

Tinubu plans c'ttee for Nigeria's first digital census since 2006

CAROLINE AMEH

Nigeria took a major step toward conducting a new national population and housing census with biometric and digital components, the first since November 2006.

At a meeting with officials of the National Population Commission (NPC) at the Statehouse, President Bola Tinubu

announced plans to establish a committee to align the census budget with the government's current financial realities.

He emphasized the need for collaboration with the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to ensure accurate data collection.

"We must ascertain who we are, how many we are, and how to manage our data. Without

an accurate census, we can't successfully plan for employment, agriculture, and food sovereignty," Tinubu said.

He stressed the importance of reliable census figures in national planning, particularly in improving social security and efficient resource distribution.

He also highlighted the need for biometric capturing with multiple identification features, including

facial and voice recognition.

"This stop-and-go activity on the census cannot work with me. We need a clear path forward. I will set up a committee to critically examine funding sources and identify what we can handle before seeking support from development partners," Tinubu stated.

Minister of Budget and Economic Planning Sen. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu reaffirmed Tinu-

bu's commitment to the census, acknowledging that funding has been the primary obstacle.

He noted that development partners contributed 40% of the funding for the 2006 census and suggested similar support might be necessary this time.

NPC Chairman Nasir Isa Kwarra pointed out that the outdated 2006 census figures hinder effective planning, par-

ticularly in key sectors.

He confirmed that 760,000 tablets had been procured and stored at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in preparation for the exercise.

Various government agencies have been working to integrate data from NPC, NIMC, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), and the Ministry of Digital Economy, to optimize available resources.

The Nigerian Observer



...that the people may know

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Senate promises inclusive review of Tax Reform Bills

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PUBLISHED SINCE MAY 29, 1968

VOL. 46, NO. 949

WEDNESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY 2025.

Gov Okpebholo, Oshiomhole condemn killings in Edo

● Order security reinforcement

Edo State is reeling from a fresh wave of violence that has claimed multiple lives, prompting Governor Monday Okpebholo and Senator Adams Oshiomhole to issue strong condemnations and demand urgent security action.

The deadly attacks, which occurred in seven farming communities in Ovia South West Local Government Area, resulted in the gruesome murder of 22 people, leaving scores injured and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

In a separate incident, two farmers, Philip Ebo and Christopher Bello, were killed in Okpekpe, Etsako East Local Government Area, allegedly by suspected herdsmen.

Reacting to the tragedies, Governor Okpebholo de-

scribed the killings as barbaric and unacceptable, vowing that his administration would do everything in its power to prevent further bloodshed and ensure the perpetrators are brought to justice.

He expressed deep sorrow

over the senseless loss of lives and assured Edo residents that security reinforcements were already being deployed to the affected areas.

"These attacks have devastated families and left entire com-

munities in mourning," the governor said.

"Edo State will not become a breeding ground for criminals. My government is taking deci-

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FG orders sanctions against defaulting revenue agencies

The Federal Government has directed the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) to sanction revenue-generating agencies that fail to comply with collection and remittance laws.

The directive was issued by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, on Tuesday during the inaugural plenary session following the swearing-in of newly appointed RMAFC commissioners in Abuja.

Akume emphasized the need for the commission to enhance non-oil revenue generation by focusing on solid minerals, taxation, and other non-oil sectors to reduce dependency on crude oil.

He urged the RMAFC to ensure revenue accountability, block leakages, and impose penalties on defaulters.

The SGF also called for a review of the revenue allocation formula, which has remained unchanged for over two decades, stressing the importance of an equitable distribution model for national stability

and development.

He encouraged the commission to align its strategies with the government's economic transformation agenda to create a robust and self-sustaining revenue framework.

Highlighting recent fiscal reforms, such as the removal of fuel subsidies, exchange rate unification, and ongoing tax reforms, Akume noted that the success of these policies hinges on the full commitment of the RMAFC.

He called for collaboration with key stakeholders, including the National Assembly, to ensure a harmonized approach to revenue administration.

The RMAFC Chairman, Dr. Mohammed Shehu, reaffirmed the commission's commitment to fostering intergovernmental cooperation and ensuring a fair allocation of national revenue. He emphasized the agency's role in developing frameworks that promote fiscal sustainability. Commissioner Ismail Agaka, representing Kwara, assured that the commissioners would diligently execute their mandates and objectives.



PUBLIC HEARING:

L-R: Minister of Industries, Trade and Investment, Doris Uzoka-Anite; Chairman Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Zacheaus Adedeji, and Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, during the public hearing on Tax Reform Bills, at the National Assembly, Abuja yesterday.

PHOTO: OMOYE AMINU

Okpebholo sets standard for governance with transparency, accountability
—Ohonbamu —Pg 2

Man in Police net over alleged murder of newly wedded wife in Edo
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Major Asia bank to cut 4,000 roles as AI replaces humans
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Commonwealth Games Nigeria holds drug-abuse seminar for secondary schools
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Okpebholo sets standard for governance with transparency, accountability — Ohonbamu • Warns PDP to stop instigating insecurity

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has reaffirmed his commitment to good governance, emphasising transparency and accountability as the cornerstone of his administration.

This was disclosed by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu, in a statement made available to newsmen in Benin City.

Ohonbamu stated that Governor Okpebholo's administration is determined to set a new standard for leadership by ensuring public office holders remain accountable to the people.

According to him, the governor's directive for all 18 local government chairmen in the state to submit their financial statements to the Asset Verification Committee through the Secretary to the State Government's office underscores this commitment.

"Leadership is a call to service, and anyone entrusted with public office must be prepared to be scrutinised. Transparency builds trust, and Governor Okpebholo

believes that every public officer must account for their stewardship," Ohonbamu said.

He noted that the failure of some political office holders to properly manage public funds has contributed to the growing mistrust in governance, adding that under the current administration, every government expenditure would align with economic realities to ensure the judicious use of state resources.

The commissioner also referenced the findings of the Asset Verification Committee, which has been probing the administration of former Governor Godwin Obaseki.

According to him, the committee's report revealed large-scale financial mismanagement and diversion of state resources over the past eight years.

He further noted that many local government chairmen failed to provide proper financial records when asked, raising concerns about accountability at the grassroots level.

"In Edo State, the House of Assembly, under Section 20 of the Local Government Laws, has the power to suspend or dissolve councils that fail to fulfil their re-

sponsibilities to the people.

"The governor has made it clear that his administration will not tolerate financial recklessness or any act that undermines the welfare of citizens," Ohonbamu added.

He urged political leaders to embrace a culture of transparency, stressing that public office should not be seen as an avenue for personal enrichment, but as an op-

portunity to serve the people.

The commissioner reiterated that under Okpebholo's leadership, Edo State will emerge as a model for responsible governance, where public officials are held accountable and government resources are deployed solely in the interest of the people.

Meanwhile, the Edo State Government has strongly cautioned the Peoples Democratic

Party (PDP) against feeling insecurity in the state, following the killing of two persons by suspected herdsmen in Okpekepe Community, Etsako East Local Government Area.

In a statement issued in Benin City, the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Hon. Paul Ohonbamu, accused the opposition PDP of playing a role in orchestrating insecurity,

urging them to desist from actions that could destabilise the state.

"The Governor is committed to protecting lives and property and will not tolerate any attempt to incite violence, criminality, kidnapping, cultism, or murder. The PDP must stop instigating insecurity in Edo State. Anyone found culpable will be dealt with according to the law," Ohonbamu warned.

Gov Okpebholo, Oshiomhole...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

sive steps to restore peace and ensure that those responsible for these heinous crimes do not escape justice."

In a swift response to the crisis, Governor Okpebholo ordered the immediate deployment of additional security personnel, including police officers, soldiers, and local vigilante groups, to the affected communities.

He also directed that relief materials be provided to the victims' families and displaced residents, recognizing the urgent need for humanitarian assistance.

Beyond the immediate security response, the governor emphasized the need for long-term solutions to the state's security challenges.

He called for greater cooperation between security agencies, traditional rulers, and community leaders to improve intelligence gathering and crime prevention.

He also urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to law enforcement authorities.

Similarly, Senator Adams Oshiomhole strongly condemned the killing of the two farmers in Okpekepe, describing the attack as a disturbing sign of increasing security threats in the region.

He decried the growing presence of criminal elements who take advantage of porous borders to terrorize communities.

"It is heartbreaking that Okpekepe, a town known globally for its peaceful 10km Road Race, is now associated with such tragedy," Oshiomhole said.

"Farmers in Edo North should not have to live in fear of

being attacked while working on their land. We must act decisively to put an end to this senseless violence."

The former Edo governor acknowledged the efforts of the current administration in combating insecurity, applauding Governor Okpebholo's swift response.

He assured residents that he would work closely with the state government and security agencies to strengthen measures that would safeguard lives and property.

Oshiomhole also called on federal authorities to intervene by deploying more security forces to border communities, as many of these attacks are carried out by criminals crossing into the state from neighboring regions.

