

Nobody made me governor,
I grabbed power – Wike
PAGE 5

Mercy Aigbe’s ‘Thinline’
hits N100m sales at box
office **PAGE 14**

World’s oldest person,
Tomiko Itooka dies at
116
PAGE 21

The New Daily Prime



**Again, Tinubu defends subsidy
removal, says ‘It was necessary’**

**PG
4**

Northern actress,
Samha banned
over revealing
dresses,
provocative
videos **PAGE 5**

Tinubu pledges
completion of
Eastern rail
line, lauds
Enugu’s devt
strides **PAGE 6**

Fact-checking
Obi’s claim
about Tinubu’s
30 Overseas
trips **PAGE 7**


Delta woman beats
son to death over
N200 **PAGE 2**

**Nasarawa gov sacks all Commissioners,
SSG, Advisers, dissolves Exco**
PAGE 2

Nasarawa gov sacks all Commissioners, SSG, Advisers, dissolves Exco

By Dave Oludare Oso

Like a bolt out of the blue, Governor Abdullahi Sule of Nasarawa State has sacked the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Muhammad Aliyu-Ubandoma, and dissolved the state executive council (SEC).

Also, the governor booted out the commissioners, senior special advisers, special advisers, and personal assistants.

According to Daily Trust, the announcement was made during an emergency executive meeting at Government House, Lafia, on Friday, following Vice President Kashim Shetima's departure after inaugurating state projects during a one-day visit.

Also, a top government official, speaking anonymously said, "Although the exact reasons for the dissolution are unclear, the governor is known for restructuring the state's



administration."

In 2021, Governor Sule similarly dissolved the executive council, citing the need for a more effective and efficient governance structure.

The source added, "As the situation unfolds, citizens of Nasarawa State await further clarification on the

implications of this decision and the future direction of the state's administration."

The reason for the governor's drastic action and follow-up happenings like the replacement of the dismissed officials are expected in coming days.

Delta woman beats son to death over N200

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A mother has allegedly beaten her 15-year-old son to death for stealing N200 in Warri, Delta State.

The tragic incident reportedly occurred on Thursday at Obire Street, off Cemetery Road in the rustic town.

According to an eyewitness, who did not want to be named, the boy's hands and legs were tied by his brother, and his body was burned with a hot knife during the punishment.

The source said, "When she realized that her son was dying, she ran out and cried for assistance.

"Unfortunately, before they arrived at the hospital, her son died."

The source also disclosed that the woman was previously evicted from a nearby compound where she lived due to her hostile relationship with neighbours.

The source further disclosed that her late son hawked smoked fish for the mother before his death, after which



he went for an apprenticeship in handset repair.

SP Bright Edafe, Delta Command Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), when contacted for confirmation, stated that no such incident has been reported to the police. This shocking act has left the

community in disbelief, with many calling for justice for the deceased.

Authorities have yet to release an official statement, but residents are urging a thorough investigation to ensure accountability.

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
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2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
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QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
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FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
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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
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PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

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8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
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PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

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10X4	103,963.00
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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
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4X3	N/A
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2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
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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
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CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B &W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B &W	725,000.00
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ALLURE RATE

SIZE	RATE	TOTAL
CENTRESPREAD		967,500.00
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EVENT		250,000.00

PICTURE & CAPTION

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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

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Again, Tinubu defends subsidy removal, says 'It was necessary'

By Dave Oludare Oso



For the umpteenth time, President Bola Tinubu has defended his administration's decision to remove fuel subsidy, insisting that it was a "necessary" move to secure the country's future.

The president had, during his inauguration ceremony in May 2023, declared an end to the subsidy regime, an action that resulted in an instant hike in the cost of petrol and cost of living.

Also, the resultant hardship on the generality of the Nigerian people led to pockets of protests and condemnation of the move by critics and a large percentage of the people.

However, President Tinubu, during his visit to Enugu State on Saturday, defended the bold action and said it was needed for a better Nigeria.

The president said, "You are all a member of one big, huge family called Nigeria but living in different rooms in

the same house. This house, we must build it. Build it to satisfy our immediate need which is not going to be enough yet but for tomorrow too.

"That is why the removal of the first subsidy was necessary," Tinubu said at a stakeholders meeting held at the Government House in Enugu on Saturday.

"You cannot spend the future of generations yet unborn in advance. Don't bankrupt the nation before they are born. I know people will fight, grumble, abuse me, and everything but I asked for the job. I know what it takes. I believe in myself and I believe I can gather a very good team and build a nation."

President Bola Tinubu touched down at the Enugu airport on a working visit to commission various projects by the state government. He was received by Governor Peter Mbah.

Tinubu called on Nigerians to show

love for the country and shun negative comments about it.

"It is our country. We have to work really hard for it; to build a nation that we can be proud of. Change the narrative; negative comment about Nigeria? I'm not taking that! I'm very proud of Nigeria. You all should be proud of Nigeria," he told the gathering which included Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State, government functionaries, and other dignitaries present at the event.

Some of the projects the president commissioned during the visit to the Coal State are the multi-auditorium and multi-functional Enugu International Conference Centre; state-of-the-art command and control Centre/150 patrol vehicles fitted with AI-embedded surveillance cameras at the Government House.

Northern actress, Samha banned over revealing dresses, provocative videos

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A popular Kannywood actress, Samha M. Inuwa, has been suspended from appearing in films for one year by the Kano State Censorship Board.

According to the Board, her suspension followed complaints from concerned citizens about her “revealing dress and provocative videos.”

Information Officer of the Kano State Censorship Board, Abdullahi Sani Sulaiman in a statement revealed that Samha had been warned multiple times about her “crude dressing, vulgar displays, and language in her some videos.”

The board emphasised that the actress’ conduct had violated cultural and moral standards.

In addition to the suspension, the board has revoked Samha’s licence and ceased censoring any films in which she appears.



“Kano State Censorship Board is empowered by law to ensure that all videos, writings, and other forms of expression align with the state’s religion, culture, norms, and values,” the statement explained.

The board claimed that the suspension is part of the board’s ongoing efforts to uphold moral standards in the Kannywood film industry and enforce the board’s regulations.

Nobody made me governor, I grabbed power – Wike

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister, Nyesom Wike, has declared that nobody enthroned him as governor of Rivers State, contrary to claims that some political leaders in the state made him governor.

The minister, who made the remarks during a civic reception he held in honour of some Rivers State politicians loyal to him on Friday in Port Harcourt, however, admitted that he received political support from certain leaders, but maintained that he ultimately fought his way to power.

The former governor was quick to contrast his rise politically to that of the current Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, whom he claimed he made governor of Rivers State.

Wike’s statement comes on the heels of the resurfacing of old videos circulating on social media, where former First Lady of Nigeria, Patience Jonathan, appeared to present Wike to former governor Peter Odili and some political leaders in Rivers State as the preferred successor to then-Governor Rotimi

Amaechi.

The unfolding drama follows an ongoing verbal war between Wike and one of his predecessors, Dr Peter Odili.

The verbal spat between Wike and Odili arose from the political crisis in the state that has placed the FCT Minister at loggerheads with his successor, Fubara.

Odili had publicly shown support for Governor Fubara, which infuriated Wike, who believes the former governor should have refrained from taking sides and instead played the role of a father figure by addressing the political crisis in the state.

The minister said, “You didn’t give me. To be governor of Rivers State 2014, I fought for the party structure. I took it from Magnus Abe, yes, I did.

“So you can’t say you made me governor. Nobody, I don’t want to make comments about certain people, I won’t do that.



“You Magnus, all of you, Victor Giadom, I fought you people, took the party structure.

“So, nobody can say I brought Wike, I dashed you. Nobody can say that. But it would be unfair to me, to Almighty God, for me to say nobody supported me.

“No, you can’t say that. You need people’s support, but not to say you gave me.”

However, former President Goodluck Jonathan, his wife, Patience and Odili were said to have played major roles in Wike’s emergence as governor of Rivers State in 2015.

Tinubu pledges completion of Eastern rail line, lauds Enugu's devt strides

By Friday Omosola



President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to completing the \$3 billion Eastern Rail Line, connecting Port Harcourt in the Niger Delta to Maiduguri in Northeast Nigeria.

Speaking during an interactive session with South-East leaders in Enugu on Saturday, the President assured the audience of his determination to address the delays plaguing the project.

