



Tinubu lauds governors for endorsing tax reform bills **PAGE 2**

US Supreme Court upholds TikTok ban law **PAGE 28**



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Trump inauguration moved inside the Capitol due to freezing temperatures



PAGE 29

Son from hell hacks father to death over N5,000 **PAGE 11**



Truck rams into building, kills 9 family members in Benue **PAGE 5**



VeryDarkMan endorses Seyi Tinubu for Lagos governor **PAGE 10**

WORLD **PAGE 31**

Israeli minister threatens to collapse Netanyahu govt if truce succeeds



SPORTS

Haaland signs new Man City deal until 2034 **PAGE 34**



POLITICS **PAGE 9**

Court of Appeal affirms Abure as LP Chairman



Tinubu lauds governors for endorsing tax reform bills

By Dave Oludare Oso

The President, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu has lavished praises on state governors under the platform, Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) following their unanimous endorsement of the Tax Reform Bills currently being deliberated upon by lawmakers at the national assembly.

The president, in a statement by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga on Friday, commended the governors for "their bold leadership and commitment to fostering unity among leaders nationwide."

The statement is titled 'President Tinubu commends Nigeria governors for supporting tax reform initiatives.'

Tinubu said the consensus transcends regional, ethnic and political barriers to advance Nigeria's development.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that the governors on Thursday endorsed Tinubu's proposed tax reform bills, including the contentious shift to a derivation-based VAT model.

The President described Thursday's consultation between the Nigeria Governors' Forum and the Presidential Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy as "a commendable example of cooperation between the Federal and State governments."

He extended special commendations to the Chairman of the Governors' Forum, the Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman AbdulRazaq, for



successfully galvanising support among his peers for these transformative tax bills to rejuvenate the national economy and enhance Nigeria's investment climate.

He also commended the Progressive Governors Forum, the Northern Governors Forum, and all other groups that made the bipartisan resolution of the controversy stirred by the tax bills possible.

Tinubu noted that the primary aim of the Tax Reform Bills, which is pro-poor, is to promote national interests, improve the competitiveness of Nigeria's economy, and attract both local and foreign investments.

He argued that updating the country's outdated tax laws is essential to this endeavour.

"The President notes that the dialogue between the NGF and the Presidential

Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy Reform highlights the power of constructive conversation in resolving differences.

"President Tinubu regards the governors as vital contributors to nation-building and affirms his commitment to partnering with them to promote economic growth, national harmony, peace, and stability," the statement read.

The President also encouraged other stakeholders with ideas and suggestions for refining the Tax Bills to engage with the ongoing legislative process at the National Assembly.

Tinubu urged the National Assembly to expedite the legislative process for these crucial bills so that the country can swiftly reap the benefits of the reforms.

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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
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5X3	66,875.00
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No plans to increase petrol price – Oil marketers

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has refuted rumours of an impending increase in petrol prices nationwide.

The association assured the public that local refineries are now operational, a development that will contribute to a reduction in fuel prices.

Recall that there have been fresh concerns over a potential increase in the pump prices of petrol after the cost of Brent, the global benchmark for crude, crossed \$80 per barrel.

On Monday, private depots increased the loading cost of petrol and other refined petroleum products to N950 per litre.

However, in an interview with the Voice of America on Friday, Bashir Salisu Tahir, Chairman of IPMAN's Northwest Chapter, dismissed claims of any plans to hike petrol prices.

He emphasized that none of their members had increased the price of petrol across the country.

Tahir explained, "The market now determines prices, and there is no truth to the rumors of an increase in petrol prices. While diesel prices have risen recently due to market dynamics, they will naturally fall when market conditions improve."

He added that the resumption of operations at the nation's refineries is expected to further stabilize and reduce petrol prices.

Similarly, the Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, has said the price of crude oil in the international



market remains a major force in driving the fluctuations in the pump prices of petrol.

He said the downstream sector is now fully deregulated with the government no longer involved in setting prices.

The minister said these at the inaugural meeting of the Petroleum Industry Stakeholders Forum, held on Thursday in Abuja.

Lokpobiri, speaking to journalists after the meeting, pointed out that deregulation ended all malfeasance associated with the petrol subsidy policy.

According to him, the government is now more interested in quality control as petrol prices are not controlled or predicted by an individual but by market forces.

He said, "The whole essence of deregulation is for price to find its level. Before now you will agree with me that every day you are hearing negative news about petrol subsidies. Today, you journalists have no negative news about petrol subsidies because it is completely

regulated, and the price will find its level.

"As oil price goes up, petrol price will go up, and as oil price comes down, the price will come up. During the Christmas season, I was in Bayelsa, and I tried to go around different filling stations. Some filling stations were selling N1,020, others were selling N999, while others were selling N1,015.

"What we are concerned about, and I've always had that discussion with you, with the Authority Chief Executive of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, is that the government is more interested in quality control. The government is more interested in availability, and what the government is particularly interested in is the dispensation of the right quantity.

"If you are buying 10 litres of PMS, let it be that you are not short-changed by the retail filling station. That is where we have issues. And once there is competition, people have a choice, and that's why you don't see any queues."

Truck rams into building, kills 9 family members in Benue

By Elizabeth Jenrola Ososola



Tragedy struck in Benue on Thursday as nine members of a family were crushed to death by the driver of a trailer who lost control of his vehicle and rammed into their house in Okete, Otukpo Local Government Area of the State.

An eyewitness said, “The incident happened early this morning when most people were still in bed. The loud noise from the crash woke up the neighbours.”

Catherine Anene, the spokesperson for the Benue

Police Command confirmed the tragic incident in a statement.

According to the statement she issued on Thursday in Makurdi, Anene said the truck rammed into a residential compound in Okete community, Otukpo in Otukpo LGA of the state very early in the morning.

She added that nine members of a family of were crushed to death in the incident.

The Benue Police spokesperson said the Command has launched investigation into the incident and will make more information

available later.

Anene said, “On Thursday morning, the command received information that a trailer rammed into a compound in Okete community and killed nine persons.

“It is an unfortunate incident that occurred on Thursday.

“However, the command has launched a full scale investigation into the incident and further information would be made available to newsmen in due course,” Anene said

Tinubu, Obi mourns passing of deputy chief whip, Adewunmi Onanuga

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Tinubu has expressed deep sorrow at the passing of Adewunmi Onanuga, the Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives and representative for the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency in Ogun State.

Onanuga died on Wednesday following a brief illness, according to reports.

In a statement issued by the President's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, on Friday, President Tinubu paid tribute to the late lawmaker, describing her as a devoted public servant and a trailblazer for women in politics.

Also, Peter Obi, the 2023 Presidential Candidate of the Labour Party, has expressed his deep sadness following the death of Adewunmi Onanuga, the Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives and representative of the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency in Ogun State.

He noted that Onanuga's tireless service to her constituents and her commitment to the betterment of Nigeria would not be forgotten.

"She never stopped serving her constituency, and her passion for building a better Nigeria will remain



unforgettable in the hearts of those who came in direct contact with her," the statement read.

"I am saddened by the news of the passing of the Deputy Chief Whip of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga," Obi said.

"Her demise is a profound loss, not only to her family and colleagues but also to the nation at large, given her remarkable contributions to the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North constituency of Ogun State and her service in the legislature."

Tinubu also acknowledged Onanuga's influential role as Chairperson of the House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development during the 9th Assembly, as well as her current position as Deputy Chief Whip in the 10th Assembly.

"Rep. Onanuga was also a role model for women in politics, demonstrating that with hard work, integrity, and dedication to just causes, women can be effective leaders in politics," the President added.

On behalf of the Federal Government, President Tinubu extended heartfelt condolences to Onanuga's family, friends, the government and people of Ogun State, particularly her constituents.

He prayed for comfort for those grieving her loss and eternal peace for her soul.

In a separate development, Ogun State Governor Dapo Abiodun visited Onanuga's family to offer his condolences, pledging continued support during this difficult time.

Umahi: N800bn budget inadequate for fixing Nigeria's roads

By Friday Omosola

David Umahi, Nigeria's Minister of Works, has stated that the N800 billion allocated to his ministry in the 2025 budget proposal is insufficient to address the country's road infrastructure needs.

Speaking at the 2025 budget defence session organised by the House Committee on Works on Friday, Umahi, a former two-time governor of Ebonyi State, urged the committee to increase the ministry's funding for the upcoming fiscal year.

"We are pleading for your help. N800 billion is inadequate—it cannot meet our road requirements. We appeal for your assistance," he said.

The Minister emphasised that the current budget would not be enough to complete ongoing projects or start new ones, highlighting the need for adequate funding to address the nation's infrastructure demands.



He also pointed out the challenges posed by the funding shortfall, noting that numerous unfinished road projects cannot be completed with such a "meagre budget."

He suggested borrowing as a practical solution to bridge the gap and tackle Nigeria's infrastructure deficit.

"When the nation is in recession, borrowing for infrastructure investment is crucial. It's the path to recovery. Infrastructure spurs economic activity, helping sectors like food vendors, sand suppliers, and gravel suppliers. Supporting this initiative will pave the way for

Nigeria's greatness," Umahi added.

During the session, he responded to queries from committee members about the state of national roads and reiterated the government's commitment to completing ongoing projects.

In response, committee chairman Akin Alabi promised to call on Finance Minister Wale Edun and Budget Office Head Tanimu Yakub to justify the ministry's budget allocation.

Dangote hikes petrol price to N955/litre from N899

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Dangote Refinery has raised the price of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) for bulk buyers from N899 to N955 per litre.

The refinery disclosed this development in a notice issued, which read, The notice titled, “Communication on PMS Price Review”.

“Dear Esteemed Customer, Trust this email finds you well.

“Kindly be advised that effective from 5:30pm today, an upward adjustment has been implemented on the gantry price of Premium Motor Spirit. on Friday, January 17, 2025.”

The statement added that marketers buying between 2 million – 4.99 million litres will now buy at N955 per litre while five million litres & above will buy at N950 per litre.

The amount marks an increase of N55.5 or 6.17 per cent from N899.50 per litre announced as a holiday discount for Nigerians last year December.

This adjustment applies to all stock balances yet to be lifted by the stated time while pending stock as of the effective time will also be repriced at the updated



rates.

The statement added that the new price regime will take effect from 5:30pm, today (Friday).

The price increase is expected to have widespread effects on the downstream petroleum sector, particularly private depots and retail markets.

An oil and gas expert, Olatide Jeremiah, said depots are poised to increase the loading price of refined petroleum products because of the heavy influence of the refinery.

