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NLC suspends planned telecom tariff hike protest

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has suspended its proposed protests against the recent 50 percent increase in telecom tariffs by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), citing the need for further engagement with government.

President of the NLC, Joe Ajaero disclosed the decision after a meeting between the union and government officials at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation in Abuja on Monday.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported that organised labour had fixed the planned nationwide demonstrations over the telecom tariffs hike to commence today (Tuesday) in a bid to force down the huge hike.

However, following assurances that a broader committee would be constituted to reassess the tariff structure, the labour union agreed to stay action and await a positive resolution of an issue that is central to the everyday lives of over 150 million Nigerians.

The labour chief insisted that as



the largest labour organisation in Africa, the union could not be sidelined in any stakeholder consultations regarding policies that directly affect Nigerian workers and the general public.

He stated that the newly proposed committee would ensure a more inclusive and realistic framework for telecom pricing, addressing the concerns raised by the union.

While the planned symbolic submission of protest letters has been put on hold, Ajaero emphasised that this suspension does not signal an end to its agitation against policies that impose financial strain on Nigerians.

The labour body reiterated its opposition to rising electricity tariffs and excessive taxation, which it described as major obstacles to workers' welfare and economic stability.

He further warned that the next course of action—including protests, service boycotts, or even withdrawal of labour—would be determined by the committee's final recommendations.

Ajaero said the NLC remained on high alert, closely monitoring the developments to ensure that workers' interests are adequately protected.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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QUARTER PAGE	106,500.00
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10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
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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
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3X3	28,000.00
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8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
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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
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FG spends over N200bn monthly on electricity subsidies – Tinubu's aide

By Friday Omosola

Olu Verheijen, Special Adviser to President Bola Tinubu on Energy, stated that the federal government (FG) spends N200 billion monthly on electricity subsidies.

In a statement yesterday, the presidential aide noted that despite this spending, only a few Nigerians are benefiting from the subsidies.

She said: “Today, the Federal government spends over ₦200 billion per month on electricity subsidies, but much of this support benefits the wealthiest 25 per cent of Nigerians rather than those who truly need assistance.

“To address this, the Federal government is working towards a targeted subsidy system to ensure that low-income households receive the most support. This approach will make electricity more affordable and accessible for millions of hardworking families.”

Verheijen further stated that the Presidential Metering Initiative had begun taking steps to roll out seven million prepaid meters, starting this year.

She added that the move would put an end to estimated billing, giving consumers confidence in their payments and ensuring transparency in electricity charges.

Verheijen said metering would also enhance revenue collection across the sector and attract the investments needed to strengthen Nigeria's power infrastructure.

She further denied media reports claiming that the FG was planning an imminent 65 per cent increase in electricity tariffs.

The statement partly read: “This is a



misrepresentation of what I actually said in a recent press interview. I highlighted the fact that, following the increase in Band A tariffs in 2024, current tariffs now cover approximately 65 per cent of the actual cost of supplying electricity, with the Federal government continuing to subsidize the difference.

“Also, while the government is indeed committed to ensuring fairer pricing over the long term, the immediate focus is on taking decisive action to deliver more electricity to Nigerians, ensure fewer outages, and guarantee the protection of the poorest and most vulnerable Nigerians.

“Furthermore, the Federal government is addressing one of the major roadblocks to improved service, the mounting debts owed to power generation companies. For years, these debts have prevented investments in new infrastructure and hampered efforts to improve electricity supply.

“By clearing these outstanding obligations, the government is ensuring that power companies can reinvest in better service delivery, stronger infrastructure, and a more stable electricity supply for all Nigerians.s

“Through a range of fiscal incentives, including VAT and Customs Duty Waivers, the Federal Government is working to lower the cost of alternative power sources such as Compressed Natural Gas and Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

“The government fully understands the economic realities facing citizens and is committed to ensuring that reforms in the power sector lead to tangible improvements in people's daily lives.

“Every policy is designed with the Nigerian people in mind — eliminating unfair estimated billing, ensuring that subsidies benefit the right people, and creating the conditions for stable, affordable electricity.

“These reforms are laying the foundation for better service delivery, expanded access to electricity for homes and businesses, and unlocking prosperity for all Nigerians.”

Naira-for-Crude: FG bans export of crude meant for local refineries

By Dave Oludare Oso

In a bid to boost local refining capacity, reduce the import of refined petroleum products, and curb pressure on foreign exchange supply, the Federal Government has placed an immediate freeze on the export of crude oil meant to meet the needs of domestic refineries in the country.

Before now, about 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day meant for domestic refining have been finding their way to the international market as producers and traders shortchange the policy for quick foreign exchange proceeds.

Acting through the upstream sector regulator, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), the government warned that it will henceforth deny export permits for crude oil cargoes intended for domestic refining.

The commission, in a statement in Abuja, insisted that any changes to cargoes designated for domestic refining must receive express approval from its chief executive.

In a letter dated February 2, 2025, addressed to exploration and production companies and their equity partners, the commission's Chief Executive Officer, Gbenga Komolafe said diverting crude oil meant for local refineries is a violation of the extant laws of the country.

At a meeting attended by more than 50 critical industry players weekend, both refiners and producers blamed each other for inconsistencies in the implementation of the Domestic Crude Supply Obligation (DCSO) policy.

While refiners claimed that producers are not meeting supply terms and preferred to sell crude outside, forcing them to look elsewhere for feedstock, producers countered that refiners hardly meet commercial and operational terms, forcing them to explore other markets elsewhere to avoid unnecessary



operational bottlenecks.

They, however, agreed that the regulator has put in place appropriate measures for effective implementation of the law.

The regulator cautioned against any further breaches from either party, and advised refiners to adhere to international best practices in procurement and operational matters.

The commission reminded producers not to vary the conditions stated in the DCSO policy without obtaining express permission from the chief executive before selling crude outside the agreed framework.

Komolafe referenced Section 109 of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021, which aims to ensure stable supply of crude to domestic refineries and strengthen the nation's energy security.

He said NUPRC would, henceforth, strictly enforce the policy regarding implementation and defaults by oil companies.

He stated that significant regulatory actions had already been taken by the commission, in line with enabling laws to enforce compliance with the DCSO.

These actions, according to him, include development and signing of the Production Curtailment and Domestic Crude Oil Supply Obligation Regulation 2023, as well as the creation of the DCSO framework and procedure guide for implementation.

However, it was gathered that the move is targeted at boosting the Naira-for-Crude programme, which aims at ensuring local refineries receive crude oil in naira and sell refined products to marketers in the local currency.

In its recent report, NUPRC disclosed that the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and seven other domestic refineries require 770,500 barrels of crude equivalent per day, Bopd, for processing in the first half (January – June) of 2025.

The refineries include 10,000 bpd OPAC refinery in Delta State, 5,000 bpd WalterSmith Refinery in Imo State, 2,500 bpd Duport Midstream in Edo State and the 1,500 bpd Edo Refinery in Edo State.

Others include the 11,000 bpd Aradel Refinery in Rivers State, 60,000 bpd old Port Harcourt refinery in Rivers State, 125,000 bpd Warri Refinery in Delta State and 110,000 bpd Kaduna Refinery in Kaduna State.

Nigeria aims to reduce dependence on external debt financing - Edun

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Nigerian government has expressed its intention to reduce the country's reliance on external debt financing as part of a broader strategy to explore alternative sources of funding beyond traditional multilateral loans.

This shift is expected to support Nigeria's long-term economic growth and sustainability.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Mr. Wale Edun, made this announcement during a meeting with the World Bank Executive Director, Dr. Zainab Shamsuna Ahmed.

Edun emphasised that the government's focus remains on fostering a business-friendly environment, one that attracts sustainable investments and drives private sector-led growth.

Dr. Ahmed, who is the immediate past Minister of Finance in Nigeria, commended the country's recent macroeconomic reforms, acknowledging their role in improving fiscal stability and boosting investor confidence.

She also highlighted recent financial reforms within the World



Bank, which have expanded the institution's lending capacity by an additional \$150 billion over the next decade, further enhancing its support to countries like Nigeria.

A significant part of the discussion focused on Nigeria's participation in the World Bank's "Mission 300" initiative, a project aimed at providing electricity access to 300 million Africans.

Edun reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to the programme, underlining the importance of improving the nation's power infrastructure.

He stressed that a reliable energy sector is vital for economic growth, industrial expansion, and boosting the competitiveness of the private sector.

In his remarks, the Finance Minister also reassured the World Bank that President Bola Tinubu is fully committed to strengthening Nigeria's economic foundation.

The government aims to reduce its dependence on external borrowing while promoting private sector investments to ensure sustainable economic development in the years to come.

FG strengthens cancer care with revamped nuclear medicine task force

By Helen Okechukwu

The Federal Government (FG), through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, has restructured the National Nuclear Medicine Technical Working Group (NM-TWG) as part of the 2025 World Cancer Day initiatives.

In the statement shared on their X page, it noted that the move reinforces FG commitment to improving cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

The 2025 theme, “United by Unique: United in Our Goals, Unique in Our Needs,” highlights collective efforts while addressing distinct healthcare challenges.

The Ministry aims to bridge cancer care gaps with targeted strategies.

Key stakeholders attendees are Nuclear Medicine experts, regulatory bodies, research institutions, civil society, international partners, and media representatives.

It was revealed that the NM-TWG will serve as an advisory body, enhancing Nuclear Medicine



services nationwide.

Minister of State, Dr. Adekunle Iziak Salako, reaffirmed cancer care as a priority under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu’s Renewed Hope Agenda, citing various achievements.

They include immunization of 12 million girls against HPV to prevent cervical cancer, expansion of cancer insurance coverage to ease financial burdens and establishment of six Federal Teaching Hospitals (FTH) with advanced radiotherapy and nuclear medicine facilities.

