



Tinubu increases 2025 budget to N54.2trn Pg 4



Shettima says Nigeria must transform debt into economic asset Pg 5

The New Daily Prime

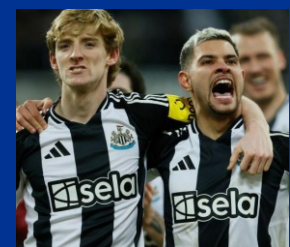
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Tinubu departs Abuja for France ahead of AU summit in Ethiopia

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu will depart Abuja on Wednesday for Paris, France, on a private visit before proceeding to Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital.

Bayo Onanuga, Tinubu's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, confirmed this in a statement today.

In Addis Ababa, the President will join African leaders at the 46th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State, scheduled for February 12th to 16th, 2025.



The president is expected to arrive in Addis Ababa early next week for the African Union summit.

While in France, he will meet with his French counterpart, President Emmanuel Macron.

Alake secures funding for critical minerals study facility in Nigeria

By Friday Omosola

The Minister of Solid Minerals, Dele Alake, has secured funding for a study facility aimed at developing a comprehensive roadmap for Nigeria's critical minerals value chain, from extraction to beneficiation.

The Minister made the announcement on his X page on Wednesday, revealing that the funding was secured during the prestigious Mining Indaba event in Cape Town, South Africa.

Alake emphasised that the initiative will be supported by the Global Council for Critical Minerals, a specialized body within Sustainable Energy for All, a United Nations agency dedicated to advancing the Agenda for Sustainable Development.



He said the collaboration is expected to boost Nigeria's position in the global mining sector while driving sustainable growth and development.

"While discussing this initiative with Mr Divyam Nagpal, the Principal

Specialist in Renewable Energy at Sustainable Energy for All, I thanked him for their support and highlighted how it will enhance Nigeria's solar power policy.

"I also reviewed the progress made by President Bola Tinubu's administration in the mining sector, assuring them that the investment climate in Nigeria is positive and welcoming", Alake said.

Furthermore, he emphasised that if investors could operate in an unrestricted environment, their profit margins would increase, enabling them to meet their obligations to the government, including paying royalties.

THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

PRODUCT COLOUR

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SIZE	TOTAL RATE
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10X5	255,238.00
10X4	206,890.50
10X3	179,608.00
9X6	254,977.00
9X5	225,738.00
9X4	193,500.00
9X3	166,223.50
8X6	225,368.50
8X3	106,934.50
7X4	180,173.50
6X4	100,434.50
6X3	82,750.00
6X2	52,499.50
5X6	123,749.50
5X5	110,000.00
5X4	76,833.00
5X3	66,875.00
5X2	42,916.50
4X4	60,166.50
4X3	36,499.50
4X2	29,333.50
3X3	28,000.00
3X2	17,400.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	8,600.00
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10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
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5X4	61,500.00
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POLITICAL COLOUR

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FULL PAGE	420,000.00
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POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
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HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

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10X4	103,963.00
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8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
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2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

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5X6 FRONT PAGE	3,350,000.00
10X6 FRONT PAGE	8,250,000.00
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EARPIECE INSIDE PAGE(1.5X2)	117,875.00
EARPIECE BACK PAGE	236,796.50
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CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
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DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
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CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

ALLURE RATE

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(BC) Back Cover		483,750.00
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10X5		295,625.00
Half Page		225,000.00
EVENT		250,000.00

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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
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CONTACT US

Correspondent Address:
 Real Group Plaza, No.1 Junaid Dosumu
 Street, CBD, Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos
 Call the Editor on: 07025014298, 09014323792

E-mail Address:
info@newdailyprime.news
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Tinubu increases 2025 budget to N54.2trn

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has increased the proposed 2025 budget from N49.7 trillion to N54.2 trillion, attributing the rise to additional revenues from key government agencies.

The revised figures were communicated in separate letters sent to both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Senate President Godswill Akpabio read the letters aloud during today's plenary session.

According to President Tinubu, the budget adjustment reflects an extra N1.4 trillion from the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), N1.2 trillion from the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), and N1.8 trillion from other government-owned agencies.

Following the announcement, the Senate President referred the proposal to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for urgent review.

He assured lawmakers that the final budget would be approved before the end of February, prompting expectations that the National Assembly will expedite deliberations for the timely implementation of the 2025 budget.

Tinubu minister explains budget increment

Minister of Budget and National Planning, Senator Atiku Bagudu, explained that the increment was to allow for the approval of more revenue to strengthen the Bank of Agriculture



and Bank of Industry.

Bagudu said the increase was also to support the administration's diversification programme by putting more money in the solid minerals sector as well as infrastructure projects.

However, a member of the House of Representatives, Hon. Kingsley Chinda, faulted the procedure for the increment.

Chinda said the presentation from the executive should not have come in the form of a letter.

Tinubu's letter was read during plenary in the Senate by Senate President Godswill Akpabio, and in the House of Representatives by Speaker Tajudeen Abbas.

Tinubu attributed the N4.53 trillion added to the appropriation bill to an increment in revenues recorded by some revenue-generating agencies of the federal government.

He said the increase arose from N1.4

trillion additional revenues made by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); N1.2 trillion made by the Nigeria Customs Service; and N1.8 trillion generated by some other Government-owned Agencies (GOEs).

The Ministry of Solid Minerals Development was the highest beneficiary of the additional revenues, as it got N1 trillion.

The ministry, which has Mr. Dele Alake as minister, initially had N6 billion envelope from the Budget Office for the 2025 fiscal year before the National Assembly joint committee on Solid Minerals increased it to N9 billion.

The president of the senate after, reading the letter, consequently, directed the request to the Senate Committee on Appropriations for expeditious consideration.

Akpabio also declared that the budget consideration would be concluded and passed before the end of February.

Shettima says Nigeria must transform debt into economic asset

By Friday Omosola

Vice President Kashim Shettima has emphasised the importance of transforming Nigeria's public debt into an asset for economic growth, infrastructure development, and poverty reduction.

The Vice President made this statement while inaugurating the Supervisory Board of the Debt Management Office (DMO) at the Presidential Villa on Wednesday.

The inauguration marks a significant step in the Federal Government's ongoing efforts to strengthen fiscal and monetary policy coordination and ensure long-term debt sustainability, in line with President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

Shettima, who also serves as Chairman of the newly inaugurated Board, urged its members to devise more strategic approaches to public debt management.

Shettima highlighted the critical role of debt in supporting national development.

He stressed that Nigeria must continue to use public debt as a tool for advancing key infrastructure projects and stimulating economic growth.

"With prudent management, debt can be transformed into an asset for economic growth and poverty reduction," he stated.

"Our goal must be to formulate policies, regulations, and guidelines for the DMO, to achieve sustainability for our country."

This approach, according to Shettima, aligns with President Tinubu's commitment to fiscal discipline, economic stability, and sustainable development.

He stressed that when borrowing is carefully managed, it can serve as a catalyst for growth, rather than a financial burden.

"As you all know, public debt, if prudently applied, becomes an asset for economic growth and poverty reduction. However, recent realities in our economy call for stronger coordination between our fiscal and monetary policies," he added.



The Vice President commended President Tinubu for his unwavering efforts in economic reforms, acknowledging the strides made in reshaping Nigeria's economic landscape.

