

South West govts declare war on terrorists, bandits page 5 & 6

House of Reps Deputy Chief Whip, Onanuga dies at 59 pg 7

The New Daily Prime

Armed Forces Remembrance Day: page 4 Tinubu stresses urgent need for peace



Military bans drone operation in North East

PAGE 7

Stampede: Ooni's ex-queen, others freed after 21-day detention

PAGE 8

Six dead, 60 injured in Kogi auto crash

PAGE 4

My life improved after Mohbad's death – Father

PAGE 29

Impeached South Korea president arrested after officers scale walls pg 38

Gospel singer who butchered girlfriend says 'I've no regrets' PAGE 2

Gospel singer who butchered girlfriend says 'I've no regrets'

By Dave Oludare Oso

The 29-year-old gospel singer, Timileyin Ajayi, who was in the news for butchering his girlfriend, has said he does not regret his actions.

Having been arrested, he has been remanded in custody at the Nasarawa State Police Command's Criminal Investigation Department in Lafia, the state capital.

He is being held over allegation of murdering his girlfriend, Salome Eleoja Adaidu, a 24-year-old member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) who worked at Nikon Insurance in Abuja.

The incident occurred when Salome reportedly visited Timileyin's residence in the Papalana axis of New Karshi, Karu Local Government Area, Nasarawa State.

Ajayi was taken into custody and brought to the Nasarawa State Police Command headquarters from Karshi development area in Karu Local Government Area on Tuesday.

During the parade, the alleged murder weapon, including a knife and machetes, were displayed.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that the disturbing incident occurred in Orozo, Abuja, where the suspect was apprehended by churchgoers with a sack containing the severed head of a woman he identified as his girlfriend. According to Umaru Caleb, a church member who shared the incident on Facebook, the suspect was apprehended during a Sunday service.

A fellow congregant reportedly felt compelled to stop the suspect and inspect the contents of a sack he was carrying. Upon investigation, the sack was found to contain the fresh head of the suspect's girlfriend.

The congregant was horrified to discover the freshly severed head of a

young woman, who appeared to have recently braided her hair in a stylish "million braids" fashion.

The church member immediately raised an alarm, prompting other worshippers to rush outside.

The suspect was severely beaten by the mob and subsequently interrogated about the origin of the severed head.

According to reports, he revealed that the victim was his girlfriend, who had travelled from a distant location to visit him.

In an interview with Channels TV on Tuesday, Timileyin Ajayi admitted killing Salome.

When asked if he committed the crime, he replied, "Yes."

He further explained that the act was not premeditated, attributing it to the frustration of not being able to spend time together consistently.

He said, "I killed her because we don't have each other all the time, it's not something I planned. It happened on that day and it happened. Not that I have the plan in mind, she was cheating. She hides most of the things from me most times. I got to know from her phone. I saw her chats with other guys on the phone, that was why I decided."

When asked if he had any regrets about his actions, Timileyin Ajayi said he did not regret committing the crime.

He said, "I don't have any regrets because life is reciprocal. That is what I thought, if you must do something to someone, you have to be reciprocal with that person. You have to understand what that person is going through so that you can actually put yourself in the position that the person is going through. That is why I don't have any regrets because we were



actually incompatible."

Also speaking to journalists on Tuesday, the deceased's elder sister, Patience Adaidu, expressed frustration over the lack of communication from the officer handling the case, ASPS. Danjuma.

According to Patience, the Orozo Police Station in the New Karshi Division, Abuja, where the case was initially lodged, has failed to provide updates on the investigation.

She said, "The officers at the Orozo Police Station are not giving us any information," adding that there are indications that the case may be transferred to Keffi, Nasarawa State, despite the crime occurring in Abuja.

Meanwhile, Patience has emphatically denied rumours circulating online that her sister was romantically involved with Ajayi. She stressed that their family had no prior knowledge of the suspect, let alone being aware of an alleged romantic relationship between him and her sister.



THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

**EFFECTIVE FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2024**

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

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

POLITICAL COLOUR

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

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

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

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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

SPECIAL POSITIONS

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

ALLURE RATE

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

PICTURE & CAPTION

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

GENERAL INFORMATION	
SERIES DISCOUNT 5 PAGES 2.5% 10 PAGES 5% 15 PAGES & ABOVE 7.5%	LOOSE INSERT LEAFLET, POSTERS 1,000 COPIES SPECIAL INSERTS (8 PAGES) 4 COPIES SPECIAL INSERTS (4 PAGES) 1,000 COPIES HANDLING CHARGES FOR LESS THAN 35,000 COPIES HANDLING CHARGES MORE THAN 35,000 COPIES
SURCHARGE PAGE 3 (100%) PAGE 4, 5, 7 AND 8 (50%) PAGE 2 (75%)	CLASSIFIED ADVERT RATES CHANGE OF NAME 2,000.00 GUIDE BLACK & WHITE 3,750.00 GUIDE COLOUR 4,250.00
CONTACT US Correspondent Address: Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos Call the Editor on: 07025014298,09014323792	E-mail Address: info@newdailyprime.news Terms and Conditions apply

ALL RATES ARE VAT INCLUSIVE

Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Tinubu stresses urgent need for peace

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has emphasised that both Nigeria and the world are in urgent need of peace as the country observes Armed Forces Remembrance Day.

In a statement posted today on his X page, Tinubu stated that the day serves as an opportunity for the nation to express gratitude and honour the sacrifices made by ex-servicemen and women who selflessly laid down their lives to defend Nigeria's territorial integrity and the peace of other nations.

"Our nation is in dire need of peace, and so is the World. As we mark this solemn event today, remember that people laid down their lives, and many still do so to guarantee our peaceful co-existence.

"Therefore, let us eschew violence and divisive tendencies for a peaceful and prosperous nation. Let us all become ambassadors of peace. We can build a future of hope and optimism together, where peace and

unity reign supreme. Thank you, and long live the Federal Republic of Nigeria", Tinubu said.

The Nigerian leader urged citizens to honor the sacrifices made by supporting officers, veterans, and the families of fallen heroes.

He emphasised that their welfare and well-being must always be a top priority for everyone.

The President reaffirmed his administration's commitment to equipping the military with modern weapons and ensuring proactive operations through enhanced collaboration between our security and intelligence agencies.

He further stated that through unity, the country can create a future of peace, unity, and hope for generations to come.

He added: "Let us eschew violence and divisive tendencies. Let us all become ambassadors of peace. Today, we honour the courage and sacrifices of our gallant Armed Forces who



selflessly made the ultimate sacrifice to defend the territorial integrity of Nigeria and guarantee our peaceful coexistence.

"The 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day is a solemn reminder of the bravery of those who laid down their lives in service to our nation and global peace."

Six dead, 60 injured in Kogi auto crash

By Dave Oludare Oso

An auto crash involving an articulated vehicle in Kogi State on Tuesday has claimed six lives and left 60 others injured, officials of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) have confirmed.

The tragic incident, which occurred in Lokoja, was attributed to excessive speed, according to the Kogi Sector Commander of the FRSC, Samuel Oyedeji.

Speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), Oyedeji emphasized the dangers of high-speed driving, urging motorists to exercise caution and adhere to road safety guidelines to prevent such avoidable accidents.

According to Oyedeji: "The accident occurred around 3 pm and I can confirm to you that six persons died, while 60 others got injured.

"Our officers in collaboration with the Police and NSCDC personnel have



rushed the injured to the Kogi Specialist Hospital and the Federal University Teaching Hospital, Lokoja, for medical attention.

"The six corpses have also been deposited at the Federal University Teaching Hospital.

"We learnt the truck from Bauchi was heading to Enugu State before the unfortunate incident occurred around Zone 8 Roundabout, Lokoja, Kogi State."

The sector commander decried the notoriety of motorists, especially drivers of trucks and buses, who indiscriminately conveyed both animals and human beings in their vehicles.

Oyedeji, who could not disclose the number of animals affected by the accident, appealed to motorists to endeavour to comply with safety rules and regulations to prevent loss of lives and property.

South West govts declare war on terrorists, bandits

By Dave Oludare Oso

Following the reported influx of bandits and terrorists from the Islamic State's West Africa Province (ISWAP) into some forests in the South-West region, governors in the zone are strategising to repel the insurgents and fortify the against further incursion.

Only last week, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State warned that bandits fleeing military operations in the North-West were seeking refuge in the state.

According to reports, the governor raised the concern at the 2025 annual inter-faith service for workers held at the Secretariat, Agodi, Ibadan, where he said, "During a security briefing this morning, I learnt that some bad elements from the North-West are relocating here due to military heat in their zones. But we will find and deal with them."

In a similar circumstance, the Ogun State government also said it had contacted relevant security agencies, including the military and the police concerning issues of foreign invaders.

Recently, operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) arrested 10 suspected members of ISWAP in Ilesa, Osun State.

The arrest came to public knowledge when the DSS sought an order of a Federal High Court in Abuja to detain the suspects for 60 days, an order Justice Emeka Nwite granted last week Friday.

Also, the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) called on all the six governors of the South-West to treat as a security emergency the building of camps inside Yoruba land forests by insurgents and terrorists fleeing the North, as it offered to help security agencies tackle the menace.

What govts are doing

Talking over the raging issue, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State has disclosed that he is consulting with his counterparts in Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Ondo and Ekiti states.

Gboyega Akosile, his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity said the governor, who is also the chairman of the South-West Governors' Forum, receives daily intelligence on the state of security in the region.

Akosile said the governor was prepared to handle security matters in the region, adding that he was well briefed on the issue.

Akosile said in a recent interview, "There is no empirical evidence that there are bandits in the South-West but on matters of security, you can never be over-prepared. "The governor is receiving intelligence



reports on different matters and he is in consultation with other governors from the South-West on how best to tackle the growing concern over security issues in the region.

"If you recall the inaugural meeting of the South-West Governors Forum, one of the major topics raised at the meeting was the security of the region, so they've been meeting on some of the ways to checkmate insecurity in the South-West.

"Basically, they're studying the situation and there will be something done at the end of the day."

Speaking on the security situation, the Oyo State government assured residents that he would leave no stone unturned to ensure the safety of everyone in the state.

The government, during a press briefing after the state's joint security council meeting on Tuesday, said all hands were on deck to fish out the bandits and use the instrumentality of the law to deal with them.

The Special Adviser on Security to Oyo State Governor, Fatai Owoseni, in a statement by the Special Adviser (Media) to Oyo State Governor, Sulaimon Olanrewaju, urged the people to go about their lawful activities without any fear.

Owoseni said with the robust synergy among the security agencies in the state, the bandits and other criminal elements had nowhere to hide.

He also confirmed that Oyo was collaborating with neighbouring states in the region to secure its borders and guard against the influx of bandits.

He noted that to strengthen the security network in the state, the council would hold expanded meetings that would incorporate local government chairmen as well as traditional rulers.

Owoseni said, "The essence of this is to ensure that we take security to the grassroots. The local government administration is the third tier of government and is the closest to the

people.

"In the same vein, traditional rulers are close to the people and know most people in their domains.

"By integrating them into the security network, we are taking security to the grassroots and carrying everyone along. Security is everybody's business and we all have a role to play in ensuring that our state is safe from the antics of bandits and other criminal elements."

He said that the council also discussed decongesting correctional centres, adding that the state would invoke its power of prerogative of mercy to set free some of the inmates.

On its own, the Osun State government said it was providing necessary support for security agencies to make the state unsafe for suspected terrorists and other criminals.

It assured residents that efforts were being geared towards keeping the state safe.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Mr Samuel Ojo, speaking in a chat with journalists, disclosed that Governor Ademola Adeleke's administration's support for security agencies led to the arrest of suspected ISWAP members in their attempt to establish the group in Osun.

Ojo said, "If the government is not working, will they (ISWAP members) be arrested? So, the government is assisting the security agencies to ensure that criminals are arrested and sent away from our state.

"The state is not a place for any criminal and that is why they were nabbed at the earliest stage."

Allaying fears of possible infiltration by terrorists hiding in neighbouring states to Osun, Ojo, who demanded timely intelligence from the people, particularly residents of boundary communities, said security agencies were working hard to provide security for lives and properties.

continue on page 6

He said, "There is no need for them (residents of boundary communities) to panic. Security agencies are working round the clock. The residents should sleep with their two eyes closed without panicking. The DSS and other security agencies are working very hard to make sure they pick others that may be hiding." The government also said 84 illegal migrants were arrested while entering the state, adding that those arrested could not explain their mission.

Ojo said Immigration operatives intercepted the foreigners and, after checks, they were made to return to their country through Cross River State.

When asked if those reportedly arrested had been profiled to get further details about them, Ojo said, "Nobody was intercepted from the North. The immigration arrested about 84 migrants and they have been transported back to their country through Cross-River State.

He, however, did not disclose the country where the illegal immigrants came from.

Corroborating him, the Corps Commander of Osun Amotekun Corps, Mr Adekunle Omoyele, said the agency had received full support from the state government, adding that the operatives were motivated and supported to fight insecurity.

The Corps Commander said, "In Osun State, the governor is fulfilling his promises to Amotekun by providing substantial funding. He has purchased motorcycles for the corps, which have been distributed across the state commands.

"Additionally, he has promised to procure more patrol vehicles to complement the ones already in use. The corps members are satisfied with the current state of Osun Amotekun."

