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Tinubu approves lavish retirement package for top generals, faces backlash

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Tinubu has recently approved a substantial retirement package for Nigeria's service chiefs, which includes \$20,000 for foreign medical treatment, bulletproof SUVs, and domestic staff, among other luxurious perks.

The move has sparked widespread criticism from various healthcare associations and civil society organisations, as it comes at a time when many Nigerians face economic hardship and poor public services.

The approval, granted as part of the Harmonised Terms and Conditions of Service for Officers and Enlisted Personnel in the Nigerian Armed Forces, was signed by President Tinubu on December 14, 2024. Under the new package, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and other service chiefs are entitled to a bulletproof SUV, which will be replaced every four years and maintained by the military. In addition, they will be provided with a Peugeot 508 or equivalent as a backup vehicle.

Retired generals will enjoy a range of other benefits, including domestic aides, residential guards, and up to \$20,000 annually for medical treatment, both domestically and abroad.

The retirement perks also include the provision of five domestic aides, including two cooks, two stewards, a civilian gardener, and an aide-de-camp or security officer. A special assistant or personal assistant, three service drivers, and nine soldiers as a security detail will also be provided.

For senior officers such as lieutenant generals, the benefits include two Toyota Hilux vehicles or one Toyota Land Cruiser, along with the annual \$20,000 medical allowance, two cooks, two stewards, four residential guards, and two drivers.

Major generals and brigadier generals will receive a Toyota Land Cruiser or equivalent, \$15,000 for medical treatment, and domestic staff. One-star officers are entitled to a Toyota Camry, \$10,000 for medical treatment, and similar domestic and security



arrangements.

While the lavish benefits for senior military officers have been met with support from some quarters, several Nigerian healthcare professionals and activists have expressed deep concern.

The President of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA), Professor Bala Audu, voiced his opposition to the provision of foreign medical treatment, stressing that any retirement benefits should be invested within Nigeria.

He called for improved healthcare infrastructure, arguing that the country should focus on upgrading its hospitals rather than relying on medical tourism.

Similarly, the President of the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria (MDCAN), Professor Muhammad Muhammad, expressed disappointment at the government's decision to make foreign medical treatment a formal entitlement, highlighting the fact that many of the doctors the service chiefs would encounter abroad are likely Nigerian.

He urged the government to invest in the

Nigerian healthcare system, ensuring it is equipped to handle the needs of all Nigerians, not just the political elite.

Dr. Tope Osundara, President of the Nigerian Association of Resident Doctors (NARD), also weighed in, describing medical tourism as a major problem for Nigeria's health sector.

He argued that the funds spent on sending government officials abroad could be better used to improve the country's healthcare system, ensuring that Nigerians do not have to leave the country for high-quality treatment.

The lavish retirement perks have also raised concerns about the fairness of resource allocation during a time of significant economic challenges for ordinary Nigerians.

Friday Odeh, Country Director of Accountability Lab Nigeria, questioned whether the service chiefs had done enough to deserve such extravagant benefits, given the ongoing insecurity and economic difficulties faced by the nation. He called on citizens to challenge such policies, suggesting that the government's priorities were misaligned with the needs of the broader population.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

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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
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8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
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9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
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6X3	41,124.50
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5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
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4X3	N/A
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33 former staff sue CBN over disengagement, demand N30 billion compensation

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Thirty-three former staff of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), who were laid off in a mass redundancy in 2024, have taken the apex bank to the National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN) in Abuja.

The claimants filed an originating summons on July 4, 2024, under the NICN Civil Procedure Rules 2017, and raised several issues for the court to determine.

They also seek to be awarded N30 billion in general damages for psychological distress, hardship, and reputational harm caused by the dismissal and an additional N500 million to cover the cost of the suit.

The former staff claim that the CBN violated internal policies, Nigerian labour laws, and contractual rights by terminating their appointment in 2024.

The 33 claimants are Stephen Gana, Kabiru Idris, Benedict Agbo, Peter Adeyemi, John Yisa, Eleanor Ihua, Stephen Ambore, Edom Obi, Dabo Chundung, Ekpe-Okoro Roupia, Alabi Mubarak, Isa Yusuf, Quadru Ralph, Olasupo Adedokun, Dauda Yusuf, Ogidi Tolu, Levi David, and Umar Kurba.

Others are Christopher Alfred, Gana Nma, Tanko Joel, Iyare Christian, Paul Iza, Alzebeokhai Esiemokhai, Pius Odunze, Isiuwe Uwadiahu, Vivienne Usoro, Imoh Francis, Ofili Lydia, Onunkwor Christopher, Adeshina Nurudeen, Bukar Ahmed, and Ajayi Omosolape.

The ex-CBN staff are all represented by Okwudili Abanum in a class action lawsuit.

Claimants' request from the court

The ex-CBN staff are requesting the court to decide whether they were denied their constitutional right to a fair hearing before and after their appointments were terminated.

The claimants argue that the termination process carried out through letters titled, 'Reorganisational and Human Capital Restructuring,' which was dated April 5, 2024, violated both the CBN human



resources policies and procedures manual and Section 36 of the Nigerian Constitution.

They stated that the process lacked the necessary consultation and fair hearing mandated by law.

The ex-CBN staff contend that the termination letters, which were issued on the grounds of restructuring, were arbitrary, illegal, and unconstitutional and are seeking an order declaring their dismissal null and void.

The claimants are also requesting a restraining order to prevent the CBN from terminating their employment without following the proper procedures.

They are also seeking a declaration for their immediate reinstatement and payment of salaries and benefits from the date of termination.

In the suit, the claimants reference Article 16.4.1 of the HRPPM, which mandates consultation with the joint consultative council and adherence to fair procedures before employment actions adversely affect staff.

They note that the provision of the Article was disregarded by the CBN, as they were given just three days to vacate their positions and hand over official property.

When the suit was first mentioned on November 20, 2024, the Justice O. A. Osaghae urged the parties involved to attempt an amicable resolution of the matter, under section 20 of the NICA 2006.

Defence team says it filed a preliminary objection to the suit

The defence team led by Inam Wilson (SAN) informed the court that they had filed a preliminary objection to the suit, which was served to the claimants on November 4, 2024.

Justice Osaghae thereafter adjourned the case to January 29, 2025 for the hearing of the preliminary objection.

CBN laid off staff in batches in 2024
In 2024, the CBN terminated the appointments of about a thousand staff in four batches between March and May, attracting the attention of the House of Representatives and various groups.

Some of the affected staff claimed they received severance payments as low as N5,000, while others said their gratuities were absorbed entirely to offset outstanding loans.

The CBN attributed the layoff to reorganisation and human capital restructuring. However, the affected staff argue that the process violated the CBN Act, which mandates board approval for significant employment decisions.

The apex bank dismissed claims of forced mass retirement saying the Early Exit Programme was voluntary and has no consequence on eligible staff.

UNILAG closes 2024/2025 admission exercise

By New Daily Prime

The University of Lagos, UNILAG, has closed admission exercise for the 2024/2025 academic session.

In a statement on Monday, the management of the institution also said any candidate that fails to accept admission offer latest by Friday, January 10, 2025, would be deemed to have forfeited such.

“This is to notify candidates seeking admission into the University of Lagos (UNILAG), as well as members of the university community and general public that the 2024/2025 Admission exercise of the university has closed.

“However, it has been observed that some candidates who have been offered admission into programmes different from their original choices are yet to accept the transfer offers to the new programmes. Consequently, the Admission Office is unable to propose the admission of these candidates on



JAMBCAPS.

“Please note that: Candidates who have been offered admission as indicated above have until Friday, January 10, 2025 to accept the offer on their portals. “The admission of candidates who do

not accept the transfer offer before the Friday, January 10, 2025 deadline will not be proposed, and their admission is therefore deemed to be forfeited. “Please be advised accordingly.”