He also praised the leadership of the Ministry of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, as well as the DMO, for their continuous commitment to managing Nigeria's sovereign debt portfolio.

"I want to commend the dedication of our leader, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, in his dogged efforts towards reforming our economy," Shettima said.

"I applaud the Honourable Minister of Finance Coordinating Minister of the Economy, and the DMO Management, for their untiring efforts in the day-to-day management of our sovereign debt portfolio."

Shettima also celebrated Nigeria's recent achievement in the global financial markets, specifically the successful issuance of a \$2.2 billion double-tranche Eurobond.

The over-subscription of the bonds, he noted, demonstrated the strong investor confidence in Nigeria's financial outlook.

"I also use this opportunity to congratulate them and other members of the Nigerian delegation for a successful outing in the recent \$2.2 billion double-tranche Eurobond issuance. The over-subscription rate of the bonds showed an impressive appetite for our country's sovereign instruments in the global capital market," he said.

The Supervisory Board includes notable figures such as Wale Edun, Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, who serves as Vice Chairman; Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi.

Others are Special Adviser to the President on Economic Matters, DrTope Fasua; Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Olayemi Cardoso; Accountant-General of the Federation, DrOluwatoyin Sakirat Madein; and Director-General of the DMO, Patience Oniha, who serves as Secretary.

Tinubu raises retirement age for healthcare workers to 65

By Friday Omosola

President Bola Tinubu has approved increasing the retirement age for doctors and other healthcare professionals from 60 to 65 years.

This decision was announced in a statement on Wednesday in Lagos by Mannir Bature, the National Publicity Secretary of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA).

Bature explained that the Coordinating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Muhammad Pate, has been instructed to formally submit the approval to the Council on Establishment via the Office of the Head of Service for finalization.

During a high-level meeting with NMA President Bala Audu and other key health sector stakeholders, Professor Pate outlined the policy shift.

The meeting also included representatives from the Medical and Dental Consultants Association of Nigeria, the National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives, and the Joint Health Sector Unions.

Discussions during the meeting focused on recent progress made to improve the welfare of doctors and other healthcare workers in Nigeria.

Pate also confirmed that arrears resulting from the adjustment of the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure will soon be paid, with the necessary funds already secured for disbursement.

In addition, the minister noted that President Tinubu has approved



corrective measures for both the Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) and the Consolidated Health Salary Structure (CONHESS), adjustments that arose following the implementation of the new minimum wage.

“The process to effect this correction is at an advanced stage, promising much-needed relief for doctors and healthcare workers,” Pate stated.

Following an extensive review initiated by the NMA, the approval for new tariffs for healthcare service providers was also granted.

This initiative is expected to benefit members of the Association of Nigerian Private Medical Practitioners and Nurses (ANPMPN), ensuring improved financial remuneration and the sustainability of healthcare services nationwide.

Pate expressed his appreciation for the patience and collaboration of all

stakeholders and reaffirmed the Federal Government’s commitment to enhancing the welfare of healthcare workers.

He emphasised that continued collaboration is crucial for strengthening Nigeria’s health sector.

Attendees at the meeting reaffirmed their commitment to advocate for the welfare of healthcare workers and to ensure the full implementation of these key reforms.

The NMA has long championed raising the retirement age from 60 to 65 as a strategy to address brain drain, facilitate knowledge transfer, and enhance the quality of healthcare delivery.

Meanwhile, various health associations have declared nationwide strikes over the non-implementation of CONMESS and CONHESS for doctors and healthcare workers.

FG approves N452bn for major road construction, rehabilitation projects

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye



The Federal Government has approved N452 billion for the construction and rehabilitation of 14 major roads nationwide, under the Renewed Hope Administration's infrastructure initiative.

Announced by the Minister of Works, Dave Umahi, following the 23rd Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting, the funding will expedite the completion of these projects and enhance connectivity across various states.

Among the approved projects is

the N22 billion Agaie-Katcha-Baro Road in Niger State, set to be handled by GR Building Construction Limited.

Other key projects include the N26.335 billion rehabilitation of the Odukpani Junction section of the Calabar-Ikom-Ogoja Road in Cross River State, the N10.89 billion Ajaokuta-Ajibo/Iyana-Mosa Road in Ogun State, and the N14.37 billion Umuahia Ituano-Ikot Ekpene Road.

Additionally, the Federal Government allocated N30 billion for the Lagos-Ibadan Road to

complete the Lagos-bound section and approved N7 billion for the AK Bypass rescoping, which will be managed by Ghitto Construction Limited.

The government also green-lit several water supply infrastructure projects in Abuja and surrounding areas, as part of its broader commitment to improving national infrastructure.

Umahi reassured that all ongoing projects would be closely monitored for timely completion.

Marketers drop NNPC logo amid price competition from Dangote refinery

By **Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye**

In a significant shift within Nigeria's downstream oil sector, several oil marketers have begun removing the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) logo from their filling stations.

This comes as independent dealers move away from franchise agreements with the state-owned oil giant, citing fierce price competition following a recent reduction in refined product prices by the Dangote Petroleum Refinery.

Sources indicate that many marketers, particularly those based in Lagos, are rebranding their stations in response to a recent price drop by the Dangote refinery, which slashed its ex-depot price for Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) from N950 to N890 per litre, effective from 1st February 2025.

This price reduction, attributed to a favourable outlook in global energy markets and a drop in international crude oil prices, has had a profound impact on the competitive landscape.

Independent marketers, who previously relied on NNPC for their supply of refined products, are now seeking to secure cheaper alternatives from Dangote and other importers.

This change follows the deregulation of the downstream oil sector, which has opened up new opportunities for independent players to source cheaper products and gain a competitive edge.

Some filling stations previously affiliated with NNPC, particularly along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway in areas like Wawa and Ibafo, have already removed the NNPC logo in favour of private brands.

Marketers are now rebranding their stations under other brands, such as MRS, which are offering more competitive pricing.

Chinedu Ukadike, the National Publicity Secretary of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), confirmed this trend, explaining that the shift is a strategic move as NNPC is no longer the sole importer and



distributor of refined products.

Marketers now have the option to purchase directly from Dangote, whose prices are lower than the landed costs of imported petrol, leaving the national oil company struggling to maintain its influence in the market.

“The deregulation of the sector has levelled the playing field, Marketers are changing and rebranding because, in the past, NNPC was the exclusive distributor, but now other players, especially Dangote, offer cheaper products, and marketers are looking for better alternatives.” Ukadike said in an interview.

Oil and gas expert Olatide Jeremiah further explained that the emergence of the Dangote refinery has disrupted the business model that allowed marketers to profit from NNPC's price control mechanisms. Previously, some marketers had paid millions for a franchise licence to access NNPC's products at a cheaper rate, but with Dangote now selling at lower prices, many are opting out of their agreements with the state-owned oil firm.

“NNPC was the primary source of cheaper petrol for many marketers before Dangote entered the scene, However, since

Dangote's prices are now more competitive, the franchise model that once worked for marketers is no longer as attractive.” said Jeremiah, who is the CEO of petroleumprice.ng.

Akinola Ogunyolemi, Chairman of the Petroleum Tanker Drivers Association in Lagos State, highlighted that many of the filling stations rebranding are not owned by NNPC but are operated by independent marketers under franchise agreements.

