



**Tinubu marks 73rd birthday with special prayer for Nigeria** Pg 9

**"Democracies don't whisper": Gana blasts voice vote on Rivers emergency rule** Pg 6



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## Canada's PM Mark Carney accused of plagiarism in Oxford thesis

 Pg 24


**Makinde clarifies Oyo's stance on Sharia law** Pg 14



**'I dislike my songs after recording' - Ayra Starr** Pg 13



**Four Real Madrid stars face UEFA probe ahead of Arsenal clash** Pg 28



**Mark Carney**  
Canada Prime Minister



**Tinubu, Atiku, Kwankwaso call for probe after mob kills 16 travellers in Edo** Pg 7 & 8

**Myanmar declares state of emergency after earthquake kills dozens** Pg 27



**Delta govt rescinds nursing student's query over viral Tinubu wife video** Pg 15

# Minister advocates tourism-friendly policies after record-breaking December festivities

By Friday Omosola



**T**he Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, has emphasised the need to make Nigeria more accessible to tourists.

He cited the unprecedented influx of visitors during last December's festivities as a wake-up call for the government.

Speaking on 'Politics Today' on Channels Television, Tunji-Ojo highlighted how the surge in foreign visitors positively impacted the economy.

He stressed that President Bola Tinubu's administration is committed to improving access to Nigeria for legitimate travellers to boost tourism and foreign investment.

"We must ensure that people who genuinely want to visit and explore Nigeria can do so without unnecessary barriers," he said.

"The record number of visitors last December proves that Nigeria has the potential to be a major tourist destination."

As part of efforts to facilitate smoother entry, the minister announced an upgrade to the country's visa system.

The new e-visa framework aims to eliminate bureaucratic hurdles associated with the traditional visa-on-arrival process.

Tunji-Ojo explained that while visa-on-arrival remains an option, the e-

visa enhances efficiency by allowing applicants to receive approvals digitally, complete with a QR code—eliminating the need for physical visa stickers at Nigerian airports.

"This approach aligns with global best practices in countries like the UAE, Australia, and Qatar," he noted.

"It simplifies the process, making it easier for visitors and investors to come to Nigeria."s

The minister reiterated that the government remains focused on opening Nigeria to the world, positioning the country as a prime destination for business and leisure.

# THE NEW DAILY PRIME RATE CARD

## PUBLIC NOTICE COLOUR

## PRODUCT COLOUR

## EFFECTIVE FROM DECEMBER 1, 2024

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

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	329,868.50
HALF PAGE	192,500.00
QUARTER PAGE	100,000.00
14X2	109,500.00
10X6	242,500.00
10X5	237,500.00
10X4	192,500.00
10X3	171,000.00
9X6	232,500.00
9X5	206,000.00
9X4	177,500.00
9X3	150,000.00
8X6	216,000.00
8X3	98,500.00
7X4	164,002.00
6X4	94,010.50
6X3	78,500.00
6X2	47,500.00
5X5	100,000.00
5X4	61,500.00
5X3	57,819.00
5X2	40,379.50
4X4	55,000.00
4X3	31,000.00
4X2	22,003.50
3X2	17,260.00
2X2	12,945.00
2X1	8,630.00
1X1	4,315.00

## POLITICAL COLOUR

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,200,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	885,000.00
FULL PAGE	420,000.00
HALF PAGE	213,250.00
QUARTER PAGE	115,012.50

## POLITICAL BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	RATE
CENTRESPREAD	1,050,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD	745,000.00
FULL PAGE	315,777.50
HALF PAGE	184,700.00
QUARTER PAGE	95,222.50

## CORPORATE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	254,533.50
HALF PAGE	142,787.50
QUARTER PAGE	80,706.50
14X2	78,222.50
10X6	217,830.00
10X5	192,305.50
10X4	142,787.50
10X3	121,355.50
9X6	192,305.50
9X3	107,757.50
8X6	170,725.00
8X3	70,390.00
7X4	58,666.50
6X4	67,048.00
6X3	53,361.50
6X2	37,694.00
5X6	83,850.00
5X4	55,900.00
5X3	43,705.00
5X2	27,938.00
4X4	44,493.00
4X3	33,524.00
4X2	22,350.00
3X2	16,763.00
2X2	10,877.00
2X1	5,588.50
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## SPECIAL POSITIONS

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EARPIECE FRONT PAGE(1.5X2)	246,500.00
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CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PUBLIC NOTICE)	1,027,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD COLOUR (PRODUCT)	929,000.00
CENTRESPREAD B&W	800,000.00
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DOUBLE SPREAD COLOUR	721,500.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF COLOUR	432,881.00
DOUBLE SPREAD STRIP COLOUR	144,294.00
CENTRE SPREAD B&W	835,000.00
CENTRE SPREAD HALF PAGE B & W	550,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD B & W	725,000.00
DOUBLE SPREAD HALF B & W	425,000.00
FULL WRAP AROUND	15,000,000.00
HALF WRAP AROUND	8,500,000.00
HALF PAGE FRONT	5,500,000.00

## PUBLIC NOTICE BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	280,690.00
HALF PAGE	164,178.00
QUARTER PAGE	84,641.50
10X6	228,000.00
10X5	201,600.00
10X4	149,440.00
10X3	127,108.00
9X6	201,600.00
9X5	169,050.00
9X4	137,875.00
9X3	112,875.00
8X6	179,368.00
8X5	143,500.00
8X4	93,500.00
8X3	82,434.50
7X4	111,173.50
6X4	82,434.50
6X3	59,250.00
6X2	40,000.00
5X6	98,749.50
5X4	65,833.00
5X3	49,375.00
5X2	32,916.50
4X4	52,666.50
4X3	39,499.50
4X2	26,333.50
3X2	19,750.00
2X2	13,000.00
2X1	6,500.00
1X1	3,292.00

## PRODUCT BLACK & WHITE

SIZE	TOTAL RATE
FULL PAGE	210,795.50
HALF PAGE	124,236.00
QUARTER PAGE	70,950.00
14X2	76,128.35
10X6	194,961.00
10X5	162,222.445
10X4	103,963.00
10X3	N/A
9X6	162,222.445
9X5	168,191.50
9X4	N/A
8X6	N/A
8X3	N/A
7X4	72,676.00
6X4	65,000.00
6X3	41,124.50
6X2	29,858.00
5X6	71,378.00
5X4	42,825.00
5X3	29,858.00
5X2	22,841.00
4x4	N/A
4X3	N/A
4X2	17,737.50
3x3	23,458.00
3X2	14,923.00
2X2	10,200.00
2X1	5,439.50
1X1	2,700.00

## ALLURE RATE

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

## PICTURE & CAPTION

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

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# Tinubu appoints board chairmen for NTA, other federal agencies

By Friday Omosola

**P**resident Bola Tinubu has appointed Felix Morka, the National Publicity Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC), as the Board Chairman of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA).

The announcement was made by Bayo Onanuga, Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy on Friday.

In addition to Morka's appointment, President Tinubu also named Fatuhu Mohammed Buhari from Katsina State as the Director-General of the National Agricultural Seed Council.

The President further appointed several other Nigerians as board chairmen of key federal government institutions.

Many of the appointees are APC state chairmen and party officials, reinforcing the party's influence across various sectors.

The new board chairmen include Mallam Muhammad Massan, APC Chairman of Bauchi State, who was appointed Board Chairman of the Nigerian Stored Products Research Institute in Ilorin.

Abdullahi Abbas, APC Chairman of Kano State was named Board Chairman of the Nigerian Agricultural Quarantine Service.

Austian Agada, APC Chairman of Benue State, was appointed Board Chairman of the National Agricultural Seed Council, while Macdonald Ebere, APC Chairman of Imo State, will serve as Board Chairman of the Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology in Lagos.

Ubong Stephen Ntukekpo, APC Chairman of Akwa Ibom State was appointed Board Chairman of the National Institute for Freshwater Fish in New Bussa.

Emma Eneukwu, APC Deputy Chairman (South), will serve as Board Chairman of the National Automotive Development Council.

Aminu Musa Bobi, APC Chairman of Niger State was named Board Chairman of the National Library of Nigeria.

Pharm. Abass Olayide, APC Chairman of Oyo State was appointed Board Chairman



of the Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital in Kaduna.

Mohammed Gadaka, APC Chairman of Yobe State was appointed Board Chairman of the Citizenship and Leadership Training Centre, while Benjamin Omale, APC Chairman of Benue State, will serve as Board Chairman of the National Orthopedic Hospital in Enugu.

Rufus Bature, APC Chairman of Plateau State was appointed Board Chairman of the Nigerian Coal Corporation.

Abubakar Muhammed Kana, APC Chairman of Kebbi State was named Board Chairman of the Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies.

Donatus Nwankpa, APC National Working Committee Member from Abia State was appointed Board Chairman of the Project Development Institute (PRODA).

Comrade Mustapha Salihu, APC Chairman of Adamawa State was appointed Board Chairman of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP).

Kingsley Ononogbu, APC Chairman of Abia State was named Board Chairman of the National Parks Headquarters.

Alhaji Abdulmalik Usman, APC Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory was appointed Board Chairman of the

Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria in Ibadan.

Ibrahim Tukur El-Sudi, APC Chairman of Taraba State, will serve as Board Chairman of the Environmental Health Registration Council of Nigeria.

