

PFIPC probe: Reps uncover 58 bank accounts, 12 linked entities, clear Gbajabiamila

ABUJA

ODINI AMAKA VIVIAN

The House of Representatives ad hoc committee investigating the controversial Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC) has uncovered 58

bank accounts and 12 entities allegedly linked to Prince Adeniyi Adeyemi, who was presented as the Director-General of the purported agency.

The committee also cleared the Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila, of involvement in the establishment or operation of the organisation, saying it found no evidence that he authorised Adeyemi's appointment.

In its preliminary report released on Wednesday, the committee, chaired by Yusuf Adamu Gagdi, said the PFIPC was never established by an Act of the National Assembly, an executive order or any other

valid government instrument.

The panel further said evidence obtained from the State House showed that the Presidency did not appoint Adeyemi as Director-General and that there was no evidence Gbajabiamila signed the purported appointment letter.

"The Committee therefore preliminarily finds that the purported appointment letter was fabricated and falsely attributed to the Presidency."

The investigation followed controversy over the inclusion of the purported agency in the 2026 Appropriation Bill. The committee said its preliminary findings were based on oral testimonies, documentary evidence, financial records and submissions from relevant government institutions.

It said evidence suggested that official documents

and identities may have been forged or misrepresented to give the organisation an appearance of legitimacy.

Among the 12 entities allegedly linked to Adeyemi are the Confederation of United Nations Youths, FCT Investment Promotion Agency and Public-Private Partnership, FCT Investment Promotion Council

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#200

CRIME BURSTING

Edo police nab 13 kidnappers, 19 cultists, rescue 9 victims

OLIVER IJIOGBE

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Police Command arrested 13 suspected kidnappers and rescued nine kidnapped victims during intelligence-led operations across the state in August 2026.

The Commissioner of Police,

CP Patrick Daaor, disclosed this on Wednesday at the Command's August end-of-month press briefing in Benin City.

Daaor said the Command also arrested 14 suspects for armed robbery and other violent crimes, 19 suspected cultists, six suspected human traffickers and five suspects linked to store breaking and stealing.

He added that 12 suspects were arrested in connection with Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), while eight vehicles were recovered in connection with suspected criminal activities during the month.

The commissioner identified the arrest of five suspected members of a kidnapping and banditry network operating

along the Auchu-Okene axis as one of the Command's major breakthroughs.

He said the suspects were arrested in Niger State on August 30 following the abduction of Mohammed Tasiu Imokhe and his wife at Jattu, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State, on August 8.

According to him, operatives of the Anti-Kidnapping Unit and Violent Crime Response Unit launched an operation following the incident, with support from the Technical Intelligence Unit (TIU), Abuja.

Those arrested were Malam Jibril Ibrahim, Mohammed Abubakar, Tukur Adam, alias Dogo, Musa Ibrahim and Iro Ibrahim.

Daaor said the suspects had

confessed to their alleged involvement in the Jattu kidnapping and other kidnapping operations in Edo and Kogi states.

He said information obtained from the suspects led operatives to the Okpella forest, where they recovered two fabricated AK-47 rifles, one

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OBSTETRIC FISTULA CENTRE TOUR: The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, the Chief Medical Director, National Obstetric Fistula Centre, Benin City, Prof. Ileogben Sunday-Adeoye and other stakeholders, during a tour around the facility, at Ugbor Benin City.

Edo First Lady lauds free services at National Obstetric Fistula Centre, pledges support

BENIN CITY

OLIVER IJIOGBE

The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Edo State, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has pledged sustained support for the National Obstetric Fistula Centre, Benin City, and promised to take awareness of its free treatment services to rural communities across the state.

Mrs. Anani made the commitment on Tuesday when she visited the Centre, inspected its facilities and held discussions with members of the management team.

She reaffirmed that the health and well-being of wom-

en, children and other vulnerable groups remained a priority of the Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration, noting that health-care was a key component of the administration's SHINE Agenda.

According to her, the Office of the First Lady would collaborate with the Centre to expand access to obstetric fistula care and create wider awareness of the availability of free treatment.

She said the collaboration would target women across the 18 Local Government Areas of the state, particularly those living in rural and un-

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and Public-Private Partnership, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, United Nations Youth Global Agency, United Nations Youth Global Foundation, World United Nations Youth Global Foundation, World Entrepreneurship University Limited, World Enterprise University Limited, FCT Investment Promotion Act, FCT Promotion Agency and Olubadan of Ibadan Foundation.

The committee said it had identified approximately 58 bank accounts associated with the entities but stressed that the discovery did not, by itself, establish that all the accounts or transactions were unlawful.

The panel also disclosed the discovery of a letter dated November 7, 2024, purportedly issued by the State House to the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation requesting the creation or issuance of an administrative code for the PFIPC.

According to the committee, the letter was allegedly signed by one Akambi Adewale, a name it said could not be found in the records of the State House.

The lawmakers raised concerns over what they described as "institutional lapses" in the handling of the matter by the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and the Budget Office.

The committee said the OAGF acknowledged that its response to the purported request should have been transmitted

through a properly authenticated official channel rather than handed directly to Adeyemi.

It said it was investigating whether the circumstances arose from negligence, failure to comply with verification procedures, disregard for due process or deliberate facilitation, adding that no official would be condemned without a fair hearing.

On Gbajabiamila, the committee said available evidence showed that he acted promptly after concerns about the purported organisation were brought to his attention and contacted relevant security and investigative agencies, including the Nigeria Police Force, Department of State Services, Office of the National Security Adviser and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The committee stressed that verification of an institution's legal existence was fundamental before it could be recognised within the Federal Budget Framework.

It said the investigation remained ongoing and would examine the creation, activities, financial dealings and alleged use of government documents by the purported PFIPC.

The panel said its preliminary findings would be subjected to further scrutiny before a final report is presented to the House, adding that proven breaches of public duty would not be overlooked and that the full extent of the alleged fraud and those responsible must be established.

Edo First Lady lauds free services...

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derserved communities.

Mrs. Anani observed that many women suffering from obstetric fistula might not be aware that treatment was available at no cost, stressing the need for sustained sensitisation and community-level advocacy.

She also disclosed plans to engage the South-South Governors' Wives Forum to raise awareness about the Centre and its services across the region.

Describing the facility as a landmark development for the South-South, Mrs. Anani expressed delight that Edo State hosts the first government-owned obstetric fistula hospital in the region.

"The good news is that surgery is completely free. The Federal Government has taken it upon itself to provide transportation and feeding allowance. The goal is to ensure that our women are healthy," she said.

She commended the management of the Centre for its efforts and pledged to serve as an ambassador for the campaign to eliminate obstetric fistula in Edo State and the South-South region.

Speaking specifically on the planned rural awareness campaign, Mrs. Anani said the in-

itiative would focus on reaching women in communities where access to information and specialised healthcare services remained limited.

"Taking it to the interior, the goal is to ensure that women in the rural areas know what the hospital is about. Don't hide it. Come out, speak about it because there's treatment for it. Sometimes, the problem we have is that most people do not know that they can get help, and the help is totally free," she said.

The First Lady also appreciated the Federal Government and the Edo State Government for their support towards the establishment of the Centre, including the provision of a temporary facility and the allocation of 18 hectares of land for the development of a permanent site.

Earlier, the Medical Director of the National Obstetric Fistula Centre, Benin City, Prof. Ileogben Sunday Adeoye, appreciated Mrs. Anani for the visit and her commitment to supporting the Centre's activities.

Prof. Adeoye explained that the Centre was established by the Federal Government to provide specialised obstetric fistula services to women in the South-South region and beyond.

Edo First Lady champions digital parenting initiative to protect, empower children

BENIN CITY

The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady, Edo State, Mrs. Edesili Okpebholo Anani, has pledged support for the Edo Digital Parenting Initiative, describing it as a strategic intervention to strengthen families and equip parents to effectively respond to the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

Mrs. Anani made the commitment when she received the Team Leader of The Genius Learning and Development Company, Dr. Tejiri Chunu, and his team during a courtesy visit to Government House, Benin City.

She said the growing exposure of children to digital technology, coupled with their

increasing curiosity and technological sophistication, made it imperative for parents to adopt new approaches that encourage communication, understanding and responsible use of technology.

According to her, traditional parenting methods that relied largely on shutting children down, limiting conversations or imposing restrictions were no longer sufficient in dealing with the realities of today's society.

She stressed the need for parents to evolve with the times by understanding the digital environment in which their children live and providing appropriate guidance, protection and support.

Mrs. Anani proposed that the initiative be driven through

her pet project, Better Life Empowerment and Care Foundation (BeLiEF and Care), while exploring partnerships with relevant government agencies, development partners, corporate organisations and other stakeholders.

She noted that the digital parenting initiative aligns with the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo's efforts to promote human capital development and digital literacy, while preparing Edo's younger generation to harness the benefits of technology without being exposed unnecessarily to its associated risks.

Earlier, Dr. Tejiri Chunu commended Mrs. Anani for her sustained commitment to the welfare of women, chil-

dren and families, as well as the state government's efforts to promote digital literacy and human capital development.

Chunu explained that digital parenting goes beyond restricting children's access to smartphones and other digital devices.

He said it involves protecting, connecting with, guiding and empowering children to navigate online risks while maximising the educational, social and developmental opportunities provided by technology.

He expressed optimism that the partnership would contribute to building digitally responsible families and creating a safer and more productive online environment for children in Edo State.



MEETING:

The Coordinator, Office of the First Lady Mrs Edesili Okpebholo Anani with delegates from the Genius and Development Company, during a meeting at the Government House in Benin City.

Fubara signs ₦1.84trn 2026 Rivers budget

DIVINE JOHN OSHONE

PORT HARCOURT

Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, has signed the ₦1.84 trillion 2026 Appropriation Bill into law, with major emphasis on infrastructure, education,

healthcare and economic development.

The budget, tagged "Budget of Resilience for Growth and Development," was signed shortly after its passage by the Rivers State House of Assembly.

Fubara, who described the

budget as a "breath of fresh air," said its implementation would deliver tangible benefits to residents across the state's 23 local government areas.

He commended the lawmakers for the speedy passage of the bill and reaffirmed his administration's commitment

to transparent governance and effective project execution.

The governor said priority would be given to projects with direct impact on the people, particularly roads, schools, healthcare facilities and other critical infrastructure.

He urged ministries, departments and agencies to ensure that funds allocated to them were judiciously utilised and that projects were executed according to approved standards and timelines.

The signing of the budget marks the beginning of its implementation, with the state government expected to roll out the various capital and development programmes contained in the fiscal plan.

The governor expressed confidence that the 2026 budget would strengthen the state's economy, improve public services and promote sustainable development across Rivers State.

Edo police nab 13 kidnappers, 19 cultists...

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pump-action rifle, six magazines and 200 rounds of live AK-47 ammunition on September 1.

The commissioner said efforts were ongoing to arrest other members of the criminal network.

Daaor warned criminals operating in Edo State that the Command would intensify its operations against kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, human trafficking, SGBV and other forms of criminality.

"Edo State is not a safe haven for criminals. Whether you are a kidnapper, armed robber, cultist, trafficker or involved in any other criminal activity, the Command will pursue you, wherever you hide," he said.

He, however, assured law-abiding residents that the police would continue to conduct their operations professionally, respect citizens' rights and remain accountable to the public.

The commissioner appealed to residents to provide credible and timely information to security agencies, stressing that com-

munity partnership remained vital to combating crime.

He commended police personnel, sister security agencies, hunters, forest guards and community partners for their sacrifices and support in the fight against crime.

Daaor also urged journalists to verify information and report responsibly, particularly on sensitive security matters.

He reiterated the Command's commitment to making Edo safer and more conducive for residents, businesses and visitors.

2027: CAN warns politicians, supporters against dragging Jesus into campaign battles

ODINI AMAKA VIVIAN AND
OBAMISO FAITH

ABUJA

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has cautioned politicians and their supporters against invoking the name of Jesus Christ to advance partisan political interests ahead of the 2027 gener-

al elections.

CAN President, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, said political differences and campaign activities should not lead to the misuse of the name of Christ or turn religious reverence into a tool for promoting individual politicians or political parties.

Okoh issued the warning in a statement on Wednesday

while reacting to recent comments by Precious Oruche, popularly known as Mama Pee, in which she referenced Jesus Christ while making a political point involving Peter Obi and the 2027 elections.

"Jesus Christ is not a political candidate, a campaign slogan or a weapon to advance one politician against another. His

name is sacred and should not be dragged into partisan contests in ways that elevate human beings, however popular or admired, to a place that belongs to God alone," Okoh said.

The CAN president acknowledged that political discussions could become increasingly passionate as political parties and their supporters begin positioning

themselves for the 2027 elections.

He, however, urged Christians and other Nigerians to exercise restraint and responsibility when discussing political figures and issues involving religion.

According to him, citizens have the constitutional right to support or criticise any political candidate, but political loyalty should not become so intense that it diminishes the reverence accorded to Jesus Christ.

Okoh noted that Nigerians were free to support candidates such as Peter Obi, Atiku Abubakar, Bola Tinubu or any other contender in the forthcoming elections.

The CAN president however, stressed that political support should be based on candidates' qualifications, character, records and policy proposals rather than religious comparisons that could elevate politicians to a status reserved for God.

He also urged supporters of different political parties to maintain civility and avoid statements capable of turning political disagreements into religious confrontations.

Archbishop Okoh further advised politicians and their supporters to focus their campaigns on issues that directly affect the lives and future of Nigerians.

He said political debates should centre on competence, character, policies, performance, leadership capacity and concrete plans to address the country's challenges.

"Let us argue about competence, character, policies, performance and the future of Nigeria. Let us disagree passionately if necessary, but let us leave Jesus Christ out of our partisan quarrels," he said.

Okoh also warned against presenting politicians as messianic figures capable of providing salvation or solving every problem confronting the country.

He maintained that no individual seeking political office should be elevated to a status that compromises Christian convictions or diminishes the significance of Christ.

"No politician is the Messiah. No political party represents the salvation of the human spirit that Christ epitomises. And no electoral victory is worth compromising the honour due to His name," he said.

As the country moves towards another major electoral season, the CAN president called on politicians, their supporters and Nigerians generally to conduct political conversations responsibly and respectfully.



TINUBU TORCHBEARERS:

From left: APC Deputy National Women Leader, Hajia Zainab Ibrahim; Oyo State APC Governorship Candidate, Sen. Sharafadeen Alli; representative of First Lady and Minister of Women Affairs, Hajiji Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim; National Women Leader of APC, Dr Mary Idele, during the inauguration of Tinubu Torchbearers in Oyo State, in Ibadan recently.

Edo residents back scavenger profiling, demand tougher sanctions

BENEDICT OKATE

BENIN CITY

Residents of Edo State have welcomed the state government's decision to profile scavengers operating across the state, describing the move as a necessary step towards curbing vandalism, theft and other criminal activities allegedly associated with some operators in the scrap-metal trade.

The reactions followed renewed government action against scavengers, popularly known as "iron condemn," amid growing concerns over the alleged vandalism of both

private and public infrastructure, with reports linking some operators to criminal activities in parts of the state.

A resident, Mr. Osazuwa Aguinede, said proper identification and registration would help relevant government agencies and security operatives distinguish genuine scrap-metal collectors from criminal elements using scavenging as a cover. "I urge the government to ensure that the exercise is not used to victimise legitimate operators, insisting that those engaged in lawful economic activities should be allowed to continue their businesses un-

der clearly defined regulations," he said.

For another resident, Engineer Paul Obasuyi, an estate valuer, the government's profiling initiative represents an opportunity to establish accountability within an informal sector that has operated for years with limited or no regulation. "This is a worthy initiative by Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, and it should be commended," he asserted.

For Madam Stella Ulinfo, however, the situation where scavengers, even after being profiled, are allowed to roam the streets, especially in residential communities, should be totally banned. "There

should be a central market where anyone who has scraps to sell can take them, stressing that the process can still be compromised," she said.

Another resident, who pleaded anonymity, called for closer cooperation between scrap dealers, community leaders and security agencies, arguing that information from those operating within the sector could assist in detecting stolen property.

The consensus among residents, therefore, appears to be that the government's latest action is welcome but must be accompanied by effective regulation, intelligence gathering and strict enforcement.

2027: Tinubu deserves second term based on policy gains — Omokri

ABUJA

Nigeria's Ambassador-designate to Mexico, Mr. Reno Omokri, has urged Nigerians to re-elect President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 presidential election, arguing that the administration has recorded measurable gains in key sectors of the economy.

Omokri said his support for Tinubu was based on what he described as facts and policy outcomes rather than political considerations, stressing that he had defended the President even before his appointment as ambassador-designate.

He made the remarks in an interview on the City Boy Movement (CBM) Podcast, anchored by Mr. O'tega Ogra, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Digital and New Media, on Tuesday in Abuja.

According to him, the Tinubu administration has recorded progress in education, infrastructure, economic growth, security, manufacturing and financial stability, despite the challenges associated with its economic reforms.

"The reason we are spending trillions of naira today fighting insecurity is because, in the past, we did not spend billions fighting illiteracy," he said.

Omokri identified Nigeria's large out-of-school population as one of the country's major challenges, stressing that sustained investment in education was critical to addressing inse-

curity, unemployment and other social problems.

He cited the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) as a major intervention, saying more than one million Nigerian students were currently benefiting from the student-loan scheme.

"If you have more than one million university students who are only in school because of NELFUND loans, that is significant because they will graduate, become employable, start businesses and expand the economy," he said.

The ambassador-designate also claimed that Nigeria's economy had expanded by about \$67 billion in two years, while the country had strengthened its manufacturing capacity.

He listed improved financial stability and infrastructure development among the reasons Nigerians should consider giving the Tinubu administration another term.

Omokri specifically mentioned major road projects, including the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and the Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway, which he said would reduce travel time, lower transportation costs and facilitate the movement of goods across the country.

"The Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway will reduce travel time from Calabar to Lagos significantly, while the Sokoto-Badagry Superhighway will cut journey time and put more money and time back into Nigerians' pockets," he said.

Police launch Vigilant App, MTN Network to strengthen fraud reporting, internal communication

OLIVER IJIOGBE

ABUJA

The Nigeria Police Force has launched a digital platform, the NPF Vigilant App, to enhance the reporting of suspected financial fraud and strengthen interaction between the police and members of the public.

The Force also unveiled the NPF-MTN Closed User Group (CUG) Network, designed to provide police personnel across the country with secure and affordable communication services to improve emergency

coordination and operational response.

The initiatives were formally launched by the Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Disu, at the NPF Conference Centre, Jabi, Abuja.

Speaking at the event, the Inspector-General described the two platforms as practical measures in the Force's ongoing digital transformation programme, stressing their potential to improve policing and strengthen communication.

Disu said the Vigilant App would provide an improved channel for members of the public to engage with the po-

lice, particularly in reporting suspected financial fraud, while the CUG Network would enhance communication among police officers.

The Deputy Inspector-General of Police in charge of Information and Communication Technology, Fayode Mustapha, said the initiatives demonstrated the Force's commitment to deploying technology-driven solutions to improve service delivery and strengthen public engagement.

According to him, the digital innovations would provide more efficient mechanisms for

citizens to communicate with the police while also supporting personnel in carrying out their operational responsibilities.

He urged Nigerians to download the NPF Vigilant App from the Google Play Store and Apple App Store and use the platform responsibly to report suspected cases of financial fraud.

The Vigilant App enables citizens to submit reports of suspected fraud, upload supporting evidence, track the progress of their cases and receive feedback from the relevant authorities.

#14bn wiped off Nigerian equities market as stocks fall 0.5%

TALBORT HOPE

ABUJA

Investors in the Nigerian equities market lost about N14 billion on Tuesday as the domestic bourse declined by 0.5 per cent, extending a sell off driven by profit taking and renewed caution among market participants.

The drop brought an end

to the market's recent positive run and reduced the value of listed equities as investors moved to lock in gains from stocks that had appreciated in previous sessions. Weak market breadth, with declining stocks outnumbering gainers, further reflected the negative trading sentiment.

The downturn was largely characterised by selling pressure

across several counters as investors reassessed their positions amid prevailing economic uncertainties, interest rate expectations and broader market movements. Analysts said the retreat was likely a temporary correction following the market's recent gains, although continued selling could deepen the losses.

The decline in market capitalisation also translated into a

reduction in investors' overall wealth, although the loss represents changes in the market value of listed securities rather than an immediate cash loss suffered by every investor.

The performance underscores the volatile nature of the Nigerian stock market, where investor sentiment can shift quickly in response to corporate developments, economic

conditions, interest-rate expectations and broader market movements.

Despite the negative session, market watchers are expected to monitor subsequent trading sessions closely to determine whether the decline represents a temporary correction or the beginning of a more sustained bearish trend.

The Nigerian Exchange (NGX) has recorded significant swings in recent months, with investors responding to

earnings reports, corporate actions and changing expectations about the domestic economy. The market's performance has also been influenced by the search for attractive returns amid prevailing economic and inflationary pressures.

Analysts have therefore urged investors to remain cautious and base investment decisions on the fundamentals of individual companies rather than short term market movements.



COURTESY VISIT:

General Officer Commanding (GOC) 6 Div. of the Nigerian Army, Maj.-Gen. Everest Ifeanyi Okoro (L), receiving a souvenir from Gov. Siminalayi Fubara of Rivers, during the visit of the GOC to the Governor in Port Harcourt.

Police, education ministry join forces to secure Edo schools ahead of resumption

MIKE OSAROIGAGBON

LAGOS

With primary and secondary schools in Edo State expected to resume the 2026/2027 academic session on Monday, September 14, 2026, the Police Command and the Ministry of Education have intensified collaboration to strengthen security across schools.