In a statement by its President, Wasiu Afolabi, the OPC, on Sunday urged all the six governors of the southwest to treat as a security emergency, the building of camps inside forests by insurgents and terrorists fleeing the North.

"These foreign Fulani terrorists have always said that after conquering the North, the South will be next. Now it is happening.

"But the OPC is ready to let these evil dreamers know that Yorubaland can never be conquered or occupied by foreign invaders. Let the six governors of Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo, Ondo and Ekiti states invite us to deal with this menace today before it is too late.

"We have the men and capacity to confront these foreign invaders physically, militantly, technologically and spiritually. All we are demanding from South-West governors is the

necessary invitation, equipment and support to do what is needed to wipe out this menace of foreign criminals," Afolabi said.

Royal fathers not left behind

Also concerned over the potent threat posed by the criminal elements, traditional rulers in the southwest have called for proactive steps by the governors and security agencies, advocating that the traditional institutions be involved in efforts to rid the region of infiltrating extremists.

The Orangun of Oke-Ila, Oba Adedokun Abolarin, whose domain is located at the Ekiti and Kwara boundary with Osun, said traditional rulers must impress it on their subjects to be vigilant.

Oba Abolarin said, "The traditional institution is extremely important when it comes to security at Oke-Ila Orangun and Ifedayo Local Government Area axis. It is crucial because it leads to Ekiti and Kwara states, and security matters are always capital intensive.

"We are alive to our responsibility, but we just want the government to know the importance of that area. Without security, we cannot talk about development.

"We are vigilant and we tell our people to also be vigilant because internal vigilance is the greatest form of security. We are trying to make it open, and at the same time, participatory, so that people will know the importance of being alive to their responsibilities and have eagle-eye and monitor the movement of people 24 hours a day."

Also speaking, the Akarigbo and paramount ruler of Remoland, Oba Babatunde Ajayi, said traditional rulers were worried about the reported influx of bandits into the southwest.

Oba Ajayi said it would be wise for the head of each community to be more proactive and take security more seriously than ever before.

"We are alarmed and worried, we are very well concerned over this reported influx of bandits. Yes, we know who the constitutional chief security officer is, but in reality, we also know that the traditional rulers are the chief security of their respective domains.

"So, it will be wise for each domain to also do something and be more proactive about their security beyond the police and even the Amotekun. We have our own special arrangements that work with other security agencies.

"We have that intelligence as well but we are not sleeping over it. The word is eternal vigilance. We can't afford another insurgency.

"That brings up the issue of state policing. It is part of what we should do to fight

crime to a standstill in the country," he said.

On his own, the Olowo of Owo Kingdom, Oba Ajibade Ogunoye, expressed concern over the development, promising that traditional rulers would give their support to the government in taming the criminals.

Oba Ogunoye said, "The responsibility lies on the government to be more proactive in ensuring that the terrorists don't have their ways in the South-West. The government should employ modern technology to fight criminals and root them out of their hideouts.

"On our part as traditional rulers, we will give our own support to the government, by giving proper information about criminality in our domain. We will put our ears on the ground and send useful information to the government for onward action.

"It is not a good thing for terrorists to wreak havoc in Nigeria but I believe if the political will and determination are there, government will succeed in the fight against the criminal elements in our society."

The Ajero of Ijero Ekiti, Oba Joseph Adewole, called on governments in the South-West states to rise to the occasion, charging security agencies to make the states uncomfortable for bandits.

In a chat with newsmen, the traditional ruler said, "With the latest reports, we (traditional rulers) will intensify our appeal to the governments to put in more efforts on security.

"Security is very important. The infiltration of these people is not a good development and will remain a setback. We have to move swiftly to check it before it becomes another thing.

"As Obas, we would meet again and call the attention of the governments. If they are fleeing the North West to this part, their settlement here would be with adverse consequences."

The monarch said that there had been earlier alarms and warnings from concerned individuals and groups, including the Yoruba Nation secession group that terrorists from the North were infiltrating the South-West.

He, however, said it was a good development that security agencies were apprehending some of the fleeing bandits.

"We thank God the security agencies are getting to arrest them, such should continue so that they can be flushed out of this place.

"Our security agencies and bodies should make our state uncomfortable for them. It should be like that in all other states of the southwest so that this part will be a no-go area for criminals," he said.

Military bans drone operation in North East

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Joint Task Force of the military in the North East, Operations Hadin Kai, has banned the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), popularly known as drones in the region. Air Component Commander, Air Commodore U.U. Idris, who gave the directive in a signal sighted by journalists said the use of drones without permission poses threats in the Borno, Yobe and Adamawa (BAY) states.

Commodore U.U. Idris lamented that government agencies and private individuals operate drones without consent of the Air Component of Operation Hadin Kai.

The statement read, "The proliferation of drones for domestic and commercial purposes has led to serious security concerns. These concerns mainly stem from their possible use by non-state actors and criminal elements for subversive and offensive activities.

"More disturbing is that government agencies and private individuals operate these drones without due regard to the extant regulations on their operations.

"Also, the non-state actors have perfected the use of drones against

military targets and Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) as witnessed in other climes. Recently, there have been reports of drone sightings and unauthorized drone operations in the Theatre. On 7 January 2025 for instance, a passenger onboard an NGO flight from Maiduguri to Monguno was intercepted with a drone during a search at the helipad.

"The drone was confiscated, and an investigation is ongoing. These incidents among others revealed trends by individuals to operate drones without due course to safety and security with detrimental consequences.

"The Air Component OPERATION HADIN KAI (AC OPHK) is saddled with the responsibility of monitoring and regulating aerial platform operations including aircraft and drones in the North East Theatre. This is aimed at deconflicting the airspace to ensure safety and security for all operators in Borno, Yobe and



Adamawa airspace. Considering this, it is pertinent to reiterate the ban on drone operations in the North East Theatre as directed by the Appropriate Superior Authority.

"It is noteworthy to state that breaches of this restriction, no matter how insignificant, would be viewed very seriously. In view of the aforementioned, you are please requested to strictly comply with the regulation on the ban on drone operation in the North East Theatre comprising Borno, Yobe and Adamawa airspace in the interest of safety and security."

House of Reps Deputy Chief Whip, Onanuga dies at 59

By Dave Oludare Oso

The House of Representatives Deputy Chief Whip, Hon. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga, popularly called Ijaya, is dead.

Onanuga, who represented the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency of Ogun State passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, after a brief illness.

This was confirmed in a statement by the House Spokesperson, Akin Rotimi.

According to him, Onanuga, born on December 2, 1965, was a dedicated public servant, a visionary leader, and a passionate advocate for her constituents.

She was first elected to the House in 2019 on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

During that tenure, she served as Chairperson of the House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development in the 9th Assembly, where she championed policies to empower women and advance social welfare.

Re-elected in 2023, she was appointed Deputy Chief Whip of the 10th Assembly, a

role in which she demonstrated exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to legislative discipline, particularly during parliamentary sittings.

"Affectionately known as 'Ijaya,' Rep. Onanuga's intellect, passion, humility, and drive for excellence earned her admiration among her colleagues and constituents alike. Her impactful contributions to Nigeria's political landscape reflected her passion for creating a better society and her tireless dedication to public service.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, associates, the Government and People of Ogun State – particularly the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North constituency – and the entire membership of the National Assembly.

"As we mourn the loss of this vibrant and committed lawmaker, whose life was devoted to improving the lives of Nigerians – especially her constituents



– her legacy of service and dedication will continue to inspire future generations.

"Funeral arrangements will be announced by her family in due course. May her soul rest in perfect peace, and may her legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

Onanuga was the fifth lawmaker to pass away in the tenure of the 10th House of Representatives.

Stampede: Ooni's ex-queen, others freed after 21-day detention

By Dave Oludare Oso



A former queen of the Ooni of Ife, Naomi Silekunola, who has been in detention following the death of 35 children during a stampede in Ibadan, has regained her freedom.

Though the former queen was granted bail on Monday, she was only able to perfect it on Tuesday, leading to her freedom from Agodi Correctional Centre, 21 days after she was remanded there.

Also breathing air of freedom were Oriyomi Hamzat, the owner of Ibadan-based broadcasting station, Agidigbo FM, and the Principal of Islamic High School, Bashorun, Abdulahi Fasasi, who were both detained with her.

Justice K. B. Olawoyin of the Oyo State High Court in Ibadan had on Monday admitted them to bail in the sum of N10m each with two sureties in like sum.

The defendants face 18 counts, bordering on murder and manslaughter, pressed against them by the Oyo State Government over

the December 18 tragedy.

Following their release on Tuesday, Hamzat was welcomed by a mammoth crowd of his well-wishers at his broadcasting station, where he was captured in tears while addressing the people.

He told the crowd, "Oriyomi is back. At this time, I am in a moment of silence. Thank you very much."

In his ruling on Monday, Justice Olawoyin, rejected the state government's objection to the defendants' bail application, remarking that since the the tragic stampede was not a premeditated act, the defendants were entitled to bail.

The judge, while faulting the detention of the defendants, declared that there is no place in Nigerian law for a holding charge, which was used to detain them by a magistrates' court.

"There was no place for holding charge in the Constitution and keeping them in custody would amount to an infringement on their rights, especially without taking them to the right court that could entertain the charges against

them," Justice Olawoyin said.

In the charge sheet, marked I/05C/2025, the government accused the defendants of "conspiracy to commit a felony to wit: murder, manslaughter, conspiracy to commit an offence to wit: criminal negligence, and criminal negligence."

The offences were said to be contrary to and punishable under Section 324 of the Criminal Code, CAP 38, Vol II, Laws of Oyo State, 2000.

In the charge sheet obtained by NEW DAILY PRIME, the prosecution disclosed the names and details of 14 out of the 35 children who died the incident.

They include Musiliu Sofiat, female, eight years; Lekan Salami, male, seven years; Feyikemi Salam, female, 1.5 years; Olaniyan Joshua, male, 1.5 years; Laeef Muisi, male, eight years; Opeyemi Ayomide, female, four years; Adebayo-Fatimah, female, four years; Adebayo-Abibat, female, five years; Adeyanju Taiwo, female, eight years; Salaudeen Khalid, male, minor; Anjorin Faridat, female, 10 years; Nahaam Muisi, male, 13 years; and Babatunde Toheeb, male, 18 years.

The state alleged that the defendants "negligently omitted to provide adequate security, crowd control mechanisms, and medical facilities to prevent a stampede at a children's funfair programme organised by you."

It alleged that the defendants' "negligent omission resulted in the death of Musiliu Sofiat, aged 8 years, and 34 other children, thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 308 and punishable under Section 344 of the Criminal Code, CAP 38, Vol II, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

Father of abducted 5-year-old boy seeks help, suspect feigns madness to evade arrest

By Helen Okechukwu



Alhaji Idris Adamu, the father of an abducted five-year-old boy, Mohammed Naziru, who was kidnapped by an unknown woman in the Iwaya area of Lagos, has cried out for help for the safe return of his son following the arrest of the woman.

The incident occurred on January 10, when Naziru and his 8-year-old sister were heading home after attending Jumat prayers at a mosque in the Iwaya area of Lagos.

The father of Naziru has expressed concern over the whereabouts of his son after the apprehension of the suspect by police from the Sabo Division. The woman claimed to have lost her sanity immediately after arriving at the police station.

The father of Naziru explained, “I got a call at about 1pm last Friday,

informing me that my son had been kidnapped. I rushed to the house and found a mob descending on her. I begged them not to kill her because her death wouldn’t bring my son back. I reported the matter to the Sabo Police Division, and they brought a vehicle to convey her to the station. But because of the crowd that besieged the police station, the police took the woman to SCID.

“I prayed fervently every day for the safety of my son and for the woman to be arrested. Indeed, God heard my prayer. The woman walked into the community, covering herself with a hijab, and was identified. Immediately she sighted my wife, she started running, and when she was caught, she said she wasn’t the one who kidnapped our son without being asked.

i “The woman is not mad; she is only pretending. When she was apprehended, we found some pieces of paper in her possession where she wrote an address where they should keep the boy and the injection they should give to him to put him to sleep. She also wrote down many telephone numbers on some sheets of paper found in the multi-colored purse that was found with her.

“All I want is my son. She should tell us where she kept him so that we can go get him before any harm befalls him.”

The 40-year-old man questioned why the arrested woman, who had braids during her arrest, later appeared disheveled, looking as if she hadn’t combed

He urged detectives at the SCID to act quickly and uncover the truth to help find and rescue his son.

The Kidnapping Game

A report revealed that before kidnapping Naziru, the suspect had wrapped herself in a hijab to disguise herself, pretending to observe Jumat prayers in the mosque.

Approaching the two siblings, she handed over a N500 note to Naziru’s elder sister to buy yogurt for N150 while holding the younger brother.

When Naziru’s sister returned, she could not find her brother and the lady.

On January 13, after a fruitless search by community members, the 8-year-old girl later identified the suspect, who took to her heels but was eventually caught by the angry mob.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that when police heard about the incident, they swiftly arrived at the scene to pick up the suspect from the angry mob.

Due to the agitation of the angry mob, she was transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID).

However, detectives revealed plans to take the woman to a psychiatrist to evaluate her mental health. Additionally, a man who initially claimed to be her father when the mob attacked her was taken into custody but later released.

