Dangote Refinery IPO: SEC warns against fraudsters

● ₦2.15trn offer opens at ₦525 per share

LAGOS

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has warned Nigerians and other prospective investors against falling victim to unauthorised and fraudulent platforms seeking to exploit the commencement of the Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals FZE public offer.

The warning came yesterday as the much-anticipated Initial Public Offering (IPO) of the Dangote Refinery opened to investors, offering 4.1 billion ordinary shares at N525 per share.

The offer, which is expected to raise approximately N2.15 trillion, is one of the largest equity offerings ever undertaken in Africa and provides members of the public with an opportunity to acquire a stake in Africa's largest refinery.

The minimum subscription is 10 shares valued at N5,250, while the offer is scheduled to close on October 13, 2026, subject to the terms contained in the Prospectus.

The SEC, however, urged investors to exercise extreme caution and deal only through approved channels, following concerns that fraudsters could take advantage of the huge public interest in the offer to defraud unsuspecting Nigerians.

Eligible investors have been advised to subscribe through approved distribution channels, including NGX Invest, designated commercial banks and authorised investment platforms, in accordance with the provisions of the Prospectus.

The public offer is targeted at retail, institutional and eligible African investors and is expected to broaden public ownership of the refinery while deepening participation in Ni-

CONTINUES ON PG 2»

The Nigerian
OBSERVER
That The People May Know

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PUBLISHED SINCE MAY 29, 1968 | VOL. 47, NO. 1,351 | TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2026. | ₦200

FG demands justice for two Nigerians killed in South Africa

● National Assembly suspends official engagements

ABUJA

The Federal Government has condemned the deaths of two Nigerian nationals in separate incidents in South Africa and demanded thorough, transparent and speedy investigations to establish the circumstances surrounding the incidents and bring anyone found responsible to justice.

The deceased were identified as Bishop Taiwo Michael Fakunle, who was killed at his residence in Kensington, Johannesburg, on September 4, 2026, and James Uchechukwu Nwankwo, who died in Cape Town the following day.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its spokesperson, Oluwafemi Adeniyi, said the circumstances surrounding the two deaths were disturbing and raised fresh concerns about the safety of Nigerians and other foreign nationals in South Africa.

According to the ministry, Nwankwo died after what it described as "gruesome interrogation techniques" allegedly used by officers of the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The ministry did not iden-

CONTINUES ON PG 2»

Okpebholo rejigs cabinet

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, at the weekend, effected a minor cabinet reshuffle as part of ongoing efforts to strengthen governance, enhance service delivery and promote greater efficiency in the management of state affairs.

In a statement issued by the Secretary to the State Government, Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq., the exercise involved the redeployment of some commissioners.

According to the announcement, the Commissioner for Water Resources, Hon. (Dr.) Felix Ehiguese Akhabue, has been redeployed to the Ministry of Physical and Urban Development, while Hon. (Barr.) Vincent Osas Uwadiae moved from the Ministry of Physical and Urban Development to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Also affected are Hon. Andrew Momodu, who moved from the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy to the Ministry of Oil and Gas Resources, and Prof. Omorodion I. Ikponmwosa, who moved from the Ministry of Oil and Gas Resources to the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.

The affected commissioners were enjoined to bring their wealth of experience and expertise to bear in their respective new portfolios and remain committed to the present administration's SHINE Agenda for the sustainable development of Edo State.

The redeployment takes immediate effect.

PLENARY SESSION:
Hon. Eric Allison Okaka, Chairman of the Joint Committees on Environment, Sustainability and Transport; Rules, Business and Government House; and Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters (left), presenting the report of the Committees to the Clerk of the Edo State House of Assembly, Alhaji Yahaya Omogbai, for consideration by the House during yesterday's plenary session.
PHOTO: GODWIN ISEGUAN.