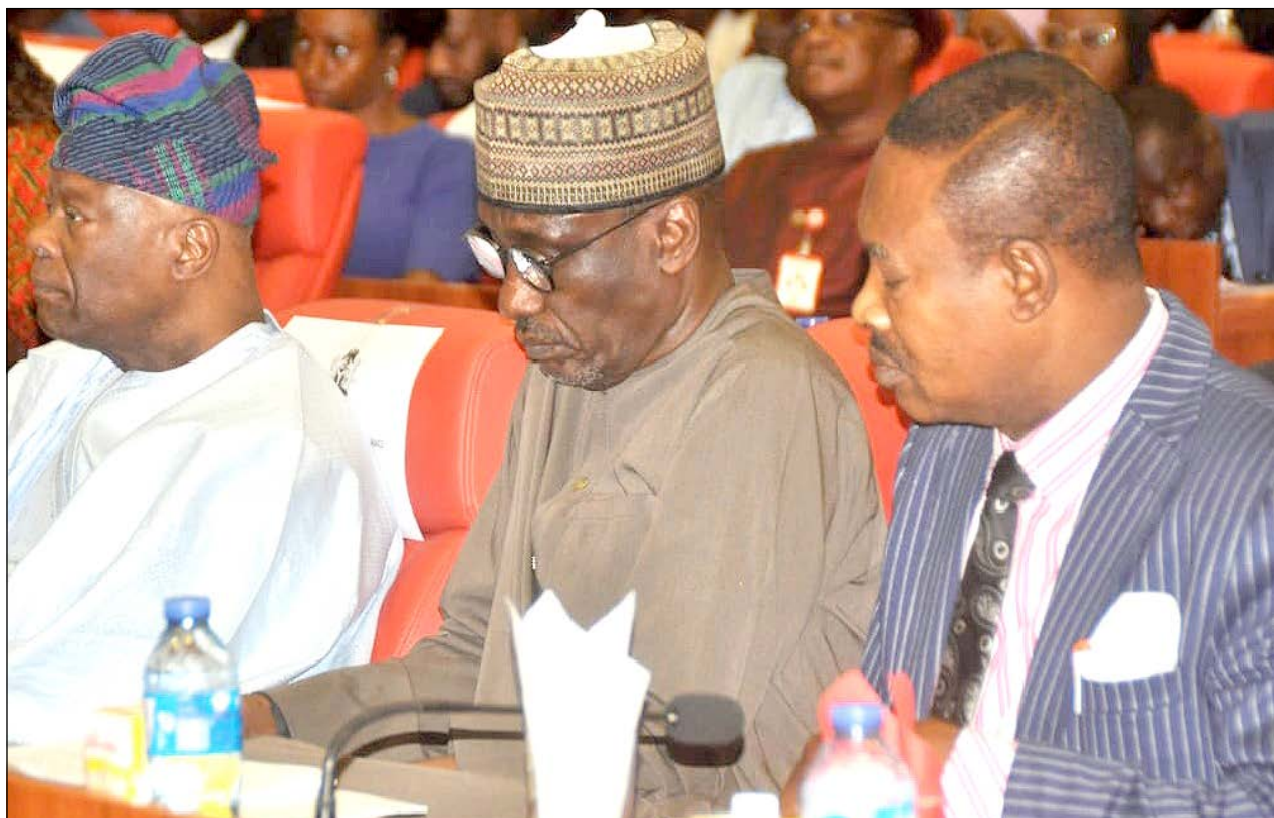
He stressed that the state government alone could not handle the growing security challenges without strong support from the federal level.

Furthermore, he urged security agencies to launch a full-scale investigation into the attacks, track down the perpetrators, and prosecute them to serve as a deterrent to others.

He assured Edo North residents that he would use both legislative and political avenues to push for improved security measures across the state.

As tensions rise across the affected communities, Governor Okpebholo and Oshiomhole appealed to residents to remain calm and cooperate with security forces in ongoing efforts to stabilize the situation.

They reassured the people that every necessary step was being taken to prevent further attacks and to restore peace and order throughout Edo State.



TAX REFORM BILLS:

L-R: Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun; GMD, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Mele Kyari, and Representative of the Attorney General of the Federation and Director, Legal Drafting Department, Ministry of Justice, Dr. Patrick Oyong, during public hearing on Tax Reform Bills in Abuja.

PHOTO: OMOYE AMINU.

First Lady's Office urges youths to reject violence, advocate for nation building

The Office of the First Lady of Edo State has called on young people to shun violence and embrace initiatives that foster national development.

Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, the Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady, made the appeal during a meeting with representatives from the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Edo State Chapter, at Government House in Benin City.

Addressing the youth delegation, Mrs. Anani underscored the critical role young people play in shaping the future of the state and the nation.

She praised the delegation for their passion for governance and their support for the current administration and urged them to be ambassadors of positive change, emphasizing that nation-building depends on a collective commitment to peace, security, and development.

She expressed concern over the prevalence of social vices among young people, including cultism, internet fraud, and sexual violence, which she noted have become widespread in certain parts of the country.

She also encouraged the youth leaders to use their platforms to educate their peers on the dangers

of these negative behaviors, stressing that such actions hinder progress and undermine the vision for a prosperous Edo State.

Mrs. Anani highlighted the administration's vision of building a "New Edo" under Governor Monday Okpebholo's leadership.

She emphasized that without a safe and secure environment, even businesses struggle to thrive. She called on the youth council to center their discussions on the pressing issues of state development, urging them to focus on how to contribute to the state's growth and what they can offer as future leaders.

Speaking on youth empowerment, Mrs. Anani stated that the government is committed to equipping young people with the necessary skills to take on leadership roles.

According to her, the administration is not only focused on traditional skills acquisition, such as soap-making and bead-making but is also investing in ICT training, adult education, and other initiatives that support women and girls.

She stressed that true empowerment extends beyond basic vocational training and should include technological advancements and knowledge-driven initiatives.

Court to rule on Emefiele's request for judge's recusal in corruption trial today

Lagos Special Offences Court has adjourned till Wednesday, February 26, to rule on an application by former Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor Godwin Emefiele, seeking the judge's recusal from his trial.

Emefiele's counsel, Olalekan Ojo (SAN), accused Justice Rahman Oshodi of bias and requested that he step aside. A similar request was made by Kazeem Gbadamosi (SAN),

representing Emefiele's co-defendant, Henry Omoile.

Emefiele faces a 19-count charge brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), including allegations of receiving gratification and making corrupt demands.

Omoile is also charged with three counts related to unlawful acceptance of gifts.

During Monday's proceedings, EFCC lead counsel, Roti-

mi Oyedepo (SAN) concluded the evidence-in-chief of Adetola John, a former personal assistant to Emefiele.

John testified that in November 2024, he received \$400,000 in cash from former CBN ICT Director John Ayoh and delivered it to Emefiele's office.

The EFCC also sought to introduce a WhatsApp message retrieved from John's phone, allegedly sent by another CBN

aide, Eric Odoh.

The defence objected, arguing that the document had not been admitted as an exhibit.

However, Justice Oshodi overruled the objection, citing Section 224 of the Evidence Act, which allows leading questions on introductory facts.

Dissatisfied with the ruling, Ojo accused the judge of bias, claiming his decision suggested a premature conclusion that Emefiele received the funds.

Suspected Fulani herders kill man in Edo community

Errah community in Owan East Local Government Area of Edo State has been thrown into grief as suspected Fulani herdsmen gruesomely murdered a community vigilance leader and farmer, Victor Ogedengbe. The deceased whose lifeless body with multiple deep

matchete cuts was reportedly discovered beside his motorcycle by some locals.

Victor Ogedengbe, until his killing was the Coordinator/Chairman of Vigilante in Errah, Owan East Local Government Area of the state.

The Errah incident which is coming at the heels of a similar

attack in Okpekepe, Etsako East local government area of the state where two farmers were killed by the marauding herders, has left the state in mourning mood as residents of affected communities live in fear.

He was said to have been having a running battle with the herders after the latter sustained

destruction of his farm by grazing their cattle on planted crops.

He was said to have been attacked in his farm on Monday February 24, 2025 by the herders who appeared to have laid siege on Errah community.

A community source said "They used cutlass on him, cut his neck, confirmed him dead,

and abandoned him in the pool of his blood.

"This is the third murder in a row from last year till date. The first was Edekin Igharo, the then head of the vigilante who was killed with cutlass in February last year.

"Victor was next in command then. When he was killed, Victor took over and continued the fight to restore peace and security in Errah land. One other person was killed in May last year by the same suspected Fulani herders."

Victor was said to have taken to farming after his educa-

tion in order to provide fend for himself and his family.

"His dream has been cut short by this gruesome murder.

It's the expectation of Edo people that victor's killing should be the last in the series, allegedly perpetrated by Fulani herdsmen in the state," he said

Efforts to get Police confirmation of the incident were not successful as the Edo command's Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Moses Yamu was unsuccessful as he pleaded for more time to get details of the incident from the Divisional Police headquarters in Afuze.



FREE TO SHINE CAMPAIGN:

First Lady, Senator Oluremi Tinubu (middle); Kaduna State Governor, Senator Uba Sani (5th right); wife of the Vice President, Hajia Nana Shetima (5th left), with Development Partners, at the North West flag off of "Free to Shine" campaign against HIV AIDs, Syphilis, and Hepatitis, held in Kaduna on Tuesday, 25th, February 2025.

The Nigerian Observer reaffirms commitment to training future journalists

ESTHER NWULU

The Nigerian Observer has reiterated its dedication to mentoring and training young journalists as part of its corporate social responsibility.

The Editor of the newspaper, Comrade Andy Egbon, made this known while receiving the executive members of the National Association of University Students (NAUS), who paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Egbon highlighted the newspaper's 57-year history as a training ground for aspiring journalists, many of whom have gained national recognition in the profession. He assured that the current management remains committed to upholding this tradition.

Responding to a request by NAUS Deputy Chairman Comrade Joel Isaac Idahor, Egbon emphasized that training and mentorship are core values of The Nigerian Observer.

He noted that the organization regularly accommodates Mass Communication students from institutions within and outside the state for industrial training.

He also assured NAUS of the newspaper's willingness to collaborate on media-related programs and activities, promising fair commercial rates for future partnerships.

Earlier, Comrade Idahor had expressed NAUS's interest in working with The Nigerian

Observer to provide hands-on training for Mass Communication graduates looking to sharpen their skills in journalism.

He appealed to the management to continue accommodating interns seeking industrial training opportunities.

Idahor was pleased to learn that The Nigerian Observer has consistently supported Mass Communication students in their training and remains committed to fostering the next generation of journalists.

DESTMA warns traders against trading on road, clears traffic at Baleke, Akpenyi streets

AJUWA VICTOR

The Delta State Traffic Management Authority (DESTMA) has warned traders in the state not to trade on roads in view of associated hazards with roads crowding.