The renewed security partnership followed a meeting between the Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command,

CP Patrick Daaor, and the Commissioner for Education, Hon. Osifo Washington, at the Command Headquarters, Benin City, on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Edo State Command, ASP Eno Ikoedem, disclosed this in a statement on Wednesday.

ASP Ikoedem said the meeting centred on the activation and strengthening of the Safe Schools Operations across the state ahead of the resumption of academic activities.

As part of the measures, Daaor directed the immediate dissemination of the official telephone numbers of all Divisional Police Officers and Area Commanders to schools within their respective jurisdictions.

The move, according to the Police, will give school authorities direct access to senior operational officers for prompt reporting of threats, real-time information sharing and rapid response to security emergencies.

She stated that the Police and the Ministry also agreed to constitute a joint enquiry

and assessment team to visit schools across the state and identify security threats and vulnerabilities.

The team will subsequently recommend measures to close identified security gaps and strengthen the protection of students, teachers and other members of the school community.

ASP Ikoedem said the meeting ended with both institutions reaffirming their commitment to sustained partnership towards ensuring that Edo schools remain safe havens for teaching and learning.

NAF, NPF deepen security cooperation ahead of 2027 polls

DAVID MIRACLE

ABUJA

The Nigerian Air Force (NAF) and the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) have strengthened their strategic security partnership ahead of the 2027 general elections, with both institutions reaffirming their commitment to closer coordination, intelligence sharing and joint operational efforts aimed at maintaining peace and protecting the electoral process.

The renewed commitment was made on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, when the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Sunday Kelvin Aneke, paid a courtesy visit to the Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Rilwan Disu, at the Force Headquarters in Abuja.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the two senior security officials to discuss emerging security concerns across the country and explore areas where greater cooperation between the Nigerian Air Force and the Nigeria Police

Force could strengthen national security.

A statement on the engagement said Aneke emphasised the importance of sustained inter-agency collaboration, particularly at a time when the country continues to face evolving security challenges across different regions.

He noted that effective coordination among security agencies remained critical to addressing threats, preventing crime and ensuring the safety of citizens, especially as the country moves closer to the

2027 general elections.

The Air Chief stressed the need for improved intelligence sharing and closer operational coordination between the two institutions, saying that existing capabilities and expertise should be better integrated to respond effectively to security situations.

According to him, stronger collaboration between the NAF and the police would enable both agencies to maximise their respective strengths while reducing gaps that could affect security operations.

NYSC extends service of 27 corps members in Osun, sanctions 18 absconders

TALBORT HOPE

OSUN

The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has extended the service year of 27 corps members in Osun State for various violations, while presenting Certificates of National Service to 1,702 graduates who successfully completed their mandatory one year service.

The Osun State Coordinator of the NYSC, Ekeng Kubianga, disclosed this during activities held to mark the passing out of corps members in the state.

Kubianga explained that the affected corps members were sanctioned after being found to have breached some of the rules guiding the NYSC scheme.

He added that 18 other corps members were also sanctioned after absconding from their places of primary assignment during the service year.

The coordinator said the disciplinary measures were taken

in accordance with the NYSC Bye Laws, stressing that corps members are expected to respect the rules of the scheme throughout their service period.

While congratulating the outgoing corps members, Kubianga urged them to make good use of the experience and opportunities provided by the NYSC programme.

He encouraged them to remain committed to hard work, integrity, discipline and service to their communities, saying these values would help them as they begin the next stage of their lives.

The coordinator also advised the corps members to consider entrepreneurship and skills acquisition as alternative means of building sustainable livelihoods in the face of the challenges in the employment sector.

He further called on them to remain security conscious and law abiding wherever they find themselves after leaving the scheme.

FG makes institutions' ranking compulsory, expands scope to polytechnics, colleges

FIDELIA FREEMAN

ABUJA

The Federal Government has expanded Nigeria's national tertiary education ranking framework to cover universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, making participation compulsory for all institutions.

The Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, announced the development during a meeting with the Nigerian Universities Ranking Advisory Committee (NURAC), according to a statement issued in Abuja by his Special Adviser on Media and Communications, Mr Ikharo Attah.

Alausa said the expanded ranking framework was part of the education reforms of President Bola Tinubu's administration under the Renewed Hope Agenda and the Nigeria Education Sector Renewal Initiative (NESRI).

He explained that the initiative was designed to strengthen quality, accountability, institutional performance and global competitiveness across Nigeria's tertiary education system.

According to him, the ranking exercise would provide institutions with clear benchmarks for assessing their performance, identifying areas for improvement and measuring their progress, while encouraging healthy competition among institutions.

Alausa disclosed that the 2026/2027 ranking exercise for universities would begin in September, while the committee would determine the appropriate timeline for extending the exercise to polytechnics and colleges of education.

He added that the Federal Government would fund the exercise through the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund).

Refinery owners urge FG to curb fuel imports, back local refineries

ABUJA

The Crude Oil Refinery Owners Association of Nigeria has urged the Federal Government to urgently strengthen the domestic refining industry and reduce the country's dependence on imported petroleum products.

The association made the call in a position paper titled, "Position Paper on the Urgent Need for Strategic Government Intervention to Strengthen Nigeria's Domestic Refining Industry," on Thursday while citing the recent intervention by United States President Donald Trump in the American refining sector

as a lesson for Nigeria.

The association argued that Nigeria had an even stronger case for government intervention because local refinery operators faced foreign-exchange pressures, high borrowing costs, limited access to long-tenor financing, crude supply challenges, inadequate infrastructure and high logistics costs.

"It is sound industrial policy. It is energy-security policy. And ultimately, it is economic policy," the association stated.

CORAN expressed concern

that Nigeria, despite being one of Africa's largest crude oil producers, continued to experience difficulties in supplying crude to domestic refineries on commercially workable terms.

The association said that during the first quarter of 2026, 61.9 million barrels were allocated to domestic refineries while producers offered 68.7 million barrels, but only 28.5 million

barrels were actually delivered.

According to CORAN, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission identified pricing gaps between producers and domestic refiners as one of the major reasons crude offered did not translate into completed transactions.

The association, however, acknowledged improvements in the second quarter, saying NUPRC reported that 53.7 million barrels of crude oil and

condensate were supplied to local refineries, representing reported Domestic Crude Supply Obligation performance of 97.4 per cent.

"CORAN acknowledges and commends this improvement," it stated.

The association, however, stressed that crude allocation alone was insufficient, noting that refineries required crude delivered under commercially sustainable conditions.

Boosting Tourism: Corner 47 pledges to transform Tinubu fountain park on Lagos Island

RAHEEM IBRAHIM

LAGOS

Corner 47 Group, facility managers of the popular Tinubu Fountain Park on Lagos Island, has pledged to transform the historic recreational facility into what it described as Lagos' first "smart park", which will eventually boost tourism in the state.

The group in a media briefing held at Tinubu square on Wednesday said the project, which commenced in 2024, was designed to restore the park, improve security and provide a more functional and inclusive public space while preserving its historical significance.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Corner 47 Group and Facility Manager of Tinubu Fountain Park, Gbolahan Ogundimu Odusanya, the project was being implemented in collaboration with relevant Lagos State agencies.

He revealed that the group spent about nine months ob-

taining the necessary approvals before commencing the renovation.

Odusanya said, "This project began with a direct call from the Honourable Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Dr Tokunbo Wahab, directing us to proceed to LASPARK for relevant approvals. After approvals, we immediately commenced revamping works to restore the dignity of this monument".

According to him, the Lagos State Parks and Gardens Agency (LASPARK) granted provisional approval and guided the organisation through the process of obtaining clearances from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, adding "That is how serious this administration is about due process".

Odusanya explained that the project was aligned with the Babajide Sanwo-Olu administration's THEMES+ Agenda, particularly its focus on social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance.

**SMART PARK:**

Popular Tinubu Fountain Park on Lagos Island, to become Lagos' first "smart park", courtesy, Corner 47, facility's managers.

Police arrest three suspected Lagos carjackers, recover pistols

LAGOS

The Lagos State Police Command has arrested three suspected members of an armed robbery and carjacking syndicate operating in the Alakuko area of the state.

The suspects, identified as Faruk Rasheed, 20; Olamilekan Ademola, 28; and Abidemi Oluwawemo, 21, were arrested by operatives of the command following what the police described as "credible intelligence."

The command said the suspects allegedly specialised in car snatching and robbing residents of their valuables.

The police spokesperson, SP Abimbola Adebisi, disclosed this in a statement on Thursday, adding that the arrests were part of the command's sustained efforts to tackle armed robbery, carjacking and other violent crimes across Lagos.

According to the statement, "preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects allegedly specialised in car snatching

and robbing innocent citizens of their valuables."

The police said a search conducted on the suspects after their arrest led to the recovery of three locally made firearms and eight rounds of live ammunition.

The statement added, "Two locally made pistols loaded with five cartridges and one locally made revolver pistol loaded with three rounds of 9mm live ammunition" were recovered.

The command said the suspects were currently in police custody, while efforts were ongoing to arrest other members of the alleged syndicate.

However, the police did not disclose details of specific carjacking or robbery incidents allegedly linked to the suspects, the number of vehicles reportedly stolen or the identities of their alleged victims.

It was also not immediately clear when the suspects were arrested or whether they had been charged to court as of the time of filing this report.

NSCDC arrests two armed suspects at Cross River mining site

CALABAR

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Cross River State Command, has arrested two suspects allegedly linked to an armed syndicate that terrorised licensed miners in Yakurr Local Government Area of the state and illegally occupied their mining site.

The State Commandant, Okarama Chuna, disclosed this to journalists at the Command's headquarters in Calabar while parading the suspects.

He said, "Operatives of the Corps stormed a mining site in Agba Iyam in Yakurr LGA of the

state following credible intelligence from members of the public.

"During the raid, the operatives apprehended Stephen Ibang Francis, 34, and Oduwo Emmanuel Obasi, 24, both natives of Nkpani village in Yakurr LGA."

He added that the suspects were found in possession of two locally fabricated firearms and 16 rounds of live ammunition.

The commandant said investigations revealed that the suspects were not just illegal miners but armed enforcers who had turned the mining site into a theatre of violence.

"They operate as armed enforcers. Their main target is

legitimate miners. Their operation involves forcefully arming themselves with locally fabricated firearms, storming mining sites and chasing the mining sites at Agba Iyam community.

"They use these weapons to systematically terrorise, intimidate and violently displace the genuine miners from the site. Once the legal operators flee out of fear for their lives, these criminals take over and work collaboratively over the site to illegally mine and cart away precious solid minerals," he explained.

The commandant further described the raid as a major breakthrough in the command's

aggressive and ongoing kinetic operations against economic saboteurs plundering the state's solid mineral resources.

Chuna also issued a stern warning to other illegal miners and armed syndicates operating in the forests of Cross River, stressing that the Corps would embark on a definitive and uncompromising crackdown on illegal miners and armed syndicates hiding under the guise of mining.

"There will be no era of intimidating legitimate investors and plundering our commonwealth. That era is over. Solid minerals constitute critical national assets.

Kaduna Gov hails Tinubu's tax reforms as JRB holds 160th meeting

KADUNA

Governor Uba Sani of Kaduna State has commended President Bola Tinubu for initiating what he described as fundamental reforms aimed at repositioning Nigeria's tax ecosystem.

Sani gave the commendation on Wednesday in Kaduna while speaking at the 160th meeting of the Joint Revenue Board (JRB), which had the theme: "One Year of Reform; Assessing Progress and Addressing Challenges."

The governor's remarks were contained in a statement issued

by the Communication and Stakeholder Liaison Department of the JRB.

The JRB is the apex body for revenue administration in Nigeria. The meeting provided an opportunity for revenue authorities across the country to assess progress made and challenges encountered one year into the implementation of the tax reforms.

Sani said the reforms had expanded opportunities for domestic resource mobilisation to support national development.

He, however, stressed that the deeper benefit of the reforms

should be the development of strong institutions capable of sustaining the gains and building taxpayers' confidence in the system.

"The objective of the reform should not be simply to collect revenue.

"It should be to build a tax system in which compliance becomes easier, enforcement becomes more intelligent and voluntary compliance becomes a norm," he said.

The governor urged the JRB to use the meeting to identify bottlenecks hindering revenue collection, institutional weaknesses creating friction among

revenue authorities and opportunities for technology to improve efficiency in revenue administration.

In his opening remarks, the Chairman of the JRB, Dr Zacch Adedeji, said the theme of the meeting was a call for the board to take stock of progress recorded in the implementation of the reforms.

Adedeji, who is also the Executive Chairman of the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), was represented at the meeting by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services, NRS, Muhammad Abubakar.

NEWS

Reps panel clears Gbajabiamila of complicity in fake agency probe

ABUJA

The House of Representatives panel has cleared the Chief of Staff to the President, Femi Gbajabiamila, of involvement in the activities of the purported Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council.

The House Ad Hoc Committee probing the alleged inclusion of the organisation in the Federal Government's budget

framework said it found no evidence that Gbajabiamila approved, established, or participated in the council's activities.

The committee chairman, Yusuf Gagdi, disclosed this on Wednesday while presenting the panel's preliminary findings at a press briefing televised by TVC.

The panel said its investigation showed that Gbajabiamila instead alerted security and investigative agencies after concerns about the organisation

were brought to his attention.

It said the concerns were first raised by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission over suspected fraudulent activities and the alleged misuse of institutional materials.

According to the committee, the Chief of Staff responded within a day by contacting the Nigeria Police Force, the Office of the National Security Adviser, the Department of State Services and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

It added that he also directed administrative verification

through relevant government institutions.

The panel said Gbajabiamila later sent further communications seeking investigations and appropriate action when additional concerns emerged, including those surrounding a proposed world investment summit.

"The documentary evidence presently before the Committee does not establish that the Chief of Staff authorised, approved, established or participated in the activities of the purported organisation.

"On the contrary, the evi-

dence demonstrates repeated steps to secure investigation, institutional verification and appropriate administrative action," the committee said.

The committee consequently commended Gbajabiamila, on a preliminary basis, for the security and administrative measures he took whenever the matter was brought to his attention.

The lawmakers also said they established that a letter purportedly appointing Prince Adeniyi Adeyemi as Director-General of the organisation was forged and falsely attribut-

ed to the Presidency.

The document, which purportedly bore Gbajabiamila's authority and signature, was not issued or approved by the Presidency, according to the committee.

The panel said State House records showed that Gbajabiamila neither issued nor signed the appointment letter.

It also found that the letterhead was not an authentic State House letterhead and that its reference number did not conform to the official referencing system.



NEWS CONFERENCE:

From left: PDP, Enugu-South Urban House of Representatives Candidate for 2027 Elections, Mr Obinna Ani; PDP Enugu East Senatorial Candidate, Dr Nweke Chizoba; Director General, Odaa Opuo Campaign Organisation and Protocol Officer, Comrade Chibuzor Nwanna, during a news conference on the inauguration of the Senatorial Candidate's campaigns in Enugu.

Ogun pastor, wife found dead after alleged domestic fight

ABEOKUTA

A Celestial Church of Christ evangelist, Abidemi Odukoya, and his wife, Adenike, have reportedly died in separate circumstances following an alleged domestic altercation at their residence in the Akinode/Ibogun community, Ogun State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the incident occurred in the early hours of Monday, August 25, after the couple allegedly engaged in a domestic dispute that escalated into a physical confrontation.

The altercation reportedly left Adenike unconscious and injured, while her husband allegedly fled the residence.

A former Chairman of the Community Development Association, Adejimi Olawumi, said in a video shared by Arole TV on Wednesday that he was alerted by residents' cries for help and subsequently found the woman lying in a pool of blood.

Olawumi said, "It was around 1am when I heard my neighbours shouting, 'thief, thief.' On my way out, I saw Daniel. I asked him what happened, and he said it was his mum and dad. Then I went to call my neighbours to come out.

"Immediately, we got inside the house and saw the wife in a pool of blood. At that time, there were no vehicles to take her to the hospital.

"The son said he did not see what happened between his mum and dad because he was in the other room. So, we started calling people together."

Olawumi said members of the CDA subsequently noticed that Odukoya was missing and began searching for him.

According to him, they later learnt that the cleric had been hit by a vehicle in the Ifo area of the state.

He said, "When we saw that we did not see the husband, everyone in the CDA came out to look for him everywhere. We called our area chairman to tell him about the incident.

"Later, we heard that Mr Abidemi had been hit by a car in Ifo. The police took him to

the hospital, and we confirmed that he was the one. The CDA then started working on how to bring his remains home.

"We have never heard or seen something like this happen before. We only know that they fight sometimes and settle it among themselves."

Meanwhile, the late evangelist's younger sister, in a video circulating online, claimed that the couple had been involved in repeated disagreements before their deaths.

She said the couple had visited her around April following an earlier altercation, adding that the matter was eventually resolved at a police station.

CSOs demand probe into alleged tear-gassing of Lagos pensioners

LAGOS

Civil society organisations have condemned the Lagos State Government and the state police command over the alleged tear-gassing of elderly pensioners who protested at the Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday.

The groups, under the aegis of the Centre for Human and Socio-Economic Rights and other civil society organisations, demanded an investigation into the incident and accountability for anyone found responsible for the alleged use of force against the retirees.

The pensioners had reportedly gathered at the Assembly gate to demand payment of their outstanding pensions, gratuities and other entitlements.

Speaking at a press conference in Ijaye on Wednesday, the President of the CHSR,

Alex Omotehinse, described the incident as part of what he called a growing pattern of security agencies disrupting peaceful protests in the state.

Omotehinse said, "We have observed that under this constitutional government, it has already become a norm that every protest will be attacked, assaulted and dismembered."

He recalled that CHSR and other civil society organisations were also tear-gassed during a protest by victims of demolition in Lagos in January.

According to him, the latest incident was particularly disturbing because the protesters were elderly pensioners who had spent decades working for the state.

"These aged men and women, they are not activists. They are not motorists. They are aged people that have served Lagos State for about 85 per cent of their lifetime—32, 33, 35 years in service," he said.

Troops neutralise scores of terrorists, recover arms in Zamfara, Kaduna

GUSAU

Troops of the Joint Task Force North West, Operation Fansan Yamma, have neutralised several terrorists and recovered weapons and ammunition during separate operations in Zamfara and Kaduna states.

The operations, conducted on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, were carried out by troops of Sectors 1 and 2 of the military operation as part of efforts to disrupt terrorist activities and the movement of arms across the region.

In Zamfara State, troops of Sector 2, acting on credible intelligence about the movement of terrorists from the Fakai General Area towards Kwanar Jolof and Tashar Dole in Shinkafi and Zurmi Local Government Areas, ambushed the terrorists at Kwanar Jolof.

According to the Media Information Officer of JTF North West Operation Fansan Yamma, Lt Col Aliyu Danja, the troops engaged the terrorists and "neutralised scores of them," while others fled the area.

He said the troops recovered one rocket-propelled grenade launcher, one RPG bomb, one AK-47 rifle, six AK-47 magazines, 106 rounds of ammunition and a motorcycle, among other items.

In a separate operation in Kaduna State, troops of Sector 1 intercepted a vehicle at a snap checkpoint along the Saulawa-Zaria Road.

Danja said one of the passengers resisted the search of his bag and attempted to escape after he was compelled to open it, prompting troops to pursue and neutralise him.

He added that a subsequent search of the bag uncovered 793 rounds of ammunition concealed inside garri.

"The vehicle and its driver are currently in military custody for further investigation," he said.

The military spokesman said the operations were part of the sustained offensive by Operation Fansan Yamma to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt the flow of arms and ammunition and deny terrorists freedom of action across the Joint Operations Area.

How I made N10m monthly from akara business — Akwa Ibom gov

UYO

Akwa Ibom State Governor, Umo Eno, has revealed that he once made not less than N10m monthly from his akara and bread business before venturing into politics.

Eno made the disclosure during the state's monthly covenant prayer service on Tuesday, which started trending on Wednesday.

The governor said he started the business by selling akara and bread, which he packaged as "Akara Burger", before expanding into a coffee shop.

"We still have that shop there. I started selling Akara and bread. Back then, I was doing Akara Burger. We open the bread and put it inside for you. People going to Exxon Mobil will buy it in the morning, take coffee.

"We started coffee shop and then they will take it. Every month, that Akara business used to give me nothing less than N10 million in a month."

Eno said customers, particularly workers heading to ExxonMobil in the mornings, patronised the business.

He said the experience

taught him lessons about entrepreneurship and building businesses from small beginnings.

The governor's comment comes months after First Lady, Oluremi Tinubu, sparked reactions when she encouraged Nigerians to explore small businesses such as akara and kuli-kuli as part of efforts to improve their livelihoods.

Speaking after a Renewed Hope Initiative meeting with wives of state governors in Abuja in June, the First Lady said such businesses could be started with relatively little capital.

"We're trying to give hope, and

to start Akara business doesn't take a lot of money. To start roasting corn, or somebody even said kuli kuli doesn't take much. We didn't give them a loan; we gave it to them as a grant."

Her comments attracted criticism on social media, with some Nigerians accusing her of being out of touch with the economic realities facing citizens.

She later defended the initiative, saying the empowerment programme was not limited to akara sellers but also covered tomato sellers, roasted plantain sellers, pepper and vegetable traders.

World Bank backs tariff, subsidy reforms in Nigeria's power sector

ABUJA

The World Bank Group has said it will support reforms to Nigeria's electricity tariff and subsidy frameworks as part of efforts to restore financial sustainability in the power sector.

