



50% tariff hike: Phone calls to cost N16.5/minute, data N431.25/gb
PAGE 2

Minister mourns slain corps member, Salome, demands justice
PAGE 9



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Tinubu vows peace, justice, development for Ogoniland

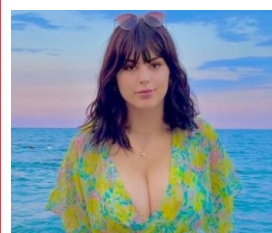


PAGE 4

66 killed, 51 injured in Turkey ski resort fire **PAGE 33**



Ex-convict nabbed with human skull in Ogun
PAGE 11



Onlyfans star, Vandan plans to sleep with 100 men in a day, arrested
PAGE 32

WORLD **PAGE 30**

Trump withdraws US from WHO, cancels Paris climate deal



ENTERTAINMENT

Finally, Speed Darlington freed after two months detention



PAGE 25

WORLD **PAGE 31**

Elon Musk's Nazi-like salute at Trump's inauguration sparks controversy



50% tariff hike: Phone calls to cost N16.5/minute, data N431.25/gb

By Dave Oludare Oso

Following a 50% tariff hike by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) on Monday, Nigerians will now pay N16.5 per minute for calls and N431.25 to subscribe to 1GB of data.

Last week, the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani, hinted that telecom tariffs will go up by either 30 or 50 percent.

His position came from a fallout of a meeting between him and operators who had proposed a 100 percent tariff increase.

The latest telecom tariff hike approval comes 13 years after NCC announced price template in 2013.

Meanwhile, with the latest tariff hike approval, it means that upon implementation, Nigerians may be paying N16.5 per minute for calls from N11, the cost of SMS to N6 from N4, and the cost of 1 gigabit of data – N431.25.

The NCC said in a statement signed by its director of Public Affairs, Reuben Muoka, “The adjustment, capped at a maximum of 50 percent of current tariffs, though lower than the over 100 percent requested by some network operators, was arrived at taking into account ongoing industry reforms that will positively influence sustainability.”

It was gathered that telcos may rake in N6.7 trillion annually in revenue from calls only with the new tariff regime; this is because 2023 national telephone traffic data showed that total outgoing telephone traffic was 205.3 billion minutes, while incoming traffic stood at 203.2 billion minutes.



An analysis of data from the latest 2023 Subscriber/Network Performance Report by the NCC showed that in 2023, total outgoing telephone traffic was 205.3 billion minutes, while incoming traffic stood at 203.2 billion minutes.

The report read, “As of December 2023 total outgoing local and national traffic was 205,298,114,995.11 minutes while total incoming local and national traffic was 203,187,588,876.00 minutes. MTN had the highest total outgoing and incoming traffic of 122,667,600,437.00 and 123,762,501,615.00 minutes respectively in 2023.”

This implies that Nigerians spent about 408.5 billion minutes making local calls in 2023.

Since there was no fresh data yet for 2024, the analysis was based on the available data for 2023, which might vary for 2025.

This analysis also excluded international calls, although Nigerians spent 1.5 billion minutes on international calls in 2023, according to

the NCC.

Further analysis showed that MTN led the market, recording 122.7 billion minutes of outgoing traffic and 123.8 billion minutes of incoming traffic.

At the new rate of N16.5 per minute, MTN’s combined revenue from outgoing and incoming calls is projected to exceed N4tn, making it the primary beneficiary of the tariff adjustment and accounting for over 60 percent of the market’s total revenue.

Airtel is expected to follow with a projected revenue of approximately N1.78tn, reflecting its strong share of both outgoing and incoming traffic.

Glo, the third-largest operator, is estimated to generate N536.2bn.

Smaller players, including Smile and Ntel, are expected to earn N5.7bn and N13.1bn respectively, affirming their minimal market influence.

9mobile (EMTS) is likely to generate about N105.6bn from its traffic volumes.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

**EFFECTIVE FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2024**

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

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

POLITICAL COLOUR		SIZE	RATE
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DOUBLE SPREAD	=		885,000.00
FULL PAGE	=		420,000.00
HALF PAGE	=		213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		115,012.50

POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	RATE
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FULL PAGE	=		315,777.50
HALF PAGE	=		184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	=		95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	=		254,533.50
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14X2	=		78,222.50
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10X5	=		192,305.50
10X4	=		142,787.50
10X3	=		121,355.50
9X6	=		192,305.50
9X3	=		107,757.50
8X6	=		170,725.00
8X3	=		70,390.00
7X4	=		58,666.50
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6X3	=		53,361.50
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5X4	=		55,900.00
5X3	=		43,705.00
5X2	=		27,938.00
4X4	=		44,493.00
4X3	=		33,524.00
4X2	=		22,350.00
3X2	=		16,763.00
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1X1	=		2,795.50

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10X4	=		149,440.00
10X3	=		127,108.00
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9X5	=		169,050.00
9X4	=		137,875.00
9X3	=		112,875.00
8X6	=		179,368.00
8X5	=		143,500.00
8X4	=		93,500.00
8X3	=		82,434.50
7X4	=		111,173.50
6X4	=		82,434.50
6X3	=		59,250.00
6X2	=		40,000.00
5X6	=		98,749.50
5X4	=		65,833.00
5X3	=		49,375.00
5X2	=		32,916.50
4X4	=		52,666.50
4X3	=		39,499.50
4X2	=		26,333.50
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2X2	=		13,000.00
2X1	=		6,500.00
1X1	=		3,292.00

PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE		SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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10X5	=		162,222.445
10X4	=		103,963.00
10X3	=		N/A
9X6	=		162,222.445
9X5	=		168,191.50
9X4	=		N/A
8X6	=		N/A
8X3	=		N/A
7X4	=		72,676.00
6X4	=		65,000.00
6X3	=		41,124.50
6X2	=		29,858.00
5X6	=		71,378.00
5X4	=		42,825.00
5X3	=		29,858.00
5X2	=		22,841.00
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4X3	=		N/A
4X2	=		17,737.50
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2X1	=		5,439.50
1X1	=		2,700.00

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

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

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

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Tinubu vows peace, justice, development for Ogoniland

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to fostering peace, justice, and sustainable development in Ogoniland.

Speaking during a meeting with Ogoni leaders at the State House in Abuja on Tuesday, the President urged unity, reconciliation, and collaborative efforts to address the region's lingering challenges.

"We cannot in any way rewrite history, but we can correct some anomalies of the past going forward. We cannot heal the wounds if we continue to be angry," President Tinubu said.

The President directed the National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, to lead negotiations and facilitate inclusive consultations among stakeholders.

He also instructed federal ministers, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), and the Rivers State Government to support the NSA's efforts in achieving these objectives.

President Tinubu appreciated the delegation for embracing dialogue and underscored the importance of trust and inclusivity in resolving Ogoniland's issues.

"We must work together with mutual trust. Go back home, do more consultations, and bring others on board. Let us restore peace, development, and a clean environment to Ogoniland," he



urged.

Reflecting on his historical ties with Ogoni leaders during Nigeria's struggle against military dictatorship, President Tinubu assured the delegation that the sacrifices of Ogoni martyrs would not be forgotten.

Meanwhile, Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara commended the President for supporting the Ogoni people and for fostering an inclusive approach to the dialogue process.

He pledged the delegation's full cooperation in advancing the President's mandate, emphasising the importance of resuming oil operations in Ogoniland.

"This meeting solidifies our respect and trust in the President. We are committed to following his guidance and ensuring oil production resumes in Ogoniland," Governor Fubara said.

Speaking, Ribadu, the National

praised the Ogoni people for their trust in President Tinubu and their willingness to pursue dialogue.

He noted that the over 50-member delegation represented the diversity of Ogoni society and reflected their readiness for constructive engagement.

King Festus Babari Bagia Gberesaako XIII, the Gberemene of Gokana Kingdom, expressed the Ogoni leadership's commitment to working with the government to achieve lasting solutions for the community.

With a renewed call for reconciliation and collaboration, President Tinubu's administration seeks to address historical grievances and pave the way for peace and development in Ogoniland.

Stakeholders now face the task of translating dialogue into tangible progress for the region.

FG announces online visa system launch before March 1

By Friday Omosola

The Federal Government (FG) has announced that all visa applications will transition to an online system by March 1.

Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, made this revelation on Monday during an appearance on 'X Spaces,' hosted by influencer Segun Awosanya.

He also shared that a centralized visa approval centre has been established to streamline the visa process, promote consistency, enhance national security, and combat corruption.

"The creation of the visa approval centre is a major accomplishment for this administration. This centralized system will curb corruption, bolster national security, and standardize the visa process. By March 1, all visa applications will be processed online to



ensure thorough vetting," he explained.

The minister also highlighted the establishment of a unified data centre at the Bola Tinubu Technology Innovation Complex (BATTIC), located at the headquarters of the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in Sauka, Abuja.

"We've built one of the largest data centres in Nigeria's history—a massive 8.3-petabyte facility. Previously, there were challenges because we inherited a Nigeria Immigration Service without a dedicated data centre, resulting in Nigerians' data being stored privately by various contractors, which was a clear violation of the Data Protection Act," he noted.

Tunji-Ojo emphasised that Nigeria's security documents could not be properly issued under such conditions, as they violated due process.

To address this, the government pledged to develop a 1.4-petabyte data centre but ultimately succeeded in delivering an 8.3-petabyte data centre, one of the largest globally.

FG okays Bola Ahmed Tinubu Polytechnic in Abuja

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Federal Government has given its nod to the establishment of Bola Ahmed Tinubu Federal Polytechnic in Gwarinpa, Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja as part of its national policy to promote technological, vocational, and entrepreneurial training.

A letter dated January 9, 2025 and addressed to the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike by the Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, stated that the initiative aligns with the Federal Government's plan to ensure each state in the federation has one federal polytechnic.

The letter was received by the office of



the FCT minister on January 16, 2025.

The letter read, "In view of the above, your Excellency is kindly requested to suggest the proposed locations for the Temporary and Permanent sites in Gwarinpa for take-off.

"The Technical Team from Federal Ministry of Education (FME) and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) would be visiting the sites to review and inspect the recommended locations, and based on the Report presented by the Team, the approval will be given."

He added, "Perhaps, I should add that the Ministry, at this point, encourages takeover of existing Tertiary institutions if the Minister wishes."

According to the memo, the new polytechnic aims to promote technological, vocational, and entrepreneurial training.

Keyamo declares Ekiti Airport runway world-class

By Friday Omosola

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, described the runway of the Ekiti State Agro-Allied International Cargo Airport as world-class and praised the quality of work executed on it.