Edo SUBEB boss suspends teacher for dereliction of duty

By New Daily Prime

As primary and secondary schools resumed for a new term, the Executive Chairman of the Edo State Universal Basic Education Board, SUBEB, Dr Paddy Iyamu, made an early visit to schools to ensure teachers were at their duty posts. In the course of the visits, he suspended a primary school teacher for dereliction of duty.

Iyamu, who went round some primary schools in Benin, Oredo Local Government, expressed disappointment that the teacher scored a pupil correct even when the pupil gave a wrong answer to a question.

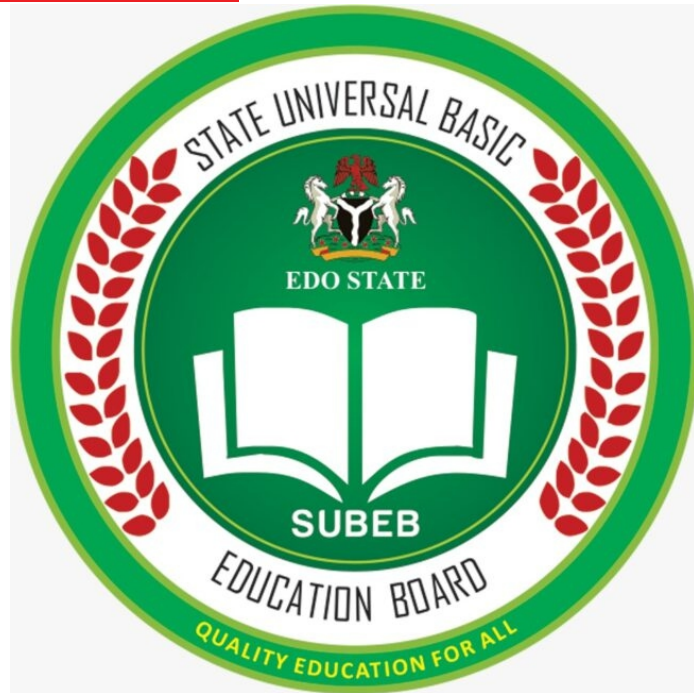
Iyamu, who read through the pupil's workbook, found out that the teacher scored the pupil correct, even when the pupil had given a wrong answer to a question.

The Chairman, who visited Uwa Primary School, Adesuwa Primary School, Akenzua Primary School among others, expressed disappointment that the teacher, who possesses a National Certificate in Education, NCE, could still not

adequately handle primary school pupils.

“The administration is committed to taking the state to greater height in the education sector and other sectors. For education, we cannot toy with our future by not getting the right and competent hands to teach our children. They are our future and as much as we are going to appreciate our teachers and make the working environment very conducive for them, we will also not tolerate indolence and incompetence.

“As part of the effort to make learning and teaching conducive, dilapidated schools are being rebuilt. Last December, we went to some of the schools on inspection and we got to one and saw the deplorable condition where pupils learn. Immediately, Governor Monday Okpebholo ordered



that the dilapidated building be pulled down and reconstruction to start. The pace of work is fast as we are mindful of finishing on time for our children to be taught in a serene environment. He also inspected some other schools marked for reconstruction by Governor Okpebholo few weeks

NANS in disarray over sharing formula for CNG buses

By New Daily Prime



It is not well within the ranks of the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, over the distribution of Compressed Natural Gas,, CNG buses to higher institutions in the country.

Some leaders of the association are alleging that the National President, Comrade Lucky Emonefe and the Senate President, Comrade Babatunde Akinteye Afeez, are not sharing the buses in line with the agreed terms.

They have therefore passed a vote of no confidence on the two leaders and sent petitions to President Bola Tinubu and others to call the two men to order.

New Daily Prime gathered that student leaders from across the country endorsed the petition for the authorities to call the duo to order.

The petition was signed by the Deputy Senate President, Dangote University of Science and Technology Wudil, Kano State, Comrade Huzaifa Sabo Usman, National ex-officio, Comrade Anderson Chimezie Uwakwe of the Federal College of Land and Resources Technology Owerri, Imo State, Vice President Special Duties, Egbo Johnpaul Nnamchi, Enugu State College of Education, Comrade Gundu Mimidoo

Joy, Public Relations Officer, Federal University of Agriculture Makurdi, Benue State, Abdulkaman Muhammad, Comrade Muhd Muazu, Mamuna Bello, Paul Edoh Gabriel, Kabiru Saminu, and Okafor Ernest Obinna.

Apart from the President, the petition was also sent to the Director-General, Department of State Services, DSS Headquarters, Abuja, Inspector-General of Police, IGP, Force Headquarters Abuja, EFCC, ICPC, SSA to the President on Students

Affairs, Minister of Transportation, NANS Zonal Coordinators, NANS JCC Chairmen as well as all SUG Presidents, asking particularly, President Tinubu to urgently intervene to avoid break down of law and order and to save his political integrity in the country.

The petition read in part; "His Excellency, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Dear sir, Petition against unequal distribution of CNG buses by the President, National Association of Nigerian Students and a vote of no confidence on Lucky Emonefe and Babatunde Akinteye Afeez. On behalf of the Nigerian Students, we write to express our utmost indignation and disappointment at the egregious unequal distribution of the CNG buses recently donated to the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS.

"This decision, made by the President of NANS, Comr. Lucky Emonefe in collaboration with the Senate President Comr. Babatunde Akinteye Afeez, is a flagrant disregard for the principles of equity, justice, and transparency".

"The buses meant to benefit all Nigerian students, have been selectively distributed leaving many students without access to this vital resources. This unequal distribution will inevitably lead to a shortage of transportation options within our campuses, causing undue hardship and economic challenges for Nigerian students".

"The economic implications of this unequal distribution cannot be overstated. Many students rely on affordable transportation to commute from campuses, and the shortage of this buses will only exacerbate the economic challenges facing Nigerian students. This will lead to increased costs for alternative transportation, which will further burden students who are already struggling to cope with the situation".

*Mr. President, we urge you to take immediate action by addressing this issue, as it will inevitably have far-reaching consequences on your political integrity. The unequal distribution of the buses will not only tarnish the image of NANS but also undermine the trust and confidence of students in your leadership, particularly during these economically challenging time across the country".

"Furthermore, this incident will likely be perceived as a gross dereliction of duty by the NANS President and the Senate President, which will in turn reflect poorly on your administration's commitment to transparency, accountability, and fairness. It is imperative to take decisive action to address this issue and restore the trust and confidence of students in the leadership of NANS".

*In view of the afore-mentioned fact, we request that you take the following actions; We demand a thorough investigation into the distribution process to identify those responsible for the unequal distribution of the buses".

Tinubu, Obasanjo, Jonathan attend Ghana's presidential inauguration

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

On Tuesday, January 7, President Bola Tinubu, alongside former Nigerian leaders Olusegun Obasanjo and Goodluck Jonathan, attended the historic inauguration of Ghana's newly elected president, John Mahama, in Accra.

The ceremony marked the return of Mahama to office after he succeeded Nana Akufo-Addo, who served as his predecessor from 2017.

A groundbreaking moment was also witnessed as Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang was sworn in as Ghana's first female vice president, further highlighting the country's



progressive political landscape.

In his speech, President Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to supporting Ghana under Mahama's leadership, praising him as a leader of "patriotic vision and substance."

He emphasised the importance of African unity, stating, "You can always count on Nigeria's support."

President Mahama, in his

inaugural address, expressed gratitude for the presence of dignitaries like President Tinubu, pledging to strengthen ties within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and focus on regional prosperity.

The event underscored the deepening ties between Ghana and Nigeria, offering a vision of unity and progress for the West African region.