Obasa paid for overstepping his bounds, Gen Olanrewaju mocks ex-Lagos Speaker By Dave Oludare Oso



A former Minister of Communications, Major General Tajudeen Olanrewaju (retd.) has reacted to the impeachment of the former Speaker of Lagos State House of Assembly, Mudashiru Obasa, attributing it to his political overreach.

In a statement released by the Media Office of the De Renaissance Patriots Foundation, Olanrewaju stated that Obasa's political downfall was the result of his actions while in office.

The general stated, "Karma is both action and the consequences of that action; it is cause and effect simultaneously because every action generates a force of energy that returns to us in like kind.

"There is nothing unfamiliar about the Law of Karma. Everybody has heard the expression, 'What you sow is what you reap.'"

Accusing Obasa of exceeding his political limits and miscalculating his power, Olanrewaju described Obasa's actions as a misstep in seeking more control in Lagos State, stating that the former Speaker had overstepped his boundaries in various ways.

"The choices the former Speaker Obasa made while on his exalted seat were that he overstepped his political boundary in many ways.

"Politicians, while playing their political ping pong game of arrogance and seeking more power in search of a dynastic crown, particularly in Lagos State, ignored the slippery ground," Olanrewaju explained.

The ex-minister also criticised Obasa's rumoured Lagos governorship ambition, calling it a major political blunder.

He compared Obasa's actions to the mistakes of ancient rulers, claiming his attempt to break into the gubernatorial race was 'an unpardonable harakiri.'

Recalling his past advice to Obasa, Olanrewaju disclosed that he warned the former Speaker against pursuing a third term and emphasized that leadership should be given to a Lagos indigene at the right time.

"I remember that I warned the Speaker-to-be Obasa a few years ago not to contest for the Speaker's position for the third time. That he should yield the post to an indigene, knowing that it was the right time for an indigene to be the Speaker.

"Obasa is an Ogun State indigene. Constitutionally, you cannot claim two states of origin, but wonders never end in Lagos State's power

matrix," Olanrewaju stated.

Olanrewaju further attributed Obasa's downfall to his disregard for political accountability and his failure to listen to advice from both internal and external critics.

"His fall from power could be ascribed to undignified political correctness and mean-spirited attempts to silence critics both within the establishment and external forces. Obasa bluffed everyone and pushed aside all commonsensical appeals to him," he added.

The former minister concluded by stressing the need for leadership roles to prioritize the indigenous population of Lagos State, calling for a shift towards indigenous leadership for better governance.

"The lessons to be learned from this authoritarian political action is to give power to the IBILE indigenous people of Lagos State, who can manage themselves better and more successfully. Who knows who is next? A stitch in time saves nine," the retired general warned.

Controversial whistleblower, Mahdi Shehu arrested again

By Dave Oludare Oso

For the second time in as many months, Kaduna-based activist and political commentator, Mahdi Shehu has been arrested by security personnel, believed to be from the Department of State Services (DSS) again.

According to Daily Trust, Mahdi was picked up by plainclothes security operatives at his clinic in Unguwar Dosa around 11:00 a.m.

Till press time, there has been no official statement from security agencies regarding the arrest of the Kaduna-based activist and political commentator.

Also, the activist's son, Buhari Mahdi stated that they had not been able to establish contact with his father.

"We don't know if it was an arrest or an invitation. But they (DSS) picked him up at his clinic in Unguwar Dosa, Kaduna, around 11:00 a.m.," he said, declining to provide further details.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that the activist was arrested in December 2024, and charged in court for sharing a misleading video on his social media handle, claiming the planned

establishment of a French military base in Nigeria, which Authorities denied.

The Kaduna State High Court later granted him bail on January 9, 2025, setting the amount at ₦3 million and requiring two prominent clerics as sureties.

The development comes few days after he broke his silence on his current travail.

In a series of tweets at the weekend, Shehu appreciated his supporters for their concern, support, and prayers.

"During my arrest, detention, and incarceration spanning 12 days, I have a duty and obligation to thank the following classes of people. Those who were genuinely worried, concerned, supportive, and prayerful. I felt your prayers, and they served the purposes they were meant for.

"Those who were happy and celebrative. I am thanking you because you emboldened me and served as a seasoning to my world view. You occupy that row in a stadium who celebrates any club that is winning for that day.



"Those who sat on the fence. This class, though, neither concerned, prayerful, supportive, nor celebrative, yet offer their silence or indifference as pond for those willing to come for combative fishing. One day, they will belong somewhere, either as victims or villains, willy-nilly," Shehu had said.

Lagos govt announces traffic diversion plan for land route repairs

By Friday Omosola

The Lagos State Government has unveiled a comprehensive traffic diversion plan to accommodate technical checks, duct calibration, and land route repairs on the Island.

The repairs, scheduled to begin on Friday, January 17, 2025 and end on Friday, January 31, 2025, will involve key locations across the Island.

The designated repair locations for the scheduled works include Bonny Camp Underbridge to Eko Atlantic Sales Office, Eko Hotel Roundabout, Officer's Mess inward Independence Bridge, Ajose Adeogun to Ligali Ayorinde, and Ligali Ayorinde to the end of Landmark.

On January 17 to 31, repairs along the Bonny Camp Underbridge to Eko Atlantic Sales Office will be conducted on the road median, ensuring there is no impact on traffic flow.

On January 19, motorists travelling from Eko Hotel to Adetokunbo Ademola will be diverted into two lanes around the Eko

Hotel Roundabout to facilitate smooth operations.

Additionally, vehicles heading toward Independence Bridge from Officer's Mess will be redirected to the two outermost lanes.

From January 20 to 24, repair works between Ajose Adeogun and Ligali Ayorinde will result in motorists being diverted into two lanes as they approach Ligali Ayorinde Junction inward Oniru Beach due to repairs on a manhole.

Finally, from January 25 to 31, repairs from Ligali Ayorinde to the end of Landmark will be confined to the road's setback, with no disruption to traffic flow.

The State Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, assured residents that Traffic Management Officers will be deployed to all affected areas to ease vehicular movement and reduce

inconveniences.

He urged motorists to remain patient and cooperative, emphasising that the diversions are essential to facilitate the maintenance of underground submarine cables and overall road infrastructure.

Road users are advised to adhere to traffic management guidelines, plan their journeys, and remain patient throughout the repair period to ensure a seamless process.



Terrorism Financing: Police establish anti-money laundering units

By Friday Omosola

The Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Kayode Egbetokun, has inaugurated Police Anti-Money Laundering Units.

He appointed financial expert Hyacinth Edozie, along with officers holding the rank of Chief Superintendents of Police (CSPs), to lead the units in all State Criminal Investigation Departments (SCIDs) nationwide.

Egbetokun described this initiative as a strategic measure to bolster the police's role in national security, particularly in combating financial crimes.

He emphasised its significance in addressing the advanced methods employed by terrorist organizations and other criminal networks to finance their operations.

The IGP reaffirmed that the establishment of these units highlights the police force's unwavering commitment to safeguarding national stability by preventing and detecting illicit financial activities.

Additionally, he stated that the initiative strengthens the operational capacity of law enforcement agencies, particularly the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit

(NFIU), in fulfilling its global oversight responsibilities to tackle security threats.

As part of this renewed focus, the IGP revealed recent successes in apprehending individuals involved in financial crimes.

On December 8, 2024, in Gwale, Kano, police operatives acting on credible intelligence arrested Nura Ibrahim and uncovered counterfeit currency worth N129.54 billion.

The breakdown included 3,366,000 in counterfeit US dollars, 51,970 in counterfeit CFA francs, and 1,443,000 in counterfeit Naira. This operation led to the subsequent arrests of accomplices Muhammed Muntari and Usman Abdullahi.

Similarly, on January 13, 2025, police operatives in New Karu, Nasarawa State, arrested a 53-year-old suspect, Ephraim Barde, in possession of \$160,000 in counterfeit U.S. dollar notes.

Investigations are ongoing to uncover the full extent of Barde's activities and identify other collaborators.



The IGP reiterated the police force's commitment to combating financial crimes and ensuring a secure economic environment to enhance national security.

He emphasised that the establishment of the Anti-Money Laundering Units is a crucial step in this direction.

He also urged citizens to actively support national security efforts by reporting suspicious activities related to counterfeit currency and financial crimes.

Ondo gov dissolves executive council, exempts two key members

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Ondo State Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, has announced the immediate dissolution of the State Executive Council, affecting all cabinet members except for two.

The dissolution, made public on Wednesday, January 15, excludes Dr. Kayode Ajulo, the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, and Mrs. Omowunmi Isaac, the Commissioner for Finance, due to the critical nature of their responsibilities.

In a statement issued by the Governor's Chief Press Secretary, Ebenezer Adeniyani, the affected cabinet members were instructed to hand over all government properties in their possession to the accounting officers of their respective ministries.

The statement read: "The Governor of Ondo State, Hon. Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, has approved the dissolution

of the State Executive Council, with immediate effect. However, the Governor has exempted two members of the cabinet from the dissolution, due to the critical nature of their duties. They are the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Dr. Kayode Ajulo, SAN, and the Commissioner for Finance, Mrs. Omowunmi Isaac."

Aiyedatiwa also expressed his appreciation to the outgoing members



for their contributions to the state's progress, wishing them success in their future endeavours.

Economic hardship: More Nigerians scavenge for foods

By New Daily Prime

It strips people of human dignity – Sociologists

With the dire economic situation in the country, more Nigerians are forced to scavenge or beg for foods at social gatherings or from dust bins of other people.

The development has led to organisers of social events to now make it a point of duty to employ security men in controlling the influx of unwanted guests to their events.

Despite the effort, it is not uncommon to see women, men and children swarming around event centres to solicit for food.

Narrating his experience to New Daily Prime, Mr Abiodun Olaore, who held a burial ceremony for his late mother in Agege area of Lagos recently, said it was a Herculean task trying to control crowd of uninvited guests from taking over the venue.

“We gave out invites to guests we expected at the event and there was strong instruction to the security men who manned the entrances that on no account should anybody without the invite come in. Despite that, a lot of people still milled around the venue. They were harassing our guests. Apart from events like ours, it is now common to see people going about scanning dust bins for left overs.”

University dons speak

In chats with New Daily Prime, two university lecturers have said scavenging or begging for food strips people of human dignity and it has dire social and health consequences for the society.

The sociologists, Professor Bisi Ajala of the University of Ibadan, Oyo State and Associate Professor Samuel Oluranti of the Lagos State University, LASU, Ojo, opined that scavenging for food is not part of the African culture and has become pronounced because of serious economic hardship in the land.

They therefore, called on the government to put in place various social safety nets to reduce poverty in the land.

Ajala said, “The consequences are health, social and even political. Food that people scavenge for are leftovers that may have been exposed to the elements of weather. The food items may have



gone bad. It could have been feasted on by flies and other disease vectors.

“From the social angle, it is demeaning and erodes the status of those who engage in it. The biggest implication is on the larger society. Development is measured with regards to the well being of the citizens and when you talk about the well being of the people, food is an essential component. If you don’t eat well, you may not be healthy and when you are not healthy, how can use be useful to the society.

“If the citizens are not feeding well, then it means the society has zero development. Food is basic. If the citizens are now limited to scavenging to survive, then the society is gone. Also, what that shows is that the production level in the society is also low. Production cannot be in high level and people won’t have what to eat.

“If a large portion of the society is now left to scavenge to survive, then, what type of leaders would they produce? There will be no opportunity to produce good leaders. People would have been turned to beggars and any token thrown at them would seem like a lifeline.”

In his opinion, Oluranti blamed abject poverty in the land for the menace.

“Poverty has led people into doing this. That is the main cause of the ugly practice. It is not African. People don’t like to beg for food. Food that they don’t know who prepared and for what purposes. I have seeing that a number of times.

“It is a ridiculous thing. Those who engage in it are looked down upon and people see them as of low esteem. Begging is not part of our culture and people have their ego they want to protect and which they want others to respect. It exposes people to ridicule and can negatively affect the reputation of a family. If for instance, the person who goes out to scavenge or beg is seen by somebody who knows her, it would become a matter of gossip here and there.

“When you take a child along to do that, you are teaching him or her how to beg, how to be dependent on others. In that way, the ugly trend would continue. We know some people who do that and you can see that their children somehow inherit such abnormal practice from them. A child that is taken along to beg for food is also exposed to ridicule and his esteem taken down to the lowest level.

“There should be a way to take care of the poor. Social policies must be put in place to alleviate the poverty people face. The sharing of palliative in public places is not the solution. That is why we had those terrible incidents in Ibadan, Abuja and Okija. Social safety nets must be put in place.

“It is also unfortunate that the extended family bond has broken down in our society. In those days, people who were better off were helping others to train and take care of their children but now, that is no longer the situation.”

Gunmen abduct mother, daughter, 3 others in Kwara

By Dave Oludare Oso

Gunmen suspected to be kidnapers have abducted a mother, her daughter and three others in Odo-Eku, a community in Isin Local Government Area of Kwara State.

The incident reportedly occurred about 1:30am on Wednesday.

The Odofin of Odo-Eku, Elder Ogundeji, who spoke to Sahara Reporters, revealed that the assailants stormed the residences of the victims overnight and abducted them. He said, "The victims are of the Hausa tribe who reside in Odo-Eku for farming. Among the five victims are a woman, her daughter, another woman who came to visit them, and two men.

"The police just left Odo-Eku. We took them to the scene of the incident, and they promised to investigate and rescue the victims."

The police is yet to react to the incident as of press time.