The rail line, initiated by former President Muhammadu Buhari in 2021, spans 1,443 kilometers and is being reconstructed and expanded to 2,044 kilometers with additional branches to Owerri and Damaturu.

Tinubu acknowledged its potential to boost transportation infrastructure and stimulate economic activities along the corridor.

During the session, Tinubu also pledged to support the development of the Anambra Basin, which is estimated to hold 1 billion barrels of oil and 30 billion cubic feet of gas, positioning it as a significant energy reserve for the region. Former Minister of Power, Prof. Chinedu Nebo, and Enugu indigene Chris Ugoh

appealed to the President for support, highlighting the rail line's economic importance and the Anambra Basin's potential for power generation and industrial feedstock.

Tinubu responded with a commitment to prioritize their requests.

The President also addressed security concerns in the Southeast, endorsing modern solutions such as CCTV systems and AI-enabled patrol vehicles to ensure safety while discouraging reliance on roadblocks and checkpoints.

Earlier, Tinubu inaugurated several projects executed by Governor Peter Mbah's administration, including the GTC Smart Green School, the International Conference Center, and the Command-and-Control Center.

He commended the governor for his innovative development philosophy and commitment to human capital growth.

Governor Mbah, in his remarks, praised Tinubu for liberalizing the electricity sector through the amended Electricity Act and for

establishing the South East Development Commission.

He outlined his vision to grow Enugu's economy from \$4.4 billion to \$30 billion within four years, leveraging improved security, modern education, and upgraded healthcare.

Mbah also highlighted the state's achievements, including ending the illegal sit-at-home order imposed by non-state actors and enhancing public safety, enabling citizens to return to work daily.

President Tinubu lauded Mbah's leadership and called for unity across regions, emphasising the need to build a Nigeria where every community thrives, irrespective of language or location.

"We are all members of one huge family called Nigeria, living in different rooms of the same house. Together, we must build a house that satisfies both our immediate and future needs," Tinubu said

Fact-checking Obi's claim about Tinubu's 30 Overseas trips

By Friday Omosola



On January 2, 2025, during a media chat in Abuja, Peter Obi, former governor of Anambra State and 2023 presidential candidate of the Labour Party, criticized President Bola Tinubu's extensive international travel since assuming office on May 29, 2023. Obi claimed that Tinubu had spent over 30% of his time—approximately 180 out of 580 days—on more than 30 publicly recorded overseas trips. He urged the President to allocate at least 20% of 2025, roughly 72 days, to visiting each of Nigeria's 36 states for two days each, to better understand the nation's economic and security challenges.

An investigation by the New Daily Prime sought to verify Obi's claims. Findings revealed that, as of January 4, 2025, President Tinubu had visited more than 26 countries, spending an average 180 days abroad. This aligns with the Punch report dated on October 20, 2024, which outlined that Tinubu had undertaken 29 journeys, spending 124 days abroad and visiting 16 countries, accumulating over 127 flight hours.

Since taking office, President Tinubu has also taken at least one official private holiday. On October 2, 2024,

he departed Abuja for the United Kingdom to begin a two-week vacation, described as a "working vacation" to reflect on his administration's economic reforms. However, the frequent traveling has raised public concern, with many labelling Tinubu as a "globetrotting president." In terms of cost, reports indicate that during the first six months of his presidency, Tinubu spent at least ₦3.4 billion (\$2.2 million) on domestic and foreign travel, exceeding the budgeted amount for 2023 by 36%.

Despite the criticism, the President's travels have reportedly attracted foreign investors and promoted Nigeria's image internationally. Under his administration, more than ₦4.2 trillion in Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed. His first international trip as President was to Paris on June 21, 2023, to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit, marking his initial foray into international diplomacy. Subsequent travels included visits to the United States, United Kingdom, India, Kenya, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Benin Republic, Netherlands, South Africa, Ghana, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Germany, Ethiopia,

Senegal, and Qatar, among others.

These visits align with the President's constitutional duties. Section 5(1)(a) of the Nigerian Constitution grants the President executive powers to execute and maintain the Constitution and all laws made by the National Assembly, encompassing the conduct of foreign affairs and international relations. This includes the promotion and protection of national interest, African integration, international cooperation, respect for international law, and the settlement of international disputes.

For instance, on July 8, 2023, President Tinubu visited Guinea-Bissau to participate in the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), where he was unanimously elected as chairman of the West African bloc. On August 28, 2024, he visited China to seek economic cooperation in areas such as the economy, agriculture, and satellite technology. During this visit, Nigeria signed an MoU with China for infrastructure development worth about \$2 billion. Additionally, on December 9, 2023, an MoU was signed to establish a \$150 million Lithium-Ion battery manufacturing and processing factory in Nigeria.

IGP warns against attacks on Police officers

By Friday Omosola

Citing lawlessness and impunity, the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, has warned against assaults on police personnel, declaring that such actions will no longer be tolerated. Speaking during his visit to the Enugu State Command yesterday, Egbetokun emphasised that attacks on officers were not only criminal but also an affront to the entire institution of the Nigeria Police Force.

He assured that any such incident would be met with a decisive and collective response to ensure justice is served.

Egbetokun directed officers to respond decisively to any violence against their colleagues, stressing the need for collective action to protect the integrity of the force.

He added, "Wherever a policeman

is attacked or killed, the response must be swift, appropriate, and unified. We will ensure that those responsible face the full weight of the law."

He also assured the officers that the force was collaborating with the federal government to enhance their welfare, addressing concerns about the well-being of personnel.

While commending the Enugu State Police Command for its professionalism, he expressed concerns over the actions of a few rogue elements tarnishing the image of the force.

He encouraged officers to remain steadfast and committed to their



duties.

Egbetokun's remarks come amid growing concerns about the safety of law enforcement personnel

Lakurawa attacks Kebbi, kills two policemen, rustles 200 cows

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Gunmen suspected to be members of the Lakurawa terrorists group have killed two policemen and rustled over 200 cows during an attack on Natsini village, Argungu Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

The incident occurred on Thursday around 11pm, when the terrorists, numbering over 50 and riding motorcycles, targeted a police checkpoint along the Augie/Kangiwa road.

After overpowering the officers, they proceeded to rustle cows in the village.

A local resident, Abubakar Augie, said, "The Lakurawa were more than 50 on motorcycles; after overpowering the few policemen at the checkpoint, they went to where the cows were kept in a ranch and went away with them."

The rustled cows reportedly belonged to a prominent civil servant, Lawali Black. Natsini village is about 5 kilometres from Argungu town.

Confirming the incident, Argungu Local Government Chairman, Aliyu

Gulma, said a security meeting was underway and that security agents had been directed by the state government to recover the stolen cows.

Confirming the report to newsmen, SP Nafiu Abubakar, the police command public relations officer, said, "It is true, two of our men died during an encounter with them."



He noted, "Joint operations by the police and other security agencies have been intensified with a view to apprehending the bandits and recovering the rustled cows."

"The Kebbi State Commissioner of Police, Bello M Sani has already paid an on-the-spot assessment visit to the scene as well as the Emir of Argungu," Abubakar added.

PETROAN calls for refinery privatization

By Friday Omosola

The Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) has urged the federal government (FG) to privatize state-owned refineries. PETROAN further requested a N100 billion grant from President Bola Tinubu to sustain oil marketers amid economic challenges. In a statement titled "PETROAN's Retrospect of Nigeria's Oil and Gas Downstream Sector 2024", the association highlighted significant developments in the sector over the past year while recommending key reforms. It called for the privatization of refineries like those in Warri and Kaduna, proposing their transfer to reputable private companies to enhance operational efficiency and reduce government expenditure. Signed by PETROAN President Billy Gillis-Harry, National Secretary Adedibu Aderibigbe, and Spokesman Joseph Obele, the statement emphasised that the N100 billion grant would prevent the collapse of over 10,000 oil



marketers' businesses and mitigate job losses triggered by the removal of fuel subsidies. PETROAN also advocated for tighter border security to curb smuggling and suggested the adoption of digital tracking systems to monitor the movement of petroleum products from refineries to retail outlets. The removal of fuel subsidies in May

2023 saw petrol prices surge from N170 to around N1,000 per liter in many parts of the country. To address this, PETROAN urged the FG to foster a competitive market, encourage new entrants, and maintain fair pricing by preventing monopolies in the sector.