The NM-TWG will be led by Dr. Ololade Kehinde, with Dr. Uchechukwu Emmanuel Nwokwu as Secretary. The group will address

infrastructure gaps and strengthen collaborations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

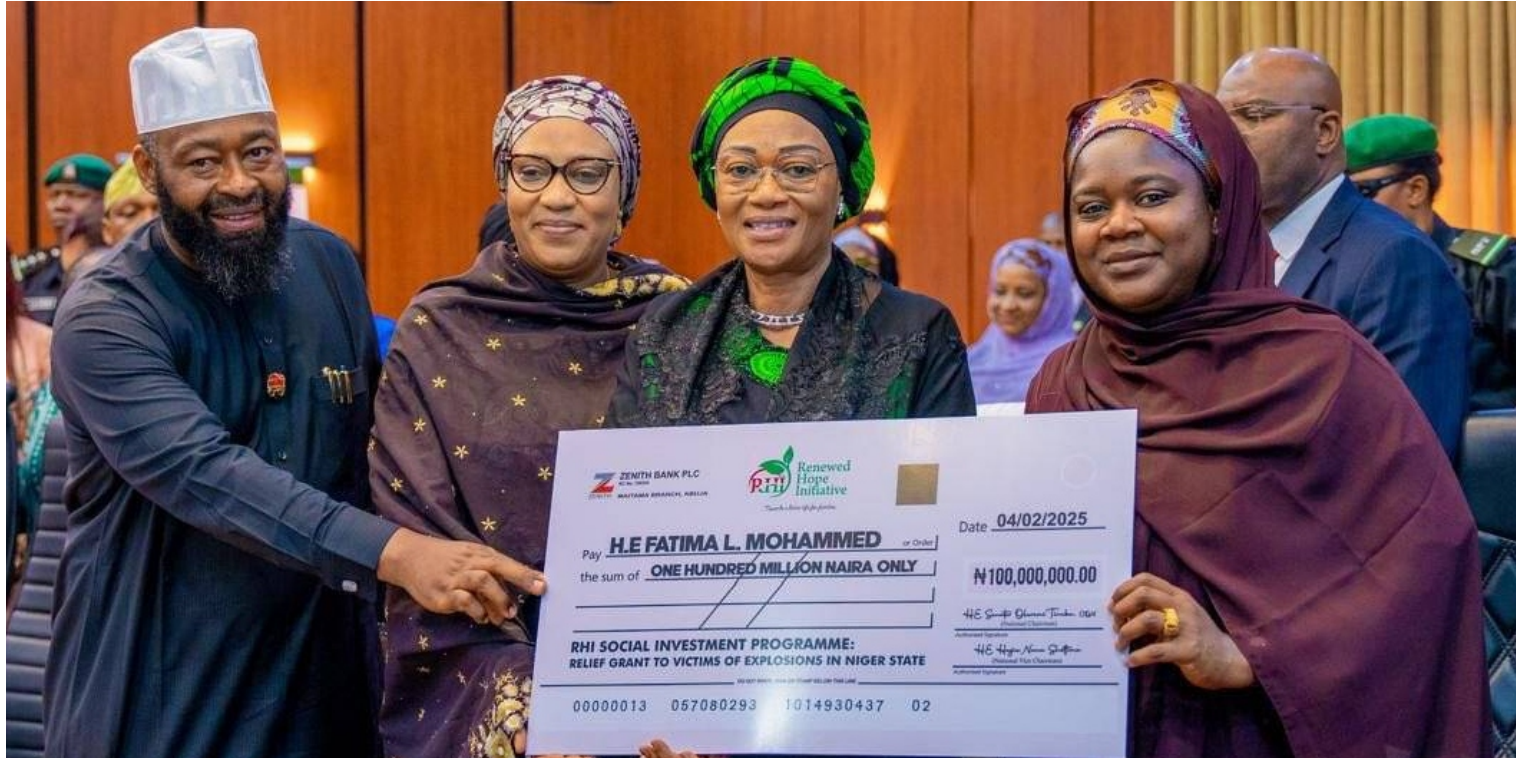
Dr. Salako acknowledged support from local and international partners and emphasized expanding pediatric cancer care in alignment with the Global Initiative for Childhood Cancer (GICC).

In a call to action plan, the Ministry urges Nigerians to prioritize cancer prevention through early screenings and support efforts to improve care.

“Together, we can build a cancer-free Nigeria,” Dr. Salako declared, reaffirming the government’s vision for a healthier future.

Remi Tinubu donates N100m to Niger tanker explosion victims

By Dave Oludare Oso



Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, has donated N100 million to victims of the recent tanker explosion in Niger State.

She announced the donation during a visit to Governor Umaru Bago at the Government House in Minna on Tuesday, where she expressed her condolences over the tragic incident.

NEW DAILY PRIME recalls that the explosion, which occurred on January 18 along Diko-Maje Road in Gurara Local Government Area, claimed several lives and left many others injured.

Mrs Tinubu said the donation would provide relief to about 70 affected families, with each receiving N1 million through the governor's wife, Hajiya Fatima Bago.

"The remaining funds will be used for additional support, including food supplies," she added.

She commended Governor Bago's commitment to rehabilitating the victims and praised his administration's efforts in agriculture.

In his response, Bago expressed gratitude for the First Lady's visit and her financial support,

describing it as a morale booster for the affected families.

"We deeply appreciate your kind gesture and personal visit, which will uplift those impacted by the explosion," he said.

During her visit, the First Lady also paid a private courtesy call on former military leaders, Generals Ibrahim Babangida and Abdulsalami Abubakar.

She was accompanied by Hajiya Nana Shettima, wife of the Vice President, and Hajiya Fatima Bago, wife of the Niger State Governor.

Ribadu threatens Naja'atu Muhammad with lawsuit over damaging TikTok video

By Dave Oludare Oso

The National Security Adviser (NSA), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, is on warpath with a prominent female Northern activist, Hajia Naja'atu Muhammad over claims she made in a recent TikTok video that has gone vira, and has demanded public apology and retraction from her.

The woman activist had in the video, accused the NSA of hypocrisy with claims that he is now in cahoot with President Bola Tinubu and others he had accused of being among the most corrupt Nigerians when he was the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

But Ribadu, in a letter through his lawyer, Dr Ahmed Raji, SAN, to Muhammad said he had never at any point maintained such viewpoint about Tinubu and others mentioned by Najatu Muhammad in her video.

In the letter dated February 4, 2025, and signed by Dr. Raji, Ribadu said the intention of Najatu Muhammad in the video was to bring him to public ridicule, opprobrium, scorn and shame.

The NSA, who added that the damage done to him by the video is unquantifiable therefore as Mohammed Najatu to retract the publication and "tender an unreserved public apology to him in at least 5 (five) national daily newspapers within seven days of receipt of this letter" to assuage the wrong done to his integrity.

Failure to do this, Ribadu said he will seek redress in a court of law where exemplary damages will be claimed against Najatu Mohammed.

The letter by Ribadu' lawyer to Najatu Mohammed partly reads, "Clearly, in the text of your recording [reproduced and translated above] you stated that when our client served as the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes, [EFCC] he allegedly named President Bola Ahmed Tinubu,



GCFR, alongside Sen. George Akume and Sen. Orji Uzor Kalu [all former Governors, and in that order] as the governors in Nigeria who stole the most from public treasury.

"You also stated that today, our client who once held the above odious view about President Tinubu has turned around to be his staunchest defender; especially, with regard to what you stated to be the government's agenda to silence voices of dissent to the government, citing the alleged arrest of a certain Prof. Usman Yusuf as an example.

"You also stated that our client's alleged attitudinal change towards President Tinubu means that he has either become a liar or that he lied when he allegedly described President Tinubu, Sen. Akume, Sen. Kalu and other governors as thieves.

"Privately or publicly, our client has never expressed the above viewpoint about President Tinubu and/or Senators George Akume and Orji Uzor Kalu, which you attributed to him.

"In fact, our client has never held such a viewpoint about the President; hence, it came as a complete surprise to him when his attention was drawn to the aforesaid publication by you against him.

"In the foregoing premise, our client hereby challenges you to provide evidence of your

allegations therein against him; which have cast him as double-faced, duplicitous and deceitful in the eyes of right-thinking members of the society.

"Although masked as a clarion call to the North to rise up to your perceived injustice against the North by the government of the day, your publication is also inciteful of violence towards our client. Given this far-reaching ramification of your publication, our client will not sit back and watch his hard-earned reputation and goodwill destroyed by your malicious decision to not only lay false allegations against him, but also, to cause the same to be published for the world's attention.

"Your intention to bring our client to public ridicule, opprobrium, scorn and shame etc., is laid bare when it is considered that you deliberately caused same to be published on social media, where it has since gone viral.

"Surely, the damage occasioned to our client by your deliberate but ill-advised action is unquantifiable. However, our client will be assuaged if you retract the said publication and tender an unreserved public apology to him in at least 5 [five] national daily newspapers within 7 [seven] days of receipt of this letter. If not, we have our client's further instructions to seek redress against you in a court of law where exemplary damages will be claimed against you. Kindly be advised."

IGP warns policemen against unethical practices, misuse of public office

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

The Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Kayode Egbetokun, on Tuesday, February 4, expressed grave concerns over the unethical practice of transferring ongoing cases without authorisation and the misuse of public office by certain police officers and individuals.

These actions, he stated, not only undermine investigations but also erode public trust in the police force.

In a statement issued by the Force Public Relations Officer, Muyiwa Adejobi, the IGP made it clear that such practices would no longer be tolerated under his leadership.

He emphasised that transparency, professionalism, and accountability must be the core values guiding policing in Nigeria.

“The IGP has stressed that transparency, professionalism, and accountability must remain the guiding principles of policing. In line with this, he has directed all supervising officers and personnel, particularly those in investigative units, to handle cases with diligence and integrity,” Adejobi said.

The IGP also warned that any officer found involved in the indiscriminate transfer of case files or abusing their position will face strict disciplinary measures.

Egbetokun condemned the recurring practice of transferring cases still under investigation between formations without proper authorisation, describing it as unacceptable.

“Such actions create unnecessary delays, impose undue burdens on parties involved, and waste resources. The IGP has categorically stated that cases should be investigated within the jurisdiction where alleged offences occurred unless expressly approved by his office.” Adejobi added, quoting the IGP.

Additionally, the IGP addressed the growing concern over the misuse of police authority in civil disputes,



particularly regarding land ownership matters.

Egbetokun reminded officers that the police have no jurisdiction over purely civil matters unless a criminal element is present.

In such cases, investigations must be overseen by the State Commissioners of Police, who will be held accountable for the process and outcome.

The statement also highlighted the IGP’s commitment to addressing the issue of frivolous petitions, which are often used to harass or intimidate individuals.

Moving forward, all petitions submitted to the police must include a declaration confirming their authenticity, and petitioners will be held accountable for any false claims made to the police.

“The filing of frivolous or malicious petitions aimed at harassment or intimidation is another issue the IGP has vowed to address. Petitioners found to have filed frivolous petitions will be made to face the appropriate sanctions for giving false information to the Police.” Adejobi said.

To improve the complaint process, the IGP urged members of the public to submit their petitions directly to the appropriate police commands, divisions, or units rather than his office, unless the

matter requires special intervention or review.

“The IGP has urged members of the public to submit complaints and petitions directly to the appropriate Police Commands, Divisions, or Units rather than to the IGP’s office, except in cases requiring review, appeal, or special intervention. He also stressed the importance of avoiding framing civil disputes as criminal matters to manipulate police intervention.” Adejobi explained.

Reaffirming his commitment to professionalism and transparency, IGP Egbetokun assured Nigerians of the Force’s dedication to upholding the highest standards of accountability.

He called on citizens to trust the police to deliver justice and urged them to report any unethical practices through the proper channels.

Egbetokun further warned that any officer or individual found misusing the name or authority of the IGP would face severe consequences, including prosecution if necessary.

Nigerian woman arrested in UK for saying 'drugs' instead of 'medication'

By Dave Oludare Oso

A Nigerian woman was arrested in the United Kingdom after using the word "drugs" instead of "medication," which led to confusion and her eventual detention by authorities.

The lady identified as @shakels95, shared her shocking experience of being arrested due to a simple misunderstanding of Nigerian jargon.

According to her, she had gone to a pharmacy to purchase medications for her husband when an innocent remark during a phone conversation led to her unexpected arrest.

While speaking to her husband on the phone, she casually used the word "drugs" instead of "medications," unaware that people around her at the pharmacy misinterpreted it.

Moments later, the police arrived and took her into custody.

Recalling the incident in a TikTok video, she said, "I got arrested yesterday, last night, and got detained. Now, I am going home. Story time.

"Then, when I was done, I was on call to say, 'Ah, I got the drugs, I got two drugs for you. So, when I get home, when you use it, you are going to be strong.'

"Ok. Not knowing people closer to me were like, 'drugs, drugs, drugs,' but I wasn't bothered 'cause I felt I didn't do anything wrong. Before I knew it, the police came. When they came, they were like, 'we heard there is drugs.'