President Bola Tinubu with immediate past President of Ghana Nana Akufo-Addo



President Bola Tinubu exchanging pleasantries with former President of Ghana John Kufour. January 7, 2025



President Bola Tinubu with former President Goodluck Jonathan. January 7, 2025

Mysterious Discovery: Two bodies found in JetBlue Plane's landing gear **By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

A shocking discovery was made at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport on Monday night when two bodies were found in the landing gear compartment of a JetBlue Airways plane. The incident has left authorities and passengers stunned, and an investigation is underway to determine how the individuals accessed the aircraft.

According to JetBlue, the bodies were discovered during a routine inspection after the plane landed. "The circumstances surrounding how they accessed the aircraft remain under investigation," the airline said in a statement. "This is a heartbreaking situation, and we are committed to working closely with authorities to support their efforts to understand how this occurred."

The plane, an Airbus A320, had departed from New York's John F.

Kennedy International Airport and arrived in Fort Lauderdale at 11:03 p.m. on Monday. The aircraft had also flown from Kingston, Jamaica, to JFK earlier in the day.

Authorities have confirmed that the bodies are yet to be identified, but reports suggest that they may be Jamaican nationals. The Broward Sheriff's Office and the Medical Examiner's Office are working together to determine the cause of death and identify the individuals.

The incident has raised concerns about airport security and the possibility of stowaways on commercial flights. "It's clearly a security breach there," said JetBlue passenger Steve Daoust. "You wonder if it's too many passengers, it's the holidays, but that should never



happen."

This is not the first incident of its kind. In a similar case, a body was found in the wheel well of a United Airlines flight from Chicago when it landed in Maui over the holidays.

As the investigation continues, JetBlue has assured passengers that the safety and security of their flights remain a top priority. The incident serves as a sobering reminder of the importance of airport security and the need for vigilance in preventing such breaches.

Nigeria Customs Service receives over 573,000 applications for 3,927 vacancies **By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has revealed that it received a staggering 573,519 applications for the 3,927 available positions in the recently concluded 2024/2025 recruitment exercise, barely a week after the portal was opened.

The overwhelming number of applicants far exceeds the vacancies available, highlighting the competitive nature of the recruitment process.

Last week, Finance Minister Olawale Edun had announced that the Federal Government had approved the hiring of 3,927 officers to address gaps within the service and improve trade facilitation.

Providing an update on the recruitment process after the application deadline had passed, the NCS's National Public Relations

Officer, Abdullahi Maiwada, confirmed that the total number of applicants surpassed half a million.

He outlined the breakdown of applicants, which included various categories for both general duty staff and support staff.

Superintendent Cadre: 249,218 applicants for general duty positions.

Superintendent Support Staff Cadre: 27,722 applicants with HNDs and university degrees.

Inspector Cadre: 115,634 applicants for general duty roles, and 12,952 for support staff positions.

Customs Assistants: 153,593 applicants for general duty and 14,400 for support staff, with categories



depending on their secondary school certificates.

Maiwada explained that the recruitment process had been smooth and thorough, and he provided a detailed overview of the applicants in the various categories, emphasising the widespread interest in the available positions.

43 professors petition Tinubu over appointment of Maikudi as UNIABUJA VC

By New Daily Prime



Gombe State Governor, Muhammadu Yahaya, has reiterated his administration's commitment to addressing the long-standing gratuity liabilities for retirees in the state.

Speaking on Monday, December 6, during the presentation of cheques and the payment of backlog gratuities to state retirees, Yahaya revealed that his government has cleared ₦17.2 billion of the ₦21 billion inherited from previous administrations.

Yahaya, who assumed office in 2019, acknowledged the gravity of the responsibility his government faced when it inherited the substantial backlog of gratuities.

Despite significant progress in clearing these debts, the Governor noted that the obligations continue to rise as more civil servants retire.

"When we assumed office in 2019, we inherited a backlog of gratuities amounting to over ₦21 billion from previous administrations. Recognising the weight of this responsibility, our administration has made significant strides toward alleviating this burden," Yahaya explained.

While ₦17.2 billion has been cleared, the outstanding gratuity liabilities now stand at ₦19 billion for both state and local government retirees.

Governor Yahaya pledged that his government is determined to clear all outstanding gratuities before the end of his tenure in 2027.

"Today's event demonstrates our resolve to leave no liabilities behind. I am pleased to reaffirm that it is our solemn commitment to clear all gratuity obligations before the end of our tenure in 2027. By doing so, we aim to leave a legacy of accountability and compassion, ensuring no retiree is left without the benefits they so rightly deserve," he said.

In addition to addressing the issue of gratuities, Yahaya highlighted his administration's efforts to improve the welfare of state workers, including the recent implementation of a N70,000 minimum wage for state government employees.

This move, according to the Governor, reflects the government's determination to protect civil servants from economic hardships, particularly in the wake of the removal of the fuel

subsidy.

Yahaya also took the opportunity to commend the cooperation of labour unions, retiree associations, and other stakeholders in ensuring that civil servants' welfare remains a top priority.

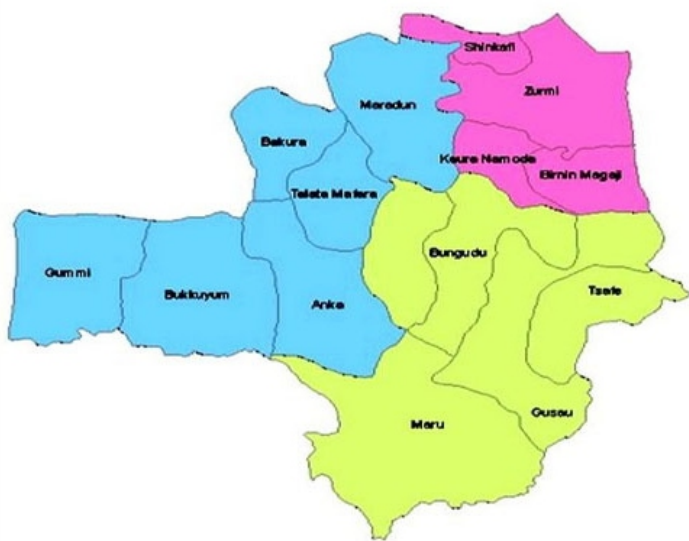
"I commend the labour unions, retiree associations, and other stakeholders for their patience, cooperation, and constructive dialogue throughout this process. Your support has been instrumental in guiding our reforms and ensuring the welfare of civil servants remains a top priority for our administration," he added.

The Governor's remarks underscore his commitment to providing financial security for the state's retirees and civil servants while balancing the state's economic challenges.

With a focus on legacy and accountability, Yahaya's administration is poised to make significant strides in resolving longstanding financial obligations in the coming years.

Bandits demand N100m levy from Zamfara communities

By Friday Omosola



A notorious bandit leader, Dogo Gide and his gang have ordered 23 communities in Tsafe West, located in Zamfara State's Tsafe Local Government Area, to pay over N100 million in levies.

According to sources, the affected communities have been assigned specific amounts, with the highest levies set at N20 million for Kunchin-

Kalgo, N15 million each for Sungawa and Rakyabu, and N10 million for Kwaren Mai-Saje and Magazawa.

Other villages include Gijin-Zama (N8.5 million), Giwa (N7 million), Kauyen Magaji (N7 million), and Barebari (N6 million).

The bandits' demands extended to several other villages, including Unguwar Rogo (N5 million), Machiya (N5 million), Katuga (N5 million), Magazu (N5 million), Tsageru (N5 million), Gidan-Anne (N7 million), Unguwar Dan Halima (N5 million), Kauyen-Kane (N5 million), Kurar-Mota (N6 million), Kibari (N3 million), Sabon-Garin Bakin Gulbi (N2.5 million), Karda (N5 million), Dakolo (N5 million), and Yalwa (N2.7 million).

