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## The New Daily Prime

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# NANS decries disconnection of UCH by Ibadan Disco...says lives of patients endangered

By New Daily Prime

The National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, has called for immediate resolution of the face-off between the management of the University College Hospital, UCH, Ibadan and the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company, IBEDC, over N3.1 billion debts.

The student body notes that the development, which has led to the disconnection of power supply to the teaching hospital, is not only endangering the lives of patients, but also jeopardizing the training of medical personnel.

In a statement by the Clerk of the Senate, Comrade Oladimeji Uthman, yesterday, NANS called on the Ministers of Health and Power to intervene in the matter and find a lasting solution to it.

“The national leadership of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has observed with grave concern the ongoing crisis between the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) and the University College Hospital (UCH), Ibadan. “This development has had dire consequences, affecting critical healthcare services and the academics of students.

“The disconnection of UCH’s power supply on October 26, 2024, due to an outstanding debt of approximately N400 million—a fraction of an accumulated bill of N3.1 billion since 2019, has led to significant disruption in patient care, research, and training at the institution despite that the health institution made payment of N2.9 billion at the same year.

“The situation has escalated to the point where patients, families, and staff are facing avoidable hardships, including postponed test results, canceled surgeries, and reliance on flashlights in various wards at the hospital.

“The inability of UCH to deliver on its mandate as a leading healthcare institution jeopardizes the lives of patients and the future of students

undergoing training at the hospital. NANS strongly believes that this issue demands urgent and humane resolution. We hereby call on the Minister of Power and his counterpart at the Ministry of Health to find a lasting solution to this lingering crisis.

“To ensure that University College Hospital (UCH) Ibadan continues to function effectively while addressing the legitimate concerns of IBEDC, the following are our demands: Reclassification of UCH’s Tariff Structure.

“IBEDC should cease charging UCH under an industrial tariff structure. UCH is not a profit-making industry but a public health institution that renders essential services. The hospital’s tariff classification must reflect its non-commercial status to alleviate its financial burden.

“Proper Meter Placement: IBEDC should install UCH’s meter after their transformer. The current placement of the meter before the transformer leads to inflated readings, forcing the hospital to pay for unused energy. This technical adjustment will ensure fair billing practices and prevent further financial strain on UCH.

“Return to Band B Tariff Classification: The University College Hospital (UCH) should be removed from Band A and reassigned to Band B, which is more affordable and sustainable for the health institution. This reclassification will enable the hospital to meet her obligations without compromising on the quality of care provided to patients.

“Compliance with NERC Regulations on Life-Saving Machines: The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) explicitly prohibits the disconnection of electricity to facilities that house life-saving machines. IBEDC must strictly adhere to this regulation and put a halt to disconnection of power at UCH to prevent further endangerment of lives.

“While we acknowledge IBEDC’s financial obligations, we would like to remind all stakeholders that healthcare



institutions like University College Hospital (UCH) are critical to the survival and well-being of the populace. The disconnection between profit-driven decisions and public health necessities must be bridged with empathy and pragmatism.

“We hereby call on the management of the Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) to urgently engage with the hospital management and implement the above-listed demands in order to end the timely crises.

“The Vice Chancellor of the University of Ibadan should pay the university’s portion of the indebtedness of UCH to IBEDC for power supply to the College of Medicine, Alexander Brown Hall and Professor Ayodele Falase Postgraduate Hall that are situated within UCH premises.

“The Federal Ministry of Power and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to intervene and ensure compliance with regulations governing electricity distribution to critical infrastructure and institutions.

“As the voice of Nigerian students, we stand in solidarity with the medical students of the University of Ibadan, as well as the patients who rely on quality healthcare services of the hospital. NANS will continue to monitor this situation closely and will not hesitate to escalate its actions if our demands are not met promptly.”

By Alade Adisa

# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

## PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

## PRODUCT COLOUR

**EFFECTIVE FROM  
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	372,500.00
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10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
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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
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3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
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14X2	109,500.00
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10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
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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
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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
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5X2	27,938.00
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2X2	10,877.00
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8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
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7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
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10X4	103,963.00
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9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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5X2	22,841.00
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# Tinubu bans homosexuality in Nigerian Military

By New Daily Prime



President Bola Tinubu has approved strict new conduct guidelines for Nigeria's military personnel, prohibiting behaviors deemed contrary to the ethics and values of the armed forces. The revised Harmonised Armed Forces Terms and Conditions of Service, signed by President Tinubu on December 16, 2024, explicitly bans homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, cross-dressing, body piercing, tattooing, disorderly behavior, and drunkenness.

The document, obtained by our correspondent, outlines comprehensive behavioral expectations for military officers, both on and off duty. It states: "An officer must not engage in homosexuality, lesbianism, and bestiality. He/she is not to belong to, or engage in activities of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Trans, Queer or Questioning, Intersex, Asexual or Agender, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) group and cross-dressing, amongst others."

Officers are also prohibited from engaging in amorous relationships with subordinates or their spouses, with the directive specifically stating: "An officer shall not engage in any Tinubu Approves Ban on Homosexuality and Other Conduct in Nigerian Military relationship with any soldier/rating/airman/airwoman,

fellow officer's or soldier's/rating's/airmen's/airwomen's spouse."

The new rules extend beyond personal behavior, emphasizing the professional and financial responsibilities of military personnel. Officers must:

Pay financial obligations, such as vehicle licenses and insurance, on time.

Avoid private businesses or misuse of government property for personal gain.

Refrain from holding membership in secret societies or political parties.

The guidelines explicitly state: "An officer shall not engage in private business. He shall not use or be allowed to use government property, his name, position, and connection in any way with commercial enterprises outside employment or activity with or without compensation, which interfere or has the tendency of interfering with his official duty."

Additionally, officers are barred from accepting gifts, favors, or entertainment from junior-ranking personnel to maintain discipline and respect within the ranks.

