.

The remaining \$2.88 million he said will be earmarked for the International Institute of Justice to enhance the justice

system and strengthen anti-corruption efforts.

READ ALSO: Court adjourns hearing in Diezani Alison-Madueke's legal battle with EFCC

He said the return marks a milestone in the collaborative efforts between Nigeria and the United States to fight corruption and promote the rule of law.

Fagbemi further stated that the return of the money reflects President Bola Tinubu's commitment to addressing corruption head-on.

However, Richard Mills, the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, commended the recovery process and called on the Ministry of Justice to ensure the effective management and utilization of the funds for the benefit of the Nigerian people.

Court orders Minister, AGF to justify expatriates tax policy

By Friday Omosola



Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, has summoned the Minister of Interior, Olunmi Tunji-Ojo, and the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF), Lateef Fagbemi, to explain why the implementation of a proposed expatriates taxation policy should not be halted.

The order followed an ex-parte motion filed by the plaintiff's counsel, Patrick Peter.

Justice Ekwo directed that the motion be served on the minister and AGF within three days and scheduled the hearing for January 16, 2024.

The plaintiff, who named the Interior Minister and the AGF as defendants, is seeking an interim injunction to prevent the implementation of the new taxation framework, called the "Expatriate Employment Levy (EEL)" until the substantive case is resolved.

According to an affidavit filed by the plaintiff's Programme Implementation Coordinator, the Federal Government unveiled the EEL on February 27, 2024.

Under this policy, companies employing expatriates would be required to pay an annual tax of \$15,000 (N23 million) for directors and \$10,000 (N16 million) for non-directors.

READ ALSO: Court remands bandits linked to kingpin Turji

The policy also prescribes penalties for non-compliance, including five years of imprisonment and/or ann N1 million fine for inaccurate reporting.

Corporate entities could face fines of N3 million for failing to file or renew EEL documentation or for providing false

information.

The plaintiff argued that the EEL is detrimental to Nigeria's economic growth and violates constitutional provisions.

It noted that taxation matters require collaboration between the executive and legislative arms of government, as outlined in Section 59 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

The plaintiff further alleged that despite earlier suspending the policy to allow consultations with stakeholders like NACCIMA, the minister is now set to enforce the EEL fully.

If implemented, the group claims, the policy would harm the economy and undermine the nation's financial stability.

Justice Ekwo directed the defendants to justify why the court should not grant the plaintiff's request for an injunction.

The matter was adjourned to January 16, 2024, for further proceedings.



What are Airdrops and how is money made from them?

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi



Airdrops are a popular method in the cryptocurrency world where projects distribute tokens or coins for free to early adopters or community members.

Airdrops

Photo Credit: Token Metrics

These freebies can range from small amounts to substantial holdings, depending on the project and its goals.

How do Airdrops Work?

Crypto projects often use airdrops to majorly boost awareness. By so doing, they introduce their new token or platform to a wider audience.

It is also a way they reward early supporters by incentivizing users to engage with their platform, such as by holding other cryptocurrencies, participating in social media campaigns, or completing specific tasks.

All these and more when put together

helps them foster a strong community around their project by rewarding active members.

There is always an Eligibility Criteria by which crypto projects reward their community. Common requirements include: holding specific cryptocurrencies, that is, owning a certain amount of a related coin or token.

Also through social media engagement by following the project on X, joining their Telegram group, or retweeting their posts.

Another is by completing tasks which could involve participating in surveys, referring friends, or providing feedback.

Once you meet the eligibility criteria, you typically need to claim your airdrop by interacting with a smart contract on the blockchain.

This usually involves connecting your cryptocurrency wallet to the project's platform.

How to Make Money from them

The most straightforward way to profit is to hold the airdropped tokens and hope their value appreciates significantly over time. But this can be a real test of patience only if you are really willing to wait.

Another option is to trade immediately when the airdrop token is listed on an exchange, you can sell it immediately for a profit, especially if there's high initial demand.

Some airdrops can also be staked or used in decentralized finance (DeFi) protocols to earn passive income. Always research the project thoroughly before participating in any airdrop.

Investigate the team, the project's roadmap, and the tokenomics. Be extremely cautious about providing your private keys or connecting your wallet to unknown sources.