Ondo SSG is dead

By Friday Omosola

The Secretary to the Ondo State Government (SSG), Tayo Oluwatuyi is dead. Sources revealed that Oluwatuyi died this morning at an undisclosed hospital. He was appointed SSG by Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa in January 2024. SSG In December 2024, reports emerged that Oluwatuyi was involved in a ghastly auto crash along the Ife-Ibadan Expressway.

His vehicle reportedly skidded off the road and plunged into the bush.

Following the accident, the late SSG, who sustained severe injuries, was rushed to the intensive care unit of the Obafemi Awolowo University



Teaching Hospital, Ile-Ife, Osun State.

Further details about his passing

remain undisclosed as of press time

More details later.

LASTMA rescues eight injured in Lagos accident, victims rushed to hospital

By Helen Okechukwu



The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) on Saturday rescued eight injured persons involved in an accident at Hammadiya, inward Abule-Egba of Lagos State.

The information revealed through the Lagos State Government Facebook page noted that a commercial driver with the registration number KTU 801 XM overturned on the motorway after losing control at high speed.

According to the report, the driver reportedly swerved sharply to avoid colliding with another bus and pedestrians, crashing into the median, leaving “several passengers injured, while others escaped

through the windows.” There were no casualties recorded.

For immediate medical care, the eight victims, comprising five males and two females, were handed over to LASAMBUS medical personnel and transported to the General Hospital at Ile-Epo.

The Meran Police Division was present to ensure the free flow of traffic and maintain law and order during the evacuation of affected vehicle.

Read Also: LASTMA rescues driver as 40-foot container collapses on Toyota Camry

LASTMA General Manager, Mr. Olalekan Bakare-Oki, expressed his concern for the injured and

urged drivers to comply with speed limits and ensure regular vehicle maintenance.

He stressed the importance of safety measures to prevent avoidable accidents.

The report noted, “This unfortunate incident underscores LASTMA’s resolute commitment to preserving lives and ensuring safety on Lagos roads through proactive interventions and collaborative engagements with emergency response agencies.”

Zulum introduces fuel subsidy for farmers

By Friday Omosola

In a rare display of empathy, Governor Babagana Zulum, has introduced petrol subsidy for farmers in communities impacted by the Boko Haram insurgency, reducing the price to N600 per litre.

He announced this yesterday during the flag-off of farm input distribution in Bama town, benefiting over 5,000 displaced farmers.

Abdulrahman Bundi, the governor's Senior Special Assistant on New Media, revealed the details in a statement today.

Governor Zulum highlighted the financial struggles faced by farming communities due to the high cost of fuel.

In Maiduguri, petrol currently sells for N1,000 to N1,200 per litre, but under this subsidy, irrigation farmers will purchase it at N600 per litre.

He said this measure aims to ease the financial burden on farmers in areas



devastated by years of conflict.

Zulum further directed the Commissioner for Agriculture and the Brigade Commander to ensure swift delivery of subsidised petrol to farmers in Bama.

In addition to the subsidy, Zulum distributed some essential farming inputs to the farmers.

These included 2,000 bags of blended NPK fertilizer, 1,000 water pumps, and 620 gasoline pumps.

He also provided 380 solar water pumps, 1,000 sprayers, and 800 rolls of flexible hoses.

Furthermore, the distribution included 1,000 litres of pesticides, improved seeds, and other critical farming materials to support agricultural activities in the region.

The governor also commended the federal government for supporting efforts to rebuild and resettle communities affected by insurgency.

Kwara gov promises more infrastructure, calls for unity

By Friday Omosola

Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to delivering more infrastructural development while urging members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ifelodun Local Government to prioritise unity and peace.

The governor made this call over the weekend during a meeting with the Ifelodun APC Elders' Council, led by Makanjuola Ajadi, at the Government House in Ilorin.

AbdulRazaq praised the elders for their steadfast support, acknowledging their contributions to the party's successes at both local and state levels.

He emphasised the importance of teamwork in sustaining the party's winning streak.

"I want us to strengthen and deepen the spirit of working together. A divided house will lead us nowhere,"

the governor said.

Kwara

"Unity is always essential. If we are divided, people will take advantage of us. Let us work together and look forward to a year of prosperity, stability, and proper engagement among ourselves."

The governor pledged to address key demands from the local government, including road construction, social amenities, and political appointments.

He also expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of some contractors handling road projects in the area, particularly the Ora township road, and assured that corrective measures would be taken.

Highlighting completed projects in the region, AbdulRazaq mentioned the newly constructed Orisa Bridge, which connects Irepodun and Ifelodun Local Governments, as a significant achievement.

Ajadi, speaking on behalf of the elders,



commended the governor's performance, describing his achievements as "visible to the blind."

He noted that AbdulRazaq's development initiatives, including road construction, hospital upgrades, and school rehabilitation, had positively impacted every ward in the state.

"There is hardly anyone who can claim not to see your works in their community. In Babanloma, for instance, we have benefited from road construction, hospital

Suspended Edo council chiefs, 13 councillors defect to APC

By Emmanuel Nwagboniwe

In a dramatic turn of events, two out of the 18 suspended Local Government Chairmen in Edo State, yesterday defected to the ruling All Progressives Party, (APC)

The chairmen's defection is coming after they were suspended by Governor Monday Okpebholo after his petition, alleging insubordination, was endorsed by the Assembly.

One of the Chairmen, Hon Efida Enowoghomenma of Ovia South West Local Government area, defected to the APC with eight elected councillors including the Leader of the House, Hon. Nosakhare Edobor.

In the same vein, the chairman of Owan West local government area Hon Dickson Ahonsi and five elected councillors also joined the APC as the face-off between the councils and Governor Okpebholo continues.

Ahonsi said their decision to join the APC was influenced by the positive steps taken so far by Governor Okpebholo to develop the state. They were received by the State Secretary of the party, Engr. Lawrence Okah and other members of the state executive committee.

He said "Firstly, his activities on the assumption of office were impressive as he made important appointments, unlike the previous government. Soon the list of commissioners will be released and it is a welcome development.

"The projects that he has embarked upon show clearly that Edo is in safe hands and that is why I am here to join the party."

Okah, while receiving the suspended chairman and councillors into the party said the doors of the party were open to receive more defectors.

"We have long been expecting you to join us. APC now has five Councillors



and more will come. Use the broom to mobilize other people to join the party".

Meanwhile, the defectors from Ovia South West were received by the chairman of the party, Emmanuel Ogbomo who told them that they would not regret joining the ruling party in the state.

According to him, "There is nothing new about what you are doing today, I was in the PDP for 20 years before I left and now I am the LGA chairman of the party which means that in the APC everybody is treated equally and you will not regret your action, we will join to protect you and your office."

Speaking earlier before he was presented with the symbols of the party, Enowoghomenma said they decided to join the APC to support Governor Okpebholo and their son, the deputy governor, Hon Dennis Idahosa to develop the state.

He said "We have thought it wise to pitch tent with the APC in Ovia South West

LGA, to work harmoniously with our governor, Distinguished Sen Monday Okpebholo, the governor of Edo State and our very own, our son, we call him Ovia Proper, Mr Project Rt. Hon Dennis Idahosa. Hon Dennis is not a stranger to all of us, we know him and he is a blessing to Ovia South West.

"As the council chairman, it will do our people, Ovia South West no good if we do not work in tandem with the deputy governor and the governor of Edo state hence we all agree to come and join him in the APC today and further put our house together to develop our local government."

The Leader of the House, Hon Edobor said they were not under any force, but took the decision in the interest of the local government area. "I am happy with my other colleagues of the Ovia South West legislative arm to join forces and ensure that there is development in Ovia South West.

Burna Boy, Cubana Chiefpriest clash publicly

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Socialite Cubana Chief Priest and Grammy winner Burna Boy clashed in a heated social media exchange, sparking buzz and dividing fans online.

The controversy erupted when Burna Boy made a post that many interpreted as a jab at Chief Priest, a close associate of singer Davido.

Burna Boy's cryptic post

The now-viral drama began when Burna Boy shared a cryptic message on his Instagram page. In the post, he allegedly referred to Chief Priest as "Owerri Rick Ross" and made pointed remarks about his lifestyle and connections.

Burna Boy wrote, "No forget say you be Azaman o. And dem don gbe your plug wey him name na 'Omo Igbo' for ATL and na ube next #OwerriRickyrozay."