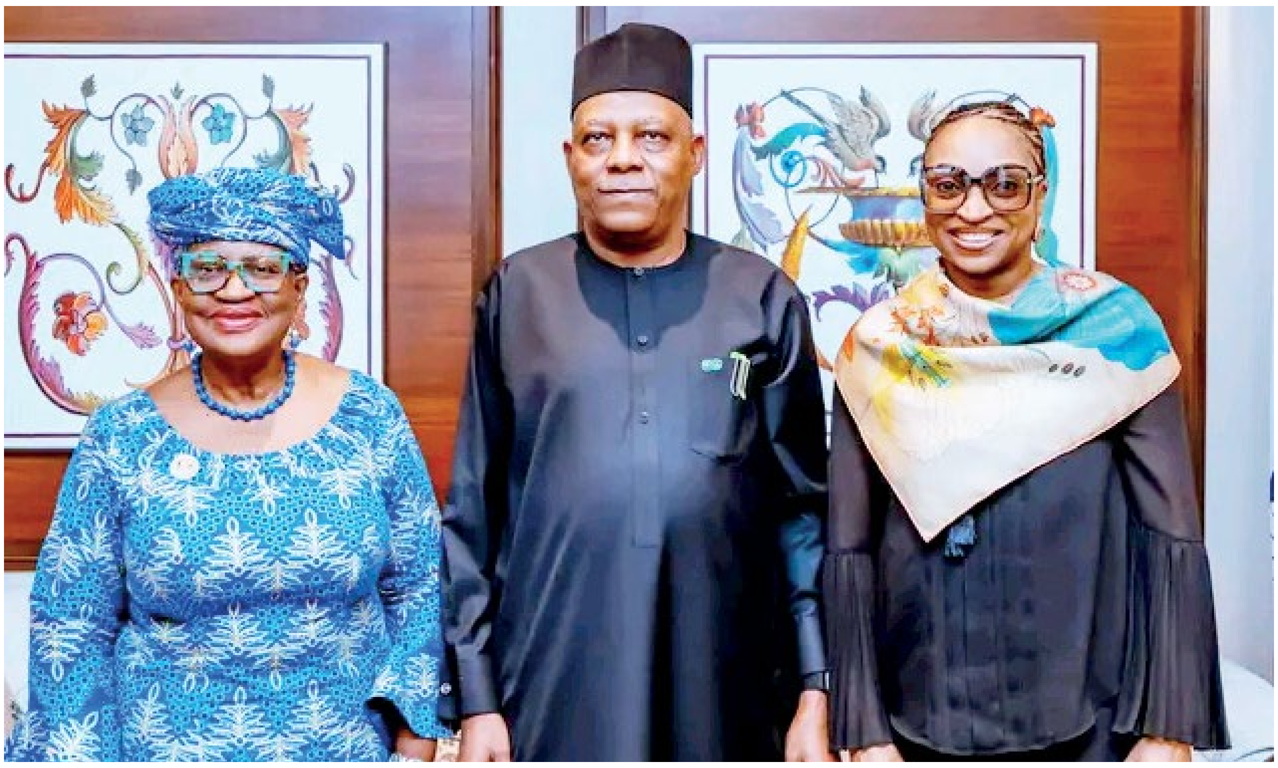
EDHA sets up committee on alleged cocoa farm destruction —Pg 2

Troops arrest suspected kidnapper with AK-47 in Edo —Pg 2

Zambians warned not to eat dead wildlife after anthrax kills dozens of animals —Pg 15

Sporting paint Lagos red, Doma stay perfect as 19-goal explosion lights up Nigerian football —Pg 22

NEWS



BRICS LEADERS' SUMMIT:
Vice President, Kashim Shettima (M): Director-General of World Trade Organization (WTO), Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (L) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Jumoke Oduwole during a meeting with the WTO Director - General at the ongoing BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, India.

EDHA sets up committee on alleged cocoa farm destruction

Raymond Osogbe

BENIN CITY

The Edo State House of Assembly (EDHA) has constituted an ad hoc committee to investigate allegations of malicious destruction of cocoa farms, encroachment on community land and threats to the livelihood of cocoa farmers in Ovia North East Local Government Area of the state.

The action followed a petition presented to the House by a group of cocoa farmers from the area, through Crown Law Firm, their legal representatives.

According to the petitioners, the disputed land was acquired under a 30-year Memorandum of Understanding reached several years ago.

They alleged, however, that despite the agreement, some persons described as trespassers had entered their farms and destroyed the cocoa plantations with bulldozers.

The farmers expressed concern that the alleged destruction and continued encroachment could seriously undermine their livelihoods and threaten the sustainability of cocoa farming in the community.