Prostate cancer drug that shrinks advanced tumors discovered

By New Daily Prime



A groundbreaking new drug, NXP800, has shown promising results in shrinking prostate cancer tumors in men with advanced disease, offering hope for patients who no longer respond to existing treatments. The experimental medication, also being trialed for ovarian cancer, was hailed by experts as a potential game-changer in overcoming treatment resistance.

How It Works

The drug targets the heat shock factor 1 (HSF1) pathway, a cellular mechanism that cancer cells hijack to support their growth. This pathway regulates heat shock proteins, which are overexpressed in many cancers to help them survive stressful conditions as tumors develop. NXP800 disrupts this process, slowing tumor growth and offering a new approach to tackling hormone-resistant prostate cancer.

Laboratory and animal trials conducted by a team from the Institute of Cancer Research (ICR) in London demonstrated the drug's effectiveness. Without treatment, tumors in test subjects doubled in size

within 38 days, but those receiving NXP800 showed significantly slower progression, with only about a third of tumors reaching that stage in the same timeframe.

Dr. Adam Sharp, leader of the Translational Therapeutics Group at the ICR and consultant oncologist at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, emphasized the importance of this discovery. "Hormone therapies have extended the lives of many men with advanced prostate cancer, but drug resistance is inevitable. Targeting the heat shock response pathway offers a promising new angle for treatment."

Promising Results and Next Steps

The study, which analyzed 439 samples of advanced prostate cancer, found that higher levels of heat shock proteins were linked to increased androgen receptor signaling, which drives cancer growth. NXP800 was shown to slow tumor progression in lab-grown cells and mini tumors derived from patient samples.

Professor Kristian Helin, chief executive of the ICR, underscored the importance of tackling drug resistance in cancer treatment. "Finding drugs that can slow cancer growth when all other treatments fail is critical," he said.

Regius Professor Johann de Bono, a

senior researcher at the ICR, highlighted the potential impact for patients. "Higher levels of heat shock proteins are associated with worse outcomes in prostate cancer. If clinical trials prove successful, targeting these proteins could extend and improve the lives of men with advanced disease."

Backed by Leading Organizations

The research, published in *Clinical Cancer Research*, was supported by Prostate Cancer UK and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Simon Grieveson, assistant director of research at Prostate Cancer UK, described the findings as a "fantastic example" of innovative approaches to prostate cancer treatment. "This novel drug could give men with hormone-resistant prostate cancer more time with their loved ones," he said.

While clinical trials are needed to confirm the drug's effectiveness, the findings mark an exciting step forward in addressing one of the most challenging aspects of advanced prostate cancer—treatment resistance.

Moses Bliss, wife welcome first child

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Gospel artist Moses Bliss and his wife, Marie, have shared wonderful news with fans. The couple recently welcomed their first child, a baby boy.

Moses announced this milestone on Instagram, posting a heartfelt video featuring his wife and a celebratory song.

Gratitude to God for the blessing
In his post, Moses expressed deep gratitude to God for this precious gift. "This is the doing of the Lord. We are in awe of His mercy," he wrote. The heartfelt declaration reflects the couple's strong faith and belief in divine providence.

A testimony in song
To make the announcement special, Moses shared a moving song video dedicated to their new bundle of joy. The song, as he explained, is a testimony of God's faithfulness in their lives. "Join us to thank God for blessing our family with a baby boy," Moses invited fans, encouraging them to share in the celebration.

The love story of Moses and Marie
Moses and Marie tied the knot in March 2024 in a beautiful ceremony that symbolized the union of two faith-filled souls.

Marie, a Ghanaian-born lawyer based in London, has been a strong support in Moses's life and career. Since their wedding, the couple has frequently shared glimpses of their journey, radiating love, faith, and togetherness.

Fans celebrate with the Bliss family
The announcement video quickly gained attention, with fans and



followers flooding the comments section with congratulatory messages and prayers.

Many celebrated the couple's joy, sharing words of encouragement and expressing admiration for their faith-centered approach to life.

New chapter for Moses Bliss

The arrival of their baby boy marks a significant moment for Moses Bliss, who has touched countless lives with his inspiring gospel music.

Fans can expect his future songs to reflect this transformative experience of fatherhood and gratitude.

Faith, love, and family at the core

For Moses and Marie, this milestone is a testament to the power of faith and love. Their journey, from marriage to

parenthood, continues to inspire many.

The couple's gratitude to God is evident in every step they take, reminding their audience of the importance of acknowledging life's blessings.