The warning was given by the Chairman, Governing Board, DESTMA, Chief Peter Idion during a sensitization programme against road trading held at Baleke market, Agbor.

Chief Idion said that the safety of Deltans and everyone living in the State was very dear to the State Governor, Rt Hon Sheriff Oborevwori, hence, he mandated DESTMA to ensure that all major roads in the state are free of traffic congestion.

He noted that anyone trad-

ing on the road is taking a great risk as accident could occur at any time, stressing that DESTMA is out to restore sanity to Delta roads.

The DESTMA Boss who invited Agbor Palace Chiefs and other stakeholders for the sensitization programme said his agency is strongly committed to deliver on the mandate given to it by the State Governor, thus requiring the support of all stakeholders for them to achieve positive results.

Chiefs Louis Usifoh, Erere Ojemudia, Gideon Okobia, Collins Ekiegini, Kester Utebor, Joseph Eluma and Nkem Oghonim, all from Agbor Royal Palace, in their separate remarks condemned the attitude of traders who carried out their activi-

ties in the middle of a road.

They advised traders to stay off the road for the safety of their lives.

The Chiefs commended DESTMA for taking the bold step towards returning sanity on major roads in the state. They promised to support the efforts of the state government through DESTMA to save lives.

Other stakeholders who spoke during the programme included the Officer in charge of Revenue, Mr Fortunate Agholor and the Chairman, Committee, on Environment, Mr Famous Abaye, both from Ika South Local Government Council agreed to partner with DESTMA in the management of traffic in major markets and roads in Agbor.

On their parts, the traders

through their leader, Mrs Agwonyi and the Market Master, Mr Tony Emegha after the sensitization programme assured DESTMA of total compliance.

Meanwhile, the DESTMA thereafter swung into action with the decongestion of Baleke and Akpenyi Streets axis of Agbor. The outcome of the operation which lasted for more than two hours was the total removal of obstacles that hitherto obstructed free flow of traffic on the road.

Reacting to the development, motorists and other road users applauded the DESTMA Chairman and his officers for a job well done and called for its sustenance, while assuring of their full compliance to the rules of the agency on traffic management.

Tinubu reaffirms commitment to youth empowerment

President Bola Tinubu has reiterated his administration's commitment to prioritising the development of the digital economy in order to enhance youth empowerment and create jobs.

The President made the pledge on Monday while receiving a report titled 'Digital Economy, Youth Empowerment and Sustainable Job Creation in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges and Opportunities'.

"At the core of our administration is youth empowerment. We cannot relent on that, and we need everyone's collaboration," the President said while receiving the participants of the senior executive course 46, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, who presented their report in Abuja, a statement by the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga.

Tinubu also highlighted the importance of youth empowerment through innovation and digital skills development.

"At the core of our adminis-

tration is youth empowerment. We cannot relent on that, and we need everyone's collaboration," the president said.

"I have listened carefully to your recommendations and the thorough work you did. We will continue to engage the Institute as a resource centre and Think Tank.

"As Nigeria's foremost policy Think-Tank, you have highlighted the overlap of some government agencies, and we'll look at that.

"You are an asset to our country, and I thank the participants for their dedication to their studies. We will continue to collaborate with you for the prosperity of our country."

Presidential spokesman noted that the course participants put forward an eight-point recommendation, asking the Federal Government to expedite the enactment of the Digital Economy and e-Governance Bill 2024.

According to the statement, they encouraged states to waive the right-of-way fees for deploying telecommunications infrastructure.

Man in Police net over alleged murder of newly wedded wife in Edo

IDAHOUSA MUSA

A middle aged man, one Kelvin Izeke, has been arrested by the Edo State Police Command, over alleged murder of his newly wedded wife, Mrs. Success Izeke, '38 years'

It was gathered that the incident occurred at Upper Mission Extension in Benin City on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

The spokesperson of the State Police Command, Moses Yamu, who confirmed the incident in a statement on Sunday, said that the suspect was about to be lynched by an irate mob before the police arrived, pacified the crowd, and arrested him.

He said: "On 22/02/2025, at about 22:00hrs, information was received that one Kelvin Izeke of No. 50 Upper Mission Extension, Benin City, had killed his wife, Success Izeke, aged 38, and was about to be lynched by an irate mob," the statement read.

"Operatives of the Aduwawa

Division swiftly responded to the report and found the lifeless body of the woman lying in a pool of her own blood, with deep cuts on her head.

"It took serious efforts by the police to pacify the mob, rescue the suspect, and take him into custody for investigation. The victim was taken to the hospital, where she was confirmed dead."

The statement said the state Commissioner of Police, Betty Otimenyin, condemned the recent rise in cases of domestic violence, assuring the public of a thorough investigation into the woman's death.

Yamu stressed that whoever was found culpable would be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

According to the elder sister of the deceased, who pleaded anonymity, the late house wife was four months pregnant, adding that the mother-in-law and her son, Kelvin came to their family house to complain the missing Success.

NEWS

Senate promises inclusive review of Tax Reform Bills

CAROLINE AMEH

The Senate Committee on Finance, led by Chairman Senator Sani Musa, has pledged to incorporate broad stakeholder input in the review and passage of Nigeria's proposed Tax Reform Bills.

This effort aligns with President Bola Tinubu's vision of expanding Nigeria's economy to a \$1 trillion GDP by 2030.

Speaking at a press briefing in Abuja, Senator Musa urged Nigerians to be patient and

cooperative, assuring that the legislative process would produce a tax system beneficial to all sectors of society.

He emphasized that the Senate is committed to developing legislation that adheres to international best practices, ensuring a robust and equitable tax framework.

He further stated that their objective is to craft tax laws that are not only effective but also fair, fostering an environment conducive to economic growth and prosperity.

The proposed tax reforms include significant adjustments to corporate income tax, reducing the current rate from 30% to 27.5% in 2025, with a further decrease to 25% in subsequent years.

Small businesses with an annual turnover below ₦25 million will be exempt from corporate income tax to stimulate growth in the SME sector.

In addition, personal income tax reforms will provide relief for low-income earners,

with individuals earning up to ₦800,000 per annum exempt from personal income tax.

This measure aims to alleviate financial burdens, enhance disposable income, and boost consumer spending.

A phased increase in value-added tax is also proposed, starting from the current 7.5% to 10% in 2025, 12.5% in 2026, and reaching 15% by 2030.

Essential goods such as food and medicine will remain exempt to protect vulnerable

populations from potential price hikes.

The tax reform bills also propose an adjustment in the VAT revenue-sharing formula, allocating 50% based on equality, 30% on derivation, and 20% on population to ensure a fairer distribution of resources among states.

These reforms are integral to President Tinubu's strategic plan to transform Nigeria's economy and meet the ambitious \$1 trillion GDP target,

which requires an average annual growth rate of approximately 38%.

The Senate's commitment to an inclusive legislative process underscores the importance of diverse perspectives in shaping Nigeria's tax policies.

By engaging civil society, industry experts, and the general public, the government aims to create a tax system that not only drives economic expansion but also ensures fairness and long-term sustainability.

NDDC boss urges mental health checks for police officers

The Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Samuel Ogbuku, has called for regular mental health evaluations for police officers, emphasizing the critical role of psychological stability in law enforcement.

Speaking at the fifth Strategic Security Conference and Retreat for Senior Police Officers in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Ogbuku stressed the need for inclusive policing, where citizens actively support law enforcement efforts by reporting crimes and providing useful information.

He commended the Nigeria Police Force for their sacrifices and noted that the retreat, organized by Inspector General of Police Kayode Egbetokun, aims to review unprofessional conduct within the force and implement policies for improved policing.

He urged the police authorities to conduct regular psychological assessments to ensure

officers possess the emotional intelligence necessary for effective law enforcement.

Highlighting NDDC's contributions to security efforts, Ogbuku detailed recent initiatives, including the installation of 60kva solar inverters at police headquarters across the nine states of the Niger Delta, with Imo State's installation already completed.

He also mentioned the provision of communication gadgets to the Rivers State Police Command and the repair of critical security infrastructure such as masts and armored personnel carriers in Rivers and Bayelsa States.

Additionally, the Commission has supplied six 250-horsepower Yamaha outboard engines and rehabilitated six others to support security operations in the Niger Delta.

These efforts, he said, underscore NDDC's commitment to strengthening its partnership with the police to enhance security in the region.

Nigeria's GDP expanded by 3.84% in Q4 2024 —NBS

Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.84% in real terms in the fourth quarter of 2024, marking an improvement from the 3.46% recorded in the same period of 2023. The latest data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) attributes the expansion primarily to the services sector, which grew by 5.37% and contributed 57.38% to the total GDP.

Despite the overall economic growth, the agriculture sector recorded a slower expansion of 1.76%, down from 2.10% in Q4 2023. The industry sector also experienced a downturn, growing by 2.00% compared to 3.86% in the previous year. In nominal terms, Nigeria's aggregate GDP for Q4 2024 stood at ₦78.37 trillion, an 18.91% increase from ₦65.91 trillion recorded in Q4 2023.

For the full year 2024, the economy grew by 3.40%, an improvement from 2.74% in 2023, driven mainly by the non-oil sector. The oil sector's contribution to GDP declined slightly to 4.60%, down from 4.70% in Q4 2023 and 5.57% in the previous quarter. Average daily crude oil production stood at 1.54 million barrels per day, slightly lower than the 1.56mbpd

recorded in Q4 2023 but higher than the 1.47mbpd in Q3 2024.

While the oil sector's real GDP growth rate for Q4 2024 was 1.48%, significantly lower than the 12.11% recorded in Q4 2023, it showed a positive annual growth rate of 5.54%, reversing the -2.22% contraction recorded in 2023. The non-oil sector, which remains the primary driver of growth, expanded by 3.96% in Q4 2024, outperforming the 3.07% recorded in the same period of 2023 and the 3.37% growth seen in the previous quarter. It contributed 95.40% to GDP, slightly up from 95.30% in Q4 2023.