"And I said what drugs? This (displaying



the medications she got) was literally what I was referring to as drugs, Ibuprofen, for my husband because he wasn't feeling well..."

Despite her attempts to explain the situation, the police refused to take her word for it.

She revealed that they detained her at the station and even searched her home in a bid to verify their claims.

Meanwhile, this has generated mixed reactions from netizens while some claimed there's nothing wrong in the words, others said it's basically profiling of people of colour.

Read some of the reactions:

@larrybankyl on X wrote, "The dictionary (in their language) has it that a drug is a substance recognized by an official pharmacopoeia or formulary. It is a substance intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease.

T'aa ló wọ wii ninuu wọn? Sue wọn jọ!"

Another user @OdoThomasIke said, "This is absurd. Firstly, the term "drug"

is official and an acceptable synonym for 'Medication'.

The D in NAFDAC means Drug. Secondly, the synonymous use of "Drug" in place of "Medication" is not limited to Nigeria.

The D in FDA (in the USA) also means Drug.

@Ekezulkpa_II in his reaction said, "I am surprised about the over-reaction by the Police. I've been telling our people here to stop calling medications "drugs" as it is quite embarrassing. Same way our people keep mispronouncing Google as "goggle". When our people say "goggle it," people don't even understand them."

@GICKENG commented, "It's interesting how language varies across cultures. In Nigeria, "drug" commonly refers to medication, while in the UK, it often has a different connotation. It's all about context!"

@Jeffr2b2 reacted, "All medications are drugs, but not all drugs are medication. You're not so wrong to use the word "drug". Part of the reason you were arrested is because you're black."

29 Chinese, 10 Filipinos, others docked for internet fraud

By Dave Oludare Oso

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), on Monday, arraigned 29 Chinese, 10 Filipinos, one Malaysian, one Indonesian and one Pakistani before separate Federal High Courts sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The suspects were arraigned on charges bordering on alleged cybercrimes, cyber-terrorism, impersonation, possession of documents containing false pretence, and identity theft, among others.

They were arraigned alongside a company, Genting International Co. Ltd., before Justices Ayokunle Faji ; D.I. Dipeolu; Alexander Owwoeye and C.J. Aneke, respectively.

The defendants are members of the syndicate of 792 alleged cryptocurrency investment and romance fraud suspects arrested on December 19, 2024, in Lagos during a sting operation tagged "Eagle Flush Operation" by operatives of the EFCC.

The defendants are: Zhang Hua Zhai; Chen Xin; Li Zhen Peng; Guo Long Long ; Ren Jia Wen; Zhang Jian; Zhao Ying Bin; Yu Zi, (a.k.a. Wei Xue Huan); Zhang Yang; Wang Zhi Cheng; Cherry De Leon (a.k.a. Yeah De Leon); Khurram Shanzad; Fernand Fu Fang (a.k.a. Kim); Tan Soon Kar; Rex Jose Dilag (a.k.a. Madison); Jamal Polea; Kamilu Jayne Gongzalez (a.k.a. Jam Galanza); Hannah Jaramillo (a.k.a. Max Deleon); Danica Manulit (a.k.a. Dan Ruiz); Vera Dela Cris (a.k.a. Nina Vera Gonzal); Joey Gracia; Beverlyn Gumayo Casino (a.k.a. Veb Sumayo) and Tricia Jenylyn Castro (a.k.a. T. J. Castro).

Others are: An Hongxu; Shitou Shizilong; Pan Jiong; Wanq Jia Qi; Huang Xiao Liang; Guo Giang; Wen Zong Xu; Zhon Kun Li; Huang Ren Jian; Li Jin; Deng Wen Qiang; Lu Yi Liang; Pan Cai Yu; Peng Li Jain (a.k.a. Han Li Jaun); He Kun; Zhao Jin Rong; Lin Hao Bo; Chen Fusheng and Xiang Bing.

One of the counts reads: "That you, ZHANG HUA ZHAI and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, on or about the 18th of December 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as



persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed offences contrary to and punishable under Section 18 and 27 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (as Amended, 2024)."

Another count reads: " That you, VIERA DELA CRUZ (A.K.A NINA VIERA G O N Z A L) & G E N T I N G INTERNATIONAL CO. LTD., sometime in December 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, willfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organized to seriously destabilize the constitutional structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain a financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As amended 2024)".

Another count reads: "That you, Shitou Shizilong and Genting International Co. Limited, on or about the 11th December, 2024 at No.7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Ikoyi, Lagos, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, wilfully caused to be accessed, a computer system which was organized to seriously destabilize the economic and social structure of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by procuring and employing several Nigerian youths for identity theft and other computer related fraud, and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition and Prevention, etc.) Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2015 (as amended)."

Another count reads: "That you, PENG LI JAUN A.K.A HAN LI JAUN and GENTING INTERNATIONAL CO. LIMITED, sometime in December, 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, wilfully caused to be accessed, computer systems organised to seriously destabilise the economic and social structure of Nigeria (which prohibits and prevents cyber and related crimes) when you procured/employed Nigerian youths for identity theft and to hold themselves out as persons of foreign nationality, with the intent to gain financial advantage for yourselves and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2015 (As Amended, 2024)."

They each pleaded not guilty to the offences when they were read to them.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, L.P. Aso, M.K. Bashir, N. K. Ukoha, T.J. Banjo, M. S. Owede, B.B. Buhari, C.C.Okezie, H.U. Kofarnaisa and Z.B. Atiku, respectively prayed the court for trial dates and for the defendants to be remanded in the appropriate correctional centres.

Justice Faji adjourned the matter till February 10, 11, 17, 18, 19 and 2025.

Justice Dipeolu adjourned the matter till February 7, 15, 21, 24 and 28, 2025.

N160bn USSD debt: Banks escape NCC axe, service disconnection

By Dave Oludare Oso

The disconnection threats hanging over some Nigerian banks for Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) debt totalling N160 billion have been lifted as they (banks) make significant progress in repaying their outstanding debts to telecom operators.

The banks, by their timely action, avoided service disconnection threats by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) which could have resulted in a potential disruption and ultimately impact millions of users negatively.

The banks, which faced disconnection risk over the N160 billion debt have cleared their liabilities significantly, ensuring continued access to the USSD platform, which is vital for customers without internet access.

The nine banks that would have been affected by the NCC's disconnection notice include; United Bank for Africa Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc, Sterling Bank Limited, First City Monument Bank, Jaiz Bank Plc, Polaris Bank Limited, Unity Bank Plc, Wema Bank Plc, and Zenith Bank Plc.

NCC, had in a January 15, 2024, notice, warned that nine banks would be cut off from USSD



USSD CODES



services by January 27 if they failed to clear debts accumulated since 2019. However, the banks acted quickly to resolve the issue, averting service disruptions.

Confirming the development at a CEO forum in Lagos on Monday, Chairman of the Association of Licenced Telecommunications Operators of Nigeria (ALTON), Gbenga Adebayo said the matter had been de-escalated.

He said, "The matter has been de-escalated. Money has been paid, and we are making progress thanks to the regulators."

The dispute began in 2019 when banks started incurring charges for using USSD services provided by telecom companies. However, many banks struggled to settle the charges,

causing the debt to accumulate.

This enforcement is part of the first phase of a structured payment plan outlined in a December 20, 2024 memo from the NCC and the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The memo details a three-phase payment obligation for banks to settle the N250bn debt, with specific deadlines for each phase.

The first phase requires banks to settle 60 per cent of all outstanding pre-API invoices by January 2, 2025.

The second phase mandates the full payment of all pre-API invoices by July 2, 2025. Finally, the third phase requires banks to settle 85 per cent of post-API invoices by December 31, 2025.

Ogun govt suspends monarch over assault

By Friday Omosola

The Ogun State Government has suspended Oba Abdulsemiu Adewale Ogunjobi, the Olorile of Orile-Ifo, for six months over conduct deemed unbefitting of a traditional ruler.

In a statement on Monday, the Special Adviser to Governor Dapo Abiodun on Communication and Strategy, Kayode Akinmade, stated that the suspension was necessary to uphold human dignity and preserve the sanctity of the revered traditional institution.

According to The New Daily Prime, the monarch was captured in a viral video assaulting Chief Arinola Abraham Love.

READ ALSO: Ogun govt suspends



teacher, queries principal over pupil's death

Following the incident, both the monarch and his victim were invited for questioning by the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy

Affairs.

The suspension was deemed imperative due to the king's reckless utterances and public misconduct, which were widely circulated on social media and in public discourse.

After a thorough investigation, the monarch was suspended and stripped of the paraphernalia of the Olorile-Ifo stool pending the determination of his culpability in the matter.

The decision was made by the Ministry in collaboration with the Egba Traditional Council, per Section 52(1) of the Obas and Chiefs' Law of Ogun State, 2021.

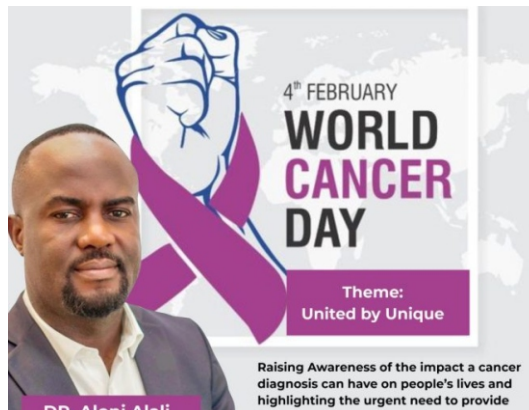
World Cancer Day: APHPN demands united action to combat rising cases

By Helen Okechukwu

Concerning the rise in cancer cases, the Rivers State chapter of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) has called for collective approaches to tackle the leading cause of death globally.

Marking the 2025 World Cancer Day, themed "United by Unique," the state APHPN Chairman, Dr. Aloni Alali, through a statement signed by the Assistant Secretary, Dr. Siene Orogun, highlighted the need to provide essential healthcare services to cancer patients as the fight continues.

In a call for partnership among healthcare providers, researchers, policymakers, and communities, he noted that cancer, being a complex disease, can be tackled when its



causes and risk factors are well understood.

He attributed the causes of cancer to a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors, such as exposure to carcinogens (substances that promote cancer), including tobacco smoke, radiation, and certain chemicals.

"In addition to these factors, infectious agents such as certain

viruses and bacteria can contribute to cancer risk. For example, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is associated with cervical cancer, while Hepatitis B and C viruses can increase the risk of liver cancer," he noted.

Serving as a day for creating awareness, the chairman mentioned that other preventive methods include public health initiatives, education, and individual lifestyle changes.

"Regular screenings and vaccinations, such as the HPV vaccine, can significantly reduce the incidence of specific cancers. Public awareness campaigns can help educate communities about the importance of early detection and healthy lifestyle choices."

Oyebanji calls for enhanced military cooperation to combat crime

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, has urged the Nigerian Army to strengthen its collaboration with other security agencies in the state to enhance security and eliminate criminal elements.

He made the call on Tuesday while receiving the new Brigade Commander of the 32 Artillery Brigade, Akure, Brigadier-General Justin Ifeanyi, during a courtesy visit to his office in Ado-Ekiti.

Governor Oyebanji emphasised that such cooperation and increased military presence would complement the efforts of other security operatives already active in Ekiti, contributing to a more secure environment.

