$20bn Investment In Nigeria: Shell CEO Credits Tinubu's Leadership, Vision



▪ *Says Nigeria One Of Countries Attracting Significant Investment From Global Oil Companies*

Mr Wael Sawan, the Chief Executive of Shell Plc, has praised President Bola Tinubu's leadership for creating a healthy climate for investments to thrive and restoring investor confidence. At a meeting with President Tinubu at the Presidential Villa, Mr Sawan said Shell is deepening and expanding its investments in Nigeria, and the company is ready, alongside its

• *Continued On Page 3*

TheMatrix

Knowledge • Power • Future

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Alleged Missing N128 Billion In Power Ministry: SERAP Sues • Page 09 Adelabu, NBET

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- Say Any Action Taken By Caucus Is Non-Binding, Informal, Without Legal Consequence
- Circulation Of Interim Caucus Reports Confusing, Legally Irrelevant On A Settled Matter

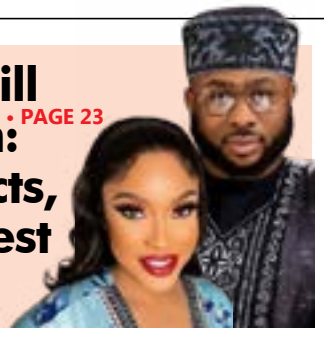


Dame Dr. Adaora Umeoji OON, GMD/CEO, Zenith Bank Plc, and Jonny Baxter, British Deputy High Commissioner, during a strategic business meeting at Zenith Bank's Head Office in Lagos, recently.

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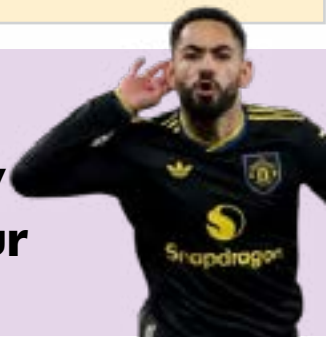
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TheMatrix

Lead Story

By Babajide Okeowo

Tax Laws Alterations: House Of Reps In Disarray

- Reps Dismiss Minority Caucus Report, Cite Lack of Authority, Oversight Jurisdiction
- Say Any Action Taken By Caucus Is Non-Binding, Informal, Without Legal Consequence
- Circulation Of Interim Caucus Reports Confusing, Legally Irrelevant On A Settled Matter

The House of Representatives has been thrown into disarray over the developments over the recently enacted tax laws.

In a strongly worded statement, the Office of the House Spokesman has dismissed the report of the minority caucus set up to look into the uproar that trailed the enacted laws, stressing that only the House in plenary or the Speaker has the authority to establish committees with investigative or oversight powers.

TheMatrix Newspaper reports that the House of Representatives Minority Caucus Ad-hoc Committee on Tax Laws had confirmed that illegal alterations were made to key tax reform laws passed by the National Assembly and signed by the President, sparking concerns about legislative integrity and constitutional violations.

In its interim report released Friday, the committee disclosed discrepancies between the versions of the laws passed by parliament and those later published in the official gazette.

TheMatrix Newspaper also reports that the issue first came to light when Hon. Abdulsamad Dasuki raised the alarm during plenary, pointing out that an "authorised" gazetted version of the tax laws contained provisions different from what lawmakers had approved. Public outrage followed, prompting the Minority Caucus to issue a statement on December 28, 2025, pledging to defend the independence of the legislature and Nigeria's democracy. On January 2, 2026, Minority Leader Kingsley Chinda constituted a seven-member ad-hoc committee chaired by Afam Ogene, with members Aliyu Garu (Bauchi), Stanley Adedeji (Oyo), Ibe Osonwa (Abia), Marie Ebikake (Bayelsa), Shehu Fagge (Kano), and Gaza Jonathan (Nasarawa).

The committee's mandate was to establish the facts surrounding the alleged manipulation. Speaker Abbas Tajudeen subsequently ordered the release of Certified True Copies (CTCs) of the four tax reform Acts to eliminate doubts and preserve legislative sanctity. These included: Nigeria Tax Act, 2025, Nigeria Tax Administration Act, 2025, National Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, 2025 and Joint Revenue Board (Establishment) Act, 2025. . The committee confirmed that three different versions of the Nigeria Tax Administration Act, 2025 were in circulation, with the gazetted version containing significant changes: The NASS-certified version set compliance thresholds at ₦50 million for individuals and ₦250 million for companies. The gazetted version lowered these to ₦25 million and ₦100 million respectively, expanding the tax net.

Similarly, new subsections (41(8) and 41(9)) were introduced, requiring taxpayers to deposit 20% of disputed tax amounts before appealing Tax Appeal Tribunal decisions—provisions absent in the authentic law.

Section 64 of the gazetted law granted tax authorities powers to arrest suspects and sell seized assets without court orders, exceeding the scope of the version passed by parliament amongst other alterations. Surprisingly, the House of Reps has come out to disown the Minority Caucus report, insisting that only the House in plenary or the Speaker has the authority to constitute such committees.

In a statement issued by the Office of the House Spokesman, Rep. Akin Rotimi emphasized that while caucuses play an important role in parliamentary democracy, their activities remain political and not institutional.

"Political caucuses are valuable platforms for consultation and coordination among Members," Rotimi said. "But they do not possess investigative authority, oversight jurisdiction, or the power to summon persons or demand official documents." "Any action taken by a caucus in this regard is therefore non-binding, informal, and without legal or institutional consequence. Any committee constituted outside the processes prescribed by the Standing Orders lacks institutional recognition.

"Accordingly, any interim or final report emanating from such a caucus-led body cannot be laid before the House, cannot be received as a parliamentary document, and does not form part of the official legislative or oversight record of the National Assembly.

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Tinubu Heads To Türkiye For Strategic State Visit

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu will on Monday depart Abuja for a state visit to the Republic of Türkiye, as Nigeria moves to deepen diplomatic, economic and security cooperation with the Eurasian nation.

The visit, according to a statement on Sunday by the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, is designed to strengthen existing bilateral relations and expand collaboration across key sectors including defence, education, innovation, aviation and social development. Onanuga noted that the trip also serves as a diplomatic reciprocation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's state visit to Nigeria in October 2021. During Tinubu's stay in Türkiye, officials from both countries are expected to hold high-level political and diplomatic engagements focused on shared interests in finance, communications, trade and investment.

"The agenda will include meetings between senior government officials and the signing of memoranda of understanding covering areas such as scientific research, energy, technical cooperation, media and communications, military collaboration and protocol," the statement said. A Nigeria–Türkiye business forum is also scheduled as part of the visit, bringing together investors from both countries to explore new commercial opportunities.

Members of the President's delegation for the bilateral talks include the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yusuf Tuggar; the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN); the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Musa (retd); and the Chairman of the House Committee on Defence, Jimi Benson.

Others are the Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Imaan Suleiman-Ibrahim; the Minister of Interior, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo; the Minister of Culture and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musawa; the National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu; and the Director-General of the National Intelligence Agency, Mohammed Mohammed.

President Tinubu is expected to return to Nigeria at the conclusion of the state visit.

Kano Governor Abba Yusuf To Rejoin APC Monday



Kano State Governor, Abba Kabir Yusuf, has announced plans to rejoin the All Progressives Congress (APC) on Monday, January 26, 2026, days after resigning from the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP).

The development was confirmed in a statement issued on Sunday by the governor's spokesman, Sunusi Bature Dawakin Tofa. The statement recalled that Yusuf first joined the APC in 2014, when he emerged winner of the party's primary election for the Kano Central Senatorial seat, a position he later conceded to Senator Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso.

It explained that after years of political engagement across different platforms, including the NNPP, prevailing governance realities, national cohesion and development informed the governor's decision to return to the APC, which he described as a familiar platform for progressive governance. Governor Yusuf said rejoining the ruling party would strengthen cooperation with the Federal Government, accelerate infrastructural development, improve security coordination and enhance service delivery in Kano State. He added that the move would also promote political stability and unity in the state. Yusuf is expected to formally register as an APC member in Kano on Monday alongside 22 members of the State House of Assembly, eight members of the House of Representatives and the 44 local government chairmen in the state. The governor will also officially launch the APC e-registration exercise in Kano.



23RD EDITION OF DAILY TRUST DIALOGUE...

L-R: Sarkin Jiwa, FCT, Abuja, Amb. Idris Musa; Olubadan of Ibadanland, Oba Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja; The 2025 Daily Trust Unsung Hero, Mallam Musa Ibrahim Sagagi; Chairman of the Media Trust Group, Malam Kabiru A. Yusuf; former Senate President, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki and chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee of the 7th and 8th House of Representatives, Nnenna Elendu Ukeje, during the 23rd edition of Daily Trust Dialogue in Abuja ...Recently

Makinde's Criticism Of Tinubu Follows Alleged Snub At Presidential Villa - Fayose



Former Ekiti State Governor Ayodele Fayose has accused Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde of positioning himself as an "emergency opposition mouthpiece" following what he described as a cold reception from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu during a recent visit to the Presidential Villa.

In a statement on Sunday, Fayose alleged that Makinde's critical remarks against Tinubu at former Vice President Yemi Osinbajo's birthday were fueled by frustration after an unsuccessful reconciliation attempt with the President.

Fayose claimed that Makinde, who had tried to manage the fallout from previous public criticisms, was disappointed by the outcome of his visit. "In his attempt to do damage control, Makinde met the shock of his political life," he said.

According to Fayose, the encounter signaled the end of any reconciliation between the two leaders, especially ahead of the 2027 general elections, and that Tinubu had made his political position on Oyo State clear, pledging support for APC candidates.

He argued that Makinde's later comments reportedly praising the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari while describing Tinubu as a dictator, were a direct reaction to the alleged snub.

Fayose also questioned Makinde's political future within the PDP, suggesting that he may field a candidate under the ADC, knowing the PDP would not be available to support him.

News

By Babajide Okeowo

2027: Muslim-Muslim Ticket Sparks Fresh Outrage

- Nigeria Must Be Run In Way That Accommodates People Of Different Religious Backgrounds-Dogara
- Tinubu's Minister Warns APC Against Dropping Shettima, Says Party's Chance May Be Threatened

Fresh outrage has erupted over speculations that the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) may once again field a Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket in the 2027 elections. Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, speaking during an interview on Channels Television's Politics Today, cautioned that such a move could undermine national unity and deepen divisions across the country.

Dogara, who led the House between 2015 and 2019, stressed that Nigeria's diversity must be reflected in its leadership choices. He argued that while political parties have the right to select candidates, they must do so with fairness and inclusivity in mind. The former Speaker acknowledged that conversations on the 2027 presidential ticket are already ongoing, noting that sitting presidents usually secure their party's nomination.

He said the final decision rests with the President, but expressed confidence that he would listen to public opinion if there is strong demand for balance.

Dogara said: "Reading it down should be because it is the right thing to be done. We're talking about running an inclusive government. We're trying to talk about bringing everybody in this country together so they will be able to build a nation that works for all of us. So if that is the case, if we are having a discussion about rotational presidency, there is no nothing stopping us from having that discussion as well.

"Because you see, the truth is that when you are talking, you are not talking about just northern Christians, you are talking about the Christian faith as a whole.

"So, if you have a Muslim, whether he comes from the north or from the South. Let it be that he's representing the Muslim community. And if you have a Christian wherever he comes from, he covers for the Christian faith. So that gives you the religious balance that we're talking about.

"But honestly, if we're going to do anything along those lines, it shouldn't be that we are scared, but because, as men of it, we believe that God requires of us to do justice, and justice demands that we should balance things. I think that should be our concern.

"I'm aware that discussion is taking place now. So at the end of the day, whatever the president decides, ultimately, no presidential candidate who is serving as president has ever lost primaries. So we assume that the President will definitely get the ticket of the party. Ultimately whatever decisions that he takes, I believe that it is up to him, but if we have overwhelming majority of our people making a case that these things should be balanced, as a democrat, I sincerely believe that he will listen to it, and particularly for us northerners like me and you, I've always insisted that anybody who divides the north along religious lines has actually conquered the North."

Meanwhile, in another development, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musawa, has cautioned the All-Progressives Congress (APC) against altering its Muslim-Muslim presidential ticket ahead of the 2027 elections, warning that dropping Vice President Kashim Shettima could pose serious political risks for the ruling party.

Speaking during an interview on Mic On, a podcast hosted by journalist Seun Okinbaloye, Musawa addressed growing speculation that the APC might replace Shettima with a Christian running mate for President Bola Tinubu's re-election bid.

She argued that such a move would disrupt the delicate religious and regional balance that helped secure victory in 2023.

"If we toy with changing the construct of what we have now, it is a problem," Musawa said. "If there is no Hausa, Fulani, or Kanuri Muslim on that ticket, it creates a hurdle. That's the reality of the way the people think."

Musawa stressed that the political identity of Northern

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Another Kano Commissioner Resigns Amid Political Tension



Political tensions in Kano State deepened on Sunday as Commissioner Yusuf Kofarmata resigned from the State Executive Council, citing a loss of confidence in the ideological direction of the current administration.

In a statement announcing his resignation, Kofarmata said he could no longer serve under a government that had "derailed from the ideology that brought it to power," adding that his decision was guided by conscience and taken in good faith.

Kofarmata, who served in the Ministry of Tertiary Education and later the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, expressed gratitude to the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) leadership for the opportunity to serve.