Sola Elesin, APC Chairman of Ekiti State was appointed Board Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences.

Emperor Jarrett Tenebe, APC Chairman of Edo State was named Board Chairman of the Federal College of Agriculture in Akure.

Tukur Umar Danfulani, APC Chairman of Zamfara State was appointed Board Chairman of the Federal Medical Centre in Azare.

Aminu Sani Gumel, APC Chairman of Jigawa State was named Board Chairman of the Federal College of Produce Inspection and Stored Products Technology in Kano.

# ‘Nah Your Mama’: Tinubu’s wife calls for fairness in Delta Nursing students’ query

By Friday Omosola

**T**he First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, has urged the management of Delta State College of Nursing Sciences to handle the reported queries issued to some students with fairness and understanding.

The students were allegedly questioned for participating in chants during her visit to Delta State.

In a statement released by her spokesperson, Busola Kukoyi, Mrs Tinubu emphasised that fairness in addressing the matter would foster an environment where students can thrive while maintaining a balance between discipline and free expression.

A video circulating on social media captured students enthusiastically chanting during the donation of 10,000 professional kits to midwives in the South-South zone.

The event, held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, at the Dome Event Centre, Asaba, aimed to motivate midwives and contribute to reducing infant and maternal mortality rates in Nigeria.

Reports later surfaced that some students of the Delta State College of Nursing Sciences had been queried for their participation in the chants.

Mrs Tinubu reiterated that the primary purpose of the event was to inspire midwives nationwide and support efforts to lower infant and maternal



mortality and morbidity rates in Nigeria.

She expressed gratitude to the state government, the citizens, and the nurses, midwives, women’s groups, and student nurses who warmly welcomed her and actively participated in the event.

She said: “The attention of the Office of the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has been drawn to a video circulating on social media, showing chants welcoming both the First Lady of Delta State and the First Lady of Nigeria during the Renewed Hope Initiative’s donation of 10,000 Professional Kits to Midwives in the South-South zone held at the Dome Event Centre, Asaba, Delta State, on Tuesday, 25th March, 2025.

“However, a section of the video, allegedly recorded by some students at the event, showed a spontaneous and playful twist to the welcome song.

Sequel to that, it has come to our attention that some of the students of the Delta State College of Nursing Sciences have been issued a query regarding their participation in the chants.

“While the Office of the First Lady of Nigeria respects the right of institutions to uphold discipline, it is important to recognize that students, in moments of excitement, often express themselves in a light-hearted and jovial manner.

“The Office of the First Lady believes that educational institutions should foster an environment where students feel safe to express themselves while maintaining decorum. The First Lady’s visit was intended to inspire and uplift healthcare professionals, and it is our hope that this event remains a positive and motivating experience for all involved.”

# “Democracies don’t whisper”: Gana blasts voice vote on Rivers emergency rule

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

**H**on. Joshua Gana warns that Nigeria’s emergency rule in Rivers State and the unrecorded voice vote undermine democracy, lack transparency, and echo authoritarian practices.

In a sharp critique of Nigeria’s federal government, Honourable Joshua Audu Gana, a prominent member of Nigeria’s House of Representatives, has voiced deep concern over the recent declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State. In an exclusive interview, Gana described the move as an “unconstitutional overreach” that could imperil the democratic fabric of Africa’s most populous nation.

The federal government’s appointment of a sole administrator to replace the elected governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, has drawn widespread condemnation from legal scholars, civil society groups, and opposition politicians. But Gana’s criticism is particularly notable—not only for its legal precision, but for its political courage.

“There is no provision in the 1999 Constitution that allows the President to remove a sitting governor and install an unelected administrator,” Gana said. “Although Section 305 permits the President to declare a state of emergency, it does not authorize the dissolution of state executive structures or the removal of elected representatives. Section 11(4) only empowers the National Assembly to take over state legislative functions—not executive powers—if a state assembly is unable to perform its duties.”

Gana described the circumstances surrounding the declaration of a state of emergency in Rivers State as “unprecedented, extra-constitutional, and dangerous.”

Gana, who represents Niger State in the House, warned that the federal government’s actions set a disturbing precedent. Drawing on historical comparisons, he pointed out that during past emergency declarations—including in Plateau State under



President Olusegun Obasanjo in 2004 and in Borno and Yobe States under President Goodluck Jonathan in 2011—elected governors remained in office.

“Even in those crisis periods, constitutional order was preserved. What we’re seeing today is different. It’s the erosion of federalism through executive overreach,” he said.

Even more alarming, according to Gana, was the House of Representatives’ decision to ratify the emergency declaration via a voice vote—a method that does not record how individual lawmakers voted. Lawmakers voiced their votes by shouting “aye” or “nay,” without any record of individual accountability. This, he noted, is a violation of Nigeria’s democratic best practices.

“Decisions such as the declaration of emergency rule in democracies worldwide typically require recorded votes to allow for public scrutiny. Nigerians deserve to know how their representatives voted on a matter of such national importance,” Gana said. “Democracies do not operate in whispers—they function in transparency.”

He cited Section 58(4) of Nigeria’s Constitution, which outlines proper legislative procedures, and compared Nigeria’s current process unfavorably with international standards, particularly in the United States.

“After 9/11, Congress debated and voted openly on emergency powers. That’s what

accountability looks like. A voice vote on a state of emergency? That’s unacceptable,” he said.

Gana’s critique is not limited to legal procedure—it touches on the broader implications for Nigeria’s federal system and democratic integrity.

“If we normalize this—the idea that elected state governments can be dissolved at will—then what remains of our federalism?” he asked.

He further warned that such actions echo the authoritarian tendencies of Nigeria’s military past.

“We fought hard for this democracy. We cannot afford to casually dismantle it under the pretext of emergency rule,” he said.

Gana believes the federal government must provide clear, verifiable evidence to justify the imposition of emergency rule—and that any future emergencies must follow strict constitutional procedures.

“The stakes are too high,” he said. “This is not about politics. It’s about the rule of law.”

He concluded with a plea for legislative integrity and public vigilance.

“Democracy is not sustained by silence. It’s sustained by scrutiny,” Gana said. “And the people must hold us accountable.”



# Tinubu, Atiku, Kwankwaso call for probe after mob kills 16 travellers in Edo

By Adeniyi Yusuf

**P**resident Bola Tinubu, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, former Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso, and others have called for a full-scale manhunt following the brutal killing of 16 travellers in the Uromi area of Edo State.

It gathered that the men, a group of Hausa hunters, were travelling from Port Harcourt to Kano and passed through Edo. However, they were detained by local residents who accused them of being kidnappers. Several videos of the brutal killings emerged online on Friday morning.

In one of the videos circulating online, some men lay motionless on the ground, seemingly lifeless, with a tire placed on one of them. Another man, his clothes soaked in blood, was kicked toward the others. He appeared to have been severely beaten and was struggling to breathe.

This same video showed other victims lying in a pool of blood, their backs positioned against each other. A man in a jean jacket, red top, and blue shorts was repeatedly struck with a stick.

About a minute into the footage, at least five of the victims were seen gathered together. In the background, a woman was heard



shouting, "Die, die."

Another man, dressed in yellow, was dragged out from beneath a gutter and struck on the head with a large wooden object. His head began to bleed. Shortly after, residents set fire to tires and continued beating the victims, even as they burned. A voice in the background was heard saying, "Finish them."

In a separate video, one man who had already been burned was visible. A wheelbarrow was used to dump another body into the fire, and the victim, still alive, cried out for help. "Help me," he shouted, but no one came to his aid.

Four of the victims survived the attack with injuries and were taken to His Grace Hospital in Uromi for treatment.

In response to the horrific attack,

President Bola Tinubu condemned the murder of travelling hunters intercepted by local vigilantes in the Uromi community of Esan North Local Government of Edo State.

The President, who expressed shock at the dastardly act in a statement by his Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, directed Police and other security agencies to conduct swift and thorough investigations and punish the suspected culprits.

President Tinubu commiserated with the families of the affected victims and assured them that criminals would not be allowed to shed the blood of innocent Nigerians.

**Continue reading  
on next page**

## Cont from page 7

The President noted that jungle justice has no place in Nigeria, and all Nigerians have the freedom to move freely in any part of the country.

President Tinubu commended the Edo State governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, and community leaders in Uromi for their swift response to avert the escalation of tension.

Speaking on the situation, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar has expressed deep sorrow over the reported killing of some hunters in Edo State, calling for a thorough and transparent investigation into the incident.

In a statement shared on his official Facebook page, Atiku expressed his condolences to the families of the victims and stressed the importance of seeking justice.

He condemned the act of jungle justice, highlighting that the protection of innocent lives must always be a top priority.

“This unfortunate incident demands a thorough, transparent, and impartial investigation to uncover and ensure that those responsible are brought to book,” he stated.

Atiku urged authorities to take swift and decisive action to prevent the recurrence of such extrajudicial killings.

He further stated that justice must not only be served but also be seen to be done in order to restore public confidence in Nigeria’s security institutions.

His remarks come amid growing outrage among Northerners following the release of gruesome footage showing the killings of 16 hunters en route to Kano to celebrate Eid.