Jeremiah, who is the Chief Executive Officer of petroleum price.ng, said, “Dangote Refinery’s influence on Fuel price has become unmatched; private

depots, Major marketers, and independent Marketers will compete with this new price. Therefore, Nigerians should expect an increase in Petrol Pump Price.

“Brent Crude oil as of today is \$81.84, highest in 2025, its one major factor for the increase.”

On Thursday, the Minister of State Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, disclosed that the price of crude oil in the international market remains a major force in driving the fluctuations in the pump prices of petrol.

He said the downstream sector is now fully deregulated with the government no longer involved in setting prices.

Court of Appeal affirms Abure as LP Chairman

By Friday Omosola

The Court of Appeal in Abuja has reaffirmed that Julius Abure is the National Chairman of the Labour Party (LP).

A three-member panel of the appellate court, led by Justice Hamma Barka, declared that its previous ruling on November 13, 2024, which recognized Abure's position as the national chairman, stands and has not been overturned by any other court.

Justice Barka delivered this ruling while resolving two separate appeals filed by Senator Esther Nenadi Usman, the Labour Party caretaker committee, and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In both appeals, the appellate court clarified that it did not address the issue of Labour leadership, as such matters are not subject to judicial review.

The court further explained that any action taken outside the court's jurisdiction is void, and therefore, the Federal High Court's ruling on October 8, 2024, delivered by Justice Emeka Nwite, holds no legal effect, as it was issued without jurisdiction.

In dismissing the suit due to lack of jurisdiction, the appellate court reaffirmed its November 13, 2024, judgment, confirming that "Abure remains National Chairman of the Labour Party."

Background of Abure and Labour Party legal battle



In February 2023, Oluchi Oparah, the party's national treasurer, accused Abure of misappropriating N3.5 billion, a claim the LP chairman denied while threatening legal action.

The allegation led to calls from party members for Abure's removal.

In April 2023, the FCT high court issued an order restraining Abure from parading himself as the national chairman of the LP.

While ruling on an ex parte application, Hamza Muazu, the presiding judge, also restrained Farouk Ibrahim, national secretary; Clement Ojukwu, national organising secretary; and Opara; from parading themselves as national officers of the party.

On September 4, Usman, a former senator representing Kaduna south, was appointed to chair a 29-member caretaker committee after Alex Otti, governor of Abia state, convened a stakeholders meeting of the party in

Umuahia.

Peter Obi, LP's presidential candidate in 2023, and Datti Baba-Ahmed, the running mate, were among the top party members that attended the meeting.

INEC had also invalidated Abure's leadership, saying the national convention violated the constitution and Electoral Act.

The electoral body said the party failed to meet legal requirements for holding the convention, insisting that Abure's tenure as LP national chair expired in June 2024.

But in a judgment on October 8, the federal high court affirmed the Abure-led leadership and the March 2024 Nnewi convention that produced the party executives.

Nwite ordered INEC to recognise Abure as the legitimate chairman of the party.

VeryDarkMan endorses Seyi Tinubu for Lagos governor

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Controversial social media personality, Vincent Martins Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan has declared that he is ready to campaign for the son of President, Seyi Tinubu, should he decide to contest the governorship race in Lagos in 2027.

The influencer pointed out that that Seyi's purported governorship ambition is gaining momentum, as those backing the campaign are still testing the waters.

VDM said in a video shared via his Instagram page that even though he had always canvassed youth inclusiveness in Nigerian politics, he had stayed clear of the political scene, but he is ready to throw himself into it to support Seyi.

He said, "If Seyi Tinubu decides to run for governorship, I'll campaign for him. Though I don't involve myself in politics, I'll do it because of him."

"Based on my calculation, Seyi Tinubu is a bridge to achieving something I believe will make Nigeria work."

"I've been studying Seyi Tinubu's pattern; he seems to have his father's political mentality."

The social commentator, however, noted that the president's son might



face challenges in his 'unconfirmed' interest in becoming governor, due to older politicians who may feel threatened.

VDM said, "The problem is these older men know that if Seyi Tinubu becomes governor, they'll be kicked out of power. They've seen the traits of his father in him, so it'll be a problem."

"So, if he decides, which I believe won't work, especially when his father is in office, it might be hard for him to become governor."

He, however, noted that the possibility of Seyi becoming governor cannot be ruled out, as he cautioned that politics is a "game of interest."

In November 2024, the Lagos State

chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party declared that citizens would resist any attempts to impose Seyi as the next governor of the state.

This statement follows recent endorsements of Seyi as a potential successor to Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu in 2027 by some groups.

One such group, the Coalition of Nigerian Youth Leaders, issued an endorsement in Owerri, Imo State, suggesting that Seyi would be welcomed to run for governor in Osun or Imo states, where his family is reportedly from.

Similarly, a socio-political group, Friends of Seyi Tinubu, also endorsed him, describing the president's son as a visionary leader with a rare combination of intellect, empathy, and strategic acumen.

Son from hell hacks father to death over N5,000

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Operatives of the Delta State Police Command have arrested a 23-year-old man identified simply as Success for allegedly hacking his father to death with a cutlass.

According to PUNCH, the savage attack occurred in Amukpe community in Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State a few days ago.

The report quoted an eyewitness as saying on Thursday that the incident occurred at the family's residence in Amukpe after Success demanded N5,000 from his father, who, however, refused to oblige him with the demand.

It was gathered that Success did not take kindly to the refusal of the father to grant his request.

Another neighbour, who spoke on



condition of anonymity, revealed that Success had a history of substance abuse and was known to exhibit erratic behaviour when under the influence.

The neighbour said, "Everyone in this area knows Success as a drug addict who always misbehaved whenever he had taken those drugs."

According to the neighbour, "On the fateful evening, Success returned home arguing hotly with his father over the monetary request."

It was gathered that the altercation escalated, and in a fit of rage, Success reportedly grabbed a cutlass and inflicted machete attack on the elderly man.

Consequently, the blood-soaked father was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment but sadly succumbed to death as an aftermath of the injuries.

When contacted on Thursday, the Police Public Relations Officer for Delta State Command, SP Bright Edafe, confirmed the incident stating that "Success has already been taken into custody."

EFCC arraigns former AGF, Nwabuoku for laundering N1.96bn

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has charged Anamekwe Nwabuoku, the former acting Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF), with laundering N1.96 billion.

The EFCC took Nwabuoku and Felix Nweke, who used to be a deputy director at the Ministry of Defence, to a federal high court in Abuja in July 2024.

The case took a turn in October 2024 when both men asked for a plea bargain – where they would admit guilt in exchange for a lighter sentence. They also requested more time to return the money they



allegedly took.

At Wednesday's court session, EFCC lawyer Martha Babatunde asked the court to read the revised charges to Nwabuoku. He responded by pleading not guilty to all nine charges.

Judge James Omotosho decided to grant Nwabuoku bail despite objections from the prosecution. The judge set bail at N500 million and required two guarantors to match this amount.

Judge Omotosho also set several other conditions: each guarantor must own property in Abuja worth at least N250 million. They must also swear to their financial status, show their bank statements, and provide proof of paying taxes for the past three years. The court's registrar will check all these documents.

The trial will begin at the next court date.

2025 Budget: Typo error caused Lagos- Calabar highway omission – Umahi

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Government has addressed concerns over the exclusion of the Lagos-Calabar Highway from the 2025 budget.

The coastal road, one of the signature projects of President Bola Tinubu which has generated a lot of controversy since its commencement last year, is expected to gulp around N16 trillion.

Questions have been raised about the funding of the project which the federal government hitherto stated would be through a public-private partnership (PPP) arrangement.

In February of last year, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) approved a N1.07 trillion contract for the construction of the first phase of the project.

The Minister of Works, Engr. David Umahi disclosed that the pilot phase covers a 47.47-kilometre dual carriageway of five lanes on each side and a train track in the middle.

The minister disclosed that FEC at its October 30 meeting approved the procurement of the project under the EPC+F (Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Financing) and in favour of High Tech Construction African Limited.

Umahi said, “They already have started searching for the funding, but hitches here and there. And so, the ministry had to go back to Mr President to ask for two things, and that was on January 18. We asked, Can we fast-track this?”

“Since this project was going to be procured in two phases and multiple sections, can we get the federal government to fund phase one, which is what is 47.47 kilometres running from Ahmadu Bello in Lagos down to Lekki Deep Seaport? Mr President graciously approved.

“Today, we have procured the first section, which is 47.47 kilometres, under 10 lanes and FEC graciously approved the contract for N1.067tn with no objection.”

In December, last year, Umahi further

disclosed that some sections of the highway and the Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway would be commissioned by May 2025.

However, the source of funding of the project remains unclear as there was no mention of the project in the 2025 budget.

The Federal Ministry of Works has a total capital allocation of N1,065,171,466,605 in the 2025 budget proposal.

Recently, a review by BudgIT, a civic tech foundation, said the proposed 2025 budget breakdown submitted to the National Assembly for review and



approval made no provision for the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road, a capital-intensive infrastructure project.

It explained that the omission of funding for the coastal road implies that if funding for the project materialises, it will likely necessitate reallocating funds from other critical projects, potentially hindering their implementation and impacting the budget's credibility.

The organisation further observed that the budget omitted the breakdown of some MDAs, commissions, and councils, such as the National Judicial Council (N341.63 billion), and TETFUND (N940.5 billion).

According to the group, some of the projections in the budget were unrealistic even as it faulted the failure of government to provide a breakdown of the budget of some ministries, departments and agencies.

BudgIT noted that in previous years, it identified several budgetary insertions

made by the National Assembly that deviated from the federal government's constitutional mandate and priorities while such projects were assigned to MDAs “that have neither the capacity nor the mandate to implement the inserted projects.”

The group noted that in 2021, it observed that 5,601 capital projects were added to the Appropriation Bill during the review process by the National Assembly. In 2022, it increased to 6,462 projects across 37 mother ministries and 340 MDAs, while in 2024, 7,447 insertions amounting to a staggering N2.24 trillion were found in the budget.

“While the constitution grants the National Assembly the authority to appropriate funds, it often modifies the executive's proposed budget to distort its original intent and disconnect it from the nation's long-term development agenda.

“Many inserted projects usually lack proper conceptualisation, design, and cost estimation, undermining their effectiveness and feasibility. We believe that the legislature must exercise this power with the utmost responsibility. This responsibility, which cannot be overstated, entails ensuring resource efficiency, eliminating waste, and aligning budgetary decisions with the nation's long-term economic development goals,” BudgIT said.