Keyamo, who landed at the airport around 5:15 pm yesterday and received a water salute, stated that his visit was part of a fact-finding mission.

He affirmed that the airport is ready, noting that virtually all the facilities required for a standard airport have been provided.

The Minister explained that the delay in commencing commercial flight operations is to allow for non-scheduled flights first, which aligns with standard global procedures.

Keyamo added that the agro-allied airport has been under the Ministry of Aviation's consideration for a long time, emphasizing that it is now time for operations to commence.

“Well, I am here on a fact-finding mission, the Ekiti Agro-Allied Airport has been on our radar for a long time and we felt it was time for us to start operations here.

“What we have approved for now is for the first six months for us to



conduct non-scheduled flights. In other words, we will not have big commercial airlines coming in with plenty of passengers now but it is ready for the private jets to come in now to test the facilities here. It's not because it is not ready but it is actually the standard procedure all over the world that you start with a non-scheduled flight and test the facilities before bringing a lot of passengers here.

“I can see that the aeronautical side is absolutely ready, the aeronautical where you have a runway and am sure you have seen the quality of the runway, this quality of the runway you see here can be compared to any runway in the world”, the Minister asserted.

The Minister stated that the airport had been long overdue, considering the significant agribusiness activities taking

place in Ekiti State.

He expressed confidence that the airport would compete favourably with similar facilities worldwide.

The Minister was welcomed at the airport by the Chief of Staff to the Governor, Oyeniyi Adebayo; the Commissioner for Transport, Kolawole Ajobiewe; the Commissioner for Information, Taiwo Olatunbosun; the Special Adviser on OTSD, Moyo Ekundayo; the Special Adviser on Media, Yinka Oyeboode; and the Technical Adviser to the Governor on the Airport Project, AVM Sunday Makinde (rtd), among others.

The visit occurred barely a week after the National Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) conducted a calibration of landing equipment at the airport.

NNPC hikes petrol price to N990 in Abuja, N965 in Lagos

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, through its retail outlets, has increased the price of petrol from N965 to N990 per litre in the Federal Capital Territory.

The corporation also increase the price to N960 per litre in Lagos from N925.

NEW DAILY PRIME reports that the increase is not unconnected with the rise in crude oil prices in the international market.

The Minister of Petroleum Resources (Oil), Heineken Lokpobiri, had last week, during the inaugural Petroleum Industry Stakeholders Forum which was held in Abuja said deregulation has fully set in the sector as global oil price will now determine how much the price of fuel will be sold not only in Nigeria but globally.

The new price template was effected across the NNPC outlets nationwide on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

The amount is N20 or 2.1 per cent more than the N970 retail price announced by the Dangote Refinery in partnership with MRS filling station, Ardova, and



Heyden.

The price adjustment reflects ongoing market dynamics and aligns with the deregulation policy in the petroleum sector, which allows prices to fluctuate based on supply and demand.

This increase follows recent developments in the sector, including the commencement of loading operations at the Dangote Refinery, expected to reshape the fuel supply chain in Nigeria.

Recall that on Friday, the pump prices of petrol rose to between N1,050 and N1,150 per litre following the hike in the cost of the commodity by the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and various depot owners.

The \$20bn plant raised its PMS from N899/litre to N955/litre at its loading gantry.

Dealers confirmed that PMS prices would continue to rise since the major component in fuel production, crude oil, has been on the upward swing lately.

At an NNPC outlet at Airport Junction, Abuja, our correspondent observed that the station sold at N990 per litre from N965 it sold on Monday.

Another station at Life Camp listed its products at N970 per litre but was not selling to waiting for customers when our correspondent visited.

Another station at Mabuchi was still selling at its previous price of N965 per litre.

**Continue reading
on next page**

Increased petrol prices to a peak

Cont from page 7

Meanwhile, major and independent marketers have increased petrol prices to a peak cost of N1,030 per litre.

It was gathered filling stations located along Airport Road, Central Area, and Nyanya increased their retail cost between N990 and N1,030 per litre.

The amount represents an increase of N60 or 6.18 per cent from N970 it sold its products last week Friday. Aym Shafa and Matrix filling stations along the Airport Road sold at N1,000 per litre while Shema station sold at N1,030.

As petrol consumers adjust to the new pump price, experts predict further changes in petrol pricing as Nigeria continues to align its energy policies with global market realities.

A source at the private depot informed that loading activity commenced fully on Monday with bulk marketers loading products from the Dangote refinery.

The source said, “Refined petroleum sales commenced fully today with no issues at all.

Marketers have increased their

prices between N965 and N975 per litre at depots but at filling stations, a litre increased above N1,000 in Lagos. In Akwa Ibom, prices increased to N1,100.”

Reacting, an oil and gas expert, Olatide Jeremiah, said the refinery, Depot, and Pump price changes are a reflection of market forces and a testament to the petroleum sector being deregulated.

He said, “The Refinery, Depot, and Pump price changes are a reflection of market forces and a testament to the petroleum sector being deregulated. Deregulation is one major solution to fuel scarcity and hike in pump prices.

“This hike is temporary; it’s an effect of Former President Biden’s ban on Russian oil companies. As of this morning, Brent crude oil prices fall to \$80 per barrel as Trump assumes

Presidency.”

Meanwhile, Brent crude oil futures dropped to \$79.98 per barrel on Monday, from \$81 last Friday.

Brent crude for March delivery was down 1.5 per cent to trade at \$79.66 per barrel at 11.20 am ET while WTI crude for February delivery declined 1.8 per cent to \$76.46 per barrel.

But following the inauguration yesterday, the Brent crude rose again marginally to \$80.05.

The US under Joe Biden, the immediate past president, had intensified sanctions on Russia, imposing heavy fines on its vessels.

Experts say it was influenced by US President Donald Trump’s inauguration in the hope of some clarity on his policy agenda.



Minister mourns slain corps member, Salome, demands justice

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The Minister of Women Affairs, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, has lamented the savage killing of 24-year-old Salome Adaidu, allegedly by her estranged lover in Karu, Nasarawa State.

Salome, was Until her tragic death a member of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), was serving at Nikon Insurance, Abuja.

In a statement issued on Tuesday by her Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Jonathan Eze, the minister, expressed deep shock over the incident and demanded swift justice for the deceased and her grieving family.

In her statement, Imaan described the killing as “senseless and brutish,” stressing that such an act has no place in a civilised society.

She called for urgent action to safeguard women and girls across the country.

“As a mother, I have not been able to come to terms with the senseless killing and dismembering of the body of a promising lady, Miss Salome Adaidu.

“It is high time parents and



Nigerian communities took ownership of the safety and protection of women, girls, and children. See something and say something. We cannot continue like this,” she said.

The minister also emphasised that the right to life is a fundamental human right that must be respected and protected at all times.

She urged law enforcement authorities to conduct a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding Salome’s death and ensure that the perpetrator is brought to justice.

Sulaiman-Ibrahim reaffirmed the ministry’s commitment to supporting Salome’s family through this difficult time and

reiterated her call for an end to violence against women and girls in the country.

“We assure the family that we will do everything in our power to ensure that justice is served,” the statement read.

The minister further appealed to Nigerians to unite in condemning the killing and to work collectively towards creating a society where women and girls can live free from violence and abuse.

“I extend my deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the victim. No one deserves to lose their life, especially young women and girls who have their entire future ahead of them,” she added.

Tax Reforms: TUC opposes VAT increase

By Friday Omosola

The Trade Union Congress (TUC) has rejected the Federal Government's plan to raise the Value Added Tax (VAT) rate, arguing that such a move would aggravate the economic difficulties faced by Nigerians.

Under the proposed Tax Reform Bills, the government intends to increase VAT in phases from the current 7.5 per cent to 10 per cent, 12.5 per cent, and eventually 15 per cent.

The TUC described the proposal as poorly timed and harmful, given the existing economic pressures on citizens, including high inflation, rising unemployment, and escalating living costs.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Tuesday, TUC President Festus Osifo stressed that maintaining the VAT rate at 7.5 per cent is critical to avoiding further strain on Nigerians.

"Any increase in VAT at this time would exacerbate the financial burden on families and businesses already grappling with economic hardships.

"The government must prioritise policies that protect citizens' welfare and stimulate economic recovery, not further stifle it," Osifo stated.

The union also proposed a revision of the current tax exemption threshold, urging the government to raise it from N800,000 to N2.5 million annually.

Osifo noted that this adjustment would alleviate the financial pressures on low-income earners and boost economic activity.



"Increasing the tax exemption threshold to N2.5 million per annum would provide much-needed relief to vulnerable Nigerians, enhance disposable incomes, and foster economic growth," he explained.

The TUC also criticised the government's plan to transfer royalty collection duties from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) to the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS).

The union warned that this shift could lead to inefficiencies, revenue losses, and reduced investor confidence, as the NRS lacks the technical expertise required for such specialised tasks.

"Royalty determination in the oil and gas sector is a complex process requiring technical knowledge that resides within the NUPRC," Osifo cautioned. "Handing this responsibility to the NRS could undermine accurate assessments and create enforcement challenges."

Despite its concerns, the TUC

commended the government for retaining the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni). Osifo highlighted these institutions' crucial roles in advancing education and technological innovation.

"These agencies have been instrumental in improving higher education and fostering indigenous technology development. Preserving their mandates is essential for the nation's progress," he said.

The TUC urged the FG to adopt tax policies that prioritise equitable economic growth and improve living standards.

Osifo emphasised that the union remains committed to championing reforms that reflect genuine leadership and address the needs of the people.

"As deliberations on the Tax Reform Bills continue, we call on the government to focus on creating policies that uplift citizens and support sustainable economic growth," he said.

The TUC reiterated its pledge to advocate for citizen-centric reforms that promote fairness, economic stability, and long-term prosperity.

Ex-convict nabbed with human skull in Ogun

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An ex-convict, Adelani Oriyomi has been arrested at a tomb in Kere, Obada-Oko area of Ewekoro Local Government while exhuming a human skull.

54-year-old Oriyomi was arrested by operatives of the State Community, Social Orientation, and Safety Corps (So-Safe Corps) at about 2:35 am on Tuesday.

The Commander of So-Safe Corps, Commander (Dr.) Soji Ganzallo disclosed this in a press statement issued through the office of the Director of Information and Public Relations of the Corps, Assistant Commander Moruf Yusuf, saying the officers who were on routine patrol observed the suspicious activity and spotted the suspect trying to hide.

When he thought that the officers had left, Oriyomi resumed digging the tomb to retrieve a human skull and was



apprehended.