The rules clarify that while secret societies are prohibited, cultural or traditional religious societies are exempt, as they are not inherently secretive in membership or

operations.

"For the avoidance of doubt, since cultural or purely traditional religious societies are not normally secret by membership or in the conduct of their affairs, they are ipso-facto excluded from belonging to secret societies," the document states.

Although the document provides detailed behavioral expectations, it does not specify the disciplinary measures or punishments for violations. This omission leaves the enforcement and consequences for breaches at the discretion of the relevant military authorities.

This directive highlights President Tinubu's focus on instilling discipline and maintaining the integrity of the armed forces. However, some observers have raised concerns about the potential implications of banning LGBTQ+ activities and other personal behaviors, which could lead to further debates about the balance between ethical standards and human rights.

As Nigeria navigates complex social and legal dynamics, the directive underscores the government's commitment to upholding cultural and institutional values within the military, even as broader conversations about rights and inclusivity continue to shape national discourse.



# LASG revokes Child Rights Act against teacher for assaulting toddler

By Friday Omosola

The Lagos State Government (LASG) has evoked the Child Rights Act and the Lagos State Policy on Safeguarding and Child Protection against Stella Nwadiigbo.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that Mrs Nwadiigbo, a teacher at Christ Mitots Nursery and Primary School, Ikorodu was captured on camera maltreating three-year-old pupil, Abayomi Michael.

Mrs Nwadiigbo in the viral video repeatedly smacked Michael in the face during a lesson, an act the government described as unlawful and indecent.

This newspaper further reported that the victim has been referred for medical care, while Mrs Nwadiigbo has been arrested.

She is currently remanded at the Kirikiri Correctional Facility pending legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecution.

She was, however, granted bail of ₦200,000 and two sureties.

The Lagos government maintained that

following the incident, the Office of Education Quality Assurance (OEQA), under the Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, conducted a fact-finding visit to the school on January 9, 2025.

The school, approved in 2010, was partially closed, with pupils asked to remain at home until January 13, 2025.

Speaking on behalf of the school proprietor, Rev. (Mrs.) Olutoye, the head teacher, Mrs B. Adeyeri, confirmed the temporary closure was to protect other pupils and shield the school from public harassment.

The government stated that Mrs Nwadiigbo's actions violated the Child Rights Act and safeguarding policies in Lagos State.

Additionally, the government disclosed that investigations are ongoing, with further attention required from the school proprietor, head teacher, the victim's mother (who is also a teacher at the school), and other key stakeholders when school resumes on January 13, 2025.



The government reiterated its commitment to protecting children and ensuring justice is served in cases of child abuse.

# TCN debunks national grid collapse

By Helen Okechukwu

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) has debunked that the national grid did not collapse but experienced tripping, which affected a large area of Lagos State.

This came shortly after most media publications claimed that the National Grid had collapsed for the first time in 2025.

The statement signed by TCP Public Affairs officer Ndidi Mbah on Saturday noted that for clarification, at about 13:41 hrs, the Osogbo-Ihovbor line tripped, followed by the tripping of the Benin-Omotosho line.

The statement read partly, "It is important to clarify that at about 13:00 hrs today, just before the tripping, total generation on the grid was 4,335.63 MW. After the trippings, however, generation was 2,573.23 MW, showing clearly that the grid did not experience a collapse."



"The transmission line tripping affected Egbin, Olorunsogo, Omotosho, Geregu, and Paras, but these have all been restored except for the Benin-Omotosho 330kV line, whose restoration is ongoing."

Despite prevailing challenges, Mbah emphasised their commitment and

effort to sustain the transmission grid, urging the members of the public to disregard the news of grid failure.

"It is imperative that we understand the negative impact of deliberately misinforming the public and the value of disseminating true and verifiable facts," Mbah explained.



# NDLEA seizes 2,217.6 kg of cannabis, arrests traditionalist for drug trafficking

By Helen Okechukwu



**A** substantive numbers of cannabis, weighing 2,217.6 kilogram and a 40-ft trailer load of skunk have been seized by the operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at Abuja.

Femi Babafemi, the Director of Media and Advocacy, on Sunday disclosed the federal agency made this interception while being distributed into six vehicles at an abandoned fuel station in the Kagini area of Kubwa, Abuja, which was meant for onwards distribution to some part of Northern States.

Babafemi said this operation was made possible following an intelligence-led operation carried out on Saturday at around 1:20 am, which led to the seizure of six vehicles and the arrest of 42-year-old Isaac Desmond.

“The consignment was loaded onto the trailer at Uzebba in the Owan local council area of Edo State,” Babafemi stated.

On 25 October, 2024, the federal agency revealed that a traditional chief priest of the Igunuko shrine at Alpha Beach, Ajah Lekki of Lagos State, Bariu Aliu, known as Malo, who evaded arrest for over three-month has been arrested in connection to alleged drug trafficking. Over 2,760 kg of skunk were said to have been found in the traditionalist shrine.

“Though two of his accomplices were earlier arrested at the shrine last year and had since been charged and convicted in court, Bariu was said to be the leader of the syndicate.”

In a similar vein, the NDLEA officers at Nyanya apprehended two suspects, Anthony Nnamdi, 42, and Abba Ali, 27, for the possession of 1.398 kg of cocaine and a precursor substance used in preparing crack cocaine.

Also, the federal agency acknowledged officers of the Directorate of Operations and General Investigation, DOGI, in NDLEA had recovered no fewer than 20 wraps of cocaine weighing 330 grams from a cargo heading to Australia at a logistics firm in Lagos.

The agency stated, “The cocaine parcels were concealed around the body of face cream containers in the shipment.”

Furthermore, Babafemi said that following credible information, the NDLEA seized about 338,200 bottles of codeine-based syrup worth more than N1,190,168,200.00 in street value, concealed in two containers.