They further claimed that the development was already generating tension in the locality and warned that, if left unchecked, it could undermine peace and order in the affected communities.

Following the presentation of the petition, the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Idiaye Yekini, constituted an ad hoc committee to critically investigate the allegations and report its findings to the House within two weeks.

The committee is chaired by Hon. Lecky Hussein Mustapha, representing Etsako West Constituency.

Meanwhile, the House Majority Leader, Hon. Ojezelle Osezua Sunday, moved a motion seeking the establishment of the Edo State Emergency Management Agency.

The House also received a letter seeking the consideration and confirmation of Hon. Ogbeide Jolly Obosa as a member of the Edo State Oil and Gas Producing Areas Development Commission.

The Speaker subsequently directed the appropriate committee to examine the request and submit its report to the House within two weeks.

Commencement of 2026/2027 academic year: Edo parents demand compliance on reusable textbooks

Benedict Okate

BENIN CITY

As schools resumed yesterday, September 14, 2026, for the 2026/2027 academic session, parents and guardians in Edo State have urged school administrators, particularly owners of private schools, to fully comply with the state government's policy permitting younger siblings to reuse approved textbooks.

One of the parents, a widow and mother of four, Mrs. Juliana Ekhaguere, told our correspondent that school administrators, particularly private school proprietors, should ensure that their booklists and admission or resumption requirements do not undermine the policy by prescribing new editions indiscriminately or insisting that every child must purchase a separate copy of the same approved textbook.

She maintained that where an older sibling's textbook remains the approved edition and is still in good condition, the younger child should be allowed to inherit and use it without penalty.

The concern, according to parents and guardians who were seen taking their children and wards to school to resume the new academic year, is particularly significant amid rising household expenses and the increasing cost of education.

They noted that parents had previously complained that textbooks incorporating workbooks and spaces for class or home exercises were often rendered unusable after one academic session, effectively forcing families to purchase another set for younger children.

According to the parents, compliance with the policy should not merely be on paper but should be reflected in the actual conduct of school managements, particularly in the preparation of annual booklists.

They further appealed to school proprietors and publishers to see the Edo State Government's policy as a measure designed to make education more affordable rather than as a threat to their businesses.

"No parent should be forced to buy a new textbook simply because a younger sibling is entering the same class or using the same approved curriculum," the parents maintained.

Similarly, education stakeholders, including the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Parent Teacher Association of Nigeria (NAPTAN), Adeolu Ogunbanjo, have argued that separating workbooks from core textbooks would help preserve the latter for future use.

"I am fully in support of the campaign to make textbooks reusable. The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) should ensure that textbooks have longer lifespans, recalling that books were traditionally passed from older to younger siblings," he said.

The concerned Nigerians therefore called on the Edo State Ministry of Education and relevant quality-assurance authorities to monitor private schools and sanction any institution that attempts to circumvent the policy by making the compulsory purchase of new textbooks a requirement where reuse is permitted.

FG demands justice for two...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

tify suspects or give a possible motive in the death of Bishop Fakunle, who was reportedly shot at his Johannesburg residence.

South African police had not immediately responded to requests for comment on the allegations concerning the two deaths.

The Federal Government called on the relevant South African authorities to immediately commence comprehensive investigations into the incidents, identify those responsible and ensure that they are prosecuted in accordance with the law.

It said Nigeria expected the cases to be treated with the urgency they deserved.

The latest deaths have heightened concerns over the safety of Nigerians in South Africa, where recurring anti-migrant and xenophobic tensions have strained relations between the two countries.

Nigeria's Foreign Ministry said the killings raised questions about the safety of foreigners in South Africa and the commitment of the South African authorities to curbing targeted attacks against foreign nationals.

The Nigerian Ambassador-designate to South Africa, Femi Fani-Kayode, has also expressed outrage over the deaths.

According to reports quoting Fani-Kayode, Fakunle and Nwankwo were the seventh and eighth Nigerians allegedly killed in South Africa in 2026.

He further alleged that four of the eight deaths involved South African police officers.

Fani-Kayode also claimed that more than 100 Nigerians had been killed in South Africa between 2022 and 2026, including more than 30 allegedly killed by officers of the South African Police Service and South African Defence Force. These figures are allegations attributed to the envoy and remain subject to official verification.