This move has heightened tension in the

region as residents scramble to meet the demands, fearing violent reprisals if they fail to comply.

Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Dalijan, confirmed the development, but assured the public that security forces had been deployed to the affected areas to maintain order and prevent any attacks.

Dalijan emphasised that no community had been abandoned, and no one had fled their homes despite the threats. He assured that security agencies are committed to protecting the residents' lives and property.

The increasing use of extortion through levies by bandits has become a major issue in Zamfara, a state plagued by insecurity.

Residents are urging the government to take stronger action to combat this threat and restore peace.

Edo gov Okpebholo nominates six commissioner designates for confirmation

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has submitted the names of six individuals nominated to serve as commissioners in his administration.

The names were sent to the state House of Assembly for confirmation on Tuesday.

In a letter signed by the Secretary to the State Government, Umar Ikhilor, the following commissioner-designates were proposed: Marie Olabisi-Idaomi, Paddy Iyamu, Paul Ohounbamu, Washington Osifo, Lucky Esegbe, and Andrew Ijegbai.

The letter, titled "Request for the

Confirmation of Commissioners," formally presented the nominees to the Assembly for consideration and approval.

It reads, "I write at the instance of the Governor of Edo State, Monday Okpebholo, to forward for the consideration and confirmation of the Assembly the underlisted names as Commissioner designates."

The Governor's letter further conveyed his hope for the swift confirmation of the nominees, closing with warm regards on behalf of the Governor.

This move is part of Governor Okpebholo's continued efforts to form a



functional and effective cabinet to advance the state's development agenda.

Bauchi, Katsina Governors revamp cabinets to boost governance, service delivery

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



Bauchi State Governor Bala Mohammed has sacked five commissioners in a cabinet reshuffle aimed at enhancing governance and ensuring optimal service delivery. The affected commissioners are Dr. Jamila Dahiru (Education), Abubakar Bununu (Internal Security and Home Affairs), Usman Danturaki (Information and Communication), Prof. Simon Yalams (Agriculture), and Yakubu Hamza (Religious Affairs and Societal Reorientation).

According to Mukhtar Gidado, the Governor's Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, the cabinet reconstitution aligns with the Governor's vision of addressing emerging challenges and injecting fresh ideas into the government. The move reflects the governor's commitment to injecting new ideas and energy into governance, strengthening government machinery to address emerging challenges.

The governor has expressed his

gratitude to the outgoing commissioners for their dedication and service. He wishes them success in their future endeavors. As part of the reshuffle, the governor has forwarded a list of eight commissionership nominees to the state House of Assembly for approval. The nominees include Isa Tilde, Abdullahi Mohammed, Dr. Bala Lukshi, Usman Shehu, Iliyasu Gital, Prof. Titus Ketkukah, Adamu Gabarin, and Dr. Mohammed Lawal.

In a similar development, Katsina State Governor Dikko Radda has approved a minor cabinet reshuffle aimed at optimizing the performance of his administration.

Malik Anas, a new commissioner nominee, has been appointed to head the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning. Anas holds a Master's in Business Administration from Bayero University, Kano, and has served as Katsina State Accountant General.

Other changes in the Katsina State

cabinet include Bello Kagara moving from the Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning to the Ministry of Finance, and Bashir Tanimu Gambo being reassigned from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

Yusuf Rabi'u Jirdede will move from the Ministry of Special Duties to the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Investment, while Adnan Nahabu transitions from Commerce, Trade and Investment to the Ministry of Special Duties.

Governor Radda has directed the newly appointed and reassigned commissioners to maintain excellent service, urging them to intensify their efforts in serving the people of Katsina State. The governor specifically charged Malik Anas to align his ministry's objectives with the administration's Building Your Future agenda.

FG budgets N41.49bn for rail projects in 2025

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**



The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has announced a significant remittance of over N6 billion to the Nigerian government in 2024.

The announcement was made in the board's weekly bulletin, which was released on Monday, January 6, by its Public Communication Advisor, Dr Fabian Benjamin.

According to the bulletin, JAMB generated a total income of N22,996,653,265.25 in 2024. Out of

this amount, N6,034,605,510.69 was remitted to the government.

In addition, the board highlighted that the reduction of N1,500 in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) form fees, multiplied by the number of candidates who benefited from the reduction, increased the total remittance to N9,013,068,510.69.

The remittance forms part of the operating surplus generated by JAMB following the successful conduct of the 2024 UTME.

The board also noted its consistent contributions to the national treasury under the leadership of its Registrar/Chief Executive, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede. Over the past seven years, JAMB has remitted over N50 billion to the Nigerian government, further demonstrating its financial impact and transparency.

JAMB's 2024 financial performance reflects its ongoing commitment to contributing to the country's development, while also making efforts to ease the financial burden on candidates through the reduction in UTME form fees.

In its statement, the board remarked, "As we reflect on 2024, it is essential to uphold our commitment to transparency by sharing our financial performance for the year. In 2024, the board generated a total income of N22,996,653,265.25, of which N6,034,605,510.69 was remitted to the government. When combined with the N1,500 reduction per form for candidates multiplied by the number of candidates that benefited in 2024, the total remittance by JAMB would amount to N9,013,068,510.69."

The news of this remittance highlights JAMB's significant role in supporting the Nigerian economy, reinforcing its transparency and dedication to contributing to the nation's financial growth.

Police donate food items to Home for children living with disabilities

By **Helen Okechukwu**

The Rivers State Police Command, through the C4i Strike Force, has donated food items to children living with disabilities.

The Police spokesperson, Grace Iringe-Koko, on Monday noted that the visitation commemorates the New Year celebration.

Iringe-Koko said the visit to the Compassion Centre for Physically Challenged/Handicapped Children, Catholic Diocese of Port Harcourt, located in Trans-Amadi, was led by the Commander, CSP Julian Igbudu, in fulfillment of a previously made vow.

Items donated include bags of rice, cartons of noodles, bottles of vegetable oil, toiletries, and other

gifts.

The statement read in part, "The Commander and his team were passionate and reflected on the living conditions of the children, reassuring them of their continued support and safety."

"The Commander noted that the empathetic visit and commitment to giving back to the community demonstrate the Commissioner of Police, Rivers State, CP Olugbenga A. Adepoju, psc, mnips, and his Management Team's dedication to serving and protecting the people of Rivers State."

She added that, "This aligns with the Inspector-General of Police's vision, emphasizing love, peace, care, cheer, and international best practices."



She called for collaborative efforts from groups and organizations to alleviate the lives of the less privileged while promoting a conducive environment for all.

Police donate food items to Home for children living with disabilities

By Helen Okechukwu



For a few minutes, I need you to be a blockchain technology nerd for few minutes.

Have you at some point been hearing about SUI and the SUI network in the crypto community and a bit confused about what it is and means?

SUINetwork

I have got a easy breakdown for you as to what SUI means, the SUI network and its community. SUI is a Layer-1 blockchain developed by Mysten Labs, a company founded by former Meta (Facebook) engineers who worked on the Diem (formerly Libra) blockchain project and the Move programming language.

After Meta discontinued Diem, these engineers decided to build their own blockchain using the knowledge and technology they had developed. SUI was designed to address some of the limitations of existing blockchains, particularly regarding scalability, transaction speed, and development complexity.

Its key technical features and innovations includes object-centric model. SUI network breaks away

from the traditional account-based model used by most blockchains like Bitcoin and Ethereum. Instead, it uses an object-centric model where each asset (like an NFT or a token) is treated as an independent object.

This allows for parallel transaction processing, significantly increasing output. It also operates on a Move Programming Language, that is, SUI utilizes the Move programming language, also developed at Meta.

Move is designed with security and asset safety in mind, making it well-suited for building smart contracts and managing digital assets. It has strong formal verification properties, which help prevent vulnerabilities.