“The illicit consignments were discovered during a joint examination of the containers by NDLEA operatives, Customs, and other

security agencies on Thursday 9th and Friday 10th January 2025 at the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, Rivers State.”

“A suspect, Habibu Ya’u, 23, was nabbed by NDLEA officers who raided Gadar Tamburawa, Zaria Road, Kano, on Thursday, 9th January, where they recovered 45 blocks of cannabis weighing 24.2 kg and 40,800 pills of opioids, including tramadol, from him.”

The federal agency highlighted their commitment to halting illegal drug trafficking across the country with a sensitisation programme titled War Against Drug Abuse (WADA), which is held in schools, worship centres, and other places.

The agency noted key areas visited include students and staff of Ijaye Housing Estate Junior Secondary School, Lagos State; surrendered Boko Haram members at Hajj Camp, Maiduguri, Borno State; among others.

The Chairman of Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd), hailed the effort of the officers of DOGI, FCT, PHPC, Lagos, and Kano for their successful operation as the war against drug trafficking continues.

# Police arrest father for alleged killing of his 14-year-old son

By Helen Okechukwu



**M**r. Monday Elela has been apprehended by the Ondo State Police Command for allegedly killing his 14-year-old son, Tope, who was described as being involved in criminal activities.

The incident occurred in Ajowa Akoko, in the Akoko Northwest Local Government Area (LGA).

The State Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Wilfred Olutokunbo Afolabi, disclosed in a statement on Sunday, Mr. Monday and 24 others were paraded for various crimes, including murder, cultism, burglary, and theft.

The statement revealed that Mr. Monday and his wife allegedly buried their late son, Tope, in a shallow grave under a banana tree behind their house.

According to Mr. Monday, the death of Tope was not intentional but occurred at night when he was beating him after the deceased escaped from the State Security Network,

codenamed Amotekun Corps.

The father of seven, Monday, described his son as the black sheep of the family, claiming he was involved in criminal activities such as housebreaking, theft, and other criminal acts.

Meanwhile, his wife, who was allegedly involved in the death of their son, has evaded arrest.

The CP said, “On the 30th of December, the police received an anonymous call that one Elela Monday living in Ajowa Akoko killed his 14-year-old son named Tope Elela and buried him in a shallow grave under a banana tree behind his house.

“The suspect was arrested, and during interrogation, he said the boy was always involved in criminal activities and was embarrassing him, so in order to put a stop to the disgrace, he and his wife decided to kill the boy.”

It was also revealed that no fewer than 25 individuals linked to the Owo cult clashes, led to the death of few person’s

in Owo Local Government Area, has been arrested.

“We have arrested 25 individuals in connection with the recent crisis in Owo. Some of the suspects have been identified as having direct involvement in the criminal activities. One Olamide Ogunseyila, 28-year-old, confessed to being a member of a cult group.

“The remaining suspects are currently undergoing thorough interrogation to ascertain their roles in the crisis while the command is intensifying efforts to apprehend Steven Dada (alias “Ogodo”) and any other individual connected to these criminal activities.”

The CP reaffirmed their commitment to protect lives and properties of citizens in the state, calling the members of the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious cases to the police and other security agencies.



# SERAP sues Tinubu, govs over misuse of Cybercrimes Act

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has filed a lawsuit against President Bola Tinubu and Nigeria's 36 state governors at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Community Court of Justice.

The suit with suit no. ECW/CCJ/APP/03/2025 is challenging the alleged misuse of the Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act 2024.

SERAP claimed that the Act was being used to suppress free expression and violate the human rights of Nigerians, including activists, journalists, bloggers, and social media users.

The ECOWAS Court had, in a judgment dated March 25, 2022, declared Section 24 of the Cybercrime Act 2015 "arbitrary, vague, and repressive" and ordered its repeal to align with Nigeria's human rights obligations.

Although Section 24 was repealed in the 2024 amendment, SERAP argued that the provisions of the new Cybercrimes Act remain vague and repressive, allowing authorities to criminalize legitimate expression.

SERAP's case seeks to assess the compatibility of the amended legislation with the rights to freedom of expression and information.

The organisation's lawyers, Kolawole Oluwadare, Adelanke Aremo, and Andrew Nwankwo, submitted the case on behalf of SERAP.



According to SERAP, the amended act continues to pose a threat to free speech. The provision in Section 24(1)(b), which penalizes conduct deemed to cause a "breakdown of law and order," is criticised as being undefined and open to abuse.

Additionally, Section 58, which broadly defines cyberstalking as any conduct that causes a reasonable person to feel fear, is described as punitive and lacking safeguards against misuse.

SERAP cited several cases of alleged misuse of the legislation, including the arrest of activist Dele Farotimi, journalist Agba Jalingo, and Facebook user Chioma Okoli, all of whom faced charges under the amended law for peaceful expressions.

The group also noted reports of harassment and prosecution of

bloggers and social media users by law enforcement.

The organisation contends that the legislation disproportionately punishes individuals and suppresses public debate, thereby violating Nigeria's obligations under international human rights laws, including Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

SERAP is seeking a declaration from the ECOWAS Court that the provisions of the Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act 2024 are unlawful and incompatible with Nigeria's human rights commitments.



# Nigeria attracts \$7.6bn investment interests at Africa Investment Forum **By Friday Omosola**



Nigeria (AfDB) The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina (PHOTO CREDIT: X)

**N**igeria secured \$7.6 billion in investment interests during the Africa Investment Forum 2024, held in Rabat, Morocco, from December 4 to 6, 2024.

Announcing this on his X (formerly Twitter) page yesterday, the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Akinwumi Adesina, reaffirmed his commitment to supporting and bolstering investments in Nigeria.

He also expressed gratitude to the governors and all attendees who contributed to the success of the forum.