The development has attracted calls for stronger action from the Federal Government.

Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Femi Falana, urged the government to move beyond diplomatic condemnation and consider legal proceedings against South Africa over the alleged killings and mistreatment of Nigerians.

Falana argued that Nigeria could explore available regional and international human-rights mechanisms to seek accountability and protection for its citizens.

He also called for stronger coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria's diplomatic mission in South Africa and the Federal Ministry of Justice in documenting cases involving alleged killings, torture and other abuses of Nigerians.

The National Assembly has meanwhile suspended official visits and legislative engagements with South Africa indefinitely, citing continuing concerns over attacks, killings, displacement and destruction of Nigerians' businesses and property.

The suspension covers official parliamentary visits and legislative programmes hosted or organised by South African legislative authorities.

The move has further raised the diplomatic temperature between Africa's two largest economies.

South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Ronald Lamola, said Pretoria had not received formal communication about the Nigerian parliamentary decision, while stressing that South Africa remained willing to engage Nigeria on issues affecting the two countries.

The latest incidents have also renewed attention to the wider problem of xenophobic and anti-migrant violence in South Africa.

Nigerian officials said in July that at least 98 Nigerians had been killed in South Africa since 2022 in mob attacks, hate-related incidents and alleged extrajudicial killings.

The Federal Government's latest demand therefore puts renewed pressure on South African authorities to establish the facts surrounding the deaths of Bishop Fakunle and Nwankwo, prosecute anyone found culpable and provide stronger guarantees for the safety of Nigerians living and conducting legitimate business in the country.

Dangote Refinery IPO: SEC warns...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

geria's capital market.

The proceeds are expected to support the refinery's long-term growth plans, operational expansion and strategic investments, while creating additional value for shareholders and other stakeholders.

The scale of the offer has generated significant interest among investors, with the management assuring prospective shareholders that participation has been designed to be accessible, transparent and technology-enabled.

The SEC warning is therefore seen as particularly significant as investors rush to participate in what is being described as a landmark transaction for Nigeria's capital market.

The Commission urged members of the investing public to verify all subscription channels and avoid making payments through unofficial platforms or individuals claiming to be authorised agents.

NEWS

Edo Govt House chaplain donates educational materials to Uhogua IDP camp

BENIN CITY

The management and children of the Home for the Needy Foundation have commended the Edo State Government for providing exercise books and other writing materials to children at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp in Uhogua, Ovia North East Local Government Area, ahead of the new academic session.

The commendation followed a visit to the camp on Sunday by the Edo State Government delegation, during which the educational materials were presented to the children as schools across the state prepare to resume for another academic term.

The intervention, according to the beneficiaries, came at a critical time, providing much-needed relief to children preparing to return to school with renewed hope and the basic materials required for their studies.

Among the beneficiaries were Unity Moses, an SS1 student; Joy Haruna, a JSS1 student; and Barnabas Barka, an SS3 student.

The students expressed appreciation to the state government for remembering them ahead of resumption, saying the exercise books and writing materials would assist them in preparing adequately for the new term.

They said the gesture had made them feel remembered and supported in their pursuit of education despite their displacement.

The Supervisor of the camp, Mrs Evelyn Omigie, described the intervention as "timely", noting that the provision of learning materials would help ease some of the educational challenges confronting the children.

Omigie, however, appealed for additional financial assistance for students in tertiary institutions and those seeking admission into universities.

She said such support was particularly needed to enable the students meet registration fees and other educational expenses associated with higher education.

Presenting the educational materials, the Government House Chaplain and Special Adviser to the Governor on Religious Matters, Apostle Sule Faraday, said the gesture was part of the Edo State Government's continued support for children at the camp.

Faraday said the intervention was intended to complement the support provided by the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo, stressing that children living in displacement should not be denied opportunities available to their peers.

According to him, the administration remained committed to ensuring that "children, both displaced and non-displaced, are treated as equals" and provided with the necessary tools to thrive academically.

In addition to the distribution of exercise books and writing materials, the government also presented a cash gift of N400,000 to students seeking admission and registration into higher institution.