Similarly, former Governor of Kano State, Rabiul Kwankwaso, along with Amnesty International, has called for an investigation into the alleged lynching of at least 16 travelers in Edo State.

Mr Kwankwaso, in a statement he posted on his Facebook page, said he was “concerned by the harrowing display of mob injustice on 16 travellers from Northern Nigeria in Edo State.”

Mr Kwankwaso said the tragedy, which occurred on Thursday in the Udune Efandion community of Uromi, “is another sad reminder of the barbarity of jungle justice.”

Also, the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum condemned the killing travellers.

In a statement issued by the AYCF President General, Shetima Yerima, in Kaduna on Friday, the forum described the incident as a “horrific display of mob injustice” fueled by false accusations and ignorance.

The AYCF demanded immediate and thorough investigations into the tragedy, calling for swift and decisive action against those responsible.

The AYCF also urged the Hausa community to remain calm and

peaceful, resisting the temptation for retaliation and instead seeking justice through lawful means.

The statement reads, “We stand united in our outrage and condemnation of the horrific events that transpired on Thursday in the Udune Efandion community of Uromi, Edo State, where 16 innocent travellers from Northern Nigeria tragically lost their lives due to a horrifying display of mob injustice.”

According to Shetima, the forum stands ready to support the community in advocating for their rights and ensuring that such an atrocity is never repeated.

“We extend our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims and call upon the relevant authorities to act swiftly in bringing the perpetrators of this mob injustice to justice. We must work together to build a society where dialogue and understanding prevail over violence and ignorance.”

Sharing his thought, a human rights activist and convener of #RevolutionNow movement, Omoyele Sowore, faulted the brutal mob attack.

He called for prosecution of the perpetrators.

Sowore said, “Yesterday, some northerners returning home for Sallah celebrations were reportedly stopped by vigilantes in Edo State and, without warning and due diligence, profiled and announced to be deadly ‘Fulani herdsmen’ and kidnappers.”



# Tinubu marks 73rd birthday with special prayer for Nigeria

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Tinubu on Friday, March 28, participated in a special prayer session at the National Mosque in Abuja to commemorate his 73rd birthday, which falls on Saturday, March 29.

The event will bring together fellow Muslims for a moment of spiritual reflection and supplication for the nation.

In a statement released on Thursday, March 27, Mr. Bayo Onanuga, the President's Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, revealed that President Tinubu would utilise the occasion to express gratitude to God for His continuous preservation and support as he leads the country.

The statement, titled 'President Tinubu To Mark 73rd Birthday with Special Prayer at the Abuja National Mosque,' outlined the significance of the event, highlighting the President's deep commitment to Nigeria's spiritual and moral well-being.

Onanuga said, "On this significant day, the President will dedicate himself to spiritual reflection and supplication for Nigeria's continued peace, progress, and prosperity."

In keeping with his dedication to



seeking divine guidance, insight, and strength in leadership, President Tinubu chose a prayer session as the way to mark this milestone.

He believes that collective prayer holds immense power in steering the nation towards progress and harmony.

President Tinubu's birthday coincides with the ongoing holy month of Ramadan, adding a layer of spiritual significance to the occasion. It also comes just two months before the second anniversary of his administration, a milestone in his tenure as Nigeria's leader.

The President extended an invitation to Nigerians across the country to join the prayer session in spirit, urging them to offer prayers at their places of worship or wherever they may be. This call reinforces his vision of a united nation, bound by a shared destiny.

In his statement, President Tinubu also expressed his sincere gratitude to the Nigerian people for their unwavering support and goodwill. He praised their commitment as his administration works tirelessly to implement economic reforms, bolster national security, and create opportunities for all citizens.

"I am deeply thankful to Allah for the gift of life and the privilege to serve this great nation, As I mark another birthday and look forward to our second anniversary, my heart is filled with renewed hope for Nigeria," the President remarked.

President Tinubu further encouraged Nigerians to pray for divine guidance, unity, and healing for the country.

"Together, we shall overcome challenges and build a nation where every citizen thrives," he affirmed.

# Nursing student queried over viral video mocking First Lady Oluremi Tinubu

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The management of Delta State College of Nursing has issued a query to a student, Osato Edobor, over her involvement in a viral video that sparked controversy during a visit by Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, to Delta State. The student was accused of singing, recording, and posting a video on TikTok in which student nurses at an event publicly rejected Tinubu as their "mother."

In the video, which quickly gained traction online, the nursing students were seen humorously expressing discontent during the First Lady's visit as part of her Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) project. Tinubu was in Delta to oversee the distribution of 10,000 professional kits (including scrubs and Crocs) to midwives in Nigeria's South-South zone.

The school management condemned Edobor's actions, labeling them a violation of the college's disciplinary code. In a query signed by Provost Evbodaghe Rita Ogonne, Edobor was accused of engaging in a "malicious act" by recording and posting an "unofficial response" to Tinubu's arrival at the Dome Event Center, Asaba, on March 25, 2025. She was given 24 hours to respond to the allegations.

According to the school's Student Handbook, Edobor's alleged actions fall under "punishable offences" detailed on Page 21 of the disciplinary guide.



In response to the controversy, the Delta State Government released a statement clarifying what transpired during Tinubu's visit. Speaking at a press conference in Asaba, the Commissioner for Works (Rural Roads) and Public Information, Charles Aniagwu, downplayed the incident, emphasizing that the video had been misrepresented by social media users.

Aniagwu explained that the nurses present at the event had certain expectations regarding the distribution of medical kits. When they realized the donations were primarily for midwives, some of them expressed their disappointment by singing in jest.

"The First Lady apologised to the nurses during the presentation, assuring them that their turn would come in due course through the Renewed Hope Initiative," Aniagwu said.

He also clarified that the video did not reflect the overall atmosphere at the

event. "The nurses were initially happy, dancing, and cheering during the First Lady's speech. What happened was taken out of context by certain individuals who sought to fit the event into their own narratives."

Aniagwu reaffirmed the state government's gratitude to Oluremi Tinubu and praised her for her efforts in supporting healthcare professionals across the country.

During her two-day visit, Tinubu distributed thousands of medical kits to midwives and pledged further support to healthcare workers in Delta and beyond. The First Lady's initiative has been lauded as a step toward improving Nigeria's healthcare system and empowering professionals at the grassroots level.

Despite the viral controversy, Aniagwu expressed optimism about the continued partnership between the state and the Tinubu-led RHI, urging the public to look beyond misleading narratives and focus on the positive impact of the First Lady's visit.



# Mahama updates Tinubu on ECOWAS talks with Sahel states

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

**P**resident John Mahama of Ghana, who is currently leading ECOWAS's efforts to mediate with the military juntas of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso, met with President Bola Tinubu in Abuja on Thursday, March 27, to update him on recent developments in the ongoing negotiations with these estranged states.

Speaking to journalists after the meeting, Mahama revealed that the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) is still engaged in discussions with the Alliance of Sahel States (AES).

However, he acknowledged that the talks had been complicated, urging that ECOWAS must continue its efforts to restore dialogue with the three nations, which had suspended their membership in the regional bloc following military coups.

"It's a complicated situation, and it's not as easy as we think. We just need to continue to dialogue and see how we can continue to dialogue together," Mahama said, emphasising the need for patience and persistence in finding a diplomatic solution.

Mahama, who was in Abuja to brief President Tinubu on the progress of these talks, explained that his visit allowed him to gather concerns from the Sahelian countries that required further discussion.

As the current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Tinubu is responsible for overseeing the bloc's efforts in the region, and Mahama considered it vital to keep him informed of the evolving situation.

"I came to thank him for the honour done me during my inauguration but also to brief him on the visits to the Sahelian countries—Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger—and to bring him up to date with some of the issues and to discuss with him," Mahama stated.

Mahama reaffirmed that it is his duty as ECOWAS's mediator to continue liaising with regional leaders like President Tinubu to ensure the continuation of talks with the AES.

While addressing the media, Mahama was asked whether there was any "good news" to report from the ongoing discussions.

He responded cautiously, reiterating the complexity of the situation but maintaining



that dialogue remains the best path forward.

President Tinubu's commitment to citizen welfare

President Tinubu, who serves as the Chairman of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government, stressed that the welfare of innocent citizens in the Sahelian countries must remain the central focus of all regional efforts.

He stated that while addressing the political concerns between the military juntas and ECOWAS, the citizens should be the "first beneficiary and the first point of reasoning together."

"We must ensure that whatever course we take, the citizens must be the first to benefit and the first to reason with us," Tinubu emphasised.

Tinubu also praised Mahama's role in bridging what he described as a "crucial gap" between ECOWAS and the AES, especially given the six-month transition period that has been approved for the withdrawal of Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso as member states.

This six-month period, which began on January 29, 2025, will run until July 29, 2025, after which ECOWAS will begin the formal process of withdrawal from the bloc, according to the resolution passed at the 66th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government in December 2024.

President of the ECOWAS Commission, Dr. Omar Touray, had announced that the resolution provided these countries with a year to settle any outstanding financial and legal obligations to ECOWAS or its affiliated institutions.

Additionally, the bloc extended the mandates of Senegalese President Bassirou Faye and Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé, who have been leading the mediation efforts with the military juntas since June 2024.

Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso's withdrawal from ECOWAS

The discussions with the three countries have been difficult, particularly as the military juntas in these nations have been reluctant to provide clear dates for their planned transitions back to civilian rule.