He thanked NNPP national leader Senator Rabiu Kwankwaso, Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf, and supporters of the Kwankwasiyya movement, reaffirming his loyalty to the party and its ideology. The resignation comes amid growing political uncertainty in Kano following Governor Yusuf's recent exit from the NNPP, which has sparked a wave of resignations and realignments among government appointees and party stakeholders.

$20bn Investment In Nigeria: Shell CEO Credits Tinubu's Leadership, Vision ▪ *Cont'd from cover page*

partners, to invest an additional $20 billion, primarily because of the robust and bold leadership of the President.

He emphasised that Nigeria, under the Tinubu administration, is one of the countries attracting significant investment from global oil companies.

Highlighting Shell's recent investments, such as $5 billion in Bonga North, $2 billion in HI, and the gas project to NLNG, Sawan stated that the corporation is committed to long-term investments in the country, underscoring the stable economic environment.

"We have really been in a space where we are very keen to invest in Nigeria. But I would say this has not always been the case. Your leadership and your vision have created an investment climate over the last few years that, I will be very honest with you, propelled us to invest, in particular, also as we compare to other investments around the world," he said.

"Stability in today's environment will honestly have a premium for corporations because we are investing not for one administration or five or 10 years, we want to invest for 20, 30, 40 years and in the case of Nigeria, for many, many decades."

Speaking on the expansion of Shell's investments in Nigeria, Mr Sawan said the corporation has also deepened its interest in Block OML 118, the Bonga Block.

"Total Energies was selling, so we bought it because we want to deepen it further. But that, we think, is not enough. We think there is more to invest here, and we understand the vision that you have for the country. And so we are indeed work-

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Dogara Explains Mission Behind New Former Lawmakers' Group



Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon Yakubu Dogara, has disclosed the rationale behind the establishment of forum of former legislative members.

Speaking during an interview on 'Sunday Politics', a programme on Channels Television, Dogara said the entire idea is to bring them together, and then see how they could harness the training they have had in the parliament.

According to him: "A lot of people forget that we were members. Some go to even the Ivory Lakes for courses, in Harvard, in Cambridge, in Oxford, serving all the institutions, and once we leave the National Assembly, it's like the whole asset that this nation has helped in depositing a new ghost road.

"So we thought it was appropriate for us to begin to assemble ourselves doing very well that the future will seek of advancement, of development, of progress is attainable, but only if we take the responsibility and the risk to go for it, deliberately go for it

"That is the motivation behind the establishment of this forum. And as I understand, this forum is meant to cater for all former legislatures. It would interest you to know the senators were there, members of the House of Representatives were there, state assembly members, former and even counselors from the delegation.

"I know that at least there was one person from the 774 local government of Nigeria. Now we're talking about whether it was orchestrated or not."

Governor Siminalayi Fubara Reaffirms Faith Amidst Rivers Political Landscape



Rivers State Governor Siminalayi Fubara has reaffirmed his administration's confidence in divine guidance, declaring that he draws strength from the assurance that God is sufficient to lead the state's affairs and sustain its people in peace and progress.

The governor made the declaration at the 2026 Holy Ghost Rally organised by the Redeemed Christian Church of God, RCCG, at the Adokiye Amiesimaka Stadium, Port Harcourt, on Sunday.

Fubara, who was represented by his Deputy, Prof. Ngozi Nma Odu, said the government remains confident that with God on its side, the challenges facing the state are surmountable and the future remains hopeful.

He described the theme of the rally, "The All-Sufficient God," as timely and reassuring, noting that it serves as a reminder that in the midst of global and national uncertainties, God remains the unfailing source of wisdom, strength, provision and grace.

Governor Fubara stressed that while human capacity has its limits, God's sufficiency prevails, assuring that divine intervention becomes evident when human effort reaches its end.

He commended the Redeemed Christian Church of God for its consistent prayers and spiritual support for Rivers State and the nation, praising the church's role in promoting moral values, unity and faith in God. In his sermon, the General Overseer of the RCCG, Pastor Enoch Adeboye, speaking from Genesis 17:1, described God as all-sufficient and capable of meeting every human need. Pastor Adeboye said the God who created all things also has the power to repair and restore them, noting that there are situations where human solutions, including medical interventions, reach their limits and only divine intervention can bring a turnaround.


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TheMatrix

Opinion

By Abidemi Adebamiwa

When Big Numbers Ignore Small Realities, The Economy Suffers



Nigeria's economic debate often sounds impressive, filled with statistics, charts, and official declarations. Yet behind the numbers lies a widening disconnect, policies are increasingly shaped around figures, not lived experience.

This is where understanding the difference between microeconomics and macroeconomics becomes essential.

Microeconomics reflects everyday life, how families struggle with food prices, how traders battle unstable electricity, and how small businesses survive rising transport costs, rent, and multiple taxes. It captures the economy as citizens actually experience it.

Macroeconomics, by contrast, focuses on national indicators such as inflation rates, exchange values, interest levels, government borrowing, and growth figures. These numbers matter, but they often fail to show how ordinary people are coping.

The problem arises when macroeconomic tools are deployed to address microeconomic pain. When inflation is driven by fuel prices, logistics failures, and foreign exchange pressure, sharp interest rate tightening may calm reports but deepen hardship. A system where savings earn about 2.7% while loans attract interest close to 60% does not slow inflation, it suffocates production. Businesses stop borrowing, expansion halts, and jobs disappear.

When production contracts, scarcity increases and prices keep rising. Inflation survives, even as livelihoods weaken.

At the same time, attempting to manage national challenges like currency instability with local or emotional fixes only worsens uncertainty.

An economy cannot be stabilized by numbers alone, just as compassion without structure cannot sustain growth. Micro and macro thinking must work together and be applied in the right order.

When policies protect statistics but neglect livelihoods, stability becomes temporary and trust quickly erodes.

Abidemi Adebamiwa is the Managing Editor @ Newspot Nigeria



COURTESY VISIT BY WESTERFIELD LEADERSHIP TEAM...

L-R: Managing Director of Westerfield College UK, Mr. Michael Dosunmu receiving Lagos State government plaque from the Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu during a courtesy visit by Westerfield leadership team, at the Lagos House, Marina, ... Last week


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FIXONTIME electric
The Executive
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Editorial

The Electoral Act Amendment Bill — A Test Of Nigeria's Democratic Resolve

As Nigeria marches steadily toward the 2027 general elections, one truth looms larger than any campaign slogan: the credibility of our democracy rests not on promises, but on the strength of our laws.

The Electoral Act Amendment Bill, currently before the National Assembly, is not just another piece of legislation. It is the scaffolding upon which the legitimacy of the next election will stand.

For too long, Nigerians have endured elections marred by logistical failures, legal ambiguities, and loopholes that empower manipulation rather than transparency.

The 2023 polls, while historic in their own right, exposed glaring weaknesses—from the deployment of technology to the clarity of results transmission. If these gaps are not addressed, 2027 risks becoming another cycle of disputes, litigations, and disillusionment.

Without its timely passage, the nation risks repeating the cycle of disputes, litigations, and public disillusionment that have plagued past polls.

Lessons from 2023: A Democracy Tested

The 2023 elections, though historic, exposed glaring weaknesses in our electoral system. From the deployment of technology to the clarity of results transmission, Nigerians witnessed firsthand how loopholes in the law can be exploited to sow doubt. The controversies surrounding electronic transmission of results, campaign financing, and the role of party agents revealed a system struggling to keep pace with modern democratic expectations.

These shortcomings are not abstract. They translate into real consequences: citizens losing faith in their votes, courts becoming the battleground for political legitimacy, and the specter of instability hovering over the nation. If these gaps are not addressed, 2027 could become another election defined not by the will of the people, but by the flaws of the process.

Why the Amendment Bill Matters

- The proposed Electoral Act Amendment Bill seeks to:
- Strengthen electronic transmission of results to ensure transparency and reduce manipulation.
- Tighten campaign finance regulations, curbing the influence of money and ensuring a level playing field.



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- Empower INEC with clearer authority to sanction violations and enforce compliance.
- Clarify legal ambiguities that have historically fueled endless post-election litigations.

These reforms are not luxuries; they are necessities. In a country where elections often determine not just leadership but national stability, the integrity of the process is paramount.

Beyond Politics: A National Imperative

While critics argue that the bill is being rushed or politicised, delay is the greater danger. Every day without reform is a day closer to an election conducted under flawed rules. Nigerians deserve better than a system that leaves room for doubt, dispute, and disenfranchisement.

This is not about who wins or loses in 2027. It is about whether Nigerians can trust the process at all. As one civil society leader aptly put it:

"Democracy dies not when ballots are cast, but when citizens lose faith in their power to choose."

That warning should echo through the chambers of the National Assembly.

A Call to Lawmakers

TheMatrix Newspaper believes the passage of the Electoral Act Amendment Bill is a litmus test for the National Assembly's commitment to democracy. Will lawmakers choose to entrench fairness and transparency, or will they gamble with the nation's fragile trust in its institutions?

History will not forgive hesitation. Nigerians will remember whether their representatives acted to safeguard democracy or allowed partisan interests to derail reform. The credibility of the 2027 elections depends on what the National Assembly does today.

The Time to Act is Now

Nigeria's democracy is young, fragile, and still evolving. The Electoral Act Amendment Bill offers a chance to strengthen it, to reassure citizens that their votes matter, and to demonstrate to the world that Nigeria is committed to democratic progress.

The National Assembly must rise above political calculations and pass the bill without delay. The stakes are too high, the risks too grave, and the opportunity too rare.

The time to act is now.

Letters in response to specifici publications in TheMatrix should be befi (150-250 words) and straight to the point. Interested readers may send such letters along with their contacts to opinion@thematrix.com We also welcome comments and opinions on topical local, national and international issues provided they are well written and should also not be longer than 750-1000 words. They should be sent to opinion@thematrix.com along with photograph, email address and phone numbers of the writer

Letters To The Editor

2026: The Collapse Continues-Peter Obi



In January 2025, we witnessed the first grid collapse of that year, which was followed by several other collapses. Now in January 2026 the national shame has commenced with yesterday's collapse.

It is utterly disappointing that for three consecutive years—from 2023 to 2025—our nation has been ranked as having the least access to electricity globally, with nearly 100 million citizens left without power.

When we compare our situation to other African nations, the disparity is stark. South Africa, with its population of about 64 million, generates and distributes over 40,000 megawatts. Egypt, with about 115 million population, also generates over 40,000 megawatts. Algeria, with around 48 million population, generates and distributes over 50,000 megawatts. Meanwhile, Nigeria, the giant of Africa and its most populous nation with over 240 million people, produces a mere 5,000 megawatts—an absurdly low figure that severely hampers our productivity. This power crisis is a direct result of continuous leadership failures. The power sector is critical and requires competent and committed leadership to thrive.

As we look towards 2027, Nigeria must prioritise competence and empathy in its leadership. It is time to elect individuals with the capacity and dedication necessary to initiate a significant turnaround for our nation. Anything less is unacceptable.

A new Nigeria is POssible. - PO

Politics

By Ilesanmi Adewale

OBAFEMI AWOLOWO:
"Those who desire to reach, and keep their places at the top in any calling must be prepared to do so the hard way."



'Leave Me Out of It': Dogara Rejects Speculation On Replacing Shettima



Former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Yakubu Dogara, on Sunday pleaded to be left out of discussions about him replacing Vice President Kashim Shettima as President Bola Tinubu's running mate ahead of the 2027 election.

Dogara spoke against the backdrop of speculations that the All Progressives Congress (APC) may again field a Muslim–Muslim ticket in 2027.

Speaking on Channels Television's Sunday Politics, Dogara said: "I would have sincerely pleaded with you to leave me out of this, but let me say something. Whatever we are doing shouldn't be because we are afraid of anybody breathing down our necks; it should be because it is the right thing to do.

"We are talking about running an inclusive government, bringing everybody in this country together, so that we can build a nation that works for all of us.

"So, if we are talking about rotational presidency, there is nothing stopping us from having that discussion as well, because you are not just talking about Northern Christians but about the Christian faith as a whole.

"If you have a Muslim, whether he comes from the North or the South, let it be that he is representing the Muslim community. And if you have a Christian, wherever he comes from, he represents the Christian faith. That way, you achieve religious balance."

On the possibility of a Christian running mate in 2027, Dogara said:

"It's a discussion, and I am aware that such discussions are already taking place. "At the end of the day, whatever the president decides, nobody who is a serving president has ever lost the party primaries. So, we assume that the president will get the party's ticket."

2027: El-Rufai Lacks The Northwest Influence To Dent Tinubu's Chances — Musawa

The Minister of Art, Culture, and Tourism, has said former Kaduna State governor, Nasiru El-Rufai, can't take votes in the Northwest that would injure the chances of President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

Musawa made the remark while featuring on Mic On podcast with Seun Okinbaloye. She also noted that the opposition as presently constituted can't unseat Tinubu because they are all interested in the presidency.

He said: "Atiku and all the members of the opposition to be fair are formidable opposition, all of them have honestly played a part in Nigerian politics, they have reached the top of their careers in politics.

"The way the opposition is emerging I don't see how as it is now can unseat Tinubu. You have an opposition that is overcrowded, you have an opposition of men who must be king.



"Every single member of that opposition is vying for the same spot and that is a recipe for disaster.

"I don't think Nasiru El-rufai is a person with the ability to take any votes from the northwest in a way that will injure President Tinubu in 2027."

Keyamo Declares Kwankwaso's Presidential Dream 'Dead'

The Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, has claimed that the 2027 presidential ambition of former Kano State Governor and national leader of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, is "effectively dead."

Keyamo made the assertion while citing party zoning arrangements, the weakening of NNPP's political structure in Kano State, and Kwankwaso's refusal to align early with any major political party as key factors undermining his prospects ahead of the next general election.