These agreements, which are renewable, are often abandoned when the terms are no longer favourable.

While NNPC did not respond to requests for comment on the growing trend of rebranding, experts believe that the continued reduction in prices by Dangote is likely to lead to more marketers abandoning their affiliations with the national oil company.

According to recent data, the landed cost of imported petrol now exceeds the price of petrol from Dangote, making it less appealing for marketers to continue sourcing products from NNPC.

Lagos lawmakers may write Tinubu over Obasa's removal as speaker

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

Lawmakers at the Lagos State House of Assembly are considering writing a letter to President Bola Tinubu regarding the removal of Mudashiru Obasa as Speaker.

The decision follows a marathon meeting between members of the Governance Advisory Council (GAC) and lawmakers on Monday at the Governor's Lodge in Marina, Lagos.

Sources say the GAC believes Obasa's removal on January 13, 2025, was illegal and disrespectful to the leadership of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Lagos.

A GAC member, Chief Muraina Taiwo, confirmed that lawmakers were advised to write to the President to communicate their grievances.

He added that the lawmakers had firmly decided to retain Mojisola Meranda, who was elected as Speaker after Obasa's removal, despite the party's leadership counsel.



Taiwo suggested that Obasa may return to the House and be allowed to voluntarily resign, rather than being forced to step down.

He stated, "The lawmakers should allow Obasa to return and consider resigning by himself. The decision to resign is his own, not one they should force upon him."

It was reported that GAC had directed the lawmakers to send two apology letters to President Tinubu, acknowledging their failure to consult party leaders before removing Obasa.

The lawmakers are expected to express regret over the move and seek the reversal of Obasa's removal.

GAC Chairman, Chief Tajudeen Olusi, when contacted, declined to confirm the details of the directive, emphasising that an official position would be released when appropriate.

As of Tuesday, February 4 night, the Lagos State House of Assembly had yet to respond to inquiries regarding the issue.

Oyebanji targets timely, quality delivery of 2025 state projects

By Friday Omosola

Ekiti State Governor, Biodun Oyebanji, held a crucial meeting with contractors and heads of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) on Tuesday, aimed at reviewing the progress of ongoing projects and ensuring their timely completion.

The meeting, which took place in the Governor's Office Conference Room in Ado-Ekiti, focused on the set deadlines and quality delivery of projects scheduled for completion this year.

During the meeting, Governor Oyebanji carefully examined progress reports on various ongoing projects across the state.

Contractors reiterated their commitment to meeting the agreed-upon deadlines for each project.

The governor emphasised the importance of taking advantage of the dry season to accelerate work, ensuring that the projects are delivered on time.

He also assured that appropriate authorities had been directed to ensure timely payments to contractors.

Governor Oyebanji reaffirmed his



commitment to meeting deadlines for all ongoing projects, stressing that they were vital to improving the living conditions of Ekiti residents and boosting the state's economic development.

He noted that new projects would be flagged off as part of the 2025 budget, making the timely completion of current projects even more essential.

To ensure accountability, the governor pledged to hold monthly review meetings with contractors and relevant agencies.

He also encouraged contractors to immediately report any challenges they might encounter during the execution of their projects.

Among the projects reviewed during the meeting were the Ado-

Ekiti Ring Road, Ikere-Igbaraodo Road, Ado-Iworoko-Ifaki Road, Ikole-Ara-Isinbode Road, Igbaraodo-Ikogosi Road, Ikere-Ilawe Road, Ado-Ekiti flyover, and the International Cultural Centre, among others.

Contractors provided detailed updates on their work, while supervisory agencies presented their reports.

Governor Oyebanji had earlier pledged to complete all inherited projects from previous administrations and ensure that those embarked upon by his government are delivered on time and to the highest quality standards.

Abdulrazaq inaugurates committee to transfer Kampe Game Reserve to FG By Friday Omosola

Kwara State Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq yesterday inaugurated a steering committee to reverse the transfer of the Kampe Game Reserve, located in the Patigi Local Government Area, to the Federal Government (FG) for its upgrade to a National Park.

The handover marks a significant step in environmental conservation and sustainable resource management in the state.

At the ceremony held in Ilorin, Governor Abdulrazaq emphasised the strategic importance of the initiative.

“Today marks a crucial moment in our collective efforts. The inauguration of the Steering Committee is a fulfilment of the Federal Government’s roadmap for the transformation of the Kampe Game Reserve into a National Park.”

The newly formed committee, comprising cabinet members, traditional leaders, and senior citizens, will guide the entire process, leveraging their extensive experience to ensure a successful transition.

“Our commitment to this initiative stems from our desire to offer Kwara State greater growth opportunities,” the Governor noted through Deputy Governor Kayode Alabi.

“We aim to position our state on the global map for biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, and the effective management of our human and natural resources.”



status.

The decision to upgrade the Kampe Game Reserve followed the presidential declaration in November 2020 and subsequent passage by the National Assembly.

Minister of Environment Abbas Lawal, represented by Ibrahim Goni, Conservator General of the National Park Service, reiterated that former President Muhammadu Buhari approved the upgrade of 10 Forest and Game Reserves to National Parks.

This initiative now increases the total number of National Parks in Nigeria to 17, aligning with the country’s efforts to meet global biodiversity conservation targets outlined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and to bolster internal security.

Chairperson of the Committee and Commissioner for Environment, Nafisat Musa Buge, highlighted the potential benefits of the park’s new

“This development offers opportunities for environmental restoration, biodiversity regeneration, and an additional tourist site in the state. As a state, we acknowledge that this new status of Kampe will be of immense benefits to us, the neighbouring communities, and indeed adjoining states,” she said.

Emir of Patigi Ibrahim Bologi II also expressed his support, thanking the Governor for taking this bold step.

“We pledge the full support of the Emirate for the Federal Government towards the realization of this project,” he affirmed.

Governor Abdulrazaq congratulated the committee members and called on them to actively contribute to conserving the park, ensuring that this natural treasure is preserved and enhanced for future generations.

Ogun monarch remanded in prison over assault

By Friday Omosola

Oba Abdulsemiu Ogunjobi, the suspended traditional ruler of Orile Ifo, has been remanded at a correctional centre in Ilaro, Ogun State, after appearing before the Ifo Magistrate Court.

The New Daily Prime earlier reported that Governor Dapo Abiodun ordered the suspension of Oba Ogunjobi following an assault on Areola Abraham.

The monarch, who faces allegations of assault, was not granted immediate release as he failed to meet the court's bail requirements.

He attended court on Tuesday to answer a three-count indictment brought by the Nigeria Police Force.

“That Abdul-Semiu ‘m’ and others at large, on 21st January 2025, at about 1100 hrs at Sojuolu Street, Ifo Magisterial District, did conspire to commit a misdemeanour, to wit: assault and conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace, thereby committing an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 517 of the Criminal Code Laws of Ogun State of Nigeria, 2006,” part of the charge sheet reads.

“That you, Abdul-Semiu ‘m’ and others now at large, on the same date,

time, and place in the aforementioned Magisterial District, did unlawfully assault one Areola Abraham by slapping him on the face and ear, thereby committing an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 351 of the Criminal Code Laws of Ogun State of Nigeria, 2006”

The charges include conspiracy, assault, and actions deemed likely to

suspended ruler is seen berating Abraham, accusing him of conspiracy, and issuing severe threats.