This is the second kidnapping incident reported within a week in the state.

On January 8, gunmen suspected to be bandits have abducted five persons in separate attacks on two different Local Government Areas of Kwara State.

In one of the attacks which occurred at Egbejila along Obate village, Asa Local Government, a fish farmer, said to be a retired Deputy Comptroller of Nigeria Customs Service identified as Mohammed Zarma was one of the victims.

The other attack occurred along Obo Ayegunle/Osi road in the Ekiti Local Government Area of the state.

The attackers according to locals



invaded the fish farm of the former customs boss with dangerous weapons such as AK-47 and took him away through the bush.

"The bush where the attackers operated links to Ogele village, Pambo village, and Arowosaye village in the Asa Local Government Area of Kwara State," a resident said.

The four other victims were abducted from Ekiti Local Government Area of the state. The victims were identified as Sunday Balogun, a mechanic, his pregnant wife, Mary, his apprentice, Taiye and his twin brother, Kehinde. Family members and locals said the kidnappers have contacted the family and demanded N10 million ransom.

"They have contacted the family demanding N10 million ransom. We have been able to negotiate it to N4 million.

"Although the family and community have been able to gather N2 million, the kidnappers rejected

it and said that a Toyota Sienna in his workshop should be sold to pay the ransom. The wife of the mechanic, Mary, was however released," they explained.

Confirming the development, the state Police command, through the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Okesanmi Ajayi, said an investigation has commenced and efforts are ongoing to rescue the kidnapping victims.

"The Kwara State Police Command under the leadership of Mr. Tuesday Assayomo has deployed relevant assets, both human and material, for the rescue of one Mohammed Zarma 'Male' a retired Deputy Comptroller of Nigeria Customs Service, who was kidnapped on his farm located at Oke Jia, Egbejila at about 1730hrs of 6/1/2022 by some unknown gunmen speaking a particular Nigerian language.

"On the visit to the scene after the incident by the Command's operatives, four empty shells of expended ammunition were recovered," the police said.

Nigeria's inflation rate hits 34.80% in Dec, reflecting economic strain

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has revealed that Nigeria's inflation rate reached 34.80% in December 2024, marking a slight increase from 34.60% in November. This increase, though marginal at 0.20%, is attributed to the seasonal surge in demand for goods and services during the festive period.

The NBS's latest Consumer Price Index (CPI) report, published on Wednesday, January 15, also shows a notable rise when compared to the same month in 2023. December's inflation rate was 5.87 percentage points higher than the 28.92% recorded in December 2023, indicating continued upward pressure on consumer prices.

This persistent inflation is driven by a combination of economic challenges, including currency depreciation, high energy costs, and ongoing supply chain disruptions.

The report further revealed that the average inflation rate for the 12 months ending December 2024 stood at 33.24%, up from 24.66% in the same period of the previous year.

"In December 2024, the headline inflation rate was 34.80%, relative to the November 2024 headline inflation rate of 34.60%. The marginal increase of 0.20% was largely driven by the higher demand for goods and services during the December festive period," the report explained.

On a year-on-year basis, the inflation rate in December 2024 was significantly higher than the previous year, reflecting a continued strain on consumers. The rise in inflation is felt across both urban and rural areas, with food and non-alcoholic beverages contributing the most to the overall inflationary pressure, at 18.02%. Other notable contributors to the inflation rate include housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (5.82%), as well as transport (2.26%). Sectors such as health and communication showed smaller contributions of 1.05% and 0.24%, respectively.

Urban areas continue to face a higher



inflation rate than rural areas. In December 2024, the urban inflation rate stood at 37.29%, reflecting an increase of 6.30 percentage points from 31.00% in December 2023. Urban inflation eased slightly on a month-on-month basis, dropping from 2.77% in November to 2.56% in December.

In contrast, rural inflation rose to 32.47% year-on-year, an increase of 5.37 percentage points from the 27.10% recorded in December 2023. However, rural inflation experienced a slight month-on-month decline, falling from 2.51% in November to 2.32% in December.

Food inflation remains a significant concern. The report noted a sharp rise in food inflation, which reached 39.84% year-on-year in December 2024, compared to 33.93% in December 2023. This surge in food prices is largely attributed to rising costs of staples like yams, rice, maize, and dried fish.

However, food inflation eased slightly on a month-on-month basis, dropping from 2.98% in November to 2.66% in December, driven by price reductions in items such as local beer, soft drinks, and tubers.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile items like agricultural produce and energy, also saw an

increase, rising to 29.28% year-on-year in December 2024 from 23.06% in December 2023. On a month-on-month basis, core inflation climbed to 2.24%, up from 1.83% in November.

The state-by-state breakdown of inflation rates showed significant regional variations. Bauchi recorded the highest year-on-year inflation rate at 44.06%, followed by Sokoto at 42.43% and Kebbi at 41.47%.

At the other end of the spectrum, Katsina, Delta, and Imo states had the lowest inflation rates, with Katsina posting 28.33%.

Sokoto led the states in food inflation, with a staggering 57.47% year-on-year increase, while Zamfara and Edo followed with food inflation rates of 46.39% and 46.32%, respectively. In contrast, Yobe, Kano, and Abuja recorded month-on-month declines in food inflation.

This persistent rise in inflation, particularly during a period of increased consumer spending, underscores the ongoing economic difficulties faced by many Nigerians. The government and policymakers are under increasing pressure to address the root causes of inflation and to mitigate the impact on the cost of living for citizens across the country.

Nigeria earned N50trn from crude oil in 2024

By Dave Oludare Oso

Data obtained from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has revealed that Nigeria's crude oil revenue rose to about N50.88 trillion in 2024.

According to the data, Nigeria produced a total of 408,680,457 barrels of crude oil in 2024, adding that with condensate included, total oil production for 2024 was 566.79 million barrels.

Statista Research Department, a global statistical firm, reported on January 9, 2025, that the average price of crude in 2024 was \$80.53 per barrel.

Putting the total crude oil produced in Nigeria in 2024, which is 408,680,457 million barrels, and the average price of the product, this amounts to N50.88 trillion or \$32.91 billion, at the rate of N1,546 to a dollar.

Recall that Nigeria had planned to produce 649.7 million barrels of oil through an average daily output of 1.78 million barrels in its 2024 budget.

Accordingly, with oil prices at \$78 and the exchange rate at N750 to a dollar benchmark for 2024, the country had planned to generate \$50.68 billion or

N38.01 trillion from oil.

The rise in total crude oil revenue in the said period was heavily impacted by the depreciation, as the Naira closed the year at around N1,545 per dollar, up from the projected N750 benchmark in the 2024 budget.

It should be noted that the N50.88 trillion was the amount generated by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, the international oil companies, and their indigenous counterparts from the sale of crude produced in Nigeria.

In the year under review, Nigeria's crude oil production was largely unstable.

The lowest average daily crude production in Nigeria was 1.23 mbpd, while the highest was in November, when it rose to 1.48 mbpd.

Nigeria ended the year with crude production in December at 1.484 mbpd, excluding condensate, which stood at an average of 182,975 bpd.



“The average crude oil production was 98.97 percent of the OPEC quota (1.5 mbpd),” NUPRC stated in its latest crude production data.

On the contrary, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, claimed the country's crude production rose to 1.8 mbpd in December, in addition to condensates.

Lokpobiri said, “From the production level of 1 mbpd when we began, we have boosted output to 1.8 mbpd, inclusive of condensates, and continue to aspire for even greater heights.”

Military veteran expresses concerns over retirees' welfare, unpaid war bonus

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

A 76-year-old military veteran, Colonel Nasiru Salami (retd.), has voiced concerns about the mistreatment of retired Nigerian Army personnel, including unpaid pensions and war bonuses.

Speaking on Channels Television's The Morning Brief programme during the 2025 Armed Forces' Remembrance Day, Salami revealed that, despite promises made upon his retirement in 1983, he and fellow veterans have yet to receive their long-awaited war bonuses.

Salami, a civil war veteran, explained that members of the Nigerian Legion in Lagos, over 24,000 strong, are still waiting for payments promised over 50 years ago.

He appealed to the government to honour their commitments and improve the welfare of retired soldiers.

He also expressed regret that, due to his

own post-retirement struggles, he would not recommend military service to his children.

“I am their father, and they see that my life is not what they had hoped for,” he said, adding that he would rather encourage them to join other branches of the military such as the Navy or the Air Force, where he believes personnel are treated better.

Recalling his military journey, Salami detailed his rapid deployment to the battlefield in 1967, only six weeks after joining the Nigerian Army. He served for 11 months in the Biafra War, enduring severe injuries, including a near-fatal foot injury.

Despite the pain, he returned to the front lines to continue fighting for his country.



Salami now serves as the Secretary of the Nigerian Legion, Lagos Chapter, continuing to advocate for the welfare of fellow veterans who feel forgotten by the system they served.

Alaafin: Kingmakers threaten to sue Makinde over bribery allegations

By Dave Oludare Oso



The traditional kingmakers in Oyo, popularly called Oyomesi, have threatened to take legal action against the state governor, Seyi Makinde over allegations of bribery during the selection process of the new Alaafin.

They accused the governor of making defamatory statements that tarnish their reputation and have demanded evidence to support his claims.

Recall that Makinde announced Prince Abimbola Akeem Owoade as the new Alaafin last week and handed him the staff of office on January 13, 2024.

Speaking during the coronation ceremony, Governor Makinde stated that all those who accepted bribes during the Alaafin's selection process would face legal consequences.

"In 2022, when the position of Alaafin became vacant, we were preparing for elections. People approached me, insisting I endorse a candidate for the throne or risk losing votes in Oyo.

"I responded by saying I cared more about doing what is right for Oyo than winning votes. The people of Oyo supported me overwhelmingly, and I

believe they will continue to back me. "Let me clarify this: those who sought to tarnish our tradition in Oyo will not be spared. The government will ensure they face the law unless they return to Kabiyesi (the king) to seek forgiveness.

"If Kabiyesi forgives them, I will also pardon them," he said.

However, the Oyomesi – High Chief Yusuf Akínade, Bashorun of Oyo; High Chief Wakeel Akindele, Lagunna of Oyo; High Chief Hamzat Yusuf, Akinniku of Oyo; Chief Wahab Oyetunji, warrant chief stand-in for Asipa of Oyo, and Chief Gbadebo Mufutau, warrant chief stand-in for Alapinni of Oyo – expressed their displeasure in a letter to the governor signed by their legal representative, Adekunle Sobalaju (SAN).

The letter read, "We recognize the governor's right to uphold his actions in court, but we urge him to provide evidence to substantiate his claims against Oyomesi.

"Out of respect for the governor's office, Oyomesi refrained from

engaging in a public war of words, despite the damaging remarks made about us.

"We request that the governor desist from making baseless statements. If he possesses evidence that Oyomesi accepted bribes, we advise him to present it in court, where the matter can be thoroughly examined."

The Oyomesi emphasized their commitment to tradition and law, urging Governor Makinde to exercise patience and allow the judiciary to resolve the matter.

"We, the Oyomesi respect the law and our responsibilities as custodians of Oyo's traditions. We hope the governor will accord us the respect we deserve on this issue.

"Oyomesi remains steadfast in preserving the cultural heritage of Oyo. Please recognize that you remain liable to prosecution for the defamatory acts committed by you in office, for which you may be held accountable after your period of immunity is over."

Armed Forces Remembrance Day: Shettima, Akpabio, others honour fallen heroes

By Dave Oludare Oso



Vice President Kashim Shettima led other top government functionaries, including Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, Speaker of the House of Representatives Tajudeen Abbas, Chief Justice of Nigeria, Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, and others, to lay wreaths in commemoration of the 2025 Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration. Shettima represented President Bola Tinubu who has been away attending the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in the UAE.

Tinubu departed Abuja last Saturday to participate in the 2025 edition of Sustainability Week (ADSW 2025) taking place in Abu Dhabi.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, invited President Tinubu to attend the Summit, which began Monday, January 12, and will end on Saturday, January 18.

The Summit aims to bring together global leaders to accelerate sustainable development and advance socio-economic progress.

Other dignitaries at the Armed Forces Remembrance Day Celebration, including Service Chiefs, Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, members of the diplomatic corps, and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) George Akume.

Earlier, in a statement, the Senate commended the selfless sacrifices of the military. The upper legislative chamber also commended “serving officers and soldiers who are currently maintaining the peace and ensuring that our nation is secured and safe from internal and external aggression.”

Every January 15, Nigeria’s military comes together to commemorate Armed Forces Remembrance Day. This day is set aside to honor the heroes of the Nigerian Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives for the nation.

Armed Forces Remembrance Day also celebrates military personnel currently serving on the frontlines in various parts of the country to protect

the nation.

The day is equally dedicated to honoring veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Nigerian Civil War.

As a former British colony, Nigeria initially observed Remembrance Day on November 11, alongside other countries of the Commonwealth, marking the end of World War I, known as Poppy Day.

However, following the Nigerian government’s victory over Biafran troops on January 15, 1970, the date was changed to mark the end of the Nigerian Civil War, a conflict that threatened to divide the nation’s unity.

As Nigeria marks 64 years of independence, the event served as a poignant reminder of the courage and dedication of its military heroes, ensuring the nation’s survival amid internal and external challenges.