Burna Boy's now deleted story [Source: Instagram: Instablog9ja]

Burna Boy's now deleted story [Source: Instagram: Instablog9ja]

The post immediately stirred reactions online, with many speculating that the message was aimed at Cubana Chief Priest.

The term "Owerri Rick Ross" was particularly striking, as it appeared to mock Chief Priest's flamboyant persona and self-styled image as a wealthy socialite.

Cubana Chief Priest's bold response

In a swift and equally heated response, Cubana Chief Priest took to his Instagram story to address Burna Boy's comments.

He fired back with a sharp critique of Burna Boy's Grammy win, suggesting it was unearned and dismissing its significance.

Chief Priest compared Burna's Grammy success to that of American rapper Diddy, implying that external influences played a role in Burna's achievements.

"Diddy oil, the fastest way to PTSD," Chief Priest wrote. "You never see anything. You and your bend-down-collect Grammy. The Ferraris, London jewelers' debt—I am coming. I have long waited for this moment. Osubrileeee oooo."

Cubana Chief Priest's Instagram



Story

Social media erupts

The dramatic exchange sent shockwaves through social media, with fans and commentators quickly picking sides.

Burna Boy's loyal supporters defended his accolades, arguing that his Grammy win was a testament to his global influence and talent.

On the other hand, Chief Priest's fans praised his boldness in standing up to the internationally acclaimed artist.

Underlying Tensions in Entertainment

This public feud highlights the simmering tensions within Nigeria's entertainment industry, where egos often clash, and rivalries are common.

Burna Boy, known for his confident and sometimes controversial personality, has previously been involved in disputes with other celebrities.

Similarly, Cubana Chief Priest, a nightlife entrepreneur and influencer, is no stranger to public confrontations.

War of words and allegations

The reference to "Azaman" and "Omo Igbo" in Burna Boy's post further fueled the debate. Some fans saw it as an attempt to belittle Chief Priest's status and connections.

The phrase "dem don gbe your plug" hinted at issues involving Chief Priest's alleged business dealings in Atlanta, Georgia.

While the specifics remain unclear, the cryptic nature of the message added intrigue to the unfolding drama.

Chief Priest's retort, meanwhile, went beyond Burna Boy's remarks. By

bringing up debts and luxury purchases, he seemed to question Burna Boy's financial standing and lifestyle choices.

His mention of "Diddy oil" also raised eyebrows, as it appeared to reference Sean "Diddy" Combs, who played a role in Burna Boy's Grammy-winning album, *Twice as Tall*.

Chief Priest insinuated that external support was the driving force behind Burna's success, rather than pure talent.

Fan reactions and industry implications

The feud has sparked widespread discussion, with many pointing out the power dynamics at play. Burna Boy, often regarded as one of Africa's biggest music stars, represents a different level of fame and influence compared to Cubana Chief Priest, whose fame stems primarily from his association with nightlife and celebrities.

However, Chief Priest's willingness to confront Burna Boy shows that he is not afraid to challenge even the most celebrated figures in the industry.

What happens next?

As the drama unfolds, fans are left wondering if this feud will escalate further or fizzle out like many celebrity spats before it.

Mercy Aigbe's 'Thinline' hits N100m sales at box office

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Versatile actress, Mercy Aigbe's latest work, 'Thinline' has set a new milestone in Nollywood after amassing N100 million in total ticket sales at cinemas.

Cinemax, the film's distribution company, made the announcement on Friday by via its Instagram page, @cinemaxng.

'Thinline' which was released on December 13, has quickly captured the hearts of audiences nationwide, setting a lofty sales record in the process.

While expressing gratitude to fans, Cinemax shared, "Over 100 million, and it's all because of you. Thank you all for your love and support."

This achievement underscores Aigbe's influence in the Nigerian film industry and the growing demand for high-quality Nollywood productions. "All those who have seen this movie, thank you. Those who haven't, please get your ticket for premium

A MERCY AIGBE PRODUCTION

THINLINE



entertainment and an unforgettable story. "Thinline is not just another movie, it has all the mix and twist."

Aigbe also took to her Instagram page, @realmercyaiqbe, to appreciate her fans. She stated: "Elede mi a de Oyo, Ariwo e lo ma po. Against all Odds, Against all the challenges, my amazing movie, Thinline is still thriving and standing tall. "My heart is full of gratitude to God and

to everyone who has supported this journey this far. I am so so grateful.

"This win would not have been possible without your love, encouragement, and support. For that, I say a big thank you to everyone who has seen this masterpiece in a cinema."

Naira Marley owed Mohbad huge sum of money – VeryDarkMan

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Controversial social media personality, Martins Vincent Otse, better known as VeryDarkMan or VDM has claimed that Naira Marley owed his late label signee, Ilerioluwa Aloba, popularly called Mohbad a substantial amount of money.

Disclosing this during a recent live-stream session on TikTok, VeryDarkMan said Naira Marley admitted that he owed Mohbad money before his sudden death.

VDM added that he was bothered that Naira Marley did not come out to defend himself in public since he has evidence and the business side of his dealings with Mohbad.

VDM said, "What is crazy is that the guy has his own evidence, and I asked Naira Marley, 'Why are you not coming to the public? Sit down, show them your own evidence and the



business side of everything.'

"He clearly owed the boy some money, and he told me how much he owed him and it wasn't small money. He told me how much he was meant to give the boy and that caused their problem."

Naira Marley and his former signee had a really tense relationship, which started

when Mohbad sought to switch managers.

"He said he (Marley) signed Mohbad and Mohbad started taking gigs outside and wasn't paying the label. His wanting to change his manager was the genesis of the whole problem," he added.

“Arrest Chief Priest” Speed Darlington’s lawyer dares Burna

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Lawyer Stan Alieke urges Burna Boy to show consistency in handling defamation claims, citing his actions against Speed Darlington versus Cubana Chief Priest.

Alieke urged Burna Boy to press charges against socialite Pascal Okechukwu, popularly known as Cubana Chief Priest, for seemingly defamatory statements, just as he did with his client, Speed Darlington.

This controversy stems from a social media feud involving Burna Boy, Speed Darlington, and Cubana Chief Priest.

According to New Daily Prime, Cubana Chief Priest recently trolled Burna Boy online after the singer threw a shade his way.

Chief Priest escalated the exchange by making controversial claims about Burna Boy’s professional dealings.

In one post, Chief Priest alleged that Burna Boy engaged in an improper relationship with American music mogul Sean “Diddy” Combs in an effort to secure a Grammy Award.

This accusation mirrors the claims that led to Speed Darlington’s arrest.

Reacting to this situation, Stan Alieke took to Instagram to challenge Burna Boy’s actions—or lack thereof.

Alieke questioned why Burna Boy has not pursued legal action against Cubana Chief Priest despite the similar nature of the accusations.

Lawyer demands consistency

Alieke argued that failing to act against Chief Priest could harm Burna Boy’s credibility. He wrote, “Your petition claims that the Diddy and baby oil banter has caused ‘irreparable damage to your international reputation and has made you lose a lot of gigs.’”

Referring to Chief Priest’s public comments, Alieke added, “Another person with more reach and influence just referenced the baby oil and Diddy banter, so the world is expecting you to engage the police and arrest him since that’s your modus operandi. Otherwise, the street will interpret it

as cowardice.”

The lawyer’s statement highlights the public perception of fairness and accountability. Alieke emphasized his desire for equal justice, saying, “Well, I’m just a lawyer that wants justice to go round.”

The ongoing saga has ignited debates on social media, where fans and critics alike have weighed in on the controversy.

Many have questioned Burna Boy’s decision to involve the police in Speed Darlington’s case while seemingly ignoring Cubana Chief Priest’s similar allegations.

Critics argue that Burna Boy’s selective actions could create the impression of bias or fear of confronting more prominent figures.

Cubana Chief Priest, a well-known socialite with a significant following, is no stranger to online disputes.

His remarks about Burna Boy have garnered widespread attention, further amplifying the feud. However, Burna Boy has yet to publicly respond to Chief Priest’s accusations.

Defamation and reputation

Defamation cases in the entertainment industry are not uncommon, as celebrities often face scrutiny and allegations that can damage their public image.

Burna Boy’s legal team has previously stated that the claims against him caused significant harm to his reputation and career.