SUI has generated significant interest in the crypto community due to its innovative architecture and the pedigree of its development team. It represents a new approach to blockchain design, focusing on scalability and user experience.

The object-centric model is particularly

well-suited for NFTs and blockchain gaming. SUI's high throughput and low fees make it an attractive platform for NFT and gaming applications. Investing in any cryptocurrency involves risk, and SUI is no exception.

However, some potential reasons to consider investing in SUI include:

- A Strong Technology

- Experienced Team

- Growing Ecosystem

- Potential for Mass Adoption.

If SUI can deliver on its promises of scalability and user experience, it has the potential to become a leading platform for decentralized applications and digital assets.

SUI is an innovative project but just as innovative as this project is, it is still very important that adequate research is done as the crypto market is very volatile.

Reasons why you should consider a Windows PC over a MacBook

By Eyitayo Jemimah Ajayi



It is the start of a new year and perhaps about the right time to change old devices to new ones.

You know what they say; “start the new year with new things”. Who said new things shouldn’t include new devices just include your laptop or desktop?

Personal computers have basically transitioned from being a luxury to a necessity, and here are 5 reasons you might consider getting a Windows PC to a MacBook:

MacBook versus Windows PC

MacBook versus Windows PC

1. Hardware Upgradability:

Many Windows PCs, especially desktops, allow you to upgrade components like RAM, storage, and graphics cards.

This extends the lifespan of your computer and allows you to improve performance over time. MacBooks, on the other hand, are often difficult or impossible to upgrade.

Windows PC
Windows PC

2. Software Compatibility:

While most popular software is available on both Windows and MacOS, Windows still has a larger software library, especially for:

- Gaming: The vast majority of PC games are designed for Windows.
- Specialized software: Certain industry-specific applications may only be available for Windows.

3. More Affordable Options:

In general, you can get a Windows PC with comparable or even better specs than a MacBook for a lower price. This is especially true in the budget and mid-range segments.

4. Greater Variety and Customization:

The Windows PC market offers a vast array of manufacturers (Dell, HP, Lenovo, ASUS, etc.) and models. This means you have a much wider choice of hardware configuration which allows you choose specific processors, RAM, storage, graphics cards, and screen sizes to match your needs. In addition, form factors, that is, laptops, desktops, 2-in-1s, all-in-ones – Windows PCs come in more shapes and sizes.

5. Open Ecosystem:

Windows offers a more open ecosystem with greater flexibility. For example, hardware compatibility which allows more freedom to choose peripherals and accessories from different manufacturers. Also, file management which provides a more traditional file system that some users find easier to navigate.

Rising medication costs leave asthma patients in Nigeria fighting to survive

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

Amid Nigeria's economic reforms, asthma patients struggle with soaring medication costs, limited healthcare access, and environmental triggers, relying on NGOs and coping strategies for survival.

As most Nigerians grapple with escalating economic reforms, the high cost of medications has exacerbated their health challenges, turning manageable conditions into severe burdens. For asthma patients, the rising prices of essential medications, such as inhalers and tablets, have become a financial drain, complicating their ability to manage the condition effectively.

Mrs. Blessing Chimieze, a mother of three residing in Eleme, shared her story of living with asthma during Nigeria's economic downturn. Diagnosed with asthma in 2009, she expressed gratitude for God's faithfulness in her life while speaking to The New Daily Prime on December 22, 2024. Recalling her experiences, she described numerous severe asthma attacks, including one during the early stages of her pregnancy.

In 2020, she also faced a life-threatening attack caused by toxic fumes from a generator in her compound. "It happened at midnight," she recounted, her voice trembling. "I almost gave up as I feared for my life." Her husband, trained in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), performed mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to revive her before rushing her to a hospital. Rejected at one facility due to her critical condition, she was eventually admitted to another hospital, where she was placed on oxygen for the first time in her life.

"Seeing my husband's face when I regained consciousness was overwhelming," she recounted emotionally. Mrs. Chimieze explained that her condition severely

limits her daily activities, causing sleepless nights, daytime fatigue, and poor concentration. "Asthmatic patients suffer a lot," she said, her voice heavy with experience.

To survive, Mrs. Chimieze has adopted strict lifestyle changes. She avoids polluted environments filled with smoke, dust, or allergens and monitors her activities to prevent triggers. Her strategies include ensuring good ventilation, drinking liquid milk to ease symptoms, and relying on medications like Ventolin nebulizers and aminophylline injections.

However, the rising costs of these life-saving treatments have strained her finances. Forced to choose cheaper alternatives, she now relies on Ventolin tablets. Years ago, she could purchase a pack of 10–15 Ventolin tablets for ₦50, which lasted for weeks. Today, three tablets are sold for ₦100, double the previous price. "There's an injection called Aminophylline. Once I take it, my heart opens up," she explained. "But it's expensive. It used to cost ₦1,000–₦1,500, but now it's around ₦3,000–₦4,000. I can't afford it, which is why I stick to Ventolin tablets and injections."

Despite the economic hardship, Mrs. Chimieze manages to save ₦500 daily to buy medications and avoid emergency attacks. "Taking precautionary measures is necessary," she asserted. "But if I start experiencing symptoms, I take the drugs immediately."

Mrs. Chimieze also shared how she incorporates local herbal remedies to relieve her pain. Two years ago, she met a herbal specialist, Mr. Augustine Ovie-Whiskey (fondly called Whiskey), and under his care, she noticed significant improvement. "Before, I visited the



hospital frequently during harmattan, but now, I rarely face attacks," she said.

She credits her progress to a strict regimen that includes herbal medicine, regular exercise to expand her chest, a tailored diet, and avoiding stress and pollution. When herbal medications are unavailable, she resorts to conventional treatments, which she claims have no adverse side effects on her. In addition to herbal remedies, Mrs. Chimieze has received support from NGOs like the Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) scheme.

Despite her health condition, Mrs. Chimieze continues to prepare meals for her family, including dishes like Egusi soup and fried foods, which she has been advised to avoid. Her husband has restricted her from performing household chores, and her niece now assists with daily tasks to minimize stress, a major trigger for asthma attacks. "Stress triggers it a lot," she emphasized. "I've been restricted from heavy work or employment." Asthma remains a significant health issue in Nigeria, affecting approximately 13 million people. The high cost of medication and the exit of an international pharmaceutical company have created a shortage of asthma treatments in the market.

S Govt donates exhibit facility to NDLEA

By Helen Okechukwu



In an effort to combat drug-related crime, the United States government has donated a central exhibit office to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA). At the inauguration ceremony held on Tuesday, the US Consulate General, Ms. Jo Ellen Georg, along with other senior US officials, handed over the facility to the anti-drug agency headquarters annex in Ikoyi, Lagos State.

The Chairman/Chief Executive of NDLEA, Brig Gen Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd), noted that the support from the US government and other partners showcases their personal effort against drug trafficking activities.

Marwa said in 2024 about 18,500 drug traffickers were arrested, and 2.6 million kg of drugs seized.

Marwa appreciated the US government for her donation, describing it as an investment for the future of Nigeria.

“This contribution will not only strengthen our operational framework but also set a new standard for accountability and transparency in drug law enforcement.”

Despite encountering several issues, Marwa reaffirmed their commitment to surmounting challenges and recording improvement as the fight against drug-related crime continues.

Recounting their achievements in 2024, he said over 3,250 drug offenders had been convicted, including 10 drug lords, and 220 hectares of cannabis farms were destroyed.

Also, he noted that over 8,200 individuals have been counselled and rehabilitated, while more than 3,000 sensitisation programmes have been organised across the country in schools, markets, and motor parks among key places.

The Chairman calls for continuous support from the US government and other partners, particularly in surveillance and tracking, intelligence and information sharing, and logistics.