In a statement issued via his official x handle on Sunday, the minister said Kwankwaso's decision to ignore what he called "an olive branch" earlier extended by the All Progressives Congress (APC) has left him politically isolated at a time when alliances are already being sealed ahead of 2027.



"Kwankwaso boxed himself into a corner by rejecting opportunities when they mattered," the minister said.

"Today, the political space has shifted, and there is no major party ready to accommodate his presidential ambition in 2027."

He argued that the NNPP lacks the national spread required to win a presidential election and warned that its dominance in Kano is rapidly eroding due to defections. "NNPP is a one-state party, and even that state is slipping," he stated.

"Once Kano goes, the illusion of national relevance disappears."

The minister's remarks also dismissed any possibility of a North–North alliance in 2027, insisting that Kwankwaso would not support another Northern presidential candidate because it would end his own ambition. "He cannot back a Northern candidate and then wait another 16 years for power to rotate," He said.

"That calculation alone has shut the door on cooperation with Atiku."

According to the minister, Kwankwaso's only remaining options returning to the PDP, joining the APC, or aligning with the Labour Party would all require him to abandon his 2027 presidential ambition.

"No party will mortgage its structure for him at this stage," he said.

"The era where Kwankwaso dictated terms is over."

While acknowledging that 2031 could still offer a lifeline, Keyamo warned that even that possibility depends on Kwankwaso retaining control of Kano in 2027.

"If he loses Kano, he loses everything," he added. "That would reduce him to a regional footnote in national politics."

"This is not analysis for comfort," the minister concluded.

"It is a warning. The next move Kwankwaso makes may decide whether he remains relevant or retires from politics altogether."

Ododo Leads as Kogi APC Youths Present N100m Cheque for President's Re-election

Youths of the All Progressives Congress, APC, in Kogi on Sunday presented a N100 million cheque to Gov. Ahmed Ododo for the purchase of President Bola Tinubu's 2027 re-election nomination form.

Presenting the cheque at the Youths Endorsement Rally held at the Muhammadu Buhari Square, Lokoja, Babangida Onimisi, President of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), said the decision to buy the form affirmed their endorsement of the President for a second term. He said their unanimous decision was also informed by the need to consolidate the foundation the President has laid for a better Nigeria.

Onimisi added that the endorsement became necessary in view of Tinubu's "purposeful and impactful leadership that is visible in every nook and cranny of Nigeria."

"Your Excellency, the N100 million cheque we are presenting to you today is for the purchase of the presidential nomination form for our President.



"We want to continue with Tinubu's promising journey to the promised land, for the good of all citizens of this country. Our votes are for Tinubu come 2027."

The NYCN president also commended Ododo for the developmental strides recorded in Kogi in just his two years in office and assured him of their support for a second term in 2028.

In his remarks, the APC National Youths Leader, Dayo Israel, described President Tinubu and Ododo as great men of the present generation.

Israel said their policies and programmes have touched Nigerian youths in diverse ways, especially students and the masses at the grassroots.

Alhaji Abdullahi Bello, Kogi APC Chairman, said that while Tinubu would be remembered for transforming the nation's economy, Ododo would be remembered for ruling Kogi with humility that triggered growth and development.

Bello commended the youths for the bold steps taken in endorsing the President and Ododo for second terms, for continuity's sake and the good of Nigerians and Kogi residents.

The Youths and Sports Commissioner, Mr. Monday Anyebe, said the task ahead of Nigerian youths is too important for ego-driven politics.

Anyebe said, "We must work together for the re-election of President Tinubu and the continued success of Ododo, whose leadership remains a beacon of stability and progress in Kogi."

In his remarks, Ododo thanked the youths for sending him to deliver the cheque for the President's nomination form for the 2027 presidential election.

"What you have done is to clearly tell the President that the 2027 election is not between political parties alone but between vision and mere rhetoric; between boldness and cowardice; and between good and bad.

"It will not be a contest of ethnic divisions but a choice between the man who is fixing Nigeria and the men who destroyed Nigeria.

"Your message will be delivered. We must show the world that Nigerians appreciate courageous, selfless, and compassionate leadership."

According to him, Tinubu's mandate is their mandate, and every effort he makes to succeed is for the youth to have opportunities tomorrow. "We will not fail our generation. We are doing this together for the greatness of Kogi."

The APC youths from the 21 Local Government Areas of the state were said to have come out in their hundreds for the rally.

By Ilesanmi Adewale

Alleged Missing N128 Billion In Power Ministry: SERAP Sues Adelabu, NBET

The Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has filed a lawsuit against the Minister of Power Mr Adebayo Adelabu and Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc. (NBET), Abuja, "over the failure to account for the missing or diverted N128 billion of public funds from the Ministry of Power and NBET."

The grave allegations are documented in the latest annual report published by the Auditor-General on 9 September 2025. Corruption contributes significantly to the frequent grid collapses, as Nigerians last week witnessed the first grid collapse of 2026, plunging the country into darkness.

In the suit number FHC/ABJ/CS/143/2026 filed last Friday at the Federal High Court in Abuja, SERAP is seeking: "an order of mandamus to direct and compel Mr Adelabu and NBET to account for the missing or diverted ₦128 billion from the ministry of power and NBET."

SERAP is also seeking: "an order of mandamus to direct and compel Mr Adelabu and NBET to disclose details of how the missing or diverted ₦128 billion was spent including the dates of disbursement and the purported beneficiaries or contractors, who received the money as well as their registered business names and addresses."

SERAP is seeking: "an order of mandamus to direct and compel Mr Adelabu and NBET to disclose the full names, official designations, and offices of all public officers who authorized, approved, or otherwise participated in the release of the missing or diverted ₦128 billion in the ministry of power and NBET."

In the suit, SERAP is arguing that: "Nigerians continue to pay the price for the widespread and grand corruption in the power sector. There is a legitimate public interest in ensuring justice and accountability for these grave allegations."

SERAP is also arguing that, "Granting the reliefs sought would contribute to tackling corruption in the power sector and addressing the persistent breakdown of transmission lines in the country, as well as improving access of Nigerians to regular and uninterrupted electricity supply."

SERAP is arguing that, "granting the reliefs sought would also strike a blow against the impunity of those responsible for the missing or diverted public money meant to provide Nigerians with access to regular and uninterrupted electricity supply."

According to SERAP, "Ordinary Nigerians continue to pay the price for corruption in the electricity sector–staying in darkness, but still made to pay crazy electricity bills."

The lawsuit filed on behalf of SERAP by its lawyers, Kolawole Oluwadare, Kehinde Oyewumi, and Andrew Nwankwo, read in part: "These grim allegations by the Auditor-General suggest a grave violation of the public trust, the Nigerian Constitution 1999 [as amended] and international anticorruption standards."

"According to the recently published 2022 audited report by the Auditor-General of the Federation, the Federal Ministry of Power failed to account for over N4.4 billion [N4,404,647,938.53] 'transferred to Mambilla, Zungeru and Kashimbilla project accounts by the Ministry.'"

"There was 'no evidence of how the funds were expended.' The Auditor-General fears 'the money may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury."

"The Ministry also paid over N95 billion [N95,415,183,701.83] to 'some contractors for various projects.' But 'there was no document on the payments, and no evidence that the projects existed and were executed.' The Auditor-General fears 'the money may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered." "The Ministry paid over N33 million [N33,557,959.00] 'for foreign travels', but 'without any approvals.' The money 'was paid as estacode, flight tickets, visa fees and other allowances to enable the minister and his aides to attend the World Utilities Congress at Abu Dhabi and Huawei innovation land exhibition in Dubai."

"The travels 'were never approved by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation or the Head of Civil Service.' The Auditor-General fears 'the money may have been diverted.' He wants the money recovered and remitted to the treasury."

"The Ministry failed to

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NDLEA Nabs Brazilian Lady With N3b Heroin In Coffee Packs At Abuja Airport

A 30-year-old Brazilian lady, Ms Ingrid Rosa Benevides has been arrested by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja for bringing into Nigeria a total of 30.09 kilograms of white heroin concealed in factory-sealed coffee packs worth over N3 billion in street value.

The suspect who works as a private security officer in Brazil was arrested at the Abuja airport on Friday 23rd January 2026 upon her arrival on a Qatar Airways flight QR1431, following processed intelligence.

After her arrest, a search was conducted on her two checked-in bags where 21 factory-sealed packets of Brazilian coffee were found. When the coffee bags were opened, rather than containing the beverage, what was found inside were white substances that later tested positive for heroin weighing a total of 30.09 kilograms, making it the single largest heroin seizure at the Abuja airport. During her preliminary interview, the suspect claimed she brought the white heroin consignment under the guise of coming to Nigeria for holidays.

Meanwhile, at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, (MMIA) Ikeja, Lagos, NDLEA operatives on Tuesday, 20th January intercepted two passengers: Adediran Adedoyin and Afatakpa Ochuko, who were heading to Istanbul, Turkey, aboard a Turkish Airlines flight with a total of 3,990 pills of tapentadol 250mg and tramaking 225mg concealed in food items packed in their bags.

In Ekiti, NDLEA operatives on Saturday, 24th January arrested 72-year-old Afolalu Joseph at his 15 Aramoko Road, Mushin, Ilawe-Ekiti and Abu Bunmi (alias Go Slow), 45, at New Jerusalem area, Erijinyan road, Ilawe-Ekiti, for illicit drug dealing. A total of 62 kilograms of skunk were recovered from the duo.

A village head, Chief James Abamu and another suspect, Aboy Egah Abamu have been taken into custody by the Edo state Command of NDLEA following their arrest and prompt transfer to the Agency by soldiers of the Nigerian Army 4 Brigade, Benin city, after a raid operation at Lagos camp Ilushi in Esan South East LGA, where 681kg skunk and 181kg cannabis seeds were recovered from them on Wednesday, 21st January. While commending the officers and men of the NAIA, MMIA, Marine, Borno, Jigawa, Kwara, Kaduna, Ekiti, Edo, Kano, Delta, Oyo, FCT, Benue, Lagos and Ondo Commands for the arrests, seizures and their dexterity, Chairman/Chief Executive Officer of NDLEA, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd) enjoined them and their colleagues across the country to maintain the current standard of professionalism in all their drug supply reduction and drug demand reduction activities.

'Send Reinforcements': Zuru Monarch Cries Out Over Kebbi Security Crisis

The Emir of Zuru, Alhaji Muhammad Sami Gomo III, has called on the Federal Government to establish additional military formations in Zuru Emirate to curb escalating bandit attacks that are disrupting economic activities in parts of Kebbi State.

The monarch made the appeal during a visit to the Minister of Defence, General Christopher Musa (retd.), in Abuja, where he said insecurity in the emirate had continued to displace farming communities and undermine agriculture, mining and local trade.

According to the Emir, the scale and frequency of attacks now require stronger federal intervention, including increased troop deployment and improved military equipment.

He said persistent violence in rural areas of Zuru, Sakaba and Danko/Wasagu local government areas had forced residents to abandon farmlands, affecting food production and livelihoods in the region. The Emir noted that the area, known for its agricultural and mineral resources, has suffered declining economic activities due to insecurity, adding that sustained federal support was necessary to complement efforts by the Kebbi State Government.

In his response, the Minister of Defence acknowledged the concerns raised and assured that the Federal Government would review the request for enhanced security presence in the affected areas. Zuru Emirate is located in southern Kebbi, a zone increasingly affected by banditry and cross-border criminal activities in the North-West, with security challenges also spilling into neighbouring states.

'Punching Above His Weight': Rep Solomon Bob Blasts Bwala Over Wike Comments

A member of the House of Representatives, Hon Solomon Bob, has lambasted President Bola Tinubu's Special Adviser on Policy Communication, Mr Daniel Bwala, describing him as "an insignificant and attention-seeking operator punching above his weight," while also accusing him of what he called "malicious narrative distortion."

Hon. Bob was reacting to comments made by Mr. Bwala on a television programme on Friday, in which Bwala claimed that the Federal Capital Territory Minister, Mr. Nyesom Wike, had been "adequately compensated," while also implying that he was not allowing the Governor of Rivers State, Siminalayi Fubara, to govern.

In a statement on Sunday in Port Harcourt, Hon. Bob said Mr. Bwala's comments were "cheeky, unwarranted, and stemmed from premeditated bile."

"You could see that he deliberately pivoted from the question to talk about the Minister having been adequately compensated, whatever that means. He doesn't understand the Minister's contribution to this administration. Clearly, he operates on the fringes.

"And sadly, he leaves the impression that he sees public office as a gravy train ride. Because public office is about service delivery, not adequate compensation.

"Next, he cheekily downplayed the Minister's generally acknowledged superlative performance in the FCT by putting it down merely to exiting the TSA. Firstly, exiting the TSA itself was the Minister's ingenious idea. Secondly, the President's acceptance underlines his confidence in the Minister's ability to deliver. That confidence is rooted in his strong record as Rivers governor, for which even President Buhari honoured him—and Buhari was never enamoured of Wike.

"Worse still, Mr. Bwala betrayed his absolute lack of judgment by implying that the Minister is impeding Governor Fubara from governing. The manner of his comment is classic implication framing from a confused individual who dabbles in everything and all things, including those beyond his competence and job description," the statement continued.

According to Hon. Bob, Mr. Bwala "denigrates his office by infusing his public comments with his own sentiments and biases and passing them off as the President's. "But he wasn't speaking for the President because the President knows who bears responsibility for the situation in Rivers. Mr. Bwala doesn't really speak for the President, by the way. That's not his remit, and he is way down the pecking order of presidential spokesmen."