Minister clarifies omission

However, breaking silence of the issue for the first time, Minister of Works, Engr. David Umahi during a visit to the project site of Section 1 (Abuja-Kaduna) of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road Project, said the Lagos-Calabar Coastal High was included in the 2025 budget against the reports making round.

In a viral video sighted by Intel Region on Friday, the minister said; ““The Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road will be funded, it was a typographical error, they wrote Lagos – Port Harcourt Coastal Road instead of Lagos-Calabar Coastal Road in the budget.”

Direct federal allocations to LGs begins January – FG

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Presidency has confirmed that local government areas across Nigeria will begin receiving their allocations directly from the Federal Allocation Account Committee (FAAC) starting from the end of January.

Special Adviser to the President on Media and Public Communications, Sunday Dare confirmed the development in an interview on Arise News on Thursday night.

The spokesman said the move is a testament to President Bola Tinubu's commitment to implementing the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in July 2024.

The judgment declared state control over local government funds unconstitutional, paving the way for direct federal allocations to local governments.

The Supreme Court's ruling, delivered by Justice Emmanuel Agbim, mandated that allocations to local governments should be paid directly, rather than through state governments.



This decision followed a suit filed by the Attorney General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), advocating for the financial autonomy of Nigeria's 774 local government areas.

Dare said the move is expected to boost the financial autonomy of local governments, enabling them to execute projects and programs more effectively.

He said, "We have a President who ensures local government autonomy.

"I spoke to a local government chairman, who said, 'Oh, I will be getting N2.9bn instead of the N200m I was getting before'."

The Presidency has also called for greater scrutiny of state and local government financial management.

Dare noted that while the Federal Government often faces criticism, attention must also shift to how states and local governments utilize their resources.

He said, "One state collected N499 billion last year—nearly four times its previous allocation—yet there's little to show for it.

"The framers of our constitution created the three tiers of government for a reason. It's time to hold states and local governments accountable."

Lagos Speaker, Meranda appoints principal officers, says there's much to do

By Dave Oludare Oso

Newly-enthroned Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, Mojisola Meranda, has pledged to collaborate with other arms of government to achieve the vision of a "Greater Lagos."

Presiding over her first session as Speaker on Friday, Meranda announced the appointment of new principal officers to steer the affairs of the House.

The Lagos Speaker named Temitope Adedeji, representing Ifako/Ijaye Constituency 1, as the Majority Leader, while Richard Kasunmu, representing Ikeja Constituency 2, was appointed Deputy Majority Leader. David Setonji assumed the role of Chief Whip, with Ganiyu Sanni, representing Kosofe Constituency 1, as Deputy Chief Whip.

The Speaker also announced the composition of the Selection Committee, which she will chair. Members include Deputy Speaker Fatai Mojeed (Ibeju Lekki Constituency 1), Majority Leader Temitope Adedeji, Chief Whip David Setonji, and Gbolahan Yishawu (Eti-Osa Constituency 2).

Acting Clerk Taiwo Ottun will serve as Secretary of the Committee.

In her address, Meranda expressed gratitude to her colleagues for entrusting her with the leadership of the 10th Assembly, pledging to work diligently in service to the state.

Her words, "I am truly grateful for the confidence you have placed in me, and I pledge to work tirelessly to uphold the virtues of transparency and good governance that this House stands for.

"Today, we are reminded of the shared responsibilities that rest on our shoulders as representatives of the good people of Lagos State. We are elected to voice their concerns, aspirations, and needs. We are the guardians of this collective trust, and we must work to justify the faith they have placed in us.

"As we begin this new chapter in the



history of our Assembly, I want to assure you that our administration will focus on working together for a better Lagos. We will work harmoniously with other arms of government to ensure the seamless delivery of democracy's dividends to Lagosians, who are our core focus.

"Therefore, we will work to ensure that, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, or religion, every Lagos resident is proud to say, 'I am a Lagosian.'

"The synergy between us and other arms of government is crucial for good governance and democratic development. To achieve this, we must commit to maintaining an open line of communication with the Executive, led by Mr. Governor (Babajide Sanwo-Olu), fostering a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. By doing so, we stand united to ensure that our vision aligns with that of the Executive for a better state.

"We will prioritise leaving the past behind and forging ahead. We will not dwell on past controversies or disagreements. Instead, we will focus on the great and pressing task ahead, which is delivering better services to the people of Lagos.

"We will strive to create a more inclusive and appropriate democracy where every citizen feels valued, respected, and

empowered.

"We have much to do to achieve this vision. There is no division among us. We are united, and that is where we will draw our strength to take bold steps.

"Our focus will be on several key areas to strengthen legislative independence. Our top priority is ensuring that our vision remains robust and success-driven.

"We will promote transparency and accountability in governance, ensuring that our actions are guided by integrity, fairness, and justice.

"As we begin this new chapter, let us be reminded that we are not just lawmakers, but also leaders. We must lead by example, demonstrating the values of integrity, transparency, and accountability, as expected of others.

"As Speaker, I commit to prioritising the needs of our constituents. Through you, we will ensure that united voices are heard, concerns are addressed, and our welfare is protected.

"Our goal is to create a more inclusive, participatory democracy where citizens are actively engaged in the decision-making processes that impact their lives.

"Rest assured, we will all work together to achieve the vision for Lagos State, as guided by God.

"I am committed to listening to ideas, responding to concerns, and working collaboratively with everyone to address the challenges we face. Together, let us work towards a brighter future for Lagos State – a future built on the principles of justice, equality, and opportunity for all. We believe in the hope for a better society, and we will achieve this together."

Earlier, the House, through the Chief Whip, Setonji, condoled with the people of Badagry on the demise of Pa Sunny Ajose, a member of the Governor's Advisory Committee and a party leader in Badagry.

Kwara govt reaffirms commitment to potable water supply

By Friday Omosola

The Kwara State Government has assured residents of its unwavering commitment to ensuring access to potable water and improved sanitation across the state.

This was disclosed during an Inter-Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Ministry of Finance Conference Room, where the Commissioner for Water Resources, Usman Lade, provided updates on the government's ongoing projects and initiatives.

Lade revealed significant progress in the rehabilitation and upgrading of waterworks across the state.

He announced that the Irra and Erin-Ile Waterworks have been fully rehabilitated, while work is ongoing at the desilted Sobi Waterworks.

Similarly, the Lafagi and Zambufu Waterworks have been completed, providing residents in these communities with access to potable water.

The Commissioner further highlighted that the Asa-Dam and Agba-Dam treatment plants have undergone significant upgrades to improve water quality and distribution within the Ilorin metropolis.

Additionally, the Otte-Oja/Budo Egba and Omu-Aran Waterworks in Asa and Oyun Local Government Areas have been handed over to contractors for reconstruction and rehabilitation, respectively.

To enhance water supply in rural areas, several hand-pumped and motorized boreholes have been drilled across the state.

Addressing sanitation, Lade noted



that the state government has constructed three prototype lavatories in the Ajikobi, Alanamu, and Eruda communities in Ilorin Metropolis to combat open defecation and prevent potential health epidemics.

Furthermore, smart VIP toilets have been built in various communities, representing a critical step toward achieving an Open Defecation Free (ODF) status across all local government areas in the state.

In his briefing, the Commissioner disclosed that Kwara State is among the beneficiaries of a \$500,000 World Bank grant through the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation under the Sustainable Urban and Rural Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (SURWASH) Programme.

The grant will provide technical support, enhance staff capacity, and strengthen the state's Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) institutions and legislation.

He added that the state has begun implementing a WASH counterpart-funded project in partnership with UNICEF through the State Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (RUWASSA).

This initiative aims to expand water and sanitation services to underserved communities and underscores the importance of collaboration in achieving sustainable development.

“These projects are a testament to the government's determination to improve the quality of life for all residents and promote healthy living through access to clean water and better sanitation,” Lade said.

The Commissioner reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving a robust water and sanitation sector, ensuring that all communities in Kwara State benefit from these transformative initiatives.

49 MAPOLY final-year students face expulsion for forgery

By Olamilekan Botti

Moshood Abiola Polytechnic (MAPOLY), Abeokuta, Ogun State is facing a major academic integrity crisis as no fewer than 49 final-year Higher National Diploma (HND) students are at risk of expulsion after a recent result verification exercise uncovered the alleged use of forged National Diploma (ND) certificates.

According to findings by NEW DAILY PRIME on Thursday, the institution revealed through an official verification update that these students submitted fraudulent ND results to gain admission into various HND programmes.

The affected students are spread across multiple departments, including Mass Communication, Pharmaceutical Technology, Marketing, Science Laboratory Technology, Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Accountancy, among others.

Investigations showed that several of the forged certificates were purportedly obtained from reputable institutions such as The Polytechnic, Ibadan; The Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro; Adeseun Ogundoyin Polytechnic, Eruwa; and Ibarapa Polytechnic, Eruwa in Oyo State.

In a related development, MAPOLY had earlier announced an indefinite shutdown of the campus on Monday to preempt a planned protest by students over these allegations.

Addressing the situation, the institution's Public Relations Officer,



Yemi Ajibola, explained to NEW DAILY PRIME that the verification exercise was a routine procedure aimed at authenticating documents submitted by students.

He attributed the delay in releasing some results to the extensive verification process, which ultimately uncovered the fraudulent submissions.

“We have established internal systems for thoroughly verifying the results submitted by our students,” Ajibola stated. “Some results remain unverified because their issuing institutions have yet to confirm them, while others have been confirmed as fake. Administrative delays caused a backlog in verification, but we are working diligently to resolve these issues.”

Ajibola clarified that the accused students would not face immediate expulsion. Instead, the institution will formally invite each of them to defend the authenticity of their

credentials.

“They will be given the opportunity to clarify discrepancies. If any errors are found on our part, they will be corrected. However, students who cannot validate their results will face expulsion,” he warned.

Meanwhile, tensions on campus have intensified following reports of a clash between students and Ogun State's Deputy Governor, Mrs. Noimot Salako-Oyedele.

The state government claimed the deputy governor narrowly escaped an attack by protesting students, while the students alleged that her security team fired gunshots during the confrontation.

This growing controversy has placed MAPOLY under scrutiny, raising urgent concerns over academic fraud and campus security.

Borno terrorist attack: Stark reminder of Nigeria's security crisis – Obi **By Friday Omosola**

Operatives of the Delta State Police Command have arrested a 23-year-old man identified simply as Success for allegedly hacking his father to death with a cutlass.