CLOSING CEREMONY:
From left: Principal Investigator, AI Data Science Boot camp, Dr Aderonke Sakpere; Overall Best Student, Omotoke Eniafe; 2nd Postion, Morolaoluwa Ajibola; 3rd Position, Amunoluwapo Adepoju - Segun; Lead Associate Investigator, Dr Wilson Sakpere; during the closing ceremony of AI Data Science for Girls in Ibadan.

AMANI summit: Experts urge women entrepreneurs to prioritise mental health, business structures

ABUJA

Experts at the 2026 AMANI Business Summit have urged women entrepreneurs to prioritise their mental health, financial discipline and proper business structures as essential ingredients for building sustainable enterprises.

The experts spoke at the summit organised by AMANI Muslim Women in Abuja with the theme, "Building Sustainable Businesses with Integrity."

In her welcome address, AMANI Coordinator, Hadrat Omipidan, said the organisation was committed to equipping women with the knowledge, opportunities and support needed to build stronger businesses and communities.

Omipidan said business success should not be measured by profit alone, but also by the values guiding entrepreneurs' decisions, the trust they build and their positive impact on society.

She urged participants to embrace honesty, accountability, fairness and excellence in their business dealings, describing the values as essential to sustainable entrepreneurship.

Speaking on "Mental Health for Entrepreneurs: Thriving in Business Without Burning Out," Coach Jyda Mahuta urged women entrepreneurs to pay greater attention to their emotional and mental wellbeing.

Mahuta said entrepreneurs often became so consumed by their businesses, families and other responsibilities that they neglected themselves, exposing them to stress and emotional exhaustion.

She said maintaining good mental health would enable entrepreneurs to remain grounded, emotionally resilient and better positioned to support their families, businesses and communities.

According to her, entrepreneurs need to develop emotional intelligence and deliberately cultivate habits that would help them manage stress and maintain their capacity to keep showing up for their businesses and loved ones.

Mahuta also encouraged participants to develop practical strategies for recovering from periods of intense pressure rather than allowing business challenges to overwhelm their personal lives.

Also speaking, Dr Monsurat Ayoola, who delivered a keynote address titled "Building a Stable, Profitable and Sustainable Business: Structure, Financial Management, Investment and Strategies for Sustainable Growth," identified proper business structure and financial discipline as critical to long-term success.

Ayoola said entrepreneurs could generate substantial income and still fail to achieve sustainability if their businesses lacked proper structures and effective systems.

She challenged business owners to move beyond simply generating revenue to creating systems that would enable their enterprises to function effectively without their constant physical presence.

Ayoola advised entrepreneurs to maintain regular records of sales, expenses, personal income and business reinvestment to ensure effective financial management.

She also urged them to deliberately allocate portions of their earnings to debt repayment, investment, savings and retirement in order to secure their financial future.

"Structure is when you know that your business can function without you,"

she said, stressing the need for entrepreneurs to build enterprises capable of outliving their personal involvement.

Ayoola further emphasised discipline, consistency, integrity and strong relationships with customers and suppliers as important components of a sustainable business structure.

Don advocates amicable resolution of global conflicts

ADO, NASARAWA

An Associate Professor of Conflict Management and Resolution, Dr Nathaniel Omoyele, has called for a holistic, unbiased and amicable approach to resolving conflicts around the world to prevent disagreements from escalating into full-blown crises.

Omoyele made the call during an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) at the unveiling of his three new books in Ado, Karu Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The event, with the theme, "Knowledge that Transforms Lives and Societies," featured the presentation of Homiletics: The Art and Science of Preaching, A Hand Note Studies on Dispensation and Conflict and its Impact on the Global World.

Omoyele, who is also the Zonal Superintendent of Christ Apostolic Church (CAC), Oke Iyanu, Ado District, emphasised the need for early and sincere management of conflicts at all levels, including the family and community.

Reflecting on ongoing international tensions, including disputes involving the United States, Iran and other nations, the don said conflict was an inevitable part of human existence and could serve as a means of correcting wrongs or settling differences.

He, however, warned that failure to manage disagreements properly could transform them into crises.

"Conflict is inevitable, and it is not inherently a bad thing; it only becomes a crisis when it is not handled well.

"My advice to world leaders is that whenever conflict arises, they must handle it amicably, holistically and without bias based on ethnicity, tribe or selfish gains," he said.