The World Bank disclosed this in its Country Partnership Framework for the Federal Republic of Nigeria for the period FY26-FY32.

According to the document, the World Bank's intervention will focus on improving electricity access and reliability for households and businesses through both on-grid and off-grid solutions, in line with Nigeria's Mission 300 Compact targets.

"The WBG will also support reforms to restore financial sustainability, focusing on tariff and subsidy frameworks, competitive investment planning, and sound sector regula-

tion," the document stated.

The World Bank said Nigeria currently had the world's largest electricity access deficit, with more than 86 million people without access to electricity.

It noted that frequent power outages have forced households and businesses to rely on expensive generators, which had negatively affected the productivity of firms.

The development finance institution further stated that the

financial position of the electricity sector remained unsustainable, with tariff shortfalls estimated at \$2.45bn by the end of 2025.

It said its support would enable the mobilisation of private capital for renewable energy expansion and grid densification, with the aim of improving the resilience of the power sector while advancing affordability and access.

The World Bank also added

that it would continue to support the Nigeria Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up platform, which it said would catalyse private capital for investments in mini-grids and standalone solar systems on a large scale.

It added that it would assist the Federal Government in developing well-structured

public-private partnerships and private investment frameworks across the generation, transmission and distribution segments.

The support, according to the bank, would include project preparation, transaction structuring and transparent competitive processes to attract private investors.



INAUGURATION:

From left: Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment Dr Olajimoke Oduwole; Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris and Minister of Education, Dr Maruf Alauda, during a news conference on the inauguration of 'Hire from Nigeria' Campaign in Abuja recently.

Egbin Power begins 11th annual scholarship programme

LAGOS

Egbin Power has commenced the 11th edition of its annual scholarship programme, with over 250 students from its host communities participating in the 2026 pre-test exercise.

The power generation company said in a statement that the programme would provide free quality education to outstanding students selected from primary and secondary schools across its host communities.

The scholarship scheme, established under what the company called its Personal Corporate Social Responsibility initiative, is aimed at advancing

quality education and creating opportunities for young people in the communities.

The company noted that the programme was also in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, which calls for "inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all".

The 2026 edition will feature an education fair, boot camp, mentorship sessions and play-group activities designed to improve participants' academic performance and develop their life skills, discipline, confidence and leadership qualities.

The Chief Executive Officer of Egbin Power, Mokhtar Bounour, said the company re-

mained committed to investing in education as a means of supporting development in its host communities.

"As a responsible organisation, we remain committed to accelerating development around us. Education is one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to create that impact, and our scholarship programme is a deliberate investment in the future of our communities.

"At Egbin Power, we believe our responsibility goes beyond generating electricity.

We also have a responsibility to help generate opportunities, nurture potential and enable dreams. Through this pro-

gramme, we are investing in young people who will become the leaders, professionals and change-makers of tomorrow.

"The legacy we want to build is one of lasting value, where quality education becomes a foundation for individual progress, stronger communities and a better society. This is our commitment to shared success," Bounour stated.

Beyond the scholarship programme, Egbin Power said it continued to implement corporate social responsibility initiatives covering healthcare, youth empowerment, community infrastructure and human capital development in its host communities.

NARTO credits fuel subsidy removal, local refining for sustained naira stability

LAGOS

The National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) has credited the stability of the Nigerian naira to the Federal Government's removal of fuel subsidy and the expansion of the country's domestic refining capacity.

Speaking during an interview on Channels Television's The Morning Brief, the National President of NARTO, Yusuf Othman, said that the removal of fuel subsidy significantly reduced foreign exchange pressure due to fuel importation.

"We have all along been clamouring for the removal of subsidies, and it is for the benefit of everybody, including Nigeria," Othman said on the breakfast show.

"Although we are feeling the pain in our pockets, you've noticed that the naira has been stable for a long time. One of the reasons for this stability is the withdrawal of the subsidy and local refining, so there is not as much pressure on the demand for dollars."

In September 2024, the Dangote refinery, Africa's largest, started producing petrol in what was a game-changer for the oil-rich country that frequently faces gasoline shortages.

The 650,000-barrel-a-day refinery built by Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote began producing diesel and aviation fuel in January of that year. The country has had to rely on costly petrol imports to keep cars running because it lacks refineries.

Othman's comments come amid broader debates about the removal of the fuel subsidy.

The Federal Government announced the removal of the fuel subsidy during the inauguration of President Bola Tinubu in May 2023. Following the development, the cost of the essential commodity moved from about N200 per litre to around N1,300, depending on the location.

Opposition politicians have demanded a reversal of the policy, blaming it for the high cost of living and inflation in Nigeria.

Navy says 'Sophisticated' syndicates are behind crude oil theft

LAGOS

The Nigerian Navy says those behind crude oil theft and illegal refining in the country are "sophisticated" and "coordinated". However, it warned that there is no "hiding place" for criminals.

Speaking during his appearance on Channels Television's The Morning Brief, the Director, Naval Information, Navy Captain Abiodun Folorunsho, said it takes a lot to carry out a successful crude oil theft; thus, those behind it cannot be labelled "petty thieves".

"These syndicates are very, very coordinated and very, very sophisticated. You don't steal crude at that scale without some wherewithal to be able to make it happen," Folorunsho said on Thursday.

"I mean, when you're talking about metric tonnes, you're talking about ships, and you know what it takes to operate at sea. It's not something that you just come by on the road. So yes, you're right. But again, when you look at the reward for a successful heist, you would understand why peo-

ple will band together; people will invest in stuff like this to ensure that they're able to take some of these for themselves."

He spoke hours after the Nigerian Navy announced what it described as a significant operational gain in its fight against crude oil theft and illegal refining.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Nigerian Navy said it discovered three suspected illegal refining sites, six reservoirs and approximately 99,000 litres of products suspected to be stolen crude oil and illegally refined Automotive Gas Oil (AGO).

The products were recovered in its operational areas in Rivers and Delta states.

Reacting to the development, the Nigerian Navy vowed to intensify the fight against crude oil theft and other crimes in the country's waterways.

The Director of Naval Information said that with the "painstaking investments by the Federal Government", including the acquisition of some of the finest maritime surveillance equipment, there is no "hiding place" for oil thieves.

NLNG/SEPNU leads as domestic cooking gas supply rises

ABUJA

Nigeria's domestic cooking gas supply rose to 5,332 tonnes per day in July 2026, with NLNG/SEPNU emerging as the largest contributor, according to data from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority.

The NMDPRA's July 2026 midstream and downstream statistics showed that total liquefied petroleum gas supply increased from 5,100 tonnes per day in June

to 5,332 tonnes per day in July.

NLNG/SEPNU supplied 2,031 tonnes per day through vessels, representing about 38 per cent of the total supply during the month.

Other processing plants supplied 1,513 tonnes per day through trucks, while the Dangote Petroleum Refinery supplied 829 tonnes per day.

Imports accounted for 959 tonnes per day.

The figures showed that domestic sources supplied 4,373 tonnes per day, representing

about 82 per cent of the total LPG supply in July, while imports accounted for the remaining 18 per cent.

The July supply level was the highest recorded in the 13-month period covered by the NMDPRA data.

LPG supply stood at 4,500 tonnes per day in July 2025 before rising to 5,000 tonnes in August and declining to 3,900 tonnes in September last year.

It subsequently increased to 4,500 tonnes in October, 5,000 tonnes in November and 5,200

tonnes in December.

In January 2026, supply stood at 5,100 tonnes per day before falling to 4,700 tonnes in February and March, 4,500 tonnes in April and 4,100 tonnes in May.

The supply level then rose to 5,100 tonnes per day in June before reaching 5,332 tonnes in July.

The latest figures indicate a continued strengthening of domestic LPG supply, with local sources now accounting for the bulk of the cooking gas available in the country.

NEWS

2027: Ondo APC elders urge unity for Tinubu's re-election

BENIN CITY
ABDUL-KADIR ABDULLAH

The elders of the All Progressives Congress in Ondo State have called on members of various groups in the party to unite and work for the re-election of President Bola Tinubu in 2027.

The Chairman of the Elders Forum, Mr Demola Ijabiyi, stated this during a meeting of the group in Akure, the state capital, on Wednesday. He said, "As elders and committed stakeholders in the political development of Ondo State, we consider it part of our responsibility to speak when necessary, to commend where

commendation is deserved, to advise where counsel is required, to caution where restraint has become necessary and, above all, to promote peace, unity and political stability within our party. "There appears to be a dangerous tendency to interpret

every political development in Ondo State in terms of who has defeated whom. Who won? Who lost? Who controls the party? Who has been humiliated? Who has been elevated? "This mentality must stop if we genuinely intend to deliver Ondo State overwhelmingly

for President Tinubu. There is no victory yet to celebrate. The campaign has not been fought. The election has not been held. The votes have not been counted. "Our political energy should therefore be directed towards mobilisation, reconciliation and expansion of the

President's support base. Every tendency within the APC that can bring votes should be accommodated. Every genuine Tinubu supporter should be encouraged. Every political leader capable of mobilising people should have a role.

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENTS
This is to notify the general public that the original land documents i.e. Oba's Approval and Deed of Transfer Agreement; in respect of 100ft by 200ft, situate and lying at Ward 37B Evboriaria Community Ikpoba Okha Local Government Area of Edo State, bought by **OKUONGHAE PRECIOUS FAITH** on the 10th March 1999 from Bless Emezurike of No 36 Old Sapele Road Behind Exclusive Stores, Benin City, have got missed. The said documents got missed/lost in transit in Benin City in 2001. All efforts to recover same proved abortive hence this public notice.

Signed:
OKUONGHAE PRECIOUS FAITH

PUBLIC NOTICE
CAVEAT EMPTOR
The general public is hereby notified that, the property known and called as **OSEYOMON'S HOUSE** and its appurtenances, lying, situate and being opposite S.Dory Ikpasaja's house, Uromi/Ubiaja Road, Efandion, Uromi, Edo State is an inherited property by **Mr. MIRACLE OSEYOMON**. TAKE NOTICE that neither the said property nor any interest therein has been authorized for sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, lease, joint venture or any other form of disposition by **Mr. MIRACLE OSEYOMON** or by any person lawfully authorized to act on his behalf hence a notice has been written on the building therein - **"THIS HOUSE IS NOT FOR SALE"** THEREFORE, any person who purports to sell, assign, transfer, mortgage, lease, market or otherwise deal with the said property without lawful authority does so at his or her own Risk. For the avoidance of doubt

THE PROPERTY IS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR SALE BY ANY UNAUTHORIZED PERSON. BUYERS BEWARE!

SIGNED:
GIFT OSEYOMON
For: Oseyomon's Family, Uzegua, Uromi

MAT I. ENEDION, ESQ
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR
On behalf of Oseyomon's Family

REARRANGEMENT OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that the correct arrange of my name is **OSAGIE PATRICK ODION** and not **ODION TAIYE OSAGIE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **AMADIN AMENZE OSAZODUWA** and not **AMADIN-AIDEYAN AMENZE OSAZODUWA**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **ILADE KENNETH ODUWA**, now wish to be known as **OKHUNZUHA KENNETH**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME/DATE OF BIRTH
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **MOSES JERRY** and not **MOSES HOPE AISOSA**. And my correct date of birth is February 9th,1997 and not February 9th,1993. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **AISOWIEREN PRECIOUS EMIAGEDE** now wish to be known as **IDAEWOR EMIAGEDE PRECIOUS**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
This to notify the general public that **IKO HANNA** and **ATTARI HANNA EMIKE** are one and the same person. I now wish to be known as **ATTARI HANNA IKO**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **OSIMAHON FORTUNATE** and not **OSIMEAHON FORTUNATE**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **Miss JOSEPH MERCY** now wish to be known as **Mrs. OMOROGBE MERCY**.Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

Suspected bandits demand ₦40m levy from residents as insecurity threatens Sokoto Community

SOKOTO
Residents of Kebbe town in Kebbe Local Government Area of Sokoto State are reportedly facing a fresh security threat after suspected bandits demanded ₦40 million from the community and threatened to attack the town if the money is not paid. Local sources revealed that the criminals had initially issued

a five-day ultimatum to the residents to raise the money, before extending the deadline following appeals from the community. The Sokoto State Police Command spokesperson, DSP Ahmed Rufai, said the command is aware of the reported threat. "The command is aware of the information and that the command's Anti-Kidnapping Unit (AKU) is already working on the information", he said.

He, however, added that the suspected bandits had reportedly handed the villagers an ultimatum extending to Sunday

to raise the demanded money. The development has sparked concerns among residents, who are now faced with the threat of possible attack should the demand not be met.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **Miss GIFT OBOSAIGHE ODIANOSEN** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. GIFT OBOSAIGHE EHIKNUEMEN**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME/DATE OF BIRTH
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **IDEGBEKWU MAGDALENE** and not **IDEGBEKWU MAGDALINE** and also my correct date of birth is 1/1/1990 and not 10/1/1990 as wrongly written on my BVN. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **Miss AMAYO JOSEPHINE EMENAH** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. ASEMIEN JOSEPHINE EMENAH**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME/ CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH
I formerly known as **IGBINERE JIM JIM** now wish to be known and called as **IGBINERE JIM IDUHON** and also my correct date of birth is 20/9/1969 and not 20/9/1971. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **PROGRESS OSEREMEKHIAN ESEKHEIGBE** and not **PROGRESS OSEREMEKHIAN ESEKHEIGE** as wrongly captured on my BVN. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **OSAGIEDUWA EDIAGBONYA DONHARRY** and not **HARRY EDIAGONYA** as wrongly captured in my BVN. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
I formerly known as **OMORUYI AMENZE DOLLY** now wish to be known and addressed as **OSAZEE AMENZE DOLLY** as appear on my NIN. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME
I formerly known as **Miss IYEKHOR REGINA AKHORGIO** now wish to be known as **Mrs. EFE REGINA AKHORGIO**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
This is to inform the general public that my correct name is **AKHIMIE AIGBOBASIMI KINGSLEY** and not **AKHIMIE AIGBOBASIMI K, AKHIMIE AIGBOBASIMI, ADEBAYO KINGSLEY** or **AKHIMIE KINGSLEY** as were wrongly written in some of my documents. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that **ATIMOGIE DORIS CLEMENT** and **CLEMENT DORIS** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and called **ATIMOGIE DORIS CLEMENT**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

RECONCILIATION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that **VICTORIA IYARE OMORUYI** and **VICTORIA IYARE OWIE** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTORIA IYARE OWIE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **AHMED ZULIAT** and not **AHMED ZUHAIRA** as wrongly captured on my BVN. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME
I formerly known as **Miss CHIOMA UDU** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. CHIOMA CHINEMEREM NNAMUKA**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME
The general public is hereby notified that **ORAVBIERE OMOROGIEVA ALILE** and **ORAVBIERE OMOROGIEVA** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **ORAVBIERE OMOROGIEVA ALILE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BENIN CITY, EDO STATE OF NIGERIA
PROBATE REGISTRY
WHEREAS the persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and at the place stated in the columns; AND WHEREAS the persons whose names, addresses and claimed relationship to the deceased are set in the second column hereunder have applied to the Probate Registrar, High Court of Justice, Edo State of Nigeria for a grant of Letters of Administration of the real and personal property of the deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters of Administration will be granted to such persons unless a NOTICE to prohibit the grant is filed in this Registry within Twenty-One (21) days from the date of the publication of this notice.

MRS. BERNADETTA GRACE AMIEBENOMO , late of Ubiaja, Esan South East L.G.A., who died on the 7th day of November, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/627/2026 Mr. Momodu Junior Amiebenomo and Mrs. Afishetu Omozele Otirikpen of No 54, Nehizena Street, Off PZ Road, Sapele Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
MR. PETER ONOSHOAGBE BRAI IZOB OH, late of Udaba-Ekperi, Etsako Central L.G.A., who died on the 24th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/556/2026 Mrs. Roseline Asesele Izoboh and Matthew Ikpemosimhe Izoboh of No 43B, Sapele Road, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.

DATED THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
BENIN CITY, EDO STATE OF NIGERIA
PROBATE REGISTRY
WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and at the place stated in the column; AND WHEREAS the persons whose names, addresses and claimed relationship to the deceased are set in the second column hereunder have applied to the Probate Registrar, High Court of Justice, Edo State of Nigeria for a grant of Letters of Administration of the real and personal property of the deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Letters of Administration will be granted to such persons unless a NOTICE to prohibit the grant is filed in this Registry within Twenty-One (21) days from the date of the publication of this notice.

MR. OSAMWONYI AUGUSTINE EGBON , late of Ugoneki, Uhummwonde L.G.A., who died on the 16th day of November, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/138/2026 Mrs. Grace Osamwonyi Airohi, Mrs. Uwa Sandra Oamen, Mr. Oghosa Best Osamwonyi and Mr. Ehi Paul Osamwonyi of No 3, Ugege Street, Off Jemila Road, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, daughters and sons respectively of the deceased.
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DATED THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

Friday Sermon

The scarcity of honest merchants in the end time

IMAM MUHAMMAD
YUSUF BABANGIDA

Praise be to Allah, Who sent His Messenger with guidance and the true religion to make it prevail over all other religions, and sent him as a mercy to mankind, guiding them to the path of truth through his words and deeds. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, the One, the Subduer, without partner, and I bear witness that our master and Prophet Muhammad is His servant and chosen Messenger.

O Allah, send Your blessings and peace upon Your servant and Messenger Muhammad, upon his family, his companions, and all those who follow them in righteousness until the Day of Judgment.

O Muslims, beloved servants of Allah! Fear Allah as He deserves to be feared, and know that this life is temporary while the Hereafter is everlasting. Whoever understands the reality of this world will not allow its temporary pleasures to distract him from preparing for the eternal life to come.

O servants of Allah, what is this world? What is its reality? What is its nature? And what is our condition in it? This is the subject of our sermon today: "The Scarcity of Honest Merchants in the End Time."

Brothers and sisters in Islam, one of the great challenges of our time is the decline of honesty and trustworthiness in our dealings. It has become increasingly difficult to find people who are completely honest in their businesses, faithful in their responsibilities, sincere in their worship, committed to their work, fair in their leadership and trustworthy in their dealings with others.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, warned us about the decline of trust and the spread of dishonesty as the Last Hour approaches.

Among the signs of the coming of the Hour is that trust will be lost and entrusted to those who are not qualified to carry it. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: "When the trust is lost, then await the Hour."

The companions asked, "How will it be lost, O Messenger of Allah?" He said: "When authority is given to those who are not qualified for it, then await the Hour."

This hadith is a serious warning to us. Trust is not limited to money. Trust includes positions, offices, businesses, employment, leadership, family responsibilities, knowledge, public resources and every responsibility placed in our hands.

O servants of Allah, today we are speaking particularly about merchants and business people, because commerce is an important part of society. A dishonest merchant does not only harm one customer. His dishonesty can affect families, communities and the entire economy.

Islam has never prohibited business. In fact, Islam encourages law-



ful trade and lawful earning. Allah says: "Allah has permitted trade and forbidden interest."

The problem is not wealth. The problem is when the pursuit of wealth causes a person to disobey Allah.

The problem is not being rich. The problem is when a person becomes a slave to his wealth.

The problem is not conducting business. The problem is when business becomes an excuse for lying, cheating, fraud, exploitation, bribery, deception and consuming the wealth of others unlawfully.

Allah Almighty says: "O you who believe, do not consume one another's wealth unjustly, but only in lawful business by mutual consent."

Therefore, a Muslim merchant must understand that his shop is not separate from his religion. His market is not separate from Islam. His business transactions are part of his accountability before Allah.

When you open your shop in the morning, you are not leaving Islam at home. When you negotiate the price of an item, Allah is watching you. When you weigh your goods, Allah is watching. When you measure, Allah is watching. When you advertise your product, Allah is watching. When you conceal a defect, Allah is watching. When you collect money from someone, Allah knows whether you earned it lawfully or unlawfully.

THE WORLDLY LIFE IS TEMPORARY

O believers, one of the reasons people become dishonest is excessive love of this world.

Allah says: "Beautified for people is the love of that which they desire—of women and children, and heaped-up sums of gold and silver, fine branded horses, cattle and tilled

land. This is the enjoyment of worldly life, but Allah has with Him the best return."

Gold, silver, wealth, property, businesses, vehicles, houses, positions and all the pleasures of this world are temporary.

The grave is waiting for every one of us. The day will come when the richest merchant and the poorest labourer will stand before Allah. On that day, the question will not be: "How expensive was your car?" The question will be: "How did you earn your wealth and how did you spend it?"

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said that the feet of a servant will not move on the Day of Resurrection until he is asked about his life and how he spent it, his knowledge and what he did with it, his wealth—where he acquired it and where he spent it—and his body

and how he used it.

Therefore, O Muslim merchant, before you rejoice over your profit, ask yourself: Was this profit halal? Before you celebrate a successful transaction, ask yourself: Did I cheat anybody? Before you become proud of your wealth, ask yourself: Will this wealth defend me before Allah or testify against me?

HONESTY IS A GREAT ACT OF WORSHIP

Brothers and sisters, honesty is not merely good character; it is an act of worship.

The Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said: "The truthful and trustworthy merchant will be with the prophets, the truthful and the martyrs."

What an honour! A merchant who is truthful and trustworthy can attain a rank close to that of the prophets, the truthful and the martyrs.

This tells us that business can become an act of worship when it is conducted according to the principles of Islam. A Muslim does not need to abandon business to become righteous. He needs to conduct his business righteously. He can sell and worship Allah. He can make profit and worship Allah. He can become wealthy and remain humble before Allah. He can own businesses without allowing businesses to own his heart.