Key growth industries included financial and insurance services, which recorded a 27.78% real GDP growth rate, and the information and communication sector, which saw 5.90% growth, largely driven by telecommunications. The manufacturing sector expanded by 1.79% in Q4 2024, an improvement from the 1.38% growth in Q3 2024, though its GDP share declined to 8.07% from 8.23% in Q4 2023. The trade sector recorded a real GDP growth of 1.19%, lower than 1.40% in Q4 2023 but an improvement from the 0.65% posted in Q3 2024.



CONDOLENCE:

Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, KSC, speaking to the press as he led a delegation from Rivers State to condole with the family of the late Statesman, Pa Edwin Clark, yesterday.

FG unveils AI training for 6,000 teachers nationwide

The Federal Government of Nigeria has launched an Artificial Intelligence training program aimed at equipping 6,000 senior secondary school teachers across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

Organized by the National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC), the initiative seeks to integrate AI into the education system, enhancing teaching methods and preparing students for a technology-driven future.

Speaking at the flag-off ceremony in Abuja, where the minimum standards for senior secondary education were also

unveiled, Minister of Education Dr. Maruf Olatunji Alausa described the program as a significant step in equipping teachers with the skills needed for the digital age.

He emphasized that AI is no longer a futuristic concept but a present reality transforming industries and societies.

Integrating AI into pedagogy, he stated, will enhance learning experiences, personalize education, and foster critical thinking among students.

He also highlighted that the newly developed minimum standards, approved by the National Council on Education, would serve as a guiding frame-

work for quality senior secondary education nationwide.

Minister of State for Education, Professor Suwaiba Said Ahmed, echoed these sentiments, stressing the importance of digital literacy in ensuring Nigerian students remain competitive globally.

Represented by her Special Assistant on Technical Matters, Dr. Clara Ujam, she noted that the AI training program is a key component of ongoing education reforms under President Bola Tinubu's administration. She encouraged teachers to fully embrace the opportunity, as their expertise would directly impact students' readiness for a

technology-driven world.

Executive Secretary of NSSEC, Dr. Iyela Ajayi, described the program as a milestone in Nigeria's education sector, aligning with the government's Renewed Hope Agenda. He noted that the Google-sponsored virtual training, supported by Data Science Nigeria and Olabisi Onabanjo University, consists of five modules and will run for five weeks.

He emphasized that NSSEC's broader mandate includes teacher capacity building and the provision of instructional resources, ensuring that secondary education maintains high standards.

Senate refers Akpoti-Uduaghan to Ethics C'ittee over seat dispute

The Senate has referred Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan to the Committee on Ethics, Privileges, and Public Petitions for disciplinary review following her dispute over seating arrangements.

The Kogi lawmaker engaged in a heated exchange on February 20 after discovering that her seat had been reassigned without prior notice.

The disciplinary committee, led by Senator Neda Imaseun, has been given two weeks to investigate and report its findings.

The decision followed a

voice vote after Senate spokesperson, Senator Yemi Adaramodu raised a motion under Orders 1(b) and 10, condemning Akpoti-Uduaghan's conduct.

Adaramodu argued that her actions painted the Senate in a negative light, stating, "The Senate is not a platform for content creation but a place for lawmaking and oversight functions."

He called for disciplinary measures, warning that violations must carry consequences. Senate Leader Opeyemi Bamidele supported the motion, emphasizing that Senate

rules must be upheld to maintain institutional integrity.

Responding to allegations that the incident was fueled by gender bias, Bamidele dismissed such claims, citing examples of senior senators who had accepted seat changes without objection.

Senate President Godswill Akpabio directed the ethics committee to conduct a thorough review, reiterating that Senate rules permit lawmakers to sit anywhere but require them to speak from their designated seats.

Akpabio recalled that when Akpoti-Uduaghan was sworn

in, she attempted to contribute without first familiarizing herself with Senate procedures.

He emphasized that while vibrancy is welcome, adherence to the rules is paramount.

Citing Senate Order 66(2) and Section 55, he noted that misconduct—including disruptions, chewing gum, or drinking water during sessions—could lead to suspension.

"The rules empower the Senate President to suspend a senator for at least 14 days," Akpabio stated, reaffirming that discipline within the chamber is non-negotiable.


GOVERNMENT OF EDO STATE – PUBLIC SERVICE RECRUITMENT

P.M.B. 1066, BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SERVICE JOB VACANCIES (RECRUITMENT OF EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS, TECHNICIANS, & JUNIOR STAFF

The Edo State Government calls for recruitment into available vacancies in the Edo State Public Service for the following Cadres:

Read carefully the instructions and find the competency test link attached after you have filled all the necessary details and uploaded all the required documents.

EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS
General Requirements:

Candidates applying must possess the minimum academic and professional requirements for each role as stated below. Unless otherwise stated, a minimum of a second-class lower Bachelor's degree and Candidate must have completed the mandatory NYSC program (where applicable). Additional educational or professional qualifications may be an added advantage. Candidate must also be computer literate, technology savvy, possess good interpersonal and leadership skills and be able to work effectively in teams. Candidates applying for GL 09 jobs must not have been more than 35 years of age by 5th March, 2025. Successful Candidates will work in an Agency that offers a robust, challenging, diverse working culture that values teamwork and leverages technology in delivering high quality services to the people of Edo State.

NOTE

Read carefully the instructions and find the **competency test link to take the online test** attached after you have filled all the necessary details and uploaded all the required documents. Candidates may only apply for 1 position on this advert. Multiple applications will result in disqualification. EDSG does not require candidates to make any payments to any person or organization in respect of this recruitment exercise. We are an equal opportunity employer and each candidate shall stand the same chance of gaining employment.

Architect I, GL 09 JobCode: AI09

Candidate must possess ANY of the following OR equivalent qualifications registrable with the Architect Registration Council of Nigeria (ACRON):

A Master of Science degree obtained from a recognized University in Architecture; (ii) A Bachelor of Science degree obtained from a recognized University in Architecture recognized by (ACRON); (iii) A pass in the final examination II of the Nigeria Institute of Architect (N. I. A) (iv) A pass in the final II examination of the Royal Institute of British Architect (R. I. B. A) (v) Plus, two (2) years post qualification cognate experience (vi) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Administrative Officer I, GL 09 JobCode: AOI09

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications

- (i) Master's degree in any of the disciplines of Social Science or Humanities;
- (ii) Plus, three (3) years post qualification cognate experience
- (iii) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age by 5th March, 2025

TECHNICIANS, & JUNIOR STAFF
General Requirements:

Candidates applying for technicians, and junior staff position must possess the minimum academic and professional requirements for each role as stated below. Candidates must also be computer literate, with good interpersonal and leadership skills and be able to work effectively in teams. Candidates applying as for GL 04 jobs must not have been more than 30 years of age by 31st January, 2025. Successful Candidates will work in a Ministry that offers a robust, challenging, diverse working culture that values teamwork and leverages technology in delivering high quality services to the people of Edo State. Responsibilities will include:

Town Planning Assistant I, GL 04 JobCode: TPA04

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications:

- (i) Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE), West African School Certificate (WAEC) or General Certificate of Education (GCE) (Ordinary Level) with five (5) including at least two of the following – Mathematics, Geography, Economics, Fine Arts, Physics, Technical Drawings;
- (ii) Candidate must not be more than 30 years of age by 5th March, 2025.

How to apply:

Interested candidates may apply by visiting the Edo State Recruitment Portal at: <https://jobs.edostate.gov.ng/current-jobs-opening/> and completing the online application form within three weeks of advertisement

NOTE: Candidates may only apply for 1 position on this advert. Multiple applications will result in disqualification. EDSG does not require candidates to make any payments to any person or organization in respect of this recruitment exercise. We are an equal opportunity employer and each candidate shall stand the same chance of gaining employment.

Electrical Engineer I, GL 09, JobCode: EEI09

- (i) Candidates must possess a degree in Electrical Engineering from a recognized University registrable with the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN);
- (ii) Plus, two (2) years post qualification cognate experience (iii) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Building Officer II, GL 08, JobCode: BOII08

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications registrable with the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBN):

- (i) A degree in Building or Building Technology from a recognized University;
- (ii) A pass in the Final Part II Examination of the Nigerian Institute of Builders;
- (iii) Candidate must not be more than 30 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Administrative Officer II, GL 08 JobCode: AOII08

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications

- (i) A degree in any of the disciplines of Social Science or Humanities
- (ii) Candidate must not be more than 30 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Civil Engineer I, GL 09 JobCode: CEI09

- (i) Candidates must possess a degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized University registrable with the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN);
- (ii) Plus, two (2) years post qualification cognate experience;
- (iii) Candidate must not be more than 35 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Town Planning Officer II, GL 08 JobCode: TPOII08

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications registrable with the Town Planning Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC);

- (i) A degree in Urban and Regional Planning or Town Planning from a recognized Institution;
- (ii) A pass in the Final Examination of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners;
- (iii) A Professional Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning or Town Planning from a recognized University (**NOT EQUIVALENT TO HND CERTIFICATE**) (iv) Candidate must not be more than 30 years of age by 5th March, 2025


Assistant Technical Officer (Town Planning) GL 06 JobCode: ATO(TP)06

Applicants must possess any of the following qualifications:

- (i) Ordinary National Diploma (HND) in Town Planning from a recognized Institution;
- (ii) A pass in the preliminary examination of Nigerian Institute of Town Planners;
- (iii) Candidate must not be more than 30 years of age by 5th March, 2025

Signed:

B. J. IgbinoBaro.
 For: Head of Service.

 <p>The Nigerian Observer ...That the people may know</p>	<h2 style="margin:0;">ADVERTISEMENT RATES (PRINT)</h2>
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			PUBLIC NOTICE		PRODUCT		COLOUR		BLACK & WHITE	
		RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE
FULL PAGE	517,344	556,145	369,500	397,213	325,150	349,536	665,156	715,043	443,440	476,698
13 X 4	369,500	397,213	295,600	317,770	206,938	222,458	443,500	476,763	369,550	397,266
10 X 4	340,000	365,500	273,500	294,013	177,400	190,705	370,000	397,750	295,600	317,770
HALF PAGE	295,600	317,770	236,500	254,238	147,800	158,885	340,000	365,500	273,450	293,959
10 X 3	221,700	238,328	147,800	158,885	118,300	127,173	266,000	285,950	251,300	270,148
13 X2	206,900	222,418	133,000	142,925	103,500	111,263	221,800	238,435	147,810	158,896
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FRONT PAGE POSITIONS					OTHER SIZES				
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SIZES		PRODUCTS		PUBLIC NOTICE		SIZES		PUBLIC NOTICE		PRODUCTS	
		RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)			RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)
FP 6X2	89,800	96,535	105,450	113,359	6 X 2	60,640	65,188	49,140	52,826		
FP 5X2	81,100	87,183	97,300	104,598	5 X 2	51,950	55,846	42,120	45,279		
FP 4X2	73,000	78,475	80,700	86,753	4 X 2	45,260	48,655	34,400	36,980		
FP 3X2	64,870	69,735	73,000	78,475	3 X 2	30,900	33,218	26,600	28,595		
FP 2X2	59,000	63,425	64,900	69,768	2 X 2	18,680	20,081	15,600	16,770		
					2 X 1	12,400	13,330	7,415	7,971		
					CAC	38,000	40,850				

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SIZES	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)
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STRIP INSIDE	88,600	95,245	118,250	127,119


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EFFECTIVE FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Foreign

NEWS

Race against time to save eight Indian workers trapped inside tunnel

Authorities in the southern Indian state of Telangana are racing against time to save eight construction workers trapped inside a tunnel for more than 72 hours.

Around 50 workers had been working inside the 43km (26.7-mile)-long tunnel, located in Nagarkurnool district, when a part of its roof caved in early Saturday morning.

Officials say 43 of them managed to come out safely but efforts to reach the remaining eight men have faced repeated setbacks due to loose soil, mud and slush inside the tunnel.

They have also been unable to establish contact with the trapped men, or provide them with oxygen and other essential supplies.

Jupally Krishna Rao, a state minister overseeing the rescue

effort, told PTI news agency that "the chances of their survival are very remote."

On Monday an expert team of "rat-hole miners" - people trained in narrow tunnel navigation - arrived to clear the debris and get to the workers. The same team had successfully rescued 41 construction workers trapped in a tunnel after a landslide in the Himalayan

state of Uttarakhand in 2023.

Approximately 33km of excavation has been completed so far and roughly 10km remain, officials said on Tuesday.

Rescuers are using a train to get to a point from where they need to climb on to a conveyor or belt to remove the debris. Reports say they are also continuously pumping out water to ensure oxygen supply within

the tunnel. But the rough terrain of the region has slowed them down.

As rescue efforts continue, families of the trapped workers - most of whom are daily wage workers - are anxiously waiting for news of their loved ones.

"I just hope that this time my son comes back safe. I will never send him away to earn again," said Rampratap Sahu, a resident of Jharkhand state.

Others expressed anger at authorities for letting their family members "come in harm's way".

"Why did they send the men to work there when they knew of the risks involved in the project?" asked Jaspreet Kaur, whose brother is among those trapped.

A portion of the under-construction Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) collapsed around 13km from its opening at 8:30 local time (03:00 GMT) on Saturday.

The accident took place after a slab of concrete covering seepage on the roof slipped and fell off. At least a dozen workers

were injured in the chaos.

The tunnel is part of the longest-running irrigation project of the Telangana government. Located in a hilly forested area, it passes through the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem tiger reserve which is the largest in India.

Officials said construction work had resumed just four days before the accident, after a gap of almost three years.

Various relief teams, including personnel from the National Disaster Response Force, firefighters and soldiers from the Indian army, are at the spot.

Officials told BBC Telugu that a team of firefighters was the first to go inside on Sunday.

"We covered 11km by train, 2km by conveyor belt and the remaining distance on foot," an official, who wanted to stay anonymous, said. "But then we hit a roadblock."

"There were tall mounds of mud and soft soil. The boring machine that was being used by the workers lay upside down, blocking all passage beyond."



WORKERS TRAPPED:

The construction workers have been trapped since Saturday morning

Israel demands complete demilitarisation of southern Syria

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has demanded the complete demilitarisation of much of southern Syria.

It is an announcement that could make conflict between Israel and the new leadership in Syria, after the toppling of President Bashar al-Assad, more likely.

In a speech to Israeli military cadets on Sunday, Netanyahu said that Israel would not allow the forces of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) - the Islamist group that led the overthrow of Assad - nor the new Syrian army that is being formed to "enter the area south of Damascus".

"We demand the complete demilitarisation of southern Syria in the provinces of Quneitra, Deraa and Suweida from the forces of the new regime," he added. "Likewise, we will not tolerate any threat to the Druze community in southern Syria."

He also said that Israeli forces would remain indefinitely inside the Syrian territory that they have seized since Assad's fall last December - which would be a shift in Israeli strategy.

Until now, Israel had described its move into a UN-monitored demilitarised buffer zone in the Golan Heights as a temporary measure to ensure the security of Israelis on the other side.

The rationale appeared to

be to prevent extremist groups from moving down to the Golan in the power vacuum.

But with his latest comments, Netanyahu has made it clear that he believes that the new authorities in Syria - with their background in jihadism - could represent a similar danger.

Israel seized most of the Golan from Syria during the 1967 Middle East war and later annexed. The move was not recognised internationally, although the US did so in 2019.

Syria's new interim President, HTS leader Ahmed al-Sharaa, has tried to reassure Israel that he does not want conflict and that he is ready to uphold the long-standing disengagement agreement between the two

countries concluded after another war in 1973.

He has also stressed that he will not allow Syria to be used as a base for attacks against Israel.

But Sharaa has also called on Israel to withdraw from the buffer zone it has taken, as he tries to assert sovereignty across the whole of Syria's fractured landscape.

Clearly, Netanyahu does not trust these assurances.

Like much of the international community, the Israeli prime minister is waiting to see if Sharaa makes good on his moderate, emollient stance in action as well as words.

From the perspective of the new Syrian leadership, freeing the country from the influence

of all the foreign powers that jockeyed for position during the long years of civil war is seen as vital to ensuring a more positive future for the country and a definitive break with the past.

Some foreign players, such as Iran and Russia, have seen for now at least the curtailment of the overweening influence they once had.

Under President Donald Trump, the US might also further disengage from Syria - a role which has helped underpin Kurdish-led forces in the north-east of the country.

There has, though, been growing influence from Turkey - which provided essential support for HTS in its lightning campaign against Assad.

Macron walks tightrope with Trump as he makes Europe's case on Ukraine

Relations between Europe and the US are unquestionably in crisis, so merely keeping things together as French President Emmanuel Macron did at the White House on Monday stands as an achievement.

He did that by praising, flattering and gently cajoling the US president as they took questions in the Oval Office and held a joint news conference. This is a playbook that many leaders around the world now see as more productive than outright plain speaking or criticism of Trump.

Macron managed to navigate what could have been a tricky day in Washington without conceding or revealing too much.

He spoke of both countries wanting peace, and while he gently corrected one of Trump's claims on Europe's support for Ukraine, he also agreed that Europe needed to take more responsibility for its own security.

But Macron did make one important concession - that Trump was right to re-establish some kind of relationship with Russia's Vladimir Putin.

That is in sharp contrast to

the view up until now in London, Paris and Berlin, which have all pursued a policy of isolating Putin and slapping sanctions on Russian industries and individuals.

"There is good reason for President Trump to re-engage with President Putin," Macron said, adding that the new administration represented "a big change".

Macron held out the prospect of European countries such as France and the UK being willing to play a leading role in ensuring the security of a post-truce Ukraine, possibly in the form of air power and

troops stationed away from the frontline.

But at the same time, he stressed the importance of having an American backstop.

Macron, however, did not get a commitment of US backup from his meeting in the Oval Office. And if he was looking for a scintilla of criticism of the Russian president from Trump, then he did not get that either.

What he did get was, at least to some extent, Europe's voice back at the table and he, along with other European leaders, will take some heart from that.

US sides with Russia in UN resolutions on Ukraine

The US has twice sided with Russia in votes at the United Nations to mark the third anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, highlighting the Trump administration's change of stance on the war.

First the US opposed a European-drafted resolution condemning Moscow's actions and supporting Ukraine's territorial integrity - voting the same way as Russia and countries including North Korea and Belarus at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

Then the US drafted and voted for a resolution at the UN Security Council which called for an end to the conflict but contained no criticism of Russia.

The Security Council passed the resolution but two key US allies, the UK and France, abstained after their attempts to amend the wording were vetoed.

The UN resolutions were tabled as French President Emmanuel Macron visited President Donald Trump at the

White House in an attempt to address their sharp differences over the war.

On Thursday, British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer will likewise visit the new American leader.

Trump's White House has upended the transatlantic alliance, currying favour with Moscow and casting doubt on America's long-term commitment to European security.

That rift was laid bare on the floor of the 193-member UNGA on Monday as US diplomats pushed their limited resolution mourning the loss of life during the "Russia-Ukraine conflict" and calling for a swift end to it.

European diplomats tabled a more detailed text, blaming Russia for its full-scale invasion, and supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We need to reconfirm that the aggression should be condemned and discredited, not rewarded," said Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Mariana Betsa.