Moreover, he hailed the US DEA attaché in Nigeria, Mr. Robert Bascoe, for his unwavering efforts and commitment while expressing gratitude to the United States Africa Command and the US Embassy for their partnership.

Ms. Georg praised Marwa’s efforts and leadership style, noting that this development will improve the agency’s

ability to conduct investigations, process arrestees, and post-arrest interviews.

Highlighting US government investment in Nigeria, she recalled that in 2024 half a million dollars was donated for a chemical forensic laboratory in Lagos.

She said, “That upgraded laboratory is now equipped with cutting-edge technology, which enhances the NDLEA’s capacity to analyse suspicious substances and to process evidence from crime scenes and suspects.”

Pledging further collaboration with the Nigerian government, she acknowledged the pivotal role played by late President Jimmy Carter, who passed away on December 29th at age 100.

“We look forward to deepening our collaboration with the Nigerian government and its agencies as we continue to combat narcotics to disrupt the flow of illegal drugs, especially synthetic drugs, and that will better both of our societies,” Ms. Georg noted.

NAFDAC shuts Chinese supermarket for alleged labelling violations

By Helen Okechukwu

In a major crackdown, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has shut down a Chinese owned supermarket in Abuja for allegedly violating the agency's labelling regulations and selling expired goods.

Acting on a credible source, the agency stormed the Chinese supermarket located at Azba Mall, 2 Durban Street, Wasu 2, to verify the claim.

The agency enforcement team leader, Shaba Mohammed, confirmed that the supermarket sold products written only in Chinese language, describing it as a violation of the agency's law.

The supermarket owned and managed by a Chinese national alleged that they were in the process of obtaining a licensing and translating product label permit from NAFDAC, as mandated by law.

He revealed that further investigation will be carried out to determine how the product bypassed labelling requirements and gained entrance into the country without being intercepted.

After inspecting the supermarket warehouse store, it was discovered that 90 percent of the goods were labelled only in Chinese.

"You also find some Nigerians patronising the supermarket."

He noted that the aim of the operation was to stop the sales of the products to the public, acknowledging the goals of the agency.

Expressing concern, Mohammed said, "If you must sell anything labelled in either Arabic, Chinese, or Indian language, then you must have the English translation of it.

He added, "So, how are they able to read what they have bought? Not only that, when you look at the date markings, some of the items have expired, and they are still on the shelves.

Read Also: NAFDAC probes



suspected fake Amoxicillin capsules

"Even if NAFDAC gave them a global listing to import the items, the labelling ought to have been in the English language.

"So, they can't present to us any document from NAFDAC for which the items are in foreign language. That is not acceptable. So, that is why we have to seal off the supermarket.

"We have to invite them, do thorough

investigation before we conclude on the case. You can't be here and then you just bring in anything. No, it doesn't happen.

Emphasising the need of upholding national standard, he said "You can't have a country in a country.

Candy Bleakz: Why you shouldn't 'japa' if you're doing well in Nigeria

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Singer Candy Bleakz has joined the ongoing conversation about the rising trend of relocating abroad, widely known as “japa.”

In a candid video shared on social media, the artist discussed the challenges many Nigerians face after leaving the country, urging her audience to think twice before making such a significant decision.

Bleakz delved into the hardships of living abroad, addressing the often-overlooked aspects of daily life. She shed light on the demanding work schedules, exorbitant cost of living, and extreme weather conditions that people often endure in foreign countries.

“Everybody talks about japa, japa, japa and moving to the UK,” she said. “But nobody is talking about the price they have to pay.”

The myth of greener pastures

For many Nigerians, relocating abroad is seen as a ticket to a better life. However, Candy Bleakz argued that the dream of greener pastures is not always accurate. While countries like the UK may offer stability and security, the singer warned that these benefits often come at a steep cost.

“Did you tell them about working every day from seven to six? Did you mention the cold or the bills? Or how hard it is to survive?” Bleakz asked. She painted a stark picture of the monotony and stress many immigrants face, particularly in places where community connections are scarce, and social interactions are minimal.

In her video, the singer lamented the lack of a vibrant social life abroad. “People don’t greet others in the UK,” she said. “Nobody goes anywhere unnecessarily because of tickets. Imagine working all your life just to pay bills.”



Call for caution

Candy Bleakz’s message was clear: relocation should not be an impulsive decision. She encouraged Nigerians who are thriving in the country to think carefully before leaving everything behind. “If you’re in Nigeria and you’re blessed and making money, don’t relocate here. It’s stressful and boring,” she said.

She also noted that many people who relocate often face unexpected challenges, including homesickness and a lack of belonging. “Even some people in the UK want to go back home,” Bleakz added, highlighting the irony of the situation.

Appreciating life in Nigeria

The singer emphasized the importance of appreciating the positives of life in Nigeria. While the country has its own set of challenges, Bleakz believes that those who are doing well can find fulfillment and opportunities at home. She urged Nigerians to weigh their options carefully and not to fall for the illusion that life abroad is inherently better.

Bleakz also addressed the sacrifices that come with relocation. For many, moving abroad means starting from scratch, often in low-paying jobs that barely cover expenses. She argued that these sacrifices are not always worth the trade-off, particularly for those who are already successful in Nigeria.

Relocation as a last resort

Candy Bleakz suggested that moving abroad should only be considered as a last resort when opportunities in Nigeria are severely limited. “The only reason you should consider japa is if there is no hope for you in Nigeria,” she said.

Nigerian Rapper Candy Bleakz. [Photo Credit: Google]

Nigerian Rapper Candy Bleakz. [Photo Credit: Google]

Her message resonated with many Nigerians, particularly those who have experienced the struggles of living abroad. Bleakz’s words serve as a reminder that the grass is not always greener on the other side.

Balanced perspective

The singer’s comments have sparked discussions online, with some agreeing with her sentiments while others argued that relocation can still be a viable option for those seeking better opportunities.

While Candy Bleakz acknowledged the peace and security that countries like the UK offer, she made it clear that these benefits come at a price. Her advice to Nigerians is to make informed decisions and to avoid romanticizing life abroad.

GehGeh: Nigerian women see relationships as jobs

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular media personality and content creator, GehGeh, has sparked widespread debate with his recent remarks on relationships and marriage in Nigeria. Speaking on a recent episode of The Honest Bunch podcast, GehGeh expressed strong opinions about modern dating culture, particularly criticizing Nigerian women for their perceived approach to relationships. The content creator claimed that many Nigerian women now view relationships as a form of employment.

According to him, this mindset has significantly changed the dynamics of love and marriage, creating a transactional relationship model where men are seen as providers and women as beneficiaries.

Marriage as a strategy?

In his discussion, GehGeh urged men to reconsider the institution of marriage altogether. He suggested that modern marriage, in many cases, has become a strategy for women to secure resources from men. He argued that this shift places unnecessary financial and emotional burdens on men.

“Men should stop marrying because it’s a strategy women use to lure men into wasting their resources,” GehGeh stated. He went on to compare current societal norms to those of earlier generations, lamenting the changes in traditional roles and responsibilities within marriage.

A look at the past

Drawing from his cultural heritage as an Urhobo man, GehGeh reflected on how marriage worked in previous generations. He explained that, historically, women played active roles as providers within the household.

“In my dad’s era, women worked for men,” he explained. “The man was the king of the household, often with multiple wives, who contributed significantly by working on the farm and supporting the family.

Meanwhile, the man provided authority and protection.”

He questioned whether these traditional dynamics still hold today. “But is it like that nowadays?” he asked rhetorically, emphasizing the dramatic shift in gender roles and expectations.

Dating for money

GehGeh didn’t stop at critiquing marriage; he also had harsh words about dating in contemporary Nigerian society. He claimed that many Nigerian women prioritize financial gain over emotional connection in their relationships.