During the hearing, the traditional ruler pleaded not guilty to all charges. Despite his plea, the magistrate set bail at ₦5 million and imposed strict conditions requiring two sureties, each to deposit ₦5 million.



disturb public peace.

The allegations arise from a widely circulated video that allegedly shows the monarch verbally and physically assaulting Areola Abraham, an elderly community chief.

In the video, which quickly gained traction on social media, the

Unable to meet these bail conditions, the monarch remains detained at the Ilaro facility.

The case has been postponed until March 6, providing both the prosecution and defence additional time to prepare their arguments.

Fire engulfs Islamic school, kills 17 children, injures 16

By Helen Okechukwu

Over 17 children have reportedly died in a fire outbreak at Tsangaya School (Almajiri school), injuring 16 others in Kaura-Namoda Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

In an interview with Channels Television on Wednesday, Mannir Haidara, the chairperson of Kaura-Namoda Local Government, confirmed the incident, stating that more details would be shared later.

Speaking to a TV station, a resident of the community, Abdul Bello, said the tragic incident occurred at the study



center of Mallam Ghali.

The fire, which started late Tuesday

night, raged for four hours and became more severe due to corn and millet stalks stored on the school premises.

He confirmed that 17 bodies were recovered and buried on Wednesday.

“There were about 100 students in the house. After they evacuated the students, they thought none were left inside. It was only after the fire was extinguished that they started seeing legs and hands. The victims were burned beyond recognition,” Mr. Bello explained.

Motor accident claims one, injured six in Ogun

By Helen Okechukwu

The Ogun State Police Command says it has commenced an investigation into a tragic accident that claimed the life of one person and injured six others on February 4.

The accident involved a Lexus ES 350 and a Zafira 1.8 Space Wagon after both vehicles collided.

Omolola Odutola, the spokesperson of the command, said in document shared on Wednesday, the incident occurred along the Abeokuta/Ibadan highway, near Ajobo village, at about 14:30 hours.

Narrating further, an eyewitness explained that the tragic incident was a result of reckless driving by Abiodun Michael, 26, who drove the Lexus ES 350, and Popoola Kayode, 55, who drove the Zafira car.

Odutola noted in the document, “While negotiating a sharp bend, the Lexus driver reportedly failed to slow down,



lost control, and veered off his lane, colliding head-on with the Zafira car on the driver’s side. Tragically, Mr. Popoola Ishola Kayode died on the spot, while six of his passengers sustained varying degrees of injuries.”

Immediately after the report was received, the DPO of Odeda Division responded swiftly, and a team arrived at the scene to secure the area, while the affected victims were taken to the hospital for medical attention.

“The injured victims were transported to General Hospital, Odeda, for urgent medical attention. Those with fractures were later transferred to FMC Idi-Aba, Abeokuta, for specialized treatment.”

Meanwhile, the body of the deceased has been retrieved for burial rites according to Islamic law.

According to the spokesperson, the vehicles have been towed to the police for forensic investigation, while the occupants of the Lexus ES 350 have been declared wanted after fleeing the scene.

The command calls on anyone with useful information to assist in the apprehension of the fleeing suspects.

“The Command reaffirms its commitment to enforcing road safety regulations and ensuring that reckless drivers face the full weight of the law.”

Ex-wife of Dr. Erinne breaks silence, denies links to husband's death

By Helen Okechukwu

After the death of Dr. Ikenna Erinne, a Canada-based Nigerian doctor, on 26 January, his ex-wife Suzzette Chibuogu has broken her silence, called for a change of narrative as she denied a link to her husband death.

The NEW DAILY PRIME reported on 2 February that the 36-year-old cardiologist, Dr. Erinne, who hailed from Anambra, allegedly committed suicide.

A Facebook influencer, Clayton Udoh, claimed that the late cardiologist committed suicide after he was ordered by the court to pay \$15,000 monthly for child support fees.

To this end, the ex-wife of the late Dr. Erinne took to her Instagram page on Tuesday to clarify the issue surrounding her ex-husband's death with a claim that she and her kids were battling domestic violence.

“We are already living through the result of years of anger and ignorance. Let's move forward with love,” she narrated.

Chibuogu claimed that she and her children had been trying to



heal since the incident occurred, describing the encounter as a near-death experience as they begged to live for three hours.

In her post, she narrated that despite having a child with a disability undergoing 40 hours of therapy a week, she remained the primary carer while her ex-husband lived in a different state with no close relationship.

“Those who know me know that I have always taken care of my kids 100% of the time since their respective births,” Chibuogu noted.

After the ugly incident, she revealed she was receiving multiple threats via calls and texts and acknowledged she had a lot of evidence, including pictures and videos, including police documentation.

“Nobody knows someone like their partner. I respect the experiences and memories you had of him, and I do not seek to tarnish them. I know the truth. People that know me know the truth. What you think of me is not my business.

Embrace proper waste mgt disposal to prevent disease outbreak – health officer

By Helen Okechukwu

To prevent the emergence of disease outbreaks in Ondo State, the state Chairman of the Environmental Health Officers Association of Nigeria, Sanitarian Funke Babajide, has called for proper waste disposal among residents.

This call was made during a one-day sensitization workshop held on Wednesday, centered on the socio-economic implications of indiscriminate waste dumping along motorway and key areas in Akure.

During the program, the Chairman of the Ondo State Waste Management Authority (OSWMA), Mrs. Yinka Alabi, sought collective collaboration from stakeholders to achieve a conducive environment.

She highlighted the effects of improper waste disposal in the state, which include an increase in flooding and erosion, traffic congestion, and accidents, among others.

Explaining further, Mrs. Alabi stated that the state has witnessed rampant dumping in strategic locations due to a lack of adequate waste management infrastructure, posing environmental, health, and economic hazards.

While calling for the urgent use of trash bags in allocated waste stations, she pushed for creating awareness of best waste practices and the development and implementation of proper waste management strategies.

The Hope Newspaper reported that to enforce waste management strategies, Alabi underscored the importance of active participation in monthly cleanup exercises and monitoring market women



weekly.

“Special and regular clean-up exercises should be embraced, promoted, and executed while collaborating with state government-registered and identified Private Sector Partners (PSPs) to achieve efficient waste collection services,” she noted.

She praised Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa for his involvement in keeping the environment clean and warned of disciplinary action against environmental violators.

To avert the spread of Lassa fever in the state, the Administrative Secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Mr. Olumide Kinga, urged residents to maintain a healthy environment, particularly in Shasha Market and Oke-Aro, where illegal dumping sites are located.

Continuing the call, the State Chairman of the Association of Waste Managers of Nigeria, Mr. Wahab Olokunboye, asked residents to package their waste properly during evacuation and also appealed for a good management structure.

The Iyaloja of NEPA Market, Chief (Mrs.) Kemi Aisida, urged the

government to deploy additional waste trucks to facilitate the timely evacuation of refuse, ensuring a healthier marketplace.

Speaking at a public lecture, Sanitarian Abiodun David, Head of the Environmental Health Department at Ondo State College of Health Technology, Akure, addressed the socio-economic impact of indiscriminate waste dumping.