UNGA members backed the European resolution by 93 votes but, extraordinarily, the US did not abstain but actually voted against it, along with Russia, Israel, North Korea, Sudan, Belarus, Hungary and 11 other states, with 65 abstentions.

The UNGA also passed the US resolution but only after it was amended to include language supporting Ukraine, which led to the US abstaining.

At the much more powerful 15-member UN Security Council, the unamended US resolution - which called for an end to the conflict but contained no criticism of Russia - was passed by 10 votes, with the UK, France, Denmark, Greece and Slovenia abstaining.

NEWS**Foreign****Trump dominates Liberal leadership debate in Canada**

Candidates vying to replace Prime Minister Justin Trudeau as leader of the Liberal Party of Canada faced each other for the first time on Monday in a French-language debate.

The stage was shared by four hopefuls: former governor of the banks of Canada and England Mark Carney, former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, Liberal government House leader Karina Gould, and businessman and former MP Frank Baylis.

The question of how to deal with Donald Trump dominated the first half, as the US president has repeatedly threatened to tariff Canada and make it the "51st state."

Candidates also answered questions about domestic matters like immigration, health-care and the high cost of living.

Early in the debate, Freeland - whose resignation as finance

minister in December triggered the collapse of Trudeau's leadership - stated that Trump represented "the greatest threat to Canada since World War Two".

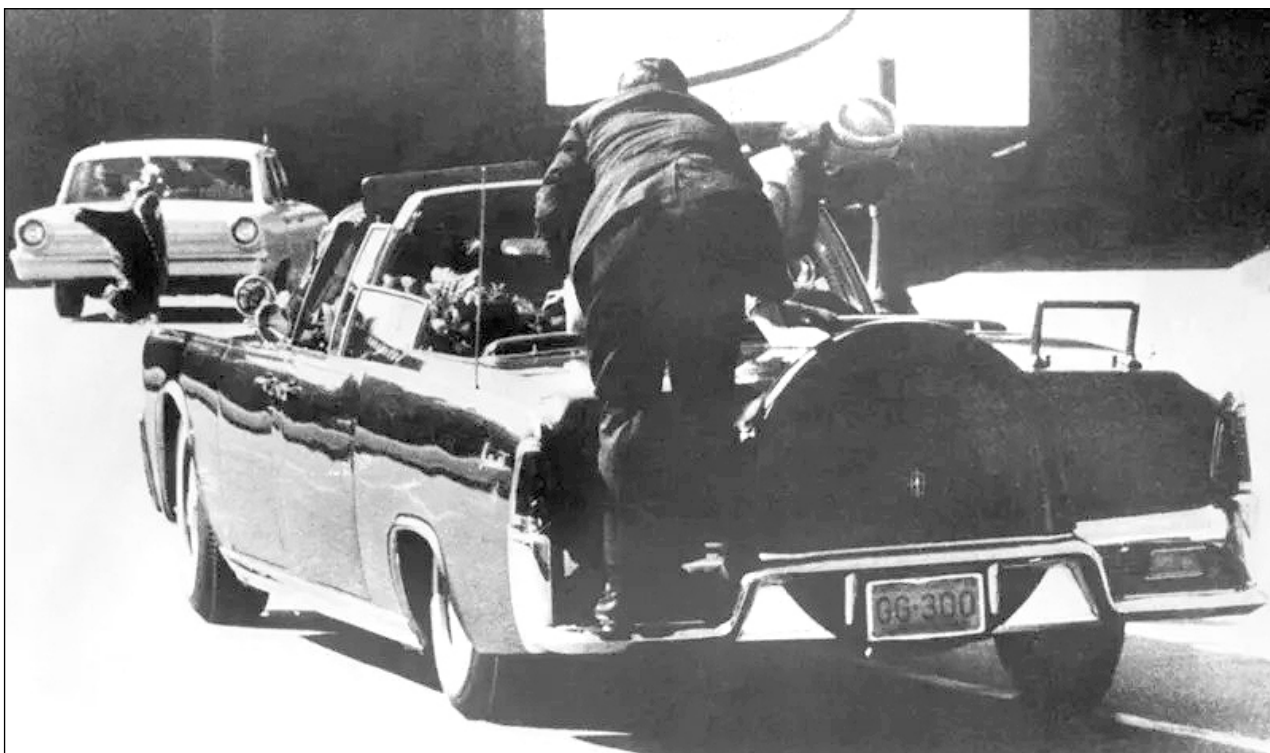
She frequently drew on her experience in government, saying that she had successfully faced Trump during his first term when she helped renegotiate North America's long-standing free-trade agreement.

But Freeland warned that Trump's second term might be worse for Canada.

"He wants to turn Canada into the 51st state, and it's no joke," she said. "That is why he is supporting [Russian President] Vladimir Putin's criminal attempt to redraw Ukraine's borders."

"Trump wants to redraw our borders too," Freeland said.

To counter these threats, Freeland and the other candidates suggested strengthening trade ties with the EU and the UK.



ATTEMPTS TO SHOVE:

Clint Hill, pictured shortly after President Kennedy's assassination with his back to the camera, as he attempts to shove Mrs Kennedy back into the vehicle.

Secret Service agent who leapt onto JFK's car during assassination dies at 93

A US Secret Service agent who leapt on to John F Kennedy's limousine as it came under fire in Dallas, and was pictured in famous photos of one of the most dramatic events in US history, has died at the age of 93.

Clint Hill later became a bestselling author, but was haunted for decades by guilt over Kennedy's assassination.

Hill died at his home on California on Friday, according to a statement from his publicist.

In 22 November 1963, he was assigned to protect the president's wife, Jacqueline Kennedy.

Hill was riding on a car behind the Kennedy limousine

when the first shot rang out.

He immediately rushed towards the couple and started to climb on to the back of the limousine as the shooting continued.

Hill's actions during the assassination were captured on the Zapruder film - an amateur home video that provided one of the best recordings of the shooting.

Hill, originally from North Dakota, served in the Army prior to joining the Secret Service in 1958.

He was given an award for his actions in Dallas and eventually rose to become assistant director of the Secret Service.

However the trauma he ex-

perienced during the assassination led him to retire early from the agency in 1975, at the age of 43.

He had become convinced that he could have saved Kennedy's life and shortly after his retirement told CBS 60 Minutes that he felt responsible.

"If I had reacted about five-tenths of a second faster, maybe a second faster, I wouldn't be here today," Hill said.

"You mean you would have gotten there and you would have taken the shot?" asked interviewer Mike Wallace.

"Yes, sir... That would have been fine with me," Hill responded.

"I have a great deal of guilt

about that," he said. "Had I turned in a different direction, I'd have made it. It's my fault."

As the years went by, the former Secret Service agent later told a documentary, he returned to Dallas, eventually coming to the conclusion he could not have saved Kennedy's life.

Hill met journalist Lisa McCubbin in 2009 and collaborated on a bestselling memoir, Mrs Kennedy and Me.

It was the first of a series of books and Hill and McCubbin fell in love. The couple married in 2021.

A statement from his publisher said that Hill had died at home with his wife at his side. A cause of death was not given.

Major Asia bank to cut 4,000 roles as AI replaces humans

Singapore's biggest bank says it expects to cut 4,000 roles over the next three years as artificial intelligence (AI) takes on more work currently done by humans.

"The reduction in workforce will come from natural attrition as temporary and contract roles roll off over the next few years," a DBS spokesperson told the BBC.

Permanent staff are not expected to be affected by the cuts. The bank's outgoing chief executive Piyush Gupta also said it expects to create around 1,000 new AI-related jobs

It makes DBS one of the first major banks to offer details on how AI will affect its operations.

The company did not say how many jobs would be cut in Singapore or which roles would be affected.

DBS currently has between 8,000 and 9,000 temporary and contract workers. The bank employs a total of around 41,000 people.

Last year, Mr Gupta said DBS had been working on AI

for over a decade.

"We today deploy over 800 AI models across 350 use cases, and expect the measured economic impact of these to exceed \$1bn (\$745m; £592m) in 2025," he added.

Mr Gupta is set to leave the firm at the end of March. Current deputy chief executive Tan Su Shan will replace him.

The ongoing proliferation of AI technology has put its benefits and risks under the spotlight, with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) saying in 2024 that it is set to affect nearly 40% of all jobs worldwide.

The IMF's managing director Kristalina Georgieva said that "in most scenarios, AI will likely worsen overall inequality".

The governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey, told the BBC last year that AI will not be a "mass destroyer of jobs" and human workers will learn to work with new technologies.

Mr Bailey said that while there are risks with AI, "there is great potential with it"

Uganda probes death of Nigerian footballer in shopping mall

Police in Uganda are investigating the death of a Nigerian professional footballer who allegedly fell from a shopping mall in the capital, Kampala.

Abubakar Lawal, 29, reportedly fell from a third-floor balcony at the Voicemall Shopping Arcade, where he had gone to visit a Tanzanian friend. He was taken to hospital where he was pronounced dead, the police said.

They said Lawal's friend, identified as Omary Naima, had left him in her room - which is part of the mall building - preparing tea before the incident happened.

Lawal was a striker playing for local team Vipers Sports Club, which has expressed its sadness for the "untimely passing of our beloved player".

Tributes have been flowing in for the footballer, who has been with Vipers since July 2022 after a two-year stint with AS Kigali in Rwanda.

In 2023, he helped Vipers

win the league and cup double.

The club said "Lawal (Man from Sokoto) was a unique person. He had a big heart of gold. He really cared about people and went out of his way to help. He was incredibly generous".

"We mourn the sudden demise of our ex-player Abubakar Lawal earlier today. May God grant him eternal rest," his former team in Nigeria, Nasarawa United, said.

"It's hard to take in that you're no more Lawal A kind, talented, jolly, and loving person you have been. You will forever be missed bro," said Ugandan footballer Mustafa Kizza.

Local media say the matter has left more questions than answers amid conflicting reports of the circumstances of Lawal's death.