“I feel Nigerian women are the worst to date or marry because they date for money,” GehGeh said. “They see relationships as a form of employment. They believe their partners have to pay their bills. I’m not ready for that.”

The content creator’s bold statements have ignited conversations online, with some agreeing with his perspective while others strongly disagree.

Reactions to GehGeh’s comments

Since the podcast aired, GehGeh’s comments have drawn both criticism and support. Some social media users have praised him for addressing what they see as a growing issue in modern relationships.

They argue that his remarks highlight the importance of fairness and mutual contribution in partnerships.

Others, however, have called his views outdated and unfair. Critics argue that his statements paint Nigerian women in a negative light and fail to consider the complexities of modern relationships.

They also point out that financial struggles and societal pressures often shape dating and marriage dynamics, not just individual intentions.

Call for balance



GehGeh’s comments bring to light broader issues surrounding love, gender roles, and financial expectations in relationships.

While his words may be controversial, they reflect ongoing debates about the evolving nature of marriage and partnership in Nigerian society.

The growing emphasis on financial stability and security in relationships is not unique to Nigeria. Across the globe, economic challenges and shifting cultural norms are reshaping how people approach love and commitment.

These changes often lead to misunderstandings and conflicts between partners with differing expectations.

Moving forward

As discussions around GehGeh’s remarks continue to gain traction, one thing is clear: relationships in the modern world require mutual understanding and compromise.

Whether it’s about finances, roles, or responsibilities, open communication and shared values remain crucial for long-lasting partnerships.

Denilson Igwe doubts Mark Angel's \$3.7M forex loss

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Denilson Igwe questions Mark Angel's claim of losing \$3.7M (6 billion naira) in forex trading, sparking online debate over its authenticity.

The revelation, shared by Mark Angel in an emotional Instagram post, has sparked mixed reactions online.

Mark Angel's emotional revelation described 2024 as the most difficult year of his life. In a heartfelt post, he explained that his foray into forex trading had resulted in a staggering financial loss of \$3.7 million. The skitmaker's candid admission drew sympathy from fans and followers, with many offering words of encouragement. His transparency resonated with those who admired his success in the comedy industry.

Denilson Igwe responds with scepticism

However, Denilson Igwe, another prominent figure in the comedy space, responded sharply to Mark Angel's claim. In a direct Instagram post, Igwe hinted that the story might not be entirely truthful. He wrote, "Lies na water. Some people are just worse than the devil." The statement, though brief, carried a heavy implication that Mark Angel's story could be fabricated.

This is not the first time the two comedians have clashed publicly. Their strained relationship has been a topic of discussion since their falling out in 2024. Igwe's recent remarks reignite tensions and suggest lingering animosity.

Troubled history between collaborators

The discord between Igwe and Angel dates back to earlier in 2024, when Igwe accused Mark Angel of financial misconduct.

In a series of posts, Igwe alleged that Angel had diverted the comedy team's streaming revenues into his accounts.

According to Igwe, the group's hard work was being exploited, with team

members receiving minimal compensation while Angel reportedly pocketed millions.

At the time, Igwe's accusations shocked fans of the comedy duo. Their collaborations had brought laughter to millions and cemented their status as trailblazers in Nigeria's digital comedy scene. The allegations of betrayal and financial impropriety cast a shadow over their shared legacy.

Social media reacts

The unfolding drama between Igwe and Angel has reignited conversations online. Fans have taken sides, with some defending Mark Angel and others supporting Igwe's call for accountability. Many expressed surprise at the scale of the alleged forex loss, questioning the legitimacy of the claim.

Supporters of Mark Angel view his confession as a moment of vulnerability, arguing that financial mistakes can happen to anyone. Others, however, see Denilson Igwe's skepticism as valid, especially given the history of tension between the two comedians.

Questions linger over forex claim

Mark Angel's revelation comes amid a growing awareness of the risks associated with forex trading. While some have found success in the volatile market, others have faced significant losses. Critics argue that Angel's claim lacks concrete evidence, which fuels speculation about its authenticity.

Popular Content Creator Denilson Igwe. [Photo Credit: Google]

Popular Content Creator Denilson Igwe. [Photo Credit: Google]

Denilson Igwe's pointed response only deepens the controversy. His cryptic remark suggests a belief that the forex loss story might be an attempt to gain sympathy or distract from previous allegations.

This sentiment has resonated with some



fans who recall the unresolved financial dispute between the former collaborators.

Transitioning from controversy

As the public watches this feud unfold, questions about trust and accountability within the comedy industry remain.

The fallout between Mark Angel and Denilson Igwe highlights the challenges of managing financial success and navigating personal conflicts in a highly competitive space.

For now, both comedians continue to command significant attention, but their fractured relationship serves as a cautionary tale.

Transparency, mutual respect, and clear communication are essential in collaborative efforts, especially in creative industries.

Whether Mark Angel's forex claim is genuine or not, the public reaction underscores the importance of credibility.

Fans will likely continue to scrutinize both parties' actions, keeping the spotlight on one of Nigeria's most high-profile creative rifts.

Iyabo Ojo: Why I regretted seeking Mohbad's exhumation

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actress Iyabo Ojo has expressed deep regret over her earlier call to exhume the body of the late singer Mohbad.

Speaking on a podcast hosted by her colleague Biola Bayo, the actress admitted she would not have made that decision if she had foreseen the controversies and complications that followed.

During the interview, Iyabo Ojo reflected on the unintended consequences of her advocacy, stating, "I wouldn't have requested that Mohbad be exhumed if I knew his case would turn out this way."

Her emotional response highlighted the challenges surrounding the investigation into the singer's death and the delays in achieving closure for his grieving family.

The initial call for justice

When news of Mohbad's sudden death broke on September 12, 2023, fans and loved ones demanded answers.

The singer, buried just a day later, left behind a legacy overshadowed by questions and suspicions. Iyabo Ojo, along with others in the entertainment industry, called for a thorough investigation to uncover the truth behind his untimely passing.

The actress advocated for exhuming Mohbad's body, emphasizing the need for an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Her intentions were clear: to ensure justice and provide closure. She explained, "I just wanted Mohbad's body exhumed so they could do the autopsy to find out the cause of his death."

Complex turn of events

However, what started as a pursuit of justice soon spiraled into chaos. Mohbad's body was exhumed on September 21, 2023, nine days after his burial.

While the autopsy was expected to shed light on the circumstances of his death, the process faced setbacks and fueled public debates.

Iyabo Ojo revealed that the investigation became increasingly



complicated. Conflicting theories emerged, overshadowing the original purpose of the exhumation.

She shared her frustration, saying, "I did my best to be sure that everyone was investigated, but when they came up with different theories, DNA became more important to them."

The focus shifted from uncovering the cause of death to other tangential issues, leaving the actress disheartened.

The delays in concluding the investigation only deepened her regret, as Mohbad's family and fans remained without the answers they sought.

Lesson learned

Reflecting on the ordeal, Iyabo Ojo expressed sorrow over her involvement in the process. While her intentions were noble, she acknowledged the unintended consequences of her actions.

The actress lamented the impact of the controversy on Mohbad's legacy and the prolonged grief for his loved ones.

The situation serves as a stark reminder of the complexities involved in high-profile investigations.

Calls for justice, while well-meaning, can sometimes lead to unintended outcomes, especially when public scrutiny and speculation come into play.

The bigger picture

Mohbad's death and the ensuing investigation have sparked broader conversations about the treatment of artists in the entertainment industry. Many have called for better protection, support, and mental health resources for creatives navigating the pressures of fame.

For Iyabo Ojo, this experience has been a humbling one. Her regret underscores the need for a balanced approach to seeking justice, one that considers the potential repercussions of public actions.