Hon. Bob, a ranking member and Chairman of the House Committee on Capital Market and Institutions, who represents Abua/Odual and Ahoada East Federal Constituency, claimed that perhaps Mr. Bwala is troubled by the bitterness he still nurses following Alhaji Atiku Abubakar's defeat in the 2023 elections. "Mr. Bwala enthusiastically ran his mouth and spoke out of turn because Minister Wike got Atiku Abubakar on toast. Atiku was his boss until he jumped ship. Obviously, he is still overcome with a sense of what might have been, despite grovelling back to get a job in a government made possible by people like the minister while he was engaged in typical self-serving rants elsewhere."

Hon. Bob advised Mr. Bwala to know his level and be humble and grateful for the job he has because, "despite his pretensions, he doesn't convince many people that he has the ingredients to function in that capacity."

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DailyMarketUpdate

Exchange, Crude Oil & Depot Prices - January 20, 2026

CRUDE PRICES

S/N	DETAILS	OPENING	CLOSING
1	BRENT	$64.13	$64.11
2	WTI	$59.34	$59.33
3	NATURAL GAS	$3.111	$3.671
4	BONNY LIGHT	$66.46	$68.23

. CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

S/N	CURRENCY	C.B.N	BLACK MARKET
1	USD/NGN	₦1,420	₦1,498
2	GBP/NGN	₦1,904	₦2,020
3	EUR/NGN	₦1,651	₦1,720

DEPOT PRICES

Location: Lagos

1	DANGOTE	700	911		920
3	NIPCO	780	920	845	
5	A.A RANO	715			
7	ARDOVA			840	
9	PINNACLE		913		
11	IBETO		910		
13	AIPEC		908		
15	TMDK		910		

Location: Warri

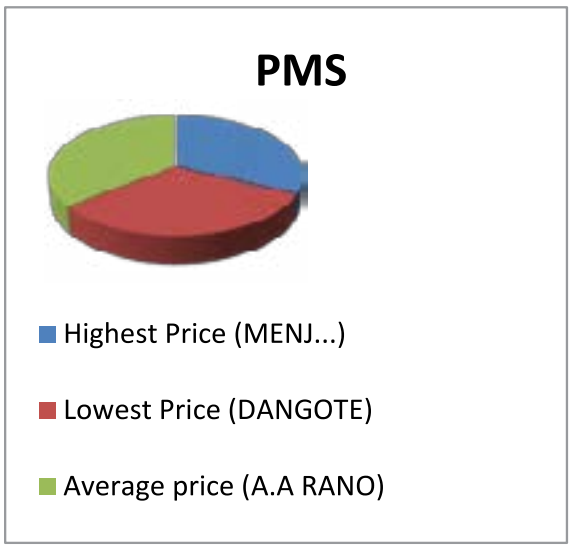
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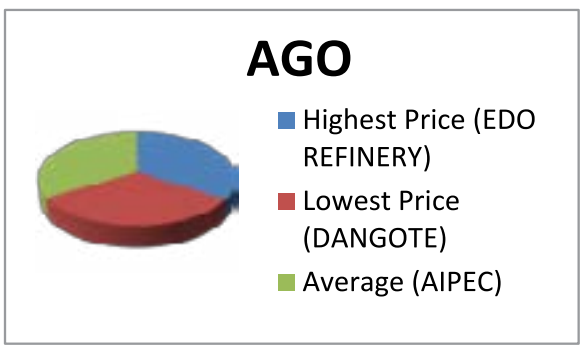
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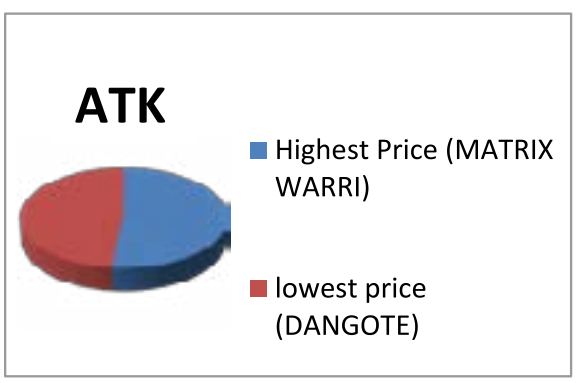
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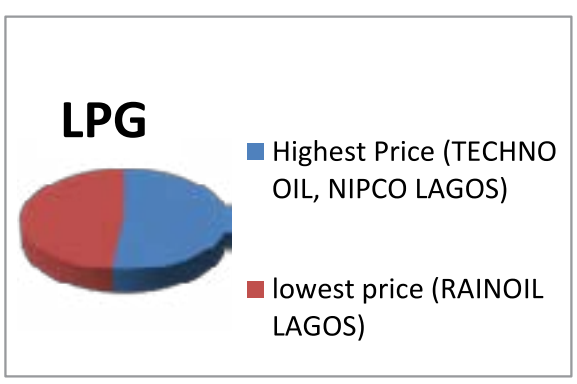
Location: Port Harcourt

1	SIGMUND	780			









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By Babajide Okeowo

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Petroleum Ministry, NNRA Strengthen Inter-Agency Collaboration

The Ministry of Petroleum Resources has reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to effective inter-agency coordination and strengthened institutional collaboration.

Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Mrs. Patience N. Oyekunle made the remarks during a familiarization visit to the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NNRA) in Abuja recently.

Oyekunle expressed appreciation to the Director-General and Management of NNRA for the warm reception accorded to her and her team, describing the engagement as timely and strategic.

She explained that the visit was conceived as a familiarisation and relationship-building exercise rather than an inspection, aimed at fostering constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and institutional alignment.

She noted that Nigeria's energy landscape is increasingly complex, dynamic and interconnected, placing heightened responsibility on regulatory institutions such as NNRA to safeguard public safety, ensure technical integrity and support national energy planning within clearly defined legal and institutional frameworks.

According to the Permanent Secretary, it is imperative for the Ministry, as the supervising and coordinating authority, to maintain a clear and up-to-date understanding of the mandates, operational realities and strategic priorities of its agencies, particularly where mandates intersect or administrative interfaces arise.

Mrs. Oyekunle added that effective coordination extends to areas such as senior-level human resource management processes, administrative escalation mechanisms, budgetary coordination and engagement with central government authorities, noting that early clarification of these interfaces helps prevent institutional friction and ensures smoother issue resolution.

She further emphasised that effective governance goes beyond rigid regulatory boundaries, requiring continuous communication, transparency and collaboration on matters of mutual institutional interest, including cross-cutting initiatives that advance national objectives.

Describing the visit as an opportunity to listen and learn, the Permanent Secretary said it would enable the Ministry to gain deeper insight into NNRA's organisational structure, operational priorities and current challenges, while reaffirming its commitment to constructive engagement, institutional support and respectful coordination.

In his remarks, the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority, Dr. Yau Idris, outlined the agency's mandate and operations, explaining that NNRA issues licences across several sectors for activities involving the use of radioactive materials.

Dr. Idris disclosed that the petroleum industry accounts for over 70 per cent of the Authority's licensing activities, underscoring NNRA's strategic relevance to Nigeria's energy sector. He added that the agency also covers sectors such as health, manufacturing, mining, construction, agriculture and water resources, research institutes, and other bodies that utilise radioactive materials.

He also explained the organisational structure of the Authority and highlighted some of the operational and institutional challenges confronting NNRA in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

Both parties expressed confidence that the engagement would further strengthen collaboration between the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority, and contribute to improved coordination, effective regulation and sound governance within Nigeria's evolving energy sector.

The familiarisation engagement concluded with a guided tour of the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Authority's facilities, providing the Permanent Secretary and her team with firsthand insight into the Authority's operational environment and technical infrastructure.

100 New Engineers Join Dangote Cement After Completion Of Graduate Trainee Program



Dangote Cement Plc has inducted almost 200 newly trained engineers and other professionals into its workforce following the successful completion of its Graduate Trainee Programme, reaffirming the company's commitment to job creation, skills development, and local capacity building in Nigeria.

The trainees, drawn from various engineering, finance, IT and other disciplines, were formally inducted over the weekend after completing an intensive 18 month training programme which entails both classroom and on-the-job learning was conducted at Dangote Academy and across the 4 plants locations in Nigeria and the Head Office. The Graduate Trainee Programme is a structured development journey designed to groom high potential professionals for future leadership roles through cross functional exposure, classroom instruction, executive mentorship, and hands on project execution.

During the programme, the trainees were deployed across Dangote Cement's plants and operational

CONTINUE ONLINE

Customs CG Charges Younger Officers To Aim For Global Expertise In Post-Clearance Audit



The Comptroller-General of Customs (CGC), Adewale Adeniyi, has charged younger officers of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to aspire toward global expertise in Post Clearance Audit (PCA), describing the tool as a cornerstone for modern customs careers and the future of Nigerian trade facilitation.

Speaking at the conclusion of the 5-day WCO Accelerate Trade Facilitation Programme on January 23, 2026, at NCS Headquarters in Abuja, Adeniyi emphasised that mastering these emerging audit techniques is the most effective way for new recruits to align their professional growth with international best practices.

"For the younger officers who are here. For you, this might be the first time you're experiencing this kind of thing. But our respected WCO experts started from somewhere. Post Clearance Audit is one of those emerging tools developed by WCO, and this is the best way in which you can start your career", he advised.

He continues, "I want you to begin to look to your aspiration. Let it be shaped towards that dream that, one day, you can also become a PCA expert".

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Top Stocks To Watch: DeapCap, SCOA, NCR Among Key Movers



Investors lost N395 billion as the equity market slumped slightly after several weeks of profit making.

The All-Share Index (ASI) depreciated by 0.39% and 0.37% to close the week at 165,512.18 from the 166,129.50 recorded the previous week while the equity capitalization dipped to N105.9.

Despite the bearish trading session, stocks like NCR (Nigeria) Plc, SCOA Nig Plc, and Deap Capital Management & Trust Plc still performed credibly to secure their places among the top ten best-performing stocks last week, positioning themselves as stocks to watch in the new week.

Kindly note that this is not a buy, sell or hold recommendation. It is advisable to consult your financial advisor before making any investment decision.

NCR • 188.15 ▪ 0.00

The current share price of NCR Nigeria (NCR) is N188.15. NCR closed its last trading day (Friday, January 23, 2026) at N188.15 per share on the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NGX). NCR began the year with a share price of N72.70 and has since gained 159% on that price valuation, ranking it third on the NGX in terms of year-to-date performance.

NCR Nigeria is the 112th most traded stock on the Nigerian Stock Exchange over the past three months (Oct 24, 2025 - Jan 23, 2026). NCR has traded a total volume of 9.16 million shares—in 4,770 deals—valued at N599 million over the period, with an average of 145,344 traded shares per session. A volume high of 1.03 million was achieved on November 14th, and a low of 7,108 on November 10th, for the same period.

SCOA • 23.80 □ 2.15 (9.93%)

The current share price of SCOA Nigeria (SCOA) is N23.80. SCOA closed its last trading day (Friday, January 23, 2026) at N23.80 per share on the Nigerian Stock Exchange

CONTINUE ONLINE

Tax Ombud Office Assures Nigerian Taxpayers Of Improved Protection, Fair Treatment

OFFICE OF THE TAX OMBUD
Ensuring fairness

The Office of the Tax Ombud has assured Nigerian taxpayers of improved protection and fair treatment as it implements guidelines designed to safeguard taxpayer rights, strengthen trust, and enhance voluntary tax compliance.

A statement issued in Abuja on Saturday by Chukwudi Achife, Chief Press Secretary to the Tax Ombud, said that the assurance followed a recent meeting held in Abuja at the office of the tax Ombud.

He said that the meeting was between the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Tax Ombud, Dr John Nwabueze, and a delegation of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms.

He said the delegation was led by the Chairman of the committee, Mr Taiwo Oyedele, adding that the meeting also included the Executive Secretary of the Joint Revenue Board, Mr Olusegun Adesokan.

Meanwhile, Nwabueze described the Office of the Tax Ombud as a newly established independent mediator and arbiter committed to promoting fairness and transparency in Nigeria's tax system.

According to him, this is geared towards improving the investment climate and enhancing Nigeria's competitiveness, increasing line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the administration of President Bola Tinubu.

He said that the office would actively engage the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and other organised private sector groups.

"This is to ensure that taxpayers are adequately informed of their rights and obligations under the tax regime.

"We will launch sustained public awareness campaigns to educate

CONTINUE ONLINE

Utsev Inspects World Bank/FG Water Projects In Benue



In continuation of his nationwide inspection tour of Federal Government projects in the water resources and sanitation sector, the Minister of Water Resources and Sanitation, Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev, has inspected the proposed World Bank and Federal Government-supported Sustainable Power and Irrigation in Nigeria (SPIN) Project in Katsina-Ala, the ongoing Federal Government construction of the Ugbema Semi-Urban Water Project, and the upgrading of the Buruku/Gboko Water Supply Scheme in Benue State.

Speaking at the proposed World Bank/ FG supported SPIN site in Katsina-Ala, the Minister stated that the inspection exercise was in line with the directive of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, to assess all water supply facilities and dams across the country in order to ascertain areas requiring government intervention.

According to the Minister, the 5,000-hectare Katsina-Ala irrigable farmland, when completed, will generate gainful employment for teeming youths and significantly boost food production through year-round farming with improved yields.

He further disclosed that the Federal Government intends to concession the dam component of the project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement to ensure faster and seamless project delivery.