According to PUNCH, the savage attack occurred in Amukpe community in Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State a few days ago.

The report quoted an eyewitness as saying on Thursday that the incident occurred at the family's residence in Amukpe after Success demanded N5,000 from his father, who, however, refused to oblige him with the demand.

It was gathered that Success did not take kindly to the refusal of the father to grant his request.

Another neighbour, who spoke on



condition of anonymity, revealed that Success had a history of substance abuse and was known to exhibit erratic behaviour when under the influence.

The neighbour said, "Everyone in this area knows Success as a drug addict who always misbehaved whenever he had taken those drugs."

According to the neighbour, "On the fateful evening, Success returned home arguing hotly with his father over the monetary request."

It was gathered that the altercation escalated, and in a fit of rage, Success reportedly grabbed a cutlass and inflicted machete attack on the elderly man.

Consequently, the blood-soaked father was rushed to the hospital for medical treatment but sadly succumbed to death as an aftermath of the injuries.

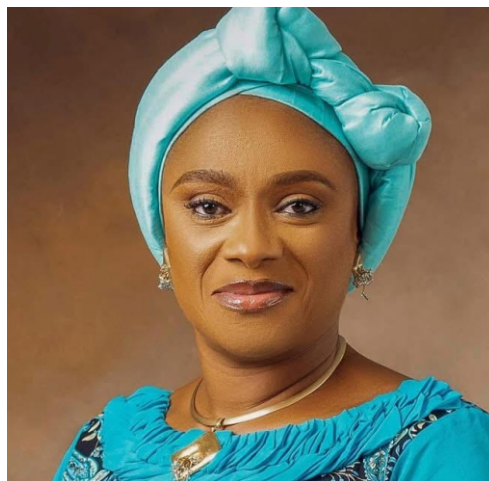
When contacted on Thursday, the Police Public Relations Officer for Delta State Command, SP Bright Edafe, confirmed the incident stating that "Success has already been taken into custody."

Remarkable life of late Deputy Chief Whip Onanuga **By Michael Damilola**

A dewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga's life was a rich tapestry of politics, entrepreneurship, and advocacy. In this piece, New Daily Prime reflects on her remarkable journey. She was born on December 2, 1965, in Hammersmith, London, to Nigerian parents.

Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga, fondly known as "Ijaya," was reported by New Daily Prime to have passed away on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, after a brief illness. This was confirmed in a statement by the House Spokesperson, Akin Rotimi. However, the details of her residence were not disclosed.

In 1984, she studied Mass Communication at Ogun State Polytechnic. She also earned an HNC in Business & Finance, became a



Certified Novell Administrator (CNA), and achieved Microsoft Systems Engineer (MCSE) certification in 1999.

Before venturing into politics, Onanuga had a successful career in the private sector, working with reputable organizations such as Barclays Bank

and Quaker Oats Plc, City People Magazine reports in an interview with her in 2019. Her experience in the corporate world equipped her with the skills and expertise necessary to navigate the complexities of politics.

In 2019, she contested and won the elections to represent the Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency in Ogun State, Nigeria, on the platform of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) and re-elected in 2023.

She was elected as the Deputy Chief Whip of the 10th House of Representatives on July 4, 2023, a position she held until her passing on January 15, 2025. As a woman, her legacy will continue to inspire and motivate others to pursue careers in

Rivers Crisis: PDP rejects court ruling, disavows Ologunagba's statement

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The crisis within the People's Democratic Party (PDP) intensified as acting National Chairman, Umar Damagum, clarified that the National Working Committee (NWC) had not yet convened to address the court ruling concerning the Rivers State Executives.

This statement came in response to claims made by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, which were refuted by the Deputy National Publicity Secretary, Ibrahim Abdullahi, at a press conference in Abuja on Friday.

Abdullahi expressed concern over Ologunagba's recent actions, accusing him of acting out of personal interest.

The ongoing conflict between Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara and his predecessor, Nyesom Wike, over the control of the PDP structure in Rivers State has further exacerbated tensions within the party.

Despite several unsuccessful reconciliation attempts, Wike's faction won the Ward, Local Government, and State Congresses in July and August 2024, with Fubara's allies boycotting these elections due to a court order.



On January 13, 2025, the Rivers State High Court issued a restraining order that prevented the executive committees led by Aaron Chukwuemeka, aligned with Wike, from functioning.

The court also granted an injunction prohibiting these executives from holding positions in the party.

Following this, Ologunagba issued a statement on Thursday claiming that the PDP had accepted the court's verdict and recognised the faction led by Hon. Nname Robinson Ewor, aligned with Governor Fubara, as the legitimate executives of the Rivers State PDP.

However, Abdullahi vehemently denied Ologunagba's claims, stating that the NWC had not met

since September of the previous year and, therefore, could not have accepted the judgment recognising Ewor's group.

He further accused Ologunagba of acting independently and without proper authority, particularly in reference to statements made about judgments in Imo and Ebonyi States.

Abdullahi stressed that the National Publicity Secretary was not authorised to speak on behalf of the NWC without prior clearance, criticising Ologunagba for undermining party protocols.

He also stated that personal sentiment appeared to be influencing Ologunagba's actions, which were having a detrimental effect on his role within the party.

Edo Election Tribunal: Okpebholo urges calm as proceedings commence

By Friday Omosola

Edo State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has urged his supporters to maintain a calm and composed demeanour throughout the ongoing proceedings, a stance that has further solidified his standing with the public.

In a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Fred Itua, Okpebholo expressed confidence in the judicial process, reiterating his unwavering respect for the rule of law.

This approach stands in stark contrast to the petitioner's frequent public outbursts, which some observers have interpreted as signs of desperation.

Itua further noted that the governor's legal team has been particularly impressed with the meticulous and strategic handling of the case.

Led by some of Nigeria's brightest legal minds, the team has demonstrated a profound understanding of electoral jurisprudence, using their expertise to effectively counter the opposition's claims. This has significantly influenced the tribunal's perception of the case.

"Public sentiment appears to be swinging in favour of Governor Okpebholo as well. Many citizens have taken to social media to express their belief that the tribunal will uphold his victory. The Governor's track record, especially in road infrastructure development, has solidified his support base, with many viewing the tribunal's proceedings as a mere formality.

"As the tribunal proceeds, the momentum remains firmly with Governor Monday Okpebholo. His administration has continued to function effectively, demonstrating his focus on governance even amidst legal challenges. This dual commitment to justice and service has reinforced the public's trust in his leadership", he said.

Itua highlighted that the proceedings



present a compelling case for Governor Okpebholo, and the tribunal's final ruling will likely uphold his mandate.

He expressed confidence that the APC and its supporters remain optimistic, while the PDP struggles to substantiate its allegations.

He further emphasised that the unfolding events at the tribunal highlight the resilience of Nigeria's democratic institutions and the unwavering determination of the Edo electorate.

Itua remarked that the ongoing governorship election tribunal has effectively become the focal point of political discourse in the State and beyond, with analysts and citizens keenly observing the developments.

"At the heart of the proceedings is Governor Monday Okpebholo of the All Progressives Congress (APC), whose victory was declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), in the September 21 election is being challenged by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) candidate, Asue Akintunde Ighodalo.

"Interestingly, despite the opposition's claims, proceedings so far suggest that Governor Okpebholo's position remains unshaken. The evidence presented by the PDP revolves around alleged irregularities.

"But Governor Okpebholo's legal team has meticulously dismantled these

claims, presenting counter-evidence and testimonies that validate the credibility of the election."

He stated that the tribunal recognized the comprehensive documentation presented by the petitioners and directed all parties to carry out a verification process to ensure a robust and transparent election.

He further explained that the witness testimonies had strengthened the governor's case, noting that independent observers had previously affirmed that the election was largely peaceful and conducted in accordance with electoral laws.

Itua added: "Their accounts align with reports from international and domestic monitors who hailed the election as a credible exercise. These testimonies directly counteract the opposition's narrative of widespread manipulation.

"The tribunal's scrutiny of evidence has also favoured Governor Okpebholo. A significant turning point was the forensic audit of the BVAS machines used during the election. The audit, requested by the PDP, ironically affirmed the authenticity of the results, showing that votes recorded were tallied with the electoral commission's figures. This revelation has weakened the opposition's case and reinforced the legitimacy of Okpebholo's victory.

"Another critical factor working in favour of Governor Okpebholo is the perceived overreach by the PDP's legal team. Their strategy of contesting results in all 18 local government areas has been criticized as overly ambitious and lacking in focus.

"The tribunal's insistence on concrete evidence for each claim has exposed weaknesses in the PDP arguments, further tilting the scale toward Governor Okpebholo.

Nigerian scientist raises alarm over misuse of drug among girls

By Helen Okechukwu

In addressing the issue of contraceptive drugs among Nigerian young girls, Dr. Stella Babatope, a Nigerian scientist, said that despite having health significance on consumers, abusing it leads to health consequences.

She made this known in a press release disclosed on Thursday while emphasizing on the alarming rate of pharmaceutical drugs abuse young Nigerians.

Due to the lack of knowledge on the effect while misused, Dr. Babatope urges for educational reform to tackle this rising issue.

Explaining the function and benefit of contraceptive drugs when consumed, she said, "Improper use can have severe health consequences."

"These include hormonal dysregulation, weight gain, menstrual cycle disruptions, and the development of cardiometabolic syndrome, a condition linked to diabetes, obesity, insulin resistance, and cardiovascular disease."

The Punch Healthwise reported that her research, including a 2019 study on contraceptive misuse, revealed that many young women lack proper knowledge about the risks associated with these medications, leading to potentially severe health complications.



"Side effects such as weight gain are often misunderstood or even seen as justifiable reasons for misuse. This lack of education, combined with easy access to these drugs, has created a dangerous situation."

Call for Education Reform

To address the issue, Babatope is advocating for the integration of comprehensive drug education into Nigeria's school curriculum.

She believes that equipping young people with accurate information about medication use and its risks is crucial for preventing drug abuse and safeguarding public health.

"Without proper education and regulation, the unregulated use of COCs can lead to severe health complications such as diabetes, obesity, insulin resistance, and increased risk of cardiovascular diseases. We must raise awareness and ensure that contraceptives are used safely and responsibly."

Groundbreaking Research on Health Solutions

Beyond highlighting the dangers of contraceptive misuse, Babatope's research, titled "Ameliorating Effect of Ganoderma lucidum on Combined Oral Contraceptive-induced Cardiometabolic Syndrome in Female Guinea Pigs," explored possible remedies to mitigate the adverse effects of COCs on women's health.