He commended the existing synergy among security chiefs in the state, which has helped Ekiti maintain its status as the most peaceful state in Nigeria.

Highlighting the continued challenge of sporadic criminal activities, the Governor stressed the need for a united approach to address these issues and eliminate criminal elements.

He noted that while Ekiti enjoys relative peace, it was vital to work together to keep the state safe for its



citizens.

The governor assured Brigadier-General Ifeanyi of the full support of his administration, pledging that the state government would continue to back the Nigerian Army in their efforts to maintain security.

He also praised the army's role in securing the nation, recognizing their sacrifices and commitment to ensuring peace.

“As a government, we are grateful to the Nigerian Army for your gallantry and sacrifices. Without your efforts, the security situation would be far worse. We are happy to have you back, as this is not a new terrain for you.

“Ekiti has been ranked as the most peaceful state, but we still face some criminal challenges. The synergy among all security agencies in the state has been key, and I ask that you continue to strengthen this cooperation,” Governor Oyebanji said.

In response, Brigadier-General Ifeanyi expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and assured the Governor that the Nigerian Army would intensify its efforts to combat crime in the state.

He reaffirmed the army's commitment to maintaining peace and security across Ekiti.

Gunmen kidnap 10 passengers on Ondo highway

By Dave Oludare Oso

Gunmen abducted about 10 passengers along the Owo-Benin highway in Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State on Tuesday.

According to reports, the gunmen attacked the commercial bus the passengers were travelling in and marched them into the bush.

NEW DAILY PRIME gathered that the passengers were on their way from Akwa Ibom to Akure when the incident happened.

An eyewitness, who craved anonymity, disclosed that the driver of the space bus had initially thought that the gunmen were security operatives but only realised that they were criminals when they shot



sporadically into the air.

The source said, "The passengers were kidnapped on the Owo-Ipele road on Saturday morning at about midnight. Their vehicles were stopped, and they were dragged into the bush to an unknown destination.

"The hoodlums ambushed them and whisked all the occupants of the vehicle into the bush. All the occupants of the vehicle were abducted and nobody heard anything about them since then."

However, the police image maker in the state, Funmilayo Odunlami, stated only seven people were kidnapped.

"The police received information that a vehicle was attacked along the Owo/Ifon road, and seven people were suspected to have been abducted.

"Seven travellers were involved; they were coming from Akwa Ibom State in a commercial bus. Our men are already making efforts to rescue the victims from the kidnapers and arrest the perpetrators."

Ogun monarch lands in court for assaulting 73-yr-old man

By Dave Oludare Oso

Suspended Olorile of Orile-Ifo, Ogun State, Oba Abdulsemiu Ogunjobi has been charged to court by the Nigeria Police Force for assaulting and dehumanising an elderly man, Areola Abraham.

Confirming the development in a statement issued on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Muyiwa Adejobi, Force Public Relations Officer (PRO) said, "The Kabiyesi Abdulsemiu Ogunjobi, who assaulted one elderly man in a viral video, in Ifo Ogun State, has been charged to court today 4th February 2025, on a three-count charge of conspiracy, assault and conduct likely to cause breach of peace.

"He was granted bail while the case was adjourned to 06/03/2025. The police will continue to uphold the rule of law and the core values of the noble profession."



Oba Ogunjobi had sparked outrage after a viral video surfaced showing him verbally and physically assaulting 73-year-old Areola.

In the footage, some men with Ogunjobi were seen slapping the septuagenarian and forcing him to kneel and prostrate.

Following this, the Ogun State Government, in a bid to ensure the dignity of individuals and protect the sanctity of

the traditional institution, placed the monarch on a six-month suspension for his uncivil conduct, adding that it does not befit the status of an Oba.

This was contained in a statement signed by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Communication and Strategy, Kayode Akinmade, on Monday.

NEW DAILY PRIME reported earlier that the Ogun Police Command grilled the embattled Olorile of Orile Ifo, Oba.

Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP), Omolola Odutola, the Police Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Police Command, confirmed this, saying the Command condemns any form of assault, harassment and violence regardless of the individuals involved.

CSP Odutola added that the command would ensure that justice is served.

Kaduna Assembly recommends investigation, prosecution of El-Rufai over alleged N423bn fraud

By Alade Adisa

The committee set up by the Kaduna State House of Assembly to probe the administration of former Governor Nasir el-Rufai has recommended an investigation and possible prosecution of the former governor over alleged ₦423 billion fraud.

According to the committee's report, sighted by New Daily Prime, it also recommended an investigation and possible prosecution of all Commissioners for Finance who served during el-Rufai's eight-year tenure as governor.

Other individuals recommended for investigation and possible prosecution include those who served as Chairmen of the Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) from 2015 to 2023, as well as Muyiwa Adekeye, the Special Adviser on Media and Communication to the former governor, among others.

The committee further recommended the recovery of over ₦120 billion from various financial institutions.

The report stated that evidence uncovered multiple cases of corruption in the administration of Kaduna State from May 29, 2015, to May 29, 2023. Based on its findings, the committee made the following key recommendations:

The Kaduna Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) should withdraw the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) Account domiciled at Zenith Bank, which was used as security for a ₦20 billion loan guarantee in 2023. The bank should also refund all illegally deducted funds, along with accrued interest.

All Commissioners of Finance from May 29, 2015, to May 29, 2023, should be referred to appropriate law enforcement



agencies for thorough investigation.

All Accountant Generals of Kaduna State from 2015 to 2023 should be investigated by law enforcement agencies.

All Chairmen of Kaduna State Internal Revenue Service (KADIRS) from 2018 to 2023 should be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agencies for thorough investigation.

The current Commissioner of Finance should step aside to allow for a proper investigation into the Ministry of Finance's activities from 2015 to 2023.

The current Chairman of the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) should step aside to facilitate a thorough investigation into the board's operations during the same period.

The current Executive Secretary of the State Pension Bureau should also step aside to allow for a full investigation into the bureau's financial activities.

The Managing Directors of the Kaduna Market Development and Management Company Ltd from 2015 to 2023 should be referred to law enforcement agencies for an investigation into their handling of the company's affairs.

The coordinator of Kaduna State's Irrigation Program for Wheat Cultivation in Ruwan Sanyi, Kubau Local Government Area in 2016 should be investigated.

Dolapo Popoola, the former Managing Director of ALL KAPSCO, whose

whereabouts are unknown, should be investigated regarding her handling of the company's affairs and be compelled to return all government properties in her possession.

Muyiwa Adekeye, former Special Adviser on Media and Communication, should be investigated over alleged involvement in contract irregularities at Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC).

Managing Directors of Kaduna Roads Agency (KADRA) from October 11, 2017, to November 2021, excluding Engineer Amina Ja'afar Ladan, should be investigated for their role in the award and poor execution of contracts. Additionally, senior management staff should be redeployed to other ministries. All domestic and foreign loans obtained by Kaduna State between 2015 and 2023, which were allegedly acquired without due process, should not be considered binding on the state. The government is advised to stop honoring any obligations related to these loans.

The committee recommended that contractors who received payment for unexecuted projects, overpayments, or fund diversions should refund ₦36,351,126,811.65 to the Kaduna State Government. The companies involved include:

Kano gov inaugurates new officials for Sharia, Zakkat, Hubusi commissions

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

The Governor of Kano State, Abba Yusuf, on Monday inaugurated the new Chairmen, Commissioners, and members of the Sharia, Zakkat, and Hubusi Commissions in a move aimed at further strengthening the state's Islamic governance framework.

The announcement was made public in a statement from the governor's spokesperson, Sanusi DawakinTofa, on Tuesday.

During the inauguration, Governor Yusuf highlighted the influential role of Kano in the Islamic world, noting the state's numerous renowned scholars, Islamiyya schools, and Islamic study centres.

He reaffirmed the importance of these commissions in maintaining the state's Islamic values and improving the well-being of its people.

The governor emphasised that the appointees were chosen based on merit, competence, and trustworthiness, and expressed his confidence in their ability to carry out their duties with dedication, enthusiasm, and integrity.

Yusuf outlined specific responsibilities for each commission. He tasked the Sharia Commission with fostering unity among Muslim faithful of all sects to promote peace, stability, and socio-economic development in Kano.

In addition, the Zakkat and Hubusi Commissions were given the responsibility of developing effective



strategies for collecting alms (Zakkat) from wealthy individuals, aiming to support the less privileged and reduce poverty to the minimum.

Sharia Commission Appointments

The newly appointed Sharia Commission is chaired by Sheikh Abbas Abubakar Daneji, with Malam Yahaya Gwani Hadi and Sheikh Ali Dan Abba serving as Permanent Commissioners I and II, respectively.

Other members of the commission include Malam Abubakar Mai Ashafa, Malam Naziru Saminu Dorayi, Sheikh Mukhtar Mama, Sheikh Ibrahim Inuwa, Malam Adamu Ibrahim, Alhaji Abubakar Sharif Bala, Alhaji Yawale Suleiman Gulu, Malam Aliyu Umar, Alhaji Muhammad Kabir Na'bi, and Malam Nasiru Sheikh Aliyu Harazimi. Sheikh Dr. Sani Ashir will serve as the Secretary.

Zakkat and Hubusi Commission Appointments

The Zakkat and Hubusi Commission

will be chaired by Barrister Habibu Dan Almajiri, with Sheikh Nafi'u Umar Harazami and Dr. Ali Quraish appointed as Permanent Commissioners I and II, respectively.

Other members of the commission include Malam Yahaya Muhammad Kwana Hudu, Sheikh Hassan Sani Kafinga, Sheikh Arabi Tudun Nufawa, Malam Sani Sharif Umar, Professor Garba Muhammadu Tofa, Malam Adamu Muhammadu Andawo, Malam Surajo Usman, Sheikh Adamu Guda, Malam Inuwa Mustapha, Malam Nura Badamasi, Malam Abdullahi Sarkin Sharifai, and a representative from the Kano State Civil Service Commission.

Governor Yusuf expressed his strong belief that the newly inaugurated officials would carry out their responsibilities diligently and contribute to the advancement of Islamic governance and social welfare in Kano.

He also underscored the importance of their roles in tackling poverty and ensuring social justice across the state.

'A danger to society': Man jailed for 15 years for raping woman after climbing in bedroom window

By Fiona Ferguson

Edmund O'Sullivan had been released just 10 days prior to the incident following the stabbing of another woman in her apartment

'A danger to society': Man jailed for 15 years for raping woman after climbing in bedroom window

A man who raped, stabbed and beat a stranger after climbing in her bedroom window as she slept had been released from prison just 10 days before the incident.

Edmund O'Sullivan (32) was jailed on Tuesday for 15 years with a post release supervision order of eight years after Mr Justice Paul McDermott said "the overall supervision of this man must be closely monitored."

O'Sullivan had been released 10 days earlier from a three-year sentence with the final six months suspended for the stabbing of another woman in her apartment in 2022. He has 108 previous convictions, four of which are for assaults on women.

Mr Justice McDermott noted partly suspended sentences previously failed to ensure any change in O'Sullivan's behaviour and said it was of vital importance he is not left at large and unsupervised in society which could lead to exposing "some future victim to a similar occurrence".

He said it was hugely important "these matters are addressed by those who have his custody to offer some measure of protection against further violence, particularly against women."