However, ECOWAS has made it clear that the bloc is committed to ensuring the welfare of the citizens in these countries is protected, irrespective of the political challenges presented by the ruling regimes.

During a December 2024 meeting with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President Tinubu reaffirmed Nigeria's commitment to pursuing diplomatic solutions to the political impasse in Niger, Mali, and Burkina Faso.



# You're not a recognised member, Kaduna SDP tells El-Rufai

By Damilola Olufemi

**T**he Kaduna State Chapter of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has disowned former governor Nasir El-Rufai, stating that he is not a recognized member of the party in Kaduna State. This comes after El-Rufai and some members of the All Progressives Congress (APC) dumped the ruling party for the SDP.

El-Rufai cited a growing misalignment between his personal values and the current direction of the APC as the primary reason for his decision. He expressed his disappointment with the APC's leadership, accusing the party of straying from the progressive ideals of its founding members.

However, the SDP's Assistant National Secretary, Northwest zone, Idris Inuwa, emphasized that El-Rufai's entry into the party remained a rumor as he has yet to follow due process. "It has come to our notice that certain individuals, including Nasir El-Rufai, are being rumored to have joined the SDP. However, neither the



Chairman of the Kaduna North Local Government Chapter in Kaduna State, nor the leadership of Unguwar Sarki ward, has any record of these memberships," Inuwa said.

Inuwa advised El-Rufai and his cohorts to follow proper procedures if they wish to officially become members of the party. "We advise him and any other interested individuals to follow the proper procedures if they wish to officially become members of the party," he said.

The SDP also rejected the purported dissolution of the Kaduna State Working Committee, stating that it is unconstitutional and an affront to the principles of due process and internal democracy. Inuwa

emphasized that the Kaduna State Executive Committee is a product of a duly conducted State Congress and holds a four-year mandate that remains valid and binding.

Inuwa stated that the Kaduna State SDP remains open and welcoming to all prospective members who adhere to the established procedures. "While we recognize the growing interest of individuals and groups in joining the SDP, we emphasise that there are well-defined guidelines and constitutional provisions governing membership admission. The State Executive Council (Exco) remains open and welcoming to all prospective members who adhere to these established procedures," he stated.

# Nursing student queried over viral video mocking First Lady Oluremi Tinubu

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso

The management of Delta State College of Nursing has issued a query to a student, Osato Edobor, over her involvement in a viral video that sparked controversy during a visit by Nigeria's First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, to Delta State. The student was accused of singing, recording, and posting a video on TikTok in which student nurses at an event publicly rejected Tinubu as their "mother."

In the video, which quickly gained traction online, the nursing students were seen humorously expressing discontent during the First Lady's visit as part of her Renewed Hope Initiative (RHI) project. Tinubu was in Delta to oversee the distribution of 10,000 professional kits (including scrubs and Crocs) to midwives in Nigeria's South-South zone.

The school management condemned Edobor's actions, labeling them a violation of the college's disciplinary code. In a query signed by Provost Evbodaghe Rita Ogonne, Edobor was accused of engaging in a "malicious act" by recording and posting an "unofficial response" to Tinubu's arrival at the Dome Event Center, Asaba, on March 25, 2025. She was given 24 hours to respond to the allegations.

According to the school's Student Handbook, Edobor's alleged actions fall under "punishable offences" detailed on Page 21 of the disciplinary guide.

In response to the controversy, the Delta State Government released a statement clarifying what transpired during



Tinubu's visit. Speaking at a press conference in Asaba, the Commissioner for Works (Rural Roads) and Public Information, Charles Aniagwu, downplayed the incident, emphasizing that the video had been misrepresented by social media users.

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"The First Lady apologised to the nurses during the presentation, assuring them that their turn would come in due course through the Renewed Hope Initiative," Aniagwu said.

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individuals who sought to fit the event into their own narratives."

Aniagwu reaffirmed the state government's gratitude to Oluremi Tinubu and praised her for her efforts in supporting healthcare professionals across the country.

During her two-day visit, Tinubu distributed thousands of medical kits to midwives and pledged further support to healthcare workers in Delta and beyond. The First Lady's initiative has been lauded as a step toward improving Nigeria's healthcare system and empowering professionals at the grassroots level.

Despite the viral controversy, Aniagwu expressed optimism about the continued partnership between the state and the Tinubu-led RHI, urging the public to look beyond misleading narratives and focus on the positive impact of the First Lady's visit.

# Makinde clarifies Oyo's stance on Sharia law

By Friday Omosola

Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State has addressed concerns regarding the implementation of Sharia law in parts of the South-West, including Oyo.

He affirmed that his administration will not oppose any initiative that aligns with the Nigerian Constitution.

His statement follows reports suggesting that the state government planned to challenge the proposal in court.

Dismissing such claims, Makinde emphasised that individuals are free to engage with the Sharia Panel if they so choose.

Speaking at the 2025 Iftar Programme organised by the state government at the Presidential Lodge, Government House, Agodi, Ibadan, the governor described the panel as a possible avenue for alternative dispute resolution.

However, he reiterated that the judiciary remains the ultimate authority in legal matters, as enshrined in the Constitution.

Makinde also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to religious harmony and unity, warning against divisive tactics aimed at destabilizing the state.

While acknowledging that some politicians may exploit religious sentiments for electoral gain, he assured that his government remains focused on sustainable development for the benefit of all residents and future generations.

Makinde, in a statement released by the Oyo State government, was quoted to have said, "I read in the newspaper that I would go to Court for interpretation on the Sharia Panel, which is ongoing in Oyo. That is not my position.



"My position is that we will support anything that is in our Constitution. I made a statement when Muslims in Southwestern Nigeria (MUSWEN) came to my office that we should not encourage discord among ourselves no matter how little.

"The interpretation on my own side is that, even in our families, it is not every issue we take to court. When people have disagreements, the elders in the family try to settle the dispute.

"So, on this particular Sharia Panel, whoever wants to patronise it and feels it is an alternative dispute mechanism, it is okay. It will help the government and ensure that the number of cases going to our judges is reduced.

"We will encourage alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, and the only thing I can say is that if it is something to be enforced or that needs more clarity, you still have the court, which is recognised by the Constitution.

"We have all lived together peacefully and as we move towards the next election, there will be elements that only think about the next election. But what we have done in this administration is to think about the next generation.

"This is the reason that after three years into this government, we sat down and thought we should rehabilitate our roads. Before now, previous administrations would come in and patch the roads, but during rainy seasons, they get destroyed again.

"In our own estimation, we observed that most of these roads are 50 years old to 60 years old. So, we said we would scrape them and reconstruct them so that for the next 30 years, nobody would do anything to them.

"So, as we move towards the next election, let us be vigilant. People will come with all sorts. But I know that your prayers will see us through. Oyo State would never go back to the era of 'do or die' politics."

The statement highlighted the governor's gratitude to the Muslim community in the state for their unwavering prayers, support, and collaboration with his administration, acknowledging their role in fostering significant development and progress.

He also expressed appreciation to the legislature, judiciary, and citizens for their continued cooperation, while commending security chiefs for their dedication to maintaining peace and stability.



# President Tinubu condoles with Florence Ajimobi over daughter's passing

By Gbenga Oluranti Olaleye

President Bola Tinubu has expressed heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Florence Ajimobi, wife of the late former Governor of Oyo State, Senator Abiola Ajimobi, over the tragic passing of her daughter, Mrs. Bisola Kola-Daisi.

In a statement issued on Friday, March 28, and signed by his Special Adviser on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, President Tinubu described the loss as both unexpected and heartbreaking, offering his deepest sympathies to the bereaved family.

"In a poignant conversation with the grieving mother on Thursday, President Tinubu conveyed his sincere condolences, acknowledging the sudden and heart-wrenching departure of a cherished daughter, devoted wife, and mother of three," the statement read.

The President further extended his



prayers and support to Mrs. Kola-Daisi's husband, family, friends, and associates. He remembered the deceased as a warm-hearted, industrious, and charitable individual who touched many lives.

Tinubu highlighted Mrs. Kola-Daisi's remarkable achievements as a successful businesswoman and a trusted public servant.

The President noted that her contributions, particularly her invaluable

counsel on budgeting and finance, left a significant impact.

"Her wise counsel in budgeting and finance was invaluable," the statement added.

President Tinubu prayed for divine comfort and strength for the grieving family, while asking Almighty God to grant Mrs. Kola-Daisi eternal rest.

"The President prayed for Almighty God's grace to receive her soul and provide comfort and strength to her survivors," Onanuga stated.

The passing of Mrs. Kola-Daisi has sparked an outpouring of condolences from family, friends, and political associates, many of whom have described her as a compassionate leader and dedicated professional who made substantial contributions to society.

# Delta govt rescinds nursing student's query over viral Tinubu wife video

By Helen Okechukwu

The Delta State Government, through the Commissioner for Health, Dr. Joseph Onojaeme, has ordered the withdrawal of the query issued to nursing student Osato Edobor following the circulation of a video from an event attended by the First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu.

The school management had earlier issued a query to students after a video showed them refusing to eulogize the wife of President Bola Tinubu in a song.

The query was issued on 27 March.