The accusations involving Sean “Diddy” Combs were particularly sensitive, given their implications for Burna Boy’s international standing.

Speed Darlington’s arrest earlier this year was a pivotal moment in the ongoing feud. The controversial singer had accused Burna Boy of inappropriate actions, sparking outrage and legal action.

Burna Boy’s decision to involve law enforcement was seen by some as a bold move to protect his reputation, while others criticized it as excessive.



Public reactions and the road ahead The current situation raises questions about how celebrities handle disputes and the role of legal intervention in such matters.

As Alieke’s challenge gains traction, all eyes are on Burna Boy to see how he responds. Will he pursue legal action against Cubana Chief Priest to demonstrate consistency, or will he choose to ignore the comments and let the matter fade away?

For now, the controversy continues to dominate discussions across social media platforms. Fans, legal experts, and industry insiders are watching closely, waiting for the next move in this high-profile dispute.

Whatever happens next, it is clear that the spotlight on Burna Boy’s actions—or inaction—will remain intense.

Conclusion

In a world where public perception can make or break careers, the decisions Burna Boy makes in response to this situation will have lasting implications.

Stan Alieke’s call for fairness has added a new layer to the ongoing drama, placing additional pressure

Aliu Gafar: My role in Seven Doors forced me to switch gears

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi



Nollywood actor Aliu Gafar (Esusu from *Seven Doors*) reflects on set experiences and hints at exciting 2025 projects. Fans await his next moves.

Journey and challenges

In an exclusive interview, Gafar reflected on his journey in the industry and his aspirations for the future. Playing the role of Esusu was both thrilling and challenging for him.

According to Gafar, the character stood in stark contrast to his own personality, requiring him to adopt a tactical mindset and fully embrace a different persona to bring the role to life.

“As an actor, you should be ready to embody any character you’re called upon to portray,” Gafar emphasized.

He credited the seamless production process to the exceptional teamwork and professionalism of the cast and crew.

“Our location became like home,” he added. “We functioned like a family, ensuring everyone played their part to make this project a collective

success.”

The role of teamwork

Reflecting on his time on set, Gafar highlighted the familial bond shared by the *Seven Doors* team. “It’s a big family—the cast, the crew, everyone was amazing,” he said. “I learned so much from *Seven Doors*. In this industry, you must always remain open to learning more.”

He praised the supportive environment fostered by the crew, saying, “It’s a large family. The cast, the crew—everybody was just amazing. I’ve learned a lot on *Seven Doors*. In this industry, you must always be ready to learn more.”

Praise for Femi Adebayo

Gafar expressed his deep admiration for Femi Adebayo, who served as the driving force behind the film.

“Femi is a legend in the industry,” Gafar praised. “He knows how to bring everyone together, ensuring collective success. He’s incredible, inspiring, and, to top it off, he’s a maker of kings.”

Aliu Gafar who casted as Esusu in *Seven Doors*

Gratitude to fans

Gafar also shared his gratitude and

excitement for the recognition *Seven Doors* has brought him. “This moment means so much to me, and I’ll cherish it forever,” he said. “By God’s grace, I believe I can make a lasting impact on Nollywood filmmaking.”

Acknowledging his fans, Gafar emphasized their vital role in his career. “I can’t achieve this without you guys,” he said. “Your criticism and support mean the world to me. You’re truly wonderful.”

Future projects

Gafar teased fans with exciting plans for the upcoming year, hinting at projects that will break new boundaries. “Something BIG... HUGE... something different,” he said with a smile. “I’ve always been passionate about phallogentric, cross-cultural productions, and that’s what you should expect.”

Awaiting future moves

As Gafar continues to make waves in Nollywood, fans eagerly await his next moves, confident his passion and talent will continue to leave an indelible mark on the industry.

Funke Akindele assures Eniola: “You’ll carry your kids”

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian actress and filmmaker Funke Akindele has expressed deep love and prayers for her close friend and fellow actress, Eniola Badmus.

This public display of affection followed Badmus’ candid revelation about her desire to become a mother. The emotional moment took place during Badmus’ annual charity event, a tradition where she gives back to her community and supports the underprivileged. While addressing attendees, Badmus grew emotional as she spoke openly about her longing for children. Her heartfelt words moved many in attendance and resonated with fans and colleagues online.

A prayerful response from Funke Akindele

Funke Akindele, known for her magnetic screen presence and genuine personality, responded with a touching message that captivated her followers. Turning to Instagram, Akindele shared a heartfelt video to uplift and encourage Badmus.

In her post, Akindele prayed earnestly for her friend, asking for divine intervention to make her motherhood dreams come true. She used humour and encouragement to convey her faith that Badmus’ aspirations would soon be fulfilled.

A lighthearted message through ‘Lefty’

Akindele added a playful twist to her message by channelling her famous character, Lefty, from the hit movie *Omo Ghetto: The Saga*. In her signature humorous style, she advised Badmus to prioritize her finances this year, humorously hinting that next year would be occupied with raising her children.

Her caption reflected love, humour, and unwavering support:

“My darling Eniola Badmus, #LeftyOmoGhetto has a message for you. God’s got you. I love you!! All your prayers are answered in Jesus’ name. Love you, baby girl. Check your DM for my account details!! O se (owo adura),” she wrote.



Actress Funke Akindele and Eniola Badmus

Fans celebrate a beautiful friendship

The heartfelt post struck a chord with fans, who flooded the comments with prayers, affirmations, and admiration for Akindele’s kind gesture. Many applauded the actress for her ability to blend humour with faith and encouragement, making the message both comforting and uplifting.

Fans also highlighted the close bond between Akindele and Badmus, a friendship that has been celebrated publicly through joint projects, birthday tributes, and playful social media interactions. Their relationship serves as a shining example of genuine camaraderie in an industry often marked by competition.

Eniola Badmus’ vulnerability sparks conversations

Eniola Badmus, beloved for her vibrant personality and comedic talent, showed a different side of herself with her emotional remarks at the charity event. Her openness about her desires sparked widespread empathy and discussions about societal pressures, resilience, and the importance of staying hopeful.

While Badmus hasn’t publicly responded to Akindele’s video, many believe the gesture will hold deep meaning for her. Fans have joined Akindele in praying for her dreams to come true, turning the moment into a collective expression of love and support.

A testament to friendship and faith
Funke Akindele’s heartfelt gesture goes beyond a simple Instagram post. It’s a declaration of love, a prayer steeped in faith, and a reminder of the strength of true friendship. The actress’ ability to uplift her friend during a vulnerable time showcases the beauty of meaningful relationships.

Their story is also a lesson in kindness, showing how small acts of love and encouragement can make a big difference. Fans are inspired by their friendship and have echoed the sentiment that uplifting one another is a value worth cherishing.

Looking ahead with hope

As 2024 begins, all eyes remain on Eniola Badmus and her journey toward motherhood. With friends like Funke Akindele offering unwavering support, her future looks bright and hopeful. The prayers and positive energy from fans and loved ones are bound to provide strength and encouragement as she continues on her path.

Funke Akindele and Eniola Badmus’ bond is a shining example of women supporting women, reminding us all of the importance of love, faith, and friendship in overcoming life’s challenges.

D'banj: Kanye West promoted Afrobeats globally

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Music legend D'banj has credited American rapper Kanye West for playing a pivotal role in introducing Afrobeats to the Western audience.

Speaking on the "Listen" podcast, D'banj shared insights into how Kanye's early interest in the genre helped pave the way for its global recognition and success.

The Nigerian star revealed that Kanye was the first major international artist to embrace Afrobeats wholeheartedly.

This collaboration, he said, opened doors for the African music genre to reach audiences far beyond the continent.

Meeting in Dubai

D'banj reflected on a pivotal moment in his career when he met Kanye West in Dubai. During their conversation, Kanye expressed a deep interest in African music.

The rapper had been introduced to the genre by university students who passionately shared their knowledge of Afrobeats with him.

This meeting was more than a casual exchange of ideas. It marked the beginning of a significant collaboration between D'banj, producer Don Jazzy, and Kanye West.

Shortly after, D'banj and Don Jazzy signed with Kanye's record label, G.O.O.D. Music, a move that symbolized Afrobeats breaking into the global music industry.

Kanye's vision for afrobeats

According to D'banj, Kanye didn't just show interest in the music; he actively sought to promote it. "When I first met Kanye West in Dubai," D'banj recalled, "he told me that he had been learning about Afrobeats

from university students. He was curious and wanted to pick up the sound."