O'Sullivan of no fixed abode, and originally from Cork pleaded guilty at the Central Criminal Court to rape, anal rape and making threats to kill or cause serious harm to a woman at her apartment in Tralee, Co Kerry on March 14th, 2024.

He was sleeping rough in Tralee at the time.

In her victim impact statement the young woman, who was described in court as exceptionally traumatised, outlined how she continues to fight to rebuild her life but part of her has been irrevocably changed.

"I did nothing to deserve this, but I was left bloodied, broken and violated," she told the court.

She said she does not believe for one minute that O'Sullivan regrets his actions and is only sorry he was caught. She said she cannot stress enough that O'Sullivan is "a danger to society".

The woman said she prays justice is served not just for herself but for the

safety of other women he might seek to harm.

She outlined how she had fought for her life after awaking to find a scissors at her neck and a man shouting at her to have sex. She said the image was burned into her mind and plays over in her head.

The court heard O'Sullivan stabbed her repeatedly to her face, head and arm and the woman also sustained puncture wounds to her hands.

She said the scars she has been left with are a constant reminder of how close she came to dying.

Mr Justice McDermott said O'Sullivan's history of violence towards women was worrying.

The judge noted from the woman's victim impact statement she "believed with every fibre in her being that if she had not fought back she would not be here today but she said the cost of surviving has been immense".

US Diplomatic Mission, NGO train teachers on emergency skills

By Helen Okechukwu

A non-profit organisation, Health Emergency Initiative (HEI), in partnership with the United States (U.S.) Diplomatic Mission, has commenced the first phase of training secondary school teachers across various school districts.

The training, which commenced on Monday at the America Corners, Ikeja, Lagos State, has a five-year approval from the state Ministry of Education to integrate emergency response skills into the secondary school curriculum.

Targeting over 1,000 teachers within 90 days, the organisation seeks to train 50 teachers across six education districts, respectively, with the basic skills on emergency response skills under the Train-the-Trainer (TOT) model to ensure community and student safety.

While emphasising the need for creating awareness on emergency response, the Executive Director and Founder of HEI, Pascal Achunine, explained that over 80% of the population lacks the knowledge to handle emergencies.

Achunine said, “This program will train teachers, who will in turn train thousands of students and others in their communities,” while highlighting that the first phase is supported by LFR International USA, focusing on Lagos and Rivers State.

It was disclosed that over 126,000 individuals have been trained under the organisation, including students, teachers, police officers, and emergency personnel.



The Ashoka Fellow underscored the interest they received from government agencies and corporate organisations, with the belief to be known and supported globally.

Achunine said, “We are not just teaching theory; we are building a culture of saving lives.

Dr. Abigail Mkporedem, the chair trainer, highlighted the importance of inculcating the basic knowledge in educators, describing teachers as carers and most at times be the first to notice any health issues on children before their parents.

“By equipping them with emergency skills, we enhance their ability to respond effectively,” she acknowledged.

At the training, participants learnt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), first aid for burns, choking, seizures, bleeding, and heart attacks resuscitation.

Other responses were taught to manage

emergencies efficiently, including the Dr. ABC emergency response method—Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, and Circulation.

While commending the organisers for this initiative, Adeoti Samuel, a Physical and Health Education teacher from Lagos Education District 4, explained the training has inspired and refreshed his knowledge to implement practical sessions for his students.

“The goal is to ensure they can apply these skills in real-life situations,” he explained.

A teacher from District 5, Taiwo Adebisi, explained the importance of the knowledge obtained during the burn care lesson.

Adebisi narrates, “I used to believe in traditional remedies like applying toothpaste on burns, but now I know the correct procedure—running clean water over the burn instead.

Uganda launches Ebola vaccine trial to combat rising cases

By Helen Okechukwu

Following the confirmation of an Ebola outbreak in Uganda, the nation has begun its first-ever vaccine trial after one person died and 40 contacts were placed under surveillance.

It was reported by New Daily Prime that a 34-year-old nurse died from the Sudan species of the virus last week.

The virus was detected on January 30.

The vaccine, donated by the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), a global non-profit organization, was administered to isolated individuals on Monday.

Working tirelessly for four-day, with support from the World Health Organization (WHO) and other partners, principal investigators from Makerere University and the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) made the vaccine available for trials to assess its efficacy.

Although there are no approved drugs for the Sudan species of the virus currently, a vaccine for the Zaïre species was previously used in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Read Also: NCDC DG assured Nigeria Ebola-free, heightened surveillance

Describing the achievement in combating the outbreak, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus commended health workers in Uganda and other partners for their efforts in making the trial vaccine available.

“The speed was achieved through advanced research preparedness while ensuring full compliance with national and international regulatory and ethical requirements,” the statement noted.

Uganda is experiencing its sixth outbreak since the first one in 2000.

Meanwhile, 40 contacts of the

initial victims will be vaccinated in the first phase of the rollout.

About 234 contacts have been listed for monitoring by Uganda’s health ministry. Over the weekend, the first dose of the vaccine arrived in Kampala on Monday after training was completed.

“If the candidate vaccine is effective, it can contribute to controlling this outbreak and generate data for vaccine licensure,” the document stated.

Ebola is a deadly disease transmitted through contact with an infected person such as vomit, feces, blood, and other body fluids. It has an incubation period of 2 to 21 days, followed by severe symptoms.

AAN calls FG to integrate skin cancer treatment into NHIS

By Helen Okechukwu

Marking World Cancer Day 2025 today and the loss of three albinos a few days ago, the Albinism Association of Nigeria (AAN) has urged the Federal Government (FG) to include free skin cancer treatment in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) to prevent a high mortality rate.

Appealing to the FG, the President of AAN, Dr. Bisi Bamishe, explained the impact of this crisis on the community of persons with albinism and called for adequate access to medical attention and preventive measures, including the incorporation of dermatological check-ups into the health insurance scheme.

The call to action aligns with the global theme for World Cancer Day 2025, “United by Unique.”

She called for the FG’s intervention in addressing the alarming death rate witnessed in the community due to a lack of melanin and prolonged exposure to sunlight, which poses a significant health risk, particularly skin cancer.

She highlighted the exorbitant cost of treatment due to the absence of structured government intervention, bringing them to a state of desperation. She revealed that a lack of intervention would lead to a high mortality rate.

Explaining their efforts in creating awareness of the plight of the community and underscoring the consequences, she said:

“Our people are dying in silence, with little to no awareness of the immense health challenges we endure, particularly the devastating impact of



skin cancer. Some lie helpless in hospitals, while others struggle in their homes without access to proper medical care or hope for survival.”

“Today, as the world observes World Cancer Day 2025 under the theme ‘United by Unique,’ we seize this moment to amplify the voices of persons with albinism in Nigeria.”

She called for collective collaboration from the FG and other key stakeholders to join in the fight against skin cancer and address the global cancer burden.

Speaking on the urgent need for intervention, Bamishe highlighted the association’s advocacy for legislative support and policy implementation to tackle these critical health concerns.

She stressed the necessity of dedicated budgetary allocations for skin cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment, ensuring that persons with albinism receive the medical attention they deserve.

Beyond government intervention, AAN is actively seeking partnerships

with global health organizations, donor agencies, and research institutions to develop sustainable solutions that will improve the quality of life for persons with albinism.

Bamishe further emphasized the importance of nationwide educational campaigns to raise awareness about early detection, preventive measures, and available treatment options.

“The lives of our community members are precious, and we cannot afford to remain passive in the face of this growing crisis,” she stated. “We stand united by unique challenges, but we also believe in the collective power of government intervention, public support, and global solidarity to change the narrative for persons with albinism in Nigeria.”

“On this World Cancer Day 2025, we call on leaders, policymakers, health professionals, civil society organizations, corporate bodies, and individuals to take immediate action. The time to act is now.”

Bamishe also acknowledged the efforts of some state governments and NGOs in supporting the albinism community. She particularly commended the Lagos State Government for its significant contributions, revealing that over N20 million had been spent on skin cancer patients in the past two years. She urged others to follow suit.

Additionally, the state has provided essential items such as sunscreen, hats, and umbrellas to help protect persons with albinism from excessive sun exposure.

While Democrats sleep

By Edward Luce

Donald Trump is making good on his threats. Giving Elon Musk plenipotentiary powers, driving a cyber truck through the US constitution, threatening allies with economic war, blaming DEI for the country's worst air crash in years and obliterating America's aid agency are just a sample of moves in his opening fortnight. Trump is burning America's rule book. If he carries on like this, Democrats will have no choice but to send him a strongly worded letter.

To claim that America's minority party is too punch drunk to get its act together would be charitable. None of Trump's moves should come as a surprise. He is "flooding the zone" like he did in 2017. For years, he has been insisting that America's system is rotten. Now he is putting a torch to it. Aside from the markets, which still have trouble processing that Trump means what he says, Democrats stand exposed as complacent.

Not being parliamentary, the US lacks an opposition leader to spearhead the fightback. The system's closest approximation, Chuck Schumer, the Senate minority leader, is following the rules of a vanished age. Democrats could have blocked confirmation hearings for Trump nominees — many of whom would have been laughed out of the chamber in that bygone era. A single Republican, Alabama's Tommy Tuberville, froze all of Joe Biden's military appointments for almost all of 2023. But Democrats are following regular order.

They are also invisible to the American public. Hours after being sworn in, Trump issued a blanket pardon for around 1,500 people convicted of storming Capitol Hill four years ago and commutation for the 14 hardcore felons. Eight days later Democratic leaders held a press conference to condemn Trump's move. The pardons were a green light to future assaults on US democracy — including the one that Schumer could have argued was happening now. Democrats should have said as much that very day.



It is not as if Schumer is being outshone by colleagues. A few days after Trump's inauguration, Hakeem Jeffries, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, posted: "Presidents come and Presidents go. Through it all. God is still on the throne." That is as may be. But fatalism has no track record of stopping revolutions.

Do not look to the Democratic National Committee either. Last weekend the DNC elected a new chair, Ken Martin, a Minnesota party official. But the hustings were noticed because of the outgoing chair Jaime Harrison's plea that they reserve a place for a non-binary Democrat on its seven-member committee. Delegates also acknowledged that America is built on indigenous land. Words like "string quartet" and "Titanic" come to mind.

Were all things still equal, Schumer's approach would seem reasonable. His view is that Democrats should separate the signal from the noise. An example of this would be fighting tooth and nail to stop Trump from occupying the Panama Canal Zone but ignoring his renaming of the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America. Schumer recently predicted that "Trump will screw up". Republicans would then lose the 2026 midterm elections and Trump then become a lame duck.

Schumer's playbook is the 2006

Democratic midterm sweep just two years after George W Bush was re-elected. Barack Obama's presidential launch came three months later. The hope is that Democrats can pull off a similar rebound now. But Trump is not Bush Junior. He is not even Trump 1.0. They say always pick your battles. Yet Democrats seem to overlook that they are in a full-blown war. Assuming that they will fight the next election on a level playing field is an act of faith. Trump has been in office for two weeks. There are 21 months until the midterms.

What, therefore, should Democrats be doing? Many argue their best course is to sound the alarm when merited and hope that, on top of Trump's own incompetence, he will be constrained by court rulings and market corrections. Here is another view. Congress is sidelined. The one person whose powers the Senate ought to adjudicate is Musk. The gigatycoon has seized control of the federal payments system and the country's personal data. He has no legal basis to do so.