Ganzallo noted that on interrogation, he confessed that he was attempting to retrieve another skull to complete the number required for a money ritual preparation known as 'Osole.'

It was gathered that he was previously arrested for similar offences committed at Ado-Odo which led to two years of

imprisonment and a further six years and nine months at the Oba Correctional Centre following another conviction in Obada-Oko.

The statement partly read, "Adelani Oriyomi a resident of Kere, Obada-Oko in Ewekoro Local Government Area, confessed to the crime during interrogation. Oriyomi admitted that on January 18, 2025, he had exhumed a skull from a tomb on a plot of land behind his residence.

"He confessed that he had hidden the first skull in his room and confessed to being a seasoned offender, having sold nearly ten skulls in the past."

Ganzallo confirmed that the suspect and the recovered exhibit—a fully dried human skull—have been handed over to the Nigeria Police Force, Obada Divisional Headquarters, for further investigation and possible prosecution.

SERAP gives Tinubu 48-hour ultimatum to reverse telecom tariff hike

By Friday Omosola

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has issued a 48-hour ultimatum to President Bola Tinubu to reverse the recent 50 per cent telecom tariff hike.

In a statement posted on its X page on Tuesday, SERAP threatened to take legal action against the Tinubu administration if the increase was not rescinded.

"The Tinubu administration and telcos must immediately reverse the unlawful increase in calls and data costs. We'll see in court if the 50% tariff hike is not reversed within 48 hours", the statement read.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that telephone subscribers in Nigeria are now required to pay more for data and airtime following the Nigerian Communications Commission's (NCC) approval of a 50 per cent tariff increase for telecom operators on



Monday.

In a statement, NCC spokesman Reuben Muoka explained that the price adjustment, though lower than the "over 100 per cent requested by some network operators," was determined after considering ongoing industry reforms aimed at ensuring sustainability.

The NCC noted that the increase aligns with its regulatory powers under Section 108 of the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003 (NCA), which authorizes it to regulate and approve tariff rates for telecommunications operators.

The Commission acknowledged the financial pressures on Nigerian households and businesses and assured the public that it remained empathetic to the impact of the tariff adjustment.

As of December 2023, Nigeria has over 224 million subscribers, according to official data from the NCC.

MTN leads the market with over 87 million subscribers, representing 38.79 per cent of the total market share. Globacom and Airtel each have 61 million subscribers, while 9mobile accounts for 13.9 million users.

Tinubu approves Inland Dry Ports for Ogun, Oyo

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

President Bola Tinubu has approved the establishment and development of Inland Dry Ports (IDP) in Ijebu-Ode and Moniya in Ogun State and Oyo State, respectively, as part of his efforts to reduce congestion within seaports in Lagos, eliminate chronic delays and boost the nation's economy.

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola disclosed this in Abuja, yesterday, during the 2025 Budget Defence to the Joint Committee of the Senate on Marine Transport and House of Representatives Committees on Ports and Harbour, Maritime Safety, Education and Administration, Inland Waterways and Shipping Services.

According to him, the inland ports are targeted for fast tracked delivery to decongest the Western Port System, adding that design consultancies for the project are on-going.

The notable deficiencies in the maritime sector such as general infrastructure decay, silted river courses, inadequate fish production, and inadequate river crafts, Oyetola said, require major attention.

The Ministry, he said, is therefore initiating several projects and programmes aimed at addressing these challenges.

Speaking further, Oyeyola added that the Federal Government is determined to consolidate and sustain the achievements and performances it recorded last year, by focusing on ports infrastructural development, increased fish production, maritime safety and security, information technology deployment to improve operation and revenue generation, human capacity building and the effective technical and economic regulation to ensure the strengthening of blue economy across the country.



Under the 2024 appropriation, Oyetola said, the Ministry finalised the preparation of the Nigeria's National Blue Economy Strategy, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, the Strategic Roadmap for Nigeria's Blue Economy and the National Policy for Marine and Blue Economy.

These documents, he said, are the foundation for a sound policy framework for the Ministry.

His words: "I feel greatly honoured to address the Joint Committee of the Senate on Marine Transport and House Committees on Ports and Harbour, Marine Safety, Education and Administration: Inland Waterways and Committee on Shipping Services on the occasion of 2025 Budget Defence.

Oyetola said: "Today's Budget Defence is in respect of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and the laying of the Government Owned Enterprises (GOE's) budget before you which include the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Nigerian Shippers' Council (NSC), Maritime Academy of Nigeria Oron and Council for the Regulation of

Freight Forwarding in Nigeria.

"For the purpose of clarity, the Minister stated that "three of the Agencies under the Ministry, namely: NPA, NIMASA, and NSC, are fully self-funding and make significant remittances to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF/TSA). The National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron derives their funding from both the FGN Budget and Internally Generated Revenue.

"The Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria (CRFFN) based on my passionate plea has been readmitted into the budget for funding albeit, erroneously under the Federal Ministry of Transport. I trust that you will rectify this. The five Agencies under the Fisheries and Aquaculture sector (Institutes and Colleges) are expected to come fully under the Ministry in the 2025 Budget. I also count on your cooperation on this.

"Honourable Chairman and Members you are aware that the 2025 Budget is tagged "Budget of Restoration: Securing Peace, Rebuilding Prosperity"; therefore the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy and its Agencies under the 2025 Budget seek to consolidate and sustain on the achievements and performances recorded in the immediate past year by focusing on Ports Infrastructural Development, Increased fish production, Maritime Safety and Security. Information Technology Deployment to improve operation and revenue generation, Human Capacity Building and the Effective Technical and Economic Regulation to ensure the strengthening of blue economy in Nigeria."

**Continue reading
on next page**

Cont from page 12

According to him, “the total Capital Appropriation for the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy in 2024 Budget is N10,848,512,984 (Ten Billion, Eight Hundred and Forty-eight Million, Five Hundred and Twelve Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-four naira). The sum of N9,973,802,613 (Nine Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-three Million, Eight Hundred and Two Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirteen Naira has been utilized/committed at the end of December, 2024. Remaining balance of N874,710,371 (Eight Hundred and Seventy-four Million, Seven hundred and ten Thousand, Three hundred and seventy-one naira). This will be expended in the 1st Quarter of 2025.

In addition, he said, “the sum of N191,086,917 (One Hundred and Ninety-one Million and Eighty-six Thousand, Nine hundred and seventeen Naira) was appropriated for Overhead Expenditure. The sum of N191,086,917 was released up to the Month of December, 2024, the released amount was expended as at 27th December, 2024. The Ministry also received a Take-off Grant of N625,000,000 out of which the sum of N523,763,955 was committed on the Ministry’s activities. All activities related to the Fisheries Department were funded from this grant.

”As a newly created Ministry, our initial focus is to set up enduring structures and systems for the effective management of the blue economy sector. The notable deficiencies in the sector such as general infrastructure decay, silted river courses, inadequate fish production, and inadequate river

crafts require major attention. The Ministry is therefore initiating several projects and programmes aimed at addressing these challenges. The Ministry as you are aware is pleased and happy with your review of the legal frameworks for the sector. On our part, we are also reinforcing the Ministry’s oversight and monitoring mandate over its Agencies. All of these require greater budgetary provisions.

Under the 2024 Appropriation, the Ministry, he added, ” finalised the preparation of the Nigeria’s National Blue Economy Strategy, the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy, the Strategic Roadmap for Nigeria’s Blue Economy and the National Policy for Marine and Blue Economy. These documents are the foundation for a sound policy framework for the Ministry.

Also, “pursuant to its mandate and the charge given by Mr. President, the Ministry is developing Dry Ports at Ijebu-Ode and Moniya in Ogun State and Oyo State respectively. These IDPs are targeted for fast tracked delivery to decongest the Western Port System. Design consultancies for the project are on-going.

As a quick response to the spate of boat mishaps on our inland water ways occasioned by increased traffic on waterways, the Ministry, he said, ” has targeted the provision of life jackets to the Riverine Communities in the states to boost safety of passengers. Also, major programme to replace rickety wooden boats used for commercial transport with standardized crafts and capital dredging at selected locations on our major rivers are planned for 2025.

He however, regretted that “the Ministry was unable to access the 2024 Capital Appropriation of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Department. However, in the 2025 Budget proposal, the Ministry is initiating major projects in the fisheries and aquaculture subsector to boost fish production. These projects are deliberately tied to governments capital budgets to guarantee fast tracked delivery and assured food security.

“Quantum investment through the capital budget is necessary for the Ministry to deliver on its lofty mandate and potential. Greater budgetary provision is therefore advocated. The proposed total Capital Budget of N11,770,533,003 (Eleven Billion, Seven Hundred and Seventy Million, Five Hundred and Thirty-three Thousand, Three Naira) and Overhead of N453,856,327 (Four Hundred and Fifty-three Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty-six Thousand, Three hundred and Twenty- seven Naira) though inadequate is for your kind consideration.

Finally, the Minister thanked members of the committees for “their unflinching support and cooperation given to the Ministry throughout the past year. I sincerely count on your continued understanding, and urged this August body to consider the propositions and note the very compelling needs of the Ministry to set up enduring policy, operational and administrative structures to deliver the full potential of the sector,” Oyetola said.

NEMA distributes relief materials to Niger tanker explosion victims

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

In response to the devastating petrol tanker fire disaster at Dikko Junction, Niger State, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has swiftly distributed food, non-food items, and medical supplies to support the victims and affected families.

The agency announced the relief efforts in a statement issued on Tuesday, January 21.

The tragic incident occurred on Saturday morning along the Dikko-Maje Road, opposite Baddegi Station.

Reports indicate that the explosion was triggered when a crashed tanker, loaded with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), spilled its contents during an attempt to transfer the fuel to another tanker.

The spilled fuel then came into contact with a generator used to power the transfer, igniting the explosion.

The disaster claimed the lives of 98 individuals, injured 69 others, and destroyed 20 shops in the vicinity.

NEMA's Director General, Mrs Zubaida Umar, visited the affected community and flagged off the distribution of relief materials. She explained that the intervention was in response to President Bola Tinubu's

directive and the Federal Government's commitment to helping the community recover from the devastating event.

"We are here to provide immediate assistance with food, non-food items, and medicaments to the affected

the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, firefighters, the Federal Road Safety Corps, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, medical teams, security operatives, and local community members, whose timely actions helped save lives and reduce the



families, based on the report of the initial rapid assessment carried out by NEMA officials, Niger State Emergency Management Agency (NSEMA), and other first responders," Mrs Umar stated.

While offering her condolences, Mrs Umar assured that NEMA would continue to coordinate efforts to aid the community's recovery. She also highlighted the importance of disaster preparedness and proactive measures to protect lives and property.