As a scientist with expertise in pharmaceutical and biomedical sciences, Babatope currently serves as a Research Assistant at the University of Georgia, USA. Her work spans several critical areas, including cardiometabolic research, diabetic wound healing, and menopause.

With Nigeria facing an increasing challenge of drug misuse, Babatope's call for education reform is gaining attention.

Beyond the Tap-to-earn: Exploring the Expanding Crypto Universe

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

Tap-to-earn games have emerged as a pivotal force in democratizing access to cryptocurrency, attracting millions of users to the burgeoning crypto ecosystem.

Initially launched on platforms like Telegram, these games, with their simple mechanics and the allure of earning rewards, have proven to be highly effective onboarding tools.

Games like Notcoin, Hamster Kombat, and Catizen exemplify the success of this model. By introducing players to fundamental crypto concepts such as wallets, transactions, and tokens through engaging gameplay, these games have fostered a significant influx of new users into the crypto community.

While pinpointing the absolute first tap-to-earn game is challenging due to the rapid evolution of the space, Notcoin is widely recognized as a pioneer in this domain.

The widespread appeal of these games can be attributed to several key factors.

Firstly, their accessibility is undeniable. With straightforward gameplay that often requires minimal skill, such as repetitive tapping or clicking, these games cater to a diverse audience, including those new to both gaming and the crypto world.

Moreover, the mobile-first approach of many tap-to-earn games, leveraging platforms like Telegram, further enhances their accessibility and convenience for a broad user base.

Secondly, the powerful incentive of earning cryptocurrency or NFTs significantly drives user engagement. The prospect of financial rewards attracts users seeking both



entertainment and potential financial gains, fostering a strong sense of community among players.

This journey, from simple tap-to-earn games to more complex applications, demonstrates the effectiveness of this model as an entry point into the broader crypto ecosystem.

While tap-to-earn games have undoubtedly played a crucial role in expanding the crypto community, it is essential to acknowledge that the crypto world encompasses a far more expansive and diverse landscape.

Apart from tap-to-earn, there are other big dogs in the crypto universe

Decentralized Finance (DeFi):

Revolutionizing traditional finance by offering decentralized services like lending, borrowing, trading, and yield farming with enhanced accessibility and often higher yields.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs):

Enabling unique digital ownership of assets like art, collectibles, and virtual real estate, transforming digital ownership and creating new avenues

for creators and collectors.

The Metaverse:

Creating immersive virtual worlds where users can interact, play, and conduct business, with cryptocurrency playing a pivotal role in enabling ownership of virtual assets, facilitating transactions, and powering decentralized governance.

Decentralized Autonomous Organizations (DAOs):

Empowering community-led entities with no central authority, utilizing smart contracts to automate decision-making and foster transparent, decentralized governance.

Chain Management:

Enhancing transparency and efficiency across supply chains by leveraging blockchain technology to track goods from origin to consumer, reducing fraud and optimizing logistics.

In conclusion, tap-to-earn games have served as invaluable tools for expanding the crypto community by providing an accessible and engaging introduction to the world of digital assets.

However, it is crucial to emphasize that the crypto ecosystem extends far beyond these games, offering a multitude of applications with the potential to revolutionize various sectors.

By educating users about the broader crypto landscape and encouraging exploration of its diverse applications, we can unlock the transformative power of blockchain technology and foster a more decentralized and inclusive future.

Evolution of Nigerian Fashion: A story of cultural revival, global recognition

By Michael Damilola

Nigerian fashion has undergone a remarkable transformation over the years, evolving from a traditional, culturally rooted industry to a vibrant, globally recognized force.

Traditional Nigerian fashion is deeply rooted in the country's rich cultural heritage. Each ethnic group has its unique textile traditions, with intricate patterns and designs that tell stories of history, mythology, and values. The Adire prints of the Yoruba people, the Akwete cloth of the Igbo people, and the Tie-Dye fabrics of the Hausa people are just a few examples of the diverse textile traditions that exist in Nigeria.

The Impact of Colonialism (Colonial Era)

The arrival of European colonizers in Nigeria had a profound impact on the country's fashion industry. Traditional textiles and designs were gradually replaced by Western-style clothing, which was regarded as more "civilized" and "modern." The colonial authorities actively encouraged the adoption of Western fashion, leading many Nigerians to abandon their traditional attire in favour of European-style clothing.

Post-Independence Revival

After Nigeria gained independence in 1960, there was a renewed interest in traditional fashion. The government encouraged the development of the textile industry, and designers began experimenting with traditional fabrics and designs. The 1970s and 1980s marked the rise of Afrocentric fashion, with designers incorporating African patterns and motifs into their creations.

In the 1970s, Nigeria not only produced textiles for domestic consumption but also exported them regionally across West Africa. However, the 1990s brought a significant shift in Nigerian fashion, with



the emergence of a new generation of designers inspired by global fashion trends. Visionary designers like Maki Oh, Duro Olowu, and Lisa Folawiyo gained international recognition, showcasing Nigerian fashion on the global stage. The New York Times noted that Nigerian designers have earned international acclaim for their distinctively cultural sense of style.

Modern Nigerian Fashion

Today, Nigerian fashion is a vibrant and diverse industry. Designers seamlessly incorporate traditional fabrics and designs into modern, avant-garde creations. The rise of social media has also played a pivotal role in promoting Nigerian fashion. Platforms like Instagram and Twitter allow designers to showcase their work and connect with a global audience.

For instance, Adenike Art Gallery is one of the brands and women championing Nigerian culture. Recently, Adenike welcomed the German President and other dignitaries to her gallery, as reported by ThisDay. In 2019, Nigerian designer, Maki Oh was featured in the prestigious Vogue magazine, marking a significant milestone for Nigerian fashion.

Challenges Facing the Industry

Despite the growth and recognition of Nigerian fashion, the industry faces several challenges:

Infrastructure and Support: Many designers struggle to access funding, training, and resources, which makes it difficult to compete with international brands.

Cultural Appropriation: International designers have often been accused of appropriating traditional Nigerian designs and patterns without providing proper credit or compensation.

Conclusion

The evolution of Nigerian fashion is a story of cultural revival and global recognition. From traditional Adire prints to modern avant-garde designs, Nigerian fashion has come a long way. Despite the challenges facing the industry, Nigerian designers continue to push boundaries and showcase their talent on the global stage, solidifying their place in the international fashion scene.

Queen Dami hospitalized after Portable rejects her apology

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Queen Dami, former partner of singer Portable, has reportedly been hospitalised in an undisclosed facility after the emotional fallout of their breakup.

This follows the emotional fallout after Portable rejected her public apology seeking reconciliation.

New Daily Prime earlier reported that Queen Dami, a mother of one, pleaded with Portable through a series of Instagram Story posts on Thursday. She expressed her desire to mend their relationship, which ended publicly in December 2024.

Tumultuous breakup

On December 13, 2024, Queen Dami announced her separation from Portable during a heated TikTok live session. The disagreement that led to their split marked the end of their relationship, leaving fans shocked.

This week, after she publicly sought forgiveness, events took a dramatic turn. Queen Dami collapsed and was rushed to a hospital.

Witnesses during her midnight Instagram live session revealed that the collapse resulted from emotional distress caused by harsh online criticism and the backlash over her reconciliation attempt.

Online trolls add to Queen Dami's distress

In the live session, a visibly upset friend of Queen Dami accused online trolls of worsening her condition. "You have finally killed Queen Dami. Why are you people so wicked?" the friend lamented. She explained that Queen Dami had been staying with her since leaving Portable's house and was struggling to cope with relentless criticism.

The friend added, "Even if she's with Portable, what's your business? Why are you dragging her? Are you the one living her life? If anything happens to her, you people are responsible."

Queen Dami, unconscious in the live video, was seen lying in a car as her friends tried to revive her. They later



fainted. Why faint if you're innocent?" he said.

The singer added, "Love is a scam. Life itself is a scam. I simply wanted the truth, but now the situation is out of control."

History of relationship challenges

This is not the first time

Queen Dami has faced public scrutiny over her relationships. In November 2021, she made headlines when she returned to the Alaafin of Oyo's palace after initially leaving the royal household.

At the time, she blamed her friends for influencing her decision and retracted earlier accusations against the late monarch.

Similarly, her relationship with Portable, which began in August 2023, has been a rollercoaster. The couple's ups and downs have often played out in public, drawing both support and criticism from fans.

Call for compassion

As Queen Dami battles the emotional toll of recent events, her story underscores the damaging impact of online trolling and public judgment.

Her friends and supporters have urged the public to show empathy, reminding critics that behind the headlines is a human being dealing with pain and vulnerability.

This unfolding saga highlights the dark side of social media and the emotional toll it can take on individuals in the public eye. For Queen Dami, the healing journey—both physically and emotionally—has just begun.

rushed her to an undisclosed hospital for medical care.

Leaked audio sparks more drama

Further complicating the situation, a leaked audio recording between Queen Dami and Portable surfaced online. The audio revealed a tense exchange, with accusations of infidelity taking center stage. Portable questioned Queen Dami's loyalty, citing claims made by her former friend.

In the recording, Queen Dami passionately denied the allegations. She accused her friend, an accessories vendor, of spreading false rumors to sabotage their reunion.

Queen Dami responds to allegations

Addressing the issue in a series of voice notes to Portable, Queen Dami said, "We don't need to let people create drama between us. What's done is done. I'll pray for you. My prayers are with you."

She continued, "When my friend heard about our reconciliation, she began posting lies about me to ruin my reputation. Now, you're telling me she claims I was with another man. Why is she saying this only now? It's clear she doesn't want us back together."

Portable's reaction

Portable, known for his controversial personality, shared his perspective on the matter through social media. In an Instagram story, he posted a cryptic response: "Return to where?"

Later, in a video, Portable explained his side of the story. "I only asked her if she had been with another man since she left. The answer was either yes or no, but she

Mohbad's brother denies Yomi Fabiyi's N3m claim

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Adura Aloba, brother of late Nigerian singer Mohbad, has strongly refuted allegations made by actor Yomi Fabiyi, calling them baseless and false.

The actor alleged that Adura knew the cause of Mohbad's death and demanded money to release evidence.

Allegations spark controversy Mohbad, a rising star in Nigeria's music industry, died on September 12, 2023, under mysterious circumstances. Since his passing, speculations and conspiracy theories have swirled around the cause of his death.