Looking ahead

As the Bliss family embraces this new chapter, fans eagerly anticipate updates and more music inspired by this joyous season.

For now, Moses and Marie are cherishing every moment with their newborn, surrounded by love, prayers, and support from their global community.

Mohbad: Group urges case reopening as Mohbad's autopsy ready

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

The family of Mohbad has finalised a private autopsy and toxicology report, seeking answers about the true cause of the late singer's tragic death.

This development follows months of uncertainty and public speculation surrounding the tragic incident.

The Coroner's Court in Ikorodu, Lagos State, granted the family permission in June 2024 to conduct a private investigation.

The decision came after the official autopsy performed by the Lagos State Government was deemed inconclusive. This prompted the family to take matters into their own hands, seeking clarity and justice.

Findings ready since December

The Punch in its report stated that a family source disclosed to PUNCH Metro that the autopsy report had been ready since December. "The autopsy is done, and the report is with the forensic pathologist hired by the family. The findings are complete and ready to be presented in court," the source said.

The family initiated the independent autopsy due to lingering doubts about the circumstances of Mohbad's death. They cited irregularities and suspicions surrounding the case, emphasizing their commitment to uncovering the truth.

Civic group demands reopening of inquest

Meanwhile, The Critical Thinkers Group, a civic advocacy organization, has called for the resumption of the coroner's inquest. The group highlighted that the delay in proceedings has stalled efforts to uncover the truth behind the singer's death.

In a statement signed by its U.S. chapter secretary, Bossy Keno, the group expressed concern over



suspending the inquest. "The inquest was suspended in September due to a court order following the denial of participation by an NGO. The suspension has raised serious concerns, with many believing it is unnecessarily delaying the pursuit of justice," the statement read.

Late singer and songwriter Mohbad. [Photo Credit: Google]

Late singer and songwriter Mohbad. [Photo Credit: Google]

Urgent call for new court date

The group urged the Magistrate to prioritize the case and set a new date for the inquest. They emphasized the importance of hearing testimonies from critical witnesses, including Naira Marley, Sammy Larry, Nurse Feyisayo Ogedengbe, and the family's forensic pathologist.

"The Magistrate must set a new date for the inquest," the group stated. "Key

witnesses need to be heard. Their testimonies will shed light on the circumstances surrounding Mohbad's untimely death."

Reopening the inquest is seen as a crucial step in advancing the investigation and ensuring that the case can progress to higher courts if necessary.

Public outcry for justice

The death of Mohbad continues to dominate headlines and stir public outrage. Fans, family, and advocacy groups have joined forces to demand justice for the late singer.

Allegations and speculations about his death have sparked broader conversations about mental health, safety, and accountability within the entertainment industry.

Mr Macaroni condemns Lagos Commissioner assault on citizen, govt react

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Comedian Mr Macaroni condemned a viral video of a Nigerian commissioner threatening to break a citizen's phone during a public encounter on X.

This disturbing display of authority has sparked widespread condemnation and renewed debates about the abuse of power by public officials in Nigeria.

The incident occurred when Mrs. Toke Benson, a citizen, attempted to record a public meeting where the commissioner was speaking. What began as a routine recording quickly escalated into an alarming exchange that has drawn national attention.

In the viral video, Macaroni wrote: Dear Mrs Toke Benson, who do you think you are that you can't be recorded?? Ok. Commissioner? And so what?? You even have the temerity to ask "Who is paying your salary" Is it your money? A public servant moving like a Dictator. Saying you will break a citizen's phone and actually moving to do so?? Outrageous!!! And I heard another lady asking "Do you know who you are talking to" Who are you? Who is she? Who are all of you gangan??? My goodness!!! It seems once you hold a political office in Nigeria you become Lord and Master and all Citizens must become your slaves?? In a shocking display of aggression, the commissioner threatened to destroy Mrs. Benson's phone, demanding to know who was paying her salary and labeling the act of recording as unacceptable.

The commissioner's response, which many view as heavy-handed, raises critical questions about the growing disregard for transparency among public officials.

This situation echoes the behavior seen in dictatorial regimes, where the right of citizens to question or document officials' actions is stifled. Eyewitnesses confirm that Mrs. Benson was simply exercising her

right to document public proceedings.

For her, recording the event was a legitimate attempt to ensure transparency. However, her efforts were met with hostility from the commissioner.