Where in the constitution does it say that the unelected richest man in America gets to decide which programmes live or die, who to hire and fire, and what contracts to revoke? An alert opposition would ask: "Who elected Elon Musk?" It seems an act of will not to make that a rallying cry. When life gives you a Bond villain, make Bond-villain lemonade.

Met Gala 2025 dress code, Tailored For You, boasts elevating the Black style

By Eytayo Jemimah Ajayi

Last year's Met Gala was a runway of dreams with its dress code as the Garden of Time. However for the Met Gala 2025, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has announced the dress code for the event in May: "Tailored for You."

This dress code celebrates the accompanying exhibit, "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style," which focuses on suiting and menswear, particularly Black menswear over the centuries.

André Leon Talley 5th Avenue, Arthur Elgort (American, born 1940), 1986; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, The Irene Lewisohn Costume Reference Library.

This marks the first Met Gala exhibit in over 20 years dedicated solely to menswear.

We're expecting to see variations of different suited up styles on celebrities during the Met Gala 2025! La fiesta de la suit.

In addition to previously announced hosts for Met Gala 2025, Pharrell Williams, Lewis Hamilton, Colman Domingo, A\$AP Rocky, and LeBron James (along with Vogue's Anna Wintour), the Met has revived its "host committee" tradition.

This year's committee boasts a star-studded lineup including athletes Simone Biles and Jonathan Owens, Angel Reese and Sha'Carri Richardson; filmmakers Spike Lee, Tonya Lewis Lee and Regina King; actors Ayo Edebiri, Audra McDonald



and Jeremy Pope; musicians Doechii, Usher, Tyla, Janelle Monáe and André 3000; including our very own Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; artists Jordan Casteel, Rashid Johnson and Kara Walker; playwrights Jeremy O. Harris and Branden Jacobs-Jenkins; and fashion figures Grace Wales Bonner, Edward Enninful, Dapper Dan and Olivier Rousteing.

Celebrity chef Kwame Onwuachi will curate the gala menu. This major fundraiser for the Costume Institute, which raised over \$26 million last year, also serves as the launch for the spring exhibit. "Superfine: Tailoring Black Style," inspired by Monica L. Miller's book, "Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity," will run for an extended six months.

Usher commented that the theme is timely and celebrates Black culture. Richardson added that style is more than clothing; it's about presence and storytelling.

The exhibit explores Black style from the 18th century to today through the lens of dandyism. Miller and Andrew Bolton, the exhibit's curators, explained that dandyism has historically ranged from precise tailoring to flamboyance.

The show will specifically highlight Black dandyism and how Black individuals have used fashion to shape their identities. Artist Torkwase Dyson will contribute sculptural "architectural zones," and Iké Udé will curate a section on Julius Soubise, an early Black dandy.

The exhibit, running from May 10 to October 26, 2025, will be divided into 12 sections exploring different facets of the dandy aesthetic, including Ownership, Presence, and Freedom. Other contributing artists include Tanda Francis and Tyler Mitchell.

Story Credit: Vogue

Saraki celebrates son's first Grammy win

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Former Nigerian Senate President Bukola Saraki has extended heartfelt congratulations to his son, Seni Saraki, on winning his very first Grammy Award.

Seni received the honor for his role in producing the soundtrack for Bob Marley: One Love, which won Best Reggae Album at the 67th Annual Grammy Awards.

Saraki shared his excitement on social media, expressing pride in his son's achievement. "Congratulations, Seni, on winning your first Grammy last night for your work on the Bob Marley: One Love soundtrack! Seeing you pour your heart into your passion and having it recognized on the global stage is an indescribable joy. Well done! We are super proud of you!" he wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

Seni Saraki expresses gratitude Seni, a key figure in the music industry, also shared his gratitude. He thanked the talented artists and producers who contributed to the project, including Nigerian musicians Wizkid and Bloody Civilian. He praised their creativity and courage in reinterpreting Bob



Marley's legendary songs with a fresh perspective.

Arising career in music

This Grammy win marks another milestone in Seni's rising career. He previously worked as a music consultant on the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever soundtrack, which earned four Grammy nominations in 2023. His influence in the industry continues to grow, especially as the CEO of The Native, a Lagos-based music magazine that promotes African sounds and culture.

Honoring Bob Marley's legacy

The Bob Marley: One Love soundtrack is part of a highly anticipated biographical film about the reggae legend. The movie explores Bob Marley's life, his

struggles, and the revolutionary music that inspired generations worldwide.

Nigerian creatives on the global stage

With this Grammy win, Seni Saraki cements his place as a force in the global music industry, bridging African and international sounds. His success highlights the growing impact of Nigerian creatives in the global entertainment scene. It also underscores the importance of preserving and reimagining legendary music for new audiences.

As Seni continues to push boundaries, his journey serves as an inspiration for aspiring artists and producers across Africa and beyond.

Child's first enemy is an unhealed parent

— Yomi Fabiyi By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Actor and filmmaker Yomi Fabiyi has highlighted the lasting effects unhealed parents can have on their children, emphasizing the need for emotional healing.

In a recent Instagram post, Fabiyi made a striking statement, emphasizing that a child's most significant adversary often comes in the form of a parent who has unresolved emotional wounds.

Toxic behaviors driven by emotional wounds

Fabiyi, known for his candidness, discussed how these unresolved issues can lead some parents down a destructive path.

When parents carry emotional scars from past experiences, their behavior often becomes toxic, whether intentional or not.

These wounds manifest in harmful actions, such as lies, manipulation, and cruelty, which can deeply affect their children's emotional and mental health.

"A child's first enemy is an unhealed parent. Some parents are enemies of their children. They engage in terrible lies, blackmail, and dirty wickedness in their favor at the expense of their children. Children beware," Fabiyi warned. His words are a powerful reminder of the responsibility parents have in healing and addressing their issues before passing them on to their children.

Lasting effects on children's emotional health

According to Fabiyi, the impact of a parent's emotional baggage is profound. The damage caused by unhealed parents can leave lasting scars on children, sometimes affecting their self-esteem, trust in others, and overall outlook on life.

These negative influences may be subtle, but their effects are often far-reaching,



and in some cases, they can shape the child's future in damaging ways.

The importance of parental healing

While Fabiyi's comments are not meant to vilify parents, they underscore the importance of personal growth and healing.

He stresses that parents must prioritize their emotional well-being to ensure they do not inadvertently harm their children.

The message is clear: healing begins within the individual, and only through self-care and emotional growth can a parent truly support their child in a healthy way.

A wake-up call for parents

The concept of "unhealed parents" is not new, but Fabiyi's approach is a stark reminder of its relevance. The emotional health of parents plays a direct role in the development of their children.

When a parent is emotionally unwell, they are less likely to provide the nurturing, love, and support that every child needs. Instead, they may project their pain onto their children, leading to

toxic dynamics that can take years to undo.

Behaviors to watch out for

Furthermore, Fabiyi's post raises awareness about the types of behaviors that can damage a child's mental and emotional well-being.

Lying, manipulation, and cruelty are just a few examples of how a parent's unresolved issues can negatively impact their child. These actions can create confusion, mistrust, and anxiety, all of which can affect a child's ability to form healthy relationships in the future.

Conclusion: Healing begins with parents

In conclusion, Yomi Fabiyi's Instagram post serves as a wake-up call for parents to take accountability for their emotional health.

It is a call for individuals to seek healing before they pass down their unresolved issues to their children.

Only when parents acknowledge their own pain and work toward healing can they truly provide the love and guidance that their children deserve.

I'm now cautious about my interactions, professional endeavours – Tonto Dikeh

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nollywood actress and politician Tonto Dikeh has opened up about how maturity has reshaped her approach to life, relationships, and career.

She shared her thoughts in a recent Instagram post, emphasizing the importance of caution in both personal and professional matters.

Dikeh, known for her bold personality and outspoken nature, admitted that growing older has changed her perspective.

She now values wisdom and careful decision-making more than ever. While she still trusts her instincts, she has learned to be more mindful of how she interacts with others and how she navigates her career.

A shift in perspective

Over the years, Dikeh has been a controversial figure in the entertainment industry. From public feuds to social activism, she has remained in the spotlight for various reasons. However, she now approaches situations with greater wisdom and restraint.

In her Instagram post, she acknowledged that maturity has influenced her ability to assess situations with a discerning eye. She no longer rushes into decisions or engagements without careful thought. Instead, she listens to advice and applies caution when necessary.

“As I mature, I’ve become more attentive to advise about exercising caution in my interactions and professional endeavours,” she wrote. “While I still maintain a discerning



perspective, I now place greater value on such counsel, remaining vigilant in my engagements.”

Learning from experience

Dikeh’s journey in Nollywood and politics has been eventful. From starring in blockbuster movies to making headlines for her political aspirations, she has experienced both success and challenges. She has faced criticism, controversies, and personal struggles, yet she continues to evolve.

Her latest reflection suggests that past experiences have played a role in shaping her new mindset. Learning from mistakes and setbacks, she now prioritizes wisdom and discretion. Rather than reacting impulsively, she takes time to evaluate situations before making decisions.

This shift aligns with a growing trend among celebrities who, after years in the limelight, choose to adopt a more private and calculated approach to their careers and personal lives. Dikeh appears to be following this path,

focusing on long-term stability rather than fleeting controversies.

The importance of caution

In the entertainment and political spheres, where scrutiny is constant, maintaining a balance between openness and discretion is crucial. Dikeh’s statement highlights how she has found a middle ground. She remains outspoken and confident but is now more selective about her engagements.

Her words resonate with many who have experienced the impact of growth and maturity. In a world where social media often fuels quick reactions and impulsive decisions, her message serves as a reminder of the value of patience and careful consideration.

Moving forward

As Dikeh continues her journey in both entertainment and politics, her evolving approach will likely influence her choices and public image. Fans and followers have seen different sides of her over the years, from the fiery actress to the determined politician. Now, she appears to be embracing a more measured and thoughtful version of herself.

Her latest revelation suggests that she is entering a new phase—one marked by wisdom, caution, and a deeper understanding of the complexities of life and career. Whether in Nollywood, politics, or personal life, Tonto Dikeh is proving that growth and maturity can bring valuable lessons and positive change.

Park well, all politicians are guilty – Charly Boy slams El-Rufai

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran musician and activist Charly Boy criticizes former Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai over his recent political manoeuvres and decisions.

New Daily Prime reports that El-Rufai's interactions with influential figures from the opposition party have fueled speculation about his allegiance to the All Progressives Congress (APC) and his loyalty to President Bola Tinubu.

Many Nigerians are now questioning whether he remains committed to the ruling party or is considering a shift in political alliances.

El-Rufai's allegations against critics

In response to the growing speculation, El-Rufai recently claimed that some individuals were being paid to defend the current administration. He suggested that political operatives were using social media and public platforms to influence public opinion in favour of the government.

Charly Boy calls out hypocrisy

However, Charly Boy, in a video shared on his verified X account on Tuesday, accused El-Rufai of hypocrisy. He argued that the former governor had engaged in the same political tactics while in office.

“WAKE-UP CALL FOR NAIJA! El-Rufai, pack well biko. No be your yeye agenda you dey pursue?” Charly Boy said, mixing English with Nigerian Pidgin.



The outspoken activist urged Nigerians to be more aware and resist manipulation by politicians. He warned against blindly supporting leaders who use the people for personal or political gain.

A call for political awareness

“From politicians to keyboard warriors and cash-tivists, it's time to wise up!” he declared. “No government is holy, no politician is innocent. We deserve better!”