Policeman rejects N1.6m bribe from Lakurawa terrorists in Kebbi

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A lead investigator with the Kebbi State Police Command has rejected a N1,060,000 bribe offered by three suspected Lakurawa terrorists.

The spokesperson of the command, CSP Nafiu Abubakar, disclosed this in a statement on Tuesday, January 14, 2025.

According to the statement, the suspects offered the officer a bribe to compromise the investigation and prosecution of a case of banditry allegedly perpetrated by suspected Lakurawa terrorists.

“On January 13, 2025, at about 1800hrs, one Umaru Garba ‘m’ aged 53yrs of Dangandu village, Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji Mamman ‘m’ aged 51yrs of Maimaichi village, all of Arewa LGA, and Usman Muhammadu ‘m’ aged 50yrs of Bakaramba village in Argungu LGA, conspired and offered the sum of One Million and Sixty Thousand Naira (N1, 060, 000) bribe to the Command’s lead Investigator, at the premises of the State Criminal Investigation Department, State Headquarters, Gwadangaji, Birnin Kebbi,” the statement read.

“The bribe is to compromise the Investigation and prosecution of a case of banditry allegedly perpetrated by suspected Lakurawa terrorists operating in the northern part of the State.

“The suspects were instantly arrested, and the investigation is still ongoing, after which they will be charged to court for prosecution.

“Sequel to this development, the Commissioner of Police, Kebbi State Command, CP Bello M Sani, had commended the commitment and professionalism displayed by the Detectives and urged other Police Officers to emulate them.”

“The statement also mentioned that the commissioner reiterated the Command’s determination in the ongoing fight against banditry and other serious crimes to allow socio-economic activities to thrive in Kebbi State.”



The attempted bribe occurred at the premises of the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Gwadangaji, Birnin Kebbi.

They will be charged to court upon the conclusion of the investigation, Abubakar stated.

On his part, the state Commissioner of Police, Bello Sani, commended the detectives for their integrity and professionalism. He urged other officers to emulate their commitment to upholding justice.

Sani reiterated the command’s resolve to intensify efforts in combating banditry and other crimes to ensure socio-economic development in

Kebbi State.

Lakurawa is an armed group reportedly affiliated with extremist organizations operating in the Sahel region, particularly in Mali and Niger. They have begun making inroads into Northern Nigeria, specifically in Sokoto and Kebbi states.

Their activities are concentrated in five local government areas of Sokoto State, namely: Tangaza, Gudu, Illela, Binji, and Silame. Initially founded as a self-defense group to fight criminals in the Nigerian bandit conflict, the group eventually became increasingly radical, oppressive, and opposed to regular state agencies.

Tinubu advocates global collaboration for sustainable energy future at UAE Summit

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu, on Wednesday in the United Arab Emirates, reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to collaborating with other nations to build a resilient, equitable, and sustainable world.

Addressing a global audience on the second day of the 2025 Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the president spoke on the theme, "From Climate Imperatives to Economic Prosperity: Bridging Africa with the Global Energy Future."

He emphasised that no single nation can achieve sustainability in isolation, highlighting that global interconnectedness necessitates collective action, knowledge sharing, and mutual support.

President Tinubu also described the fight against climate change as not just an environmental obligation but a transformative economic opportunity to redefine Africa's trajectory and reshape the global energy landscape.

"As leaders, stakeholders and citizens of our planet, we stand at a critical juncture in human history. To succeed, we must innovate, collaborate and act decisively as one global community," he said.

President Tinubu reaffirmed his administration's commitment to reducing carbon emissions, assuring the audience that the Nigerian government had implemented actionable programmes that align with global expectations while considering Nigeria's unique economic and political realities.

The former governor of Lagos State emphasised that Nigeria had adopted a sustainability vision that harmonizes global aspirations with local challenges.

"Our efforts are anchored on three pillars: Energy Transition, Climate Resilience, and Sustainable Development. My administration recognises the importance of reducing carbon emissions and a just transition to clean and renewable energy, promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth.

"Our energy transition plans, like many nations, are aimed at diversifying energy sources and reducing dependency on



fossil fuels, prioritising the transition to cleaner energy sources as a cornerstone of our national development strategy."

He stated that Nigeria is actively developing infrastructure to facilitate the widespread adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and electric vehicles while leveraging the potential of solid minerals to drive the green energy transition.

The Nigerian leader emphasized that the country is adopting climate-smart agricultural practices to boost food security and reduce harmful environmental impacts.

He highlighted initiatives like the National Clean Cooking Policy, which is designed to promote clean energy, deliver environmental and health benefits, and foster socio-economic development across the African region.

President Tinubu noted that the government is engaging local communities to implement targeted solutions for mitigating environmental challenges such as deforestation, desertification, coastal erosion, flooding, and pollution.

He warned that these challenges jeopardize the livelihoods of millions of Nigerians.

The President urged partner nations to collaborate in mobilizing resources,

adopting innovative solutions, and leveraging technology to address these pressing environmental issues.

"To promote a Green Economy in Africa, we must focus on integrating sustainable practices in all sectors of our economy. These investments are capital intensive and require international support from partner countries, including multinational organisations, development partners and individuals who share our vision of a sustainable, prosperous and equitable future", he said

President Tinubu highlighted Nigeria's pioneering role in Africa as the first country to fund green projects through Sovereign Green Bond proceeds, with the third issuance currently underway.

He encouraged investors to collaborate with the nation in advancing this initiative, reaffirming his administration's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment in Nigeria.

He emphasised that partnerships with global leaders and the adoption of advanced technologies are driving innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Tinubu also underscored Nigeria's vast potential, citing its fertile agricultural lands as ideal for advanced technological farming and the promising opportunities Artificial Intelligence presents for the country's future.

Abia First Lady pledges to combat HIV/AIDS stigma, empowers affected individuals

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The wife of the Abia State Governor, Mrs Priscilla Otti, has reiterated her dedication to eradicating the stigma and discrimination faced by people living with HIV/AIDS in the state.

Speaking during a meeting with members of the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN) and the Key Population (KP) group at her residence in Nvosi, Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area, Mrs Otti reaffirmed her administration's commitment to advocacy, empowerment, and creating a supportive, stigma-free environment for those affected.

"HIV is not a death sentence," Mrs Otti stated, urging people living with HIV/AIDS to seek treatment and reject societal prejudice.

"We are making progress in suppressing the spread of the disease, but we must do more to prevent new infections and ensure a stigma-free society."

As part of her efforts, the governor's wife announced plans to implement and enforce laws that prohibit discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in Abia State.

She pledged to collaborate with key stakeholders to ensure these legal protections are upheld.

"Our initiative signifies a bold step towards building an inclusive and compassionate society where no one feels left behind due to their health status," Mrs Otti said.

In a bid to empower women and youths engaged in commercial sex work, Mrs Otti revealed plans to introduce skill acquisition programmes that will provide alternative opportunities and uplift vulnerable individuals.

The Director-General of the Abia State Agency for the Control of AIDS (ABSACA), Dr Uloaku Emma, highlighted the progress made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, with 46,788 individuals currently undergoing treatment in the state. However, she emphasised that eliminating stigma remains crucial to achieving zero new infections.

Representatives from NEPWHAN and the KP group, including National Secretary Mr Joseph Anosike and State Coordinator Mr Agbai Okali,



expressed gratitude for Mrs Otti's intervention.

They called for sustainable support through job creation and ongoing sensitisation campaigns to address vulnerabilities and combat the virus effectively.

The meeting concluded with the distribution of bags of rice and cash donations to attendees, symbolising the state government's commitment to improving the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS.

Mrs Otti's efforts are aligned with the broader goal of the Abia State government to foster an inclusive society and ensure that no one is marginalised due to their health status.

Fire razes popular Abuja hotel, Focus Holiday Inn

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

Focus Holiday Inn, a popular hotel in the Garki area of Abuja, the federal capital territory (FCT), has been engulfed by fire.

According to a hotel staff, the alarm was raised by a reportedly unclad guest who rushed to the reception, to alert workers about the blaze.

The fire, which originated from a section of the three-storey building quickly spread to other parts, causing widespread panic among guests and employees.

Despite multiple distress calls, fire service responders reportedly came late. However, as of the time of this report, fire crews were on site working to contain the blaze.

Established in 2022, Focus Holiday Inn promotes itself as an upscale and luxurious retreat in Nigeria's capital city. The cause of the fire remains unknown, and no casualties have been reported.

Efforts to contact representatives of the hotel, fire service, and police for further information were unsuccessful.

Fire incidents have become commonplace in the federal capital territory (FCT) lately. On September 25, 2023, a section of the supreme court building went up in flames.

On November 2, 2024, fire razed a telecommunications facility in the Maitama area of the city. On November 13, a popular fitness centre in Gwarinpa was gutted by fire.

Also, there have also been one too many building collapse incidents in the city.



FCMB, 8 other banks' USSD Codes to be disconnected over unpaid debts

By Friday Omosola



The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has instructed telecommunications companies to deactivate the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) codes assigned to nine banks due to a backlog of unpaid debts.

In a directive issued by the NCC's Director of Public Affairs, Reuben Muoka, on Tuesday and obtained by the affected banks have until January 27, 2025, to settle their debts or risk losing access to their USSD platforms.

Although the NCC did not disclose the total amount owed, it revealed that the debts, some of which date back to 2020, were part of an initial sum exceeding N200 billion owed by 18 financial institutions.

While other banks have cleared their outstanding invoices, nine banks have failed to comply with the regulatory directives.

According to the NCC's notice, "As of the close of business on Tuesday,

January 14, 2025, nine out of 18 financial institutions have not significantly complied with the directives outlined in the Second Joint Circular of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the NCC, dated December 20, 2024, regarding the settlement of outstanding invoices owed to Mobile Network Operators (MNOs)."

The affected banks include: Fidelity Bank Plc, First City Monument Bank, Jaiz Bank Plc, Polaris Bank Limited, Sterling Bank Limited, United Bank for Africa Plc, Unity Bank Plc, Wema Bank Plc and Zenith Bank Plc

"USSD codes such as 770, 919, and 822, among others, may be reassigned to other applicants if the debts are not resolved promptly", said NCC.

NCC further stated that the banks' inability to adhere to the CBN-NCC joint circular disqualifies them from meeting the good

standing requirements needed for the renewal of their USSD codes.

"In line with its consumer protection mandate, the commission informs the public that access to the USSD platforms of the affected banks may be disrupted starting January 27, 2025, if the debts remain unpaid," the NCC warned.

Meanwhile, data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) shows that between January and June 2024, over 252.06 million USSD transactions worth N2.19 trillion were conducted, underscoring the significance of the platform to financial services in the country.

The NCC reiterated that the affected financial institutions have been duly notified and urged them to comply immediately to avoid service disruptions.

Lagos launches 'Eko Learners' Support' for WAEC, NECO candidates

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



To assist candidates preparing for the West African Examinations Council (WAEC) and National Examination Council (NECO) examinations, the Lagos State Government has unveiled a new initiative tagged the Eko Learners' Support.

The Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Mr. Jamiu Alli-Balogun, who spoke during the programme's official launching at the Education Resource Centre in Lagos on Tuesday, said the initiative is designed to help students excel in their external examinations.

He said, "These lessons will be broadcast on Lagos Television, as well as other social media platforms, and will feature proficient teachers who have undergone rigorous screening."

The programme aims to create a space where candidates can privately engage with the resources, provide feedback, and ask questions. Students are also encouraged to create a collaborative forum with their teachers and fellow learners, fostering an environment of mutual support and improvement.

The programme will feature 320 lessons across 10 subjects:

- English
- Mathematics

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Economics
- Government
- History
- Literature-in-English
- Yoruba

The lessons will be aired for 26 weeks, with each episode lasting 30 minutes. After the broadcast, the lessons will be archived on various social media platforms, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter), ensuring easy access for students.

The commissioner added, "The lessons after broadcast on television are archived permanently on social media platforms.

"The idea is to get the learners and candidates energising one another to improve performance."

The lessons are developed in line with the Lagos State Government-approved Scheme of Work and the WAEC & NECO syllabus. The content will be delivered sequentially, allowing students to revisit areas they may have missed.

"The lessons have been developed and prepared in accordance with the

Lagos State Government approved Scheme of Work and the WAEC & NECO syllabus," Alli-Balogun said.

The commissioner urged students to take full advantage of the programme, emphasizing that their dedication and hard work would be essential to achieving their academic goals. He also reminded them that education is a lifelong journey and assured them of the government's continued support.

This new initiative follows in the footsteps of other successful educational programmes spearheaded by the Lagos State Government. One such programme is EKOEXCEL, a transformative initiative aimed at improving the quality of primary education in the state.

EKOEXCEL has been widely recognized for its innovative approach, which includes the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning. The programme's success has garnered international attention, with the initiative being featured at the Education World Forum and praised for its impact on improving student outcomes.

The Eko Learners' Support programme builds on the foundation laid by EKOEXCEL, further cementing Lagos State's position as a leader in educational innovation in Nigeria.

EFCC denies claims of N6bn fraud suspect being tribunal witness

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has refuted claims that Jonathan Okunbor, a suspect under investigation for an alleged N6 billion fraud, was serving as a witness in the ongoing Edo State election tribunal.

The denial follows statements made by Asue Ighodalo, the governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), who had alleged that Okunbor was one of his witnesses in the tribunal.

In a statement released on Wednesday, January 15, Dele Oyewale, the EFCC's Head of Media and Publicity, clarified that Okunbor is not involved in the election proceedings, as claimed by Ighodalo.