He defined waste as any discarded material and categorized it into various types, including hazardous, electronic, medical, and biodegradable waste.

David outlined key waste management methods such as recycling, incineration, landfilling, and sea dumping.

He stressed the dangers of unchecked waste disposal, highlighting the need for stringent policies, sustainable practices, and increased public awareness to mitigate environmental and health hazards.

He urged the government to enact and enforce regulations to curb indiscriminate dumping, ensuring a cleaner and safer environment for all.

Banning phones in classrooms 'does not improve marks' **By Laura Donnelly**

Study finds link between using the devices and worse performance but suggests the answer does not lie in school bans alone

Banning phones in schools does not improve children's marks or mental health, a study has found. The University of Birmingham found that students' sleep, exercise and academic record did not differ between schools with and without phone bans in place.

Evidence also showed restrictive phone policies did not lower the overall time young people spent on their phones throughout the day.

The findings, from the first study of its kind, compared 1,227 students at 30 different secondary schools in England.

"There is no evidence to support [the view] that restrictive school phone policies, in their current forms, have a beneficial effect on adolescents' mental health and wellbeing or related outcomes," researchers concluded.

However, the study did find that more time on phones and social media overall was linked to worse mental health, poorer sleep, less physical activity, lower grades and more disruptive classroom behaviour.

Researchers said school phone bans in isolation were not enough to tackle the negative impacts of overusing phones.

Last month, the Education Secretary rejected calls for a new law to ban phones in classrooms and branded the Conservative party's proposal a "headline-grabbing gimmick".

Bridget Phillipson said she agreed that



mobile phones should not be in lessons, but added the Opposition was wrong to say it could only be done by introducing legislation.

The Conservative party said last week that it would table an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill that would require the Government to ban phones in classrooms.

Researchers call for holistic approach
Victoria Goodyear, the study's lead author, said: "This is the first worldwide study of its kind to evaluate the impact of school phone policies on adolescent mental health and wellbeing, and other health and educational outcomes.

"We did find a link between more time spent on phones and social media and worse outcomes, with worse mental wellbeing and mental health outcomes, less physical activity and poorer sleep, lower educational attainment and a greater level of disruptive classroom behaviour.

"This suggests that reducing this time spent on phones is an important focus.

But we need to do more than focus on schools alone, and consider phone use within and outside of school, across a whole day and the whole week."

The study called for a more "holistic" approach to lowering phone use among students.

"This approach does not necessarily preclude restrictive school mobile phone policies," the study concluded.

"But these policies would be linked with a wider holistic approach to adolescent mobile phone and social media use."

Data from students was collected over a 12-month period ending in November 2023 from 20 schools with restrictive phone policies and 10 schools with permissive policies, where a phone could be used at breaks, lunch or in certain zones, such as outside areas.

The schools were chosen from a sample of 1,341 mainstream state schools in England.

Donald Trump's dangerous plan to take over Gaza

By Andrew England

US president's outlandish idea has dramatically raised stakes and would create another catastrophe for Palestinians

For weeks, Arab leaders have been waiting anxiously to gauge how US President Donald Trump would respond to the Middle East's biggest crisis in decades, wary of his unpredictability, his lack of understanding of a complex region and his unabashed pro-Israel bias.

But none in their wildest dreams would have expected the extraordinary, surreal proposal that he unveiled to a stunned world when he took the podium at the White House alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday.

Not satisfied with advocating the forced permanent resettlement of more than 2mn Palestinians in Gaza, Trump dramatically upped the stakes by announcing that the US planned to take over the besieged strip — and that he would use American military might if necessary.

The idea is so outlandish that there will be a temptation to dismiss it as yet more Trumpian folly. It would be in violation of international laws the US has long sought to champion and uphold. It would risk drawing American troops back into combat in the Middle East — something Trump had pledged to avoid.

It would outrage Washington's Arab allies, its European partners and the global south. The US's battered credibility would take another dive. It would overturn the chances of Trump's dream of securing a grand bargain — and his desire to secure a Nobel Peace Prize — with a deal that would lead to Saudi Arabia and other Muslim states normalising relations with Israel.

And it would create another catastrophe for the long-suffering Palestinians that have for generations called Gaza home. Where would they go? Nobody knows. No Arab country would dare accept them and be seen to be complicit with the forcible displacement of their Palestinian brethren.

Nobody in the region — with the exception of Israel's far right — can countenance a repeat.



Yet this is Trump, the real estate mogul and former reality game show host, who has already threatened to seize the Panama Canal and take over Greenland.

He has long appeared to view the Middle East through his own prism of dealmaking and real estate projects, egged on by staunchly pro-Israel acolytes he has surrounded himself with in his new administration, and Netanyahu, who presides over the most far-right government in Israel's history.

A year ago, Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and former Middle East White House adviser, was talking about Gaza's "waterfront property" saying it could be "very valuable".

On Tuesday, it was the president saying that he imagined the impoverished, war-shattered, densely populated, narrow Mediterranean strip could be "the Riviera of the Middle East".

"We're going to develop it, we're going to create thousands of thousands of jobs and it'll be something that the entire Middle East can be very proud of."

Netanyahu could barely conceal a smirk as he stood beside Trump, praising the most pro-Israel president in the US's history for "thinking outside the box".

"I think it's something that could change history," Netanyahu said.

Ever since Israel launched its thunderous offensive in Gaza in response to Hamas's October 7 2023 attack, Palestinians and their Arab neighbours have feared that Netanyahu's ultimate aim was to make the strip uninhabitable and drive the Gazans from their land.

Far-right ministers in his government openly talk about the need to resettle the strip Israel withdrew from two decades ago. Now they appear to have the world's most powerful leader in their corner.

Rattled Arab leaders will hope that Trump's proposal is all part of some opening gambit or negotiating chip in his plans to broker a wider deal that would lead to Saudi Arabia agreeing formal diplomatic ties with Israel.

In his first term, Trump brokered the so-called Abraham Accords, transactional deals that led to the United Arab Emirates and three other Arab states normalising ties with Israel. And he has made clear he wants to expand on that foreign policy success.

But Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has repeatedly said that can only happen if there is the establishment of a Palestinian state, that includes Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Many in the Arab world are hoping Prince Mohammed can lean on his relationship with Trump and the leverage Saudi Arabia could hold in delivering the "grand bargain" to rein in his wildest policies.

Assisted dying bill sparks controversy over mental health inclusion

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A proposed amendment to a landmark assisted dying bill in England and Wales has ignited fierce debate over the inclusion of mentally ill and disabled individuals who have a terminal prognosis of six months or less.

Labour MP Kim Leadbeater, who has represented Spen Valley since 2021, introduced the private member's bill aiming to grant terminally ill patients the right to medically assisted death. On Wednesday, she proposed an amendment to clarify that having a mental disorder or disability does not automatically disqualify individuals from accessing assisted dying, provided they meet all other eligibility criteria.

Concerns Over Mental Health Implications
Opponents of the amendment warn that the change could lead to unintended consequences, including allowing individuals with severe mental illnesses, such as anorexia, to qualify for assisted dying. Critics argue that this could fail to protect vulnerable individuals whose conditions lead to self-neglect and chronic low mood.