The video emerged after Senator Oluremi attended a health programme and the distribution of 10,000 professional kits event held on March 25 in Asaba, Delta State.

Edobor received the query after nursing

students at the event rejected a compere's song praising Mrs. Tinubu. While he sang, "Na awa mama be this; we no get another one," they responded, "Na your mama be this."

Read Also: Osun LG Poll: PDP, APC dispute voting video

The query sparked widespread reactions and criticism from citizens, including lawyer Inibehe Effiong, who called for its withdrawal.

Following several criticisms, the school provost, Mrs. R. Evbödage, issued a withdrawal notice to Edobor dated March 28.

The letter read, "The Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Joseph Onojaeme, in his magnanimity, has directed the school authority to withdraw



the query issued to you on March 27, 2025.

"You are therefore to return the query letter through the student affairs officer to the office of the provost.

"The school authority regrets any inconvenience this may have caused the state."

# Police urge Lagosians to disregard fake Gbagada kidnapping alert

By Friday Omosola

**L**agos State Commissioner of Police, Olohundare Jimoh, has dismissed recent reports of kidnapping along Gbagada Expressway as fake and recycled news, urging residents to disregard such claims.

He also ordered the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for spreading the misinformation.

In a statement released on Thursday by the Lagos State Police Command, CP Jimoh made it clear that the widely circulated security alert did not originate from the Command.

“The Lagos State Police Command wishes to, for the umpteenth time, debunk a recurring advisory on social media purportedly emanating from the Command about ‘an increase in kidnapping incidents along Gbagada Expressway.’

“The Command hereby states unequivocally that the claim that such a security alert was issued by the Lagos State Police Command is false,” the statement read.

According to the police, the fake alert first surfaced in January 2024 and was debunked at the time.

It resurfaced again in September 2024 and was once more dismissed as false.

The latest circulation in March 2025 has raised further concerns over the



deliberate spread of misinformation.

Despite the false nature of the alert, Jimoh assured Lagosians that the Command remains committed to ensuring their safety.

He has directed Divisional Police Officers (DPOs) and Area Commanders to conduct an immediate review of security measures in and around the Gbagada area to prevent any potential security threats.

“The improved security architecture will be regularly reviewed and optimized to ensure absolute security for road users, residents of the area, and the entire people of Lagos State,” the police assured.

Jimoh further urged Lagosians to remain security conscious and report any suspicious activities to the

nearest police station or contact the Lagos State Police Command Control Room via the following hotlines: 08065154338, 08063299264, or 09129229576.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner has directed detectives to track down those responsible for spreading the false alert, vowing to ensure they face legal consequences.

“Purveyors of fake news are equally warned to desist from such criminal acts or face the full wrath of the law,” the statement concluded.

Benjamin Hundeyin, the Police Public Relations Officer of the Lagos State Command, reaffirmed the Command’s commitment to ensuring public safety and tackling misinformation that could incite unnecessary fear among Lagosians.

# Okpebholo orders full-scale investigation into killing of seven in Uromi

By Friday Omosola

**E**do State Governor, Monday Okpebholo, has condemned the lynching and burning of seven suspected kidnappers by residents of a community in Uromi, Esan North-East Local Government Area.

Describing the act as barbaric and unacceptable, the governor, represented by the Chief Security Officer (CSO) of Government House, Solomon Osaghale, vowed that those responsible would be brought to justice.

He emphasised that such actions are foreign to Edo State's values and will not be tolerated.

Osaghale, who visited Uromi on the governor's directive, assessed the situation and assured residents that a prompt and thorough investigation would be conducted to ensure justice and prevent a recurrence.

Preliminary findings, according to Osaghale, revealed that the victims had boarded a commercial truck that was stopped by members of the local security outfit.

A search of the vehicle allegedly uncovered firearms, leading to a mob attack by those present.

While condemning the killings, Osaghale reaffirmed that no individual has the right to take another's life, stressing that the nature of the attack was deeply concerning to the governor.



"His Excellency, Governor Monday Okpebholo, upon receiving the news of this incident, directed me to immediately visit and ascertain the facts.

"This incident is a source of great concern to the governor, whose vision is to create a peaceful and prosperous Edo State free from such unlawful acts," Osaghale stated.

He further disclosed that the Commissioner of Police has been directed to launch a full-scale investigation, with over four arrests already made in connection with the attack.

He reassured law-abiding residents, including the Hausa community in Uromi, of their safety, noting that security forces have been deployed to restore peace and normalcy.

The leader of the Hausa community in Uromi, Mallam Aliyu Haruna, expressed gratitude to Governor

Okpebholo for his swift intervention.

He acknowledged that the governor's response, including the deployment of security personnel, has helped calm tensions.

"We sincerely thank the governor for his quick response to this unfortunate incident. This is the first time such an event has occurred in Uromi, and it is shocking.

"The people of Uromi have always been accommodating to us in the Hausa community," Haruna said.

He further noted that the Hausa community has lived peacefully in Uromi for over seventy years, with many, including himself, born and raised there.

The state government reassures all residents that law enforcement will act swiftly to bring justice to those responsible, ensuring peace and stability in the state.



# Sanwo-Olu expands LASUCOM, converts isolation centres for medical training

By Friday Omosola

Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu has approved a large-scale expansion of medical training facilities, including the Lagos State University College of Medicine (LASUCOM), to address the acute shortage of healthcare professionals in the state.

As part of the initiative, the government has handed over key medical infrastructure to contractors for conversion into modern academic facilities.

These include the transformation of the CACOVID Isolation Centre at the Infectious Disease Hospital (IDH) into large lecture theatres and multi-disciplinary laboratories, as well as the conversion of the Cardio-Renal Centre at Gbagada General Hospital into academic offices and tutorial rooms.

The project aims to increase student admissions in critical medical fields such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and allied health professions, to scale up annual student intake from 200 to 2,500 within the next five years.

Speaking at the official handover, Lagos State Commissioner for Health, Akin Abayomi, emphasised that the expansion is a direct response to the severe shortage of healthcare personnel, particularly doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and laboratory scientists.

He noted that Lagos currently faces a deficit of 30,000 doctors, making immediate intervention necessary.

"The government, under Governor Sanwo-Olu's leadership, has approved a phased expansion of infrastructure to support increased student enrollment in medical and health sciences. This is a crucial step in addressing our human resource gap in the healthcare sector," Abayomi stated.

He outlined two key approaches to solving the crisis: increasing the number of trained professionals and ensuring that their education meets accreditation standards.

"Medical training goes beyond classrooms—it requires access to well-equipped laboratories, experienced academic staff, and clinical exposure. This expansion plan ensures all these elements



are in place," he added.

The commissioner also highlighted that the initiative will provide 1,600 additional lecture theatre seats, 1,600 new laboratory spaces, and 110 offices for academic staff.

The Lagos State Infrastructure Asset Management Agency (LASIAMA) has been tasked with overseeing the project's execution to ensure adherence to high construction standards.

Lagos State Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Hon. Tolani Sule, commended the project as a strategic solution to the healthcare workforce shortage.

"Lagos has limited land space, so we must maximize existing infrastructure. This repurposing of underutilized assets is a game-changer for medical education in the state," he said.

He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to improving health education, noting that Governor Sanwo-Olu and Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat have consistently supported policies that enhance medical training institutions and hospitals.

Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University (LASU), Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, emphasised the importance of the expansion in meeting accreditation requirements.

"The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) and the Nursing Council

require adequate infrastructure before granting full accreditation. This project ensures we meet those standards," she explained.

She noted that LASUCOM was originally designed for only 50 students per cohort, making the expansion a necessary step for sustainability.

"With today's handover, we are well-positioned to meet MDCN and NUC requirements, allowing us to train more professionals to serve Lagos and beyond," she added.

Prof. Adetokunbo Fabamwo, Chief Medical Director of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), described the project as a long-overdue solution to Lagos' healthcare demands.

"LASUTH plays a key role in training medical students and postgraduate doctors. This expansion will ease the burden on our facilities and create an improved learning environment," he said.

Adenike Adekanbi, General Manager of LASIAMA, assured that high construction standards would be maintained.

"We have engaged top-tier contractors and will rigorously monitor progress to ensure world-class academic facilities are delivered on schedule," she stated.

This expansion marks a significant milestone in Lagos State's efforts to strengthen its healthcare workforce.

# 'I dislike my songs after recording' – Ayra Starr

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian Afrobeats sensation Oyinkansola Sarah Aderibigbe, popularly known as Ayra Starr, has admitted that she rarely likes her songs after recording them.

Despite her growing success, the singer revealed that she often feels her music could be better.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone, the "Rush" hitmaker explained that she is highly self-critical. She constantly pushes herself to improve, making it difficult for her to be satisfied with her own work.

"I usually don't like my songs after recording them. It's so bad. I don't even know why," she said. "I just feel like it can always get better, and I keep trying to push myself until it's perfect."

A rare exception: Woman commando

While Ayra Starr is usually dissatisfied with her songs, she made an exception for Woman Commando, her latest hit featuring Anita and Coco Jones. She admitted that this track felt different from the rest. Unlike her usual experience, she found herself loving the song with every listen.

"Woman Commando was the one song where I felt like I went crazy on it. This is dope," she stated.

The track has been receiving widespread praise, solidifying her place as one of the most exciting voices in Afrobeats today.