Omoyele said that when bilateral disagreements degenerated, third-party global committees and neutral mediators should be allowed to intervene and facilitate peaceful resolution between the conflicting parties.

On his decision to publish the three books simultaneously, the author said the project was motivated by both spiritual inspiration and academic responsibility.

He explained that Homiletics: The Art and Science of Preaching was inspired by a text written by his late seminary lecturer at the CAC Theological Seminary, Ibadan.

Former PDP chairman, Bamanga Tukur buried in Yola

YOLA

The body of former PDP National Chairman and Governor defunct Gongola State Bamanga Tukur has been laid to rest in Yola.

Dignitaries from far and near gathered at the palace of Lamido Fombina Muhammad Barkindo Aliyu Mustapha to observe the funeral prayer of late Bamanga Tukur.

The prayer was led by the chief Imam of Modibbo Adama Mosque Yola, Jadi Umar Bobbi.

Bamanga Tukur who died last Saturday was a business man, politician and public servant who served the country in various capacities.

NEWS

Why I'm building 700-capacity ICT centre in Southern Kaduna – Senator

KAFACHAN

The Senator representing Kaduna South Senatorial District, Sunday Katung, has said his decision to construct a 700-capacity Information and Communication Technology and Computer-Based Test centre in Zonkwa, Zangon Kataf Local Government Area, is aimed at bridging the digital divide and equipping youths in the southern part of the state with relevant skills for the modern economy.

Katung stated this on Saturday while inspecting the ongoing project, stressing that the facility would provide students and young people in the area with access to computers and modern technology.

He said, "I decided to bring this project here because our young people, especially our students, need to be exposed to the use of computers and modern technology. This facility will provide them with the opportunity to acquire ICT skills that will be useful to them in their education and future careers."

The senator expressed satisfaction with the pace and quality of work at the project site but charged the contractors to adhere strictly to the specifications and complete the facility within the stipulated 12-month timeframe. "I am impressed with the pace and quality of work that I have seen here. But I want to challenge the contractors to adhere strictly to the contractual agreement and ensure that this project is delivered within the stipulated 12 months," he said.

According to Katung, the centre, when completed, will serve as a Computer-Based Test facility for examinations conducted by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, West African Examinations Council and other examination bodies.

He added that the facility would also serve as a hub for digital learning, innovation and skills development for youths across the eight local government areas in the senatorial district.

Katung said the project was part of his efforts to provide infrastructure and opportunities that would improve the educational and economic prospects of his constituents.

He urged the people of Kaduna South to continue to support the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda and the developmental programmes of the Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani.

Obasanjo mourns Bamanga Tukur, says Nigeria lost a colossus

SANGO-OTA

Former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, has mourned the passing of former National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, describing him as a patriot whose life was a testament to patriotism, unwavering commitment and stellar public service.

In a statement made available to newsmen by his Special Assistant on Media, Kehinde Akinyemi, on Sunday, Obasanjo remarked that "throughout his long career, which spanned across governance, international business, and political leadership, the former PDP chairman carried himself with an unmistakable sense of duty."

In a tribute titled "Tribute To A Colossus Of Public Service And Industrial Development: Alhaji Bamanga Tukur", Obasanjo said, "It was with a profound sense of loss and deep reflection that I received the news of the transition of my longtime associate, compatriot, and elder statesman, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, who has returned to his Creator at the age of 91.

"Bamanga's life was a testament to patriotism, unwavering commitment, and stellar public service. Throughout his long career, which spanned across governance, international business, and political leadership, he carried himself with an unmistakable sense of duty.

"From his transformative years steering the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) to his tenure as the civilian Governor of the defunct Gongola State and later as Minister of Industries, his focus remained fixed on national productivity and progress. Our paths crossed decisively during the formative and challenging eras of our democratic journey, most notably when he served as the National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"While politics often brought robust debates and differing perspectives on the direction of our party and nation, I never for once doubted his foundational love for Nigeria. He was an institutional pillar who stood tall in the face of political storms. Beyond our borders, his leadership as the Chairman of the African Business Roundtable demonstrated his visionary commitment to economic independence and pan-African integration.