While calling on residents of Katsina-Ala Local Government Area to support the initiatives of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Prof. Utsev noted that the project, when fully developed, would generate employment opportunities for about 2,000 youths in the area.

He urged other state governments to leverage the opportunities

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MarketIntelligence

Pricelist of Traded Equities 23 January, 2026





All Share Index (ASI)	Deals	Volume	Value	Market Capitalization	YTD Change
165,512.18	44,005	731.67 million	N19.05 billion	N105.96 trillion	6.36%
0.07%	-5.33%	-4.76%	-10.11%	0.07%	

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Previous Close	Close	Change	%Change
MORISON	6.84	7.52	0.68	9.94
UHOMREIT	64.90	71.35	6.45	9.94
SCOA	21.65	23.80	2.15	9.93
RTBRISCOE	5.44	5.98	0.54	9.93
AUSTINLAZ	4.09	4.49	0.40	9.78

BIGGEST VOLUMES

Symbol	Trades	Volume	Value
CHAMS	1,149	76,862,614	387,389,491
NSLTECH	454	67,957,749	66,730,243
ZENITHBANK	1,695	49,190,450	3,466,358,377
ZICHIS	17	48,810,000	127,882,200
FIDELITYBK	60	39,605,995	758,193,551

BOTTOM LOSERS

Symbol	Previous Close	Close	Change	%Change
NEIMETH	14.70	13.25	-1.45	(9.86)
NSLTECH	1.07	0.97	-0.10	(9.35)
ETERNA	31.00	28.45	-2.55	(8.23)
UPL	6.40	6.00	-0.40	(6.25)
EUNISELL	163.50	153.95	-9.55	(5.84)

SMALLEST VOLUMES

Symbol	Trades	Volume	Value
PREMPAINTS	2	1,500	16,500
TOTAL	77	2,738	1,577,088
ENAMELWA	8	3,308	133,974
GEREGU	94	6,435	6,611,319
IMG	24	7,046	249,873

SOURCE: NGX WWW.MATRIXNGR.COM

TheMatrix

MarketNews

PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED AS OF JANUARY 23/2026

Symbol	P. Close	High	Low	Close	Change	%Change	Trades	Volume	Value
ABBEYBDS	7.10	7.10	7.10	**7.10**	0.00	0.00%	60	169,671	1,163,735.90
ABCTRANS	5.68	5.68	5.68	**5.68**	0.00	0.00%	181	700,099	3,778,806.60
ACADEMY	8.65	8.65	8.65	**8.65**	0.00	0.00%	70	231,934	2,055,724.50
ACCESSCORP	22.05	22.90	22.05	**22.40**	0.35	1.59%	1,759	22,755,415	506,692,857.65
AFRIPRUD	15.20	15.30	14.85	**14.85**	(0.35)	-2.30%	144	2,402,464	35,933,352.35
AIICO	4.30	4.28	4.11	**4.15**	(0.15)	-3.49%	468	5,746,149	24,231,109.67
AIRTELAFRI	2,270.00	2,270.00	2,270.00	**2,270.00**	0.00	0.00%	5	9,381	23,424,357.00
ALEX	17.20	17.20	17.20	**17.20**	0.00	0.00%	54	96,461	1,664,836.70
ARADEL	780.00	780.00	780.00	**780.00**	0.00	0.00%	642	1,694,793	1,324,373,887.10
AUSTINLAZ	4.09	4.49	3.70	**4.49**	0.40	9.78%	287	3,860,496	16,852,270.38
BERGER	55.00	58.90	58.90	**58.90**	3.90	7.09%	132	594,685	35,072,136.45
BETAGLAS	420.00	420.00	420.00	**420.00**	0.00	0.00%	357	319,610	139,348,195.80
BUACEMENT	183.00	183.00	183.00	**183.00**	0.00	0.00%	806	662,088	114,579,717.90
BUAFOODS	798.90	798.90	798.90	**798.90**	0.00	0.00%	600	66,234	49,544,222.90
CADBURY	65.30	65.30	65.30	**65.30**	0.00	0.00%	285	570,736	37,447,844.30
CAP	79.50	79.50	79.50	**79.50**	0.00	0.00%	48	64,723	4,999,356.80
CAVERTON	7.70	7.70	7.50	**7.50**	(0.20)	-2.60%	125	1,232,379	9,420,200.60
CHAMPION	20.70	20.00	19.00	**20.00**	(0.70)	-3.38%	459	8,538,888	165,384,454.95
CHAMS	5.10	5.45	4.60	**5.33**	0.23	4.51%	1,149	76,862,614	387,389,491.42
CHELLARAM	13.20	13.20	13.20	**13.20**	0.00	0.00%	9	9,254	128,409.90
CILEASING	8.00	7.80	7.80	**7.80**	(0.20)	-2.50%	95	1,388,039	10,824,454.75
CNIF	100.00	100.00	100.00	**100.00**	0.00	0.00%	15	20,000	2,184,427.00
CONHALLPLC	5.08	5.10	5.10	**5.10**	0.02	0.39%	110	1,917,111	9,791,939.36
CONOIL	169.00	169.00	169.00	**169.00**	0.00	0.00%	91	16,328	2,859,825.10
CORNERST	6.32	6.27	6.25	**6.25**	(0.07)	-1.11%	93	4,176,649	26,189,212.24
CUSTODIAN	45.00	45.00	45.00	**45.00**	0.00	0.00%	127	791,281	34,604,628.05
CUTIX	3.70	3.70	3.46	**3.69**	(0.01)	-0.27%	347	6,946,439	25,389,141.26
CWG	23.70	25.00	23.75	**24.30**	0.60	2.53%	582	5,243,562	126,076,336.05
DAARCOMM	1.53	1.68	1.38	**1.53**	0.00	0.00%	426	13,225,145	20,244,511.55
DANGCEM	635.00	635.00	635.00	**635.00**	0.00	0.00%	1,008	327,001	200,717,318.90
DANGSUGAR	67.55	66.60	66.60	**66.60**	(0.95)	-1.41%	993	1,195,668	78,909,445.15
DEAPCAP	6.51	7.14	6.70	**7.14**	0.63	9.68%	888	25,510,697	176,896,033.65
ELLAHLAKES	16.45	16.75	15.95	**16.55**	0.10	0.61%	628	8,936,854	145,040,291.75
ENAMELWA	40.50	40.50	40.50	**40.50**	0.00	0.00%	8	3,308	133,974.00
ETERNA	31.00	28.45	28.45	**28.45**	(2.55)	-8.23%	192	1,233,615	37,326,161.00
ETI	47.00	47.00	47.00	**47.00**	0.00	0.00%	100	193,052	9,241,105.50
ETRANZACT	19.45	19.45	19.10	**19.10**	(0.35)	-1.80%	236	2,100,025	40,633,517.05
EUNISELL	163.50	153.95	147.15	**153.95**	(9.55)	-5.84%	222	917,595	136,665,130.90
FCMB	11.80	11.70	11.50	**11.70**	(0.10)	-0.85%	577	8,339,367	96,626,349.20
FIDELITYBK	20.05	20.00	18.80	**19.00**	(1.05)	-5.24%	799	39,605,995	758,193,551.45
FIDSON	71.50	71.50	71.50	**71.50**	0.00	0.00%	888	1,733,266	114,517,315.15
FIRSTHOLDCO	50.00	49.00	49.00	**49.00**	(1.00)	-2.00%	431	2,413,762	118,292,925.05
FTNCOCOA	7.20	7.20	7.01	**7.20**	0.00	0.00%	377	3,272,867	23,308,020.53
GEREGU	1,141.50	1,141.50	1,141.50	**1,141.50**	0.00	0.00%	94	6,435	6,611,319.00
GTCO	95.60	98.50	98.50	**98.50**	2.90	3.03%	1,514	14,936,663	1,461,870,230.85
GUINEAINS	1.30	1.34	1.25	**1.25**	(0.05)	-3.85%	143	5,172,015	6,715,333.89
GUINNESS	349.90	349.90	349.90	**349.90**	0.00	0.00%	117	23,672	7,456,680.00
HMCALL	4.00	4.39	4.25	**4.33**	0.33	8.25%	144	3,764,365	16,227,135.28
HONYFLOUR	23.60	23.00	23.00	**23.00**	(0.60)	-2.54%	378	1,406,970	32,794,746.55
IKEJAHOTEL	35.80	35.80	35.80	**35.80**	0.00	0.00%	114	280,697	10,184,765.15
IMG	34.85	34.85	34.85	**34.85**	0.00	0.00%	24	7,046	249,872.95
INFINITY	7.70	8.45	8.45	**8.45**	0.75	9.74%	139	916,296	7,544,554.30
INTBREW	14.10	14.10	13.90	**13.90**	(0.20)	-1.42%	193	2,543,997	35,813,765.40
INTENEGINS	3.10	3.31	3.00	**3.00**	(0.10)	-3.23%	76	1,754,200	5,493,104.62
JAIZBANK	7.99	8.30	7.92	**8.05**	0.06	0.75%	1,741	12,847,595	105,073,736.90
JAPAULGOLD	2.50	2.64	2.48	**2.50**	0.00	0.00%	343	13,903,432	35,473,111.33
JBERGER	182.00	182.00	182.00	**182.00**	0.00	0.00%	190	164,398	27,846,095.80
JOHNHOLT	7.70	7.70	7.70	**7.70**	0.00	0.00%	207	1,913,201	14,568,582.05
JULI	7.26	7.26	7.26	**7.26**	0.00	0.00%	18	76,996	593,448.35
LASACO	2.58	2.59	2.46	**2.50**	(0.08)	-3.10%	191	7,773,526	19,530,398.91
LEARNAFRCA	8.00	8.75	8.00	**8.75**	0.75	9.38%	106	1,482,803	12,406,308.75

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PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED AS OF JANUARY 23/2026