A source within the bill's committee raised concerns that the amendment does not adequately address risks for people with eating disorders, emphasizing that in previous UK legal cases, courts have classified severe anorexia as a terminal condition.

"This amendment does not ensure that mental illness or disability is not influencing a patient's decision to seek assisted death," the source stated. "It could enable patients with conditions like anorexia to qualify, as their illness could be framed as a terminal condition leading to death within six months."

Ms. Leadbeater has repeatedly denied claims that the bill was ever designed to include mentally ill or disabled individuals who are not terminally ill. Speaking to *The Telegraph*, she emphasized that the bill



"makes clear that a mental disorder alone would not make a person eligible."

Her amendment now explicitly states: "For the avoidance of doubt, a person is not to be considered to be terminally ill only because they are a person with a disability or mental disorder (or both)."

However, legal experts argue that this does not eliminate the possibility of eligibility for patients whose mental health conditions result in life-threatening physical effects. Barrister James Kirby explained that the bill's definition of terminal illness includes individuals with a progressive condition expected to cause death within six months, which could, in some cases, apply to those suffering from the physical impacts of mental disorders.

The medical community remains divided on the bill's potential implications. Researcher Chelsea Roff, who testified before the committee last week, warned that some UK court rulings have already categorized late-stage anorexia as a terminal condition, leading to the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

"In the US, we have seen cases where physicians cite 'terminal malnutrition' rather than anorexia itself to justify assisted death," Roff stated. "This amendment does not entirely prevent similar interpretations in the UK."

The debate continues to spark broader ethical and legal discussions, with opponents warning of a potential 'slippery slope' and proponents advocating for personal autonomy and dignity in end-of-life decisions.

Conservative lawmakers have expressed staunch opposition to the bill, citing concerns over the potential for coercion, lack of safeguards for vulnerable individuals, and the ethical implications of expanding assisted dying laws. Many argue that prioritizing palliative care should be the government's focus rather than broadening access to assisted death.

Internationally, seven European countries—including the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain—have legalized some form of assisted dying, each with varying safeguards and eligibility criteria. The debate in the UK echoes broader global discussions on the ethical, medical, and legal ramifications of such legislation.

As the bill progresses through Parliament, the issue remains deeply polarizing, with significant implications for the future of end-of-life care in the UK.

Don Jazzy, Wizkid reconcile after online feud

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian music producer Don Jazzy and Afrobeats superstar Wizkid have put their differences aside after months of tension.

A video and photos of their reunion are now trending online, signalling an end to their widely publicized feud.

How the dispute started

The conflict began when Wizkid made a controversial statement, declaring that “hip hop is dead.” His remark sparked outrage in the Nigerian music industry. Ladipoe, a rapper signed under Don Jazzy’s Mavin Records, fired back with a pointed comment. He wrote, “Nigerian rappers that survived ‘hip hop is dead’ watching Afrobeats artists go through their own.”

Wizkid’s response sparks more controversy

A fan later brought Ladipoe’s response to Wizkid’s attention. Wizkid dismissed it with a sharp reply, saying, “lol never chatting to anyone signed to an influencer. Next.d’.” He went further by retweeting posts that implied he was calling Don Jazzy a social media influencer rather than a music mogul.

Fans defend Don Jazzy

This move triggered strong reactions



from fans and industry figures. Many criticized Wizkid for disrespecting him, a veteran producer known for shaping Nigeria’s music industry. Supporters pointed out Don Jazzy’s contributions, emphasizing that he had launched the careers of several top artists and played a major role in Afrobeats’ global rise.

Don Jazzy’s reaction: Unfollowing wizkid

As the backlash grew, he responded by unfollowing Wizkid on social media. This action intensified speculation about their fallout. For months, fans wondered if the two music icons would ever mend their relationship.

Reunion sparks excitement

Now, it appears they have reconciled. A newly surfaced video

and several pictures of Don Jazzy and Wizkid together suggest that the feud is over. Fans have welcomed the reunion, celebrating it as a positive moment for Nigeria’s music industry.

What’s next?

Neither Don Jazzy nor Wizkid has publicly commented on their reunion. However, their friendly interaction in the viral footage speaks volumes. Many see it as proof that, despite past disagreements, unity remains key in the entertainment world.

Will this reconciliation lead to a new collaboration? Will they address their past fallout openly? Fans remain hopeful, eager to see what the future holds for these two industry giants.

I share everything I have with my mom – Tems

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Nigerian singer Temilade Openiyi, known as Tems, recently spoke about the strong, unique bond she shares with her mother, emphasizing their close relationship.

In an interview with ET at the 67th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, the award-winning artist revealed that she and her mother have an unbreakable bond.

Shared possessions and unwavering devotion

Tems emphasized that everything she owns belongs to her mother as well. “What I have is hers. We share everything I have,” she stated. Her words reflected a deep sense of gratitude and devotion to the woman who raised her.

A strong foundation from her mother

The singer’s close relationship with her mother has been a recurring theme in her life. In past interviews, she has spoken about how her mother singlehandedly raised her and her brother.

Despite the challenges of growing up in a single-parent household, Tems credits her mother for shaping her into the person she is today.

Grammy win and a moment of gratitude

At the Grammy Awards on Sunday, Tems achieved another milestone in her career. Her song Love Me Jeje won the award for Best African Music Performance, marking a significant moment for African music on the global



stage.

While accepting the award, she dedicated it to her mother, highlighting the impact she has had on her life and career.

A humble and thankful heart

Tems expressed her gratitude for the honour. “I’m grateful to God. I’m thankful. I think it’s a blessing. I’m extremely blessed and favoured. I just want to give that out in any way that I can,” she said. Her humility and appreciation were evident as she reflected on her journey.

Rising star in global music

Since breaking into the global music scene, Tems has continued to make waves with her unique sound and soulful voice.

Her rise to fame has been meteoric, earning her international recognition and multiple awards. However, through all the success, she remains grounded,

always acknowledging the role her mother played in her story.

An inspiration to many

Fans and fellow artists have praised Tems for her authenticity and emotional depth. Her music resonates with people worldwide, and her latest Grammy wins further cement her place as a leading voice in African music.

Staying true to herself

As she moves forward in her career, Tems remains committed to staying true to herself and her roots.

Her love and respect for her mother serve as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices parents make for their children.

A future full of possibilities

With her latest achievement, Tems continues to inspire many, proving that talent, hard work, and gratitude can pave the way to greatness.

Olamide snatched my producer, dancer from me – Portable

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Outspoken Nigerian singer Habeeb Okikiola, better known as Portable, has now joined the ongoing conversation, adding his voice to the heated public debate.

In a video posted on his social media page, he mocked Olamide, accusing the rapper of treating him unfairly compared to Asake.

Portable recalled that Olamide only gave him a verse on his song Zazu instead of signing him to YBNL. Despite that, he said he remained more appreciative than Asake, who reportedly received full support from the label.

Allegations against olamide

He didn't stop there. He accused Olamide of taking his producer, dancer, and promoter Kogbagidi rather than signing him.

“Olamide Baddo, if you had asked me to sign with your label, I would have accepted immediately,” Portable said.



“Instead of signing me, you took my producer, my dancer, and even my promoter.”

He went further, shading Asake for allegedly turning his back on Olamide.