His actions prompted bystanders to question his motives and behavior, with many criticizing his decision to use his position to intimidate and silence a citizen. The call for accountability and transparency

Mrs. Benson's firm stance against the commissioner's threats has resonated with many Nigerians. She reportedly asked, "Who do you think you are that you can't be recorded?" This simple yet powerful question emphasized the need for accountability among public officials, reminding them that they are meant to serve the people, not rule over them.

Her defiance has sparked widespread support from Nigerians who believe that public officials often forget their duty to serve the people.

Instead, they act as though they are untouchable. This incident has only intensified calls for reform in Nigeria's political system.

Activist, comedian and actor Mr Macaroni. [Photo Credit: Google]

Activist, comedian and actor Mr Macaroni. [Photo Credit: Google]

Widespread outrage and social media mobilization

The commissioner's threat to destroy Mrs. Benson's phone has ignited outrage across Nigeria. Citizens are voicing their anger on social media platforms, using hashtags that call for accountability and the end of impunity in politics.

These online movements are calling for a reevaluation of the powers granted to public officials, urging lawmakers to enact legislative reforms that would ensure the protection of citizens' rights to free expression.



For many, this incident serves as a reminder of the culture of impunity that has long existed in Nigerian politics.

Political officeholders, once in power, often develop a mindset that they are beyond reproach. Critics argue that this mentality fosters an environment where citizens feel powerless and afraid to hold their leaders accountable.

A Troubling trend in Nigerian politics

The phrase "Do you know who you are talking to?" uttered by another official during the confrontation, only deepened concerns about the state of politics in Nigeria. It suggests a troubling hierarchy, where officials feel their positions grant them immunity from criticism and scrutiny. This kind of thinking undermines the democratic process and alienates citizens who expect transparency from their leaders.

It's not just about one commissioner's conduct. This incident highlights a wider issue: when officials begin to see themselves as above the law, it weakens public trust and erodes democratic values. Citizens' voices become sidelined, and leaders no longer feel accountable to those they serve.

Calls for investigation and legislative change

US Judge declines to jail Trump despite hush money conviction

By New Daily Prime

Donald Trump has been given an unconditional discharge following his conviction in the Stormy Daniels hush money case. The decision means the incoming US president will not face jail time, probation, or a fine.

Manhattan Judge Juan M. Merchan, who had the authority to sentence Trump to up to four years in prison, announced the verdict. This sentencing occurs just days before the 78-year-old is set to be inaugurated for his second term as US president on January 20.

Trump appeared at the hearing via videolink, addressing the court before his sentencing. He described the case as a “very terrible experience” and claimed it was handled inappropriately by individuals with connections to his political opponents, specifically referring to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

“It was done to damage my reputation so I would lose the election,” Trump stated. “This has been a political witch hunt. I am totally innocent. I did nothing wrong.” Concluding his remarks, he added, “I was treated very unfairly, and I thank you very much.”

Judge Merchan emphasized his responsibility to determine a just conclusion. Despite the guilty verdict, the judge opted for an unconditional discharge, a sentencing decision under New York law that imposes no imprisonment, fine, or probation supervision when the court determines no purpose would be served by imposing conditions.



Prosecutor Matthew Steinglass criticized Trump’s conduct, stating, “He’s been unrelenting in his attacks against this court, prosecutors, and their families. His dangerous rhetoric and unconstitutional conduct have been a direct attack on the rule of law, and he has publicly threatened to retaliate against the prosecutors.” Steinglass further argued that Trump’s actions were “designed to have a chilling effect and to intimidate.”

Trump’s legal team attempted a last-minute appeal to the US Supreme Court to delay sentencing, arguing that evidence used during the trial violated a prior ruling granting Trump broad immunity for acts committed as president. However, the Supreme Court rejected this appeal.

Trump’s conviction in May 2024 made him the first person convicted of a felony to assume the US presidency. The charges included 34 counts of falsifying business records related to

payments made to Stormy Daniels before the 2016 presidential election. Prosecutors alleged Trump paid Daniels \$130,000 to prevent her from disclosing details of an alleged sexual relationship in 2006, a claim Trump has consistently denied.

Despite the conviction, the trial’s outcome did not deter American voters, who elected him for a second term. Legal experts noted that the unconditional discharge resolves the hush money case without imposing any penalties that might impede Trump’s ability to serve as president.