Some media initially reported that he had died in a motorcycle accident.

Police said the exact circumstances of the death were being investigated.

"Authorities are retrieving

CCTV footage and conducting thorough interrogations to establish the exact circumstances surrounding the incident," police said.

The police have retrieved some items belonging to the

deceased player, including two smartphones, shoes, headsets and training kit.

"Further updates will be provided as the investigation progresses," the police added.

'People will starve' because of US aid cut to Sudan

The freezing of US humanitarian assistance has forced the closure of almost 80% of the emergency food kitchens set up to help people left destitute by Sudan's civil war, the BBC has learned.

Aid volunteers said the impact of President Donald Trump's executive order halting contributions from the US government's development organisation (USAID) for 90 days meant more than 1,100 communal kitchens had shut.

It is estimated that nearly two million people struggling to survive have been affected.

The conflict between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces has killed tens of thousands of people, forced

millions from their homes and left many facing famine since it erupted in April 2023.

The kitchens are run by groups known as emergency response rooms, a grassroots network of activists who stayed on the frontlines to respond to the crises in their neighbourhoods.

"People are knocking on the volunteers' doors," says Duaa Tariq, one of the emergency room organisers. "People are screaming from hunger in the streets"

The Trump administration abruptly suspended all US aid last month to determine whether it was "serving US interests", and moved to begin dismantling USAID.

The State Department has issued an exemption for emer-

gency food assistance, but Sudanese groups and others say there is significant confusion and uncertainty about what that means in practice.

The normal channels for processing a waiver through USAID no longer exist, and it is not clear if cash assistance - on which the communal kitchens depend - will be restored, or only goods in-kind. According to some estimates, USAID provided 70-80% of the total funding to these flexible cash programmes.

The closure of the majority of Sudan's emergency kitchens is being seen as a significant setback by organisations working to tackle the world's largest hunger crisis, with famine conditions reported in at least five

locations.

The network of communal feeding centres relied in the early stages of the country's civil war on community and diaspora donations but later became a focal point for funding from international agencies struggling to access the conflict zones, including USAID.

It's a "huge setback" says Andrea Tracy, a former USAID official who's set up a fund, the Mutual Aid Sudan Coalition, for private donations to the emergency rooms.

The former head of USAID, Samantha Power, had embraced the idea of working with the local groups rather than relying only on traditional channels like the UN.

Sports

● Football ● Athletics ● Gulf ● Basketball ● Tennis ● Boxing

NSF: Nigeria must continue to harness Sports for national unity, secured future for youths, Says Hon Enabulele

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

The Executive Chairman, Edo State Sports Commission Hon Amadin Desmond Enabulele, has urged the Federal Government and all the

sports stakeholders to show more commitment in harnessing the power of sports for national unity and build a future filled with opportunities for the youths.

He stated this on Tuesday in Benin, while declaring open

the South-South zonal eliminations for ball games ahead of the National Sports Festival, tagged, "Ogun 2025".

Enabulele noted that sports have always been a powerful tool for unity, discipline, and

youth empowerment, stressing He described the zonal elimination games as a crucial stage on the journey to the National Sports Festival.

"As we gather here today, let us remember that beyond competition, this event is an opportunity to foster friendship, teamwork, and mutual respect among our young athletes and sports administrators in our zone and country.

"We must continue to harness the power of sports to unite our youths and build a future filled with opportunities for them.

"To our athletes from Edo, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Bayelsa, Rivers and Delta State, I urge you to compete with passion, determination, and sportsmanship.

"You are not just representing your states but also showcasing the strength and talent of the South-South region. Give it your best, and let your performance speak for itself,"



Executive Chairman, Edo State Sports Commission Hon Amazon Desmond Dnabulele(center) with the Permanent Secretary, Edo State Sports Commission Mrs Efe P.A. Amenze (Left) and Barr Anthony Ikhulobe, Executive Director during the Press Conference on the South South zonal elimination games holding in Benin.

Bayelsa to compete in seven team sports in zonal elimination

Team Bayelsa will compete in seven sports in the ongoing South South zonal elimination for team sports ahead of the 23rd National Sports Festival in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Bayelsa State contingent arrived in Benin City, the Edo State capital on Sunday, February 23, 2025 with a total of 218 athletes and officials comprising volleyball male, Football male and female, Hockey male and female, Basketball female and Handball male.

With the completion of the technical meeting on Monday for the zonal elimination, the various states will now proceed to the fiesta to decide the states that will qualify to represent the region in team sports for the festival.

Speaking shortly after the meeting, Director of Sports and chairman South South Directors of Sports, Sir Braveman Wodi said that Bayelsa is fully prepared for the elimination,

stating that the contingents are in Benin to give the state good representation.

According to him, the essence of the meeting was to ensure that all issues relating to venue, transportation as well as rules and regulations of the game are

tackled in order to avoid protest during games, describing south south as the power house of sports in the nation.

He hinted that team Bayelsa are in Benin City with a contingent strength of 218 athletes and officials to compete in sev-

en team sports which include; volleyball male, Hockey both male and female, Basketball female, Handball male, Football male and female, saying that the priority of the team is to clinch the ticket in the various sports.

Commonwealth Games Nigeria holds drug-abuse seminar for secondary schools

Commonwealth Games, Nigeria (CGN), set to hold seminar on the negative effects of drug abuse in Secondary Schools across the country.

The event which is part of CGN' fight against doping will be held at the Olympafica Centre in Amuwo Odofin, Lagos State, southwest Nigeria.

This information was made public in a statement by Tony Neziyanya, the Public Relations Officer of the Nigeria Olympic Committee, (NOC).

The objective of this programme is to uphold the fun-

damental values of the Commonwealth by promoting unity, equity, and youth empowerment.

It also aims to raise awareness of key global issues affecting our communities while serving as a strategic platform to address social vices and drive positive societal change.

The Secretary-General of the NOC, Tunde Popoola emphasises that the programme on drug abuse would be used to address one of the social vices plaguing our society.

It will also promote social interaction among the students, allowing them to meet other school

students and learn more about the activities carried out by CGN.

The programme is open to students aged 14 to 17 in both

public and private schools.

Not less than 15 schools have been invited to participate in the seminar.



Students at the drug-abuse seminar.



Okumagba emerges interim chairman as NSC, NFF end supporters clubs' feuds

The leadership of the National Sports Commission (NSC) and the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have scored a major point in the build-up to Super Eagles' trip to Rwanda for the 2026 World Cup campaign by ending the "long feud" among supporters and clubs' members.

Since the Brazil 2014 FIFA World Cup, the Supporters Club have not known peace. What started as a minnow disagreement among the members soon became a major issue, leading to the emergence of six different groups. While Vincent Okumagba presided over the Super Eagles Supporters Club, Rev. Sam Ikpea was chairman of Nigeria Football Supporters Club. The Football

Fan Club of Nigeria was led by Kemi Popoola, just as Abayomi Ogunjimi was the leader of Authentic Nigeria Football and Allied Sports Supporters Club.

Another group, the Nigeria Eagles Supporters Club had Sunny Gullong as its president, while the All Sports Supporters Club had Johnson Dagan as its president.

For over a decade, some Nigerians had made unsuccessful attempts to end the crisis. At the 2021 African Nations Cup held in Cameroun, some key players of the Super Eagles voiced their anger over what they termed 'discordant tunes' coming from the six different Supporters Clubs. That was before the Super Eagles were eliminated by Tunisia in the round of 16 in Garou.

With the Super Eagles now in a dangerous position in the race to the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the NSC and NFF felt the urgent need to end the long feud in the Supporters Clubs. On February 13, 2025, the two bodies brought all the presidents of the Supporters Clubs to the NFF office in Abuja to elect an Interim body that will lead a unified group for one year.

The election produced Vincent Okumagba as the Chairman, with Peter Abraham as Vice Chairman, while Sunny Gullong emerged as Secretary. Amaka Okediadi is the Financial Secretary, while Johnson Dagan is the Treasurer.

Defending champions Aruna, Meshref, in fine start as 2025 ITTF Africa Cup begins



Defending champions Quadri Aruna of Nigeria and Dina Meshref of Egypt begins their defence of Africa title on a winning note as ITTF Africa begins on Tuesday, Sports247 reports.

Apart from the defending champions, Aruna and Meshref, super stars Omar Assar, Olajide Omotayo and Hana Goda, showcased flawless performances at the 2025 ITTF Africa Cup, advancing to the knockout stage of the prestigious tournament.

Aruna dominated his prelim-

inary matches, securing convincing 3-0 victories against Tunisia's Myshaal Sabhi and Benin Republic's Abdel-Kader Salifou.

Meshref also continued her dominance, smoothly advancing to the second round.

Assar, Goda, and Nigeria's Olajide Omotayo all secured their spots in the knockout round.

Meanwhile, Congo Brazzaville's Saheed Idowu stunned the Tunisian fans with a 3-1 victory over local favorite Wassim Essid.

In a surprising turn of events, Egypt's third seed Mo-

hamed El-Beiali suffered a 3-0 defeat against Madagascar's Antonie Razafinarivo.

Ethiopia's Darara Mokonen Dufera, the only top seed to exit in the first round, bowed out after double defeats.

As the tournament progresses, all eyes will be on the semifinalists who will qualify for the ITTF World Cup, with the decisive matches taking place on Wednesday, February 26.

The ITTF has praised Tunisia for its exceptional organizational skills. During the

opening ceremony on Tuesday, February 25, ITTF President Petra Sorling commended Tunisia for being an excellent host of top-class tournaments in Africa and among the best-organized events globally.

In his welcome address, the President of the Tunisia Table Tennis Federation (TTTF), Lotfi Guerfel, expressed gratitude to the leadership of ITTF Africa for awarding the hosting rights to Tunisia and assured all visitors of a warm stay during the tournament.