The NEMA DG praised the swift response of first responders, including

severity of the disaster.

The Deputy Speaker of the Niger State House of Assembly, Afiniki Daudu, expressed gratitude to the Federal Government for its prompt response, while the Chairman of Gurara Local Government Area, Alhaji Abdulhalim Abubakar, and community leaders also acknowledged the support.

NEMA's relief efforts highlight the Federal Government's ongoing commitment to aiding disaster-stricken communities and ensuring swift recovery operations following major incidents.

Sanwo-Olu receives new Lagos Assembly Speaker, promises robust relationship

By Friday Omosola

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has assured the state House of Assembly of his ongoing commitment to fostering a robust relationship between the executive and legislature to promote the growth and development of the state.

The governor made this promise during a meeting with the newly elected Speaker of the Assembly, Mojisola Meranda, and the new Principal Officers of the House at his office yesterday.

Governor Sanwo-Olu and his deputy, Obafemi Hamzat, welcomed the Speaker and the Principal Officers during a courtesy visit, shortly before the weekly State Executive Council meeting at Lagos House in Ikeja.

In a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Gboyega Akosile, Governor Sanwo-Olu expressed his intention to collaborate with Meranda, who currently represents the Apapa 1 State Constituency, and other members of the Assembly to uphold the principle of separation of powers, a cornerstone of democracy.

The governor also sought the continued support of the



legislative arm for the swift consideration and passage of bills that would help implement various programmes aimed at delivering the benefits of democracy to millions of Lagos residents.

Governor Sanwo-Olu encouraged the new Speaker to be a team player and view her elevation from Deputy Speaker to Speaker as an opportunity to strengthen the harmonious relationship between the legislative and executive branches for the greater good of the public.

He commended the members of the Lagos State House of Assembly for their ongoing support of his administration and

assured them that his government would not betray the trust they had placed in it.

Governor Sanwo-Olu also congratulated Meranda on her election as the new Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

He stated that Meranda's emergence as the first female Speaker at 44 is well-deserved and commendable.

It is worth noting that Meranda, the former Deputy Speaker, was appointed Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly last week Monday, following the impeachment of her predecessor, Mudashiru Obasa.

LASUED lecturers demand payment of relocation allowance, other entitlements

By Alade Adisa

Members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities, ASUU, Lagos State University of Education (LASUED), Ijanikin, Lagos have called on the management of the university to pay them relocation allowance and other entitlements arising from the merger of two colleges to form the university.

The erstwhile Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Ijanikin and the Michael Otedola College of Primary Education, Epe were merged to form the university.

The Branch Chairman of ASUU, Dr Akolade Lapite, in a press statement, noted that almost three years after the university came into existence, the relocation allowance of members of staff was yet to be paid.

However, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Bidemi Bilkis Lafiaji-Okunneye, said the state government and the management of the university would never take the issue of welfare of workers with levity.

Lapite said, "Since the university came into existence, no member of staff has been paid relocation allowance. This is despite the fact that some staff were moved from Epe to Ijanikin and vice versa. It means that some lecturers who were transferred from Ijanikin to Epe to hold classes have been going there from here whenever they have classes to take.

"The bus provided by management to shuttle between the two campuses does not go there daily. To get accommodation in Epe or Ijanikin for the affected staff has not been easy. How much is their salary? Do you know that to commute from Ijanikin to



Epe to take a class, a lecturer spends an average of nine hours to go and come. If you leave Ijanikin by 5am for a class in Epe, you cannot get there before 9am and while coming back, you spend almost the same time, just to take a class for one hour.

"Imagine the stress, the lecturer is really tired before getting to his destination and coming back tired too. If they are paid their relocation allowance as promised when the university was created, nothing of such would be happening."

He also called on the state government to pay them the harmonization of 25 to 35 percent in line with national wage structure.

On salary, he said, "The state government should pay our salary in line with the judgment of the Industrial Court arbitration of 2002 which emphasized that Lagos State government should not pay less than any other state in Nigeria. This ruling implies that the university salary structure for Lagos State should be implemented by following this rule with consideration of the Lagos Factor."

The ASUU boss also frowned at the 72 months outstanding incremental rate and arrears, saying denying them the hazard and transport allowances that other tertiary institutions in Lagos have enjoyed since 2013 was unfair to them.

He frowned at the non-remittance of pension deductions for some months in the defunct colleges.

Lapite also said the union was not happy with the amputation of honoraria and salary bonus by the authorities, noting that they were fundamental parts of compensation packages for staff and incentives to them.

Giving further explanation on the issues raised, Lafiaji-Okunneye said, "Welfare is all-encompassing. That's true. If you are promoted at the appropriate time, that's welfare. If you are sponsored for conference, it's welfare. If you are sponsored for seminar or workshop, it's welfare. If your salaries are paid on time, it's welfare. I met that university paying salaries 35 days, you know, another month.

Policeman dies after sex romp in Abuja hotel

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

An operative of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Police Inspector Lawal Ibrahim, attached to the Kwali Division was found dead at the Palasa Guest Inn in Gwagwalada after allegedly engaging in a sexual encounter with a woman he had met online.

Reports say the incident occurred on Thursday morning when Ibrahim checked into the hotel with Maryam Abba, whom he had invited from Dutse, Jigawa State.

According to eyewitnesses, the two had a sexual encounter on Wednesday night, followed by another round of sex early on Thursday.

However, after the second round, Maryam reportedly noticed that Ibrahim's breathing became erratic, and he stopped responding.



She reportedly sprinkled water on him in an attempt to revive him, but he remained unresponsive.

The woman then raised the alarm and alerted the hotel manager, Danlami Palasa, who contacted the police.

The Police arrived at the scene and

found Ibrahim's lifeless body in the hotel room.

The officer was later taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, where doctors confirmed his death. His body was deposited in the hospital's mortuary.

Items found in the hotel room included a watermelon, a suspected aphrodisiac, Ibrahim's phone charger, and his police identity card.

An anonymous police officer at the Gwagwalada division confirmed the incident, stating that Maryam was arrested and the investigation was underway.

The Spokesperson for the FCT Police Command, SP Adeh Josephine, could not be reached for comments.

Rivers Boat Mishap: 19 rescued, 3 dead including toddler

By Helen Okechukwu

Tragedy has struck Rivers State after a boat carrying 22 passengers from Port Harcourt to Bonny capsized into the Bonny waterway.

On Tuesday, the spokesperson of Rivers State Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, announced that the incident occurred at Yellow Platform in Bonny, as investigation is ongoing.

According to the report, it revealed the cause of the boat mishap: a storm resulted in the vessel overturning.



Iringe-Koko expressed sadness over the incident, noting that the three dead bodies had been recovered and 19 people were rescued alive.

While sympathising with the families of the bereaved, the Chairman of Bonny Local Government Area, Anengi Claude-Wilcox, in a statement signed by the Secretary, John Gabriel-Pepple, urges passengers to take precautionary measures during poor weather while adhering to safety regulations to avert future recurrences.

The statement read, "We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims. May God grant you the strength and courage to endure this irreparable loss."

Nigeria, Rwanda discuss partnership on environmental sustainability

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) has initiated discussions with the Rwandan High Commission in Nigeria to explore potential partnerships in the area of environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on plastic waste management.

Dr. Innocent Barikor, Director General of NESREA, met with officials from the Rwandan High Commission in Abuja, expressing the agency's interest in learning from Rwanda's success in combating plastic pollution. NESREA hopes to exchange knowledge and adopt best practices, leveraging Rwanda's notable progress in the field.

In a statement released on Tuesday, NESREA highlighted Nigeria's commitment to fostering a Circular Economy and its ongoing efforts to ban single-use plastics.

Dr. Barikor emphasized that Nigeria, through NESREA, is actively pushing for growth in this sector, and the agency sees Rwanda's achievements as a model for future initiatives.



“We are looking to learn from Rwanda's experiences in tackling plastic pollution. Our aim is to share expertise, build capacity, and integrate Rwanda's practices into our own national framework,” Dr. Barikor said.

The NESREA DG also commended Rwanda for its remarkable dedication to environmental sustainability and innovation, thanking the government for supporting NESREA staff through study visits aimed at capacity building.

He stressed the importance of high-level collaboration between both nations in environmental protection and sustainable management.

Ambassador Christophe Bazivamo, the Rwandan High Commissioner to Nigeria, acknowledged the significant challenge of tackling plastic pollution and expressed Rwanda's readiness to work with Nigeria to address environmental issues.

He underscored that sustainable development is impossible without prioritising effective environmental protection.

Both parties agreed that tackling environmental issues should be a key priority for any government, and the discussions marked a promising step towards deeper collaboration between the two countries in promoting environmental sustainability.

Alleged rights breach: Ex-presidential aspirant sues CBN, others for £990trn

By Dave Oludare Oso

A former presidential aspirant on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC) in the 2023 elections, Mr Tunde Omosebi, has sued the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and others for 990 trillion pounds in damages for allegedly violating his fundamental rights.

Omosebi, in the suit filed before Justice James Omotosho of a Federal High Court in Abuja, also prayed the court for an order converting the CBN to a Reserve Bank of Nigeria (RBN).

He also urged the court to make an order that the commercial banks involved in the alleged financial irregularities operating and contributed to the disadvantaged economy be converted to "DRIG BANK" at the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

He equally sought exemplary damages against the defendants in the sum of £99 trillion pounds.

Omosebi, who sought a 10 per cent interest on the total recoverable amount, prayed the court for the sum of N5 million as cost of filing the suit.

He urged the court to grant his reliefs over alleged traumatic torture he went through and in line with the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedures) Rules 2009 as guaranteed by 1999 Constitution (as amended).

NAN reports that in the suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/766/2024, the plaintiff named CBN, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Guarantee Trust Bank (GTB), Zenith Bank, the Senate and House of Representatives as 1st to 6th defendants respectively.

The claimant, who listed other banks in the suit, also sued the Ministry of Finance as 7th defendant.

The suit was filed pursuant to Order, Rules 1, 2, 3, & 5 of the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules 2009; Sections 34(1)(a), 35(1), 36(1), 41(1), 46(1) – (3) of the 1999



Constitution (as amended) and under the inherent jurisdiction of the court.

The applicant, in the affidavit he personally deposed to, described himself as a businessman and politician.

Omosebi also described himself as the Chairman, Federation Executive Council (FEC) and the Prime Minister of Federal Republic of Nigeria, even though these positions are unrecognised in the Nigeria's constitution.

According to him, the applicant gets paid based on his role, projects and contracts executed by his businesses, investments portfolio as contained in the corporate resolution.