He emphasised that Okunbor is the primary suspect in a case of alleged misappropriation of funds that spans all 18 local government areas of Edo State.

"The attention of the EFCC has been drawn to a trending video suggesting that Mr Jonathan Okunbor, a suspect being investigated for an alleged N6 billion fraud, was an election witness," Oyewale stated.

"The Commission wishes to categorically state that Okunbor is not a witness for the PDP in the election tribunal, as claimed by Mr. Asue Ighodalo. Instead, he is the prime suspect in an ongoing investigation into the misappropriation of funds across the state."

Investigations have revealed that approximately N6 billion was allegedly diverted to Kezmith Global Ventures, a company owned by Okunbor, who is accused of operating the firm under the false identity of Godfrey Emode.

"Ongoing investigations have shown that around N6 billion was diverted to Kezmith Global Ventures, owned by Okunbor," Oyewale explained. "The



suspect was running the company using the name and identity of Mr. Godfrey Emode."

Further inquiries by the EFCC led to the arrest of Emode, whose detention provided investigators with information that ultimately led them to Okunbor. The suspect was found at Eterno Hotel during a pre-trial meeting related to the election tribunal.

Despite claims from Ighodalo's lawyer that Okunbor was not a witness in the tribunal, the EFCC's officers attempted to carry out Okunbor's arrest at the hotel. According to Oyewale, Ighodalo and others present obstructed the EFCC officers in their duty to apprehend the suspect.

"In spite of this, Mr Ighodalo and his associates at Eterno Hotel hindered the EFCC officers from fulfilling their constitutional duty and attempted to prevent Okunbor's arrest," Oyewale stated. "Specifically, Ighodalo insisted that Okunbor was his witness, when it

was clear that he was attempting to assist Okunbor's escape from the Commission's investigators."

The EFCC reaffirmed its commitment to the rule of law, emphasising that its focus remains on pursuing corruption charges, regardless of any connections to election tribunal matters.

"The EFCC remains committed to upholding the rule of law," said Oyewale.

"The Commission has no interest in any Edo State election witness who is not under investigation for corruption. We will not hesitate to bring anyone to trial, witness or not, if there is a basis for doing so."

The EFCC also urged the public to disregard the misleading claims and reiterated its dedication to transparency and accountability in its operations.

Prince Ladigbolu reflects on Alaafin throne contest, congratulates new king

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



One of the contenders for the Alaafin of Oyo throne, Prince Ayobami Ladigbolu, has shared his experiences following his participation in the contest for the revered position.

In a heartfelt statement posted on Facebook on Tuesday, January 14, Ladigbolu congratulated Oba Abimbola Owoade, the newly crowned Alaafin, describing his emergence as divinely ordained.

He expressed his joy for the new king and emphasised that his ascension to the throne was God's will.

Reflecting on his own journey during the race for the throne, Prince Ladigbolu expressed his disappointment that some of his initial supporters withdrew their backing, shifting allegiance to other candidates due to financial constraints.

Despite this, he expressed no bitterness, instead reflecting on the valuable lessons he learned from the experience.

"I learned the value of money in one's life from the race for the crown of Alaafinate," Ladigbolu wrote.

"Due to financial constraints, some of the

people who first backed me later switched to another candidate. When I needed their help on the Alaafinate issue, those I had previously supported did the exact reverse for me. When it comes to the time to help me, those I have helped with their businesses ran away. I am not upset with them. I just took away some lessons for the future."

Ladigbolu took a moment to thank the Agbonhin Sanda Oridota family and the larger Ladigbolu section of the Agunloye royal family for nominating and supporting him as a candidate for the throne.

In his message of congratulations to Oba Abimbola Owoade, Ladigbolu stated, "I congratulate Oba Aláàfin Abimbola Akeem Owoade, the new Aláàfin of Oyo town. He was chosen by God almighty. Oba Akeem Abimbola Owoade has been destined to take the throne. I am happy for him. The entire Ladigbolu family felicitate with the new king. Congratulations. Kaabiesi."

Th prince also expressed his gratitude to those who supported him

throughout the journey, including his siblings, wife, children, and other unnamed benefactors.

He also took the opportunity to praise his fellow royal contenders, particularly Prince Kolade Tunde Sanni Oladigbolu and Prince Muideen Adekunle Oladigbolu, whom he described as "blood brothers."

In his final message, Prince Ladigbolu called on the people of Oyo to unite behind the new Alaafin, stating, "I urge the natives of Oyo town to support the new king. Contests for kingship are not without a few controversies. We should manage the controversy and support the new king to build a viable Oyo and Yorubá land of our dream."

With these words, Ladigbolu reiterated his commitment to the unity and progress of Oyo and called on the people to move forward together under the leadership of the newly installed Alaafin.

Why I'll never let my children join Nigerian Army – 76-year-old veteran

By Friday Omosola



As Nigeria celebrates Armed Forces Remembrance Day, a retired military officer, Colonel Nasiru Salami, has expressed deep dissatisfaction with the treatment of Nigerian Army retirees, describing it as unfair and disheartening.

The 76-year-old civil war veteran shared his story as a guest on Channels Television's 'The Morning Brief' programme.

Recounting his journey, Salami revealed that he enlisted in the Nigerian Army in October 1967 and, after just six weeks of training, was thrust into the Biafra war.

He spent 11 gruelling months on the battlefield during the civil war from 1967 to 1970.

The former soldier, now serving as Secretary of the Nigerian Legion's Lagos Chapter, recounted a life-altering injury he sustained during the war, nearly losing his right foot.

He underwent surgery to have plastic

materials embedded in his foot and, despite the severity of his condition, returned to the battlefield to continue fighting.

In a candid remark, Salami stated that he would never encourage his children to follow in his footsteps by joining the Nigerian Army. "At this point, I cannot advise any of my children to join the Nigerian Army," he said.

"They see me now, and my life doesn't meet their expectations. They would want me to be happier, more fulfilled, and better off. How can I then recommend the same path for them?"

He added, "I have two children who are university graduates, and I told them, 'Don't even think about joining the Army. If you must serve, consider the Navy or Air Force—they seem to have better conditions.'"

Salami also lamented the plight of the Nigerian Legion's over 24,000

members in Lagos and highlighted the neglect faced by civil war veterans.

He disclosed that he and other survivors of the war have yet to receive promised bonuses, despite decades of waiting.

"We've been waiting for over 50 years for the war bonuses they assured us of. I retired in December 1983, and the promises of support, pensions, and benefits have largely been unfulfilled," he said.

Appealing to the government, Salami urged them to honor their commitments to war veterans, improve their welfare, and recognize their sacrifices for the nation. "It's time the government does the right thing for those of us who gave everything to serve this country," he concluded.

Meme coins: What you should know about them as someone new in crypto

By Friday Omosola



Today is another opportunity to learn something new about cryptocurrency, whether you're a beginner or an experienced expert. Today we are going to be talking about meme coins.

Perhaps you have heard about them before and not sure of what they are, this article has all you need to know about them.

Meme coins are cryptocurrencies that originated from internet memes or jokes. Unlike Bitcoin or Ethereum, which were created to solve real-world financial problems, meme coins often start as lighthearted experiments or social commentaries.

The functionality of these coins varies widely. Some of them have no specific purpose beyond existing as a digital asset, while others may offer features like Transactions, Staking and Decentralized Finance (DeFi).

Many meme coins are born out of a desire to create a fun, engaging community around a shared interest or joke. Some serve as a form of social commentary, poking fun at the cryptocurrency market or traditional financial systems while others can be used as a marketing tool to

promote other projects or ideas.

The volatile nature of these coins can attract investors looking for quick profits, although this is a risky endeavor. Some of the most well-known meme coins include Dogecoin (DOGE), Shiba Inu (SHIB), Pepe Coin (PEPE).

These coins have taken the cryptocurrency world by storm, capturing the attention of investors and enthusiasts alike.

Are meme coins a risky investment?

Investing in meme coins is highly speculative and carries a high degree of risk. They are known for their extreme price fluctuations. Their value can surge or plummet dramatically in a short period, leading to substantial losses for investors.

Unlike traditional investments, meme coins often lack underlying value or utility. Their price is primarily driven by speculation and social media trends, making them highly susceptible to market manipulation and pump-and-dump schemes.

Their value is also heavily reliant on the strength and sentiment of their

online communities. If the community loses interest or becomes inactive, the coin's value can quickly decline.

While investing in meme coins is generally considered high-risk, there are some potential advantages that attract investors. These coins are known for their extreme volatility, which can lead to significant short-term gains if timed correctly.

The rapid price surges driven by social media hype and community enthusiasm can result in substantial profits for early investors.

Unlike complex blockchain projects with intricate technical details, meme coins are often simple and easy to understand.

This can make them appealing to new investors who are just starting to explore the world of cryptocurrency.

They also typically have a lower price per coin, making them more accessible to a wider range of investors, including those with limited capital.

Lagos vaccinates 3.5 million children against measles, others

By Helen Okechukwu

The Lagos State Government has revealed that no fewer than 3.5 million children were vaccinated against measles while 20.3 million residents received vaccination for yellow fever in 2024.

The revelation was made known by Dr. Abimbola Bowale, the Supervising Permanent Secretary of the Lagos State Primary Healthcare Board, yesterday during a conference for November supplemental immunisation activities and the polio outbreak response.

Reminiscing about the 2024 campaign held on 19 October, Dr. Bowale acknowledged that the campaign was a result of combined efforts and commitment from dedicated healthcare workers, partners, and Lagos people.

He noted that the campaigner aimed to cover the gap in immunisation coverage and combat the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases in the state.

Dr. Bowale said, “This is a comprehensive campaign targeting measles, yellow fever, and Human Papillomavirus (HPV), prioritising high-risk populations and leveraging innovative strategies to maximise impact.”

“By focusing on both urban and remote communities, the campaign sought to achieve herd immunity, reduce disease transmission, and strengthen routine immunisation systems.”

Read Also: Nigeria launches Mpox vaccination programme in Abuja

While emphasising the state government’s commitment to protecting lives, he said that from 18



January to 22 January of 2025, there will be a polio outbreak response in all 20 local governments and 37 local council development areas to maintain the country’s polio-free status.

The target venues to visit for the vaccine include residential homes, schools, churches, mosques, gated estates, and all public places.

He said, “If we become complacent, the entire country is vulnerable to reinfection by the wild poliovirus, especially with a recent outbreak of wild polio-virus type 1 in Malawi and Mozambique.

“Therefore, every state must maintain its zero WPV status and halt the transmission of circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVPV2) by conducting high-quality campaigns and improving routine immunisation coverage to ensure high population immunity as a deterrent

against any reinfection of the wild poliovirus.

Dr. Kemi Ogunyemi, the Special Adviser on Health, appreciated significant stakeholders and partners collaborating with the state government in the health sector for their unwavering support.

The stakeholders include the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI), and community-based organisations.

My life improved after Mohbad's death – Father

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Joseph Aloba, father of the late Nigerian singer Mohbad, has seen his life change dramatically since his son's tragic passing.

In a heartfelt interview with media personality Akin Abolade, Aloba revealed how divine intervention and his son's spirit have brought unexpected blessings into his life.

Unfulfilled plans and a father's loss
Aloba shared that Mohbad had always intended to improve his father's life in significant ways. Sadly, those plans were left incomplete. "He always wanted to do so much for me," Aloba said. "But they didn't let him fulfil those dreams."

My life improved after Mohbad's death – Father

My life improved after Mohbad's death – Father

Blessings beyond ordinary

Since Mohbad's death, Aloba has experienced an outpouring of support from strangers. He attributed this to a combination of divine guidance and his son's spirit influencing people to

help him.

"Everything I have now—the car, the support—it came from people moved to help me," he said. Among these blessings are a car, a truck, and a Toyota Highlander SUV, all gifts from compassionate Nigerians. "It's beyond ordinary. These are things Mohbad wanted to do for me but couldn't."

Cherished memories of Mohbad
Aloba fondly recalled Mohbad's early years, revealing that his son started as his backup singer at the remarkable age of one. These memories reflect a deep bond between father and son, rooted in shared passions and dreams.

Life of faith and resilience

Aloba also recounted his journey. As a carpenter, singer, and pastor, he faced challenges but found strength in his faith.

Mohbad's birth marked a turning point in his life. He explained how the loss of funds from the naming ceremony inspired him to pursue music.

Honoring Mohbad through music

Since his son's passing, Aloba has taken

steps to honor Mohbad's legacy. He has released nine new tracks, a creative outlet that keeps him connected to his son's memory.

Community's compassion
Nigerians from all walks of life have come together to support Aloba during this difficult time. The gifts he has received serve as a testament to the profound impact Mohbad had on those around him.

Unanswered questions remain
Despite the blessings and support, the pain of loss lingers. Mohbad passed away on September 12, 2023, under unclear circumstances. The cause of his death remains unknown, casting a shadow over the family's healing process.

Finding hope amid loss

Joseph Aloba's story is one of resilience and hope. While he mourns the loss of his beloved son, he finds comfort in the kindness of strangers and the belief that Mohbad's spirit continues to guide and protect him.