During a recent press conference, Yomi Fabiyi claimed that Adura contacted him on Instagram. According to Fabiyi, Adura alleged that he had a video showing Mohbad's wife, Wunmi, pushing the singer down a staircase during a heated argument. Fabiyi also claimed that Adura demanded N3 million to hand over the video.

Adura's side of the story

In response to the allegations, Adura firmly denied any wrongdoing. Speaking at the same press event, he explained that the video in question was not created by him. Instead, he stated that Mohbad had recorded the video himself about three years ago. The footage, he claimed, was stored on a phone he later sold to a man named Damola.

"Firstly, I do not have much to say because this matter is already in court," Adura said. "I cannot know the cause of my brother's death and stay silent for this long. The video being talked about was recorded three years ago by Mohbad himself. It was saved on a phone I sold to Damola."

Adura admitted that he was the one who initially contacted Fabiyi but insisted he never demanded money. He



also accused Fabiyi of twisting the facts to damage his reputation.

The alleged video

Adura provided further context about the video's history. He explained that after selling the phone to Damola, he noticed suspicious activity involving Fabiyi.

"A week after selling the phone, I started seeing messages between Damola and Mr. Yomi," Adura said. "It seems the video, which Mohbad recorded years ago, was still on that phone. Mr. Yomi is now using this to tarnish my name, saying I was the one who created the video."

Accusations of defamation

Adura did not hold back in his criticism of Fabiyi. He accused the actor of deliberately misrepresenting facts to paint him in a bad light. According to Adura, Fabiyi's actions have caused unnecessary drama and further confusion surrounding Mohbad's tragic death.

"Mr. Yomi is trying to tarnish my name," Adura declared. "He has made false claims, and it is unfair to me and my family."

Public reactions



The ongoing drama has captured the attention of fans, the media, and social commentators. Many have expressed frustration over the conflicting narratives, while others have called for patience as investigations continue.

Investigation underway

Authorities are reportedly still investigating the circumstances surrounding Mohbad's death. Adura emphasized that since the case is now in court, he would prefer not to say too much.

"This matter is already in court, and I trust the truth will come out," he said.

Calls for clarity

The controversy surrounding Mohbad's death highlights the need for a thorough and transparent investigation. Fans of the late singer are eager for answers, hoping to uncover the truth and find closure.

For now, both sides continue to present their versions of events, leaving the public to speculate. With the case now in court, further developments are expected in the coming weeks.

This story is ongoing, and updates will follow as more information becomes available.

ID Cabasa: Industry stars require healing support

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Renowned music producer ID Cabasa has sounded the alarm on a growing mental health crisis within Nigeria's entertainment industry.

Using his platform on X (formerly Twitter), Cabasa shed light on the emotional struggles faced by many entertainers.

He urged society to show greater empathy and support, emphasizing the toll unresolved trauma takes on their well-being.

In his heartfelt posts, Cabasa pointed out how numerous entertainers silently battle emotional wounds.

He explained that these struggles are often worsened by public scrutiny and harsh criticism. Instead of receiving compassion, many are ridiculed, leaving them to endure their pain alone.

The hidden pain of entertainers Cabasa highlighted the unique pressures entertainers face, both in their careers and personal lives. For many, the spotlight magnifies their struggles.

"A lot of people need closure," he wrote, stressing the importance of addressing trauma. "Unfortunately, when they speak up, rather than finding healing, people pick sides. We mock, blame, or judge them for things they need healing from."

The music producer's words reflect a harsh reality. While entertainers are often idolized for their talent and success, their humanity is overlooked.

Beneath the glamour, many carry deep emotional scars. This lack of understanding, according to Cabasa, forces them to suppress their feelings. They wear a mask of strength, even as they suffer internally.



Public criticism deepens the wounds
One of Cabasa's key concerns is the role of public opinion in worsening entertainers' mental health struggles.

Social media has become a double-edged sword. While it connects stars with their fans, it also exposes them to relentless judgment.

"When entertainers cry out for help, we gloss over it as entertainment," Cabasa wrote. This statement underscores a troubling trend: society often trivializes their pain. Instead of offering support, people turn their struggles into topics of gossip or ridicule.

Call for collective action
Cabasa's message is clear: change is needed. He called for a collective effort to create a supportive environment within and beyond the entertainment industry. Addressing mental health issues, he believes, is crucial for safeguarding the well-being of entertainers.

"We need to treat trauma more in Naija," he urged, emphasizing the importance of professional help and understanding. Cabasa's words highlight the need for a cultural shift—one that values empathy over judgment.

Breaking the silence on mental health
Mental health remains a stigmatized topic in Nigeria. For entertainers, the stigma is compounded by the pressure to maintain a flawless public image. Cabasa's call to action is a reminder that healing begins with acknowledgment.

Experts agree that trauma, if left unaddressed, can have severe consequences. Depression, anxiety, and burnout are common among those in high-pressure industries like entertainment. Creating safe spaces for open conversations is a crucial step toward healing.

Empathy over judgment
Cabasa's message resonates beyond the entertainment world. His call for empathy is a plea for societal change. By replacing criticism with understanding, people can help reduce the burden on those struggling silently.

As Cabasa noted, entertainers are not immune to human struggles. Fame and fortune do not shield them from pain. Recognizing their vulnerability and offering support can make a significant difference.

Conclusion
ID Cabasa's words are a wake-up call. The mental health challenges faced by Nigerian entertainers reflect a broader issue—society's lack of empathy. Addressing this requires collective effort, compassion, and a willingness to listen.

By fostering a culture of support, we can ensure that entertainers—and everyone else—can seek help without fear of judgment.

In the words of Cabasa, "A lot is locked in so as to appear strong while dying internally." It's time to break the silence and prioritize mental health for all.

Liam doesn't look like Mohbad – Joseph Aloba

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Mohbad's death sparks controversy as his father, Joseph Aloba, questions the paternity of his grandson, Liam, demanding a DNA test.

In a recent interview on Silverbird Television, Aloba expressed his doubts and insisted on a DNA test to confirm whether Liam is truly his late son's child.

Timeline of events

Mohbad passed away on September 12, 2023, leaving fans and family in shock. The next day, on September 13, he was buried.

However, the circumstances surrounding his sudden death raised suspicions. On September 21, the Lagos State Police Command exhumed Mohbad's body to conduct an autopsy, seeking answers about the cause of his demise.

The public scrutiny did not stop at his death; it extended to his family. Among the many controversies was Joseph Aloba's call for a probe into the role of Mohbad's wife, Omowunmi, in his death and a demand for a DNA test to determine if Liam is biologically connected to Mohbad.

Father's doubts take center stage

During the interview, Aloba was candid about his scepticism. When asked if Liam resembled Mohbad, his response was firm. "No, with what I am seeing, he's not my grandson," he stated.

He explained that as a father, he expected the child to be brought to him for familial bonding. Instead, the situation has now escalated into a public matter.

Aloba emphasized the importance of clarity. "When I demanded a DNA test, they should have responded, 'Daddy, go ahead and do it at your convenient time.' But now it has become a public issue. Let the court decide."



He concluded his remarks by stating, "I would only accept Liam as my grandson if the DNA test proves otherwise."

A Family divided

The situation highlights the growing tension within the late singer's family. Aloba's doubts about Liam's paternity have added a layer of complexity to the grief and legal battles surrounding Mohbad's death.

While Aloba remains steadfast in his demands, many have criticized his public statements, arguing they may further strain relations with Mohbad's widow and their son.

Omowunmi has yet to respond publicly to Aloba's claims. Supporters of the late singer have also expressed mixed reactions, with some agreeing with Aloba's stance and others accusing him of unnecessary drama.

The call for justice

Beyond the paternity controversy, Joseph Aloba has been vocal about seeking justice for his late son.

The exhumation of Mohbad's body was part of a broader investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death.

Aloba has urged the authorities to ensure a thorough probe, stating that only transparency can bring closure to the family and Mohbad's fans.

The singer's sudden death has raised numerous questions, with many fans

suspecting foul play. Aloba's consistent demands for answers reflect a father's determination to uncover the truth, even as his personal doubts about Liam's paternity add another layer to an already complicated situation.

Public reactions

Mohbad's death has not only left a void in the music industry but has also stirred widespread public interest.

Fans and social media users have closely followed the developments, weighing in on everything from the autopsy results to the family's disputes.

While some believe Aloba's actions are justified, others think the issue of Liam's paternity should be handled privately. "This is a sensitive matter, and it should not be played out in the media," one Twitter user commented.

Another user wrote, "If there's any doubt, a DNA test will clear it up. But dragging this out in public is unfair to the child."

Quest for resolution

The demand for a DNA test is not merely about paternity but also about closure for Aloba. He appears resolute in his quest for clarity, not just for himself but for the legacy of his late son. While his approach has drawn criticism, Aloba believes the truth is non-negotiable.

For now, the public waits for further developments. Whether through court orders or private arrangements, a DNA test could soon provide the answers Aloba seeks.

Until then, the story of Mohbad's death and its aftermath continues to unfold, keeping the spotlight firmly on his family and the quest for justice.

In the end, this is more than just a story about paternity—it's about family, grief, and the search for truth in the wake of a tragedy.

Filmmaker, David Lynch dies at 78

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

David Lynch, the legendary American filmmaker celebrated for iconic works like *Mulholland Drive* and *Twin Peaks*, has died at the age of 78, his family announced.

His family announced the news on his official Facebook page Thursday evening. They did not disclose the cause of death.

“It is with deep regret that we, his family, announce the passing of the man and the artist, David Lynch,” the statement read. It continued, “We would appreciate some privacy at this time. There’s a big hole in the world now that he’s no longer with us. But, as he would say, ‘Keep your eye on the donut and not on the hole.’ It’s a beautiful day with golden sunshine and blue skies all the way.”

Early life and career beginnings

Born in 1946 in Missoula, Montana, Lynch discovered his passion for art and storytelling early in life. He attended art college in the 1960s, laying the foundation for his future in filmmaking.

His journey to becoming a cinematic icon began in 1971, when he moved to Los Angeles. There, he studied at the prestigious AFI Conservatory and began production on his first feature-length film, *Eraserhead*.

Released in 1977, *Eraserhead* became a cult classic. The film’s surreal imagery and haunting atmosphere showcased Lynch’s unique vision. It also marked the start of a career that would push the boundaries of storytelling and visual art.

Legacy of iconic works

Over more than five decades, Lynch created some of cinema’s most unforgettable films. His works often explored dark and mysterious themes, combining surrealism with emotional depth.