This curiosity transformed into action. Kanye saw the potential in Afrobeats and decided to support it by working with D'banj and Don Jazzy. "He was interested in the sound," D'banj explained. "That interest gave us the deal and the chance to be signed to his record label."

Turning point for afrobeats

Signing with G.O.O.D. Music was a turning point for D'banj and Afrobeats as a whole. Kanye's endorsement provided a platform for the genre to gain visibility in the international music scene. For D'banj, this wasn't just about a record deal—it was about introducing African culture to a global audience.

D'banj emphasized Kanye's pioneering role, saying, "Kanye is the first international artist to not only buy into Afrobeats but also elevate it. He took it to the next level."

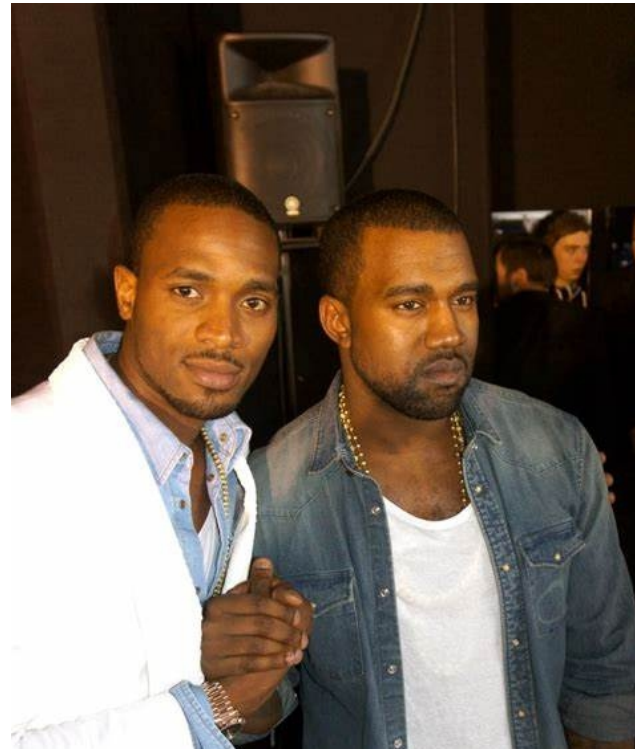
Bridging cultures through music

This collaboration between African artists and an American superstar highlighted the power of music to bridge cultures.

For years, African music was largely confined to local audiences. However, Kanye's influence helped change this narrative.

By signing African artists to his label and promoting their work, Kanye became an advocate for a genre that has since become a global phenomenon.

His efforts contributed to the mainstream success of Afrobeats, inspiring a new generation of artists and fans.



The legacy of collaboration

D'banj's experience with Kanye serves as a testament to the impact of collaboration in the music industry. It shows how partnerships can break down barriers and create opportunities for artists from different parts of the world.

Today, Afrobeats is celebrated worldwide, with artists like Burna Boy, Wizkid, and Tems achieving massive success on international stages. While many factors have contributed to this growth, D'banj believes Kanye's early support played a crucial role.

Conclusion

Kanye West's willingness to embrace Afrobeats and support African artists marked the beginning of a global movement.

D'banj's story serves as a reminder of how influential figures in the music industry can shape the trajectory of emerging genres.

Thanks to pioneers like Kanye and dedicated artists like D'banj and Don Jazzy, Afrobeats has transformed from a regional sound to a global phenomenon.

Hush money case: Trump to be sentenced Jan 10, avoids jail time

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Incoming US President Donald Trump will be sentenced on 10 January in his hush-money case in New York – less than two weeks before he is set to be sworn in as president, a judge has ordered.

On Friday, New York Justice Juan Merchan signalled he would not sentence Trump to jail time, probation or a fine, but instead give him an “unconditional discharge”, and wrote in his order that the president-elect could appear in person or virtually for the hearing.

The president-elect had vigorously attempted countless times, to use his presidential election victory to have the case against him dismissed, but his efforts have been fruitless.

Trump has posted on social media dismissing the judge’s order as an “illegitimate political attack” and calling the case “nothing but a rigged charade”.

He was convicted in May of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records related to a \$130,000 (£105,000) payment to adult-film star Stormy Daniels.

The charges related to attempts to cover up reimbursements to his ex-lawyer, Michael Cohen, who in the final days of the 2016 election campaign paid off the adult-film star to remain silent about an alleged sexual encounter with Trump.

The president-elect has denied all wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty, arguing the case was an attempt to harm his 2024 presidential campaign. In the post on his Truth Social platform on Saturday Trump said the judge’s sentencing order “goes against our Constitution and, if allowed to stand, would be the end of the Presidency as we know it”.

Trump’s spokesperson Steven Cheung earlier called the order part of a “witch hunt”.



“President Trump must be allowed to continue the presidential transition process and to execute the vital duties of the presidency, unobstructed by the remains of this or any remnants of the witch hunts,” Cheung said.

“There should be no sentencing, and President Trump will continue fighting against these hoaxes until they are all dead.”

In his latest motion against the case, Trump had argued the case would hang over him during his presidency and impede his ability to govern.

Justice Merchan said he had been advised of several measures he could employ that could assuage Trump’s concerns about being distracted by a criminal case while serving as president that fell short of the “extreme remedy” of overturning the jury’s verdict.

His options included delaying the sentencing until Trump, 78, leaves the White House in 2029, or guaranteeing a sentence that would not involve prison time.

Trump had initially, and unsuccessfully, argued the case against him ran afoul of a Supreme Court ruling on presidential immunity.

In July, the country’s top court ruled that presidents have broad immunity from criminal prosecution for “official

actions” they take while in office.

However, last month Justice Merchan ruled Trump’s hush money conviction was valid.

Trump is currently set to be the first convicted felon to serve in the White House.

He may attempt to appeal against the conviction after the sentencing.

While falsifying business records is punishable by up to four years in prison in the US, there is no minimum sentence and incarceration is not required.

Even before his election victory, legal experts thought it was unlikely Trump would face jail time given his age and his legal record.

Trump has also been charged in three other state and federal criminal cases: one involving classified documents and two relating to his alleged efforts to overturn his loss in the election of 2020.

The president-elect was initially scheduled to be sentenced on 26 November, but Justice Merchan pushed the date back after Trump won the presidential election.

Severe weather alert: Heavy snow, freezing rain, power cuts expected across UK

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Up to 30cm of snowfall is predicted, risking significant disruption to travel, power supplies, and rural communities disruption across UK

Large swathes of the UK are preparing for significant disruption this weekend as the Met Office issues amber weather warnings for heavy snow and freezing rain. The severe conditions are expected to bring stranded vehicles, power outages, and delays or cancellations to rail and air travel.

Forecasters have warned of up to 30cm of snow in some areas, with rural communities facing a “good chance” of being cut off. Temperatures plummeted overnight to minus 5°C in parts of Cheshire and Somerset, just shy of predictions of minus 8°C.

The icy conditions have already had tragic consequences. A seven-month-old baby died in a collision on a Lincolnshire dual carriageway on Thursday night, with police investigating the role of icy roads in the crash.

As temperatures fell well below freezing, Health Secretary Wes Streeting sparked controversy by advising people to turn their heating on, despite government cuts to winter fuel payments for pensioners.



Streeting remarked that it was “definitely a weekend to turn the heating on,” prompting backlash from campaigners. Dennis Reed, director of the pensioner advocacy group Silver Voices, criticized the government for being “in denial” about the impact of its policies. Overnight lows of -8.6°C were recorded in Aberdeenshire, with sub-zero temperatures also reported across Monmouthshire, Dorset, and County Down.

National Highways has urged motorists to travel only if necessary and to pack essential winter supplies, including food, warm clothing, blankets, and a snow shovel. Drivers are advised to plan their journeys carefully, as freezing rain and black ice could create hazardous road conditions.

The UK is also set to experience freezing

rain, a rare and disruptive weather phenomenon described as liquid precipitation that freezes on contact with cold surfaces. Professor Liz Bentley of the Royal Meteorological Society warned of significant disruptions, including black ice on roads and weighty ice coatings on trees, power lines, and aircraft.

“It’s like a glazing of ice that can cause serious problems,” Bentley explained. The ice could impact airport runways and even prevent planes from taking off, adding to the weekend’s expected disruptions.