Symbol	P. Close	High	Low	Close	Change	%Change	Trades	Volume	Value
LEGENDINT	5.80	5.90	5.84	**5.84**	0.04	0.69%	73	1,587,248	9,296,109.66
LINKASSURE	1.92	1.92	1.85	**1.90**	(0.02)	-1.04%	165	8,001,912	15,070,237.35
LIVESTOCK	7.00	7.30	7.20	**7.30**	0.30	4.29%	158	1,719,024	12,315,615.95
LIVINGTRUST	5.36	5.15	4.83	**5.15**	(0.21)	-3.92%	96	4,980,292	24,251,492.86
MANSARD	15.05	15.00	14.95	**15.00**	(0.05)	-0.33%	94	783,494	11,713,315.22
MAYBAKER	43.70	44.00	43.50	**43.50**	(0.20)	-0.46%	1,044	4,096,038	180,396,084.60
MBENEFIT	4.20	4.40	4.20	**4.20**	0.00	0.00%	384	4,643,703	19,934,849.30
MCNICHOLS	7.00	7.30	6.88	**6.88**	(0.12)	-1.71%	321	2,925,152	20,930,631.70
MECURE	104.00	104.00	104.00	**104.00**	0.00	0.00%	184	92,241	8,633,757.60
MEYER	19.00	19.00	19.00	**19.00**	0.00	0.00%	104	570,228	11,156,338.75
MORISON	6.84	7.52	7.52	**7.52**	0.68	9.94%	5	204,821	1,540,253.92
MTNN	580.00	580.00	580.00	**580.00**	0.00	0.00%	2,414	1,456,237	832,903,377.10
MULTIVERSE	28.25	28.25	28.25	**28.25**	0.00	0.00%	71	84,167	2,142,370.15
NAHCO	110.00	110.00	110.00	**110.00**	0.00	0.00%	193	929,618	101,970,542.70
NASCON	110.20	110.20	110.20	**110.20**	0.00	0.00%	172	262,642	29,050,716.45
NB	77.00	77.00	77.00	**77.00**	0.00	0.00%	332	841,260	65,446,141.50
NCR	188.15	188.15	188.15	**188.15**	0.00	0.00%	195	141,581	29,266,761.90
NEIMETH	14.70	16.15	13.25	**13.25**	(1.45)	-9.86%	1,318	29,078,125	459,027,105.80
NEM	32.00	32.90	31.00	**32.90**	0.90	2.81%	240	3,086,569	96,689,585.90
NESTLE	2,153.80	2,153.80	2,153.80	**2,153.80**	0.00	0.00%	196	228,360	487,618,606.10
NGXGROUP	81.95	82.00	81.50	**82.00**	0.05	0.06%	222	1,801,482	147,349,183.05
NIDF	115.40	115.40	115.40	**115.40**	0.00	0.00%	322	487,235	60,024,555.20
NNFM	84.30	84.30	84.30	**84.30**	0.00	0.00%	28	11,930	941,380.50
NPFMCRFBK	5.10	5.50	5.00	**5.10**	0.00	0.00%	164	3,011,029	15,792,419.10
NREIT	103.00	103.00	103.00	**103.00**	0.00	0.00%	8	10,000	1,133,000.00
NSLTECH	1.07	1.06	0.97	**0.97**	(0.10)	-9.35%	454	67,957,749	66,730,243.45
OANDO	40.00	40.35	40.00	**40.35**	0.35	0.88%	552	2,941,614	118,047,729.50
OKOMUOIL	1,206.50	1,206.50	1,206.50	**1,206.50**	0.00	0.00%	493	66,430	79,938,809.60
OMATEK	2.12	2.12	1.91	**2.01**	(0.11)	-5.19%	444	17,236,148	34,348,102.57
PREMPAINTS	10.00	10.00	10.00	**10.00**	0.00	0.00%	2	1,500	16,500.00
PRESCO	1,635.00	1,635.00	1,635.00	**1,635.00**	0.00	0.00%	395	138,225	222,407,688.60
PRESTIGE	1.80	1.98	1.78	**1.80**	0.00	0.00%	112	5,572,518	10,394,167.61
PZ	56.50	56.00	56.00	**56.00**	(0.50)	-0.88%	316	5,373,992	300,387,124.35
REDSTAREX	17.30	17.30	17.30	**17.30**	0.00	0.00%	123	909,774	16,691,143.00
REGALINS	1.16	1.24	1.16	**1.20**	0.04	3.45%	123	6,180,152	7,398,608.82
ROYALEX	2.35	2.40	2.15	**2.40**	0.05	2.13%	160	7,086,541	15,816,217.25
RTBRISCOE	5.44	5.98	5.98	**5.98**	0.54	9.93%	193	6,344,131	37,924,065.03
SCOA	21.65	23.80	23.80	**23.80**	2.15	9.93%	24	266,521	6,343,199.80
SEPLAT	6,700.00	6,700.00	6,700.00	**6,700.00**	0.00	0.00%	382	262,093	1,788,045,276.00
SFSREIT	418.75	418.75	418.75	**418.75**	0.00	0.00%	56	8,484	3,516,179.50
SKYAVN	96.20	99.95	99.95	**99.95**	3.75	3.90%	41	849,677	82,895,098.50
SOVRENINS	3.80	3.79	3.62	**3.79**	(0.01)	-0.26%	72	1,933,739	7,138,671.67
STANBIC	108.00	108.00	108.00	**108.00**	0.00	0.00%	240	1,401,936	151,613,865.85
STERLINGNG	7.80	7.75	7.10	**7.50**	(0.30)	-3.85%	481	9,155,157	67,635,111.40
SUNUASSUR	5.00	5.00	5.00	**5.00**	0.00	0.00%	48	314,338	1,560,402.46
TANTALIZER	3.93	4.00	3.56	**3.83**	(0.10)	-2.54%	889	31,902,028	122,390,476.29
TIP	15.00	15.60	14.90	**15.20**	0.20	1.33%	400	5,658,154	85,733,622.35
TOTAL	640.00	640.00	640.00	**640.00**	0.00	0.00%	77	2,738	1,577,088.00
TRANSCOHOT	170.90	170.90	170.90	**170.90**	0.00	0.00%	61	14,559	2,435,115.20
TRANSCORP	46.75	46.75	46.15	**46.15**	(0.60)	-1.28%	206	1,430,491	66,461,936.95
TRANSPOWER	307.00	307.00	307.00	**307.00**	0.00	0.00%	71	25,689	7,097,870.70
TRIPPLEG	6.49	7.10	7.10	**7.10**	0.61	9.40%	92	1,341,531	8,612,294.76
UACN	92.50	92.50	92.50	**92.50**	0.00	0.00%	147	418,646	37,671,134.20
UBA	44.50	44.55	43.90	**43.90**	(0.60)	-1.35%	1,148	6,951,821	307,559,737.05
UCAP	18.00	18.10	17.95	**17.95**	(0.05)	-0.28%	291	8,012,961	144,363,185.65
UHOMREIT	64.90	71.35	71.35	**71.35**	6.45	9.94%	295	1,644,636	117,297,880.20
UNILEVER	77.00	77.00	77.00	**77.00**	0.00	0.00%	130	239,467	17,893,519.20
UNIONDICON	9.70	9.70	9.70	**9.70**	0.00	0.00%	50	155,022	1,531,113.00
UNIVINSURE	1.21	1.21	1.18	**1.19**	(0.02)	-1.65%	126	5,365,018	6,444,422.84
UPDC	5.65	6.00	5.65	**5.70**	0.05	0.88%	190	3,668,548	21,219,141.00
UPDCREIT	8.40	8.95	8.40	**8.95**	0.55	6.55%	308	5,555,013	48,222,823.25
UPL	6.40	6.00	6.00	**6.00**	(0.40)	-6.25%	50	676,625	4,126,340.40

PHOTOS SPEAK...

VICE PRESIDENT, KASHIM SHETTIMA LAST WEEK THURSDAY DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL ACCRA RESET INITIATIVE MEETING HELD ON THE MARGINS OF THE 2026 WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ANNUAL MEETING IN DAVOS, SWITZERLAND









OGUN STATE GOVERNOR, DAPO ABIODUN LAST WEEKTHURSDAY RECEIVED THE FLAG OFFICER COMMANDING, WESTERN NAVAL COMMAND, REAR ADMIRAL ABUBAKAR ABDULLAHI MUSTAPHA, ALONGSIDE SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE COMMAND, DURING A COURTESY VISIT TO HIS OFFICE IN OKE-MOSAN, ABEOKUTA.









IMAGES...

OYO STATE GOVERNOR, ENGR. SEYI MAKINDE (LEFT), CONGRATULATES THE NEWLY SWORN-IN COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HON. ADEMOLA TEMITAYO ADERINTO, FOLLOWING HIS OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION BY THE STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. THE CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SECRETARIAT, IBADAN, LAST WEEK.









APC NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HOSTS FOOTBALL LEGEND NWANKWO KANU IN ABUJA
IN A MEETING THAT BRIDGED THE WORLDS OF POLITICS, SPORTS, AND BUSINESS, PROFESSOR NENTAWE YILWATDA GOSHWE, THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS (APC), WELCOMED LEGENDARY NIGERIAN FOOTBALLER NWANKWO KANU TO HIS RESIDENCE IN ABUJA... LAST WEEK











NELSON UTIP
SOUTH-SOUTH BUREAU CHIEF
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News From South South

Enoidem, Former PDP National Legal Adviser Joins APC In A'Ibom

The President of Senate, Godswill Akpabio, and The Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Pastor Umo Eno, formally received the former National Legal Adviser of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Emmanuel Enoidem, into the All Progressives Congress.

The defection ceremony took place at a rally in Utu Etim Ekpo, Etim Ekpo Local Government Area of the state. Senator Akpabio likened the defection of Enoidem who had served as a Commissioner in his administration as Governor to the Biblical story of a Shepherd who left 99 sheep to go in search of one which had gone astray.

The Senate President used the occasion to commend Governor Eno for reuniting Enoidem with him and said the move would ensure a stress free electioneering not only in Akwa Ibom North West Senatorial District but Akwa Ibom State as a whole.

He also said that, with the defection of the former PDP chieftain, APC would coast home to victory easily in the 2027 elections.

In a statement by the Special Assistant on Media and Communication to the President of the Senate, Anietie Ekong , Senator Akpabio stated :

"This rally is like connecting me to one of my political mentees. I want to tell everyone that I am happy to receive Enoidem into the APC.

"Today's event signals the return of peace to Akwa Ibom State. And you know that peace drives progress and development in any community.

"I must put on record for the people of Etim Ekpo that despite the fact that Enoidem contested against me in 2023, you voted overwhelmingly for me. So now that he is back with us, we anticipate rancour free elections in 2027."

Through a voice vote administered by Senator Akpabio, the people indicated their intention to support

CONTINUE ONLINE



EYSD Backs Osawaru's Second Term Bid



An Edo social cultural group, Edo Youth for Sustainable Development (EYSD), at the weekend expressed support for the reelection bid of The Member Representing Orhionmwon/ Uhunmwonde Federal Constituency, Hon. Billy Osawaru. The group called on him to consolidate on the gains of his first term in office.

In a statement signed by its Coordinator, Imade Osagie and The Secretary, Fred Igbinosa, the group stated that its assessment of Osawaru's performance across The Federal Constituency showed that he deserves a second term.

The statement further stated that the youth group undertook a tour of communities within the constituency to assess The Lawmaker's projects and interventions, noting that his stewardship met the expectations of the people.

EYSD also urged party leaders and the electorate to demand a clear record of stewardship from individuals seeking public office, particularly those who had previously held political positions.

The group noted that the era of imposing candidates on the people was over, adding that the people of Edo South had become

CONTINUE ONLINE

APC Stakeholders In Delta, Including, Gov Oborevwori, Omo-Agege, Keyamo, Okowa Unite In A Meeting



It was a unity parade as Stakeholders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) meet in Delta State on Friday. Those in attendance included Governor Sheriff Oborevwori, Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, Chief Festus Keyamo, Dr Ifeanyi Okowa and other party leaders in the state.

This was the first high profile meeting of party stalwarts since the defection of Governor Oboreivwori and other former PDP leaders in the state into the ruling APC. Most of the APC stakeholders have been playing cat and dog game until yesterday when they sat together for a high-level meeting that underscored unity, e-registration, grassroots mobilisation and preparedness ahead of forthcoming party congresses.

Governor Oborevwori while addressing the gathering, stressed the need for them to deliver massive votes for President Bola Tinubu and all other elective positions in the 2027 elections, warning that the number of votes they are able to deliver will determine their strength and what they are able to attract at the federal level.

He called on stakeholders to place collective interest above personal considerations, resist division and avoid unnecessary conflicts, noting that

CONTINUE ONLINE

News From South South

BY PRINCE AMGBARE &
VICTOR EDOZIE &
FELIX ASUQUO

DSS Arrests Suspected Sea Pirate Kingpin And Recruiter In Bayelsa



The Department of State Services (DSS) has arrested two suspected sea pirates in Yenagoa, disrupting a planned hijacking of a crude oil-laden vessel in the Gulf of Guinea.

The arrests occurred on Saturday at a hotel along Tenacious Street in the Edepie area of Yenagoa, as the suspects were reportedly finalising preparations for the maritime attack.

The suspects are Geoffrey Atizara, 38, from Aleibiri in Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, and Divine Kelechi Unueze, 42, from Nekede in Owerri, Imo State.

Security sources revealed that intelligence-led operations, supported by confessional statements from the duo, exposed their roles in a broader syndicate engaged in sea piracy, crew abductions, and ransom demands across the South-South and South-East regions.

CONTINUE ONLINE

Police Stop Cross River Residents From Setting Man Ablaze

The Cross River State Police Command has prevented residents of Calabar from setting a suspected armed robber ablaze, following a swift intervention by operatives of its Anti-Kidnapping Unit.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday at Mbora Street in the Abangassang area of Calabar, where an angry mob reportedly descended on a man alleged to have attempted to rob a woman.

It was gathered that the suspect was severely beaten by the mob and was about to be set on fire before police operatives arrived at the scene and dispersed the crowd.

Confirming the incident, on Sunday, the Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Sunday Eitokpah, said the intervention led to the recovery of a firearm and the arrest of suspects..

"The Cross River State Police Command wishes to inform the general public that operatives of the Command's Anti-Kidnapping Unit, in the early hours of Sunday, January 25, 2026, successfully intervened to prevent a mob

CONTINUE ONLINE



Niger Delta Games Will Produce Future Olympians - NDDC Chairman

The Chairman of the Governing Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Mr Chiedu Ebie, has expressed optimism that talents discovered at the Niger Delta Games will represent the country at international sporting events such as the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and the All-Africa Games.

Speaking during a strategic retreat organised by the consultant for the 2nd Niger Delta Games, Dunamis Icon Limited, in Benin City, Edo State, Ebie endorsed the idea of holding sessions to review and project plans for successful games.

Ebie's statement was contained in a press statement issued in Port Harcourt on Sunday by Seledi Thompson-Wakama the Commission's Director, of Corporate Affairs.

He stated: "The Board of the NDDC wants to make the games our legacy project, such that there will come a time in the future when we can have athletes from the Niger Delta Games representing Nigeria at international events such as the Olympics."

Addressing members of the Main Organising Committee and the Local Organising Committee, the NDDC Chairman commended the leadership of Dunamis-Icon Limited, noting: "When you want to institutionalise an event such as the Games, you have to hold such reviews to ensure that gaps are closed."

Ebie also commended the Edo State Government for its proactive leadership in sports development and expressed confidence that the second edition of the Niger Delta Sports Festival would exceed expectations.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Amadin Desmond Enabulele, reaffirmed Edo State's readiness to host the second edition of the Niger Delta Sports Festival.

He commended the NDDC under the leadership of Ebie for sustaining the initiative, describing sports as a powerful tool for unity, peace, and socio-economic development in the region. According to him, the Commission's continued support reflects a clear understanding of the long-term benefits of sports development.

Reaffirming Edo State's preparedness, the Sports Commission Chairman assured that facilities, logistics, and technical structures were in place to ensure a smooth and successful event. He added that Edo State was working closely with the NDDC and organisers to deliver

CONTINUE ONLINE

Professor Promise Mebine Appointed New Vice-Chancellor Of Federal University Otuoke

The Governing Council of Federal University Otuoke (FUO) has approved the appointment of Professor Promise Mebine as the institution's new Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Mebine, a renowned expert in Applied Mathematics, succeeds Professor Teddy Charles Adias, whose tenure concludes on February 17, 2026.

He is a native of Southern Ijaw Local Government Area in Bayelsa State, holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom.

His research focuses on magnetohydrodynamics (MHD), environmental fluid modelling, and other applied mathematical fields addressing engineering and environmental challenges.

Prior to this role, he served as Director/Chief Executive of the National Mathematical Centre (NMC) in Abuja, where he advanced mathematics education, research, and national collaborations.

He also held positions as Head of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Niger Delta University, Amassoma, and Rector of Bayelsa State Polytechnic, Aleibiri.

Academic peers praise Professor Mebine as a visionary leader who combines rigorous scholarship with strong administrative skills, having driven numerous research initiatives in mathematical sciences relevant to Nigeria's developmental priorities.