Fuji music maestro, King Wasiu Ayinde loses wife

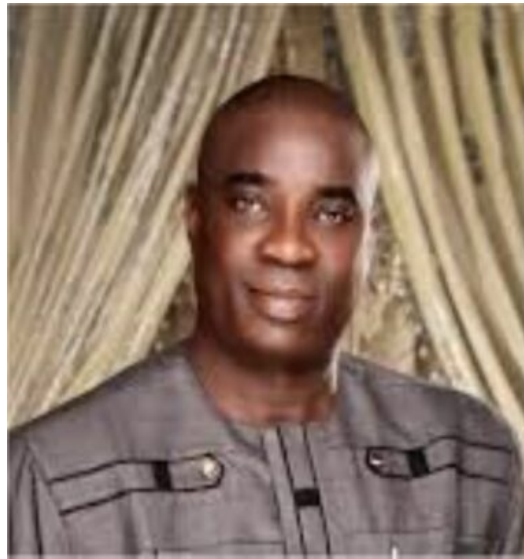
By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Legendary Fuji musician, King Wasiu Ayinde Marshal, popularly known as KWAM 1 or K1 de Ultimate, has lost one of his former wives, Alhaja Hafsat Ajoke Anifowoshe.

Alhaja Hafsat, who passed away in the early hours of Tuesday, succumbed to an undisclosed illness. She was the mother of one of his daughters, Honourable Idayat Anifowoshe, a Special Assistant on Special Duties to Dr. Mayor Muibi Alade Folawiyo, the executive chairman of Lagos Island East Local Council Development Authority, LIELCDA.

She was aged 65 years.

Commiserating with Honourable Idayat, Olushoga Olushola, the Chief Press Secretary to The Executive Chairman of LIELCDA on behalf of his principal said, "We know it hurts so deeply to lose a loving mother and dependable partner. We wish we could find enough words to comfort you at this moment.



"You must, however, take solace in the time your mother spent on earth and her good service to God and humanity.

"We understand she was an excellent woman, affectionate mother and dutiful mother of her children who was loved by all those who came in contact with her.

"Rest assured that our thoughts are with you and our prayers are that you, the children and all those she left behind will

find the strength to continue where she stopped. May her soul find eternal rest."

She was laid to rest at Abari Cemetery in Lagos shortly after her demise according to Islamic traditions.

We could have decided to wait before having kids – Lateef Adedimeji

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Versatile Nollywood actor, Lateef Adedimeji has come out to share how he and his wife, Adebimpe Oyebade Adedimeji, fondly called Mobimpe handle online trolls.

He recently had his say during his interview with Chude Jideonwo.

According to him, someone recently called his wife barren on social media and she showed him the comment, but he keeps telling her to ignore because the trolls will be alright eventually.

Lteef added that people don't even know if he and his wife decided to wait before having kids, they just prefer to conclude.

His words, "We have always been of the opinion that 'this is you, and this is me' and we have conversations all the time.

"Over time we have received lots of



trolls; recently someone still called my wife barren on social media, and she was like, 'Ade, come and see,' and she'd show me. That's how they come at her every time, but they'd be alright. I always tell her to leave them; they'd be fine and they'd be good. When it's time, what would be would be, just do your thing.

"People don't know what you go through, and they don't know your decisions. They don't even know if we have decided to wait before having kids, and what we are building is not what everybody wants to build."

May D: I was a 'house-husband' to my ex-Swedish wife

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Singer Akinmayokun Awodumila, better known by his stage name May D, has revealed intimate details about his marriage and its eventual breakdown.

Speaking candidly on the Honest Bunch Podcast, the singer discussed his time living in Sweden and his decision to become a "house husband."

Relationship that began in 2014

May D shared that his journey to Sweden was part of an extensive European tour. While the tour had him traveling across the continent, Sweden became particularly meaningful to him.

It was there that May D found inspiration for his music and began a relationship that would change his life.

The singer disclosed that he had been in a relationship with a Swedish woman since 2014. She frequently visited him in Nigeria, and over time, their bond grew stronger.

During his tour, he had the opportunity to meet her parents, and it was clear that they had a good rapport. This led to a decision that would ultimately alter his personal and professional life.

Marriage and embracing fatherhood

May D explained that he and his girlfriend eventually decided to settle down, and he got married to her. He moved to Sweden, where he embraced his new role as a stay-at-home dad.

While his wife worked, May D stayed home to care for their child. His decision to stay home was not out of financial necessity, as he clarified that his music career was still thriving. In fact, his income from shows often surpassed his wife's earnings.

The decision to be a house husband,



May D emphasized, was driven by his desire to prioritize his family. "We had a child, and I was the one who took care of the baby.

My wife couldn't work and look after the child at the same time," he said. His commitment to his family and his role as a caregiver was clear, even though he was still actively performing.

He explained that he had been stuck in Nigeria at the time, and this physical separation was a catalyst for the breakdown of their relationship.

While May D did hint that infidelity was not a factor in the divorce, he chose not to go into detail about the other reasons that may have contributed to the split.

"A show took me to Sweden, but I decided to stay there. Inspiration is in Sweden," May D recalled, reflecting on how the country's culture influenced his creative process. "I had a girlfriend from Sweden since 2014, and she was always visiting Nigeria. When I visited her country, I met her parents, and everything felt right. They were welcoming, and so we decided to get married."

Starting a new chapter

He continued, sharing how he made the decision to get a house in Sweden for the couple, and how his life transitioned into a more domestic role.

While his wife worked, May D still managed to make money from his music career, often earning more than she did.

Despite the success he achieved in Sweden and his role as a loving father, the couple's marriage ultimately ended when circumstances took a turn. "We eventually divorced during COVID-19 because I got stuck in Nigeria," he said.

Though he hinted that cheating was not the cause of the divorce, May D left out further details, leaving fans to speculate on the real reasons behind their split.

His openness on the podcast, however, allowed listeners a glimpse into his personal life and the sacrifices he made for his family.

Tiwa Savage: Nigerian music industry has dangerous sharks

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Afrobeats superstar Tiwa Savage captured attention with a stunning video showing her fearlessly swimming alongside sharks in crystal-clear waters.

The footage, posted on her social media, showed the singer fearlessly navigating clear waters as the predators circled nearby.

Fans were quick to react, flooding her comments with concern and warnings about the potential dangers.

Fans Express Worry Over Her Safety

As the video gained traction, many followers voiced their unease. Messages poured in, urging the singer to prioritize her safety.

Some questioned her decision to take such a bold risk, while others speculated about the precautions taken to ensure she stayed unharmed.

Savage's Unexpected Response

In response to the growing buzz, Savage took to her Instagram Stories to address the concerns. Her reaction was as sharp as it was surprising. "Everyone worried about me swimming with sharks," she wrote. "But the ones in this music industry are way more f*cking dangerous."

Her statement turned the conversation on its head. By shifting the focus from the sea creatures to the challenges she faces in her career, she sparked a deeper discussion about the music industry's harsh realities.

The Sharks of the Music Industry

Savage's bold comparison sheds light on the struggles many artists face. The Nigerian music industry,



while celebrated for its talent and cultural impact, is known for its intense competition and high stakes.

For artists, navigating this world can feel like swimming with metaphorical sharks—deal breakers, betrayals, and relentless pressure are all part of the game.

Savage's words resonated with fans and fellow artists alike. Many praised her for speaking out about an issue that often goes unspoken.

Social media platforms lit up with reactions, with supporters applauding her courage and calling her statement a much-needed reality check.

A Reflection of Resilience

As one of the most successful voices in Afrobeats, Tiwa Savage's career has been a mix of triumphs and challenges.

Her journey to the top has not been without hurdles, but her latest remarks remind fans of her strength and determination.

Behind the glamour and accolades lies a story of resilience and survival in a cutthroat industry.

A Powerful Message

Savage's ability to transform a personal moment into a broader conversation highlights her connection with her audience.

Whether through her music or her words, she knows how to make an impact. Her recent comments serve as a reminder of the unseen battles many artists face and the strength it takes to persevere.

Why Tiwa Savage's Voice Matters

This moment is more than just a viral video or a clever metaphor—it's a testament to Tiwa Savage's fearless spirit.

By sharing her perspective, she has opened up an important dialogue about the challenges of success. Once again, she proves why she remains not just a leading voice in Afrobeats, but a symbol of authenticity and courage.

Abuja court grants Speed Darlington bail

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Controversial Nigerian singer Darlington Okoye, popularly known as Speed Darlington, has been granted bail by an Abuja court.

This comes after the Nigeria Police Force succumbed to mounting public pressure and finally brought him before the court.

Darlington's lawyer, Deji Adeyanju, broke the news on social media platform X, confirming that the police had arraigned his client.

He shared, "Police finally arraigns Speed Darlington in court. Bail application moved and granted. We are trying to perfect same." However, the specific conditions of Darlington's bail remain undisclosed to the public.

The case has sparked significant attention due to the singer's controversial comments. Speed Darlington's legal troubles began after he accused Grammy-winning artist Burna Boy of having an improper relationship with US music mogul Sean Combs, also known as P. Diddy.

The allegations, which were widely discussed on social media, led to Okoye's arrest. He was taken into custody by the police in late 2024.

Petition for Release

Before his recent court appearance, Darlington had been detained for an extended period. He responded by filing a formal petition to the Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) Dasuki Galadanchi, requesting his release or for the police to comply with a court order.

The court order, issued by Justice M.S. Liman on December 23, 2024, instructed the police to either bring Darlington to trial within 48 hours or



release him without further delay. This directive came after concerns over his prolonged detention without charge.

Public Outcry and Police Pressure

Despite the court's ruling, Darlington was not immediately released from custody. His continued detention sparked public outcry, especially from his supporters, who argued that his rights were being violated. Many questioned why he was still held after a court had given clear instructions on his case.

The pressure from the public and his legal team eventually led to the police bringing him to court. After his arraignment, the court granted him bail. Although the exact details of the bail remain unclear, Darlington's release marks a significant turn in his ongoing legal saga.

His supporters, who have been vocal throughout the ordeal, see this as a victory for justice.

Controversy and Ongoing Debate

The controversy surrounding him has only intensified since his arrest. His accusations against Burna Boy and P. Diddy continue to generate debate across social media and in the Nigerian press.

Critics argue that his claims were unfounded and provocative, while his supporters believe he was unfairly targeted for speaking out.

Regardless, the case has attracted attention to issues of free speech and the treatment of individuals within the Nigerian legal system.

Next Steps in the Legal Battle

As he navigates the legal process, it remains to be seen how the case will unfold. While he has been granted bail for now, the charges against him are still pending.

This means the singer's legal battle is far from over. He and his lawyer are focused on ensuring that his rights are upheld throughout the process.

In the coming weeks, more details about the case and the bail conditions may be revealed. For now, his release from detention has offered some relief to his supporters, while the wider public watches closely for the next developments in this high-profile case.

Russia planning acts of terror against airlines – Polish PM

By Dave Oludare Oso

Russia has been planning acts of 'air terror' against airlines worldwide, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk sensationally claimed on Wednesday as he met with Ukrainian leader, Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Warsaw.

Tusk accused Moscow of staging sabotage and diversion on Polish soil and beyond.

"All I can say, and I will not go into details, but I can confirm the validity of these fears, is that Russia has been planning acts of air terror, and not only against Poland, but against airlines all over the world," Tusk told reporters.

It comes just weeks after Russia was accused of shooting down an Azerbaijan Airlines plane over its soil, before the plane crash landed in Kazakhstan, killing 83.

Government sources blamed Russia but said they did not think it was done on purpose.

Ten years ago, Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was also shot down over eastern Ukraine in territory controlled by Russian and Russia-led forces, killing 298, including 80 children.

A Joint Investigation Team found that the plane was hit by a Russian missile from the Russian 53rd Anti-aircraft Brigade.

The allegation comes amid growing fears Putin could be plotting to use 'hybrid warfare' to undermine Ukraine's backers in the West.

Defence officials warned in November that Europe remains 'totally unprepared' to deal with such threats, lacking the resources to effectively counter sabotage, arson, assassination and attacks on infrastructure.

A former senior European official told the Guardian Europe could expect more 'hybrid' attacks to unfold on the continent in the wake of the American decision to permit usage of long-range ATACMS missiles against targets deep inside Russia.

Russia has been accused of trying to destabilize the West and allies since



the war in Ukraine began by allegedly 'weaponizing mass migration' along its western border, sabotaging Nord Stream pipelines providing Europe with gas, influencing elections in Moldova and Georgia, and jamming aircraft GPS.

The cutting of crucial underseas telecommunications cables in the Baltic Sea in November generated outrage and stark warnings about Russia's ability to allegedly interfere in European affairs.

A 135-mile internet link between Lithuania and Sweden's Gotland Island went out of service, according to a local supplier, before a 745-mile cable running from Helsinki to Rostock, Germany went offline.

Finland and Germany said in a joint statement that they were investigating 'an incident (that) immediately raises suspicions of intentional damage' before European ministers put together a joint statement blaming Russia on Tuesday.

UK and EU ministers said Russia's hybrid attacks were 'escalating' and 'unprecedented' in scale, posing security risks. The German cabinet has since agreed plans to allow the army to shoot down suspicious drones after several sightings over military sites.

Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said that "especially since Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine, we have seen that drones are being used more and more frequently, which poses an increasing challenge for the police and their current technology."

The ministry said, "Security services

have noted that reports of sightings of uncooperative drones over critical infrastructure and military properties in Germany are increasing."

"Espionage or sabotage are regularly considered as a possible reason," it added in a statement, as tensions between Moscow and Berlin continue to run high.