“The person you helped doesn't care about you anymore,” he said. “You only gave me a verse, and I'm still more grateful than Asake, who got everything. If you had promoted me like you promoted him, I would have done even better.”

Mixed reactions from fans

Portable's comments have sparked debates on social media. While some fans supported his claims, others accused him of chasing clout.

Many pointed out that Olamide has played a key role in launching the careers of several Nigerian artists, including Fireboy DML, Lil Kesh, and Adekunle Gold.

No response from Olamide or Asake

So far, neither Olamide nor Asake has responded to his statements. However, industry insiders believe the rapper's track record speaks for itself.

As the drama unfolds, fans continue speculating about the rumoured fallout. Whether the allegations are true or not, one thing is clear—Portable never shies away from controversy.

Why I relocated my kids abroad – Bovi reveals

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Comedian Bovi has recently shared his decision to move his family abroad, citing the Nigerian educational system as a key factor in his decision.

In a candid interview on the 'Uncolored' podcast, Bovi explained why he felt it was necessary to send his children to the UK for their schooling.

"My kids no longer live in Nigeria," Bovi revealed. "They've been in the UK for two years now. It all started by accident. My first son has been there since 2021, attending a boarding school."

Concerns about bullying in Nigerian schools

Bovi's reasoning stems from his own experiences in Nigeria's educational system, which he says has failed to protect children from bullying.

"I went to boarding school in Nigeria, and while it taught me to be street-smart, I believe the environment there is no longer suitable for my children," he explained.

"The system has allowed bullying to thrive. Senior students often use bullying as a form of discipline for juniors, which shouldn't be tolerated."

The comedian expressed concern that the practice of bullying is deeply rooted in the country's educational framework.

"In Nigeria, students are encouraged to use their power to intimidate others. Instead of promoting a nurturing environment, the system permits aggression in the name of discipline. It's a toxic cycle, and I don't want my children to experience that."

Mass migration: A growing concern for Nigerians

Bovi's move to send his children abroad highlights the broader issue of mass migration from Nigeria, with many citizens seeking better opportunities elsewhere.



The comedian pointed out that while the country has avoided full-scale wars or severe food shortages, other serious issues remain unaddressed.

"The reality is, Nigeria has not faced a war or a food crisis, but the country is far from stable. The health sector is one of the many areas that reflect this instability," he noted.

"In one year, Nigeria can lose 500 doctors, but only about 200 new ones are entering the workforce. It's like putting a bandage on a deep wound. This problem has been festering for years, and it's only a matter of time before it catches up with us."

The impact of Nigeria's health sector on migration

Bovi's comments also turned to the reasons behind the increasing number of Nigerians migrating, especially professionals in key sectors such as healthcare.

He stated that the country's failure to provide an enabling environment for its citizens, particularly doctors, has led to a brain drain.

"If the government truly wants to address this issue, they need to look at what the West is doing," Bovi advised.

"Why are doctors leaving Nigeria for other countries? It's not just the money. Yes, financial incentives play a role, but there is more to it than that. Doctors are passionate about saving lives, but they are also human beings. When they go to work, they need an environment that supports their efforts. They need reliable electricity, proper medical supplies, and a functioning system. In Nigeria, these basic needs are often not met."

Frustrations over healthcare conditions in Nigeria

Bovi's frustration with Nigeria's health sector is clear. "Imagine being a doctor in Nigeria, only to have a patient die because of a lack of blood or power failure during surgery," he said.

"Would you want to keep working in those conditions? Of course not. It's disheartening to see a system that disregards the well-being of both its patients and its healthcare workers."

The comedian's statement reflects a broader sentiment among Nigerians who are seeking better opportunities abroad.

From education to healthcare, the country's systems are under strain, prompting many to explore life outside its borders in search of better living and working conditions.

Nollywood actress Pat Ugwu passes away at 35

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Popular Nollywood actress Pat Ugwu has sadly passed away at the age of 35, leaving fans and colleagues in shock as the industry mourns her untimely death.

Actor Emeka Okoye broke the sad news on Wednesday through an emotional Instagram post. The announcement has left fans and colleagues in deep shock.

Okoye expresses grief

Okoye, a fellow actor, shared his pain over Ugwu's untimely death. He also revealed details about her funeral arrangements. In his heartfelt message, he described the growing number of deaths in the Nigerian film industry as deeply troubling.

"Rest in peace, sis. Pat Ugwu," he wrote. "So, we will never get to work together again? Death, why? May your soul rest in the bosom of the Lord."

Concerns over rising deaths in Nollywood

Okoye voiced his fears about the increasing number of deaths in the Nigerian movie industry. He called it unusual and alarming.



"God, please protect all my colleagues, especially those close to me. This wave of sudden deaths is frightening. I proclaim life for everyone around me in 2025, in the precious blood of Jesus. Amen."

Fans and colleagues pay tribute

Since the announcement, tributes have poured in from Nollywood stars and fans. Many have taken to social media to express their grief and share fond memories of Ugwu.

Her passing is yet another tragic loss for Nigeria's entertainment industry, which has mourned several stars in recent years. Fans and industry insiders are calling for better health awareness and support for actors facing tough times.

Details about the cause of her death remain unclear. However, sources close to the actress are expected to provide further information soon.

A legacy remembered

Ugwu, known for her talent and vibrant personality, made a lasting impact in Nollywood. She featured in several films, earning praise for her performances. Her fans remember her as a dedicated actress who brought passion to every role.

As the industry mourns, her colleagues continue to reflect on the fragility of life and the unpredictable nature of the entertainment world.

Trump's Gaza occupation plan sparks global condemnation

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

New Daily Prime - Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump's proposal to seize control of Gaza and permanently relocate its Palestinian population has triggered strong global condemnation, with critics warning of chaos and instability in the Middle East.

Speaking during a joint press conference at the White House alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump suggested that two million Palestinians should be relocated to Egypt and Jordan, citing the devastation caused by Israel's military operations following the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack on Israel.

"The U.S. will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a great job with it," Trump said. "All Palestinians should be resettled because Gaza is now a demolition site. We will rebuild it into the 'Riviera of the Middle East.'"

The announcement was met with swift and harsh reactions from world leaders, with several countries rejecting Trump's proposal as a violation of Palestinian sovereignty.

Saudi Arabia, a key U.S. ally, issued a strongly worded statement reaffirming its long-standing support for an independent Palestinian state.



"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses its absolute rejection of any infringement on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including Israeli settlement policies, annexation of Palestinian lands, or efforts to displace Palestinians from their land," the statement read.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese echoed this stance, telling reporters in Canberra that his government remains committed to a two-state solution.

"Australia's position is the same as it was this morning, as it was last year, as it was 10 years ago," Albanese said, reinforcing his country's unchanged policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Hamas, the militant group that launched the October 7 attack on Israel, denounced Trump's suggestion of forced displacement, warning that the move would destabilize the region.

"Trump's proposal is a recipe for chaos and long-term conflict in the Middle East," Hamas said in a statement.

With growing opposition from key U.S. allies and international organizations, Trump's controversial Gaza occupation plan is expected to face further scrutiny, raising questions about America's role in the Middle East under his leadership.

Stay tuned to New Daily Prime for ongoing updates and expert analysis.