He wrote: "I am delighted that the Africa Investment Forum 2024

mobilized \$7.6 billion of investment interest for Nigeria. It was great to have several State Governors: Lagos, Kaduna, Kastina, Kwara and Plateau, and (later) Ogun. We will keep working to support & boost investments in Nigeria."

The Africa Investment Forum, founded by the African Development Bank and its partners, catalyzes accelerating investments in projects across the continent.

**READ ALSO:** AfDB to disburse \$2.2bn for Nigerian Agro-Industrial zones by 2025

The previous year's event drew over 2,300 participants, including global investors, African business leaders, and government officials, facilitating

\$29.2 billion in investment interests across sectors such as energy, infrastructure, agriculture, and technology.

The \$7.6 billion investment interest in Nigeria reflects a strong vote of confidence in the country's economic potential and ongoing reforms aimed at attracting foreign capital.

Earlier, The New Daily Prime reported that in December, AfDB announced it had mobilized \$2.2 billion for the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Nigeria Phase II project during the Africa Investment Forum.

# Ministry partners with Actress Jalade to promote women's empowerment

By Friday Omosola



Jalade The Minister of Women Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, actress Omotola Jalade Ekeinde and others (PHOTO CREDIT: X)

In a groundbreaking initiative, the Minister of Women Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, has partnered with renowned actress Omotola Jalade Ekeinde to advance women's empowerment through cinematic arts.

The 46-year-old actress, who made her acting debut in 1995, has since starred in over 300 films, selling millions of copies and earning a global reputation as a trailblazer in the Nigerian film industry.

Announcing the collaboration, the Minister, in a statement signed by her Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Jonathan Eze, revealed that the partnership seeks to provide a platform for Nigerian women to share their own stories authentically.

Sulaiman-Ibrahim highlighted that the partnership with the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) alumna is poised to reshape narratives, promoting genuine representation and empowerment for women.

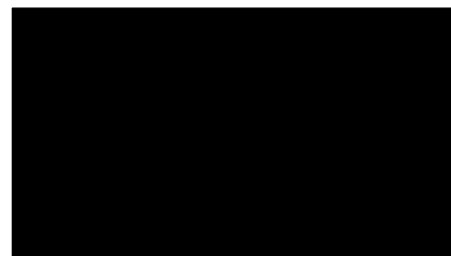
The Minister emphasised President Bola Tinubu's administration's unwavering commitment to supporting Nigerian women in creative and innovative industries.

She lauded their remarkable leadership in areas such as art, music, fashion, film, and poetry.

According to Sulaiman-Ibrahim, the collaboration aligns with the Renewed Hope agenda, a cornerstone of President Tinubu's priorities for achieving gender equality and advancing women's empowerment.

During the collaboration meeting, discussions centred on empowering women in creative spaces, establishing platforms for them to showcase their talents, and fostering their contributions to Nigeria's socio-economic development.

The Minister described the partnership as a revolutionary step towards redefining the narrative of women's empowerment in Nigeria, championing inclusivity, diversity, and equal opportunities for





# Skepta praises Portable as genuine music talent

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

British rapper Skepta has publicly expressed his admiration for Nigerian artist Portable, calling him a refreshing and authentic presence in the music industry.

Their collaboration on the 2023 hit song “Tony Montana” has sparked Skepta’s appreciation for Portable’s unique approach to music and life.

In a recent post on social media, the rapper explained why he finds Portable’s genuine personality so impactful.

Portable’s authenticity shines through

In his post on X (formerly known as Twitter), Skepta praised Portable for standing out in an industry often filled with insincerity and superficiality.

The British rapper described how rare it is to encounter artists who remain true to themselves. He pointed out that, while many in the music industry put on facades, Portable’s authenticity is a breath of fresh air. He highlighted that Portable’s genuine nature makes him stand out in a world where appearances can be deceiving.

A shared understanding of the music industry

He also revealed that he relates to Portable’s unconventional style and unapologetic attitude. While their music styles may differ, the rapper noted that they both share a common understanding of the pressures in the music business.

Skepta explained that he respects Portable’s fearlessness and his ability to remain true to his identity, despite the challenges the industry throws at him. This kind of honesty and confidence is what makes Portable unique, and it’s something Skepta finds both inspiring and admirable.

Skepta on the pressure to conform  
Reflecting on the music industry’s challenges, he acknowledged how



difficult it can be to stay authentic in a world that often rewards conformity.

“I’ve met so many fake guys in this game,” Skepta admitted, adding that it was refreshing to meet someone like Portable.

The rapper’s comments emphasize the struggle of navigating an industry filled with superficiality, and how Portable’s refusal to fit into a mold is something that should be celebrated.

Respect for Portable’s energy and uniqueness

He also took the opportunity to explain that, while their styles may differ, he immediately recognizes the energy that Portable brings to his music and his persona.

“Whatever Portable does, I recognize. I may not do it myself, but I know that energy and respect it,” He shared.

For the rapper, Portable’s authenticity is not just about his music; it’s about his overall attitude and approach to life. Skepta’s admiration for Portable lies in his unapologetic and bold approach, which stands out in the industry.

Portable’s growing influence in global

music

Skepta’s praise adds to the growing recognition of Portable’s impact on the global music scene. Despite facing criticism and controversy, Portable has remained steadfast in his identity.

His raw, unfiltered approach to both music and life has earned him respect, even from established figures like Skepta.

This collaboration and mutual respect signal a shift in the industry, where authenticity is becoming more valued than ever before.

Conclusion: The power of staying authentic

His comments about Portable serve as a reminder of the importance of staying true to oneself, even in an industry that often encourages artifice.

As the music world continues to evolve, Portable’s unapologetic attitude and unique style offer inspiration to others.

# Cobhams Asuquo reveals decision to charge in foreign currency

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Cobhams Asuquo recalls a key moment from his early career that shaped his path to success as a renowned Nigerian music producer and songwriter.