Under current regulations, soldiers can assist the police in forcing an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to change direction or land, threaten to shoot it down or fire warning shots.

But under the new proposals, a drone could be shot down by the army if it is believed the device is being "used against the lives of people or against a critical facility, and the use of armed force is the only means of averting this present danger," the ministry said.

Poland, with a deeply scarred history with Russia, made overtures to redress historic tensions with Ukraine Wednesday as Donald Tusk stood defiant against the perceived threat from Moscow.

Speaking at a press conference at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister in Warsaw Wednesday, Tusk vowed to use his country's presidency of the EU to push forward with Ukraine's membership quest.

Palestinian Authority must run Gaza after war – Prime minister

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Palestinian Authority must be the sole governing power in Gaza after the war, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa said on Wednesday, as expectations grew that a deal to halt fighting and start returning Israeli hostages was near. Who will run Gaza after the war remains one of the great unanswered questions in the negotiations, which have focused on an immediate ceasefire and exchanging hostages still held in the enclave for Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. Speaking at a conference in Norway, Mustafa said pressure must continue to agree the ceasefire in Gaza and allow in more humanitarian aid for more than 2 million people facing a severe humanitarian crisis after 15 months of war. Only the Palestinian Authority is legitimately placed to assume

governance in the Gaza Strip after fighting ends and there should be no attempt to split Gaza off from the occupied West Bank as part of a Palestinian state, he said.

“While we are waiting for the ceasefire, it is important to stress that it won’t be acceptable for any other entity to govern the Gaza Strip but the legitimate Palestinian leadership and the government of the state of Palestine,” he told the conference, according to the text of his speech.

He said Norway’s recognition last year of a Palestinian state under the Palestinian Authority was an important step towards the two-state solution backed in principle by most of the international community.

Israel has rejected any involvement by Hamas, which ran Gaza before the war, but it has been almost equally opposed to rule by the Palestinian Authority (PA), the body set up under the Oslo



interim peace accords three decades ago that has limited governing power in the West Bank.

Israeli officials accuse the PA of supporting attacks against Israel and say that broad support for Hamas among Palestinians outside Gaza means that any Palestinian state would inevitably be taken over by the group.

US SEC sues Musk over Twitter stock purchase

By Friday Omosola

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a lawsuit against Elon Musk, claiming that his 2022 purchase of Twitter shares violated securities laws.

The SEC’s court filing, published Tuesday, asserts that Musk failed to submit a required beneficial ownership report after acquiring more than five per cent of Twitter’s common stock in March 2022.

The SEC argues that Musk’s failure to file the report on time allowed him to continue buying shares at “artificially low prices,” enabling him to underpay by at least \$150 million for shares purchased after the report was due.

The 53-year-old attorney, Alex Spiro, dismissed the SEC’s lawsuit as a sham and part of a multi-year campaign of harassment against the billionaire.

“Today’s action is an admission by the SEC that they cannot bring an actual case,” Spiro said in a statement.

Musk’s tenure at Twitter, now rebranded as X, has been plagued by controversy, sparking numerous legal challenges from investors, former employees, and businesses that held contracts with the platform.



Shareholders have also filed a lawsuit against Musk, accusing him of failing to disclose his five per cent ownership in the company within the SEC’s prescribed timeline.

Meta apologises for Mark Zuckerberg's 'inadvertent error'

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Meta on Wednesday responded to Ashwini Vaishnaw's post on X, calling Mark Zuckerberg's comments on the Indian election "disappointing."

The Instagram parent company apologised for its CEO's "inadvertent error" and reiterated that India is an "important country."

Union Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, while taking offence to Mark Zuckerberg's recent remarks about Indian elections, had written on X, "As the world's largest democracy, India conducted the 2024 elections with over 640 million voters. People of India reaffirmed their trust in NDA led by PM @narendramodi Ji's leadership."

The Minister added, "Mr. Zuckerberg's claim that most incumbent governments, including India in 2024 elections, lost post-COVID is factually incorrect. From

free food for 800 million, 2.2 billion free vaccines, and aid to nations worldwide during COVID, to leading India as the fastest-growing major economy, PM Modi's decisive 3rd-term victory is a testament to good governance and public trust. @Meta, it's disappointing to see misinformation from Mr. Zuckerberg himself. Let's uphold facts and credibility."

Meta apologizes for Mark Zuckerberg's error:

Meta Vice President, Public Policy, Shivanth Thukral, while replying to Ashwini Vaishnaw's post, wrote, "@AshwiniVaishnaw @narendramodi Dear Honourable Minister @AshwiniVaishnaw, Mark's observation that many incumbent parties were not re-elected in 2024 elections holds true for several countries, BUT not India. We would like to apologise for this inadvertent error. India remains an incredibly important country for Meta and we look forward to being at the heart of its

innovative future (sic)."

What did Mark Zuckerberg say?

During his appearance on The Joe Rogan Experience, Meta CEO, Mark Zuckerberg claimed that incumbent governments, including India's, lost the trust of voters during the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that many elections in 2024 resulted in losses for these governments.

"A lot of people in the US focus on this as an American phenomenon, but I kind of think that the reaction to Covid probably caused a breakdown and trust in a lot of governments around the world because 2024 was a big election year around the world. And you know there are all these countries, India, just like a ton of countries that had elections, and the incumbents basically lost every single one of them (sic)," Zuckerberg said.

Three 'extremely dangerous' Italian mafia members captured in Spain

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Spanish police have announced the arrest of three "extremely dangerous" suspected mafia members wanted in Italy for crimes, including attempted murder, weapons trafficking and money laundering.

A police statement on Tuesday said the suspects were "one of the heads of a dangerous family clan" of the Neapolitan Camorra, his son, and his son-in-law, without naming the three.

They were recently detained in the southern Spanish coastal town of Marbella, where many international criminal gang members have settled in recent years.

Police posted video on social media, showing officers separately escorting the three suspects who appeared to be in handcuffs.

The investigation began when Spanish police found out that the clan's boss, who is wanted for money laundering, had fled to Spain

from Italy.

He was tracked down to a house in Marbella rigged with "extensive security features" which he nearly never left, according to the statement.

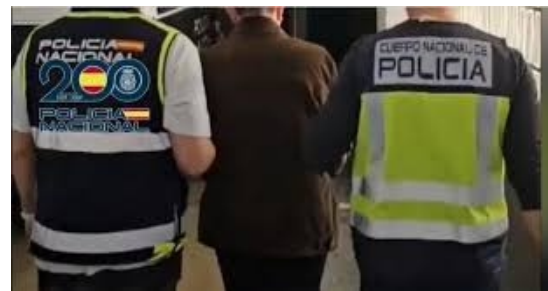
Police first arrested the son, who faces a 30-year prison sentence and is accused of attempted murder and weapons trafficking, when he left the house to go into the city centre.

Police said that before he was arrested, the son made several evasive maneuvers to try to avoid being detected by police.

Then on Sunday, police captured the crime boss and his son-in-law as they were leaving the fortified home, the statement added.

The latter faces a 20-year sentence on accusations of drug trafficking and tobacco smuggling.

"Within the Neapolitan Camorra, those arrested are considered 'men of honor'



because they abide by a strict code of conduct," police said in a news release.

The operation was carried out with the help of the Italian police.

Last October, Italian police announced the arrest in Colombia of Luigi Belvedere, a fugitive accused of being the intermediary between the Latin American country's drug cartels and the Neapolitan mafia.

In announcing his arrest, Italian police released a photo of Belvedere visiting the grave of Pablo Escobar, the founder and boss of the Medellin cartel, who was killed by police in 1993.

Alleged Reseller Restrictions: Apple, Amazon win £494m case in UK

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A tribunal in the UK has dismissed £494 million lawsuit alleging anti-competitive agreement between Apple and Amazon to restrict resellers.

Apple and Amazon have successfully defended against a major lawsuit in the UK accusing the tech giants of colluding to limit resellers of new Apple products on Amazon's website.

The Competition Appeal Tribunal ruled on Tuesday that the case could not proceed.

The lawsuit, filed by consumer law academic, Christine Riefa on behalf of approximately 36 million British consumers, alleged that Apple and Amazon reached an agreement in 2018 to bar most resellers of Apple and Beats-branded products from

Amazon's UK marketplace.

Riefa's legal team claimed the agreement reduced competition, negatively impacting consumers.

The lawsuit, valued at £494 million (\$602 million) plus interest, was dismissed after the tribunal concluded that Riefa lacked "sufficient independence or robustness" to adequately represent the claimant class, citing concerns about third-party funding for the litigation.

Both Apple and Amazon denied the allegations, describing the case as "without merit" and urging the tribunal to reject the claim.

The tribunal's decision to block the



case at this early stage is considered unusual, as certification for such lawsuits typically has a low threshold.

Riefa's lawyers, as well as spokespersons for Apple and Amazon, have not yet responded to requests for comment.

Impeached South Korea president arrested after officers scale walls

By Dave Oludare Oso

Beleaguered Yoon Suk Yeol has become South Korea's first sitting president to be arrested after investigators scaled barricades and cut through barbed wire to take him into custody.

Yoon, 64, is being investigated on charges of insurrection for a failed martial law order on 3 December that plunged the country into turmoil.

He has also been impeached by parliament and suspended – but will only be removed from office if the Constitutional Court upholds the impeachment.

Yoon's dramatic arrest on Wednesday, however, brings to an end a weeks-long standoff between investigators and his presidential security team.

Investigators from the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO) failed to arrest him on 3 January after being locked in a six-hour standoff with his security detail.

But just before dawn on Wednesday, a much larger team of investigators and police arrived at his residence in central Seoul, armed with ladders to climb over buses blocking its entrance and bolt croppers to cut through the barbed wire.

Other officers in the arrest team, which numbered around 1,000, scaled walls and hiked up nearby trails to reach the presidential residence.

After several hours, authorities announced that Yoon had been arrested.

In a three-minute video released just before his arrest, the 64-year-old

leader said he would co-operate with the investigators, while repeating previous claims that the warrant was not legally valid.

"I decided to appear before the CIO, even though it is an illegal investigation, in order to prevent any unsavoury bloodshed," he said, adding that he witnessed officials "invade" his home's security perimeter with fire equipment.

On Wednesday afternoon, investigators said Yoon had remained silent throughout questioning.

Yoon's lawyers have said his arrest is "illegal" because the CIO, as an anti-corruption agency, has no power to investigate the insurrection allegations against Yoon. They also claim the warrant was issued by the wrong jurisdiction.

However, officials from the Supreme Court and justice ministry have maintained that the arrest warrant was lawful.

The opposition Democratic Party's floor leader, Park Chan-dae, said Wednesday's arrest showed that "justice in South Korea is alive."

This arrest "is the first step toward restoring constitutional order, democracy and the rule of law," he said during a party meeting.

The country is currently being led by Finance Minister Choi Sang-mok as acting president. He was thrust into power after the first acting president, Han Duck-soo, was also impeached by parliament, where the opposition has a sizeable majority.



What's next for Yoon?

The clock has started ticking for investigators.

Under the current warrant they can hold Yoon for up to 48 hours from the point of arrest, after which they need a new warrant to detain him while he is investigated.

If that warrant is granted, they can detain him for up to 20 days before he is brought to trial. Without a new warrant, Yoon must be released.

He is expected to be detained at the Seoul Detention Centre in Uiwang, Gyeonggi Province, approximately 5km (3 miles) from the CIO's office.

Pro-Yoon supporters have continued to protest against the arrest outside the investigating office, where he was taken for questioning.

They had gathered outside his house before dawn on Wednesday, along with those opposing him. The anti-Yoon crowd blasted out a "congratulations and celebrations" song when his arrest was announced, cheering and clapping at what they see as a success for law enforcement.

EPL: Iwobi scores twice, surpasses Kanu's appearance record

By Dave Oludare Oso



ladder of Nigeria's all-time leading goalscorers in the English Premier League.

Premier League Appearances:

Shola Ameobi: 293

Alex Iwobi: 274

Nwankwo Kanu: 273

Aiyegbeni Yakubu: 252

John Obi Mikel: 249

His two goals against West Ham brought his tally for the Super Eagles to 29, surpassing Obafemi Martins (28 goals) and placing him seventh on the list.

While the result may not have gone Fulham's way, Iwobi's individual brilliance and historical achievements provide a significant moment for Nigerian football.

Current Top Nigerian Goalscorers in the English Premier League:

Yakubu: 95 goals

Kanu: 54 goals

Efan Ekoku: 52 goals

Shola Ameobi: 43 goals

Kelechi Iheanacho: 42 goals

Peter Odemwingie: 36 goals

Alex Iwobi: 29 goals

Obafemi Martins: 28 goals.

This achievement solidifies Iwobi's status as one of the most successful Nigerian players in Premier League history.

Alex Iwobi etched his name further into Nigerian football history on Tuesday with a stellar performance against West Ham United, despite his team's 3-2 defeat.

The versatile midfielder scored a brace, showcasing his attacking prowess and contributing significantly to Fulham's fightback.

More importantly, this milestone saw

Iwobi surpass legendary Nigerian striker, Nwankwo Kanu to become the Nigerian player with the second-most Premier League appearances of all time.

With 274 appearances, Iwobi now trails only Shola Ameobi (293) on the list of Nigerians with the most appearances in the English top flight.

Furthermore, Iwobi climbed the