Charly Boy emphasized the need for unity and real progress rather than deception and political games. “Let's share one love, not manipulation and deceit,” he urged. “It's time to stop letting others use us for their agenda.”

Mixed reactions from Nigerians

His remarks have sparked widespread debate on social media.

Some Nigerians agree with his stance, arguing that politicians frequently exploit the public for their benefit. Others, however, defend El-Rufai, insisting that he has the right to express his views.

Growing frustration with politicians

This latest exchange highlights the increasing dissatisfaction among Nigerians with political leaders and their shifting loyalties. As the country faces economic and social challenges, many believe it is time for politicians to prioritize good governance over personal ambition.

Charly Boy, known for his activism and outspoken nature, continues to use his platform to challenge political figures. Whether his message will inspire meaningful change remains to be seen, but his call for greater political awareness is resonating with many.

Grammy not real, voting system rigged – Eminem

By Dave Oludare Oso

...Tells Grammy to never invite or nominate him again



Legendary American rapper, songwriter, and record producer, Marshall Bruce Mathers III, known professionally as Eminem (often stylized as EMINEM), has berated the prestigious Grammy Awards, stressing that the award vote is not a real vote.

The 67th Grammy Awards took place on Sunday, January 2, 2025, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, USA, despite the recent wildfires that ravaged parts of the city.

However, reacting to the event in an interview making the rounds online, Eminem asserts that the prestigious award is not a professional one as

they only give award to those who they want.

He further said that if he lost his Grammy Award to Kanye West, he will understand as the person has a huge following and by extension has a massive impact on music.

Eminem claimed that Grammy Awards organisers would nominate people like him among other prominent artistes mainly to sell their market and give the award to less prominent persons.

Expressing his anger, Eminem tells Grammy never to invite or nominate him again, noting that his answer will be a “No” in the next 100 million years.

He posted; “That vote is fake as fuck, that is not a real vote, they give it to who they want to give it to. If I lose to fucking Kanye or someone like that, I’m like okay. I respect that I know who that is, and Kanye has a huge following. He has made a massive impact on music, but don’t fucking get us all here to use as your selling point for your fucking show and stiff everybody every single fucking time.

”Don’t ever ask me to fucking come here again, please do not ask me. My answer is No, for 100 million years. Never again will I fucking go to the Grammy.”

Director sentenced for sexually assaulting actress Adèle

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

French film director Christophe Ruggia was convicted Monday of sexually assaulting actress Adèle Haenel when she was a minor.

This ruling marks a significant moment in the #MeToo movement in France, as the case is viewed as a key landmark in the fight against sexual abuse in the film industry.

Ruggia, 60, was sentenced to two years of house arrest, with an electronic bracelet monitoring his movements. In addition, he received a two-year suspended sentence.

The court ruled that Ruggia had taken advantage of his position of power over Haenel, which allowed him to manipulate and exploit her over a prolonged period.

Court details the abuse

According to the court's statement, Ruggia "abused his dominant position" during regular meetings with Haenel, which occurred almost weekly for over three years.

These meetings took place in his home, where the director subjected Haenel to sexualized behaviour and gestures.

Over time, the actress was "gradually isolated" from her friends and family, further deepening the abuse's impact.

Despite the ruling, the director continues to deny any wrongdoing. His defence team maintains that the relationship between the two was consensual, a claim that was rejected by the court.

Haenel's pioneering accusations

Haenel, now 35, made history in 2019 when she became one of the first prominent French actresses to publicly accuse a figure in the film industry of sexual abuse.



Her decision to speak out came shortly after the global #MeToo movement gained momentum. Haenel accused the film director of repeatedly touching her inappropriately during and after filming the 2002 movie *Les Diables* (The Devils).

She claimed these actions occurred both on and off-set, deeply affecting her emotional well-being.

At the time, Adèle's revelations sent shockwaves through the French film community. Many had long turned a blind eye to the prevalence of sexual misconduct in the industry, and Haenel's courageous testimony helped bring the issue to light.

A moment of relief and applause

As the court read out the verdict on Monday, Adèle appeared visibly relieved. She took deep breaths, a sign of the emotional toll the case had taken on her over the years.

When the trial concluded, she was met

with applause from several women's rights activists who had been present in the courtroom.

They celebrated her bravery in bringing the issue to public attention and her determination to seek justice.

A landmark victory for justice

This conviction is not only a victory for Haenel but also a significant step forward in France's ongoing struggle to hold powerful figures accountable for sexual abuse.

The case has drawn widespread attention to the issue of sexual violence within the French film industry, where many women have historically faced harassment but lacked the courage or support to come forward.

A symbol of hope for change

The outcome of this trial serves as a reminder of the importance of speaking out against abuse, no matter how powerful the perpetrator may be.

Trump signs executive order to withdraw US from UN human rights council

By Michael Damilola



The President of the United States, Donald Trump, has signed an executive order withdrawing the United States from the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council.

As part of the order signed by Trump on Tuesday, the United States will also withdraw from the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The U.S. was UNRWA's largest donor, contributing nearly \$500 million annually.

Additionally, the president has directed a review of American involvement in the United Nations

Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

"I have always believed that the UN has tremendous potential, but it is not living up to it. The UN needs to be fair to countries that deserve fairness," Trump stated.

Upon taking office on January 20, Trump signed several executive orders, including the withdrawal of the U.S. from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

According to New Daily Prime, the WHO expressed regret over the U.S. decision to withdraw from the global health body, urging the nation to reconsider.

"We hope the United States will reconsider and look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue to maintain this partnership for the benefit of the health and well-being of millions of people around the world," the WHO said.

In January 2024, former President Joe Biden suspended funding to UNRWA after Israel accused nearly 12 UNRWA staff members of participating in the Hamas attack that triggered the war in Gaza.

As a result, Congress formally halted contributions to the agency until at least March 2025.

Gym owner who sexually assaulted woman, filmed others, can resume work on release

By Conor Lally

Rape Crisis Ireland says case of Shane Flynn is ‘wake-up call’ on gaps in regulations for ‘predatory’ sex offenders

A personal trainer who operated a Midlands gym and rehabilitation centre, where he sexually assaulted a woman and secretly recorded dozens of others, will be able to resume the same work on release from prison despite being on the sex offenders register.

Rape Crisis Ireland (RCI) believes this represents a failure in how the sex offenders register operates. Its executive director, Dr Cliona Saidléar, said the limitations of the register and a lack of regulation meant Shane Flynn (35) could resume his work.

Flynn’s work did not require him to be registered with any accreditation body, meaning he cannot be struck off. As he only worked with adults, rather than children, no vetting procedures apply to his form of work.

Flynn, from Dalystown, Mullingar, owned and ran the NGS Gym & Rehabilitation Clinic in Mullingar. He begged a sentencing judge last month not to be imprisoned as he had just become a father.

Flynn was jailed for two years and four months after he was found guilty of sexually assaulting a woman seeking treatment for chronic back problems in 2021 and for secretly filming dozens of other women topless as he gave them massages. Mullingar Circuit Criminal Court heard 18 hours of video footage on Flynn’s laptop featured 35 women with their breasts exposed. Though none of the recordings involved non-consensual acts, the secret recording of the woman was a crime.

Dr Saidléar said though Flynn was “a



convicted sexual predator” he could return to working with people “in the setting that he sought out, which gave him the opportunities he took to perpetrate those sexual assaults”.

Coru, the State regulator for health workers and social care professionals, had promised to expand its regulatory framework “for decades”, Dr Saidléar added. However, it “continues to fail to signal any sense of urgency or priority to tackling this issue even when faced with devastating consequences such as these”.

The Flynn case was “yet another wake-up call” and RCI hoped new Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeill “can prioritise this work once and for all”.

In reply to queries, the Department of Health said Coru opened its first register, for social workers, in 2011. It had since added an additional 12 registers, regulating 30,000 health and social care professionals. A new framework was also being developed “to guide policy on the regulation of health and social care professionals into the future”.

This would involve a “risk-based assessment of a profession” to determine if statutory regulation was “deemed necessary and proportionate” and what

professions should be assigned to specific regulators.

After his release, Flynn must remain under probation supervision for one year and complete a sexual offending treatment programme. A condition of being on the sex offenders register is that he must notify the Garda of any change of address.

However, even while on the register, he would be free to re-establish himself as self-employed. Garda sources said they strongly suspected Flynn would immediately try to re-establish himself as self-employed in fitness and rehabilitation on release.

One Garda member pointed out Flynn had continued to run his business for more than three years after the criminal investigation into him began, even rebranding the company last year after he had been charged and his trial approached.

“He tried to brazen this out and he’d be a clear contender to do the same again when he gets out,” the source said, with others who deal with the fallout from sexual violence sharing that view.

'LGBT' is over – whether the BBC likes it or not

By Confidence Cletus

Sexuality and gender are two completely different things. So credit to Donald Trump for this return to common sense

No one under the age of 30 will believe me. But when I was a student, all the way back in the late 1990s, my university had an LGB Society.

No, there wasn't a letter missing. That, in full, was the society's name. Because in those days, everyone used to say "LGB". There was no such thing as "LGBT".

So, if you'd knocked on the society's door and asked, "Where's the T?", its members would probably have pointed you down the corridor to the cafe.

And if you'd said, "No, T as in 'transgender'. Why does your sign only say 'LGB'?", they'd probably have replied: "Because LGB stands for 'lesbian, gay and bisexual' – which are all forms of sexuality. Transgenderism, by contrast, has nothing to do with sexuality. It's to do with gender identity, which is something completely different and unrelated. Having a society for 'lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans people', therefore, makes no more sense than having a society for 'lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trainspotters'. Obviously we've got nothing against trainspotters. We're just saying that there's no logical reason for them to be added to the name of our society."

Still, as I say, this was all a terribly long time ago. At some point, in the years since, things changed. Suddenly it was no longer acceptable, anywhere in the English-speaking world, to say "LGB". A "T" had to be added, at all times, to make "LGBT".

Why? The reason is simple. Radical activists forcibly combined the two in a cynical attempt to manufacture public support for gender ideology. Most people already supported gay rights. Now they felt obliged to support both. After all, "LGBT" meant that you couldn't support



one and not the other, didn't it?

Activists reinforced this impression by using the mantra "No LGB without the T", which falsely implied that gay rights were only secured in the first place thanks to the efforts of trans people. In gratitude, gay people were supposed to repay trans people by supporting all of the latter's demands, from the right to undress in women's changing rooms to the right to compete in the women's Olympic weightlifting.

At long last, though, it looks as if "LGBT" is on its way out. Under Donald Trump, the US federal government has formally ceased using the term. The Department of State's website, for example, now provides gay Americans with travel advice under the heading "LGB travellers". Not "LGBT", or "LGBTQIA+". Just "LGB". Since the advice refers specifically to countries where homosexuality is illegal, saying "LGB" is only common sense.

We may have to wait, however, for Britain's elites to move with the times. In our schools, pupils are currently being made to celebrate an event known as "LGBT History Month". A film about the

alleged benefits of cross-sex hormones and chest binders (to help female teenagers look male by strapping down their breasts) will be shown to children as young as 11.

Meanwhile, I suspect it will be quite some time yet before our national broadcaster accepts defeat, and reverts to "LGB". Last month, in a news story on its website about the jailing of a rapist who identifies as "non-binary", the BBC thoughtfully respected the rapist's preferred pronouns, which are "they/them". Apparently, "they" threatened "their" victim, a girl aged 14, with a knife.