The righteous merchant knows that his customer is not merely a source of profit. The customer is a fellow human being whose rights must be respected.

THE DANGER OF CHEATING IN MEASUREMENT

Allah has strongly warned those who cheat in weights and measurements.

Allah says: "Woe to those who give less than due. Those who, when they take a measure from people, take in full. But if they give by measure or weight to them, they cause loss."

This warning applies not only to traditional scales and measures.

Today, cheating can take many forms. A person can cheat by reducing the quantity of goods. A person can cheat by selling expired products. A person can conceal defects in a vehicle. A person can sell counterfeit products while presenting them as genuine. A person can manipulate prices through false information. A person can use false advertising. A person can collect payment for goods he knows he cannot deliver. A person can alter documents. A person can falsify records. A person can exploit the ignorance of another person.

All these forms of deception fall under the general prohibition of dishonesty.

The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, once passed by a heap of food in the market. He put his hand inside it and found that the inside was wet, although the outside appeared dry. He said: "Whoever cheats us is not one of us." This is a terrifying warning.

The Muslim merchant should not say, "Everybody does it." Even if everybody cheats, you must not cheat. Even if everybody lies, you must tell the truth. Even if others are corrupt, you must remain upright. Your accountability is before Allah, not before the crowd.

DO NOT MAKE PROFIT THROUGH LIES

O servants of Allah, another serious problem in commerce is false oaths and false claims.

Some merchants swear by Allah unnecessarily to convince customers. "This product is genuine, wallahi." "I bought it at this price, wallahi." "This is the last price, wallahi." "I have never sold this item for less, wallahi."

The Muslim should fear using the name of Allah to deceive people. The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, warned that false oaths may help a person sell his goods, but they remove the blessing from his earnings. What is the benefit of making a profit today if Allah removes the blessing from it? What is the benefit of gaining money if that money brings hardship to your family?

What is the benefit of accumulating wealth if it becomes a source of punishment in the Hereafter? O Muslim, seek barakah, not merely profit. A small amount of halal wealth with blessing is better than millions earned through haram.

HONESTY IN THE WORKPLACE

My dear brothers and sisters, this sermon is not only for traders. It is also for employees.

”
Before you
celebrate a
successful
transaction, ask
yourself: Did I
cheat anybody?
Before you
become proud of
your wealth, ask
yourself: Will this
wealth defend me
before Allah or
testify against me?

ESAMA @92: Celebrating a living legend



CELEBRATION:
The Esama of Benin Kingdom, Chief Sir Dr Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion receiving leaders of Market Women Association who visited him as part of his ongoing 92nd birthday celebration.



CELEBRATION:
Chief Igbiniedion with the symbolic key of a multi- purpose hall built and donated to him by staff of ITV Radio/Television to mark his 92nd birthday celebration.



CELEBRATION:
Management and staff of ITV Radio/Television posed for a group photograph with the Esama



CELEBRATION:
The Esama of Benin Kingdom, Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion praying for the Board members, management and staff of ITV Radio/ Television

NEWS

Rivers police dismiss four officers over fatal shooting of UNIPORT graduate

DAVID MIRACLE AND
OBAMISO FAITH
PORT HARCOURT

The Rivers State Police Command has dismissed four officers over their alleged involvement in the fatal shooting of Anthony Obodo, a 22-year-old fresh graduate of the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT). The Commissioner of Police, Olugbenga Adepoju, disclosed

this on Wednesday during a press briefing in Port Harcourt, where he presented the outcome of investigations into the circumstances surrounding Obodo's death. Adepoju said the four officers had been dismissed from the Nigeria Police Force and recommended for prosecution after investigations established their involvement in the incident. Obodo, who had recently graduated from UNIPORT,

was reportedly killed during an encounter involving police personnel, sparking concerns over police conduct and renewed calls for accountability in the security agencies. The commissioner said the command took the disciplinary action after establishing the officers' culpability, stressing that the police would not protect personnel found to have violated the law or breached professional standards.

He said the action demonstrated the command's commitment to ensuring that police officers operate within the law and established rules of engagement. Adepoju also disclosed that 14 other suspects were paraded in connection with various alleged criminal activities across the state. According to him, the suspects were linked to offences including kidnapping, armed

robbery and "one-chance" robbery, in which unsuspecting passengers are lured into vehicles and subsequently robbed. He said the arrests formed part of the command's ongoing efforts to combat crime and strengthen security across Rivers State. The commissioner urged residents to cooperate with the police by providing credible information that could assist in the identification and arrest of criminal suspects.

He added that investigations into the various cases were ongoing, assuring that all suspects would be subjected to due legal process. The dismissal of the four officers and their recommendation for prosecution underscore the command's stated commitment to accountability and professionalism, with Adepoju maintaining that no police officer would be above the law.

Feature

2027: The women's vote that could decide Nigeria's next president

GRACE IJEOMA UMEH

We are done being footnotes. We are the headline." That was Maimuna Ibrahim, a physically challenged woman addressing 10,000 women at Eagle Square in March 2026. The crowd chanted back: "SheVotes2027! SheVotes2027!"

With just a few months to the 2027 general elections, one voting bloc is organizing louder than any other: Nigerian women.

They make up 49.3% of registered voters — 46.8 million people according to INEC. In 2015 and 2019, their votes were split by ethnicity, religion, and "rice and wrapper" politics. In 2027, many say that will change.

This is the story of how women could decide who sits in Aso Rock.

THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE!

INEC data for 2023:

Total registered voters: 93.4 million

Female voters: 46.1 million

Male voters: 47.3 million

The gap is just 1.2 million. In close states like Lagos, Kano, Rivers, and Edo, women's turnout alone can swing results.

Yet in 2023, only 39% of women voted, compared to 48% of men. The reasons: insecurity, voter apathy, lack of information, and "my vote won't count."

SheVotes2027 wants to change that to 65%.

WHAT WOMEN ARE VOTING FOR IN 2027

Town halls across the 6 geopolitical zones reveal 4 clear priorities:

THE ECONOMY

Food inflation is 40%. Women do 70% of food buying and cooking. A bag of rice at N95,000 hits them first.

"We want SME grants, not loans. We want market renovation, not promises," says Iyaloja of Oba Market, Benin.

SECURITY

Kidnapping, banditry, and GBV. In 2025, over 2,000 women were abducted according to SB Morgen.

"You can't vote if you're in a camp. You can't campaign if you fear rape," says Barr. Nkechi Ike, human rights lawyer.

EDUCATION & HEALTH

20 million out-of-school children, 60% girls. Maternal mortality is still 512 per 100,000.

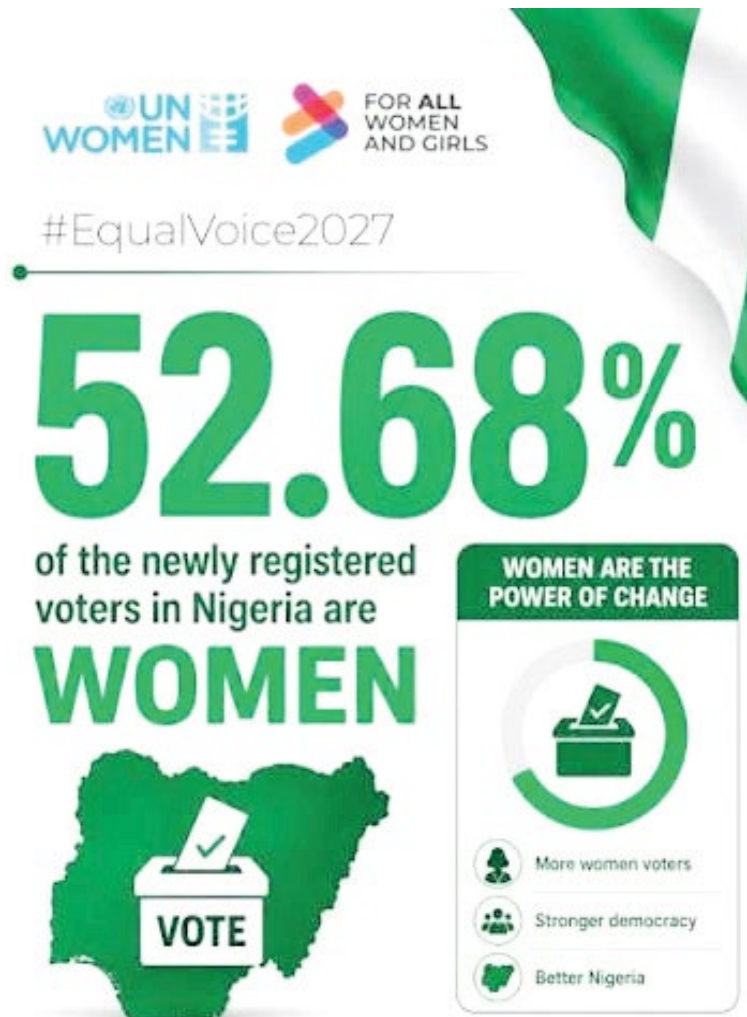
Women are demanding free sanitary pads in schools and functional PHCs.

REPRESENTATION

Only 4.7% of NASS members are women. Only 3 female governors in history.

"How can men make laws about our bodies without us at the table?" asks Aisha Ibrahim.

HOW POLITICAL PARTIES ARE RESPONDING



For the first time, all major parties have "Women Campaign Councils."

APC: Launched "Women for Renewed Hope" led by the First Lady. Promise: 35% women in appointments.

PDP: "Atiku/SheVotes Initiative". Focus on conditional cash transfers to women.

LP: Pushing a constitutional bill for 35% affirmative action and special seats for women.

NNPP: Town halls in Northern markets with female clerics.

But women are skeptical. "We've heard 35% since 2006," says Prof. Jummai Audi. "Show us the list."

THE GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT: EDO CASE STUDY

Edo State is becoming the model.

Town Hall Thursdays: Every Thursday, market women in Oba, Uselu, and Ekpoma grill aspirants. No money. Just questions.

"Vote-Not-Fight": NAWOJ Edo, led by female journalists at EBS, are doing voter education in Pidgin on radio.

"The Women's Manifesto": 12-point demand document signed by 200 women groups. Presented to all guber aspirants.

Sabina Idowu-Osehobo, Gender Advocate: "When women organize, corruption reduces. They ask: where is the money for maternal health?"

THE BARRIERS STILL IN THE

”

No major party has fielded a female presidential candidate. But women are running for Senate, House, and Governorship in record numbers.

Culture: "Politics is for men" mindset in some communities

Information Gap: Many women in rural areas don't know their PVC status

THE EXPERTS SPEAK

Prof. Jummai Audi, Political Scientist, ABU:

"2023 was the first election where women voted more on issues than on husbands. If that trend continues, 2027 will be historic."

Aisha Ibrahim, NAWOJ National Chair:

"Journalists must hold candidates accountable to women. No more photo-ops. We want policy."

Mr Lucky Omosigho, CEO/Publisher, Obaland Magazine and TV:

"The media must amplify women's voices, not just during elections."

Cover women in business, in farms, in tech. That's how you build voters."

Dr. Uju Ogubunka, Economist: "Women control 60% of household spending. Any candidate who ignores that, loses."

COULD WE SEE A FEMALE PRESIDENT IN 2027?

Not yet. No major party has fielded a female presidential candidate. But women are running for Senate, House, and Governorship in record numbers.

12 women have declared for Senate in 2027. 3 for Governor: in Lagos, Plateau, and Enugu

The real power in 2027 may be "kingmakers" — women who mobilize votes and demand concessions.

5 THINGS WOMEN ARE DEMANDING FROM CANDIDATES

Publish a Women's Policy: Not just speeches

35% Appointments: With portfolios, not just "Women Affairs"

Security Plan: For markets, schools, and farms

Price Control: On food and transport

Debate: A televised debate with only women asking

In 1999, women celebrated democracy. In 2027, they want to direct it.

The tools are new: WhatsApp groups, TikTok, radio in local languages, AI for voter education. The anger is new: over prices, over insecurity, over being ignored.

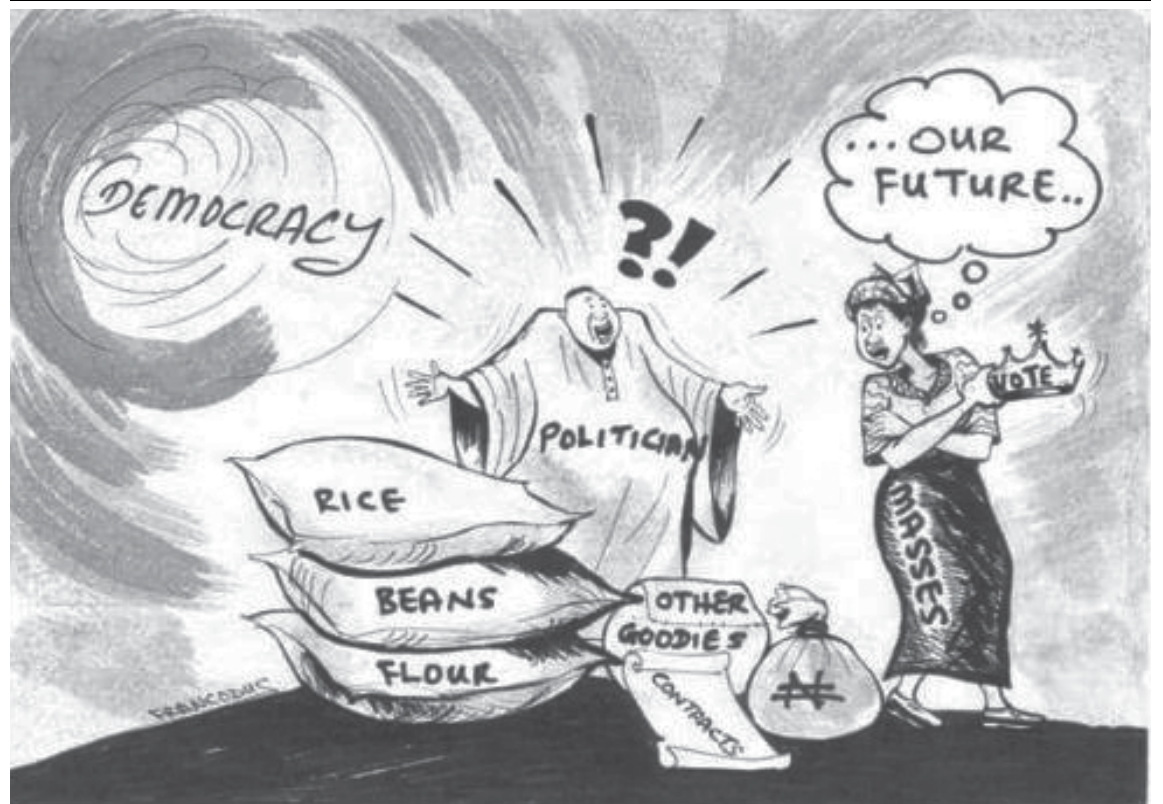
As Mama Blessing in New Benin Market told us: "Before, we voted because our husband said so. Now we vote because our children are hungry."

46.8 million women. One vote each.

That is the biggest bloc in Nigeria.

CARTOON

By Francis Odupute



FEATURE

Tackling failed portions of state, federal roads in Edo: Okpebholo's standard



Federal Roads in Edo under construction



RICHARD EWEKA

For years, residents, motorists and visitors travelling through the Edo state have experienced the challenges posed by deteriorating roads.

Some of these roads connect with neighbouring states, being Edo the 'Heart Beat of the Nation'.

It is therefore suffice to say that the failed portions of roads across the state did not begin with the administration of Gov. Monday Okpebholo.

As governorship candidate of the All Progressives Congress in 2024, Okpebholo recognised the scale of the problem and made the rehabilitation of roads one of his major campaign commitments. He promised to confront the state's infrastructure deficit and improve road connectivity if elected governor.

In his inauguration speech at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium on Nov. 12, 2024, Okpebholo said: "Our policy to develop road infrastructure is targeted at constructing roads, drainages and bridges, to ease transportation for all."

It is not surprising that since he assumed office, his commitment to road infrastructure has been monumental, evident in the administration's focus on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of both state and federal roads.

His approach has been to address the practical needs of residents rather than dwelling on which level of government has responsibility for a particular road.

The administration began implementing that commitment almost immediately after taking office, with attention directed to some of the state's most difficult road corridors.

Roads, drainages and bridges have remained central to the administration's infrastructure agenda, with the broader objective of improving movement between rural and urban communities, strengthening economic activities and making it easier for residents to connect with neighbouring states.

He has towards this regard constructed and remodelled several road projects across Edo South, Edo Central and Edo North.

Some damaged sections have been rehabilitated, while others have undergone reconstruction. The interventions have improved access to communities and reduced some of the difficulties previously faced by motorists and other road users.

Notwithstanding, the administra-



Done are of the Federal Road

tion's road projects have also attracted criticism. Some critics have continued to circulate images and short videos showing failed sections of roads across the state, particularly on major federal corridors. While highlighting areas that still require attention is legitimate, such reports can create an incomplete picture when ongoing and completed interventions are left out.

A recent focus on damaged portions of the Benin-Agbor Road, for instance, has generated public debate over the condition of federal roads in the state. But the Benin-Agbor corridor is not the only major federal road in the state. I'm sure critics are aware that this administration has also intervened in other roads outside its direct statutory responsibility.

The Benin-Sapele Road provides an example.

For years, motorists using the road complained about its deplorable condition. Under the previous administration, the fact that the road is a federal road was frequently cited as a reason for the state's limited involvement.

But the Okpebholo administration has adopted a different approach, arguing that irrespective of ownership, Edo residents are the people who use the road and bear the consequences when it becomes impassable.

The Edo State Government has therefore collaborated with the feder-

al government under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on the rehabilitation of the road. More than 23 kilometres is being addressed with concrete pavement designed for long-term durability, with completed sections already providing relief to motorists.

For residents and businesses along the corridor, the intervention is about more than road construction. A functional road means shorter travel times, lower vehicle maintenance costs and easier movement of goods and people.

The Benin-Sapele Trunk A Road is also an important transportation corridor serving the economic interests of communities across Edo and the Niger Delta. Its rehabilitation therefore has implications beyond the immediate communities along the route.

Motorcycle riders and commercial drivers who previously spent significant amounts on repairs say the im-

proved road has reduced their maintenance burden.

A motorcycle rider popularly known as an "okada rider," Simeon Yohana, said the intervention had brought relief to riders who frequently repaired their motorcycles because of the poor condition of the road.

"I have been working here for some years now. The road was bad and we constantly repaired our bikes. But now, we don't repair our bikes as often and we are able to take more money home," he said.

A commercial driver, Michael Uweugbe, also commended the governor's intervention.

"He has done very well on this road. The improvement cannot be compared with what we had before. The road is much better now," he said.

Another road user, Osagie Isibor, recalled the difficulties motorists faced when the road was in poor condition.

According to him, the previous administration often reminded residents that the road belonged to the federal government.

"Governor Okpebholo came and, instead of making excuses, intervened. We are now enjoying the road," he said.

Isibor, however, urged the state government to extend similar intervention to the Benin-Agbor Road.

"You could hardly drive on this road when it was bad. The governor's intervention helped to solve the problem here. We are appealing to him to move to Benin-Agbor Road and do the same thing," he said.

At the Ogheghe Motor Park on the Benin-Sapele Road bypass, the improvement in the road has also been welcomed by transport operators.

The park chairman, Faith Imadonmwinyi, said businesses had improved after years of difficulties caused by the poor state of the road.

"We are happy with the outcome of the Benin-Sapele Road. It is very motorable now compared with what we had before," he said.

"About two years ago, the road was very bad and almost impossible to use. We had to pass through communities to avoid the bad sections to get to our destinations. Now the road is better, and we can drive with greater peace of mind."

Beyond the Benin-Sapele corridor, the broader road challenge in Edo remains significant. The state has a large network of roads, including federal, state and local roads, and no single administration can address every failed section at once.

Parts of the metropolitan and state road network are being handled through state interventions, while federal authorities and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) are also involved in the assessment and reconstruction of adjoining failed sections, including stretches around the Ologbo and Amukpe axes.

The road projects may not have solved every transportation challenge in Edo State, but the improvements already recorded on some major corridors demonstrate the potential impact of sustained investment in infrastructure.

The important point is that the condition of Edo's roads should be assessed on the basis of both what remains to be done and those that have already been done.

That is the standard by which the Okpebholo administration's road infrastructure programme should be judged.



"He has done very well on this road. The improvement cannot be compared with what we had before. The road is much better now."

GOVERNANCE

An award-winning streak

DR. PATRICK AKHERE EBOJELE

As Edo State chief executive, Governor Monday Okpebholo is succeeding in what he promised to do: deliver on governance fundamentals. As a result, since assuming office in November 2024, he has accumulated a remarkable string of accolades—each one a measure of how his administration's policy priorities are resonating beyond state lines.

In the last one year, the governor has gone from managing Edo's most pressing crises to being widely recognised as a model administrator. The awards, spanning education, digital transformation, governance and youth development, tell a story of deliberate action backed by results.

The most recent honour came in August when the Nigeria e-Government Excellence Awards 2026 named Okpebholo the e-Government Governor of the Year for Digital Transformation. The recognition reflects a broad strategic pivot toward technology in state administration. The award ceremony is scheduled for September 10 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lagos, where Okpebholo will join recipients including his agencies—Edo State Health Insurance Commission, EdoICTA, and the Edo Healthcare Regulation and Monitoring Agency—in formal recognition of their digital initiatives.