Unconditional discharges are not uncommon in New York for cases involving convictions of falsifying business records. The decision underscores the judge’s view that imposing further penalties on Trump would serve no proper purpose under the circumstances.

UK Govt considers ending free prescriptions for over-60s

By New Daily Prime



Labour opens door to scrapping free prescriptions for over-60s

The government has left the door open to ending free prescriptions for people over 60, as part of efforts to raise additional funds for the NHS. Ministers have not ruled out a future change that could see the qualifying age increased to align with the state pension age of 66.

Critics have accused the government of targeting older people through cuts to winter fuel payments and the refusal to provide compensation to the Women Against State Pension Inequality (Waspi) campaigners.

Currently, in England, all individuals over 60 are exempt from prescription charges, which stand at £9.90 per item. Raising the age threshold to 66 could generate over £1 billion in additional revenue for the NHS over the next five years.

Ian Byrne, a former Labour MP now serving as an independent, questioned ministers about potential changes to the exemptions. In response, Karin Smyth, a health minister, stated: "There are no current plans to review

the list of prescription charge exemptions."

The Conservative Party previously explored equalizing the age for free prescriptions with the state pension age in 2021 but abandoned the proposal after facing strong opposition from pensioners. An impact assessment conducted at the time suggested the move could generate £225 million annually for the NHS, totaling £2.23 billion over ten years. Officials also estimated that reinvesting this revenue in the health service could create benefits worth £8.45 billion over the same period.

However, the change would have imposed an average annual cost of £50 to £100 in prescription charges for those aged 60 to 65. Last year, Tory ministers decided to retain the current rules, citing the ongoing cost-of-living crisis as a key factor.

When asked about Labour's stance on the issue, a Department of Health spokesperson reiterated: "There are no plans to amend any of the prescription charge exemptions. Children, those aged 60 and over, pregnant women, and individuals with medical conditions like cancer, epilepsy, and diabetes remain exempt from charges, ensuring that

everyone can access the vital medicines they need."

Helen Morgan, the Liberal Democrat health spokesperson, expressed alarm over the government's refusal to rule out changes. She stated: "It's deeply concerning that the government will not guarantee free prescriptions for the over-60s. Pensioners cannot afford yet another financial burden, especially after being let down by the Conservative Party and facing additional challenges under the Labour government this year. The government must provide clarity and commit to retaining the free prescription policy."

The use of the phrase "no plans" has fueled speculation about potential policy changes. Labour previously assured the public it had "no plans" to alter winter fuel payments, yet the government later withdrew them from 10 million pensioners.

Similarly, Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson stated after the July election that there were no plans to increase university tuition fees, only to announce a £285 annual hike to £9,535 a few months later.

Tottenham's Bentancur 'all good' after collapse against Liverpool

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur has reassured fans that he is "all good" after being stretchered off during Wednesday's Carabao Cup semi-final against Liverpool.

The 27-year-old Uruguay international fell unchallenged while attempting to head a ball from a corner just six minutes into the match. After receiving treatment on the pitch for about nine minutes and requiring oxygen, Bentancur was taken to hospital for further checks.

He took to Instagram in the early hours of Thursday morning, thanking fans for their messages and congratulating his teammates for the 1-0 victory. "All good, guys. Thank you for the messages. Congratulations for the victory, boys," he posted.

Spurs manager Ange Postecoglou also offered an update after the match, stating, "I don't have all the information, but he was conscious when he got to the dressing room. We took him to the hospital to get checked over."

The win at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was secured by a late strike from Lucas Bergvall, giving Spurs a crucial advantage heading into the second leg of the semi-final.

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Newcastle and Villa charged over Half-Time melee

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Newcastle United and Aston Villa face FA charges after a heated half-time altercation during Newcastle's 3-0 Boxing Day victory at St James' Park.

The incident, sparked by tension over Villa striker Jhon Duran's first-half red card for a stamp on Fabian Schar, escalated in the tunnel, involving players and staff from both sides.

Newcastle assistant coach Jason Tindall and Villa analyst Victor Manas have been individually charged for improper conduct. Tindall was also sent off during the altercation.

Addressing the clash, Newcastle head coach Eddie Howe remarked, "It was chaotic. There were many trying to calm things down, but it looked like more

people got involved."

Villa manager Unai Emery, already frustrated by Duran's dismissal, saw his tensions boil over during the first half, with Tindall later seen shushing him in the technical area.

Both clubs have until 13 January to respond to the charges.