In an exclusive interview with Pulse TV, the multi-talented artist revealed how he made a game-changing decision in 2005 to charge his clients in foreign currency, specifically U.S. dollars.

At the time, Cobhams was only 24 years old, yet he made a bold and confident move that few others in his field had considered.

He began pegging his fees to the dollar, a decision driven by both a recognition of the value of his work and a desire for financial stability in an unpredictable economy.

## Pioneering move in the industry

Cobhams candidly discussed how he felt compelled to make the shift to dollars. “I am one of the few producers who started charging in a different currency for the purpose of stability,” he shared.

The move, which was largely ahead of its time, was driven by his realization that charging in a more stable currency would protect his earnings from the fluctuating value of the Nigerian naira.

Reflecting on his decision, Cobhams stated, “As far back as 2005, I began to peg my charges in dollars because I felt it was a stable thing to do. I was obviously getting signed and getting things going, and I needed to be able to transact in that space.”

At that point in his career, Cobhams was emerging as a promising figure in the Nigerian music scene, but he had yet to fully realize his potential. His decision to adopt the dollar-based pricing model not only showcased his



foresight but also positioned him as a forward-thinking professional in a rapidly changing industry.

As he continued to recount his journey, Cobhams noted that his decision was, in many ways, pioneering. At the time, few, if any, music producers were charging in foreign currency, let alone the U.S. dollar.

His bold move to go against the norm set him apart from his peers, establishing him as someone with a clear vision of his worth and the future of the music business.

“I hear music producers charge now in dollars, and I say to myself, I started doing this in 2005 when I was just 24,” he reflected. “I didn’t know anybody else who was doing that at the time.”

Looking back, Cobhams recognizes how instrumental that decision was in shaping his career. He credits his early realization of his own worth as the driving force

behind the decision. “That’s me waking up to the value of my work,” he said with a sense of pride and accomplishment.

For Cobhams, understanding his worth was more than just about financial compensation. It was a reflection of his confidence in his craft, his ability to deliver high-quality work, and his desire to thrive in a competitive industry.

## Commitment to excellence

Despite his success, Cobhams remains humble about the quality of his work. In the same interview, he emphasized that while he always strives to do his best, he does not promise perfection. “Till tomorrow, I cannot promise that what I will give you is the best in the world,” he explained. “But it’s the best I can give you—and it is very well close to the best in the world.”



# “Seyi law: Sanwo-Olu snubs me for Mr Macaroni

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Comedian Seyi Law stirs controversy with remarks about Lagos Governor Sanwo-Olu, adding fuel to ongoing debates involving skit maker Mr. Macaroni.

This comes after popular skit maker Mr. Macaroni sparked a heated debate online.

The controversy began when Mr. Macaroni, known for his outspoken activism, responded to a critic on X (formerly Twitter) who accused him of snubbing the governor.

Macaroni stood his ground, insisting that he would continue to avoid interactions with Sanwo-Olu.

This response triggered mixed reactions on social media. Some supported Mr. Macaroni's stance, applauding his boldness, while others criticized him for what they saw as disrespectful behavior.

Seyi Law weighs in

Adding fuel to the fire, Seyi Law chimed in with a sarcastic comment aimed at Governor Sanwo-Olu. He took to his X handle to share his thoughts, writing, “Nobody should blame Macaroni for the way he speaks to Gov. @jjidesanwoolu. Gov. BOS will see me and act like he doesn't know me, but he will be begging Macaroni for a handshake. Everybody get out.”

Seyi Law's statement quickly gained traction, with many interpreting it as a critique of the governor's approach to public relations.

By highlighting Sanwo-Olu's alleged selective recognition, Seyi Law appeared to side with Mr. Macaroni in the ongoing feud.

Social media divided

The drama has once again highlighted the growing trend of entertainers and public figures using their platforms to address political issues.

While some applaud their courage, others question whether such public disputes are productive.

Supporters of Mr. Macaroni argue that his actions reflect the frustrations of many Nigerians who feel disconnected from their leaders.

On the other hand, critics suggest that mutual respect should be maintained, regardless of political differences.

The bigger picture

This incident underscores the evolving role of entertainers in Nigeria's socio-political landscape. Figures like Mr. Macaroni and Seyi Law are not just entertainers but influencers who shape public opinion. By using their platforms to speak out, they amplify the voices of ordinary Nigerians.

# Mr Macaroni: 'Why I will continue to snub Gov Sanwo-Olu'

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nigerian skit maker and activist Mr. Macaroni has shed light on his decision to consistently avoid Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

His remarks came in response to criticism from an X (formerly Twitter) user, @OyesileJohn, who accused the comedian of disrespecting the governor.

The online drama began when @OyesileJohn tweeted:

“To d’ifa fun a certain Macaroni who, in an attempt to please the mob, snubbed the governor of Lagos state. Omo ase.”

The tweet quickly gained traction, sparking widespread debate across social media platforms. While some users criticized Mr. Macaroni for his stance, many others praised him for standing firm in his convictions.

**Mr. Macaroni’s Fiery Response**

In a swift response on his X handle, Mr. Macaroni defended his decision and doubled down on his refusal to engage with the governor.

“I will continue to snub your Governor,” he wrote. “He doesn’t mean anything to me, neither do you or your father. I love that you slaves bring this issue up all the time. For every time you do, I will send you to your masters.”

The skit maker went on to explain his reasons for maintaining this position. He recalled the harrowing experience he endured at the hands of the authorities during the #EndSARS protests. According to him, he was stripped, beaten, tortured, and dehumanized by the police. He alleged that his mistreatment was a direct response to his criticism of the government and his activism on behalf of Nigerians.