"At the trial of this suit, the applicant shall rely on the terms of the corporate resolution and schedule of Distribution," he averred.

He alleged that the defendants breached the assembly industrial agreement/arrangement, denied him his Fundamental Right (Enforcement Procedure) Rule 2009, Sections 35, 43, 45 and Fundamental Objectives and Directives of State Policy 14(2)(b), 16(1)(a-b).

"That approximately four years ago, the applicant opened and operates few corporate and personal accounts with defendants 2 with aim managing these finance per the constitution.

"That, with no just cause approximately seven (7) months till date, applicant's corporate and personal accounts have

been inaccessible due to defendants 2 & 3 negligence, oppressive and abusive conduct which violates the constitution and purpose of operating a bank.

"That, defendant (2) agreed to deposit \$50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Dollars) in applicant's account with the bank in 2022 in the interim, and till date such has not been credited.

"That, additionally Defendant (2) suggested that DRIG BANK operation be moved to Defendant (2) building at Maitama to justify herein entrusted funds.

"That, over £500,000,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Billion Pounds) were entrusted with defendants 1, 2 and 3 among other funds with herein co-defendant(s) /banks that have not been credited nor accounted for till date to the applicant.

"That defendant 1 commits perjury by presenting to the general public a vague statement claiming to be signed by applicant, which in turn breached the other of the Assembly and affects the credibility of the applicant.

"That defendant(s) as of January 2024 breached the industrial agreement consented to during the assembly of Business Owners, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND THE CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

"The defendant(s) also infringed on the applicants Intellectual property and obstructed the applicant from operating his accounts, access to cash among other concerns as guaranteed by the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rule 2009 in accordance with the Constitution.

"That, defendants 5 & 6 deliberately denied applicants of his Fundamental Rights and Entitlements till date as agreed and guaranteed under the Constitution and the Gazette 485.

34-yr-old HIV-positive man rapes teenager with sickle cell in Abuja

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A 34-year-old man, Peter Ugan, living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has been taken into police custody for allegedly raping and deflowering a 17-year-old girl, Ngozi (surname withheld) suffering from sickle-cell anemia in Mabushi, Abuja.

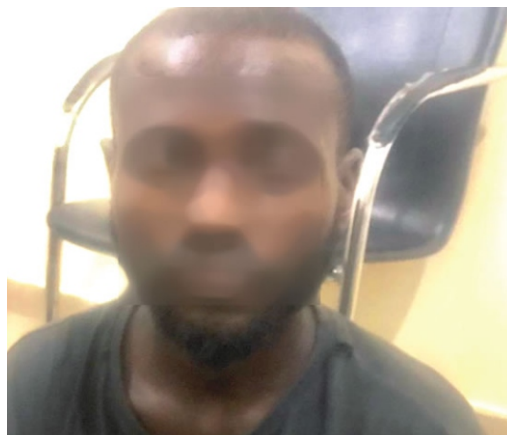
Ugan, who hails from Ogoja in Cross River State, was taken into custody by detectives from Mabushi Division in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), on Monday after he was almost lynched by a mob.

It was gathered that, Ugan, a Front Desk Officer at an eatery, was arrested after allegedly luring the girl into a room, assaulting her, and leaving her with severe injuries.

It was learnt that while committing the rape, Ugan tore into the girl so much that she started bleeding non-stop.

Apparently aware of the gravity of his act, Ugan locked Ngozi inside the room so that she would not leave to expose him, and went to purchase medications not prescribed by any doctor for the girl. His aim, as he later told journalists was to stop the bleeding and ease the excruciating pain the girl was in.

Information gathered revealed that Ngozi, who was staying with her aunt in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, came to Abuja to register at the



Government Day Secondary School, Mabushi, to complete her secondary school education when the incident occurred.

The first week she came, Ugan reportedly approached her for dating but being a young girl, she started avoiding him. On January 6, 2025, Ugan was said to have come to the room of his friend, Isaac, who lives in one of the uncompleted buildings in a compound whose owner is late.

Though the suspect lived far from the compound, it was said that he used to come to the friend's house to cook whenever he didn't have kerosene or some ingredients. The friend used to do the same at Ugan's house when he's also stuck.

On this fateful day, Ngozi, who lives with her parents in the same large compound with Ugan's friend, was returning the plate her sister bought food with from Meshai and when he saw her passing by, he called her to help him buy sachet water.

The 17-year-old girl, who respected someone older than her, went to

collect money to buy the water but got more than she bargained for. Ugan, noticing that the house was quiet, reportedly dragged the girl inside, pushed her to the floor and forcefully had carnal knowledge of her. By the time he pulled his organ out of her, blood started gushing out from her private part.

According to reports, Ugan locked Ngozi inside, went out and returned with some medications for her to take. He also started cleaning her legs when he saw that the blood was still flowing nonstop. Thereafter, he allowed her to leave.

On her return home, her mother, Mrs Elizabeth Aroh, seeing her daughter's condition, became distraught. It was said that Ugan was about to escape when the mob caught up with him and beat him black and blue. Sources said the suspect would have been killed but for some neighbours who made a distress call to the FCT police command to come to his rescue.

Promptly, CP Olatunji Disu directed the Divisional Police Officer in charge of Mabushi Division to go to the scene where the suspect was rescued and taken into custody.

The girl's mother also brought her to the police station, while she was still bleeding profusely. The girl reportedly collapsed and fainted twice, and was rushed to the emergency unit at Maitama General Hospital.

FCT ComPol, Tunji Disu loses son in motor accident

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Tragedy has struck the family of Olatunji Disu, the Commissioner of Police for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), following the loss of his son in a horrific car accident on Monday.

Although the circumstances of the accident that led to the young man's death still remain hazy, reports sourced from Sahara Reporters which broke the story say family sources have described the loss as heartbreaking.

The report did not indicate when and where the fatal accident occurred and the circumstances surrounding it.

The family is also yet to issue any statement.

Efforts by NEW DAILY PRIME to reach Disu, who was also a Commissioner of Police in Rivers State failed.

Disu recently assumed leadership of the FCT Police Command.

The news of his son's demise has sparked an outpouring of condolences from colleagues, friends, and the general public.

Disu had on Monday, paid a condolence visit to CSP A.A.



Sambo, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Ushafa Division, who tragically lost his son.

During the visit, CP Disu expressed heartfelt sympathies and assured CSP Sambo and his family of the Command's unwavering support during this difficult time.

Apparently the crash has not occurred as at the time of the condolence visit.

In the early days of his career, Disu had served as DPO in Ago Iwoye (Ogun State), Ikare (Ondo State), Owo (Ondo State), Elimbu and Elemenwo, in Rivers State.

He was also Officer in Charge of the disbanded Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) and anti-

kidnapping in Rivers State, Ondo and Oyo as well as second in command (2IC) State Criminal Investigations Department (CID), Rivers states.

He served as the commander of the Lagos State Rapid Respond Squad (RRS) between June 2015 and August 2021.

A member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the former head of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Police Force in Nigeria, the position previously held by the disgraced Abba Kyari, Disu was also the Principal Staff Officer to the then acting Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun before his confirmation as substantive IG.

Okpebholo orders probe into DSS assault of journalists

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo State has called for a probe of an alleged attack by an official of the Department of State Service (DSS) on journalists covering the Edo Governorship Election Tribunal at the High Court in Benin on Monday.



This was contained in a press statement by the chairman and secretary of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Edo State Council, Festus Alenkhe and Andy Egbon.

The council commended Okpebholo's decisive action in ensuring the safety and security of journalists, stating that his swift intervention demonstrates his commitment to protecting the fundamental rights of media practitioners.

The council also thanked the governor for his prompt response in addressing the attack on journalists during the governorship tribunal case in Benin City.

The council said the governor

has since directed the security agency to investigate claims by the NUJ accordingly.

The statement read in part, "We are deeply grateful to Governor Okpebholo for his prompt intervention, which has sent a strong message that attacks on journalists will not be tolerated in Edo State.

"We urge all stakeholders to join hands with Governor Okpebholo in promoting a culture of respect for the media and the fundamental rights of journalists.

"As the governor continues to demonstrate his commitment to protecting the rights of journalists, the NUJ has pledged

its support for his administration's efforts to promote a safe and enabling environment for media practice in Edo State.

"The governor has since directed the security agency to investigate claims by the NUJ accordingly."

The NUJ hailed Okpebholo's stance, emphasising that his actions align with the principles of democracy and the rule of law.

The union reiterated its commitment to upholding the rights of journalists and promoting a safe and conducive environment for media practice.

FG launches National Health Fellows Programme for youths across 774 LGAs

By Helen Okechukwu

The Federal Government (FG) has launched the National Health Fellows Program for youths aged 25 to 35 across all 774 local government areas in Nigeria.

Bayo Onanuga, the president's spokesperson, on Monday made this information available via a statement.

He stressed that the selected persons will be rewarded and equipped with tools to drive positive change in the health sector.

Onanuga highlighted the deadline for application which is scheduled to elapse on 27th January 2025.

Eligibility Requirements include:



- Must be between the ages of 25 and 35.
- Bachelor's degree (health-related, IT, or social sciences).
- Demonstrable interest or experience in Public health or health-related
- NGO and partner organisations or community projects that demonstrate

leadership and initiative.

- Candidates must be available to participate full-time in the fellowship programme.
- Candidates must be an indigene of the state being applied for.
- Candidates must possess smartphones with data capabilities, i.e. for WhatsApp, Zoom, etc.
- Recommendation from the University Dean or NYSC place of primary assignment or a respected organisation demonstrating character and leadership.
- Demonstrated analytical skills and entrepreneurial drive.

Tanzanian President vows to tackle Marburg virus outbreak

By Helen Okechukwu

The President of the Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Hassan, has pledged to address the reoccurred Marburg virus disease outbreak in the northwestern Kagera region of the country.

Her Excellency Hassan assured the public of being determined to address the disease outbreak following its confirmation after one person tested positive for the Marburg virus.

Hassan made this assurance on Monday during a conference briefing with World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in the country's capital, Dodoma.

"We have demonstrated in the past our ability to contain a similar outbreak and



are determined to do the same this time around."

Belonging to the family of Ebola viruses, Marburg virus disease is rare, described as highly virulent, and causes hemorrhagic fever, which can lead to high fatality. The virus is transmitted to human

from fruit bats and spreads through direct contact with the bodily fluids of infected people, surfaces, and materials

This came shortly after the completion of laboratory analysis and investigation of the suspected cases of the disease.

On 20 January, all the 25 suspected cases tested negative and were placed under watch, the President revealed, as it has been reported at Biharamulo district in Kagera.