As the UK braces for the bitter weather, authorities are urging vigilance and preparation to minimize the risks posed by these rare and extreme conditions.



World's oldest person, Tomiko Itooka dies at 116

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Tomiko Itooka, a Japanese woman, who was the world's oldest person according to Guinness World Records, has died, an Ashiya city official said Saturday. She was 116.

Yoshitsugu Nagata, an official in charge of elderly policies, said Itooka died on Dec. 29 at a care home in Ashiya, Hyogo Prefecture, central Japan.

Itooka, who loved bananas and a yogurt-flavored Japanese drink called Calpis, was born on May 23, 1908.

She became the oldest person last year following the death of 117-

year-old Maria Branyas, according to the Gerontology Research Group.

When she was told she was at the top of the World Supercentenarian Rankings List, she simply replied, "Thank you."

When Itooka celebrated her birthday last year, she received flowers, a cake and a card from the mayor.

Born in Osaka, Itooka was a volleyball player in high school, and long had a reputation for a sprightly spirit, Nagata said. She climbed the 3,067-meter (10,062-foot) Mount Ontake twice.

She married at 20, and had two daughters and two sons, according to Guinness.

Itooka managed the office of her husband's textile factory during World War II. She lived alone in Nara after her husband died in 1979.

She is survived by one son, one daughter and five grandchildren. A funeral service was held with family and friends, according to Nagata.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, the world's oldest person is now 116-year-old Brazilian nun Inah Canabarro Lucas, who was born 16 days after Itooka.

No love lost between Trump, Biden as inauguration looms

By Dave Oludare Oso

Things could be a little frosty inside the president's armored limo on the morning of January 20.

President Joe Biden and Donald Trump, his predecessor and successor, have never been friendly. The current commander in chief thinks the president-elect is a mortal threat to America's soul. Trump has long insulted "Sleepy Joe" Biden and claims he ordered his multiple indictments, despite a lack of evidence.

The atmosphere between the two men is worsening by the day as the inauguration nears.

Biden keeps landing jabs seemingly calculated to get under Trump's skin. And the president-elect has been taking his lumps on social media.

On Wednesday, Biden warned that no one should "jump to conclusions" about the terror attack in New Orleans — hours after Trump had done exactly that by implying on social media that the suspect was a foreign terrorist who recently crossed over the southern border. In fact, he was from Texas and a natural-born US citizen.

The president-elect appeared to be basing his claim on an erroneous media report.

On Sunday, Biden was asked what Trump should take away from the life of Jimmy Carter after the 39th president's passing. "Decency. Decency. Decency," he replied.

"Can you imagine Jimmy Carter, walking by someone who needs something and just keep walking?" Biden asked. "Can you imagine Jimmy Carter referring to someone by the way they look or the way they talk? I can't."

In what appeared to be an implicit criticism of Trump's character and leadership style, Biden said this of Carter: "The rest of the world looks to us... and he was worth looking to."

In another repudiation of Trump, Biden on Thursday awarded one of America's highest civilian honors to Liz Cheney, the former Republican

congresswoman from Wyoming who split with Trump over his refusal to accept the result of the 2020 election.

She was the vice chair of the bipartisan congressional committee that investigated the January 6, 2021, mob attack on Congress.

Cheney, who lost her House seat to a Trump-backed primary challenger, got a prolonged standing ovation at the White House when she received the Presidential Citizens Medal for "putting the American people over party."

Capitol Hill Republicans are threatening to investigate Cheney over her role in probing Trump. And there is speculation that Biden could offer her a preemptive pardon to shield her from criminal prosecution by the incoming Justice Department — even though there is no indication that she broke the law.

The next day, Trump bashed Cheney and Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson, who chaired the January 6 committee and also received the award from Biden.

"The people of Wyoming understood how bad for our country she was, but Biden rewarded her only because she hated 'TRUMP,'" the president-elect wrote of the former congresswoman on Truth Social, calling her "totally corrupt."

Trump isn't holding back on other issues either.

After praising Carter after his death on Sunday, the president-elect soon injected himself and his upcoming inauguration into the national mourning of the 39th president, complaining that American flags will still be lowered when he's sworn in on January 20.

"Because of the death of President Jimmy Carter, the Flag may, for the first time ever during an Inauguration of a future President, be at half mast. Nobody wants to see this, and no American can be happy about it. Let's see how it plays out. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"



Trump posted on Truth Social on Friday while waiting for the House to elect a speaker.

Asked if the Biden administration was reconsidering lowering the flags, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said no.

And despite Biden's implicit rebuke, Trump again sought to blur the truth about the New Orleans truck terror attack in which 14 people were killed.

"With the Biden 'Open Border's Policy' I said, many times during rallies, and elsewhere, that Radical Islamic Terrorism, and other forms of violent crime, will become so bad in America that it will become hard to even imagine or believe,"

Trump wrote on his Truth Social network. "That time has come, only worse than ever imagined. Joe Biden is the WORST PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA, A COMPLETE AND TOTAL DISASTER."

Trump isn't wrong to raise the possibility that terrorists could infiltrate the US over the southern border.

Biden's own Homeland Security Department warned of this exact scenario earlier this year. But the president-elect is also misleadingly implying that the attack on New Orleans is such an example.

In fact, it's a sign of something that worries the FBI even more — an attack carried out by an American citizen who appears to have been inspired by ISIS to carry out carnage of his own volition.

10 million face food insecurity in UK

By New Daily Prime

As the holiday season turns our attention to festive meals like turkey and mince pies, the pressing issue of food security takes center stage. In the UK, an alarming 10 million people face food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to affordable, nutritious food. Compounding this crisis, the government recently warned that the climate crisis poses a serious threat to the nation's food security. At the same time, farmers have been protesting in Westminster, arguing that a weakened agricultural sector undermines the UK's ability to produce its own food.

FareShare, a network of 8,300 charities, 34 regional centers, and 26,000 volunteers, reaches a million people annually, supporting children's breakfast clubs, lunch groups for older adults, and grassroots initiatives tackling isolation and hardship. Despite these efforts, the organization struggles to meet growing demand.

This challenge is especially frustrating given that the UK wastes 12.8 million tonnes of surplus food every year, contributing 6-7% of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions. Shockingly, 3 million tonnes of this waste occurs before food even leaves the farm. Yet, less than 20% of farmers donate their surplus to charities.

Recent progress offers a glimmer of hope. After years of advocacy by FareShare and The Felix Project, the government announced £15 million for farm-level surplus redistribution — an acknowledgment of the potential in repurposing surplus food. This initiative underscores that surplus food isn't just a problem; it's an opportunity.

Redistributing surplus food has profound social benefits. Last year, FareShare provided 135 million



meals to over 8,300 charities, including Wigan Youth Zone, which combines meals with enriching activities like basketball and drama. A forthcoming University of Hertfordshire report highlights that for every £1 spent on surplus food redistribution, the UK sees £13 in social return on investment. However, realizing this potential requires scaling up food redistribution efforts.

Contrary to popular belief, retail accounts for only 2.34% of food waste. While retailers are reducing their waste, redistributors must shift their focus further up the supply chain to sectors like hospitality (8.59%), manufacturing (11.72%), and farming (25%) to capture more surplus food.

The US offers valuable lessons in creating a policy environment that supports surplus food redistribution. Tax incentives there encourage businesses to donate surplus food by offsetting redistribution costs. These measures balance compensation with safeguards against misuse, demonstrating the potential impact of small policy changes.

The UK could adopt similar measures, including mandatory food waste reporting, clear guidance for businesses on food donation, and policies that designate food redistribution as a "public good" under Environmental Land

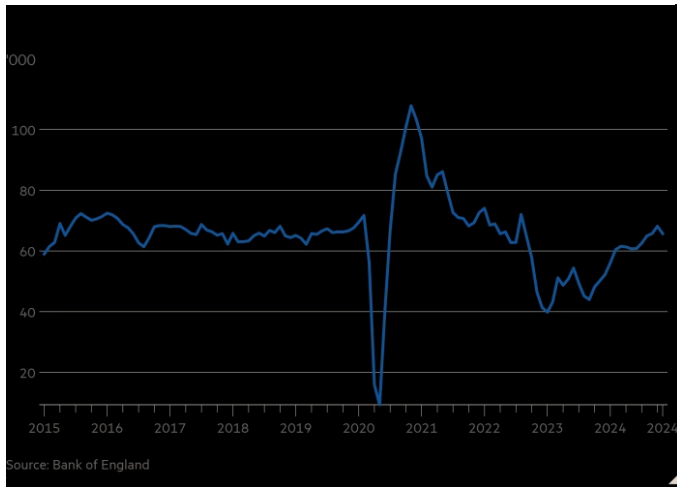
Management schemes. Technology platforms to coordinate redistribution and strategies to reduce reliance on charitable food aid by addressing poverty at its root are also essential.