America to take over Gaza? Trump says all Palestinians must leave – What happens next?

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

In a highly controversial statement, President Donald Trump declared on Tuesday that the United States should seize control of Gaza and permanently relocate its Palestinian population to other Middle Eastern nations.

Speaking during a joint press conference at the White House alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump suggested that the two million residents of Gaza be relocated to Egypt and Jordan, citing the destruction caused by Israel's ongoing military operations following the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.

"The U.S. will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a great job with it," Trump said. "We will be responsible for clearing the devastation and rebuilding Gaza into a global hub for tourism and economic growth."

Tapping into his real estate background, Trump envisioned turning Gaza into "the Riviera of the Middle East," emphasizing economic revival and job creation as key priorities.

While Trump framed his plan as a humanitarian effort and economic opportunity, his remarks reignite geopolitical tensions that have shaped the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for decades. Control over Gaza has been a major flashpoint, and any effort to forcibly relocate its Palestinian population evokes historical instances when Western powers redrew borders and displaced communities without regard for local sovereignty.

During his first term as president (2017–2021), Trump implemented policies that heavily favored Israel, leading to heightened tensions in Gaza. In December 2017, Trump officially recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital, moving the



U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The decision triggered widespread protests in Gaza and the West Bank, as Palestinians view East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

In 2018, Trump cut all U.S. funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which provides healthcare, education, and food aid to millions of Palestinian refugees, including those in Gaza. The U.S. was previously UNRWA's largest donor, contributing close to \$500 million annually. The funding cut significantly worsened the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Trump consistently backed Israel's military responses to Hamas and other Gaza-based militant groups. His administration defended Israel's right to conduct airstrikes in response to rocket attacks from Gaza, deepening Palestinian resentment toward U.S. foreign policy.

As part of his Middle East peace plan, Trump proposed economic investments to improve living conditions in Gaza and the West Bank. However, Palestinian leaders rejected the initiative, arguing that economic incentives could not replace the need for political sovereignty and territorial rights.

The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, covering just 365 square kilometers (141 square miles) but home to approximately 2.3 million people. Gaza was part of British-controlled Palestine before coming under Egyptian administration (1948–1967). Israel captured Gaza in the 1967 Six-Day War, establishing Jewish settlements that were fully withdrawn in 2005. Since Hamas took control in 2007, Israel and Egypt have enforced a strict blockade, severely restricting the movement of goods and people.

Years of conflict, blockade, and political instability have created a dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Over 50% of Gaza's workforce is unemployed, among the highest rates globally, and more than 80% of residents depend on international food aid. Gaza experiences daily power cuts, receiving electricity for only 4–8 hours a day, while 97% of its water supply is undrinkable due to pollution and overuse. Hospitals lack critical medicines, medical equipment, and emergency care capacity. Frequent Israeli airstrikes destroy key infrastructure, displacing thousands, while border restrictions and funding shortages make rebuilding efforts extremely difficult.

Newcastle United beat Arsenal to reach Carabao Cup final

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Newcastle United defeated Mikel Arteta's Arsenal 2-0 in the second leg of the semi-final encounter of the Carabao Cup on Wednesday at the St James' Park.

Newcastle United moved a giant step closer to ending a 56-year wait to win a major trophy as they secured a place in the Carabao Cup final with victory over Arsenal after an emotional night on Tyneside.

Eddie Howe's side, who held a 2-0 advantage from the semi-final first leg, completed the second part of the assignment, and will now face Liverpool or Tottenham Hotspur at Wembley as they stand one victory away from ending a sequence without major success stretching back to the 1969 triumph in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

Newcastle United's last domestic trophy was the FA Cup in 1955, while the club's last major silverware came in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup in 1969, a competition that then had the guise of the Uefa Cup and is now the Europa League.

Now, after a comprehensive 4-0 win over two legs against Arsenal that sealed a Carabao Cup final appearance against either Liverpool or Tottenham Hotspur on 16 March, Eddie Howe and his Newcastle players have the opportunity to end



the barren years.

And what a night it was on Tyneside as Newcastle's supporters started in a state of gut-wrenching tension, but then ended high on emotion and elation after reaching Wembley once more.

Newcastle made a flying start, with Alexander Isak having a goal ruled out for offside before Jacob Murphy turned home a rebound in the 19th minute after the Sweden striker's shot hit the post.

The goal came seconds after Martin Odegaard missed what turned out to be Arsenal's best chance of turning this semi-final around, glancing the post with only keeper Martin Dubravka to beat.

In a tumultuous atmosphere, with the Toon Army urging their side on at deafening volume, Newcastle delivered the decisive blow after 52 minutes following a nightmare

moment for Arsenal keeper David Raya.

Raya inexplicably tried to find Declan Rice, who was shadowed by Fabian Schar. He stole possession away from Rice, leaving Anthony Gordon with a simple finish to send Newcastle back to Wembley.

Alexander Isak had already had one crisp strike ruled out for a marginal offside before he escaped the attentions of Arsenal defender William Saliba. His shot struck the frame of the goal, but Jacob Murphy was on hand to steer in the rebound.

If Newcastle United win the Carabao Cup, Howe and his players will assume legendary status forever. Forget the fact this competition may not top the list of some priorities. It means everything to this football club and this fans.

Real Madrid snatch late Leganes win to reach Copa del Rey semi-final

By Oluwatosin Ologun

Young Real Madrid striker Gonzalo Garcia headed home a 93rd minute winner to put his side into the Copa del Rey semifinals with a 3-2 victory at Leganes on Wednesday.

Juan Cruz's brace for the hosts pulled back early strikes by Luka Modric and Endrick for the European champions at Leganes' Butarque stadium.

With extra-time beckoning 20-year-old forward Gonzalo headed home at the near post after fine work by Brahim Diaz to help Madrid snatch a derby victory and keep their legs fresh ahead of big upcoming games against Atletico Madrid and Manchester City.

Madrid were without Kylian Mbappe and Jude Bellingham after minor knocks, and started with youngsters Jacobo Ramon and Raul Asencio at the heart of their back-line because of their defensive injury crisis.

Madrid started well and were soon ahead, with Modric slotting home in the 18th minute after good work by in-form winger Rodrygo.

Teenage striker Endrick doubled Los Blancos' lead with a poacher's



finish after the ball broke loose to him in the box.

It seemed to be plain sailing for Carlo Ancelotti's side until Jacobo conceded a penalty for handling Cruz's shot.

The Leganes playmaker dispatched the spot kick low to Andriy Lunin's left, with the Ukrainian goalkeeper inches away from reaching it.

Ancelotti sent on Vinicius Junior for Rodrygo for the second half, and the winger missed two good chances straight away.

Leganes goalkeeper Juan Soriano saved well to deny the Brazilian, who also headed over from close range.

Madrid paid the price for their profligacy when Cruz netted his second, with the aid of a deflection off Ferland Mendy.

With stoppage time almost over, Diaz produced a fine dribble to break free on the right, before crossing to the near post to create his side's late winner.

Gonzalo was on hand to head home with one of the final touches of the game and book Madrid's ticket to the semifinal.

Atletico thrashed Getafe 5-0 on Tuesday to progress, while record 31-time winners Barcelona visit Valencia on Thursday, and Real Sociedad host Osasuna.