"Laboratory tests conducted at Kabaile Mobile Laboratory in Kagera and later confirmed in Dar es Salaam identified one patient as being infected with the Marburg virus. Fortunately, the remaining suspected patients tested negative.

Trump to pull nearly 1,660 Afghan refugees from flights, say US official, advocate

By Jonathan Landay

Nearly 1,660 Afghans cleared by the U.S. government to resettle in the U.S., including family members of active-duty U.S. military personnel, are having their flights canceled under President Donald Trump's order suspending U.S. refugee programs, a U.S. official and a leading refugee resettlement advocate said on Monday.

The group includes unaccompanied minors awaiting reunification with their families in the U.S. as well as Afghans at risk of Taliban retribution because they fought for the former U.S.-backed Afghan government, said Shawn VanDiver, head of the #AfghanEvac coalition of U.S. veterans and advocacy groups and the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S. decision also leaves in limbo thousands of other Afghans who have been approved for resettlement as refugees in the U.S. but have not yet been assigned flights from Afghanistan or from neighboring Pakistan, they said.

Trump made an immigration crackdown a major promise of his victorious 2024 election campaign, leaving the fate of U.S. refugee programs up in the air.

The White House and the State Department, which oversees U.S.



refugee programs, did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Nearly 200,000 Afghans have been brought to the U.S. by former President Joe Biden's administration since the chaotic U.S. troop withdrawal from Kabul.

One of the dozens of executive orders Trump is expected to sign after being sworn in for a second term on Monday suspended U.S. refugee programs for at least four months.

The new White House website said that Trump "is suspending refugee resettlement, after communities were forced to house large and unsustainable populations of migrants, straining community safety and resources."

"We know this means that unaccompanied children, (Afghan) partner forces who trained, fought and died or were injured alongside our troops, and families of active-duty U.S. service members are going to be stuck," said VanDiver.

VanDiver and the U.S. official said that the Afghans approved to resettle as refugees in the U.S. were being removed from the manifests of flights they were due to take from Kabul between now and April.

Minority Democrats on the House Foreign Relations Committee blasted the move, saying in a post on X that "this is what abandonment looks like. Leaving vetted, verified Afghan Allies at the mercy of the Taliban is shameful."

They include nearly 200 family members of Afghan-American active-duty U.S. service personnel born in the U.S. or of Afghans who came to the U.S., joined the military and became naturalized citizens, they said.

Those being removed from flights also include an unknown number of Afghans who fought for the former U.S.-backed Kabul government and some 200 unaccompanied children of Afghan refugees or Afghan parents whose children were brought alone to the United States during the U.S. withdrawal, said VanDiver and the U.S. official.

An unknown number of Afghans who qualified for refugee status because they worked for U.S. contractors or U.S.-affiliated organizations also are in the group, they said.

Finally, Speed Darlington freed after two months detention

By Damilola Olufemi



A Nigerian singer, Speed Darlington, has regained freedom after nearly two months in police custody.

His lawyer, Stan Alieke announced this on Tuesday night via Instagram.

He posted, “Delighted to announce that our client, Mr Darlington Achakpo, Aka Speed Darlington (Akpi) has regained his freedom after two months of illegal incarceration.

“For the record, as his team of

lawyers, we will be exploring every angle of the law to ensure that he gets justice for his fundamental human right which was deprived of him by the Nigerian Police Force and for the unfair/unjust treatment he was subjected to.”

Darlington’s arrest

Darlington, also known as Akpi, was apprehended on November 27 while performing at a show in Owerri, Imo State.

He was accused of cyberstalking Grammy Award-

winning artiste, Burna Boy.

Darlington slammed Burna Boy over his collaboration with the controversial US rapper Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs’ who is facing multiple charges for sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

He inquired that Burna Boy explained how he won the Grammy award for his album ‘Twice As Tall’ — a project executively produced by Diddy.

Losing my son was my saddest moment

– Dele Odule **By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi**

Veteran Nollywood actor Dele Odule has opened up about a deeply painful chapter in his life—the loss of his first child.

In a candid interview with his colleague Kunle Afod, the renowned actor shared the emotional weight of the tragedy and its lasting impact on him.

The devastating news

Odule revealed that receiving the news of his child's death remains the saddest moment of his life.

He recounted how the circumstances surrounding the child's birth compounded the heartbreak. "The saddest moment of my life was when I was called that my first child died. It was very hard on me," he confessed, his voice heavy with emotion.

Joy turned into sorrow

The veteran actor explained that the birth of his first child was a moment filled with hope and excitement.

However, those feelings quickly turned into a nightmare when he received the devastating news. He admitted that the situation surrounding the child's arrival into the world made the loss even more unbearable.

Faith as a source of strength

While sharing his story, Odule emphasized the importance of faith in helping him cope with the tragedy.

He described how he struggled to come to terms with the loss but eventually found solace in accepting it as the will of God. "It was hard because of the situation faced during the child's birth, but no one can question God's authority," he stated.

A painful prayer



The actor also shared how the incident shaped his prayers and outlook on life. The painful experience, he said, is something he never wants to relive. "It was so bad that I don't pray for it anymore," he revealed, expressing a deep desire to be spared such heartbreak in the future.

Grief behind the spotlight

Odule's candid account sheds light on the personal struggles that even public figures endure. Despite his fame and accomplishments, this loss remains a defining and painful moment in his life.

His willingness to share this story serves as a reminder of the shared human experiences of grief and resilience.

Lessons of healing and faith

The veteran actor's reflection also underscores the importance of emotional healing and faith in overcoming life's toughest challenges.

Odule's journey through pain, acceptance, and prayer offers a message of hope for anyone grappling

with the loss of a loved one.

A Shared human experience

While the actor continues to thrive in his career and inspire countless fans, his story is a poignant reminder that behind every public figure lies a deeply personal narrative.

For Odule, the loss of his first child is a chapter of sorrow, but also one of profound growth and faith.

Opening conversations about grief

This revelation not only highlights Odule's strength but also opens the door for important conversations about grief and the ways people cope with loss.

The actor's vulnerability in sharing such an intimate part of his life may encourage others to find healing in their own journeys through grief.

Looking ahead with resilience

As Dele Odule looks ahead, his resilience and faith remain a testament to his enduring spirit. His story reminds us all that life's hardest moments can often lead to deeper understanding and acceptance, even in the face of unimaginable pain.

Bobrisky: EFCC 'most wicked' organisation in Nigeria

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Bobrisky has sparked controversy by labeling the EFCC as the “most wicked organization” in Nigeria, criticizing their actions and accusing them of hypocrisy.

His remarks came in response to a statement issued by the EFCC, urging Nigerians to show compassion for one of its officers who tragically lost his life during a raid in Anambra State.

EFCC's plea for public sympathy

The popular figure made his comments on Instagram, using a series of posts shared on Monday. In these posts, Bobrisky expressed his deep disdain for the EFCC, accusing the agency of hypocrisy and corruption.

He emphasized his belief that the Nigerian police force, despite its flaws, was far more competent and ethical compared to the EFCC. His outspoken words have sparked a wave of reactions across the nation.

The EFCC had recently made a public appeal, asking Nigerians to show empathy towards the families of its officials who have suffered losses in the line of duty.

This plea came after one of their operatives was tragically shot and killed during a nighttime raid in Anambra.

The agency sought to highlight the dangers its officers face while carrying out their work, which often involves confronting high-profile criminals and battling financial fraud.

Bobrisky accuses EFCC of hypocrisy

However, Bobrisky's response was swift and sharp. He accused the EFCC of hypocrisy, suggesting that the agency's call for public sympathy was inconsistent with its past actions.

Bobrisky took particular issue with



what he described as the EFCC's unfair treatment of individuals, including himself.

He recounted an experience he had while in EFCC custody, claiming that the agency had searched his house under the false pretense of investigating money laundering activities.

Bobrisky's post emphasized how the EFCC had treated him unfairly and with contempt, which only fueled his anger and frustration with the agency.

Bobrisky's bitter disdain for the EFCC

In his Instagram posts, he did not hold back in expressing his dissatisfaction. “I just don't like reading about the EFCC online because I feel like I want to throw up each time I read about them,” he wrote.

He continued, “You're asking the public to be human over the loss of your staff, but you are the most wicked people in Nigeria.”

His words were harsh but reflected his genuine resentment toward the agency. Bobrisky also took the opportunity to compare the EFCC to the police, stating that the latter was “100% better” than the EFCC, adding that the police were “one million times” more humane and professional.

Mixed reactions across Nigeria

His posts have stirred considerable controversy, with many Nigerians taking sides on the matter.

Some have supported his stance, agreeing that the EFCC has been known for its heavy-handed approach to investigations, often causing harm to innocent individuals in the process.

Others, however, have criticized Bobrisky for his statements, arguing that the EFCC plays a vital role in fighting corruption and financial crime in Nigeria.

Bobrisky's history of controversial statements

This latest public clash is just another chapter in Bobrisky's ongoing history of challenging authorities and voicing his opinions on matters of national interest.

Known for his bold personality and unfiltered remarks, Bobrisky has often used his platform to address issues he feels are unjust or in need of reform.

His comments on the EFCC are just the latest in a long line of controversial statements that have made him a polarizing figure in Nigeria's social media landscape.

EFCC's struggle with public image

For the EFCC, this attack is yet another blow to its public image. The agency has faced criticism over the years for its methods, which some believe to be too aggressive and lacking in transparency.

Bobrisky's comments have reignited discussions about the EFCC's approach to law enforcement, particularly in terms of how it handles suspects and investigates alleged crimes.

Many have called for reform within the agency to ensure that it operates in a more fair and transparent manner.

Efe Omorogbe facilitates resolution in Mercy Chinwo-EeZee Conceptz dispute

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Efe Omorogbe, founder of Now Muzik Group, addresses the heated dispute between gospel artist Mercy Chinwo and her former label, EeZee Conceptz.

His comments also address recent remarks by Apostle Anselm Madubuko, who claims to have mediated in the conflict.

Omorogbe, a respected voice in the music industry, brought his experience to bear in analyzing the matter.

In a video shared on his Instagram page, he revealed that he participated in a crucial mediation meeting on May 13, 2024.

The meeting included key figures from both sides, such as Mercy Chinwo, representatives of EeZee Conceptz, gospel singer Judi Kay, veteran actress Hilda Dokubo, Apostle Madubuko, and others.

Central issue: Master rights

The main issue discussed during the meeting was the ownership and transfer of master rights for Mercy Chinwo's music catalog.

Master rights are a contentious topic in the global music industry. Omorogbe clarified that under standard industry contracts, these rights typically belong to record labels, not artists.