Despite the challenges, the actress remains committed to advocating for fairness and transparency. Her emotional admission on the podcast serves as a powerful reminder of the human cost behind high-profile tragedies.

Moving forward

As the investigation into Mohbad's death continues, fans and stakeholders hope for a resolution that honors his memory.

Iyabo Ojo's reflections highlight the importance of patience and careful consideration in the pursuit of justice.

Kellyrae, Kassia: “Won BBNaija 9 With God’s Help”

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Kellyrae and Kassia, winners of Big Brother Naija 9, thanked God for their victory during a heartfelt Thanksgiving service at their church.

The couple, known for their authenticity and unwavering faith, shared their journey through the competition, crediting divine intervention for their success.

Overcoming the odds without compromise

During the service, Kellyrae reflected on their challenges while competing on the reality show. He addressed the perception that winning often requires embracing toxic behaviors or abandoning personal values.

“We went for a show where people believe you have to be toxic or an unbeliever before you can win. But God granted us divine help,” Kellyrae said, his voice resonating with conviction.

Staying true amid pressure

Kassia echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the importance of staying true to oneself in the face of immense pressure.

She praised their reliance on prayer and the strength they drew from their faith throughout the competition. “We knew what we stood for, and we refused to let the challenges shake our faith,” she affirmed.

Victory rooted in integrity

The couple’s triumph in Big Brother Naija marked a departure from the norm. In an environment often associated with drama and controversial tactics, Kellyrae and Kassia’s approach stood out.

They prioritized genuine connections and avoided toxic dynamics, demonstrating that integrity and kindness could prevail in a competitive setting.



Fans applaud their authenticity

Their journey sparked widespread admiration among fans, who took to social media to celebrate their win.

Many praised their humility and authenticity, expressing gratitude for the positive example they set. “They showed us that you don’t have to lose yourself to win,” one fan wrote, capturing the sentiments of many supporters.

Community support and spiritual guidance

During the Thanksgiving service, the couple acknowledged the vital role their church and community played in their success.

Their pastor commended them for using their platform to inspire others and encouraged the congregation to draw strength from their story.

BBNaija season 9 winner Kellyrae and wife Kassia. [Photo Credit: Google]

BBNaija season 9 winner Kellyrae and wife Kassia. [Photo Credit: Google]

Plans for a purposeful future

Looking ahead, Kellyrae and Kassia are determined to make a positive impact. They plan to leverage their platform for

charitable projects, particularly those aimed at empowering young people to pursue their dreams while staying true to their beliefs.

Testament to faith and perseverance

The story of Kellyrae and Kassia is more than a reality TV victory. It’s a powerful testament to the importance of faith, integrity, and perseverance.

Their win redefines what it means to succeed in a competitive space, inspiring others to hold onto their values in the pursuit of success.

New chapter begins

As the couple embarks on the next phase of their journey, fans eagerly await the positive changes they will bring to their community and beyond.

Kellyrae and Kassia’s story is a beacon of hope for those who believe that character and faith can lead to triumph, even in the most challenging circumstances.

Beyond the Ring: Anthony Joshua connects with his heritage

By Friday Omosola

Nigeria, particularly Lagos State, has blossomed into a global hub, captivating both domestic and international celebrities. From Christmas festivities and cultural celebrations to tours and diverse events, the allure of Lagos is undeniable.

A diverse array of figures, including prominent footballers like Bukayo Saka (Arsenal and England) and Rio Ferdinand (former Manchester United star), as well as renowned figures like Rick Ross (Maybach Music Group executive), have been drawn to Nigeria's rich cultural tapestry and unique experiences.

This trend continues with recent visits from international stars like American singer Chloe Bailey, who sparked dating rumours with Burna Boy, and rapper Gunna, who headlined the Lagos Flytime Fest. South African singer Tyla also joined the festivities, enjoying the company of Tems and Ayra Starr.

But the talk of the town remains the world-renowned boxing champion, Anthony Joshua, who made headlines in Nigeria in December 2024 and early January 2025 with a series of high-profile visits, including meetings with political leaders.

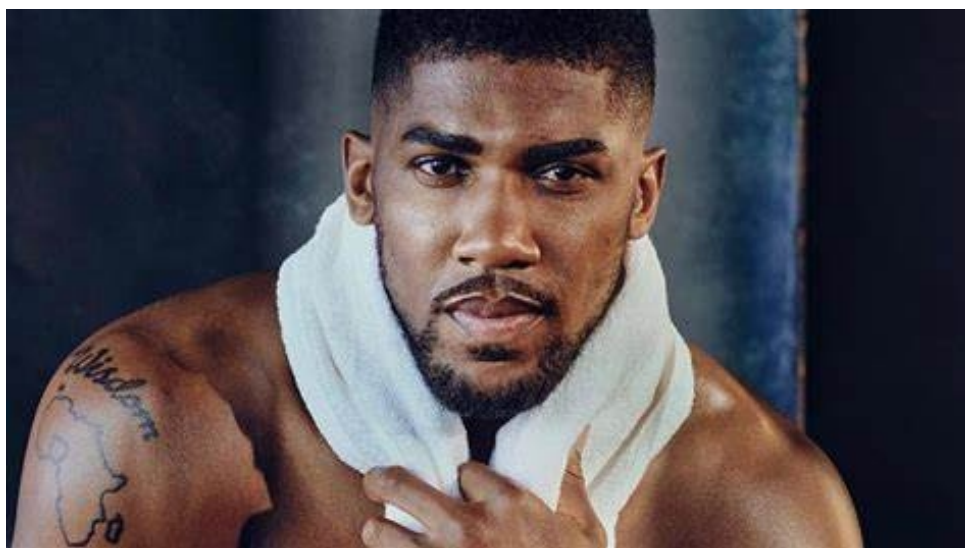
Sports Ambassador

Joshua's presence in Nigeria was warmly welcomed by fans when Ogun State Governor, Dapo Abiodun, announced his appointment as the state's Sports Ambassador on his X page.

This appointment recognised Joshua's remarkable achievements in boxing and his inspiring influence on the people of Ogun State.

Governor Abiodun emphasised that Joshua's dedication, discipline, and pursuit of excellence align perfectly with the values cherished by the state.

Ogun State boasts a rich sporting



heritage, having produced numerous sports legends, including Segun Odegbami, Falilat Ogunkoya, and current world record holder Tobi Amusan.

The governor expressed his confidence that the state would continue to nurture and produce future national champions and world-acclaimed superstars.

Further honours

In addition to the Sports Ambassador role, Governor Abiodun announced plans to construct a new indoor boxing ring in the state, which will be named after Joshua. He also designated Joshua as the torchbearer for the Gateway Games National Sports Festival, which has been rescheduled for May of the following year.

Governor Abiodun encouraged Joshua to actively support sports development in the state by collaborating with the Director General of the National Sports Commission and the state's Commissioner for Sports Development to host a boxing championship within Ogun State.

Presidential recognition

In January 2025, Joshua paid a courtesy visit to President Bola

Tinubu in Lagos, mirroring his January 2020 meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in London during the UK-Africa Investment Summit.

During the visit, Joshua presented President Tinubu with an autographed boxing glove, symbolising perseverance and excellence, qualities that are integral to his career and the Nigerian spirit.

President Tinubu expressed his admiration for Joshua, acknowledging him as a true champion and a worthy ambassador for Nigeria. He praised Joshua's dedication and achievements, which continue to inspire millions worldwide.

Joshua also met with Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Chairman of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, who hosted him and his family in Lagos. Dabiri-Erewa described Joshua as a man of unparalleled humility, strength, grace, and character.

Fan excitement

These engagements and the numerous honours bestowed upon Joshua generated significant excitement among his fans. His social media posts, including pictures from a boat cruise and with family members, further captivated his followers and sparked numerous comments.