**Revisiting the #EndSARS protests**

“I can never associate with a government that stripped me naked, beat, tortured, brutalised, and dehumanised me,” Mr. Macaroni wrote. “During my detention, I was told by the police to stop disturbing the governor. That experience



remains fresh in my memory.”

This revelation struck a chord with many Nigerians who remember Mr. Macaroni’s vocal role during the #EndSARS protests, a youth-led movement against police brutality in Nigeria.

In February 2021, he was among the protesters arrested at the Lekki Toll Gate. Videos of his arrest and the subsequent reports of his treatment drew public outrage and highlighted the challenges faced by activists in the country.

**Public reactions: praise and criticism**

The comedian’s comments reignited discussions about the relationship between Nigerian leaders and their critics.

Many social media users rallied behind him, expressing solidarity with his decision to stand his ground. They praised him for using his platform to call out perceived injustices and for refusing to compromise his values.

However, not everyone agreed with Mr. Macaroni’s stance. Some critics argued

that his approach was divisive and questioned whether his refusal to engage with the governor served any constructive purpose.

Others suggested that dialogue, rather than public snubs, might be a more effective way to address grievances.

**Voice for the youth**

Despite the mixed reactions, Mr. Macaroni remains unapologetic. For him, the choice to avoid Governor Sanwo-Olu is personal and symbolic.

It represents his refusal to forget or forgive the pain he endured and his commitment to holding public officials accountable for their actions.

The skit maker’s outspokenness has earned him a reputation as one of Nigeria’s most fearless entertainers. Beyond comedy, he has become a voice for the youth, often using his platform to address pressing societal issues.



# Anthony Joshua: Billionaire status can't be attained through music, sports By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian-British boxing icon Anthony Joshua, a two-time world heavyweight champion, has shared his views on wealth creation.

He believes becoming a billionaire is unlikely through sports, music, or entertainment alone. Instead, he emphasized the importance of focusing on the business side of these industries.

Taking to his Snapchat, Joshua wrote, "For anyone to reach billionaire status, it will not be through sports, music, or entertainment. Don't get lost in the hype; focus on sustainability, books, and business ethics.

His statement highlights the need for entertainers and athletes to think beyond the allure of fame and consider long-term strategies for wealth building.

Fame isn't enough

Joshua's advice comes as a reality check for many who aspire to achieve wealth solely through talent in entertainment or sports.

While fame may bring significant earnings, it often falls short of sustaining billionaire-level wealth.

According to Joshua, the key lies in leveraging fame to explore sustainable ventures and make sound business decisions.

This perspective aligns with the stories of some of the world's wealthiest entertainers and athletes.

While their fame played a crucial role in their success, most of their fortunes come from endorsements, investments, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Joshua's message is a reminder that financial literacy and business acumen are just as important as talent.

Lessons from global billionaires

Looking at Forbes' list of billionaire entertainers and athletes, names like Jay-Z, Rihanna, Taylor Swift, Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, and LeBron James stand out.

Each of these individuals achieved extraordinary success in their fields,



but their path to billionaire status involved much more than their primary careers.

**Jay-Z:** The rapper turned businessman amassed his fortune through ventures like Roc Nation, Tidal, and investments in luxury brands.

**Rihanna:** While her music career launched her to fame, it was her cosmetics brand, Fenty Beauty, that secured her spot as a billionaire.

**Michael Jordan:** The basketball legend built his wealth through the iconic Air Jordan brand and ownership stakes in sports teams.

**Taylor Swift:** Known for her music, Swift has leveraged her popularity to secure lucrative endorsements and smart investments.

**LeBron James:** The NBA star combined his sports earnings with business ventures like SpringHill Company and investments in Blaze Pizza.

These examples underscore Joshua's point: talent and fame open doors, but it's the business moves that create lasting wealth.

Business over hype

In his Snapchat message, Joshua urged entertainers and athletes to "not get lost in the hype." The glitz and glamour of fame can be misleading, often obscuring the need for financial discipline and strategic planning.

By focusing on sustainability, aspiring billionaires can ensure their wealth endures beyond the peak of their careers.

Joshua also emphasized the importance of education, advising individuals to study business ethics and sustainability. This approach ensures that their ventures are not only profitable but also responsible and long-lasting.

Call for change

Anthony Joshua's advice resonates with a growing trend among athletes and entertainers who are shifting their focus toward entrepreneurship.

As fans look up to these figures, they serve as examples of how to turn talent and fame into meaningful and lasting success.

For the next generation of stars, Joshua's words serve as both a warning and an inspiration. Fame alone might not lead to billionaire status, but with the right mindset and strategies, it can be the foundation for building a legacy of wealth and influence.

# Bobrisky pleads Burna Boy to forgive Speed Darlington

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial crossdresser and influencer Bobrisky has made a heartfelt and emotional plea to Grammy-winning artist Burna Boy, sparking reactions online.

In a series of Instagram story posts on Sunday, Bobrisky appealed to Burna Boy to forgive fellow entertainer Darlington Okoye, popularly called Speed Darlington, and facilitate his release from prison.

Bobrisky voiced deep concern for Speed Darlington's well-being, asserting that his 45-day detention is sufficient punishment.

He wrote, "I just want to mind my business this year and stay away from anything involving Nigerian celebrities, but my soft heart won't stop me from thinking about many things. Please, Burna Boy, forgive Speed. Prison is not a nice place. I don't think he has the money for the VIP section because it's expensive."

This statement underscores Bobrisky's compassion, even though, as he admitted, most celebrities he has supported in the past never reciprocated the gesture.

He acknowledged the unique kindness of his heart, saying, "None of these people I'm using my platform to stand for did the same for me when it was my time. But you know what? Our hearts are different. I can't stand seeing human beings hurt. I pray, Burna, please release him. Forty-five days in prison is enough punishment."