Edo State emerged winner in six other categories, including the Best State Business Enabling Environment Award, Best State Social Service Digitalisation Award, Public Sector CEO e-Government (State) Award, and State Digital Transformation Champion Award. The showing suggests a coherent approach to modernising government operations across multiple departments and service lines—a systemic reform.

But the e-Government award sits alongside achievements that speak to Governor Okpebholo's varied ambitions. In July, the National Association of Polytechnic Students (NAPS) recognised him at a national summit for his contribution and commitment to promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Edo State. Receiving the award through his Chief of Staff, Yakubu Musa, the governor stated that "the recognition reflects the administration's investments in education, skills acquisition and youth development." He further dedicated the award to the people of Edo State, particularly the youth and women, who remain central to his administration's development agenda.

In March, the St. Maria Goretti Old Girls Association presented him with the OPAL Award for Excellent Performance, honouring his developmental strides and commitment to good governance. That same month, he was conferred with the 2025 New Telegraph Newspaper Best Governor of the Year Award in Education. Commenting on the OPAL recognition, Okpebholo described the honour as a collective honour for the people of Edo State and reaffirmed his commitment to sustaining policies and programmes that will continue to drive the state's growth and development.

The governor noted that the recognition by an influential alumni body such as SMAGOGA further rein-



Governor Monday Okpebholo

forces his administration's resolve to continue implementing programmes that improve infrastructure, empower citizens, and strengthen institutions across the state. He underscored that his government remains committed to delivering inclusive governance and meaningful development that will positively impact communities in every part of Edo State.

Where Governor Okpebholo's profile has truly expanded, however, is through his handling of the foundational challenges that plagued Edo

when he took office. Leadership magazine named him Governor of the Year 2026, citing his transformative leadership marked by bold reforms in education, healthcare delivery, and a decisive security crackdown, including stronger laws against cultism and kidnapping, special security squads, and the construction of more than 100 schools. The citation captures an essential truth about his administration: these awards are not ornamental. They document an executive addressing the bread-and-butter issues that

voters and observers measure governors by.

The security achievement alone required political will. When Governor Okpebholo took over in November, Benin City, Ekpoma, Auchi and surrounding communities were reeling from cult violence, kidnappings and criminal activity that had stifled both public confidence and economic activity. His response was swift and uncompromising. Within weeks, he convened security meetings and issued a 48-hour ultimatum to the Commissioner of Police to halt the bloody cult clashes. That kind of decisive action—the kind that doesn't always yield headlines but yields results—forms the foundation for everything else his administration claims to have accomplished.

The governor has been clear about his priorities. "The welfare of our citizens is a top priority for us," he declared, adding that his administration would implement programmes outlined in its five-point agenda to promote economic growth and improve the quality of life of the people. That commitment has translated into concrete measures: in February 2025, he approved promotion letters for 8,476 primary and junior secondary school teachers, and recruited or absorbed more than 6,000 teachers into the public service during his first year.

At the tertiary education level, Gov Okpebholo has made substantial financial commitments to state-owned institutions. The monthly subvention to Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, was increased from N41 million to N500 million, while Edo University, Iyamho, received an increase from N25 million to N250 million. These measures address longstanding challenges in institutional administration, academic infrastructure and student welfare, and strengthen the role of higher education in producing the skilled workforce required for Edo's future.

Infrastructure is one of the most visible features of the administration. The government has embarked on

major road projects, drainage works and flyover construction, including projects around Ramat Park and Aduwawa. Okpebholo has shown a preference for direct oversight, personally visiting project sites to assess progress and reinforce his administration's emphasis on delivery.

The awards, taken together, reveal the contours of Okpebholo's SHINE Agenda: Security, Healthcare, Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Agriculture, and Education. The recognition from NAPS and LEADERSHIP speaks to education initiatives. The e-Government awards point toward infrastructure and systems modernisation. Each accolade marks a space where his administration has moved beyond rhetoric into demonstrable performance—whether that's the tangible construction of schools, the measurable improvement of digital governance, or the credible commitment to skills training through partnerships with national associations.

Notable is the breadth. These are not awards from sympathetic regional bodies or routine ceremonial bodies. NAPS, LEADERSHIP magazine, the Nigeria e-Government Excellence Awards, and SMAGOGA represent diverse constituencies and assessment frameworks. That Okpebholo's administration has satisfied standards across this range—from education specialists to governance reformers to digital innovation advocates—suggests something more significant than a run of good luck. It suggests an administration working to actual benchmarks rather than manufactured narratives.

The e-Government awards ceremony in Lagos next month will afford the governor another occasion to stand out. By then, observers will have had months to gauge whether the digital transformation awards reflect real systems change or promotional positioning.

Dr. Ebojele PhD in Public Administration is the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Monday Okpebholo of Edo



Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) presenting Life Time Award to Governor Monday Okpebholo

NEWS

FOREIGN



FLOODED AREA:
El Niño brought intense flooding and landslides to southern Brazil in 2024.

UN warns of 'supersized' El Niño as countries prepare for impact

El Niño brought intense flooding and landslides to southern Brazil in 2024

The world has entered a "danger zone of extreme weather" as the impacts of El Niño start to be felt globally, UN head António Guterres has warned.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has released the latest data on the natural weather phenomenon showing it could be the strongest for more than 70 years and last until at least February 2027.

El Niño changes weather patterns around the world, pushing some regions into drought whilst others experience stronger typhoons and flooding.

Forecasters also say El Niño will boost temperatures in some places, coming on top of rising heat globally from human-induced climate change.

"El Niño is being supersized before our eyes. The science leaves no room for doubt: the planet is in uncharted waters,

and those waters are heating up," Guterres said.

The BBC spoke with governments and scientists about the measures being taken globally to reduce the risk of deaths, displacement and environmental damage. Early warning systems have been strengthened and deployment of pre-emptive medical assistance, but the strength of this particular event has raised serious concerns particularly for vulnerable groups.

The WMO - a UN agency - said it has undertaken a "major mobilisation" to try to circulate its forecasts of potential extreme weather events, linked to El Niño, to as many communities as possible.

WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo warned: "El Niño has the potential to deliver a massive blow to communities and economies across the world."

El Niño is a natural weather phenomenon that develops in

the Pacific Ocean and is linked to a change in wind patterns. It allows warm water to spread eastwards and releases heat into the atmosphere.

Sea temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific have risen sharply in recent months - a clear sign of a strengthening El Niño.

In the Pacific's key monitoring region, surface temperatures have been well over 2C above average in recent weeks, putting it on track to be declared a "very strong" event.

But it is expected to surpass even that marker. Monthly sea surface temperatures could get close to 4C above average, forecasts suggest.

This would make it the strongest El Niño since at least 1950, by potentially a large margin.

Temperatures are even more exceptional below the surface of the Pacific - in places more than 8C above average.

Above-normal sea tempera-

tures are also expected in other parts of the world including the Indian Ocean, tropical Atlantic and around parts of the Australian coast.

With its rich marine life, changes in ocean heat are of particular concern to Australia.

It has been plagued by marine heatwaves in recent years - driven by climate change - leading to widespread coral bleaching and algae blooms, causing "unprecedented damage".

El Niño is a natural phenomenon, but it tends to bring the kind of extreme heat which also drives those disasters, Dr Alistair Hobday, chief researcher at Australia's science agency reported.

This year, marine heatwave forecasts indicate the Great Barrier Reef will be spared the worst of the conditions, giving coral there more time to recover.

"[But] Southern Australia is getting slammed. It had an algal bloom last year, it's got bird flu now, and it looks like marine heatwaves will be stronger there this summer," said Hobday.

Channel smuggling gangs resort to 'mega-dinghies' as crackdown limits small boat supply

A drop in small boats illegally reaching the UK is forcing people smuggling gangs to adopt new tactics, a BBC investigation has found.

And there are claims of more "mega-dinghies" being prepared, of the type seen arriving on UK shores in recent weeks.

The image of a 15-metre long small boat carrying a record 230 migrants towards the UK drew condemnation from both newspapers and politicians.

Ministers were accused of "losing control" of illegal Channel crossings, and the French police again found themselves criticised for not intervening.

But evocative as the picture was, it also represented a new strategy by the increasingly frustrated people smugglers we encountered on

France's northern shores - who attacked our crew with stones, and injured our cameraman.

They are running low on small boats, we have found. And once rival criminal groups are now having to work together by loading more migrants on fewer, larger vessels - just like the "mega-dinghy".

The UK and France are announcing measures to increase the number of police officers on the French coast in order to try to stop the migrants.

The latest initiative comes as Andy Burnham prepares to host French President Emmanuel Macron at Downing Street for the first time since becoming prime minister.

Gang members have told our sources that others are be-

ing prepared, to the concern of emergency teams on both sides of the Channel, because of the increased risk to more lives. On 4 August 170 people had to be rescued after theirs caught fire in the middle of the Channel.

With French officers claiming they are now intercepting two-thirds of small boats before they can reach the coast, that means fewer crossing opportunities. And for those hoping to make the journey, it means a higher price.

Today, the gangs are quoting up to €2,000 (£1,700) per person. It used to be around €1,300 just a year ago. Their passengers also have to now pay in cash, to ensure commitment.

During one early low tide on Gravelines beach, we saw the only small boat to launch that day, and

it was not what we expected.

At 09:30, a dozen or so migrants emerged from the sand dunes. Their distinctive orange life jackets, purchased from a local sports shop, made them easy to identify.

A need for speed at this point would be a fair assumption, but this was not to be the case. There was no running. It was almost orderly. A refined process where instructions were obeyed.

As they waded into the calm shallows of the Channel, their "taxi boat" came into view. It is simply a small boat that has departed from further along the coastline to avoid detection. Only now, they are being forced to set off from even greater distances. This one had left from Belgium.

Iranian attack on Saudi tanker killed two Filipino sailors, Saudi Arabia says

Saudi Arabia has condemned what it said was an Iranian attack on a Saudi-owned supertanker on Monday night that killed two Filipino sailors.

The Saudi national shipping company, Bahri, confirmed on Wednesday that its vessel Sidr was "involved in a security incident while transiting the Strait of Hormuz".

Sidr was hit by projectiles north of Oman's Musandam Peninsula, according to maritime security firms. A South Korean-owned supertanker, Senegal Prosperity, was reportedly struck east of Musandam around the same time.

Iran has not responded to the Saudi allegation. But it said earlier that two tankers had caught fire after hitting mines while using an unauthorised route through the strait.

The news of the sailors' deaths came after the US military carried out a wave of air strikes on Iran and Iranian forces targeted US bases in neighbouring Arab states with missiles and drones in their biggest exchange of fire since July.

On Wednesday Iran's health minister said 18 people were killed and 108 injured in the US attacks. Iran has accused the US of a "war crime" over a strike that killed four people including two children at a wedding party in the southern city of Sirik. The US military said it

was looking into the reports.

Shipping company Bahri's statement said the unspecified "security incident" affecting Sidr happened in the Strait of Hormuz at around 23:40 local time (19:40 GMT) on Monday.

"It is with profound sadness that Bahri confirms the loss of two of its Filipino seafarers as a result of the incident," it added. "The company extends its deepest condolences and heartfelt sympathies to their families, loved ones, and colleagues during this difficult time."

Later, the Saudi foreign ministry expressed the kingdom's condemnation of "Iran's targeting of the Saudi tanker (Sidr) while it was transiting the Strait of Hormuz".

It also condemned the recent Iranian attacks on Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait, and stressed the "need to halt escalation and respect the security and safety of international navigation", as well as the security of global energy supplies, national sovereignty, and international law.

The statements were issued a day after maritime risk management and intelligence firms Marisks and Kpler reported that two tankers each loaded with two million barrels of Saudi crude oil were struck by unknown projectiles within minutes of each other as they transited outbound through the Strait of Hormuz late on Monday.

Embattled Spanish PM Sánchez insists no prior warnings before Ceuta crisis

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has said no one foresaw the influx of 72,000 migrants in the exclave of Ceuta, as pressure mounts over his handling of the crisis.

"It's absurd to think that the government knew and did nothing," Sánchez told Spain's parliament on Thursday, hours after tens of thousands of people joined protests across the country backed by opposition parties.

Sánchez also maintained there was no evidence Morocco was behind the mass crossing and there had been "close co-ordination" between the two countries.

A Spanish police report has highlighted the "total permissiveness" of Moroccan security forces, although senior officials insist it does not point the finger at Rabat.

Although most of the migrants have been sent back to Morocco, some 5,000 remain on the streets and beaches of Ceuta, on the North African coast, including as many as 1,400 children.

There have been several reports that Spanish officials had been warned of a rise in sea arrivals over the border at Ceuta, following a Spanish court ruling that many migrants misunderstood to mean they would not be pushed back if they swam across.

Opposition People's Party leader Alberto Núñez Feijóo accused the government of lying and a cover-up, and said the prime minister should resign.

Spain's handling of the migrant influx angered some of its European partners, and Italy responded by imposing border restrictions on arrivals from Spain.

The large turnout for the demonstrations in Madrid and other cities on Wednesday underlined the pressure Sánchez is under domestically too.

The protests were ostensibly held to express support for the people of Ceuta, but as frequent anti-government chants have shown, they also reflected public anger at the ongoing crisis.

As Thursday's fierce debate in Congress showed, the situation in Ceuta has developed from a humanitarian and logistical crisis into a major political challenge for the Socialist leader.

One of the issues Sánchez is having to explain is his government's bilateral relationship with Morocco.

He has tried to walk a delicate line between defending his refusal to blame Morocco while reprimanding it for the sovereignty claims it has been making in recent weeks on both Ceuta and its fellow Spanish exclave of Melilla.

FOREIGN

NEWS

Sharpeville massacre survivors start legal fight for justice in South Africa

Abraham Mofokeng was 20 when he joined a peaceful protest in Sharpeville

Abraham Mofokeng still carries the wounds of the bloody suppression of a protest in South Africa 66 years ago. In what became known as the Sharpeville massacre, police infamously opened fire on thousands of peaceful demonstrators.

A bullet is still lodged in Mofokeng's spine, and he has a gentle limp from a gunshot to the leg.

"We weren't seen as people," the 86-year-old tells the BBC as he explains the reasons he joined the demonstration on 21 March 1960 against the repressive laws of the white-minority government.

"All you were good for was working. You couldn't ques-

tion them, you were supposed to just do as you're told."

The massacre at Sharpeville, which he survived, exposed to the world the violence of the racist apartheid system - yet thanks to an indemnity law passed a year after the killings, none of the perpetrators were ever prosecuted.

Mofokeng is now part of a legal case set to be announced on Thursday that will seek to overturn this law.

At least 69 protesters were shot dead by police on that day in 1960, becoming a pivotal event in the history of the anti-apartheid movement.

Though Sharpeville may be a place name rich in historical resonance, it scarcely looks like a site that symbolises the struggle: the township is slowly crumbling.

The once tarred roads of this

area south of Johannesburg are returning to dirt. Many of the houses are still the small, brown-faced brick homes built under the apartheid-era government. The earth is dry and barren - heaps of rubbish are piling up throughout the neighbourhood.

While the legalised system of racism was buried in 1994 when the country held its first democratic election and elected Nelson Mandela as president, its scars remain.

There have been attempts at redress - not least through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) - set up by Mandela's government to investigate crimes committed during the apartheid era.

But the Sharpeville survivors feel they have not seen justice.

Sharpeville's local memorial

park, the Human Rights Precinct, tells the story of how the streets of township became the scene of a bloodbath.

Inside the park stand 69 white pillars, one for each life lost.

The victims were killed while demonstrating against the racist pass laws.

At the time, black people were forced to carry a document known as a passbook, known as "dompas" in Afrikaans, which restricted their freedom to move around the country.

A person could be beaten and jailed if found without it - or if found in a "whites-only" area without permission.

Many heeded the call from the leaders of the Pan Africanist Congress in March 1960 to march in protest against the dompas, including then-20-year-old Mofokeng.

EU and NATO vow to step up pressure on Russia after 'new escalation' in Germany

The heads of Nato and the European Commission have warned Russia is growing increasingly reckless and vowed to respond to a "new normal".

"Leipzig marks a new escalation on European Union soil directly attributed to Russia," said Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, a day after Germany blamed Russia for a failed drone attack on Leipzig airport.

Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte said the alliance, which includes the US, stood "in full solidarity with Germany".

Russia rejects accusations it targeted a Ukrainian cargo plane on 4 August with an explosives-laden drone.

It has responded to new German sanctions by saying it will close Germany's Goethe-Institut cultural centres in Russia.

The drone was defused by a robot at Leipzig/Halle airport and a second drone is thought to have collided with another cargo plane.

A third drone was reportedly found 10 days later at the airport, which is an important Nato hub and is regularly used by Ukrainian Antonov transport aircraft.

It was not until Tuesday that the German government said police investigations and in-

telligence finding had proved that Russia was behind the incidents.

The interior minister said that the drone's configuration, components, explosives and detonator were all known from other Russian hybrid operations.

Two suspects have reportedly been identified in the Leipzig attack, including a Belarusian with a Russian passport who entered on a tourist visa, and another with Latvian and Russian passports who arrived by plane in Berlin and flew out two days before the failed attack.

Berlin has said it will close the Russian consulate in Bonn as well as the Russian House cultural institution, widely suspected in Berlin of acting as a propaganda outlet for the Kremlin.

The Russian foreign ministry said Berlin had offered no evidence to back its claims.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced that Germany's Goethe-Institut cultural centres in Moscow, St Petersburg and Yekaterinburg would close in response to Berlin's actions.

Earlier, Germany's chargé d'affaires Bernd Finke was summoned to hear Moscow's rejection of Berlin's "entirely unfounded accusations".



PROTESTERS:

Protesters march in support of Ceuta on the city's anniversary in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

Tens of thousands in Spain protest Ceuta border crisis

The city of Ceuta, a tiny speck of Spanish territory perched on the northern African coast, normally celebrates its Sept. 2 annual official holiday largely ignored by the mainland.

But not this year, after Ceuta became the epicenter of Spain's worst border crisis in living memory.

In lieu of festivities, tens of thousands of people took to the streets Wednesday across Spain to protest the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ceuta, demanding solutions and blaming Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez for his government's handling of it.

In Madrid, authorities said some 50,000 protesters turned out. After the demonstration ended, an Associated Press journalist heard shots and explosions. Spanish newspaper El País reported that police

fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse crowds.

There were significant turnouts also in Barcelona, Valencia and Seville.

Waving Spanish flags, demonstrators shouted "A united Ceuta will never be defeated," "Sánchez to prison" and "Invaders — go home!" referring to the thousands of migrants still in the city.

Spain's minister of territorial policy, Ángel Víctor Torres, told Spanish National Radio that the protests were politically motivated.

"This is not to show support for the city of Ceuta or its residents; it is to attack the government of Spain," Torres said.

A border rush and the fallout In late July, about 72,000 people swam, scrambled or charged into the small Spanish territory neighboring Morocco, with at least 90 dying in the

effort to reach Europe.

Most of the migrants quickly returned or were ushered back over the border, but around 5,000, including 1,200 minors, remain in Ceuta weeks later, according to the national government. Ceuta's local government cites a higher figure. Difficult questions likewise linger over what caused the mass crossing that the government says was fuelled by an online campaign on social media.

The sudden influx of tens of thousands of migrants into Ceuta, which has a population of about 84,000, put a huge strain on resources and angered many residents. Local authorities said that Spain's central government ignored warning signs before the border was breached.

Madrid alleges Russian, Israeli foul play

Many in Spain have asked if Morocco's government could have done more to prevent the frontier breakthrough.

Sánchez, however, has repeatedly defended the Moroccan authorities, saying they were swift to help in the return of most of the migrants. On Monday, the Spanish leader alleged — without presenting any evidence — that other countries had amplified disinformation related to the crisis.

"There is no information from any of our intelligence services that points to the participation of Moroccan authorities," Sánchez told Cadenas radio on Monday.

Sánchez, who faces an election next year, said that a misinterpretation of a Supreme Court ruling and disinformation spread on social media encouraged people to rush the border.

India's GDP growth defies oil shock but stirs up controversy

Doomsayers were doomed and India bloomed... Yet again," wrote Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on X, reacting to smart first quarter GDP data that came out earlier this week, widely beating forecasts, but also sparking a major controversy over its credibility.

On the face of it, the 7.8% number was a shot in the arm for the prime minister who's recently faced scathing student anger over his government's handling of exam paper leaks and rising youth unemployment.

While those longstanding concerns have not gone anywhere, the better-than-expected growth print suggests that his government may have deftly weathered the Middle East oil shock despite heavy dependen-

cies on imported crude.

According to Sajjid Chinnoy, chief India economist at JP Morgan, India's "cyclical growth recovery" had been visible for the past six months, driven by a huge fiscal stimulus, including direct tax cuts in February last year, a reduction of consumption taxes in September and interest rates which have come off by about 1.5% since early 2025.

"But the question was, could India insulate that recovery from events in the Middle East, and this is where the government deserves enormous credit," Mr Chinnoy told India Today news channel, adding that the urgency with which Delhi diversified its energy imports in the face of the Hormuz blockade helped the country protect its growth.



Opinion

Ease of doing business: How Okpebholo is resetting Edo's economy with security architecture



EUBALDUS ENAHORO

The need for security in any society cannot be overemphasized as it provides the key to a chain of other stabilizing socio-economic activities

From inception, Governor Monday Okpebholo unequivocally expressed his concerns about the threat of insecurity in the state and he promised to do everything within his powers to collaborate with the necessary government agencies to make Edo safe

The Governor was conscious of the fact that for ease of doing business no investor brings money to a state that is not safe and no factory employs youths where there is insecurity.