He earned three Oscar nominations for Best Director for *The Elephant Man* (1980), *Blue Velvet* (1986), and *Mulholland Drive* (2001).

Lynch was not just a filmmaker; he was also a pioneer of television. His groundbreaking series *Twin Peaks* debuted in 1990, captivating viewers with its mix of small-town drama, supernatural elements, and quirky characters. The series became a



cultural phenomenon, influencing countless shows that followed.

In 2017, Lynch returned to the world of *Twin Peaks* with *Twin Peaks: The Return*. This ambitious revival was praised by critics and fans alike. It showcased Lynch’s ability to innovate and surprise, even decades into his career.

Personal struggle with emphysema

In August of last year, Lynch spoke openly about his health in an interview with *Sight and Sound* magazine.

He revealed that he had been diagnosed with emphysema, a chronic lung condition often linked to smoking. Despite his illness, Lynch remained determined to create.

“I would do it remotely if it comes to it,” he said during the interview, expressing his willingness to adapt. “I wouldn’t like that so much.”

Lynch’s optimism and dedication to his craft were hallmarks of his life. Even as his health declined, he maintained his characteristic creativity and resilience.

Personal life marked by art and family
His personal life was as multifaceted as his films. He was married four times and had four children—two daughters and two sons. Despite his busy career, he often spoke of the importance of family and the inspiration they brought to his life.

Beyond film, Lynch was an accomplished painter, musician, and advocate for transcendental meditation. His artistic pursuits extended into nearly every medium, reflecting his boundless curiosity and creativity.

A Lasting impact

He leaves behind a legacy that will endure for generations. His work has inspired filmmakers, artists, and audiences worldwide. Few directors have managed to capture the dreamlike, unsettling beauty that became his signature.

Fans and collaborators are already mourning his loss. Social media platforms are filled with tributes celebrating his artistry and his influence. Many have quoted one of Lynch’s famous sayings: “Keep your eye on the donut and not on the hole.”

Though Lynch is no longer with us, his work continues to captivate and challenge. From the eerie streets of *Blue Velvet* to the haunting mysteries of *Twin Peaks*, his stories remain vivid in the minds of those who experienced them.

As the world says goodbye to this visionary artist, one thing is clear: David Lynch’s unique perspective and creative brilliance will never be forgotten.

US Supreme Court upholds TikTok ban law

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The US Supreme Court has upheld a law that bans TikTok nationwide unless its China-based parent company ByteDance sells the platform by this Sunday.

TikTok had challenged the law, arguing it would violate free speech protections for the app's more than 170 million users it says it has in the US.

But that argument was rejected by the nation's highest court, meaning TikTok must now find an approved buyer for the US version of the app or face being removed from app stores and web hosting services.

However, the outgoing Biden administration and incoming President Donald Trump have been trying to work out a reprieve for the platform, which US authorities have warned poses a national security risk.

Can Trump still intervene?

Trump may once have sought to ban TikTok – but is now firmly against this law.

He asked the Supreme Court to delay its implementation while he seeks a “political solution,” but has been unsuccessful in this bid.

He has been bullish about finding a solution though.

On Friday, just before the court released its ruling, he said he spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping about TikTok, as well as issues around trade.



“It is my expectation that we will solve many problems together, and starting immediately,” he posted on social media.

And on Thursday Trump's incoming national security adviser Mike Waltz told Fox News the president-elect was looking for ways to “preserve” TikTok, saying Americans' access to the platform and their data would be preserved.

“I don't want to get ahead of our executive orders, but we're going to create the space to put that deal in place,” Mr Waltz said.

Another option would be for Trump to allow the law to stand but tell the Department of Justice not to enforce it.

The government would be effectively telling Apple and Google that they won't be punished for continuing to allow people to download TikTok onto their devices, meaning the law would remain in place but would essentially be redundant.

Obviously, the firms might be

uncomfortable about breaking the law even if they've been told it's fine – as it would be effectively requiring them to take the president's word for it that they won't face punishment.

Can people still use TikTok even if it's banned?

If Trump can't unban TikTok, then what happens?

The most likely way the US would enforce the ban is to order app stores to make it unavailable for download in that region.

If people can no longer use a legitimate means to access TikTok through digital storefronts it won't impact those who've already got it on their phones.

But because the app most likely won't be publicly available anymore, new updates will no longer be delivered to users in the US – which will make the app buggier and, eventually, unusable.

Trump inauguration moved inside the Capitol due to freezing temperatures

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Monday's inauguration ceremony for President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect JD Vance will take place inside the Capitol due to dangerously low temperatures, Trump announced on social media on Friday.

"There is an Arctic blast sweeping the Country," Trump wrote on Truth Social. "I don't want to see people hurt, or injured, in any way. ... Therefore, I have ordered the Inauguration Address, in addition to prayers and other speeches, to be delivered in the United States Capitol Rotunda, as was used by Ronald Reagan in 1985, also because of very cold weather."

Temperatures are expected to be in the teens and low 20s on Monday with heavy winds. Weather forecasters are also predicting snow the day before.

The Rotunda is under the Capitol dome and is typically used for congressional ceremonies and celebrations.

The U.S. Capitol Rotunda is seen on Jan. 17, 2025. Tasos Katopodis / Getty Images

Trump said Capital One arena in downtown D.C. would be open for supporters to watch the ceremony live, and he will join the crowd after he is sworn in.

The arena will also host the presidential parade. The space can fit about 20,000 people, a fraction of those who are expected to visit Washington for the inauguration.

Dignitaries and other VIP guests will be brought into the Rotunda, Trump said, but space will be extremely limited.

"This will be a very beautiful experience for all, and especially for



the large TV audience!" Trump wrote in his post.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, which is responsible for planning the event, said in a statement that "the vast majority of ticketed guests will not be able to attend the ceremonies in person."

"At this time we know that those with tickets for the Presidential Platform and members of Congress will be able to attend in person," the statement said.

"While we know this is difficult for many attendees, we strongly suggest people who are in Washington for the event attend other indoor events at indoor venues of their choice to watch the inauguration."

A senior inaugural official in Washington previously told CBS News that moving the ceremony indoors was "the president-elect's call."

Two law enforcement sources told CBS News earlier that a "Rotunda plan" for the swearing-in was "under consideration" and had been a contingency for months. CNN first reported that the inauguration would

be moved indoors.

When Reagan took the oath of office in the Capitol Rotunda in 1985, it was 7 degrees outside, according to the National Weather Service, with wind chills making it feel far colder than 0 degrees.

Those conditions forced organizers to move the ceremony indoors. The Capitol Rotunda was packed, according to images from that day, with standing-room-only available for VIPs.

President Ronald Reagan's second inauguration on Jan. 21, 1985, in the Capitol. Library of Congress

Reagan was actually sworn in one day before the Jan. 21 inaugural festivities, on Jan. 20, since Jan. 20 fell on a Sunday. Chief Justice Warren Burger administered the oath of office to Reagan on both days.

"There are no words adequate to express my thanks for the great honor that you have bestowed on me," Reagan said in his second inaugural address. "I will do my utmost to be deserving of your trust."

Biden sets record, pardons 2,500 non-violent drug offenders

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



President Joe Biden on Friday announced he would commute the sentences of nearly 2,500 people convicted of non-violent drug offences as one of his last major moves just days before leaving office.

Biden said the individuals receiving commutations are “serving disproportionately long sentences compared to the sentences they would receive today under current law, policy, and practice” in a Friday statement.

“Today’s clemency action provides relief for individuals who received lengthy sentences based

on discredited distinctions between crack and powder cocaine, as well as outdated sentencing enhancements for drug crimes,” Biden said.

The move makes him the president who has issued more pardons and commutations than any other U.S. president, Biden said.

The president noted that Congress in recent years has passed the Fair Sentencing Act in 2010, which ended the five-year mandatory minimum sentencing for possessing crack cocaine, and the First Step Act in 2018, which aimed to decrease the federal prison population.

“As Congress recognized through the Fair Sentencing Act and the First Step Act, it is time that we equalize these sentencing disparities,”

Biden said. “This action is an important step toward righting historic wrongs, correcting sentencing disparities, and providing deserving individuals the opportunity to return to their families and communities after spending far too much time behind bars.”

He said he is proud of his record on clemency and will “continue to review additional commutations and pardons” before he leaves office on Monday.

Israeli minister threatens to collapse Netanyahu govt if truce succeeds

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Netanyahu needs the support of both parties to keep his coalition from collapsing and costing him his position as prime minister.

Israeli National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir said Friday that his party would resign and collapse Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hold on power if the current cease-fire and hostage deal goes through.

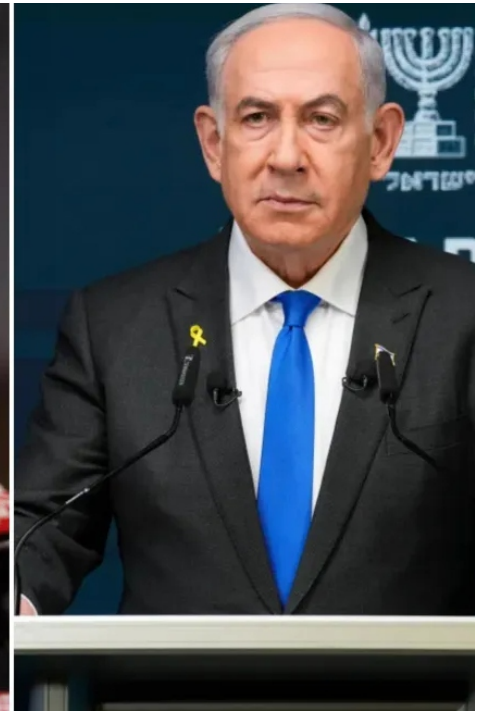
Gvir, a member of the far-right Otzma Yehudit (Jewish Power) party slammed the peace deal as unacceptable as he called on other members of Israel's government to join his protest.

"This deal teaches them (Hamas) that they can take hostages and attack, and at the end of the day, they can get what they want," Gvir said at a news conference, according to a CNN translation.

Gvir has previously boasted about derailing previous cease-fire deals, demanding the Jewish state stick to negotiating the release of every hostage at once and continuing the war effort afterwards.

Gvir, who has also called for Israel to annex sections of the Gaza Strip, called on fellow right-wing Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, the head of the Religious Zionism Party who has expressed his own disdain in the deal, to join him in threatening his resignation.