The day the BBC stops worrying about hurting the feelings of violent men who rape underage girls, we'll know that sanity has finally been restored.

Adding insult to injury

RIP Tony Martin. At the turn of the century the Norfolk farmer became a cause célèbre after shooting at two burglars, killing one and wounding the other in the leg. Perhaps the most extraordinary aspect of the story, however, emerged later. Because, in 2002, it was reported that Brendan Fearon – the burglar who'd been wounded – planned to sue Martin for "loss of earnings".

Ultimately he dropped the claim. In a way, I think this was a pity – because I'd have loved to hear his argument. What on earth would he have said?

"This leg injury has had a seriously detrimental effect on my income, Your Honour. Because, as a career burglar, it's made it very difficult for me to climb through homeowners' windows. You need to be in good physical nick to break into a house, and the pain in my leg is really holding me back.

"And even if I do manage to struggle in through someone's window, I need the strength to carry off their TV and other valuable goods. These things can be pretty heavy, you know. But what with this nasty

Trump appoints Rubio as acting director of USAID

By Dave Oludare Oso

US President Donald Trump has appointed Secretary of State Marco Rubio as acting administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID), confirming the State Department's de facto takeover of the humanitarian agency.

The news came hours after American tech billionaire, Elon Musk charged with overhauling the federal government, said President Trump had signed off on shutting the agency down.

However, Democrats say that it is not legal for the president to shutter a federal agency without consulting Congress.

The US State Department shared a post on X, stating that a review of USAID foreign assistance activities is underway, with the possibility of reorganization.

This move is aimed at ensuring USAID's activities align with the core national interests of the United States and the "America First" agenda.

According to the Department of State, USAID has strayed from its original mission of advancing American interests abroad, with significant portions of its funding not aligned with US national interests. To address this, President Donald Trump has appointed Secretary Marco Rubio as Acting Administrator of USAID.

"The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has long strayed from its original mission of responsibly advancing American interests abroad, and it is now abundantly clear that significant portions of USAID funding are not



aligned with the core national interests of the United States," US State Department wrote on X.

"As an interim step toward gaining control and better understanding over the agency's activity, President Donald Trump appointed Secretary Marco Rubio as Acting Administrator.

Secretary Rubio has also now notified Congress that a review of USAID's foreign assistance activities is underway with an eye towards potential reorganization," it added.

Further the post said, "As we evaluate USAID and ensure it is in alignment with an America First agenda and the efforts of the State Department, we will continue to protect the American people's interests and ensure their tax dollars are not wasted,"

In a post on X, Musk wrote, "USAID is a criminal organization. Time for it to die."

He made the statement in response to a post which mentioned that USAID senior officials were put on leave after they physically tried to stop Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) officials from accessing agency systems

Musk's statement comes amid mounting reports that US President Donald Trump wants to abolish USAID, an independent federal agency, and fold it into the US State Department, CNN reported.

Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy at the White House, Stephen Miller, has accused USAID's workforce of being overwhelmingly Democrats.

Two top senior officials at the USAID were put on administrative leave on Saturday night after trying to refuse officials from DOGA to access systems at the agency, even after DOGE officials threatened to call law enforcement, CNN reported, citing multiple sources familiar with the matter.

Sources said personnel from DOGE tried to physically access the USAID headquarters in Washington, DC. However, they were stopped from accessing the system. Two of the sources said that the DOGE officials demanded to be allowed in and threatened to call US Marshals to be allowed access, CNN reported.

Shocking study finds human brains have spoonfuls of microplastics

By Dave Oludare Oso

Researchers have discovered that microplastics are increasingly accumulating in human brains, surging by 50% in just eight years.

This raises serious concerns about potential links to cognitive decline and neurological diseases.

The study also highlights that the brains of individuals with dementia had five times more microplastics, emphasizing the urgent need to reduce plastic contamination.

Microplastics have infiltrated every nook and cranny of our environment, however, the tiny plastic particles, some of them way thinner than a hair, are also accumulating in our brains at alarming levels, much more than any other body organ.

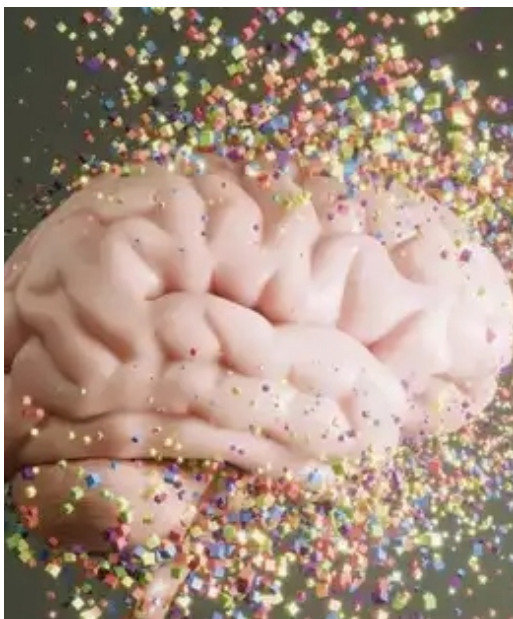
It seems the plastic concentration in our brain is increasing with each passing year which raises concerns about its potential links to cognitive decline and neurological diseases.

With microplastics present everywhere, from food to drinking water, exposure is increasing rapidly, making the need to reduce contamination more urgent than ever.

“There’s much more plastic in our brains than I ever would have imagined or been comfortable with,” said Matthew Campen, Regents’ Professor and professor of pharmaceutical sciences at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

How much plastic is hiding in our brain?

The study published in Nature Medicine on Monday found that on an average, the brain samples that were studied had about seven grams of microplastics — roughly the weight of an average plastic



spoon.

The study examined 24 brain samples from individuals who passed away in early 2024. When researchers compared these findings with 28 brain samples collected in 2016, they discovered a staggering 50% increase in micro- and nanoplastic levels in less than a decade.

The results were even more alarming when analyzing the brains of 12 individuals diagnosed with dementia before their passing.

On average, these samples contained more than five times the amount of plastic particles detected in the 2024 group, raising serious concerns about potential links between microplastic exposure and neurodegenerative diseases.

To confirm their findings, researchers examined brain tissue from samples collected between 1997 and 2013. They found a clear rise in plastic levels, more than double in the 2016 samples and nearly four times higher by 2024.

While the effects on human health are still unclear, the study highlights the need for more research.

Campen noted that this alarming rise is linked to an increase in plastic waste.

Polyethylene, used to pack materials like bottles and cups, emerged as the most common microplastic detected by researchers from the University of New Mexico.

The tiny fragments were capable of crossing the blood-brain barrier, although the exact process of it reaching the brain remains unclear. The scientists suspect that they may be entering the brain through our food, particularly meat.

“The way we irrigate fields with plastic-contaminated water, we postulate that the plastics build up there,” Campen said. “We feed those crops to our livestock. We take the manure and put it back on the field, so there may be a sort of feed-forward biomagnification.”

Microplastics are known to trigger inflammation, damage cells, disrupt organ function, and alter immune responses. Plastic exposure is also linked to an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, as well as some cancers.

How to minimize microplastic exposure

*Avoid single-use plastics and swap plastic storage containers for glass or metal.

*Never reheat food in plastic containers in the microwave.

*Filter your tap water and get high-quality air filters for your home.

*Keep your living space dust-free.

*Eat less processed foods as they may have higher levels of these tiny particles.

Ronaldo admits to 'anger' over Ballon d'Or defeats to Messi

By Dave Oludare Oso

...Real Madrid icon claims award has lost all 'credibility' after Vinicius Junior's 2024 snub

Cristiano Ronaldo admits to being left feeling "angry" over some of his Ballon d'Or defeats to eternal rival, Lionel Messi.

*Portuguese icon won Golden Ball in 2008

*Has taken his tally to five

*Argentine rival has eight triumphs on his CV

*WHAT HAPPENED?

Portuguese superstar Ronaldo was the first of that pair to claim a Golden Ball in 2008. He then saw Messi enjoy a run of four successive triumphs, before emerging victorious in four out of five years between 2013 and 2017.

*THE BIGGER PICTURE

Ronaldo has been unable to add to his tally since then, while Messi has pulled clear with eight successes. CR7 feels he was treated a little harshly at times, with remarkable standards being maintained at Real Madrid as he became their all-time leading goalscorer.

*WHAT CRISTIANO



RONALDO SAID

Current Blancos star Vinicius Junior was beaten to the Ballon d'Or by Manchester City midfielder Rodri in 2024, a decision that Ronaldo disagrees with, and he has told La Sexta of the prize not always going to the most worthy recipient: "There is no credibility, Vinicius should be the Ballon d'Or winner. I have felt it many times and I felt angry. Over time I understood it, these are battles that you cannot win."

*DID YOU KNOW?

Ronaldo has never been one to waste energy reflecting on the past, with the Al-Nassr forward – who is still going strong as he prepares to turn 40 years of age – adding on his

achievements: "Something often has to happen to you for you to appreciate everything you've been through. I'm such a competitive person that sometimes I forget what I've achieved. If someone else were in my position, I would have quit football 10 years ago. I'm different."

*WHAT NEXT?

It is that drive that has kept Ronaldo at the top of his game for so long, with there no sign of him stepping aside any time soon. He considers himself to be the greatest player of all-time, regardless of what Messi fans may think of that, and still has more trophy targets and historic goal records to chase down.

Dembele 1st-ever PSG player to score hat-tricks in consecutive matches

By Dave Oludare Oso

Ousmane Dembele etched his name into Paris Saint-Germain's history by netting three goals against Brest, which was his second hat-trick of the week.

*Dembele scored three goals against Stuttgart in UCL

*Followed that up with another hat-trick against Brest

*French forward sets incredible record with the Parisians



·WHAT HAPPENED?

Dembele's remarkable goal-scoring week began with a stunning hat-trick against Stuttgart in the Champions League on Wednesday. He followed that up with another three-goal performance in Ligue 1, marking a personal milestone in what has been the most prolific season of his career.

Despite the club boasting legendary strikers such as Kylian Mbappe, Edinson Cavani, and Zlatan Ibrahimovic, none had previously managed back-to-back hat-tricks in PSG colours.

WHAT DEMBELE SAID

After the match, Dembele credited his recent success to his

positioning and role in the squad.

"I'm well placed, I'm in the role of number nine and I have to score goals. It was a game where I played a bit of a carrot behind the defence," Dembele said.

While celebrating his individual accomplishment, the French winger was quick to emphasize the importance of his teammates' contributions. He specifically highlighted the quality of service he received, particularly from Kang-In Lee, who provided an assist for one of his goals.

"I think you have to congratulate the team and especially the passers. Because on the first goal, all I had to do was push it home. And on the third, Kang-In's pass was exceptional," Dembele said.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Dembele's heroics helped PSG secure their 15th league victory of the season, bringing them to 50 points from 20 matches.

Their commanding lead at the top of the table now stands at 13 points over second-placed Marseille, though their rivals have a game in hand. With the Ligue 1 title race seemingly in their control, PSG is well on track to clinch their fourth consecutive domestic championship.

WHAT NEXT FOR PSG?

The league leaders will now prepare for their upcoming home fixture against Monaco on Friday, where they will look to further solidify their grip on the title by clinching another three points.