A rising star in afrobeats

Ayra Starr has quickly become a force in the music industry. With hits like Rush and Bloody Samaritan, she has captivated audiences with her unique blend of



Afrobeats, R&B, and pop. Her energetic performances and deep lyrics have made her a fan favorite both in Nigeria and internationally.

The singer's rapid rise to fame has not come without challenges. Being a perfectionist means she is always striving for more, which can sometimes make it difficult for her to enjoy her own music. This struggle is common among artists who push themselves to the highest standards.

Musical inspirations

Ayra Starr has previously shared that she draws inspiration from some of the biggest names in music. In an earlier interview, she mentioned that she listens to SZA, Nicki Minaj, Rihanna, and Rema in her free time. Their influence is evident in her music, which effortlessly blends different genres to create her distinct sound.

Her ability to take inspiration from various artists while maintaining her originality has helped her stand out in the crowded music industry.

The pressure to deliver hits

The music industry can be demanding,

especially for young artists like Ayra Starr. With each song, there is pressure to deliver a hit that resonates with fans. For someone who is her own biggest critic, this pressure can be overwhelming.

Despite her struggles with self-doubt, Ayra Starr continues to push boundaries. Her openness about not always liking her songs gives fans a glimpse into the creative process and the effort that goes into making hit records.

Looking ahead

As Ayra Starr continues her journey in the music industry, her perfectionism may push her to even greater heights. She has already achieved remarkable success, but her drive suggests that she is only getting started.

With Woman Commando receiving widespread praise, she may have finally found a song she truly loves. However, knowing her relentless work ethic, she will likely continue striving for the next big hit.

Ayra Starr's honesty and dedication make her one of the most intriguing artists in Afrobeats today. Whether she likes her songs or not, fans certainly do, and her career shows no signs of slowing down.



# Burna Boy unveils new nickname, Jean Béna Dieudonné

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**G**rammy-winning Nigerian singer Burna Boy has adopted a new stage name, adding another moniker to his ever-growing list of artistic identities and personas.

The Afrobeats superstar, whose real name is Damini Ogulu, announced his latest alias, “Jean Béna Dieudonné,” on Friday.

The announcement came shortly after his collaboration with French-Haitian artist Joé Dwèt Filé. The two musicians joined forces on the remix of Filé’s hit song, 4 Kampé. Burna Boy surprised fans by singing parts of his verse in French, showcasing his versatility.

**Burna Boy’s social media announcement**

Taking to social media, Burna Boy shared the news with his millions of followers. On X (formerly Twitter), he wrote, “My name is now Jean Béna Dieudonné.” The simple statement sparked immediate reactions, with fans debating the meaning behind his new name.

This latest alias adds to a long list of names Burna Boy has adopted over the years. He has previously introduced titles such as Odogwu, Big 7, and El Major, each representing different phases of his career.

**A growing international influence**



Burna Boy’s choice of a French-sounding name may not be a coincidence. Over the years, he has expanded his reach beyond Afrobeats, collaborating with artists from various countries and experimenting with different musical styles.

His latest partnership with Joé Dwèt Filé further cements his position as a global artist. By incorporating French lyrics into his verse on 4 Kampé, he connects with a wider audience and demonstrates his ability to adapt to different cultures.

**Fan reactions to the name change**

Fans have responded with mixed emotions to his new alias. Some admire his willingness to reinvent himself, while others question the need for constant name changes. Regardless of opinions, his evolution keeps audiences engaged and intrigued.

**This is not the first time Burna Boy**

has made a bold artistic move. His career has been marked by reinvention, both musically and in his personal branding. By adopting new names, he builds fresh narratives around his music and persona.

**Burna Boy’s continued growth**

The musician’s influence in the global music industry continues to grow. From winning a Grammy to performing on the world’s biggest stages, he has established himself as one of Africa’s most successful artists.

His ability to adapt and experiment with new identities reflects his ambition to stay ahead in the industry. Whether Jean Béna Dieudonné becomes a permanent part of his image or just another temporary name remains to be seen.

One thing is certain—Burna Boy is a dynamic force in music, and his fans eagerly anticipate what he will do next.



# 'My husband stays loyal' – Juliana Olayode

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**ollywood actress Juliana Olayode has strongly rejected polygamy and infidelity, citing her personal experience growing up in a polygamous household.

She believes the practice causes emotional pain, breeds competition among spouses, and creates an unstable family environment.

During a recent interview on Oyinmomo TV, Olayode openly expressed her disapproval of polygamous relationships. She emphasized that witnessing the struggles within her own family shaped her views on marriage. According to her, polygamy often leads to conflicts, jealousy, and a lack of unity.

## Faith in God's plan

Olayode made it clear that she believes in a monogamous marriage and trusts in God's plan for her life. She confidently declared that her husband would never marry another woman. Her faith, she said, is unshaken, as she trusts God's promises for her future.

"My husband won't marry another woman. It can't happen. I'm so sure. When God speaks, His words don't fail," she stated firmly.

Her strong conviction stems from her religious beliefs, which she considers a guiding force in her life and relationships. She believes that God has destined her for a faithful and stable marriage, and she refuses to entertain the idea of sharing her husband.

Rejecting advances from married men

Beyond opposing polygamy, Olayode also takes a strong stand



against infidelity. She firmly stated that she would never engage in a relationship with a married man. According to her, faithfulness is a personal choice, and she is committed to maintaining high moral standards.

"If a married man wants to engage me in any conversation, I'll immediately turn him down because I'm not interested," she said.

She stressed the importance of personal discipline and integrity, encouraging others to uphold the same values in their relationships. Olayode believes that infidelity undermines trust and causes unnecessary heartache.

A larger conversation on marriage and commitment

Olayode's views contribute to the ongoing discussion about marriage, fidelity, and family values. In many cultures, polygamy remains a common practice, often defended as a traditional system that provides financial security for women. However, many critics argue that it leads to emotional struggles, favoritism, and instability within families.

Her stance aligns with a growing movement that promotes monogamy and mutual respect in relationships. Many believe that strong marriages

are built on trust, honesty, and shared values. Olayode's words reinforce this belief, as she emphasizes her commitment to maintaining a faithful and loving marriage.

## Encouraging healthy relationships

The actress has often used her platform to speak about important issues such as self-respect, faith, and relationships. Her latest remarks reinforce her dedication to promoting strong moral values and encouraging others to prioritize honesty and commitment in marriage.

She urges people to recognize the emotional and psychological effects of polygamy and infidelity. By sharing her personal experiences, she hopes to inspire others to build healthy, faithful relationships based on love, trust, and integrity.

## Standing firm in her beliefs

Olayode's message is clear—polygamy and infidelity have no place in her life. She remains steadfast in her convictions, encouraging others to embrace faithfulness and honesty in their marriages. As more people engage in discussions about relationship values, her perspective adds to the growing call for commitment and trust in modern unions.

# Ned Nwoko, Regina Daniels expecting 3rd child amid split rumours

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

**N**igerian billionaire and politician, Senator Ned Nwoko, has dismissed rumors of a marital crisis with his sixth wife, actress Regina Daniels.

Instead, he revealed that they are expecting their third child together.

Divorce speculations spark social media buzz

Talks of a possible separation between Nwoko and Daniels have been making waves online. Fans noticed that the actress removed her husband's photos and name from her social media page. She also introduced herself using only her maiden name.

In a video that fueled the speculation, Daniels addressed her followers, saying, "My people, I greet you all. My name is Regina Daniels. I'm from Anioma." This added to the belief that something was amiss in their marriage.

Adding to the intrigue, the couple had not been seen together in public in recent weeks. Many assumed this was further proof of trouble in their relationship.

Nwoko breaks silence, celebrates anniversary

However, on Thursday, Nwoko took to Instagram to clear the air. Instead of confirming a split, he celebrated his sixth wedding anniversary with Daniels. In the post, he expressed his love for her and shared the exciting news that they are expecting another child.

In his message, the senator praised Daniels for standing by him through thick and thin. He also took the opportunity to shut down rumors of a breakup.

N10 million bounty for blogger behind rumours



Nwoko didn't stop at denying the rumors. He announced a N10 million bounty for the person responsible for spreading false information about his marriage.

Addressing the anonymous blogger, he warned, "To the faceless gossip, the shadow behind a keypad, your fifteen minutes are on rewind. A bounty stands on your trail, N10 million strong. Tick-tock, tick-tock, you won't run for long."

The senator made it clear that he would not tolerate false reports aimed at damaging his reputation and family.

**A love unshaken, a family growing**

In his post, Nwoko described his love for Daniels as "unshaken and unbreakable." He emphasized that honesty is more important than appearances in marriage.

He concluded his message with a surprise announcement: "Just when they thought they had their say, baby number three is on the way! Another blessing in my hand."

Public reactions and social media

buzz

Following Nwoko's announcement, fans flooded social media with reactions. Some congratulated the couple, while others remained skeptical about the state of their marriage.

Supporters praised Daniels for her resilience and devotion to her family. Others questioned whether the senator's poetic post was an attempt to shift attention away from real issues.

**Final thoughts**

While rumors about their marriage continue to circulate, Nwoko's statement suggests that all is well between him and Daniels. With a new baby on the way, the couple seems focused on expanding their family rather than addressing gossip.