The Governing Council's selection process adhered to established procedures, reflecting strong confidence in his ability to elevate FUO's academic profile, foster expanded research partnerships, and enhance community engagement.

The appointment has drawn widespread acclaim from students, faculty, alumni, and stakeholders on social media, who view it as a pivotal

CONTINUE ONLINE



CityMetro

•POLICE UPDATE • CRIME BUSTING• CRIME WATCH •

Suspected Kidnappers Kill Police Inspector During Rescue Operation In Oyo

The Oyo State Police Command on Sunday confirmed the killing of a police inspector while a team of police officers were trying to rescue a kidnap victim, Haruna Lawal, at Olorunda Village, Ojongbodu, in the Oyo West Local Government Area of the state.

A statement released by the state Police Public Relations Officer, Olayinka Ayanlade, said the assailants abducted Lawal and escaped with his motorcycle to an unknown location.

Ayanlade added that the kidnap victim, Lawal, also sustained a head injury during the attack.

He explained that the victim was quickly rushed to the General Hospital in Oyo town, where he is currently receiving appropriate medical attention.

The PPRO said, "The command received a distress call from Alimot (female) of Ojongbodu Area, reporting that suspected kidnappers armed with dangerous weapons had invaded her brother's residence.

"The command wishes to inform the general public of the successful rescue of a kidnapped victim following the swift and coordinated response of police operatives, reflecting the command's unwavering commitment to the protection of lives and property.

"On January 24, 2026, at about 0210 hours, the command received a distress call from Alimot (female) of Ojongbodu Area, Oyo State, reporting that suspected kidnappers armed with dangerous weapons had invaded her brother's residence.

"During the invasion, the assailants abducted Haruna Lawal (male) of Olorunda Village via Oyo and escaped with his motorcycle to an unknown location.

"Upon receipt of the report and acting on the directives of the Commissioner of Police, Femi Haruna, operatives of the command immediately swung into action and deployed to the area. The prompt response and aggressive bush-combing operation exerted pressure on the suspects.

"As police operatives advanced into the area with patrol vans and sirens, the kidnappers, realising that security forces were closing in on them, abandoned the victim and fled. The kidnapped victim was consequently rescued alive.

"During the attack, an inspector, while courageously repelling the attack, paid the supreme price in the line of duty. Immediately after this information was received, the Commissioner of Police ordered an immediate manhunt and a comprehensive investigation into the attack. Preliminary findings indicate that some of the attackers sustained bullet injuries, and operatives are currently on their trail.

"The victim sustained a head injury during the ordeal and was promptly conveyed to the General Hospital, Oyo, where he is currently receiving appropriate medical attention.

"The swift rescue, achieved within hours of the abduction, underscores the professionalism, vigilance, and dedication of the state police command in responding decisively to threats against public safety," the PPRO stated.

He added that efforts had been intensified to track down and arrest the fleeing suspects, while the investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Ayanlade, therefore, reassured members of the public of the command's resolve to ensure that criminals find no hiding place in the state and urged continued cooperation through the provision of timely and credible information.

"The state Commissioner of Police, Femi Haruna, appreciates the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, for his continuous leadership, strategic guidance, and unwavering support.

"The CP also commends the gallant officers and operatives who carried out the operation, in collaboration with strategic partners, for their courage, professionalism, and commitment to duty," the PPRO added.

Customs Begin Manhunt For Smugglers After Attack On Officers

The Nigeria Customs Service, Ogun I Area Command, has vowed to bring to book the smugglers who launched a violent attack on its officers during an anti-smuggling operation at the Akokoro area of Iwoye, Imeko-Afon Local Government Area of Ogun State.

The command's spokesperson, Zakari Chado, disclosed this in a statement issued on Sunday.

Chado said the attack occurred while officers of the command, acting on credible intelligence, intercepted a 12-tyre truck suspected to be conveying a large consignment of illicit drugs and other prohibited items.

According to him, before reinforcement teams could arrive, the suspects mobilised a large number of armed hoodlums and launched a coordinated attack on the patrol team.

"In a deliberate effort to obstruct law enforcement, the attackers mounted heavy barricades at about nine strategic points to block access routes, thereby preventing timely reinforcement," he said.

"They opened fire on the officers and disabled a Customs patrol vehicle by shooting out its tyres, creating a volatile and dangerous operational environment.

"During the exchange, two officers of the Nigeria Customs Service sustained gunshot injuries and are currently in critical condition, receiving intensive medical care.

"Exploiting the multiple barricades they mounted, the smugglers fled the scene with the intercepted truck."

Chado added that the command has commenced an investigation into the attack and has begun efforts to identify, track and apprehend all those involved.

Reacting to the incident, the Acting Customs Area Controller of the command, Deputy Comptroller Olukayode Afeni, condemned the attack, describing it as barbaric and unacceptable.

Afeni reaffirmed that such violent resistance would not deter the command or the service from discharging its statutory mandate of combating smuggling and protecting national security.

He also called on traditional rulers and community leaders within the command's area of responsibility to caution their subjects against smuggling and attacks on security personnel, warning that offenders would face the full weight of the law.

The controller assured law-abiding members of the public of their safety and reiterated the command's unwavering commitment to border security, public health and the enforcement of the Nigeria Customs Service Act, 2023.

It will be recalled that the command had recently made significant seizures of narcotics around border communities in the state, which were subsequently handed over to the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

Security Officer Blames Criminal Herdsmen Of Killing Fulani Man In Benue

A Benue-based security officer, Akir Abel, has dismissed as false and misleading a report circulating on social media alleging that Tiv residents were responsible for the killing of a Fulani man in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State.

In a statement shared on his Facebook page, Abel described the report, published by a page identified as Nigerian Military Gallery, as "fake news" and an act of blackmail aimed at inciting ethnic tension.

According to the officer, the deceased, identified as Saduna Lasar, was a Fulani cattle owner and businessman who was killed on 17 January 2026 by suspected Fulani bandits operating in the area, not by Tiv communities as claimed in the viral post.

Abel explained that on the morning of the incident, Lasar had travelled to Magungu Fadama to purchase cattle. After negotiating unsuccessfully for four cows due to the high price, he reportedly left the area on his motorcycle, heading towards Gbajimba.

He stated that the same herdsmen he had earlier negotiated with allegedly followed him on another motorcycle and intercepted him near a Tiv settlement known as Abaushaw. During a struggle over his bag, one of the attackers reportedly shot Lasar in the head, killing him instantly before fleeing with his motorcycle and belongings.

"The intention was to blackmail Tiv people and cause further crisis," Abel claimed.

He further alleged that the suspects, identified as Haruna Jando, Musa Haruna, and Abdullahi Maiseje, are currently on the run following the incident.

The officer also accused the same criminal gang of being responsible for multiple attacks in the area, including the killing of two Tiv farmers on their farms in Iordye village and the murder of a woman during an attack on Gbajimba on January 18, 2026.

Abel added that, in an attempt to further escalate tensions, the group allegedly blocked the Akhor–Tomanin road at a later time and killed two Fulani herdsmen to frame Tiv communities.

He urged the public to verify information before sharing it and called on community leaders, including Fulani elders in Guma, to help expose criminal elements exploiting ethnic identities to fuel violence.

As of the time of filing this report, security authorities had not issued an official statement on the incident. However, residents have continued to call for decisive action to arrest those responsible and curb the spread of misinformation capable of worsening the fragile security situation in Benue State.

Ex-Policeman Arrested For Alleged Impersonation, Robbery In Niger

Police in Minna, Niger State, have arrested a 30-year-old dismissed police officer, Haruna Haggai, for allegedly impersonating security personnel, snatching motorcycles, and extorting residents.

Haggai was apprehended on January 16, 2026, at about 10 p.m. at his residence in Sauka-Kahuta, Minna, by operatives of the Force Intelligence Department and the Special Tactical Squad, following intelligence reports and a complaint from one of his victims.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Wasiu Abiodun, said in a statement that Haggai posed as a police officer on January 14, 2026, along Kpakungu Road, where he intercepted a Jincheng motorcycle, intimidated the rider, and forcefully took the bike.

According to investigations, the suspect later extorted ₦150,000 from the victim around Garatu, falsely accusing him of fraud before abandoning him.

"The suspect was arrested based on a direct complaint that a victim was riding a Jincheng motorcycle along Kpakungu Road on January 14, 2026, when the suspect, Haggai, intercepted him, impersonated a policeman, intimidated the victim, and forcefully collected the motorcycle," the statement read.

"He later conveyed the rider around the town, extorted the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand naira from him around Garatu, tagged him a fraudster, abandoned him, and made away with the motorcycle."

Abiodun added that this was not the suspect's first offence, noting that in October 2025, Haggai was arrested for a similar crime involving impersonation of an EFCC official and extortion of ₦400,000.

However, he disclosed that the suspect was released at the time following an out-of-court settlement.

The statement further revealed that Haggai had been reported for harassing and terrorising members of the public around the Sauka-Kahuta area and its environs, extorting and robbing victims of their valuables.

"The suspect is currently in custody undergoing investigation. The motorcycle has been recovered, and he will be charged to court for prosecution, taking into account records of his previous offences," the command added.

Education/Tourism

BY BABAJIDE OKEOWO

At International Day Of Education 2026, FG Advances Youth-Led, Skills-Driven, Future-Ready Education



The Federal Government has reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to inclusive, equitable, and future-ready education, positioning Nigerian youths as active partners and co-creators in transforming the nation's learning system.

Speaking in Abuja at the 2026 International Day of Education celebration globally observed every January 24, themed "The Power of Youth in Co-creating Education," the Minister of Education, Dr Maruf Tunji Alausa, described education as the bedrock of civilisation, peace, and sustainable development, while acknowledging persistent global and national challenges such as access gaps, learning poverty, skills mismatches, and gender disparities.

The Minister noted that ongoing reforms in the education sector are firmly anchored on the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, which places education at the heart of national renewal, economic growth, and social transformation. He highlighted improved funding for the sector through increased budgetary allocations, innovative non-budgetary financing, and strengthened partnerships with international development partners, providing the resources required to implement bold and systemic reforms.

Alausa outlined key interventions under the Ministry's Education Transformation Roadmap, including curriculum rationalisation to emphasise critical thinking, creativity, and industry-relevant skills; accelerated digitalisation through smart learning platforms and national education data systems; strengthened teacher capacity for modern pedagogy and artificial

CONTINUE ONLINE

Tinubu's Education Sector Reforms Creating Real Opportunities For Young Nigerians, Says Information Minister



The Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris has disclosed that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's education sector reforms are creating real opportunities for young Nigerians, and ensuring access, stability and quality across Nigerian universities.

He stated this when he received the Vice Chancellor of Yakubu Gowon University, Abuja (formerly University of Abuja), Professor Hakeem Babatunde Fawehinmi, who led the university's top management team on a courtesy visit to his office in Abuja.

According to the Minister, "Initiatives such as the Nigeria Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), student innovation grants, and improved government–university relations are already strengthening the education sector and creating real opportunities for young Nigerians."

He added: "Under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, the Federal Government is implementing key education reforms to ensure access, stability, and quality across our universities."

The Minister also stressed the Federal Government's commitment to strengthening collaboration with Nigerian universities to advance media education, promote responsible journalism, and address the growing challenges of misinformation, disinformation, and the misuse of digital technologies.

He described the visit as timely and strategic,

CONTINUE ONLINE

Turkey To Repatriate 76 Nigerian Artifacts, Paves Way For Stronger Cultural Ties

The Republic of Türkiye has identified 76 wooden and metal artifacts believed to belong to Nigeria, paving the way for their repatriation and potentially strengthening cultural ties between the two nations.

The Turkish Ambassador to Nigeria, HE Mehmet Poroy, made this known recently when he paid a courtesy visit to the Hon Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy, Hannatu Musa Musawa, in Abuja.

Ambassador Poroy stated that discussions for their return will commence immediately the Nigerian government officially identifies and claims ownership of the objects. He also expressed hope that a cultural cooperation agreement between Turkey and Nigeria could be signed during the upcoming visit of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to Turkey.

"Our Minister of Culture and Tourism has identified 76 wooden and metal objects that they think might belong to Nigeria. We received information about these Artifacts last May and we are eager to see them returned to Nigeria.

"We hope to sign a cultural cooperation agreement during the upcoming visit of Nigeria's President to Turkey. We are committed to promoting cultural understanding and cooperation between our nations," he said.

Ambassador Poroy discussed plans to establish a cultural center in Nigeria to promote traditional arts and educate young Nigerian women. He invited Nigerian officials to upcoming cultural events, including a photo exhibition and Turkish coffee chat.

In her response, Minister Musawa emphasized the importance of finalizing the cultural cooperation agreement, urging officials to expedite the process.

The Minister highlighted Nigeria's interest in collaborating with Turkey on film industry projects, cultural exchanges, and empowering women in fashion. She emphasized Nigeria's role in global cultural dialogue, particularly within the Global South, and the potential for Turkey-Nigeria partnership to promote cultural understanding and economic growth.

"This is a golden opportunity for both countries to strengthen cultural diplomacy. Nigeria is the gateway to talking to the black global community, purely because of our numbers and strength of expression. We urge officials to expedite the process of finalizing the cultural cooperation agreement."

The identification of the artifacts and the ongoing discussions underscore the commitment of both countries to strengthen cultural diplomacy and explore new areas of collaboration. Nigeria sees this as an opportunity to reclaim its cultural heritage and promote economic growth through cultural tourism.