FEATURE

Menace of trafficking on cultural heritage in Nigeria

Cultural heritage is a vital aspect of any nation's identity, symbolizing the history, traditions, and values of its people. It encompasses customs, festivals, sacred worship sites, norms, values, ideologies, and technologies.

For Nigeria, a country rich in ethnic diversity and history, preserving its cultural heritage is of paramount importance. However, the increasing problem of cultural property trafficking threatens the integrity of Nigeria's cultural legacy.

Trafficking in cultural heritage, including sculptures, artifacts, manuscripts, ancient works of art, and monuments, has been a longstanding issue in Nigeria, with profound effects on its cultural identity.

The scope of trafficking in cultural heritage in Nigeria

In Nigeria, trafficking involves the illicit excavation, theft, and sale of items, particularly from archaeological sites and museums.

These artifacts include items from pre-colonial Nigeria, such as Nok Terracotta sculptures, Benin Bronzes, Ife heads, and other relics from various ethnic groups, many of which are centuries old.

One of the key factors driving this trafficking is the high demand for African art and antiquities in international markets, where they are valued as rare collectibles or symbols of exoticism (Arua et al., 2022).

While Nigeria is not the only country affected by this trade, it is particularly vulnerable due to its rich history, vast collection of ancient artifacts, and socio-economic conditions that facilitate illegal transactions.

Colonialism ushered in an era of

widespread looting, vandalism, theft, unscientific excavation of grave goods, iconoclasm, wars, and illicit trafficking of cultural objects (Onyima, 2016).

Between 1900 and 1960, during the colonial period, the British colonial administration attacked the Benin Kingdom in 1897, plundering the Benin royal palace and looting its rich bronze works and art treasures. This remains one of the most devastating incidents in Nigerian cultural heritage history (Aremu, 2008).

Following this invasion, the British retaliated against resistance by looting tens of thousands of artworks made of wood, ivory, and bronze. They burned the palace and forced the king into exile. These artifacts were removed to London and subsequently dispersed across the world (Shyllon, 2011).

Trafficking networks operate through illicit dealers, art collectors, and auction houses that illegally acquire Nigerian artifacts and sell them in global markets. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), stolen Nigerian artifacts have been found in markets across Europe, the United States, and even Asia.

These objects are often smuggled out of the country under the guise of legal transactions or through corrupt customs practices.

Nigerian authorities, in collaboration with international organizations, are working to identify and dismantle these trafficking networks. However, enforcement remains weak due to limited resources, poor infrastructure, and the absence of comprehensive legal frameworks specifically addressing the trafficking of cultural property.

Impact of trafficking and looting on cultural heritage

DESTRUCTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

One of the most devastating effects of trafficking and looting is the destruction of the integrity of cultural heritage. Illegal excavation and looting lead to the destruction of not only artifacts but also the sites themselves, resulting in the irreversible loss of historical context and scientific value.

Artifacts removed from their original settings are often damaged or stripped of valuable information, which is critical for understanding past civilizations and historical narratives.

IMPACT ON NAT'L IDENTITY AND CULTURAL MEMORY

Cultural heritage plays a vital role in shaping national identity and collective memory. Trafficking and looting strip countries of significant symbols of their cultural and historical narratives.

The loss of these objects erodes a nation's historical record and robs future generations of the opportunity to connect with their ancestral heritage.

DAMAGE TO SOCIAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT STRUCTURES

The illegal trafficking of cultural heritage often involves organized crime syndicates and corrupt law enforcement agents.

The illicit trade in artifacts promotes criminal networks and weakens social structures by encouraging corruption and undermining the rule of law.

For example, military factions and militia groups in conflict zones, such as in Iraq and Syria, have been documented looting and selling artifacts, further promoting insecurity and the breakdown of legal and governmental institutions (Al-Khaddar, 2021).

tutions (Al-Khaddar, 2021).

ECONOMIC LOSS

Cultural heritage significantly contributes to the tourism industry and, when well-preserved, can generate income through tourism, education, research, and employment opportunities.

Illegal trafficking, however, undermines this potential by depriving nations of their cultural capital and its economic benefits.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2020), the illegal trafficking of cultural goods is estimated to generate billions of dollars annually. However, these illicit profits do not contribute to local economies or the development of the countries from which the objects originate.

In Nigeria, for example, the Nok Culture sites, which are rich in ancient artifacts, represent potential sources of income that are under constant threat from trafficking.

HOW TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING AND LOOTING OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND NAT'L EFFORTS

Nigeria has made significant strides in combating the trafficking and looting of cultural heritage through both national and international initiatives.

The National Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM) Act establishes guidelines for protecting cultural heritage sites and artifacts.

Nigeria is also a signatory to various international treaties, including the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer

of Ownership of Cultural Property.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND AWARENESS

Given the global nature of cultural heritage trafficking, international collaboration is essential.

The 1970 UNESCO Convention provides a legal framework for preventing trafficking and looting (UNESCO, 1970).

Nigeria collaborates with organizations such as UNESCO, Interpol, and the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to combat trafficking. These partnerships involve intelligence sharing, joint operations, and raising awareness about the importance of cultural heritage preservation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

Grassroots efforts through education and community engagement are crucial in tackling cultural heritage trafficking.

Local communities increasingly recognize the importance of preserving their cultural heritage and have become active participants in anti-trafficking initiatives.

Educational campaigns inform the public about the significance of cultural heritage, not only as historical artifacts but also as resources for national social and economic development.

ADVANCEMENTS IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Recent advancements in science and technology are being employed to combat trafficking and protect cultural heritage.

Digital documentation and 3D scanning technologies enhance the tracking and cataloging of cultural objects, making it easier to verify provenance and recover stolen items.

Blockchain technology is being explored as a means to create transparent ownership records for cultural artifacts, helping to prevent illegal sales (Newman, 2018).

Additionally, artificial intelligence (AI) is being used to track the movement of cultural items across borders, proving to be an effective tool for identifying trafficking patterns and apprehending criminals.

CONCLUSION

Despite local and international efforts, the plunder, theft, illicit trafficking, looting, and destruction of cultural heritage in Nigeria remain ongoing challenges.

The trafficking of cultural heritage threatens Nigeria's cultural, economic, and social fabric. The loss of important artifacts and the destruction of archaeological sites weaken the nation's historical identity and undermine its efforts to preserve its cultural legacy.

While progress has been made through legal reforms, international cooperation, local engagement, and technological advancements, sustained efforts from the Nigerian government, international partners, and local communities are essential to safeguarding cultural heritage for future generations.

Museum exhibitions: A dynamic medium of mass communication

OTONO MOMODU

In today's globalized world, museum exhibitions have become a powerful means of mass communication, using meticulously curated displays of artefacts, artworks, and historical objects to convey information, tell stories, and captivate audiences worldwide.

Their unique characteristics set them apart as an engaging medium. Through visual storytelling, exhibitions employ artefacts, images, and multimedia to communicate messages in a compelling manner. They offer an immersive experience that allows visitors to interact with the subject matter through hands-on or interactive elements.

Furthermore, they provide essential context for the artefacts and artworks on display, ensuring a deeper understanding of their significance and relevance.

Museum exhibitions serve multiple functions, primarily in education, entertainment, and social commentary. They educate visitors on diverse subjects such as history, science, art, and culture, while also offering an engaging and entertaining experience that

encourages exploration and learning. Additionally, they act as platforms for social commentary, raising awareness of pressing societal issues and fostering critical thinking among audiences.

These exhibitions exist in various forms, including temporary exhibitions that showcase loaned artefacts or artworks for a limited time, permanent exhibitions that feature collections housed within the museum on a long-term basis, and traveling exhibitions that move between locations, bringing relevant artefacts and artworks to different communities and regions.

The benefits of museum exhibitions are numerous. They increase engagement by providing interactive experiences that encourage participation and deeper learning. They enhance understanding by promoting critical thinking and analysis, allowing visitors to develop a more profound appreciation of the subject matter.

Additionally, they contribute to cultural preservation by safeguarding heritage and fostering cross-cultural understanding and appreciation.

Despite their advantages, museum exhibitions face several challenges. Accessi-

bility remains an issue, as not all audiences, particularly those with disabilities or limited mobility, can easily access them.

Interpretation is another challenge, as the presentation of artefacts and artworks can be influenced by personal biases and subjective viewpoints. Funding is a persistent obstacle, as exhibitions require substantial financial resources, which may be difficult to secure, especially for museums with limited budgets.

To overcome these challenges, museums can adopt best practices such as collaboration with communities, experts, and stakeholders to develop relevant and engaging exhibitions. Ensuring inclusivity by making exhibitions accessible to diverse audiences is crucial. Additionally, regular evaluation through visitor and stakeholder feedback can help refine exhibitions and improve future displays.

Nigerian artefacts serve as remarkable examples of communication through exhibitions, preserving cultural heritage and conveying historical and mythological narratives.

Traditional artefacts such as the Benin Bronzes, Igbo Ukwu Bronzes, Nok Terracottas, and Ife Bronzes highlight

the artistic and historical legacy of various Nigerian cultures. Symbolic artefacts like the Ori Olokun, Akan Drum, Hausa Leatherwork, and Igbo Mask play crucial roles in communication, storytelling, and cultural rituals. These artefacts not only preserve traditions, but also symbolize power, identity, and spirituality, inspiring creativity, reflection, and dialogue.

Among the artistic representations of Nigerian heritage is the depiction of Queen Idia of the Benin Kingdom. The FESTAC '77 Mask, created for the 1977 Festival of Black Arts and Culture in Lagos, remains a significant cultural symbol. Queen Idia's image is also immortalized in bronze plaques, widely revered in Benin art and culture, and in wood carvings that depict her in regal attire and adornments.

By embracing these characteristics, functions, types, benefits, challenges, and best practices, museum exhibitions continue to thrive as a dynamic medium of mass communication, promoting education, and cultural preservation.

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