That is why the first duty of any government is

security and the Governor Okpebholo's administration has been very aggressive in tackling the menace from the beginning.

For years, Edo's reputation was dragged by cult clashes, kidnapping on our highways, and illegal levies at motor parks and markets. Traders in Ekpoma, Auchi, and Benin were paying multiple taxes to "task force boys" instead of government

The Okpebholo administration recognized this early, and the message from Government House was clear: Edo must be safe for business and several measures were taken including the reorganization of the state security architecture

What followed was deliberate action. Collaboration with Police, DSS, Civil Defence, and the local vigilantes was strengthened. The clampdown on illegal revenue collection began. Checkpoints were professionalized.

The result? People can now move freely and travel on the Benin-Auchi-Ekpoma road at night with less fear. Markets are opening earlier and the Santana market traders along Sapele road now do business late into the night without being afraid.

It is now obvious that when security improves, everything else follows and when a business owner is not afraid of cult boys in the evening, he stays open longer and employs more people.

This is obviously what the Okpebholo administration understands: Security is an economic policy that is number one in the SHINE agenda

Beyond security, Gov Okpebholo is sending signals to investors, that Edo is the new destination for investment despite the wrong information being circulated by enemies of the government that the state is not safe

Political analysts in the state have observed that the direction is clear and the blueprint is: Secure the state first. Fix the roads next. Then bring in the investors.

The administration is focusing on "Security First" as part of the Project SHINE agenda

and several hundreds of motorbikes have been distributed to security agencies across the three senatorial districts to access forests and hard-to-reach areas where kidnappers hide

Patrol Vehicles which includes hundreds of Toyota Hilux have also been procured for security operations across the state

It is noteworthy that the state has procured multifunctional drones with advanced capabilities for surveillance, trained over 2,500 Security Corps personnel who are incorporated into the ESSC and deployed across all 18 local government areas. They are now on government payroll

There have been high-level security meetings, regular strategic briefings with Police, Army, DSS, Civil Defence.

Everybody knows that Okpebholo has zero-tolerance for crime because of his public declaration that "criminals must leave Edo State" and

Edo will be made "uninhabitable for criminals"

The government amended the Anti-Cultism and Anti-Kidnapping Law for stiffer penalties to be introduced. This has no doubt "significantly reduced cult-related violence"

The Governor requested the Chief Judge to set up special courts for speedy trial of kidnapping and cultism cases to avoid delays and the courts have started sitting in the state.

Gov Okpebholo has always reiterated it clearly: "Security is the foundation of development, and we will not compromise the safety of our people"

The idea is Secure roads, Secure communities and the Investor confidence are rekindled thereby creating jobs for Edo people.

Edo needs a new story. Not a story of crisis, but a story of commerce, prosperity and that is why the state must SHINE

Under Senator Monday Okpebholo, that story is being written. A story where a welder in Jattu can work till 8pm safely. Where a tomato seller in Oba Market is not harassed. Where a logistics company can say publicly: "Edo works."

Apparently a safe Edo is a working Edo. A working Edo is a prosperous Edo and all these would make the state investor friendly.

• Eubaldus Enahoro was Former Editor of the Nigerian Observer Newspaper

FEATURE

Primary Health Centres: The forgotten frontline of Nigeria's health system

MARTHA OBI-DIKE

It is 2:17am in a village in Lafia, Nasarawa State. Fatima, 24 and 8 months pregnant, starts bleeding. Her husband rushes her to the nearest health facility — a Primary Health Centre, PHC, 20 minutes away.

The gate is locked. The only nurse on duty went home because there was no fuel for the generator. There are no gloves, no drugs, no doctor. By sunrise, Fatima is in a private hospital 1 hour away. The bill: N180,000. Money they don't have.

Fatima's story is not unique. It is the story of millions of Nigerians who depend on PHCs — the foundation of our health system that is quietly collapsing.

Nigeria has over *10,000 PHCs* on paper. They are meant to be the first point of contact for 70% of Nigerians. Their job: antenatal care, immunization, malaria treatment, family planning, health education, and referrals.

The World Health Organization says a strong PHC system can solve 80% of a country's health problems. But in Nigeria, PHCs are the most neglected tier of care.

A 2025 NPHCDA assessment found that 60% of PHCs lack basic equipment. No running water. No electricity. No beds.

Nigeria needs 1 health worker to 600 people. We have 1 to 2,700. Many PHCs are run by one CHEW or volunteer. Doctors refuse rural postings.

The drug revolving fund collapsed in many states. Patients are told to "go and buy from outside."

Only 4.2% of the 2026 federal budget went to health. States often divert PHC funds. Local governments that should manage PHCs are broke.

Because PHCs don't work, people bypass



Emergency maternal care in Nigeria

them and go straight to patent medicine dealers or prayer houses.

The Federal Government knows this can't continue. Key programs include: *Basic Health Care Provision Fund - BHCPF*: 1% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund. In 2025, over N55 billion was released to equip PHCs and pay health workers.

PHC Revitalization Agenda: Goal to revitalize 10,000 PHCs by 2027. So far, about 4,500 have been renovated.

National Health Insurance Authority - NHIA: To make PHC services free at point of care for vulnerable Nigerians.

Midwives Service Scheme: Deploying midwives to rural PHCs to reduce maternal mortality.

States like Edo, Jigawa, and Ekiti are doing well. Edo's PHCs now run 24 hours with solar

power. Jigawa pays rural health workers extra allowances.

But implementation is slow.

"Money gets to the state, but it doesn't get to the PHC," says Dr. Zainab Shuaibu, a public health expert. "We need direct funding to facility accounts."

Corruption, lack of maintenance culture, and politics also kill projects. A PHC commissioned during election season is often abandoned after.

And then there's the human cost. Nigeria still has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world: 512 deaths per 100,000 live births. Most happen because a PHC failed at 2am like Fatima's.

Communities are stepping in. In Benue, town unions now contribute monthly to buy drugs for their PHC. In Rivers, a women's group runs a free antenatal clinic every Saturday.

NGOs and development partners like WHO, UNICEF, and USAID are providing solar power, training, and equipment. But they can't do government's job forever.

Women bear the brunt. 90% of PHC users are women and children — pregnant women, nursing mothers, under-5 children.

For young people, PHCs are supposed to provide sexual and reproductive health education. But stigma and lack of trained staff mean many youths get no information until it's too late.

Women Journalists have started reporting on "PHC diaries" — tracking which PHCs in their state are working and which are not. The goal is accountability.

Health is becoming a campaign issue. Voters are asking: "What did you do with the PHC in my ward?"

Civil society is demanding that all candidates sign a "PHC Compact" — a promise to allocate at least 15% of state budgets to health, per the Abuja Declaration.

"If we fix PHCs, we fix Nigeria's health," says Prof. Muhammad Pate, Coordinating Minister of Health. "Hospitals should be for referrals, not for headaches."

"Until a poor woman in a village can get quality care at 2am, we have not succeeded," adds Dr. Faisal Shuaib of NPHCDA.

Fatima survived. Her baby survived. But she is now in debt and traumatized.

Nigeria does not need 10 new teaching hospitals. It needs 10,000 PHCs that work. PHCs with light, water, drugs, and kind staff.

As we approach 2027, the test of leadership will not be in Abuja. It will be in that PHC in Lafia, in Gwoza, in Obudu.

Because a nation's health is not measured by its biggest hospital. It is measured by its smallest clinic at 2am.

FEATURE

Termite threat in the Museum environment

EROMINA HAFSAH YUSUF

ABSTRACT

Museums serve as custodians of cultural and historical heritage by preserving objects of artistic, scientific, archaeological, ethnographic, and historical significance for present and future generations. However, museum collections are continually threatened by biological agents of deterioration, among which termites are among the most destructive. Their ability to consume cellulose-containing materials such as wood, paper, textiles, and natural fibers places numerous museum artifacts at significant risk. In tropical and subtropical regions, where climatic conditions favor termite survival and reproduction, infestations can result in severe structural damage to museum buildings and irreversible loss of valuable collections.

This paper examines the threat posed by termites within museum environments by reviewing their biology, behavior, and the factors that promote infestation. It discusses the effects of termite activity on museum buildings and collections, explores methods of termite detection and monitoring, and evaluates preventive and curative control measures based on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). The paper also highlights the importance of preventive conservation, environmental management, routine inspections, staff training, and sustainable pest management strategies in minimizing termite damage. By integrating conservation principles with effective pest management, museums can significantly reduce the risks associated with termite infestations and ensure the long-term preservation of cultural heritage for future generations.

INTRODUCTION

Museums play a fundamental role in preserving the tangible evidence of human civilization. They collect, conserve, research, interpret and exhibit objects that reflect the cultural, historical, artistic, scientific and technological achievements of societies across generations.

These collections serve not only as educational resources but also as symbols of identity, memory, and cultural continuity. The preservation of museum collections is therefore essential to safeguarding humanity's shared heritage.

Despite advances in conservation science, museum collections remain vulnerable to numerous agents of deterioration. These include physical forces, fire, water, pollutants, light, temperature fluctuations, incorrect relative humidity, theft, vandalism, and biological agents. Among biological agents, insect pests represent one of the most persistent threats because they often cause damage gradually and unnoticed. Among these insects, termites are especially destructive due to their hidden lifestyle, large colony sizes, and continuous feeding behavior.

Termites are social insects belonging to the order Blattodea and are closely related to cockroaches. They live in highly organized colonies composed of reproductives, soldiers and workers; each performing specialized functions essential to colony survival. Worker termites are responsible for feeding on cellulose, the principal component of wood and many plant-derived materials. Since numerous museum collections are composed of cellulose-rich



NATIONAL MUSEUM

materials—including wooden sculptures, furniture, ethnographic artifacts, archival documents, manuscripts, books, textiles, baskets and natural history specimens—these objects become highly susceptible to termite attack.

Unlike many insect pests that feed on exposed surfaces, termites usually consume materials from the inside outward, making early detection difficult. Significant structural and collection damage may occur before visible signs of infestation appear. Consequently, termites have earned the reputation of being "silent destroyers." Their concealed feeding habits allow colonies to remain active for months or even years without detection, resulting in substantial economic costs and irreversible cultural losses.

The problem is particularly significant in tropical and subtropical regions such as Nigeria and many other African countries, where warm temperatures and high humidity create favorable conditions for termite survival throughout the year.

In many developing countries;

* Aging museum buildings

* Inadequate maintenance

* Insufficient funding

*poor environmental control and

*Limited pest monitoring programs----- further increases the vulnerability of museum collections to termite infestation.

Wooden display cases, untreated structural timber, leaking roofs, damp storage areas and cracks in foundations often provide suitable entry points and habitats for termite colonies.

The consequences of termite infestation extend beyond the destruction of individual artifacts. Severe infestations may weaken museum buildings, compromise storage facilities, threaten visitor safety, disrupt museum operations and require expensive conservation treatments. More importantly, when unique cultural objects are destroyed, the loss is irreversible because many historical artifacts cannot be replaced. Every damaged object represents the disappearance of part of a nation's history, identity and collective memory.

Modern museum conservation emphasizes prevention rather than treatment. Preventive conservation seeks to minimize risks before deterioration occurs by:

* Controlling environmental conditions

** Implementing routine inspections

* Maintaining cleanliness .

* Monitoring pest activity and

* Adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

IPM combines regular monitoring, sanitation, exclusion techniques, environmental management and carefully selected chemical or non-chemical treatments to provide long-term, sustainable pest control while minimizing risks to museum collections, staff and visitors.

FACTORS ENCOURAGING TERMITE INFESTATION IN MUSEUMS

Numerous environmental and structural conditions contribute to termite infestations within museum environments. Relative humidity is widely recognized as one of the most important factors influencing termite survival. Most termite species require moist conditions for successful colony development. High humidity within storage rooms, leaking roofs, damaged plumbing, inadequate drainage, and poor ventilation create favourable conditions for infestation.

Building construction materials also influence termite susceptibility. Museums constructed with untreated timber or containing extensive wooden architectural elements provide abundant food resources. Cracks in foundations, expansion joints, damaged walls, and utility penetrations provide concealed entry routes that allow subterranean termites to invade buildings without detection.

Poor housekeeping practices further increase infestation risks. Accumulated cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, paper waste, and vegetation surrounding museum buildings provide additional food sources that support colony establishment. Failure to inspect newly acquired artifacts before introducing them into storage areas may unintentionally introduce termites into museum collections.

Climate change has also emerged as a factor influencing termite distribution. Rising temperatures and altered rainfall patterns may extend termite activity into previously unaffected regions while increasing colony survival in areas already vulnerable to infestation. Consequently, museum managers must increasingly incorporate climate adaptation into preventive conservation planning.

DETECTION AND MONITORING OF TERMITES

Early detection is essential because successful termite management depends upon identifying infestations before extensive damage occurs. Traditional inspection methods rely on routine visual examination of buildings and collections for mud tubes, damaged wood, hollow sounds, discarded wings, termite droppings, or live insects. Although inexpensive, visual inspections may fail to identify hidden colonies.

Modern conservation practice increasingly employs advanced monitoring technologies. Acoustic emission detectors identify feeding sounds produced by termites within wooden structures. Infrared thermography detects temperature differences associated with termite activity inside walls and display cases. Moisture meters identify damp areas likely to support termite colonies, while fibre-optic inspection cameras permit examination of concealed structural spaces with minimal disturbance.

Routine monitoring should form part of an Integrated Pest Management programme involving scheduled inspections, environmental monitoring, accurate record keeping and continuous assessment of collection risks.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN MUSEUMS

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has become the internationally accepted approach for controlling museum pests while minimizing risks to collections, staff, visitors and the environment. Rather than relying exclusively on chemical pesticides, IPM integrates preventive, physical, biological, cultural and carefully selected chemical methods based on continuous monitoring and informed decision-making.

Preventive measures include maintaining clean storage areas, controlling relative humidity, repairing structural defects, sealing entry points and reducing vegetation surrounding museum buildings. Good housekeeping removes potential food sources while environmental management reduces conditions favourable for termite survival.

Physical control methods include removing infested materials, replacing severely damaged timber, installing stainless-steel barriers or sand barriers beneath buildings, and isolating vulnerable collections from direct contact with structural wood. Quarantine procedures ensure that newly acquired artifacts are inspected before entering storage or exhibition areas.

Chemical control remains necessary in some situations but should be applied selectively to minimize potential adverse effects on museum objects. Modern baiting systems containing insect growth regulators provide targeted colony elimination while reducing pesticide exposure. Fumigation may be appropriate for severe infestations but requires careful planning because certain chemicals may affect sensitive artifacts.

Staff education constitutes an essential component of successful IPM programmes. Museum personnel responsible for collections, maintenance, housekeeping, and security should receive training to recognize early indicators of termite activity and report suspected infestations immediately.

IMPACT OF TERMITES ON MUSEUM BUILDINGS AND COLLECTIONS

Termites are among the most destructive biological agents affecting museum environments because they attack both the buildings that house collections and the artifacts themselves. Unlike many insect pests that infest only stored products or textiles, termites can simultaneously damage structural components and collection materials. Their concealed feeding habits, large colony sizes, and continuous activity make them particularly dangerous in museums; where many objects are irreplaceable.

Museum buildings often contain structural timber used in roofs, ceilings, floors, doors, windows, display cases, shelving and storage cabinets. These wooden components provide ideal food sources for termites, especially in older buildings where untreated timber has been used extensively.

Once termites gain access through cracks in foundations, expansion joints, utility pipes or damp areas, colonies may spread unnoticed throughout the building. As termites consume the cellulose within wooden structures, the strength and stability of the building gradually decline. Roof beams, floor joists, wooden partitions and support columns may become weakened, increasing the risk of structural failure and creating safety hazards for museum staff and visitors.

The deterioration of museum buildings also has indirect consequences for collections. Damaged roofs and weakened walls allow water penetration, increasing relative humidity within exhibition galleries and storage rooms. Elevated moisture levels encourage the growth of mould and fungi while creating favourable conditions for continued termite activity. Consequently, termite infestation often initiates a chain of deterioration involving multiple biological agents, thereby accelerating the degradation of museum collections.

DAMAGE TO MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Museum collections comprise a wide variety of organic materials that are vulnerable to termite attack. These include wooden sculptures, furniture, masks, drums, ceremonial objects, archaeological artifacts, manuscripts, books, archival records, paper documents, ethnographic collections, baskets, woven mats, textiles made from plant fibres, leather-supported objects and natural history specimens. Because termites feed primarily on cellulose

CONTINUES ON PG 22»

Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan: Similar political journeys, different constitutional questions

AKINWUNMI LALEYE, ESQ

The question whether a political leader who assumed office through constitutional succession can seek another term has once again become a major issue in Nigeria's political and legal discourse.

The controversy surrounding Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa of Ondo State and the renewed debate over the possible presidential ambition of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan have brought the issue of constitutional tenure limitation to the forefront.

At first sight, the cases of Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan appear similar. Both were elected as deputies to their principals. Both became substantive office holders following the death of their principals. Both subsequently sought electoral mandates in their own rights.

However, a closer examination of the Constitution reveals an important difference.

Although the two political leaders travelled similar political roads, they did not travel under the same constitutional circumstances.

The major question is not simply whether they had previously occupied the offices of Governor and President. The more important questions are: When did they assume office? What constitutional provisions were in force at the time? And can a constitutional amendment enacted after an event be applied to that event?

These questions may determine whether the second-term ambitions of Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan should receive the same legal treatment.

The Constitution makes provisions for the Vice-President or Deputy Governor to succeed to the substantive office where the office of the President or Governor becomes vacant.

Under section 146(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), where the office of the President becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, impeachment, permanent incapacity or removal, the Vice-President shall assume the office of President.

Similarly, section 191(1) provides that where the office of a Governor becomes vacant for similar reasons, the Deputy Governor shall assume the office of Governor.

This constitutional arrangement ensures continuity in government and prevents a vacuum in executive authority.

However, there is an important distinction between assuming office through constitutional succession and being elected to the office through a fresh election.

A Vice-President or Deputy Governor who succeeds to the substantive office does not contest a new election at the point of succession. The person assumes office by virtue of the Constitution and continues the tenure for which the President or Governor was elected.

This distinction became particularly important in the case of former President Goodluck Jonathan and later led to the amendment of the Constitution.

It should be noted that before the



GOV. LUCKY ORIMISAN AIYEDATIWA



GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

Fourth Alteration to the Constitution, the constitutional provisions on tenure focused mainly on the number of times a person had been elected President or Governor.

A person who had merely succeeded to the office could argue that he had not been elected to that office and that the period spent completing the predecessor's tenure should not be counted as an elected term.

This created the possibility that a successor could complete a substantial part of another person's tenure and thereafter contest and win two additional elections.

Such a situation could allow one person to remain in the office of President or Governor for more than eight years.

To address this constitutional gap, the Fourth Alteration introduced sections 137(3) and 182(3).

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The constitutional amendment was designed to prevent constitutional succession from becoming a means of extending executive tenure beyond the period contemplated by the Constitution.

Section 137(3) provides that a person who was sworn in as President to complete the term for which another person was elected shall not be qualified to be elected President for more than one further term.

The corresponding provision, section 182(3), applies to Governors.

The purpose of these provisions is clear. A person who succeeds to the office of President or Governor and completes the predecessor's tenure may seek election to that office for only one further term.

The constitutional amendment was designed to prevent constitutional succession from becoming a means of extending executive tenure beyond the period contemplated by the Constitution.

However, the timing of the amendment has created an important distinction between the cases of Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan.

*THE CASE OF GOVERNOR AIYEDATIWA :

Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa was elected Deputy Governor of Ondo State alongside the late Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu, SAN.

Following the death of Governor Akeredolu on 27 December 2023, Aiyedatiwa succeeded to the office of Governor under section 191(1) of the Constitution.

He did not become Governor through a fresh election. He assumed office through constitutional succession and completed the unexpired tenure for which Governor Akeredolu had been elected.

Governor Aiyedatiwa subsequently contested the Ondo State governorship election and was elected Governor in his own right.

The question is whether, after completing his present elected tenure, he can contest another governorship election.

The argument against his eligibility is based on section 182(3).

The provision was already part of the Constitution when Aiyedatiwa succeeded Governor Akeredolu in 2023. He therefore assumed office under a constitutional framework that expressly limited a successor who

completed another Governor's tenure to only one further elected term.

Supporters of the view that he cannot contest again argue that his present elected tenure is the single further term permitted by section 182(3).

They also contend that the Constitution does not require the successor to spend a particular minimum period in office before the limitation applies. The relevant issue is whether the person was sworn in to complete the tenure for which another person had been elected.

The controversy has moved beyond political speculation. A recent decision of the Federal High Court has reportedly brought the issue into sharp legal focus by holding that Governor Aiyedatiwa would not be qualified to seek another term in 2028.

However, the final legal position will depend on the outcome of the appellate process. A decision of a trial court remains binding unless set aside, but the interpretation of the Constitution may ultimately be determined by the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

The issue should therefore be discussed with caution and without prematurely presenting any appealable decision as the final position of Nigerian law.

THE CASE OF FORMER PRESIDENT JONATHAN :

The case of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is more complicated.

Jonathan was elected Vice-President alongside the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in 2007.

Following President Yar'Adua's death on 5 May 2010, Jonathan succeeded to the office of President under section 146(1) of the Constitution.

He completed the unexpired tenure of President Yar'Adua and subsequently contested the 2011 presidential election, which he won.