He explained that transferring master rights is a process that requires a negotiated agreement, not force or coercion. "Master rights are traditionally owned by labels under standard agreements," Omorogbe said. "If an artist wants these rights, they need to go through proper channels. This involves evaluating the



catalog's value, making an offer, and negotiating a fair deal. Forcing a label to give up these rights is against global best practices."

Addressing mediation claims

Omorogbe also responded to Apostle Madubuko's claim that EeZee Conceptz hindered previous reconciliation attempts.

While acknowledging that negotiations can be challenging, Omorogbe emphasized the importance of transparency, respect for contracts, and professionalism in resolving disputes.

Drawing from industry examples, he highlighted similar cases where conflicts were resolved through negotiation.

For instance, Nigerian superstar Burna Boy successfully repurchased master rights from Aristokrat Records for some of his early works.

Omorogbe noted that such cases show how agreements can be reached without resorting to force or legal threats.

"The right approach is negotiation," Omorogbe stressed. "The artist should propose to buy the master rights at a fair valuation. The label then has the choice to accept or reject the offer."

Professional and amicable resolution Omorogbe described the mediation meeting as a significant effort to bridge the gap between the parties. Held at the home of a prominent reverend, the gathering aimed to facilitate dialogue and explore solutions. He attended to share his expertise and offer insights on handling disputes within the industry.

He underscored the importance of professionalism and mutual respect in resolving such issues. "This matter can be settled amicably," Omorogbe concluded. "There's no need for compulsion, law enforcement, or unnecessary escalation. Negotiation remains the best path forward."

Public interest in the dispute

The dispute between Mercy Chinwo, Judi Kay, and EeZee Conceptz has attracted widespread public attention.

Allegations of financial misconduct, contract breaches, and disputes over ownership of music catalogs have fueled the controversy.

Both sides have made allegations and counter-allegations, creating a charged atmosphere. Omorogbe's intervention provides a roadmap for resolving the matter while upholding professionalism and industry standards.

As the saga unfolds, observers hope for a resolution that benefits all parties involved and sets a precedent for addressing similar conflicts in the Nigerian music industry.

Soulja Boy: I was paid to perform at Trump's inaugural party

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

American rapper Soulja Boy has addressed the controversy surrounding his decision to perform at Donald Trump's inauguration ball.

Alongside fellow artists Nelly and Snoop Dogg, the rapper faced widespread criticism from fans who accused them of betraying their trust by accepting the invitation to perform at the event.

Social media was flooded with disappointment and outrage, with many questioning their motivations.

Soulja Boy explains his decision

In response to the backlash, Soulja Boy took to Instagram Live to clarify his stance. He admitted that his participation was purely motivated by financial gain.

"They paid me a bag," he stated unapologetically. The rapper further highlighted the lack of financial support he received from prominent Democratic leaders, saying, "Obama never put money in my pockets. Kamala never put money in my pockets. Trump did."

His candid comments sparked mixed reactions online, with some praising his honesty and others criticizing him for prioritizing money over principles.

Nelly takes a different stance

Nelly, another performer at the inauguration ball, offered a contrasting perspective. Unlike Soulja Boy, Nelly claimed his participation wasn't about the paycheck.

He described the performance as an act of honor and a way to represent himself and his artistry.

However, his explanation did little to quell the criticism, as many fans argued that his presence still sent the wrong message about his values.

Snoop Dogg remains silent
Meanwhile, Snoop Dogg, who also performed at one of Trump's inauguration balls, has yet to address the controversy.



His silence has left fans speculating about his reasons for participating and whether they align with those of Soulja Boy or Nelly.

Fans debate celebrity responsibility
The controversy has reignited debates about the role of celebrities in politically charged events. Many fans believe that artists have a responsibility to consider how their actions influence public opinion.

Critics argue that performing at such an event could be seen as endorsing the host's politics and policies.

On the other hand, some argue that artists should be free to separate their professional work from their personal

beliefs.

A divided public reaction

Soulja Boy's explanation has drawn a sharp divide among fans and commentators. While some appreciate his transparency and pragmatic approach to his career, others feel that his decision undermines the trust fans place in public figures.

Nelly's defense and Snoop Dogg's silence have only added to the complex dynamics of the controversy.

A lesson in the spotlight

As discussions continue, the situation highlights the challenges celebrities face when navigating the intersection of art, politics, and personal values.

Whether the artists will address the criticisms further or attempt to rebuild trust with their fans remains to be seen.

For now, the debate serves as a stark reminder of the fine line public figures must walk in the court of public opinion.

Trump withdraws US from WHO, cancels Paris climate deal

By Dave Oludare Oso

In a flurry of activities, as he promised, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday stating the commencement of pulling the U.S. out of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The President also withdrew the US from the Paris Climate Accord, reversing one of the most significant deal brokered by former President Biden.

The U.S. has historically been the largest funder of the global health agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, but Trump accuses the body of mishandling the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, towards the end of his first term in office, Trump had first kick-started the process of withdrawing from the WHO but the succeeding Biden administration did not continue with the move. has confirmed that he will withdraw the United States from the Paris climate deal.

Also, the new President will pull the US, the world's second-largest climate polluter, out of the most important global treaty for tackling climate change for the second time.

The White House announced the move to withdraw from the Paris Agreement shortly after Mr Trump's inauguration on Monday.

The decision would place the United States alongside Iran, Libya and Yemen as the only countries in the world outside the landmark global 2015 pact to limit global warming.

The statement said the announcement is part of Trump's broader agenda to boost U.S. oil and gas production.

Trump also withdrew the U.S. from the Paris deal during his first term in office, although the process took years and was immediately reversed by Joe Biden in 2021.

America's second withdrawal is likely to take less time, perhaps as little as a year, because Trump will not be bound by the



deal's initial three-year commitment.

In the original 2015 pact governments agreed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The United States is the world's top producer of oil and natural gas thanks to a years-long drilling boom, including in Texas and New Mexico, fueled by fracking technology.

It has also been boosted by strong global prices since Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The U.S. is currently the world's second-biggest greenhouse gas emitter behind China and its departure undermines global ambition to slash those emissions.

The world is now on pace for global warming of more than 3C by the end of the century, according to a recent United Nations report.

That is a level scientists warn would trigger cascading impacts like sea level rise, heat waves, and devastating storms.

Nations have already been struggling to make steep cuts to emissions required to lower the projected temperature increase, as wars, political tensions and tight government budgets push climate change down the list of priorities.

As news of America's second withdrawal broke, Paul Watkinson, a former climate negotiator and senior policy advisor for France, said: 'It will be harder this time because we are in the thick of implementation, up against real choices.'

Trump's approach is a stark contrast to that of former President Joe Biden, who wanted the United States to lead global climate efforts.

He sought to encourage a transition away from oil and gas using a combination of subsidies and regulations.

Trump has said he intends to unwind those subsidies and regulations to grow the economy.

He has insisted he can do that while also ensuring clean air and water in the United States.

Trump also said his administration would declare a 'national energy emergency' to significantly expand drilling.

It will scrap upcoming stringent pollution standards for cars and trucks, which he has derided as an 'electric vehicle mandate.'

'President Trump will withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord,' the White House said in a statement.

Elon Musk's Nazi-like salute at Trump's inauguration sparks controversy

By Dave Oludare Oso

Elon Musk was so excited about President Donald Trump's inauguration Monday that he threw out two stiff-armed salutes that looked just like what the bad guys in World War II movies do, but to some, it looked like a Nazi salute.

Before appearing to "heil" the crowd, Musk told Trump supporters at a post-inauguration rally in Capitol One Arena: "There are elections that come and go, and some elections are important and some are not, but this one really mattered. And I just want to say thank you for making it happen."

He then thumped his heart with his right hand and thrust the same arm into the air at an angle that, quite frankly, I did Nazi coming. Then he did it a second time, with a big, dopey grin on his face. The move sent "Nazi salute" trending on Google and various social media platforms.

The Anti-Defamation League posted a statement on social media saying: "It seems that @elonmusk made an awkward gesture in a moment of enthusiasm, not a Nazi salute, but again, we appreciate that



people are on edge. In this moment, all sides should give one another a bit of grace, perhaps even the benefit of the doubt, and take a breath."

Musk, one of Trump's closest advisers, was among the speakers on stage before Trump's arrival at the Capital One Arena in Washington.

Musk thanked supporters, then placed his right hand on his heart and quickly extended it upwards.

"My heart goes out to you," Musk said, before repeating the gesture.

Users on Musk's online platform X noted that the gesture resembled a Nazi salute.

U.S. broadcaster CNN replayed the

footage multiple times during its programme, with a presenter stating viewers were smart enough to form their own opinion on the matter.

Initially, Musk did not provide an explanation for the action.

However, he shared footage of his remarks, and the gesture, via X.

Ahead of Trump's swearing-in, Musk enthused about the "Return of the King," sharing a screenshot of Trump's once-banned Twitter account alongside the official presidential profile.

Twitter banned Trump in the wake of the January 6, 2021 riots, before Musk reinstated the account when he purchased the social media platform in 2022.

Onlyfans star, Vandan plans to sleep with 100 men in a day, arrested

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

Turkish OnlyFans model, Azra Ay Vandan, has been arrested for her controversial plan to sleep with 100 men in 24 hours and stream the encounters with her husband, Pedram Behdar Vandan.

The shocking announcement, made on January 14 through a post on the social media platform X, led to a viral stir, with Vandan claiming she would become the first Turkish woman to achieve such a feat.

In the post, Vandan revealed plans to organize the event and provide further details through her team.

However, things took a dramatic turn when authorities in Istanbul,



Turkey's capital, intervened. A disturbing video surfaced online, showing Vandan being dragged from a building by police officers while she appeared to resist arrest.

Vandan, who is also known by her online aliases "Süt" and

"Acnoctem," has a substantial social media following, with over 416,000 Instagram followers under her OnlyFans account, where she shares explicit content, has attracted significant attention and controversy, particularly regarding her recent announcement.

The arrest took place in Istanbul, and Vandan was charged with "obscenity" and "resisting to prevent the performance of duty."

The incident has ignited widespread debate about the boundaries of online content, freedom of expression, and the legal limitations surrounding adult entertainment in Turkey.



66 killed, 51 injured in Turkey ski resort fire

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

A fire engulfed a hotel at a ski resort in northwestern Turkey on Tuesday, killing at least 66 people and injuring 51 others, the interior minister said.

Witnesses said desperate guests had tried to escape using ropes, and video showed bedsheets hanging from the windows. Media reports suggested some people had died after trying to jump to safety.