Bobrisky condemns Fans' role Beyond pleading for Speed Darlington's release, Bobrisky turned his attention to fans, whom he accused of enabling the singer's controversial actions. He urged followers to hold their favorite celebrities accountable instead of encouraging harmful behavior. In his post, he noted, "Fans, learn how to tell your favourites the truth when



they are crossing the line. You all were applauding Speed when he was saying unpleasant things. Now, none of you is in prison with him."

Bobrisky's message highlights the responsibility fans bear in shaping public figures' behavior. By encouraging Speed Darlington's inflammatory remarks, they inadvertently contributed to his current predicament.

Speed Darlington's legal troubles Speed Darlington's recent troubles began in October 2024 when he was arrested on allegations of defamation and cyberstalking Burna Boy.

Initial reports stated that he was taken into custody in Lagos before being transferred to Abuja. He was detained by the Inspector General of Police's Intelligence Response Team in Guzape, Abuja.

Though he was released from police custody, his freedom was short-lived. Just days after returning to the country, Speed Darlington was re-arrested in November while performing at a show in Owerri, Imo State. This series of events left the singer embroiled in a legal battle that has kept him behind bars.

Burna Boy yet to respond

As of now, Burna Boy has not publicly addressed Bobrisky's plea or commented on Speed Darlington's imprisonment.

The Grammy winner has maintained silence on the matter, leaving fans and observers to speculate about his next move.

Bobrisky's call for compassion and forgiveness has sparked conversations about justice, accountability, and empathy within the entertainment industry.

While some applaud his boldness, others believe Burna Boy is justified in pursuing legal action against Speed Darlington.

Growing debate

The controversy surrounding Speed Darlington has drawn mixed reactions. Some argue that his arrest and detention are warranted, considering his alleged actions.

Others believe that the 45 days he has already spent in prison should serve as a wake-up call and sufficient deterrent.

In an industry where public opinion can make or break careers, this situation serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked behavior and the influence of fans. Bobrisky's appeal shines a light on the importance of empathy and second chances, even amid personal and professional conflicts.



# Nurse fighting for her life after being stabbed in Greater Manchester hospital

By Rank



A nurse in her 50s is in critical condition after being attacked by a member of the public at the Royal Oldham Hospital in Greater Manchester, UK. The incident occurred at approximately 11:30 p.m. on Saturday in the hospital's Accident and Emergency (A&E) department.

A 37-year-old man was swiftly arrested at the scene on suspicion of attempted murder and remains in police custody for questioning. Greater Manchester Police (GMP) confirmed that the suspect used a sharp instrument, though it was not a knife, to carry out the attack.

The force stated, "It's believed that a member of the public attacked a member of staff," adding that the victim's injuries are serious and potentially life-changing. GMP reassured the public that no other suspects are being sought and there is no ongoing threat to the wider community.

Staff at the hospital have suggested

that the incident stemmed from frustration over waiting times in the busy A&E department. One nurse described the situation, saying, "It's terrible—there was a row with a patient. I think they became angry because they had to wait to be seen. It's scary."

Another staff member noted, "It just got out of hand, but it wasn't a case of the patient going berserk. It was just a disagreement that can happen late at night. It happens all the time, but it's shocking that the nurse was attacked."

Heather Caudle, Chief Nursing Officer at the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, expressed deep shock and concern. "We are incredibly shocked and saddened by last night's incident, and our focus is on supporting the colleague involved and their family," she said. "Our thoughts are also with colleagues and patients who were there at the time of the incident and for whom this has been distressing and frightening."

The hospital remains fully operational, and staff are cooperating with police inquiries.

Detective Sergeant Craig Roters of the Oldham district stated, "This is a serious incident which has left a woman in a critical condition. Our thoughts are with her family and colleagues, and we will continue to support them throughout this investigation."

The local community will see an increased police presence at the hospital as investigations continue. Officers are on-site to provide reassurance and address concerns. Detective Sergeant Roters added, "We know that news of this nature will come as a shock, and if you have any concerns or anything you would like to share, please speak to [the officers]."

This distressing incident highlights the increasing challenges faced by healthcare workers and raises concerns about safety within hospital environments. Authorities urge anyone with additional information to come forward.

# Syrians seek Russia-free future amid ongoing challenges

By Olamilekan Botti

For years, Russia and Syria maintained a close and strategic alliance. Moscow secured vital military footholds with access to Mediterranean naval and air bases, while Damascus benefited from substantial Russian military support in its prolonged battle against rebel factions. This partnership became a cornerstone of Syria's war strategy, bolstering President Bashar al-Assad's grip on power during the darkest phases of the country's devastating civil war.

However, with the collapse of Assad's regime, many Syrians are now demanding the departure of Russian forces from their homeland. Yet, despite widespread public resentment, the Syrian interim government remains open to continued cooperation with Moscow, signaling a complex and uncertain future for bilateral relations.

"Russia's crimes here were indescribable," declares Ahmed Taha, a rebel commander in Douma, a city located just six miles northeast of Damascus. Taha, once a civilian tradesman, took up arms in response to the Assad regime's brutal crackdown on peaceful protests in 2011. His transformation from civilian to commander reflects the deep scars left by Syria's nearly 14-year civil war—a conflict that has ravaged entire communities.

Douma, once a thriving city in a region often referred to as the "breadbasket" of Damascus, now lies in devastation. Entire residential neighborhoods have been reduced to rubble following some of the most intense fighting in the war. The destruction is a grim testament to the prolonged siege and relentless bombardment the city endured.

Russia's military intervention in Syria, which began in 2015, was a turning point in the conflict. At a time



when Assad's regime was steadily losing ground to rebel forces, Moscow's involvement reversed the course of the war. Russian airstrikes and military support allowed government forces to reclaim key territories, shifting the balance of power. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov later asserted that Damascus was merely weeks away from falling to rebel forces before Moscow stepped in.