He later contested the 2015 presidential election but was defeated.

The renewed discussion concerning his possible participation in the 2027 presidential election has raised the question whether he remains con-

stitutionally qualified to contest.

The argument against his eligibility is that he completed President Yar'Adua's tenure and was subsequently elected President in 2011. Therefore, the 2011–2015 period should be regarded as the one further elected term permitted by section 137(3).

However, Jonathan's supporters rely on a major constitutional distinction.

When Jonathan succeeded President Yar'Adua in 2010, section 137(3) did not exist.

The Fourth Alteration, which introduced the one-further-term limitation, came several years after Jonathan had succeeded to the presidency and had already been elected President in 2011.

The issue is therefore whether the constitutional amendment can be applied retrospectively to affect events that occurred before it came into force.

The general principle of legal interpretation is that laws are presumed to operate prospectively unless the law clearly states that it is intended to operate retrospectively.

A law may be regarded as retrospective where it attaches a new legal consequence to an event that occurred before the law came into force.

Jonathan's argument may therefore be stated simply:

At the time he succeeded President Yar'Adua, the Constitution did not contain a provision limiting a successor to one further elected term. The subsequent amendment should not be used to alter the legal consequences of his earlier succession.

The contrary argument is that eligibility for election is determined by the Constitution in force at the time of the election.

According to this view, a person seeking election in 2027 must satisfy the constitutional requirements applicable in 2027, irrespective of when the events relied upon occurred.

The issue is therefore not merely political. It is a serious constitutional question involving the meaning, commencement and possible retrospective effect of section 137(3).

The cases of Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan should not be treated as identical merely because both men became substantive office holders through constitutional succession.

The crucial difference is constitutional timing.

Aiyedatiwa succeeded to the office of Governor in 2023, when section 182(3) was already part of the Constitution.

Jonathan succeeded to the office of President in 2010, before section 137(3) was introduced.

Thus, Aiyedatiwa's case is principally about the direct application of an existing constitutional limitation.

Jonathan's case raises the additional question whether a constitutional amendment enacted after his succession can affect his present eligibility.

This distinction may explain why the two cases could produce different legal outcomes without creating any inconsistency in Nigerian constitutional law.

FEATURE

Special courts for kidnapping and cultism in Edo: A bold step that must be matched with justice

AKINWUNMI LALEYE, ESQ

The decision of the Edo State Government to establish Special Courts for the trial of kidnapping, cultism, and other related offences is a timely and commendable initiative. At a time when violent crimes continue to threaten public safety, disrupt economic activities, and create fear among citizens, every genuine effort aimed at strengthening the administration of criminal justice deserves recognition.

Kidnapping and cult-related violence have, for years, posed serious security challenges in many parts of Edo State. Families have suffered painful losses, businesses have been disrupted, and communities have lived under constant fear. In these circumstances, the establishment of Special Courts demonstrates the Government's resolve to confront these crimes through a more focused and efficient judicial process.

One of the major advantages of Special Courts is the possibility of faster trials. Criminal cases involving serious offences often take years before they are concluded. Delays not only prolong the suffering of victims but also undermine public confidence in the justice system. A specialised court, with dedicated judicial attention, has



the potential to reduce unnecessary delays while ensuring that justice is delivered within a reasonable time.

Another significant benefit is deterrence. Criminals are more likely to think twice when they know that offences such as kidnapping and cultism will receive prompt judicial attention. The certainty of prosecution and timely adjudication strengthens the rule of law and sends a clear message that crime will not be tolerated.

The initiative also has the potential to improve the quality of criminal adjudication. Judges who regularly handle specialised criminal matters develop greater familiarity with the legal and evidential issues commonly associated with such offences. This

can contribute to greater consistency and efficiency in the administration of justice.

However, while the establishment of Special Courts is commendable, equal attention must be given to the conduct of investigations by law enforcement agencies. The effectiveness of any criminal justice system depends not only on the courts but also on the integrity of the investigative process.

There is a legitimate concern that the existence of Special Courts could, if not carefully monitored, create opportunities for abuse. Allegations of kidnapping or cultism are extremely serious. Once such allegations are made, suspects often face prolonged detention, reputational damage, finan-

cial hardship, and immense psychological pressure, even before any court determines their guilt or innocence.

There are concerns from members of the public and the legal profession that, in some instances, investigations into these offences may not always meet the highest standards of fairness. Because of the gravity of the allegations, innocent persons may find themselves subjected to prolonged investigations or other pressures before the facts are fully established. Such situations, if they occur, undermine public confidence in both law enforcement and the justice system.

The presumption of innocence remains a fundamental principle of our Constitution. Every suspect, regardless of the nature of the allegation, is entitled to a fair investigation, legal representation, and due process. The existence of Special Courts should never become a justification for arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate detention, or investigations unsupported by credible evidence.

For this reason, the establishment of Special Courts should be accompanied by strong safeguards. Investigating officers should receive continuous training on lawful investigative procedures and respect for constitutional rights. Internal oversight mechanisms should be strengthened to promptly address

complaints of abuse or misconduct. Prosecutors must also ensure that only cases supported by sufficient evidence are brought before the courts.

Ultimately, the success of this laudable initiative will not be measured merely by the number of convictions secured. It will be measured by the extent to which justice is administered fairly, efficiently, and in accordance with the rule of law. Society is protected not only when the guilty are punished but also when the innocent are protected from wrongful prosecution.

The Edo State Government deserves commendation for taking decisive steps to strengthen the fight against kidnapping and cultism. It is now equally important to ensure that the implementation of this policy remains firmly anchored on professionalism, accountability, and respect for constitutional rights.

A Special Court must never become merely a Special Conviction Court. It must remain, above all, a Special Court of Justice—where the guilty are held accountable, the innocent are protected, and the rule of law remains supreme.

By Akinwunmi Laleye, Esq
*Human Rights Activist
Former Secretary, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Ekpoma Branch*

Osun Election: Our Democracy is undoubtedly developing – **Idaomi**

RICHARD EWEKA

The Osun governorship election has come and gone but the fallout of the exercise is still being discussed in the political space. The Osun election has shown that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a Democrat and our democracy is undoubtedly developing.

Commenting on the outcome of the election, a political commentator, analyst and activist Prince Oluwatobi Idaomi said President Tinubu has consistently maintained that every vote must count, and the outcome of the election demonstrates that commitment.

How will you describe the outcome of the Osun governorship election?

The Osun election is a reflection of the commitment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration to good governance and democratic principles.

Before the election, the opposition and some sections of the media raised concerns that the Federal Government might deploy its influence to manipulate the process. However, President Tinubu has consistently maintained that every vote must count, and the outcome of the election demonstrates that commitment. That reminds me about the architect of one man, one vote. It was our comrade governor then

that launched that program of one man, one vote. IBB was at the Ogbe stadium then. I still recollect vividly how Mr Keyamo schooled IBB about democracy.

Does the results show INEC has gotten it right this time?

INEC should also be commended where it deserves recognition. Unlike the days when ballot boxes were snatched and electoral processes were disrupted. But in this election, accreditation and voting commenced early and proceeded smoothly across Osun State. The results were also transmitted to the IReV portal in a timely manner. These are positive developments that deserve acknowledgment.

Is Our Democracy Truly Developing?

Yes, our democracy is undoubtedly developing. The President deserves commendation for allowing the electoral process to take its course without interference. The security agencies deployed for the election maintained law and order and provided an environment where citizens could exercise their franchise peacefully.

Does the Opposition's Victory in Osun Portray President Tinubu as a True Democrat?

Absolutely. The fact that the opposition party won the Osun governorship election is, in itself, evidence that President Tinubu is

committed to democratic values. This administration has consistently expressed its desire to leave behind a legacy in which the people's choices are respected.

Those who predicted that the Federal Government would manipulate the election have been proved wrong. The elec-

tion was conducted in a manner that allowed voters to freely express their preferences, and the results reflected the choices made at the polls.

I would also like to address those opposition figures who have repeatedly claimed that incumbent governors cannot

win elections and that elections would be contested between the APC and the people. The Osun election has shown otherwise. The governor was able to connect with his people, present his message to them, and ultimately secure their support.

In Edo State, we are equally

prepared to support the leadership of Governor Okpebholo. Where he provides direction in the interest of the people, we are ready to follow. The people of Edo State have great confidence in him, and when it comes to our political direction, it is Asiwaju all the way.



Party supporters during a campaign in Osun State recently

COLUMN

Your ceremony, their feast

Have you ever contracted a caterer to prepare and serve food at your ceremony, only to discover, to your embarrassment, that the job was abysmally executed? If you have not, you may experience it sooner than you imagine.

Imagine inviting 300 guests to your wedding, birthday celebration, burial ceremony, child dedication, graduation party, housewarming or other social gathering. You have calculated the number of invitees, budgeted for the food, purchased the necessary ingredients and entrusted the catering to someone you believe possesses the requisite expertise.

Then, just as the ceremony gathers momentum, you hear the announcement: "There is rice, but there is no meat." Or perhaps: "The swallow is available, but the soup is finished."

You are stunned. Your guests are bewildered. You begin to wonder what went wrong. How could food prepared for a specified number of people suddenly become insufficient?

Then comes the revelation that makes your blood boil: while your guests are being told that the meat or soup has finished, the caterer has allegedly kept several containers of meat, fish, chicken and soup somewhere, presumably for herself, her family members or friends.

Worse still, some caterers arrive at events with a small army of friends and relatives masquerading as assistants. They eat from the food meant for invited guests, while the paying client is left to bear the embarrassment when the food eventually runs out.

Welcome to one of the less discussed but disturbing dimensions of Nigeria's event industry.

We talk endlessly about poor-quality roads, bad governance, corruption, insecurity and the high cost of living. Yet other forms of everyday dishonesty occur right under our noses and rarely attract public discourse.

Perhaps disappointed clients are too embarrassed to speak. Perhaps they fear being accused of being stingy or overly suspicious. Or perhaps they simply regard the experience as one of those unfortunate incidents that should be forgotten once the ceremony is over.

A caterer who deliberately withholds food paid for by a client is not merely providing poor service. She is betraying a professional trust.

Catering is one of those innocuous aspects of event management that can make or mar a ceremony. In Nigeria, food occupies a particularly important place in our social life. Indeed, the success of an event is sometimes measured less by the speeches, decoration or entertainment than by whether guests were adequately fed.

A beautifully organised ceremony can quickly become the subject of ridicule if guests leave complaining that they were not properly served.

Unfortunately, the person who bears the reputational damage is usually not the caterer. It is the host.

The irony is that the host may have done everything correctly. He may have paid the agreed amount, bought all the ingredients requested by the caterer and clearly communicated the expected number of guests.

Yet, when the food runs short, few people ask: "What happened to the food?" Instead, they ask: "What kind of host is this?"



This is perhaps why some unscrupulous caterers continue to get away with such practices.

Consider a ceremony where food has been budgeted for 300 people. If a caterer arrives with ten or fifteen additional people who were not factored into the calculation and feeds them from the client's allocation, those extra mouths inevitably reduce what is available to guests.

The caterer may call them "assistants", but the important question is: Were they part of the agreement? If they were not, why should the client be responsible for feeding them?

There is nothing wrong with a caterer bringing assistants to an event. Catering can be physically demanding, and additional hands may be necessary for cooking, serving, washing utensils, clearing tables and other logistical duties.

The problem arises when friends and relatives who have little or nothing to do with the assignment are brought along primarily to eat from the client's provision.

That is not professionalism. It is exploitation.

There is also the troubling practice of deliberately controlling portions in a manner that favours the caterer and her associates.

Some caterers may serve generous portions to early guests, only to become miserly when the food begins to diminish. Those who arrive later may be told that the meat has finished, while containers of meat, fish, chicken or soup have been discreetly set aside.

A competent caterer should anticipate this and manage the food with the entire guest list in mind.

The problem may extend beyond cooked food. Drinks, bottled water, takeaway packs and other consumables can also disappear. By the time the host begins to account for what was purchased and what was served, the figures may no longer add up.

Of course, unexpected circumstances can occur. More guests may attend than anticipated. Food may spill or spoil. There may be wastage or a cooking error. These are understandable operational challenges.

The former is a logistical problem. The latter is an ethical failure.

The guests were invited to eat it, not the caterer's entire social network.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with caterers eating from the food they prepare if such an arrangement has been agreed upon. Nor is there anything wrong with providing meals for legitimate catering assistants. Indeed, responsible clients should understand that those working tirelessly behind the scenes also need to eat.

The issue is transparency. If a caterer requires food for five assistants, she should say so. If she expects to bring

additional workers, the client should know. If she believes the agreed quantity will not adequately serve the expected number of guests, she should raise the matter before the event.

What is unacceptable is for the caterer to make unilateral decisions about the client's food and then leave the host to face the consequences.

The same principle applies to leftovers. If the client permits the caterer to take leftovers home, there is nothing wrong with that. If the leftovers belong to the host, however, they should be handed over.

There should be no clandestine packing of food into bags and containers while guests are still struggling to get a meal.

The catering profession, like every legitimate business, depends fundamentally on trust. Clients hand over their money, food items and reputation to caterers because they believe the professionals will deliver according to the agreement.

A caterer who compromises that trust does more than ruin one ceremony. She damages the reputation of an entire profession.

This is why caterers themselves should begin to police their industry. Professional associations and event-management bodies should establish clearer ethical standards for practitioners. Clients should equally insist on written agreements specifying the number of guests, quantities of food, number of assistants, serving arrangements and handling of leftovers.

Clients, too, must exercise greater caution. Rather than selecting caterers solely because they offer the cheapest quotation, prospective clients should investigate their reputation and seek recommendations from people who have previously used their services.

Most importantly, the host should appoint a trusted person to monitor the catering operation. This is not because every caterer is dishonest. Far from it.

There are many hardworking, conscientious and highly professional caterers who take immense pride in satisfying their clients. They understand that their reputation is their greatest asset and that every successful event can generate another contract. Such

caterers deserve commendation.

Unfortunately, the misconduct of a few can cast aspersions on the entire profession.

A caterer takes home several plates of meat and someone says, "She has worked hard; let her enjoy."

But where does legitimate compensation end and exploitation begin?

If the caterer was paid for her service and her remuneration was agreed upon, secretly appropriating food meant for guests cannot reasonably be described as an entitlement. There is nothing admirable about profiting from another person's hospitality.

The caterer, therefore, has a responsibility that goes beyond cooking. She is part of the event's hospitality chain. Her conduct can determine whether guests leave with pleasant memories or bitter complaints.

To caterers who engage in these questionable practices, the message is simple: there is nothing wrong with making a profit from your profession. There is everything wrong with making that profit through deception.

If you need additional food for your workers, ask for it. If your quotation is inadequate, renegotiate. If you need more money, charge more. If the contract does not cover your expenses, tell the client. If you want to take leftovers home, seek permission.

But do not deliberately deprive invited guests of food so that you can feed an uninvited entourage or return home with containers of meat and soup. That is not enterprise. It is exploitation.

And to clients, the lesson is equally important. Do not surrender the entire catering operation to blind trust. Put everything in writing. Agree on the numbers. Establish who is responsible for what. And, above all, have someone you trust monitor the process.

The time has therefore come for us to have an honest conversation about this largely overlooked aspect of event management. The mass media, event organisers, professional associations and the public should pay greater attention to it.

Because while a poorly decorated venue may be forgiven and a less-than-perfect programme may soon be forgotten, few guests forget being invited to a celebration and leaving hungry.

Caterers should remember that every plate they serve represents more than food. It represents money, planning, hospitality and trust.

Your client's ceremony is not your personal harvest.

If you want more, ask for more. If you need more money, charge more. If the contract needs to change, renegotiate it. But do not steal your profit from your client's pot.

A caterer who feeds every guest adequately, manages portions responsibly and leaves the venue with nothing more than what she is legitimately entitled to will earn something far more valuable than a few extra containers of meat: a reputation for integrity.

And reputation, in business, is capital. After all, the food in a client's pot may feed you for a day.

But your integrity can feed your reputation for a lifetime.

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PARTY GUESTS

New police vehicles, forest raids put criminals on the run in Edo



KIDNAPPING:

Security Operatives raid kidnappers' hideout in Edo forest

OSARUGUE OSADOLOR

“A hunter who tells the truth about his hunt does not fear the forest.” The week under review presented a changing security picture in Edo State, as the Police Command combined improved mobility with aggressive field operations to tighten security around criminal elements.

The development came at a time when kidnappers and other criminals continue to test the state's vast forests and border communities.

On August 25, 2026, the Edo State Government handed over three brand-new Cherry pickup vehicles and 10 motorcycles to the Police Command, a development that could significantly improve patrols, visibility and rapid response.

CP Patrick Daaor of Edo State immediately directed

their deployment to Edo North, where difficult terrain and the proximity to the Edo-Kogi border demand quick movement and sustained police presence.

The intervention, however, will only translate into security gains if backed by effective intelligence and strategic deployment.

Barely two days into the week-long security push, the Police and other agencies intensified a five-day joint clearance operation launched on August 23 across Imiakebu, Okpella and adjoining areas.

The operation brought together the Police, Nigerian Army, Air Force, NSCDC, Edo State Security Corps and other stakeholders, with ground and aerial teams combing the axis and adjoining locations in Kogi State.

The coordinated approach appeared designed not merely

to respond to crime but to deny criminal elements safe havens.

The operation gained further momentum on August 26, when CP Daaor personally joined the field exercise after addressing security personnel at Area Command, Auchi.

He also visited Iyamoh Police Division, where he presented another brand-new pickup vehicle to strengthen patrol coverage, before proceeding to Edo State University, Iyamoh, to assess its security arrangements.

The operation was conducted without casualty, while security personnel maintained sustained pressure across the operational areas.

The strategic importance of the exercise lies in its timing and scope. Criminal networks often exploit forests, border corridors and difficult-to-reach communities as escape routes

and hideouts.

By combining aerial surveillance with ground operations, security agencies appear to be closing some of those gaps. But the real measure of success will be whether the operation produces arrests, disrupts criminal camps and prevents the regrouping of fleeing suspects after the security teams withdraw.

The latest operations therefore carry a larger lesson, security cannot depend on occasional raids or new vehicles alone.

Equipment must be matched with intelligence, community cooperation and sustained presence. For Edo residents, the expectation is simple, turn the new mobility and joint operations into lasting security, so that criminals, rather than communities, become the ones staying alert and watching for the police.

Police arrest woman over bloody dog attack in Benin

The Edo State Police Command has arrested a woman, Ughanlunen Sandra, after three dogs allegedly launched a bloody attack on a telecommunications technician in Benin City.

It was gathered that the victim, Ajani Taiwo, was carrying out an MTN network installation when the dogs suddenly charged at him at a site behind Okhoro Police Division.

The incident occurred on August 20, 2026, along Okhoro Road, Benin City, when Taiwo visited the facility to install network equipment.

The victim said to reside in Okhoro area, reportedly contacted the person responsible for the site's power supply at about 3 p.m. to gain access.

But moments after the entrance was opened, three dogs reportedly sprang at him.

The animals allegedly attacked the technician before their owner, Sandra, arrived and intervened.

It was further scooped that the victim's cries for help drew the attention of neighbours, who rushed to the scene and joined efforts to rescue him from the dogs.

He was subsequently rushed to a nearby hospital, where he received emergency treatment for

injuries sustained during the attack, including a wound to his head.

It was also learnt that the incident was later reported at Okhoro Police Division leading to the arrest of the dog owner, while fear kept residents away from the ferocious animals, with no one daring to approach them.

Confirming the development, Edo State Police Command spokesperson, ASP Eno Ikoedem, said the woman was arrested following a formal complaint by the victim.

ASP Ikoedem said the technician had contacted the person in charge of power to open the facility before the dogs attacked him.

“Upon arrival at the site, he contacted the person in charge of power to open the door, and as the door was opened, about three dogs attacked him before the owner, Ughanlunen Sandra, arrived at the scene,” she said.

The police spokesperson said investigation into the circumstances surrounding the attack had commenced.

The command also cautioned dog owners and breeders to exercise adequate control and supervision over their animals.

According to the police, owners must ensure that their animals do not become a danger to members of the public.



Police officers

Armed robbers invade two Ekiadolor apartments, kill vigilante guard, steal lexus

The Edo State Police Command has reported that a 32-year-old vigilante guard, Edos Ojo, was killed while pursuing a gang of armed robbers who allegedly broke into two apartments in Ekiadolor and stole a Lexus ES 350 saloon car.

The Commissioner of Police in Edo State, CP Patrick Daaor, disclosed this to journalists in Benin City on Tuesday.

According to him, the incident occurred at about 1 a.m. on August 26, 2026, when four armed robbers broke into the apartments of Amaosa Happy and his neighbour, Osakpolor Abifade. The suspects allegedly stole four mobile phones, two power banks and a JBL speaker.

CP Daaor said the suspects also took Happy's Lexus ES 350

saloon car, with registration number BEN 05 CE.

The commissioner said two vigilante guards, Ojo and Ben Omodjevwe, 32, pursued the suspects on a motorcycle after the robbery.

He added that, while attempting to escape in the stolen Lexus, the suspects rammed the vehicle into the motorcycle carrying the two vigilante guards.

The police commissioner said Ojo sustained internal injuries and was rushed to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, UBTH, where he was later pronounced dead. Omodjevwe sustained minor injuries.

Following the incident, the police tracked and arrested one of the suspects, identified as Bassey Henry, at about 4 a.m. along 2nd Power Line.