“Our pain is great,” Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya told reporters at the Kartalkaya resort, about 100 miles northwest of the capital Ankara. “Sixty-six citizens lost their lives and 51 others wounded.”

Other cabinet members also came to the scene of the disaster and said the blaze had been contained. The fire broke out at 3:27 am (7:27 p.m. Monday Eastern) in the 12-story Grand Kartal hotel, which has wooden cladding, Yerlikaya said earlier on X.

An aerial view of the area as fire brigades respond to a fire in a hotel in Bolu Kartalkaya Ski Center, Jan. 21, 2025, in Bolu, Turkey. Mehmet Emin Gurbuz/Anadolu/Getty

Local media reported at least 230 people were staying at the hotel, a peak time during a two-week school holiday.

Turkish authorities detained four people, including the owner of the hotel, “as part of an investigation led by six prosecutors,” Turkey’s Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said in a post on social media.

Private NTV broadcaster said the dead included three people who had



jumped from the hotel’s windows.

The fire is believed to have started in the restaurant and spread quickly, though it was not immediately clear what caused it.

Part of the hotel backs onto a cliff, which made it harder for firefighters to tackle the blaze.

Video aired on Turkish television showed huge plumes of smoke rising into the sky with a snowcapped mountain behind the hotel.

“I heard screams around midnight, (hotel) residents were shouting for help,” Baris Salgur, who works at a nearby hotel, told NTV television. “They asked for a blanket, saying they will jump... we did what we could, we brought rope, pillows, we brought a sofa. Some people threw themselves once the flames approached them.”

Officials said they feared the number of dead could still rise.

Video showed the wrecked lobby of

the hotel with shards of glass on the floor, the reception desk and the wooden furniture inside charred black.

Authorities warned the building could collapse.

A survivor who managed to escape the flames told local media that no alarms rang at the hotel when the fire started, complaining of a lack of any safety measures such as fire stairs or smoke detectors.

“I pray to God for mercy upon our citizens who lost their lives in the fire,” President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on X.

He said he wished a speedy recovery to the injured affected by “this tragic accident”, adding that an investigation had been launched.

Justice Minister Yilmaz Tunc said six prosecutors had been allocated to investigate the blaze. Those evacuated were rehoused in nearby hotels.

PM wants Nigerians, others banned from buying property in Spain

By **Elizabeth Jenrola Oso**

Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez has called for a ban on non-EU foreigners buying properties in Spain, aiming to address escalating housing prices.

“We will propose to ban these non-EU foreigners who are not residents, and their relatives, from buying houses in our country since they do so to speculate,” Sanchez said during a rally in Plasencia, western Spain on Sunday.

On 19 January, Sanchez outlined a proposal to tax up to 100% on property acquisitions by non-EU



citizens like Nigerians not residing in Spain, part of measures aimed at boosting housing supply and reducing demand, Reuters reports.

A source close to Sanchez clarified that the ban was not finalised, stating the focus remained on discouraging purchases through higher taxes.

“All factors related to regulatory and juridical changes are discouraging investors,” said Paloma Relinque, CBRE’s executive corporate director for Spain.

Housing shortages, gentrification, and tourist-driven demand have strained Spain’s housing market, with the Central Bank projecting a 500,000-house deficit this year.

WHO regrets US decision to withdraw, urges reconsideration

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed regret over the United States’ intention to withdraw from the global health body, urging the nation to reconsider its decision.

In a statement posted on its X account on Tuesday, January 21, WHO emphasised its vital role in protecting global health, including the health of Americans, and called for continued cooperation.

The organisation highlighted its work in addressing the root causes of diseases, strengthening health systems, and responding to health emergencies, often in environments where others cannot operate. WHO stressed that its efforts benefit all nations, including the US, and called for continued support to preserve these global health achievements.

The announcement follows an executive order signed by President Donald Trump on Monday, directing the United States to withdraw from WHO.



Speaking shortly after his inauguration, Trump criticised the organisation for what he claimed was excessive US financial contribution compared to China, declaring, “World Health ripped us off.”

This marks the second attempt by the US to exit WHO. During Trump’s first term, the administration also sought to leave, accusing the organisation of being overly influenced by China during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision later reversed by President Joe Biden.

In the latest executive order, Trump instructed federal agencies to “pause the future transfer of any United States Government funds, support, or resources to the WHO” and to identify alternative partners for activities previously managed by the global health body.

The order also announced plans to review and potentially rescind the Biden administration’s 2024 US Global Health Security Strategy, which was designed to address infectious disease threats.

The WHO, in its statement, reminded the US of its significant contributions since becoming a founding member in 1948. It pointed to joint successes, such as eradicating smallpox and nearly eradicating polio, as evidence of the positive impact of US participation. The organisation also highlighted recent reforms aimed at improving accountability, cost-effectiveness, and impact.

“We hope the United States will

ACLU sues Trump over order seeking to end birthright citizenship

By Dave Oludare Oso

A collection of advocacy groups led by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed a federal lawsuit late Monday challenging President Donald Trump's executive order to halt the automatic granting of citizenship to children born in the United States.

Trump signed his order to deny citizenship to children whose mothers were unlawfully present in the United States when they were born and the father wasn't a citizen or legal permanent resident, or when the mother's presence was lawful but temporary and the father wasn't a citizen or lawful permanent resident. The order was part of a series that sought to bolster security along the southern border.

But legal experts said the order is in conflict with the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, which states that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

The ACLU lawsuit in New Hampshire seeks to block Trump from denying citizenship to those children.



"Denying citizenship to U.S.-born children is not only unconstitutional – it's also a reckless and ruthless repudiation of American values," Anthony Romero, ACLU executive director, said in a statement.

"This order seeks to repeat one of the gravest errors in American history, by creating a permanent subclass of people born in the U.S. who are denied full rights as Americans."

Trump and other Republicans have sought to end birthright citizenship because of a concern immigrants sometimes deliver children in the United States to gain a foothold to remain.

Trump's order, to take effect in the

next 30 days, directed the Social Security Administration to no longer recognize the children as citizens and the State Department to stop issuing them passports.

The constitutional provision was ratified in 1868, after the Civil War, and upheld by the Supreme Court in 1898.

"Birthright citizenship is a cornerstone of our democracy," Theo Oshiro, co-executive director of the advocacy group Make the Road New York, said in a statement.

"To deny their children the same basic rights as all other children born in the United States is an affront to basic values of fairness, equality, and inclusivity."

Maduka Okoye faces 5-year ban if found guilty of illegal betting

By **Dave Oludare Oso**

Maduka Okoye is being investigated for a flow of anomalous bets during Lazio's home clash with fellow Serie A club, Udinese.

Super Eagles and Udinese goalkeeper, Maduka Okoye risks being handed a five-year ban from football if found guilty of betting illegally.

The Nigerian international was involved in a betting scandal and could be banned for up to four years if found culpable.

Okoye is currently under watch for betting on his yellow card in a match against Lazio last March.

The 25-year-old is being investigated by the Udine Prosecutor's Office for a flow of anomalous bets during Lazio's home clash with Udinese.

The shot-stopper received a yellow card for time-wasting after 64 minutes of the encounter.

The match eventually ended 2-1 in favor of Udinese at the Stadio Olimpico.

Speaking on the saga, Dawaki Rangers FC captain, Idris Musa Adinoyi, said any player found guilty of illegal betting should dance to the tune of the music.



He said, "As a professional athlete, there are certain ethics expected to be upheld and the betting scandal is definitely not one of them.

"Any player or athlete found guilty of such fraud after a conclusive investigation should definitively be made to dance to the tune of the music he began playing.

"It is sad to learn about Maduka Okoye's investigation but the law must take its course and if found guilty, I'd say he deserves whatever punishment.

"Unprofessional behaviors need to be cleansed thoroughly for the spirit of sportsmanship to shine brightly."

Okoye is not the first player to be accused of betting illegally, the likes of Al-Ahli's Ivan Toney, Newcastle United's Sandro Tonali, Juventus' Nicolo Fagioli, Newcastle's Kieran Trippier, Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge have all served bans after they were found guilty.

The regulations of the English FA and football generally are clear regarding players and illegal betting.

The rules strictly prohibit players from making bets for themselves or getting other people like family members and friends to make bet/bets on them.

It also stopped them from disclosing uncommon information to others for them to gain the upper hand.

Chelsea, San Diego agree world record fee for American star, Girma

By Dave Oludare Oso

Chelsea Women have agreed on a deal to sign Naomi Girma from San Diego Wave in what is expected to be the biggest transfer fee ever seen in the sport.

The Blues will fork out an excess of a million US dollars, the first time a female player has been bought for such a fee.

Former Chelsea coach and current USA coach, Emma Hayes described Girma as the best defender she had ever seen.

The Blues are close to landing a player widely considered as one of the best defenders in the game currently.

The London club has seemingly beaten eight-time Champions League winners Lyon to the signature of the American international.

How much will Chelsea pay for Naomi Girma?

The Athletic reports that the San Diego Wave will receive a record \$1.1 million fee – the most a women's player has ever been bought for in history.

What is the current most expensive women's football transfer?

The record is currently held by Zambian star, Rachel Kundananji, who attracted a sizeable fee of around \$860,000 when she joined Bay FC from Madrid CFF last year.

The fee was almost double the previous record of the \$416,000 Barcelona paid to Manchester City to



get Keira Walsh.

Who is Naomi Girma?

For a player who is expected to become the first woman to cross the \$1 million mark, Girma is definitely worth the hype.

She was born in California to Girma Aweke and Seble Demissie, who were Ethiopian immigrants.

After a successful college career at Stanford Cardinal, San Diego Wave selected the defender as the first pick of the 2022 NWSL Draft.

What has Naomi Girma won?

At only 24 years, she has already been capped 44 times by the national team. She was part of the squad that won Olympic gold in Paris under former Chelsea coach Emma Hayes last year.

She also has the CONCACAF Women's Championship, CONCACAF W Gold Cup and the 2024 SheBelieves Cup.

At San Diego, she won the NSWL Shield in 2023 before following it up with the Challenger Cup a year later.

Where will Naomi Girma fit at Chelsea?

As one of the best players in the world, Girma is expected to walk right into Sonia Bompastor's star-studded squad.

The West Londoners have been keen on getting the defender after Kadeisha Buchanan ruptured her ACL last year. Girma will partner captain Millie Bright at the heart of Bompastor's defence, with Nathalie Björn dropping to the bench.

If the deal sails through, Girma will walk into a high-flying squad yet to lose a game under Bompastor.

The former Lyon manager will hope the American star will help her win the Champions League for Chelsea at her first time of asking.