"With his passing, Nigeria has lost a colossus and a bridge-builder. He has run his race, made his mark, and left an indelible footprint in the history of our republic. On behalf of my family, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the Tukur family, the government and people of Adamawa State, and his political associates across the nation. May Almighty Allah forgive his shortcomings, grant his soul eternal rest in Al-Jannah Firdaus, and give his loved ones the fortitude to bear this monumental loss."

JAMB will now handle all HND admissions in polytechnics — NBTE

KADUNA

The National Board for Technical Education has announced that all Higher National Diploma admissions in polytechnics, allied institutions and colleges of nursing sciences and health technology will now be handled by the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board.

The decision was contained in a circular dated September 9, 2026, which was sighted by PUNCH Online on Saturday.

The circular was signed by the NBTE Executive Secretary, Prof Idris Bugaje, and addressed to all rectors and provosts of the affected institutions.

According to the circular, the decision followed a meeting between the Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, with key stakeholders including JAMB, the National Youth Service Corps, NBTE and the Federal Ministry of Education.

Bugaje said the move was aimed at ensuring a centralised admission process and curbing "illegal and compromised admissions".

It read, "All HND admissions in all institutions shall, from this session, be taken over by JAMB to provide a centralised process and avoid illegal and compromised admissions, jeopardising students' mobilisation for NYSC after HND. The FME shall issue a statement on this next week with further details.

"NBTE shall immediately develop HND Admission Guidelines and submit to JAMB to guide the digital platform for the admission, including the waiting period for ND holders before proceeding to HND and exemption for certain ND Health-related programs."

Reacting to the development, JAMB's Head of Media and Information, Fabian Benjamin, told PUNCH Online on Sunday that the board would comply with the directive.

MINISTRY OF ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

Block D, Floor 6, High Court Road, Secretariat Building, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria Email: min.actda@edostate.gov.ng /web: https://macda.edostate.gov.ng @Edo State Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Instagram@ edoministryofarts/ @edostateministryofartscult9590

EDO STATE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF ARTS, CULTURE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY

INVITATION TO TENDER

1.0 INTRODUCTION
The Edo State Government Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, hereby invites suitably, qualified and experienced Creative practitioners, artists, art consultants, and firms with demonstrated expertise and proven capacity in large-scale public art and creative-space development are invited to submit bids for the transformation of the overhead space beneath the Ikpoba Hill Flyover through artistic painting and cultural interventions into an entertainment park. Benin City.
The project is designed to transform the space beneath and around the Ikpoba Hill Flyover into a vibrant, attractive and culturally distinctive art and cultural heritage park that reflects the rich cultural heritage, history, identity and creative spirit of Edo State.

2.0 SCOPE OF WORK
The scope of the project shall include but not be limited to:
A. suitable surfaces beneath the flyover.
B. Development and installation of large-scale murals and public artworks.
C. Incorporation of cultural themes, symbols, narratives, and visual elements reflecting the heritage and identity of Edo State and Nigeria.
D. Development of recreational and entertainment facilities.
E. Landscaping and beautification of designated areas.
F. Provision of seating, shade structures, pedestrian amenities, and other street furniture.
G. Installation of appropriate lighting and decorative illumination.
H. Provision of signage, wayfinding, branding, and interpretive displays.
I. Provision of appropriate electrical, drainage, and other supporting infrastructure required for the project.
J. Installation of approved art, cultural heritage features.
K. Provision of safety, security, accessibility, and crowd-management features.
L. Testing, commissioning, cleaning, and handover of the completed facility

3.0 ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
You are to submit a detailed profile which should contain the following:
A. Certificate of incorporation/registration with cooperate affairs commission (CAC)
B. Evidence of registration with Edo State Public Procurement Agency.
C. Evidence of payment of tax by the company for the immediate past 3years (i.e. 2023, 2024, 2025)
D. Company's audited financial account (indicating turnover) and funding information over the past 3 years endorsed by a firm of chartered accountants. (i.e. 2023, 2024, 2025)
E. Company Profile including names of Partners, Director(s), or if it is Private Limited Company (names of Shareholders and Beneficial Owners to that company); organization structure, key professional staff with their names and registration with appropriate regulatory bodies (COREN, QSRBN, ARCON, CORBON, etc.) with their current practicing license.
F. Verifiable Evidence of previous/similar works successfully executed in the past three(3) years showing:
G. Letter of award of contract
H. Certificate of completion.
I. A sworn affidavit indicating that:
None of the Directors of the Company has been convicted in any court for any criminal offence including fraud and financial impropriety.
J. The Company is not in receivership, insolvent or bankrupt.
K. No officer of Edo State Ministry of Art and Creative Economy is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the company.
L. Bank Reference. Letter of