Police rescue kidnap victim after gun battle with suspects in Edo

A kidnap operation turned into a frantic escape for suspected kidnappers after security operatives engaged them in a fierce gun battle along the Auchi-Okpella Expressway in Edo State.

It was said that the suspects abandoned their victim and fled into the bush after being overwhelmed by the superior firepower of the security operatives.

The incident occurred on August 24, 2026, when 30-year-old Aboi Otu was allegedly kidnapped at Afowa at about 8pm.

The Commissioner of police in Edo State CP Patrick Daaor disclosed this on Tuesday, in Benin City.

He said a report of the abduction was received at about 1:00 a.m on August 25, prompting the immediate mo-

bilisation of operatives from the Jattu Police Division.

The operatives, working alongside members of the Edo State Security Corps, launched a search-and-rescue operation to locate the victim and his abductors.

According to him, the security team eventually traced the kidnappers and located them while they were attempting to move the victim across the Auchi-Okpella Expressway.

CP Daaor said a gun battle ensued, forcing the suspects to abandon Otu and escape into the surrounding bush.

The victim was rescued unhurt and taken to a hospital for medical attention.

The Police said intensive bush-combing operations were ongoing in the area to track down and arrest the fleeing suspects.

Man, 24, remanded over alleged murder after consuming indian hemp

A 24-year-old man, Andrew Augustine, has been remanded in the custody of the Correctional Centre by a Benin High Court sitting in its vacation session over the alleged murder of Simon Ewanreh in Okwaza Community, Ubiaja, Edo State.

Augustine was accused of killing Ewanreh with a cutlass on August 15, 2026, shortly after a community bush-clearing exercise.

Moving an ex-parte application for a remand order, Police Counsel, Divine Dike, told the court that the incident occurred after a bush-clearing exercise organised by the youth leader of Okwaza Community.

Dike alleged that Augustine became intoxicated after consuming Indian hemp and subsequently attacked Ewanreh with a cutlass while the

deceased was relaxing at the scene.

The prosecution told the court that the attack resulted in Ewanreh's death.

Following the incident, Augustine allegedly fled into the bush but was later apprehended and handed over to the Police at Ubiaja.

The Police brought the suspect before the court pending receipt of legal advice from the office of the State Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

The alleged offence is said to be contrary to Section 237(1) and (2), and punishable under Section 242(1) of the Criminal Law of Edo State, 2022.

After considering the application, the court ordered that Augustine be remanded in the custody of the Correctional Centre pending the DPP's legal advice.

FEATURE

Termite threat in the Museum environment

«CONTINUED FROM PG 17

lose, many of these materials provide an abundant source of nutrition.

Wooden artifacts are especially vulnerable because they consist almost entirely of cellulose and lignin. Subterranean termites typically invade these objects from hidden surfaces, consuming the interior while leaving the exterior relatively intact. As a result, an artifact may appear undamaged until slight pressure causes it to collapse. Such hidden deterioration complicates conservation efforts because damage is often extensive before it becomes visible.

Paper-based collections are equally susceptible. Historical manuscripts, rare books, archival documents, maps, photographs mounted on paper supports, and administrative records may all be attacked by termites. Since many historical documents exist as unique originals, their destruction represents an irreversible loss of historical information. In many instances, no duplicate copies exist, making termite damage a permanent loss to national memory.

Ethnographic collections frequently contain untreated plant materials such as bamboo, raffia, palm fibres, bark cloth, reeds, and woven grasses. These materials are particularly attractive to termites because they contain natural cellulose and often receive minimal chemical treatment. Indigenous artifacts constructed from these materials therefore require careful monitoring within museum storage facilities.

Even composite objects may be affected. Many museum artifacts combine wood with metals, ivory, ceramics, leather, or textiles. Although termites consume only the organic components, the destruction of supporting wooden structures may destabilize the entire object, leading to cracking, distortion, or collapse of non-cellulosic components.

CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONSEQUENCES

The significance of termite damage extends beyond the physical destruction of museum objects. Museum collections preserve the historical experiences, artistic achievements, religious beliefs, technological innovations and cultural identities of societies. Each artifact represents evidence of human creativity and provides valuable information for researchers, educators, students and future generations.

When termites destroy an archaeological object, historical manuscript, ceremonial mask or traditional musical instrument. The associated historical knowledge may also disappear. Such losses cannot be measured solely in financial terms because cultural heritage possesses educational, symbolic, spiritual and national value. Unlike commercial products, many museum objects are unique and irreplaceable.

The destruction of museum collections also affects academic research. Historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, conservators and other scholars depend upon museum collections for scientific investigation. Damaged or destroyed artifacts reduce opportunities for future research and may prevent the reconstruction of important aspects of cultural history.

Tourism may likewise be affected. Museums contribute significantly to cultural tourism by attracting visitors interested in heritage and history. Deteriorated collections diminish exhibition quality and reduce visitor satisfaction, potentially affecting museum revenue and public con-



fidence in heritage institutions.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF TERMITE INFESTATION

Although the cultural consequences of termite damage are often emphasized, the economic burden is equally significant. Costs associated with termite infestation include building repairs, conservation treatment, collection relocation, pest control services, replacement of storage furniture, environmental monitoring and staff training.

Conservation treatment following termite damage is frequently expensive because each object requires individual assessment and stabilization. Severely damaged wooden artifacts may require consolidation, reconstruction, cleaning, insect eradication, environmental conditioning and long-term monitoring. In many cases, treatment may continue for several months or years.

Museums experiencing major infestations may also face indirect financial losses through temporary closure of galleries, cancellation of exhibitions, reduced visitor numbers and interruption of educational programmes. Insurance costs and emergency response expenditures further increase the economic impact of infestations.

For museums operating in developing countries, these financial demands present substantial challenges. Limited conservation funding often forces institutions to prioritize emergency repairs over long-term preventive conservation, increasing the likelihood of recurring infestations.

IMPORTANCE OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Effective termite management begins with comprehensive risk assessment. Museums should identify areas most vulnerable to infestation by evaluating building design, construction materials, environmental conditions, surrounding vegetation, drainage systems, and previous infestation history. Collections containing untreated wood, paper, bamboo, or other cellulose-rich materials should receive priority during routine inspections.

Risk assessment should also consider the significance of individual artifacts. Objects possessing exceptional historical, cultural, or scientific value require enhanced protection because their loss would have profound consequences. Documentation through

condition reports, photography, and digital cataloguing enables conservators to detect subtle changes indicating early termite activity.

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that termites constitute one of the greatest biological threats to museum environments. Their ability to damage buildings, collections, and supporting infrastructure simultaneously makes them particularly difficult to manage. The adoption of comprehensive risk assessment, combined with preventive conservation and integrated pest management, is therefore essential for ensuring the long-term preservation of museum collections and the cultural heritage they represent.

CONCLUSION

Termites remain one of the most significant biological threats to museum environments due to their ability to cause extensive and often irreversible damage to both museum buildings and collections. Their concealed feeding behaviour enables infestations to progress unnoticed, resulting in the deterioration of wooden structures, archival records, ethnographic materials, furniture, manuscripts and other cellulose-based artifacts that embody a nation's cultural and historical identity. Beyond the physical destruction of collections, termite infestations impose substantial economic costs, disrupt museum operations, and undermine the educational, scientific and cultural functions of museums.

This paper has demonstrated that termite infestation is influenced by a combination of environmental, structural and management-related factors—including high humidity, poor building maintenance, inadequate environmental control, untreated timber and insufficient pest monitoring.

These conditions are particularly prevalent in many tropical regions, where favourable climatic conditions support year-round termite activity. Consequently, museums in such environments require proactive and sustainable strategies to reduce the risk of infestation and safeguard their collections.

The review further highlights that effective termite management cannot rely solely on chemical treatments. Instead, successful protection of museum collections requires a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme that combines preventive conservation, regular in-

spection, environmental monitoring, sanitation, building maintenance, early detection technologies and carefully selected control measures.

Staff training, documentation and collaboration among conservators, entomologists, architects, facility managers and museum administrators are equally important in ensuring the long-term success of pest management programmes.

Ultimately, protecting museum collections from termite attack is fundamental to preserving cultural heritage for future generations. Since many museum objects are unique and irreplaceable, their loss represents not only the destruction of physical artifacts but also the erosion of historical knowledge, cultural identity, and collective memory. Therefore, sustained investment in preventive conservation, scientific research, institutional capacity building, and integrated pest management should remain a priority for museums and heritage institutions worldwide. Through these collective efforts, museums can continue to fulfil their mission of preserving and transmitting humanity's cultural legacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance termite management and ensure the long-term preservation of museum collections and cultural heritage:

Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Museums should adopt a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme that emphasizes prevention, routine monitoring, environmental control and the judicious use of chemical treatments. IPM should become a core component of every museum's preventive conservation policy.

Conduct Regular Inspections and Monitoring: Routine inspections of museum buildings, exhibition galleries, storage areas and collections should be carried out to detect early signs of termite activity. Monitoring tools such as termite bait stations, moisture meters, acoustic detectors and infrared thermographs.

Improve Environmental Control: Museums should maintain stable environmental conditions by controlling temperature and relative humidity, ensuring adequate ventilation, repairing water leaks promptly, and improving drainage systems around museum

buildings. Reducing excess moisture will significantly decrease the likelihood of termite infestation.

Strengthen Building Maintenance: Regular maintenance of museum structures should include sealing cracks in walls and foundations, replacing deteriorated timber, treating structural wood with appropriate preservatives where suitable, and preventing direct contact between wooden components and soil.

Enhance Preventive Conservation Practices: Museum collections should be stored using archival-quality materials and shelving that minimize pest risks. Wooden artifacts, archival materials, and ethnographic collections should receive regular condition assessments, while newly acquired objects should be quarantined and inspected before being introduced into collection storage.

Provide Continuous Staff Training: Museum staff, including conservators, curators, collection managers, maintenance personnel, and security officers, should receive periodic training on termite identification, early signs of infestation, reporting procedures, and preventive conservation techniques. Well-trained personnel are essential for early detection and effective response.

Increase Funding for Conservation: Governments, museum authorities, and cultural heritage organizations should allocate sufficient financial resources for preventive conservation, building maintenance, pest monitoring equipment, research, and professional development. Sustainable funding is critical for protecting museum collections against biological deterioration.

Promote Research on Museum Pests: Universities, research institutes, and museums should collaborate to investigate termite species associated with museum environments, particularly in tropical countries such as Nigeria. Research should focus on termite biology, infestation patterns, environmentally friendly control methods, and the long-term effects of treatment methods on museum objects.

Develop Institutional Pest Management Policies: Every museum should establish written pest management policies that define inspection schedules, documentation procedures, emergency response plans, and responsibilities of staff members. These policies should be reviewed regularly and integrated into the museum's overall collections management strategy.

Strengthen Collaboration and Public Awareness: Effective termite management requires collaboration among museum professionals, entomologists, architects, conservation scientists, government agencies, and local communities. Public awareness programmes should also emphasize the importance of protecting cultural heritage from biological threats and encourage support for conservation initiatives.

Implementing these recommendations will reduce the risk of termite infestation, improve the preservation of museum buildings, collections and strengthen the capacity of museums to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

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Sports

● Football ● Athletics ● Golf ● Basketball ● Tennis ● Boxing

Volleyball: Nigeria edges DR Congo in five set thriller as High Commissioner hails fighting spirit

Nigeria's High Commissioner-Designate to Kenya, Ambassador Danlami Ibrahim has hailed the exceptional performance of the team at the 2026 African Senior Women's Nations Volleyball Championship.

The West African giants came back from two sets down to beat DR Congo 3-2 (20-25, 22-25, 25-21, 25-13, 15-13) in a pulsating 9th-12th classification match at the Ulinzi Complex on Tuesday, September 1.

An elated Ambassador Ibrahim highly praised the fighting spirit of the Nigerian players.

The ambassador said the team's progress throughout the championship had been encouraging, particularly after suffering a 3-0 defeat to host Kenya in their last group stage match.

He said: "I'm highly elated. To come back from 2-0 down to win 3-2, that is the stuff Nigeria is made of. You underrate Nigeria at your own peril."

"These girls have shown tremendous determination. From the game, which they lost 3-0 to Kenya, they bounced back to win two consecutive matches."

Ibrahim also expressed optimism about the future of the team, noting that he had been informed that the squad is a young and promising one.

"It's a young and promising team, so I believe they have a bright future ahead," he added.

The Nigerian High Commissioner-Designate also used the occasion to appeal to Nigerians living in Kenya to turn out in large numbers for the team's final match of the championship.

He expressed concern over

the relatively low turnout of Nigerian supporters at the matches so far, attributing it partly to work commitments, but urged Nigerians to make the effort to support the players.

"They should please come out and cheer on the team. Nigerians here in Kenya should

come out in numbers," Ibrahim appealed.

"The turnout so far has not been very impressive, perhaps because of work commitments, but I want to appeal to them to make the effort to come out for the final game and cheer the team to victory."

The ambassador also disclosed that plans were in place to celebrate the team and Nigerian supporters after the final match.

"Afterwards, we will have a Nigerian party for the team and Nigerians here in Kenya," he said.



Nigeria beat Mali in Volleyball final

Transfer: Brighton reach agreement to sign Nigeria international Femi Azeez

Brighton & Hove Albion have agreed a deal to sign Nigeria international Femi Azeez from Sky Bet Championship club Millwall.

According to The Athletic, Brighton and Millwall have reached an agreement worth £12.5 million, with a further €2.5 million in potential additions included in the deal.

The transfer is expected to be completed after Azeez undergoes a medical, with the winger set to sign a four-year contract at Brighton. The agreement will also reportedly include an option for the Premier League club to extend the contract by another year.

The proposed deal could become one of the biggest sales in Millwall's history and may sur-

pass the £14 million transfer of Romain Esse to Crystal Palace last summer.

Azeez's move comes after an impressive campaign in the Championship, where he established himself as one of Millwall's most influential attacking players.

The 25-year-old was a consistent threat from the wing, combining his pace and attacking ability with an impressive contribution in front of goal.

Azeez finished last season with 11 goals and seven assists in 37 appearances for Millwall, underlining his importance to the club's attacking play.

His performances did not go unnoticed, as he was selected in the PFA Championship

Team of the Season alongside some of the division's leading performers.

Brighton's decision to invest heavily in Azeez reflects the club's interest in recruiting emerging talent with the po-

tential to make an impact at Premier League level.

The Nigeria international is now expected to make the switch to the south coast and begin a new chapter of his career with Brighton.



Femi Azeez



FIFA President, Gianni Infantino, (right) with the National Sports Commission (NSC) Chairman Shehu Dikko

"Stronger structures, more opportunities" — Infantino backs Nigeria Football reform

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has thrown his weight behind Nigeria's football reform process, stressing the need for stronger structures and greater opportunities for young players following high-level talks with a Nigerian delegation in Zurich.

Infantino disclosed that he was pleased to meet a delegation led by National Sports Commission (NSC) Chairman Shehu Dikko at the Home of FIFA in Switzerland, where they held detailed discussions on the future of Nigerian football.

"We had a detailed talk on institutional, governance and developmental topics, as well as our ongoing collaborations," Infantino said in a statement shared on his social media platforms.

The FIFA president said the meeting also focused on creating "stronger structures and pathways" that would provide more opportunities for Nigerian youths to develop through football.

"We explored areas where FIFA can further support the growth of our beautiful game in this football-passionate country," he added.

The meeting comes at a crucial moment for Nigerian football following the resignation of Nigeria Football Federation president Ibrahim Musa Gusau, General Secretary Mohammed

Sanusi and members of the NFF Executive Committee.

FIFA has since accepted the resignations and agreed to continue discussions with the Nigerian government, the NFF administration and the Confederation of African Football (CAF) on a comprehensive roadmap for reform.

The talks in Zurich are expected to help shape short-, medium- and long-term reforms aimed at improving the governance, administration and development of football in Nigeria.

The Nigerian delegation was led by Dikko and included NSC Director-General Bukola Olupade, former NFF president Amaju Pinnick and officials of the interim NFF administration.

Infantino also used the meeting to wish Nigeria's Falcons and U-17 women's team success at their upcoming FIFA World Cup competitions.

He thanked the Nigerian delegation for its "time, ideas and positive intent" to work together in taking Nigerian football forward.

The development represents a significant step in Nigeria's attempt to overhaul its football administration, with FIFA's continued involvement expected to be crucial in ensuring that the reform process produces an inclusive and stable structure for the country's game.

SPORTS



Atale backs Odegbami to lead NFF after reforms ...Pinnick record questioned

Seasoned journalist John Atale has thrown his weight behind Nigeria football legend Segun Odegbami as his preferred candidate to lead the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) once the ongoing reform process in Nigerian football is completed.

Atale, while weighing the credentials of Odegbami against those of former NFF presidents Amaju Pinnick and other prominent football stakeholders such as businessman Kunle Soname, said he would vote for the former Green Eagles captain without sentiment.

"Between Segun Odegbami, Soname and Amaju Pinnick as NFF President, I'll vote for Big Seg for obvious reasons. Sentiments thrown into the gutters," Atale stated.

According to the journalist, Odegbami's strongest advantage is his extensive experience both on the pitch and in football administration.

He highlighted Odegbami's illustrious playing career, noting that the former Shooting Stars star won Nigeria's first Africa Cup of Nations title in 1980, while earning 46 international caps, scoring goals and serving as captain of the national team.

He argued that Odegbami's experience as a former international gives him an understanding of football that goes beyond administration.

"He knows the game from inside," he stressed.

Beyond his playing career, Atale pointed to Odegbami's administrative credentials, citing his leadership of Nigeria's Bid Management Committee for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, his involvement in Confederation of African Football (CAF) committees, management of football programmes such as the Shell Cup and his experience running football clubs.

He also noted that, despite the long history of former internationals in Nigerian football, the country's football federation has yet to be led at the top by a former Super Eagles international of Odegbami's stature.

In comparing Odegbami with former NFF president Amaju Pinnick, Atale expressed reservations about returning the former federation chief to the presidency.

He pointed to Nigeria's failure to qualify for two FIFA World Cups during the broader period of recent football administration as part of his concerns, while also referencing questions surrounding audits, funding and the increasing politicization of football administration.

"For Pinnick, let disaster not befall the country once again," Atale stated.

He also urged caution over a possible Soname candidacy,

arguing that the businessman should first gain more experience navigating the complex politics and administration of modern football.

"Soname should hang around and 'learn the ropes' of modern football politics," he said, adding that he would rather back an established administrator whose pedigree is already known.

Atale's endorsement of Odegbami comes at a time when calls for reforms within Nigerian football have intensi-

fied, with stakeholders expected to play a major role in determining the leadership structure of the NFF after the reform process is concluded.

Atale's choice is straightforward, experience, football pedigree and administrative exposure should take precedence when the time comes to choose the person who will lead Nigerian football into its next chapter.

"Let's allow an established administrator whose pedigree is already known. Rule!"



SEGUN ODEGBAMI

WAFU-B CAFWCLQ: Edo Queens run-over Burkina Faso's USFA 5-1 to book final spot

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

Reigning Champions of the Nigeria Women Football League NWFL, Edo Queens FC on Wednesday thrashed USFA FC of Burkina Faso 5-1 in the semi-finals clash of the CAF Women's Champions League qualifying tournament in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Atume Doosuur opened scoring for the 2024 WAFU-B

champions in the 17th minutes the match decided at the Stade 4AOUT Stadium in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Goals manufacturing machine Chioma Moses and Valentina Uroko struck in quick succession -43 and 45 minutes to increase the tally for the Benin girls.

On return from halftime break, Doshima Tarnum scored through a corner

kick to compound the woes of the host team in just a minute into the second half.

Aminat Folorunsho wrapped up the game for Edo Queens in the 62nd minute to take the game out of reach for the Burkinabes.

The host team however got a consolation goal in the 91st minute to end the game 5-1.

Edo Queens secured their qualification to the semi-fi-

nals stage after recording a comprehensive 7-0 thrashing of AS Garde Nationale of Niger Republic and 3-1 beating of Asec Mimosas in their first and second group B matches.

The Benin based team however fell to Ampem Darkoa Ladies FC of Ghana 2-1 on Sunday evening at the Stade Municipal 4AOUT Stadium in the last Group B game of the Qualifiers.

They are likely to meet Ampem Darkoa Ladies FC again in the final battle.

Nigeria beat Mali, ends 2026 African Women's Volleyball Championship on a winning note

Nigeria's senior women's volleyball team finished their 2026 African Women's Volleyball Championship campaign on a winning note with a commanding 3-0 victory over Mali in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Nigerian women dominated the classification match for ninth and 10th positions, securing a straight-sets win on Wednesday, September 2.

Nigeria had to work for the opening set but eventually prevailed 25-23 before taking control of the contest in the second set, winning 25-19.

The West Africans completed the victory in emphatic fashion, cruising to a 25-14 win in the third set to seal a 3-0 triumph.

Nigeria 3-0 Mali

First set:

Nigeria 25-23 Mali

Second set:

Nigeria 25-19 Mali

Third set: Nigeria 25-14 Mali

The victory means Nigeria finish ninth at the 2026 CAVB Women's African Nations Volleyball Championship, while Mali end the tournament in 10th position.

The result gives Nigeria a strong finish to their continental campaign after competing against some of Africa's leading volleyball nations at the championship.

The 2026 CAVB Women's African Nations Volleyball Championship is being staged in Nairobi, Kenya, from August 23 to September 5.

Nigeria's final classification victory also underlines the team's ability to finish the competition strongly, as they recorded a convincing straight-sets success against Mali.



EDO QUEENS CELEBRATING AFTER THEIR VICTORY