Smotrich posted on X late Wednesday that he was demanding "absolute certainty" that Israel can resume the war later, calling the current deal "bad and dangerous" for Israel.



Netanyahu needs the support of both parties to keep his coalition from collapsing and costing him his position as prime minister.

While Smotrich has yet to signal that he would join the protest, one of Netanyahu's own ministers in the Likud Party, Amichai Chikli, also threatened his resignation on Thursday over the deal.

Chikli, who oversees the Ministry of Diaspora and Combating Antisemitism, said he could not support a deal that would include Israel's withdrawal from the Philadelphi corridor, along the Egypt-Gaza border.

"I hereby undertake that if, God forbid, there is a withdrawal from the Philadelphia Axis (before the war goals are achieved), or if we do not return to fighting in order to complete the war goals – I will resign from my position as a government minister," Chikli wrote on X.

Following the ministers' threats, the ruling Likud party warned that those who try to derail the cease-fire deal

would live on in infamy.

"Anyone who dissolves the right-wing government will be remembered as a world scoundrel," the party said in a joint statement.

Despite the blow from his allies, Netanyahu will still have the votes he needs to keep the government going after Opposition Leader, Yair Lapid announced he would support the embattled prime minister through the negotiations.

"I say to Benjamin Netanyahu, don't be afraid or intimidated, you will get every safety net you need to make the hostage deal," Lapid said in a statement. "This is more important than any disagreement we've ever had."

While the deal would still remain intact to begin on Sunday to begin the truce and release of 33 hostages, it would effectively mark the end of Netanyahu's majority in government and allow Lapid to issue new elections whenever he chooses.

WHO warns of Marburg virus outbreak in Tanzania, eight dead **By Friday Omosola**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a warning over a possible outbreak of the deadly Marburg virus in north-western Tanzania, where at least eight people have died.

WHO said over the last five days, nine suspected cases of Marburg virus were identified in the Kagera region.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus on Tuesday via X stated, "We expect more cases in the coming days as disease surveillance improves."

"Marburg virus disease is an infectious, severe, and often fatal disease caused by a filovirus."

Among affected patients are the healthcare workers who are closely monitored.



Rapid response teams have been deployed in north-western Tanzania to trace suspected Marburg virus cases and contain the outbreak, as concerns grow over its potential spread.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned that the risk of regional transmission remains "high" due to Kagera's role as a key transit hub with frequent cross-border movement to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda, Burundi, and

Rwanda.

Despite the outbreak, WHO chief Dr. Tedros clarified that no travel or trade restrictions with Tanzania are currently recommended.

On a global scale, the risk remains "low," with no evidence of international spread.

This comes after Rwanda, Tanzania's neighbour, declared its own Marburg outbreak over in December 2024, following 66 infections and 15 deaths.

According to WHO data, the Marburg virus has an average fatality rate of 50%. It originates from fruit bats and spreads to humans through direct contact, with further transmission occurring via bodily fluids of infected individuals.

Corruption: Imprisoned former Prime Minister, Khan, bags 14 years jail term **By Michael Damilola**

Already-imprisoned former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been sentenced to 14 years in jail by a Pakistani court after finding him guilty of corruption.

The case centres on the misuse of authority and corruption involving Khan's Al-Qadir University project trust.

He had faced charges of bribery involving land in return for a £190 million money laundering favour to Malik Riaz, a real estate tycoon, marking the fourth major case the former PM has been convicted for.



In January 2023, three previous convictions bothered on selling state gifts, leaking state secrets, and unlawful marriage, among other pending cases.

Read also: Taliban don't see women as human beings – Malala

Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, was also sentenced to seven years jail by the court as an alleged accomplice.

While the former PM was fined 1 million Pakistani rupees (\$3,500) aside from jail term bagged, his wife was fined half 500 Pakistani rupees.

The Pakistan PM between 2018 and 2022 is also banned from politics for five years.

What you need to know about Donald Trump's inauguration By Friday Omosola

It is no longer news that the U.S. President-elect, Donald Trump, will be inaugurated on Monday, January 20, as the 47th president of the country.

Trump will assume office in the White House following the expiration of the tenure of the incumbent President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who lost to Trump in the election.

As the inauguration approaches with every passing second, minute, hour, and day, there remains limited information about the swearing-in, particularly among individuals outside the U.S.

In this article, The New Daily Prime highlights key details about the event as Trump prepares to take the oath of office alongside his Vice President-elect, JD Vance.

Trump will take the oath of office at noon on Monday, January 20, at the West Front of the U.S. Capitol.

He will become the second president after Grover Cleveland to serve two non-consecutive terms.

All living former U.S. presidents will attend the swearing ceremony.

Argentina's President Javier Milei will attend the ceremony.

Prominent figures like Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, and Mark Zuckerberg will have reserved seats.

Over 11,000 police and National Guard troops will be deployed to ensure security for the estimated crowd of 250,000 attendees.

The U.S. Capitol flags, which are currently at half-staff to honour former President Jimmy Carter, will



fly at full-staff on Inauguration Day.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts will administer the oath of office to Trump for the fifth time in his career.

Vice President-elect J.D. Vance will be sworn in before Trump.

Trump's wife, Melania will hold the Bible during the oath, as she did eight years ago.

The ceremony will mark only the second time an inauguration falls on Martin Luther King Jr. Day (celebrated on the third Monday of January each year).

The weather forecast predicts a sunny but windy day with highs in the mid-20s.

Trump's inaugural address is expected to follow the tradition of past speeches, with his previous one in 2017 lasting 17 minutes.

Trump will recite the following: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States, and

will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Trump will hold up his right hand and place his left on a Bible

More than 220,000 tickets will be sold for the inauguration ceremony.

The presidential oath of office is written into the U.S. Constitution.

Trump will be only the fortieth person to give an inaugural address.

Trump may or may not wear a top hat to the inauguration as John F. Kennedy was the last president to wear it.

The inauguration ceremony was moved from March to January 20.

Thirty-seven inaugurations have been held in March.

George Washington was the only elected president not to be inaugurated in either January or March.

Haaland signs new Man City deal until 2034

By Dave Oludare Oso

Manchester City striker, Erling Haaland has signed a new long-term deal with the club that will keep him at the Etihad until 2034.

The Norwegian joined City from Dortmund in 2022 and has scored 111 goals in 126 games for the club since.

The striker's previous deal, which reportedly included a release clause, had been due to expire in 2027.

Haaland's new deal would see the striker remain with City until his 34th birthday should he stay at the club until its expiry in nine-and-a-half years' time.

The length of Haaland's deal is the longest in the Premier League, eclipsing the nine-year deal Cole Palmer signed with Chelsea last August.

"I am really happy to have signed my new contract and to be able to look forward to spending even more time at this great club," said Haaland.

"Manchester City is a special club, full of fantastic people with amazing supporters and it's the type of environment that helps bring the best out of everybody.

"I also want to thank (manager) Pep [Guardiola], his coaching staff, my team-mates and everyone at the club as they have all helped me so much in the past couple of years."

Txiki Begiristain, City's director of football, said: "The fact he (Haaland) is signed for so long demonstrates our commitment to him as a player and his



love for the club."

Haaland's contract renewal comes two months after Pep Guardiola's decision to sign a new two-year deal of his own.

Since moving to the club from Germany, the Norway forward has won two Premier League titles, the FA Cup, the Champions League and the Super Cup.

The defending champions are 12 points behind leaders Liverpool in the Premier League table, having played an extra game than the Reds.

The striker's renewal comes as City await the outcome of their disciplinary case against the Premier League.

The club, which could face a huge sanction if found guilty, have denied the 115 charges levelled against them.

'Smart business from City'

Haaland's new deal at City is an "expensive" but "smart" decision from the club, according to football-finance expert, Kieran Maguire.

Liverpool trio Trent Alexander-Arnold, Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah are all out of contract at the end of the season and could leave the club for free.

"He (Haaland) is half way through his original five-year contract and once you get into that last two years the balance of power starts to shift towards the player more than the club, as City would have observed at Liverpool," Maguire told BBC Sport.

"What they (City) have here is a long-term commitment which protects Haaland's value in the market.

"I think it's a smart business decision from City. It's an expensive decision but it's one they could afford."

Real reason I chose Barca over Real Madrid – Neymar Jnr

By Dave Oludare Oso

Football icon, and Brazil's highest goal scorer, Neymar Jnr has disclosed that his decision to join Barcelona instead of Real Madrid was guided by his heart rather than logic.

In an exclusive interview with another Brazilian football legend, Romário, published on Friday, Neymar opened up about the pivotal days leading to his career-defining move. He expressed his deep affection for Barcelona and the emotional connection that ultimately influenced his choice.

"I don't regret my choice to pick Barcelona over Real Madrid. I went with my heart there," Neymar said.

The forward explained that he had been a long-time admirer of the Catalan club, dating back to Ronaldinho's era.

"Barça was the team I loved. I always watched, and I always said: I want to play there. It happened."

According to him, the transfer saga was anything but straightforward, with both clubs vying for Neymar's signature.

"Those were intense days. It was two or three days where I wasn't even training, just going from my house to the office to resolve this," Neymar revealed.

He recounted being torn between the two Spanish giants, with representatives from both clubs persistently contacting him.

"Real Madrid's people were calling



me from one side, and Barcelona's people were calling me from the other. Both presidents were talking to me. I couldn't rationalise. I imagined myself playing for both."

In the end, Neymar said his heart "spoke louder," leading him to choose Barcelona over Real Madrid.

Neymar further revealed that a significant influence on his decision was the opportunity to play alongside Lionel Messi, who he had admired for years.

"I obviously wanted to play with Messi!" Neymar said.

The camaraderie between the two stars proved instrumental in shaping Neymar's time at Barcelona.

However, according to him, his initial months at the club were anything but easy. Neymar struggled to adapt, often doubting himself.

"I spent the first six months at Barça with butterflies in my stomach. I was like..., I can't dribble anyone, I can't

get by anyone, I'm doing everything all wrong."

Neymar recounted one low point that came during a match against Athletic Bilbao, where he broke down in tears at halftime.

"I went into the washroom crying by myself, thinking, 'What am I doing?' Then Messi knocked on the door," he recalled.

Messi, along with Dani Alves, reassured Neymar and encouraged him to play without pressure.

He noted that their support helped Neymar regain his confidence and become one of the world's top players during his time at Barcelona.

Looking back, Neymar said he has no regrets about his career choices.

"All of the mistakes I had in my career, in my life choices were to help me grow, help me mature. So I don't regret anything," he told Romário.