Whether the rumors will fade or continue to fuel online debates remains to be seen. However, one thing is certain—Nwoko and Daniels are making headlines once again.



# Real estate has become leading form of money laundering in Nigeria – Patrick Doyle

By Ifedamola Joseph Fayomi

Veteran Nollywood actor Patrick Doyle has accused Nigeria's real estate sector of serving as a major front for money laundering and other financial crimes.

He claims that money laundering is widespread in the industry, with many estates serving as storage for illicit funds rather than housing for residents.

Doyle made these revelations in a recent interview on Echo Room, hosted by Quincy Jones. He expressed concern over the increasing number of empty estates, particularly in Abuja and the Lekki corridor of Lagos.

Unoccupied estates raise questions

Doyle pointed out the contradiction in Nigeria's real estate market. Despite a housing shortage, thousands of buildings remain unoccupied. He questioned why construction continues if high prices are preventing people from moving in.

"If you visit these areas, you'll see rows of completed but unoccupied houses," Doyle said. "If high prices were the issue, why are people still building? That should raise questions."

He suggested that the answer lies in money laundering. "It's funny because real estate has become one of the leading forms of money laundering. A lot of it is illegal money finding expression in the construction industry."

A safe haven for illicit funds

According to Doyle, many developers are not in the business of housing people. Instead, they are using real estate as a way to legitimize stolen money. He described it as an "artificial" market where buildings go up not to provide shelter but to store wealth.

"It beats my imagination how we have so many uncompleted buildings in a place



where people struggle to find affordable homes. But there are entire estates standing empty. Go to Abuja, it's crazy," he said.

He further explained that corrupt individuals see real estate as a safer option than keeping cash. "People are simply parking stolen money in buildings, expecting future profits. Have you heard about the man who owns 7,000 apartments in one Abuja estate? Rather than leaving the money idle where rats could destroy it, they pour it into real estate."

The impact on ordinary Nigerians

Doyle's statements highlight growing concerns about corruption in Nigeria's property sector. Reports have long suggested that real estate is being used to clean dirty money. The result is an inflated property market where genuine buyers and renters struggle.

In Abuja and Lagos, luxury estates remain empty while thousands of citizens lack decent housing. Experts warn that when illicit funds dominate the market, property prices rise beyond what ordinary Nigerians can afford. This widens economic inequality and makes homeownership more difficult.

Calls for government action

Government agencies have occasionally investigated money laundering in real estate. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has looked into cases, but enforcement remains weak. Loopholes in property registration and lack of oversight allow corruption to persist.

Doyle believes stricter regulation is necessary. Without intervention, he warns, real estate will continue to be a tool for corruption rather than development.

"The irony is that we desperately need more housing," he said. "Yet, buildings are going up, not for people to live in, but for hiding money. It's frustrating."

A growing public debate

Doyle's comments have sparked conversations among Nigerians. Many agree that real estate is increasingly being used for financial crimes. Others argue that developers are simply responding to market conditions.

Regardless, his concerns reflect a larger issue in Nigeria's economy. Wealth remains concentrated in a few hands, while millions struggle with basic needs. Unless authorities step in, the trend of empty estates and rising property prices is unlikely to change.



# Canada's PM Mark Carney accused of plagiarism in Oxford thesis

By Connor Stringer

On Friday, the Canadian prime minister and former governor of the Bank of England was forced to deny allegations he copied 10 passages of text for his 1995 doctorate.

The allegations are a blow to his election campaign. He faces a knife-edge vote on April 28 after calling a snap election against the backdrop of an aggressive trade war with Donald Trump.

Passages of his thesis from his doctorate in economics from Nuffield College were published appearing to show verbatim quotes, paragraphs or lightly amended excerpts from previous works without proper attribution.

Geoffrey Sigalet, from the University of British Columbia said: "He's just directly repeating without quotations. That's what we call plagiarism."

The examples of plagiarism were sent to Mr Carney's campaign team, who described the allegations as an "irresponsible mischaracterisation" of his work.

Mr Carney is accused of presenting sentences from the economist Michael E Porter as his own in his thesis. Mr Carney does cite Mr Porter's 1990 book *The Competitive Advantage of Nations* at different points, but is accused of failing to do so in others.

In one paragraph, Mr Carney wrote: "There are three reasons why domestic profitability is not a good indicator of true international competitive advantage."

The original sentence in Mr Porter's book read: "Domestic profitability is not a good indication of true international competitive advantage for three important reasons."

Margaret Meyer, his doctoral supervisor at Oxford, previously claimed in an interview that Mr Carney finished his thesis "remarkably quickly," in less than two years.

However, she defended the Liberal Party



leader on Friday, saying she saw "no evidence of plagiarism" in the passages published by Canadian newspaper *The National Post*.

Ms Meyer told the *National Post*: "It is typical that overlapping language appears" when sources were "frequently referenced in an academic text".

"For example, over the course of this more than 300-page thesis, the Michael Porter book ... is cited dozens of times. Within his thesis, Mark acknowledged, cited, scrutinised and expanded on this piece," she said.

Later in his thesis, Mr Carney is accused of virtually duplicating an excerpt from Jeremy C Stein's 1989 article "Efficient Capital Markets, Inefficient Firms: A Model of Myopic Corporate Behaviour".

In his article, Mr Stein said: "In a steady state signal-jamming equilibrium, managers will borrow a constant amount each period from the next period's earnings, and the market will correctly anticipate this borrowing."

Mr Carney appears to have made little amendments to the wording other than shortening the sentence: "In the steady state equilibrium, the managers will borrow a constant amount each period, and the market will correctly anticipate this borrowing."

In another case, Mr Carney duplicates another author's sentence with minor changes by replacing "for example" with "e.g".

In a recent interview with a CBC radio programme in Toronto, Ms Meyer said: "The fact that he could get to grips with much more material than most students typically do in a shorter time and produce a longer thesis pretty much set him apart."

Mr Carney's Liberal Party has enjoyed an unexpected bounce in opinion polls after he and his predecessor, Justin Trudeau, stood up to Mr Trump over tariffs and trade.

The anti-America message landed with voters who are increasingly offended by Mr Trump's threats to turn Canada into America's 51st state. Mr Carney's party trailed the conservative opposition by some 25 points but is now leading polls.

Mr Carney shared his first call with Mr Trump on Friday, with Mr Trump appearing to praise his counterpart for "extremely productive" trade negotiations and thanking him for his "attention". During the call, they agreed to meet after Canada's upcoming snap election.

Mr Carney has repeatedly stood up to the US president, telling voters on Thursday that Canada's close relationship with its neighbour was over and throwing into doubt an order of a fleet of US-manufactured F-35 fighter jets.

Mr Carney began an illustrious banking career after completing his PhD, eventually becoming governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England.

He previously held a British passport but said he would renounce his citizenship after becoming prime minister.

# 7.7-Magnitude earthquake rocks Myanmar, triggers widespread damage across southeast Asia

By Elizabeth Jenrola Oso



A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar on Friday, March 28, 2025, sending shockwaves across Southeast Asia and toppling buildings as far away as Bangkok, Thailand. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported that the quake, which occurred at a shallow depth of 10 kilometers (six miles), had its epicenter near the city of Mandalay, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Monywa.

The tremor sparked panic across the region, with hundreds of people fleeing swaying buildings in Bangkok, 1,400 kilometers from the epicenter. Myanmar's state-run MRTV announced that the military-led government had issued an emergency proclamation covering the capital, Naypyitaw, and Mandalay, the country's second-largest city.

Eyewitness accounts described

devastating scenes in Mandalay, where several buildings crumbled under the force of the quake. A hospital in the capital also sustained significant damage while struggling to treat an influx of mass casualties.

In Taungoo, at least three people were reportedly killed when a mosque collapsed, according to witnesses cited by Reuters. Meanwhile, local media reported that two others lost their lives and 20 more were injured when a hotel collapsed in the town of Aung Ban.

So far, Myanmar authorities have not officially confirmed the casualty figures.

The quake was followed by several aftershocks, further heightening fears of additional destruction. The tremors were felt across neighboring countries, including Thailand, where residents in Bangkok described the rare experience

of buildings swaying for several seconds.

Emergency services in Myanmar have launched a race against time to rescue civilians trapped under rubble and stabilize damaged infrastructure near the quake's epicenter.

The earthquake has drawn concern from the international community, with humanitarian organizations monitoring the situation closely. Efforts to provide immediate relief and assess the full extent of the damage are underway, though communication lines in some affected areas remain disrupted.

As Myanmar grapples with the aftermath of this devastating quake, the focus remains on saving lives, providing aid to the injured, and rebuilding the shattered communities near the epicenter.



# Tories cast doubt on Starmer's 'coalition for Ukraine'

By New Daily Prime

Sir Keir Starmer's plans to form a "coalition of the willing" in support of Ukraine are facing mounting scepticism from senior Conservative figures, who argue that the proposed alliance lacks substance and staying power.

Andrew Griffith, the shadow business secretary, cast doubt on the initiative, questioning whether European allies would commit meaningfully to the project—particularly under UK leadership.

"I am sceptical about proposals for a pan-European coalition of the willing, because when the going gets tough, the willing don't turn out to be that willing," Griffith said in an interview with The Telegraph's Politics Newsletter. "At current levels of funding, which the Conservatives have long said should increase, I don't see the UK having surplus capacity beyond its own defence needs."