The UK government's recent strategies on food, the circular economy, and child poverty show promise. Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Defra, has expressed urgency in tackling food insecurity. Furthermore, reducing food waste is critical to combating climate change, as it produces five times the emissions of the aviation sector. Globally, food waste ranks as the third-largest emitter after the US and China, prompting international commitments to halve food waste and reduce related emissions.

Addressing food waste unites diverse stakeholders, bridging rural and urban divides while strengthening communities. By improving the food system, the UK can simultaneously reduce hunger, lower emissions, and create a healthier, fairer society. As we celebrate the holidays, it's vital to remember that food security isn't just about what's on our plates — it's about creating a sustainable future for all.

UK mortgage approvals unexpectedly drop

By New Daily Prime



UK mortgage approvals dropped unexpectedly in November, signaling caution among households post-Budget. Consumer credit growth hit a 29-month low as borrowing costs and stamp duty changes impacted the housing market.

UK mortgage approvals unexpectedly fell in November, interrupting the gradual recovery in housing market activity. Data released by the Bank of England on Friday revealed a decline in net mortgage approvals — approvals net of cancellations — to 65,700 in November, down from 68,100 in October and below the 68,500 forecast by economists polled by Reuters.

The figures indicate growing caution among households following the Autumn Budget, as borrowing costs remain elevated. Consumer credit growth also slowed, with a £0.9 billion rise in November compared to the £1.0 billion increase in October and an average monthly gain of £1.2 billion over the prior six months. The annual growth rate for consumer credit dropped to 6.6 percent, its lowest in 29 months.

Elias Hilmer, economist at Capital Economics, attributed the cautious behavior to ongoing financial uncertainties. “Households’ caution

with their borrowing and saving ahead of the Budget hasn’t gone away,” he said, warning that the data adds to the risk of economic contraction in the final quarter of 2024. The UK economy stagnated over the three months to September and contracted in October.

Despite the dip, some experts see the data as a return to normal activity levels after a volatile October. Elliott Jordan-Doak of Pantheon Macroeconomics noted that pre-Budget fluctuations had created temporary distortions in the market.

While mortgage approvals fell sharply over 2022 and remained subdued in 2023 due to rising borrowing costs, approvals have rebounded by 13,000 so far in 2024 as rates eased. However, November saw a slight uptick in mortgage rates, dampening demand. “November was an average month, possibly due to the Autumn Budget taking the steam out of the market and hitting sentiment,” said Charles Yuille, managing director at Willow Brook Mortgages. He added that demand remained strong, fueled in part by the impending end of the stamp duty holiday.

Chancellor Rachel Reeves confirmed in the Budget that the temporary stamp duty holiday, which raised the threshold for first-time buyers from £300,000 to £425,000, will end in March. From April, first-time buyers will face higher stamp

duty costs on properties worth more than £300,000.

Tomer Aboody of MT Finance expects further interest rate cuts in 2024 to help stabilize the housing market. “Lower borrowing costs should help boost mortgage approvals and get them back on track,” he said.

In November, the Bank of England reported a drop in the effective interest rate on new mortgages to 4.5 percent, the lowest since April 2023. However, the rate on outstanding mortgages rose to 3.8 percent, the highest since the series began in 2016, reflecting the impact of rising borrowing costs since 2021.

On a more positive note, house prices continued to climb. Data from Nationwide showed a 4.7 percent annual increase in December, marking the fastest pace of growth since October 2022.

As the housing market grapples with shifting conditions, experts suggest that cautious optimism may be warranted. The combination of interest rate adjustments and policy changes in early 2024 will likely shape the trajectory of mortgage approvals and overall market activity in the months ahead.

Postecoglou supports Maddison's darts outing despite illness

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou has defended James Maddison's decision to attend the World Darts Championship shortly after being deemed too unwell to start a Premier League match.

Maddison, who began Sunday's 2-2 draw against Wolves on the bench due to illness, came on as a substitute in the 64th minute. Later that evening, the England midfielder was seen at Alexandra Palace with teammate Brennan Johnson, enjoying a tie between Luke Humphries and Peter Wright.

Postecoglou dismissed any concerns, stating: "I've got no problem with players having lives. Playing football and living life are two different things. If he were bedridden and missed the game, then went to the darts, that would be an



issue—but that wasn't the case."

Maddison, a known darts enthusiast who celebrates goals with a dart-throwing gesture, has been instrumental for Spurs this season, with eight goals and five assists in 26 appearances.

Postecoglou emphasized the

importance of managing Maddison's fitness amid a congested fixture list: "Keeping Madders fit and sharp is crucial. He's made a strong impact when he's played, and we want him to keep doing so."

The incident highlights Postecoglou's pragmatic approach to player management, focusing on

Valencia secure loan signing of Umar Sadiq

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Valencia CF has bolstered their squad with the six-month loan signing of Nigerian forward Umar Sadiq from Real Sociedad, with an option to make the move permanent at the end of the season.

The move comes as Valencia battles relegation, sitting 19th in La Liga. New manager Carlos Corberán hopes Sadiq's arrival will provide the firepower needed to revive the team's fortunes.

Sadiq, 26, has struggled for form at Sociedad, netting just four goals in 35 league appearances. However, his impressive record at Almeria, where he scored 43 goals and contributed 13 assists in 84 games, highlights his potential to thrive at Valencia.

"We're delighted to welcome Umar to the squad," Corberán said. "His talent and experience will undoubtedly add value as



we fight to stay in La Liga."

Sadiq's career has taken him across several clubs, including stints at Roma, Bologna, and Rangers. Known for his versatility and eye for goal, the Nigerian international

brings a wealth of experience to Los Ches.

Valencia fans will hope Sadiq can rediscover his scoring touch and help steer the club away from the drop zone.

Miami Heat suspend Jimmy Butler, explore trade options

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

The Miami Heat have suspended six-time NBA All-Star Jimmy Butler for seven games due to “conduct detrimental to the team” and confirmed they are open to trade offers for the star forward.

In a statement released by the team, the Heat cited multiple incidents over the season, particularly in recent weeks, as the reason for their decision. “Through his actions and statements, Jimmy has shown he no longer wants to be part of this team,” the statement read.

Butler, 35, has publicly expressed dissatisfaction with his position at the Heat, stating he would “probably” not want to continue playing for the team.

The suspension marks a significant shift from comments made by Heat team president Pat Riley just last week,



asserting there was no intention to trade Butler.

Since joining the Heat in 2019, Butler has made 377 appearances and has been a pivotal player in their campaigns. This season, he has averaged 17.6 points, 5.5 rebounds, and 4.7 assists per game.

Butler’s last outing was a 128-115 loss to the Indiana Pacers, where he

contributed nine points, four assists, and two rebounds.

The Heat’s willingness to entertain trade discussions signals the potential end of Butler’s tenure in Miami. With previous stints at the Chicago Bulls, Minnesota Timberwolves, and Philadelphia 76ers, Butler remains one of the league’s most sought-after talents.

Alexander-Arnold ‘fully committed’ to Liverpool amid Real Madrid links

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Liverpool manager Arne Slot has affirmed Trent Alexander-Arnold’s commitment to the club despite ongoing speculation about his future. The 26-year-old England right-back, out of contract this summer, was approached by Real Madrid, but Liverpool rejected any January move.

Slot confirmed Alexander-Arnold will feature against Manchester United on Sunday, praising his exceptional form and dedication this season. “He’s fully committed to us,” Slot said.

Speculation also surrounds Mohamed Salah and Virgil van Dijk, whose contracts similarly expire in six months. Slot dismissed concerns about destabilization, emphasizing the resilience of players at top clubs. “If speculation destabilized us, we’d really



have a problem,” he stated. Liverpool fans await clarity as the

club navigates critical contract situations for key players.