This intervention also served a broader purpose for Russian President Vladimir Putin. Beyond propping up a strategic ally, Putin sought to reassert Russia's global influence following widespread condemnation over the annexation of Crimea in 2014. The Syrian campaign showcased Russia's military capabilities and signaled Putin's intent to challenge Western dominance in global affairs.

Yet, for many Syrians, Russia's role in the war is synonymous with destruction and suffering. The relentless aerial bombardments, indiscriminate shelling, and reported war crimes have left deep wounds among the civilian population. Rebel leaders and civilians alike view Moscow's involvement as a direct contributor to the prolonged bloodshed.

Despite public outrage, Syria's interim government faces a delicate balancing act. While many citizens demand the expulsion of Russian troops, the government recognizes that severing ties with Moscow could leave the fragile state vulnerable in a volatile region. Economic recovery, security challenges, and ongoing political instability complicate the path forward.

As Syria stands at a crossroads, the future of its relationship with Russia remains uncertain. The country is torn between the public's call for sovereignty and the government's strategic need for international alliances. Whether Russia will heed demands to withdraw or entrench its influence further is yet to be seen. For now, Syrians are left grappling with the consequences of a war that has reshaped their nation and questioning what role foreign powers should play in their country's future.



# Croatian president re-elected in landslide victory

By Olamilekan Botti



Croatian voters have re-elected incumbent President Zoran Milanović for a second term, delivering him a commanding victory in the nation's presidential election. Milanović secured nearly 75% of the vote, underscoring his widespread popularity and marking a crushing defeat for his challenger, Dragan Primorac.

Primorac, backed by the ruling centre-right Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), managed to garner only 25% of the vote—a historic low for Croatia's most dominant political party since the country gained independence over three decades ago. The HDZ, long seen as an unshakable political force, now faces renewed scrutiny following this electoral setback.

Prime Minister Andrej Plenković, a leading figure in the HDZ, responded with notable restraint, refraining from congratulating Milanović on his victory. "Milanović offers nothing," Plenković remarked dismissively, signaling deep political divisions at the highest levels of government. In contrast, Milanović extended an olive branch to the prime minister, stating he would "offer a hand" in hopes of

fostering cooperation.

Despite the largely ceremonial nature of the Croatian presidency, Milanović has wielded significant influence as a vocal critic of the ruling government. His outspoken stance on issues such as corruption, rising inflation, and a strained healthcare system has resonated with voters frustrated by economic pressures and governance challenges.

Milanović has also maintained a complex foreign policy position. While he has openly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he has frequently criticized the West's military aid to Kyiv, highlighting what he perceives as a dangerous escalation in the conflict. This nuanced stance has sparked debate both domestically and internationally, reflecting Croatia's delicate geopolitical balancing act.

Before ascending to the presidency in 2020, Milanović served as Croatia's prime minister from 2011 to 2016 and led the centre-left Social Democratic Party (SDP) from 2007 to 2016. His political career has been marked by both assertive leadership and controversy. Notably, during last year's parliamentary elections, Milanović controversially announced his intention to run for prime minister while still serving as

president—a move later ruled unconstitutional by Croatia's top court. In response, Milanović accused the judiciary of colluding with the HDZ, branding the ruling party a "gangster clique."

The HDZ has dominated Croatian politics since the country declared independence in the early 1990s. However, this election result exposes cracks in its political armor, raising questions about its future leadership and strategy.

Milanović's landslide victory not only reinforces his personal mandate but also signals growing public discontent with the HDZ-led government. As Croatia navigates economic challenges and regional geopolitical tensions, Milanović's second term is poised to test the boundaries of presidential influence in a role traditionally viewed as symbolic.

Whether Milanović can transform electoral success into meaningful political impact remains to be seen, but his overwhelming re-election makes one thing clear: Croatian voters have delivered a resounding message demanding accountability, reform, and a more transparent government.

# New Super Eagles Coach, **Éric Chelle**, to be unveiled on Monday

By **Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi**



**T**he Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has announced that Franco-Malian **Éric Chelle** will be unveiled as the new Head Coach of the Super Eagles.

Chelle who was appointed by NFF after months of no coach to head the national football team will be unveiled on Monday at 11 a.m. in the Media Conference Room of the MKO Abiola National Stadium, Abuja.

This was disclosed in a statement published on the NFF's official website on Sunday.

Chelle, a 47-year-old Franco-Malian coach, was appointed last Tuesday by the NFF Executive Committee following recommendations from its Technical and Development Committee.

Chelle will be unveiled alongside his assistants.

NFF President, Ibrahim Gusau, expressed confidence in Chelle's ability to steer the Super Eagles to greater

achievements.

Gusau said the new coach and his team will shepherd the Super Eagles B at next month's African Nations Championship in East Africa, before focusing squarely on the 2026 FIFA World Cup qualifying campaign, beginning with the matches against Rwanda (away) and Zimbabwe (home) in March

"We appreciate the fact that Nigerians are very passionate about the game of football, and that is the reason for the different tones of reactions following the appointment of Coach Chelle. However, the NFF hereby appeals to Nigerians to come together and support him, as we believe he has the qualities to achieve success with the Super Eagles. The NFF will give him all the support that he needs to succeed in the job," Gusau said.

He urged Nigerians to support the

new coach, saying "The country believes he possesses the skills and experience to succeed with the Super Eagles."

Gusau also assured fans that the NFF would provide Chelle with all the necessary resources to excel in his new role.

Chelle, who previously managed Algerian club MC Oran and led Mali's Aiglons to the brink of the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations semi-finals, is known for his tactical expertise and leadership skills.

He resigned from his role at MC Oran to take up the Super Eagles coaching position.

Meanwhile, former Super Eagles striker Victor Ikpeba has voiced his support for Chelle, encouraging Nigerians to rally behind the new coach as he embarks on this challenging journey.