He added: "I also remain unconvinced that a pan-European force would accept UK leadership."

The comments reflect a broader Conservative pivot from cautious support to open critique of the Labour leader's foreign policy approach. Earlier this month, Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch described the coalition as a "welcome" development. But by the following week, she struck a more cautious tone, stating that any deployment of British troops would ideally be avoided and must require parliamentary approval.

Sir Keir first proposed the coalition on March 2, aimed at aligning willing European and Western nations to back Ukraine's defence efforts in the event of a peace deal. The Prime Minister has since hosted four meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron and other leaders to rally support.



Yet insiders, including former UK defence attaché John Foreman, have warned the initiative appears hollow. Calling Starmer's rhetoric "cringey" and "gnomic," Foreman said the plan lacks concrete commitments and may be no more than a "tentative first step."

Criticism has also come from within the Ministry of Defence, with senior military figures citing a lack of detail regarding troop numbers, equipment, or the operational scope of the coalition. Shadow Defence Secretary James Cartlidge echoed these concerns in a letter demanding clarification on whether all branches of the UK military would be involved and requesting reassurances that British troops would be protected from vexatious human rights prosecutions.

While Starmer has spoken positively of the momentum behind the group, calling it "stronger and broader," scepticism remains about its long-term effectiveness and feasibility.

"This is not an EU grouping. It's broader," Starmer said. "Nobody knows what the shape of a peace deal will be, but there's clearly been political progress. The coalition we've built is significant in its own right."

**Domestic Policy and Party Reflections**  
In the same interview, Griffith also reflected on domestic Conservative performance, admitting that previous

Tory governments failed to deliver on promises to reduce bureaucracy and support small businesses.

"I don't want to be another Conservative business secretary who talks about cutting red tape but doesn't walk the walk," he said. "It is imperative that entrepreneurs reap the rewards. I regret that this hasn't always been the case—even under Conservative governments."

He acknowledged that Boris Johnson's administration had abandoned key deregulatory efforts, including Lord Frost's plan to unwind EU laws, citing resistance from within Whitehall. The government eventually dropped plans to repeal all EU-derived regulations by the end of 2023.

Griffith, a former adviser to Boris Johnson and MP for Arundel and South Downs, remained measured when asked about Johnson's potential return to frontline politics.

"The focus right now must be on holding this government accountable," he said. "We have an excellent opposition leader—someone I was among the first to support—and our collective energy, including that of former leaders, should be directed toward supporting Kemi Badenoch in taking the fight to Labour."



# Myanmar declares state of emergency after earthquake kills dozens

By Dr. Olaoluwa Vincent Ajayi

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar early Saturday, causing widespread destruction across the country and severely impacting neighbouring Thailand. The tremor, which originated in Mandalay, Myanmar, triggered building collapses and infrastructure failures, with aftershocks felt more than 800 miles away in Bangkok.

In Bangkok, panic swept the streets as a 30-storey skyscraper collapsed in the bustling Chatuchak district. Dramatic footage shared by bystanders captured thick clouds of smoke and debris engulfing the area as terrified pedestrians fled. Emergency responders confirmed that two people were killed in the collapse, and at least 43 were believed to be trapped in the rubble. Seven individuals have since been rescued.

Russian tourist Iana, 40, a piano teacher vacationing in Bangkok, described the terrifying scene. "The building was shaking, shaking, shaking. We went down to the first floor and saw all the smoke. People were afraid—50, maybe 60 of us. We didn't know what it was."

Meanwhile, in Myanmar, the death toll continues to climb. Local media report that at least 10 worshippers died in the collapse of the historic Shwe Phone Shein Mosque in



Mandalay. A rescue worker speaking to the Yangon Times warned the figure could rise.

Further tragedy unfolded in Taungoo, central Myanmar, where more than 20 children are reportedly trapped inside a collapsed school. Rescue efforts are underway, led by charitable organizations and local emergency services.

Additional damage has been reported throughout Myanmar, including the catastrophic collapse of the iconic Ava Bridge into the Irrawaddy River. Numerous temples, residential structures, and government buildings have been destroyed or severely damaged.

In response, Myanmar's national disaster management committee declared a state of emergency across

several regions, including Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, northeastern Shan State, the Naypyitaw Council Area, and the Bago region.

Search and rescue operations are continuing amid fears of further aftershocks and landslides. Regional governments have issued emergency alerts, and international humanitarian aid is expected to be mobilized in the coming days.

New Daily Prime will continue to monitor developments and provide real-time updates on the humanitarian response and recovery efforts in both Myanmar and Thailand.

For breaking news and updates, follow @NewDailyPrime on social media.

# Four Real Madrid stars face UEFA probe ahead of Arsenal clash

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

UEFA has launched an investigation into alleged indecent conduct by four Real Madrid players—Antonio Rudiger, Kylian Mbappe, Vinicius Jr, and Dani Ceballos—following their Champions League last-16 victory over Atletico Madrid.

TV footage showed Rudiger making a throat-slitting gesture, while Mbappe appeared to make a crotch-grabbing motion towards Atletico fans. The Spanish club reported the incidents to UEFA, which confirmed an ethics and disciplinary inspector is handling the case.



The players could face suspensions, though it is unclear if a verdict will come before Real Madrid's quarter-final first leg against Arsenal on April 8. A ban would be a major boost for the Gunners, who famously eliminated

Madrid in 2006 with a 1-0 aggregate win, thanks to Thierry Henry's iconic goal at the Bernabeu.

UEFA has promised further updates on the case as the investigation progresses.

# Kenya's Patrick Matasi suspended amid match-fixing probe

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

Kenya's national football team goalkeeper, Patrick Matasi, has been provisionally suspended from all football-related activities for 90 days as part of an investigation into alleged match-fixing. The decision was made by the Football Kenya Federation (FKF) on Thursday after a video surfaced online, allegedly showing Matasi agreeing to influence the outcome of a match.

The 37-year-old goalkeeper, who plays for Kenyan Premier League club Kakamega Homeboyz, has been a regular figure for the national team since his debut in 2017, earning over 30 international caps. However, Matasi has not played for Kenya since October 2024, when he appeared in a 2025 Africa Cup of Nations qualifier against Cameroon, a match in which the Harambee Stars were defeated 4-1.

The video, which has not been independently verified by the BBC, sparked the investigation into the



goalkeeper. While the video's authenticity remains in question, FKF's swift response has raised concerns over potential match manipulation within Kenyan football.

In a statement issued by the Football Kenya Federation, the organization confirmed that it had launched a thorough investigation into the matter and would cooperate with FIFA, the Confederation of African Football (CAF), and other relevant authorities to uncover the truth.

Matasi's club, Kakamega Homeboyz, has expressed full support for the investigation. The club's owner, Cleophas Shimanyula, spoke out in defense of Matasi, denying any involvement in match-fixing. "He was shocked by the video and firmly denied the allegations," said Shimanyula. "Kakamega Homeboyz has a strict policy against any form of match manipulation, and we are fully committed to upholding the integrity of the sport."



# Bayern accuse Canada of 'negligence' over Davies injury

By Timi-Zacchaeus Oluwaferanmi

**B**ayern Munich have strongly criticized Canada Soccer, accusing them of negligence after Alphonso Davies returned from international duty with a serious knee injury. The Bundesliga club claims that Canada failed to conduct a proper medical assessment before allowing the 24-year-old to travel back to Germany with a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL).

Davies sustained the injury just 12 minutes into Canada's 2-1 victory over the United States in the Concacaf Nations League third-place play-off on Sunday. Initially, Canada's medical staff cleared him to travel, but upon his return to Munich, further tests confirmed the extent of the damage. The full-back is now expected to be sidelined for at least six months.

During a press conference on Friday, Bayern sporting director Christoph Freund condemned Canada Soccer's handling of the situation, calling it "borderline" and "negligent."

"The way things went down was incorrect," Freund stated. "We are the employer and also pay the players, so we will investigate."

Bayern CEO Jan-Christian Dreesen echoed these concerns in an interview with German newspaper Bild,



suggesting that legal action against Canada Soccer is possible.

"Sending an obviously injured player with a damaged knee on a 12-hour intercontinental flight without a thorough medical assessment is, in our view, grossly negligent," Dreesen said. "This is a clear breach of medical duty of care."

He also emphasized Davies' importance to both Bayern and Canada, particularly with the 2026 World Cup approaching.

"Phonzy is not at fault. He's the captain, and he wants to take responsibility. But Canada, as the host nation of the 2026 World Cup, has already qualified. You cannot take risks with a player like him."

The timing of the injury is a major setback for both Bayern and Davies.

The left-back recently signed a new five-year contract with the club in February, putting an end to speculation about a potential transfer to Real Madrid.

Bayern's defensive problems have worsened during the international break, as they also lost French centre-back Dayot Upamecano to a long-term leg injury. Additionally, club captain Manuel Neuer remains sidelined, leaving the German giants in a difficult position as they enter a crucial phase of the season.

Bayern Munich has demanded a full investigation into the incident, and the club is reportedly considering legal action to ensure accountability.

BBC Sport has reached out to Canada Soccer for comment, but they have yet to respond.