TheMatrix ShowBizGist

Why iShowSpeed Snubbed Peller – Manager Reveals





Peller's management has admitted to an error in handling the Nigerian streamer's attempted meeting with American internet personality iShowSpeed during his recent visit to Lagos.

TheMatrix reports that iShowSpeed, who is currently touring Africa, allegedly declined to engage with Peller on two occasions, with security preventing the Nigerian streamer from approaching him.

The incident triggered backlash online, with many Nigerians accusing iShowSpeed of disrespect, while others blamed Peller's management team.

Reacting to the criticism, iShowSpeed said his African tour was focused on showcasing the continent's culture and discovering hidden talents.

Addressing the controversy, Peller's manager, Bosa Lee, disclosed that his team had reached out to iShowSpeed's camp but was told the American streamer was not collaborating with other streamers.

"I think that's where we made a mistake by introducing Peller as a streamer," Lee said.

Burna Boy Breaks Silence On Fela Debate, Names Late Icon His Only Superior



Grammy-winning Afrobeat star Burna Boy has declared that late Afrobeat pioneer, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, is the only artiste greater than him.

Burna Boy made the remark amid the ongoing social media clash between singer Wizkid and Fela's youngest son, Seun Kuti, over comparisons drawn between Wizkid and the late music icon.

As the controversy escalated, Nigerians—including celebrities—were divided online, with some accusing Wizkid of disrespecting Fela's legacy, while others criticised Seun Kuti's reaction.

Reacting in a video shared on Instagram by blogger Tunde Ednut on Saturday evening, Burna Boy said, "Fela is the king. He is the only one greater than me."

Tonto, Churchill Reconciliation: Do2dtun Reacts, Calls It 'Hardest Thing To Do'



Popular Nigerian on-air personality, Do2dtun, has praised actress Tonto Dikeh for reconciling with her former husband, Olakunle Churchill, describing the move as one of the hardest things to do.

Reacting to the development on X, Do2dtun said he was shocked by the reconciliation, which came ten years after the couple's divorce.

Commending the actress for her courage, Do2dtun described forgiveness as a difficult path, writing: "Tonto's latest post about Churchill is the hardest thing to do. My respect for her just rose. Forgiveness is a hard road to ply. I hope we all get there. Ah! This one shocked me."

Recall that Do2dtun is currently involved in a divorce and custody battle with his estranged wife, during which he has accused her family of denying him access to their children.

Joy As Bidemi Kosoko, Family Welcome New Child



Nollywood actress Bidemi Kosoko has welcomed a new child, sparking celebrations within the Kosoko family and among colleagues in the film industry.

The joyful news was announced on Instagram by her sister and fellow actress, Sola Kosoko, who gave thanks to God for the addition to the family.

Describing God as "the author and finisher of our faith," Sola wrote: "Join us to welcome our newest baby in the family to @bidemi_kosoko. Congratulations to the Bankole and Kosoko families."

Following the announcement, Nollywood stars, entertainers and fans flooded the comment section with congratulatory messages celebrating the actress and her family.

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Arsenal Weigh Up £43m Move For Real Madrid Starlet Víctor Valdepeñas

Arsenal are interested in signing Victor Valdepenas from Real Madrid.

Valdepenas made his senior debut for the LaLiga giants this season. According to BBC Sport, Arsenal have seriously scouted the 19-year-old defender in recent months. Internal discussions have taken place at the Emirates, but the Premier League side are yet to make a formal offer.

It remains to be seen whether Arsenal target the current transfer window or wait until the summer for Valdepenas should they decide to formalise their interest.

Valdepenas has a reported 50m euro (£43m) release clause in his contract.

He is a left-footed central defender but can also be used as a full-back

NPFL: Shooting Stars Halt Bendel Insurance Nine-Game Unbeaten Run



Man Utd Dent Arsenal Title Hopes, Gunners' Lead Cut To Four Points

Matheus Cunha scored a sensational 87th-minute winner to clinch a 3-2 victory for Michael Carrick's Manchester United and cut Arsenal's lead at the top of the Premier League to four points.

Earlier, Arsenal had squandered a lead when Martin Zubimendi's poor pass allowed Bryan Mbeumo to run through on goal and beat David Raya after Lisandro Martinez had diverted Martin Odegaard's cross-shot into his own net for the opening goal.

Arsenal struggled to regain their composure after Mbeumo's leveller and Manchester United, 2-0 winners over Manchester City in Carrick's first game in charge last weekend, went in front when Patrick Dorgu crashed a superb effort in off the bar.

Mikel Arteta tried to change the flow of the game by making a quadruple substitution before the hour mark, but Arsenal continued to flounder before finally restoring parity when Merino prodded over the line for yet another set-piece goal.

At that point, it seemed Arsenal might go on and find a winner, but Cunha silenced the Emirates Stadium when his stunning, long-range effort sparked more wild Manchester United celebrations. There were boos from some home fans at the final whistle.

The victory continues a dream start in the dugout for head coach Carrick, and leaves alarm bells ringing for Arsenal, whose lead at the top of the Premier League is reduced from seven to four points following Manchester City and Aston Villa's wins.





Super Eagles' Awoniyi Nets Maiden Goal Of 2026 In Forest Win

Taiwo Awoniyi scored his maiden goal of the campaign as Nottingham Forest beat Brentford 2-0 on Sunday.

The Tricky Trees moved away from the relegation zone following the win.

Igor Jesus gave Forest the lead after 12 minutes with Ola Aina providing the assist.

Awoniyi was introduced in the 68th minute.

The Nigeria international made the points save by scoring Forest's second 11 minutes from time.

The striker made brilliant individual run into the box before slotting the ball into the net.

It was Awoniyi's first goal for the Tricky Trees since February 11, 2025 when he found the back of the net in a 2-2 draw against Exeter.



TheMatrix

Foreign

BY ILESANMI ADEWALE

Ugandan Opposition Leader's Wife Hospitalised After Alleged Military Raid



The wife of Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine has been hospitalised following an alleged overnight raid on their home by soldiers searching for her husband, according to statements from the family.

Speaking to journalists from her hospital bed in Kampala, Barbra Itungo Kyagulanyi said soldiers stormed their residence while Bobi Wine was away, questioning her about his whereabouts.

She alleged that the security personnel assaulted and threatened her while demanding access to her husband's phone, which she said had been left behind at home.

In a post on X, Bobi Wine claimed that "hundreds of soldiers" raided his house, looted property and attacked his wife. He said the operation was carried out in his absence as security forces searched for him.

The incident comes amid heightened political tension following Uganda's recent presidential election, which incumbent President Yoweri Museveni won to secure a seventh term. Bobi Wine has rejected the outcome, describing it as fraudulent.

Uganda's military chief, Muhoozi Kainerugaba, has since vowed to pursue opposition figures, claiming dozens of opposition supporters have been killed and thousands arrested since the election.

Police have also detained several opposition members, including a key ally of Bobi Wine, over alleged election-related violence.

International observers and the United Nations have expressed concern over reports of repression, arrests and restrictions, including an internet shutdown during the election period.

Venezuela Frees At Least 80 Political Prisoners, Rights Group Says



At least 80 political prisoners have been released across Venezuela, a leading human rights group, Foro Penal, reported on Sunday, as authorities respond to growing international pressure.

Alfredo Romero, head of Foro Penal, said the organisation is verifying the identities of those freed from prisons nationwide and that the number of releases could rise as checks continue.

The latest wave of releases follows the US seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro earlier this month and his transfer to New York to face drug-trafficking charges, which has intensified scrutiny of Venezuela's human rights record.

Interim President Delcy Rodríguez has previously claimed that more than 600 detainees were freed, but rights groups say verified numbers are much lower. Many of those released remain in legal limbo, with charges not formally dropped, and are restricted from speaking publicly.

Some of the newly freed include domestic opposition figures and foreign nationals. Human rights advocates have long accused the Venezuelan government of using arrests to silence critics, a charge the government denies, insisting detainees were held for criminal activities.

Mozambique Floods Affect Over 640,000 Amid Rising Hunger, Disease Fears



Catastrophic flooding in Mozambique has affected more than 640,000 people, with over half in Gaza province, authorities say. The regional capital, Xai-Xai, is submerged, raising fears of hunger and disease.

Local officials are coordinating with the National Disaster Management Institute (INGD) to deliver emergency aid. "In less than 24 hours, over 10,000 people have arrived at the center, so we need to strengthen shelters, increase food supplies, and provide more medicine," said INGD regional director Cândido Mapute.

In Limpopo province, floods have devastated agricultural areas, forcing the rescue of around 40 residents, according to district administrator Virgilio Muchanga. Portuguese Air Force personnel are on the ground to assess needs and coordinate support.

Humanitarian agencies warn that the floods have destroyed crops that millions of small-scale farmers rely on, while waterborne diseases, including cholera, pose a serious risk.

UNICEF said children are particularly vulnerable due to limited access to clean water, food, and healthcare.

Weeks of torrential rain across southern Africa have caused some of the worst flooding in years, affecting parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. More than 100 deaths have been reported, with authorities warning the toll could rise.



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Worlds on Marble

Religion is not averse to common sense, hence common sense should be used on moral principles first, it is not possible to have such moral principles separated from religious values - Anonymous

THE PERSPECTIVE

By Sade Oguntola

Soaking In Warm Water Helps Reduce Pain And Stiffness From Arthritis



PAIN is among the main reasons individuals with rheumatoid arthritis seek medical care. The severe pain, which mostly occurs in the hands and/or feet, negatively affects their ability to perform daily activities because of many problems, such as fatigue, functional limitation, depression and sleep disorders.

Even as medications are available to manage the disease and symptoms associated with rheumatoid arthritis, there is a clear need for alternative management options that can help people cope with both the disease and the side effects of treatment.

Now, in a new study, researchers suggested that something as simple as soaking hands and feet in warm water (40–43°C), particularly warm saltwater, can significantly ease some of the most debilitating symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis (RA), offering patients a safe and affordable way to improve daily life.

In Turkey, researchers conducted a randomized controlled trial involving 54 patients with rheumatoid arthritis. They were divided into three groups: the warm saltwater bath group (18 patients), the warm water bath group (18 patients), and the control group receiving routine care only (18 patients).

Participants in the intervention groups soaked their hands and feet in warm water or warm saltwater three times a week for six weeks, typically before bedtime.

Researchers, in the study published in BMC Complementary Medicine and Therapies, assessed pain, fatigue, sleep quality, disease activity, and functional capacity at the start and end of the study using internationally recognized measurement tools.

They also focused on interventions that nurses could teach patients to perform independently at home.

The results showed clear benefits for patients who used warm water or warm saltwater baths. Compared with the control group, both warm water and warm saltwater baths led to significant improvements in pain, fatigue, and sleep quality.

Notably, the greatest pain relief was observed in the warm saltwater group, suggesting that the added salt content helped reduce swelling in the joints and enhanced pain relief.

While both interventions reduced fatigue, warm water baths produced the greatest improvement, including better fatigue-related quality of life, possibly because they improved circulation and promoted deep relaxation.

In addition, patients in both intervention groups reported better sleep, an important finding given the strong link between poor sleep, pain, and fatigue in RA. The warming effect on the hands and feet may have helped the body relax and fall asleep more easily.

More, only patients using warm saltwater baths showed a significant improvement in their ability to perform daily tasks such as dressing, gripping objects, and moving their hands and feet independently. This improvement may be linked to salt's ability to reduce joint swelling and inflammation more effectively than water alone.

Basically, the primary goals of RA treatment are to achieve remission, suppress inflammation, slow joint destruction, manage pain, and maintain functional independence in daily activities.

The researchers also reported that nurses play an important role in educating patients about symptom management, indicating how nurse-led education can empower patients to perform these baths on their own to better manage symptoms and improve quality of life.

Moreover, researchers in India found Epsom salt baths demonstrated significant pain reduction in the Epsom hot water group compared to plain water, along with notable enhancement in functional performance.

In the International Journal of Health Sciences and Research, the researchers had compared the effectiveness of Epsom salt with hot water versus plain water on pain and functional performance in individuals with arthritis.

In many communities, the elderly commonly use remedies like hot water bags, massages, and wet cloths with Epsom salt for knee pain. The Epsom salt, when mixed (200 mg) in hot water, is applied topically to the painful joint.

Previously, researchers also found a foot bath with warm saltwater effective in reducing pain in patients with painful diabetic neuropathy; hand massage with warm hand baths had a significant effect on sleep quality, comfort, and relaxation in older women with sleep disorders and fatigue-related quality of life in cancer patients.

In a randomized controlled trial, warm water baths before bedtime in patients with knee osteoarthritis had better results in terms of pain and functionality, including knee flexor and extensor strength and knee extensor endurance.

In the European Journal of Oncology Nursing, researchers described how a warm saltwater foot bath is a safe approach to help cope with chemotherapy-related fatigue and enhance the fatigue-related quality of life of cancer patients.

Moreover, researchers reported in the Pain Management Nursing declared aromatherapy massage effective in improving sleep quality in rheumatoid arthritis patients. The trial enrolled 102 patients with rheumatoid arthritis to investigate the effects of aromatherapy on pain and sleep quality. Compared with the control group, the intervention group showed significant improvement in the sleep quality scores in the first weeks after aromatherapy massage.

The procedure is simple and easy to perform by the patients themselves at home; thus, it could be implemented as a complementary therapy for patients with RA. However, practitioners must consider the pros and cons of aromatherapy massage and tailor the interventions to the needs of patients with RA.

Recent studies emphasize that complementary and integrative methods (CIM), such as exercise, joint protection, hand-foot care, and patient education, can help patients improve their RA-related symptom management and health outcomes.

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