4.0 COLLECTION OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the bidding documents from:
Procurement Office Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy
Edo State Secretariat, Benin City, during official working hours of 9am to 3pm without during public holidays upon payment of non-refundable tender fee of N200,000.00, upon generating code provided from the Account Department of Ministry of Art, Culture and Creative Economy.

5.0 SUBMISSION OF BIDS
Completed bids shall be submitted in sealed envelopes and clearly marked:
"**TENDER FOR THE PAINTING AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE IKPOBA HILL FLYOVER OVERHEAD SPACE INTO AN ART AND CULTURAL PARK, BENIN CITY.**"
The Technical Bid and Financial Bid shall be separately sealed and clearly marked.
Bids shall be submitted to the Procurement Office, Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Edo State Secretariat, Benin City.
Closing Date: Fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this advertisement ie on or before 11:59 am, 29th of September, 2026.

6.0 OPENING OF BIDS
The bids shall be opened 12 noon, 29th of September , 2026 at the Conference Hall, Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Edo State Secretariat, Benin City.
Bidders or their authorised representatives may attend the bid opening.

7.0 IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Late submissions shall not be considered.
The Edo State Government reserves the right to accept or reject any bid in accordance with applicable procurement laws and regulations.
Submission of a bid shall not constitute a commitment by the Edo State Government to award the contract.
The Government shall not be responsible for any costs incurred by bidders in the preparation or submission of their bids.
The Government is not necessarily bound to accept the lowest bid.
Further technical specifications, drawings, quantities, conditions of contract and other requirements shall be contained in the bidding documents.

Signed: **IRYN OMOROGIUWA**
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Edo State.

Troops arrest suspected kidnapper with AK-47 in Edo

BENIN CITY

Troops of the 4 Brigade Nigerian Army, Operation WABAIZIGAN, have arrested a suspected kidnapper and recovered an AK-47 rifle and ammunition during a targeted operation along the Benin–Sapele Road in the Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of Edo State.

The suspect, identified as Olamide Oyeniyi, was arrested on September 12, 2026, at Obaretin Community by troops conducting operations to disrupt criminal activities and safeguard major transportation routes in the area.

The Assistant Director, Army Public Relations, 4 Brigade Nigerian Army, Benin, Kennedy Anyanwu, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday.

According to the statement, the items recovered from the suspect included an AK-47 rifle, one magazine and eight rounds of 7.62mm Special ammunition.

Other items recovered were a Tecno mobile phone, two bags, a torchlight, a music box and assorted charms.

Anyanwu said the suspect and the recovered items were in the custody of the troops for further investigation, while efforts were ongoing to establish his links with other criminal elements and determine his possible involvement in kidnapping and related activities along the route.

He said, "Troops of 4 Brigade Nigerian Army, Operation WABAIZIGAN, have arrested a suspected kidnapper and recovered an AK-47 rifle and ammunition during an operation along the Benin–Sapele Road in Ikpoba-Okha LGA of Edo State.

"The suspect, identified as Olamide Oyeniyi, was arrested on 12 September 2026 at the Obaretin Community by troops who were conducting operations to safeguard major transportation routes within the area."

Ayanwu stated that the Nigerian Army remained committed to denying criminal elements freedom of action and ensuring the safety of communities and critical transportation corridors.

He added that the Army would continue to sustain coordinated operations with other security agencies to strengthen security across Edo State.

This version removes the repeated Army statement and keeps the story focused on the arrest, weapon recovery and ongoing investigation.

LEADERS' SUMMIT:
Vice President Kashim Shettima (L), with the Prime Minister of Indian, Marendra Modi during the ongoing 28th Edition of BRICS Leaders' Summit in New Delhi, India on Sunday.

Cross River lawmakers mourn passing of power commissioner

CALABAR

The Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Elvert Ayambem, on behalf of the House, has expressed deep sadness over the death of the Commissioner for Power and Renewable Energy, Prince Eka Williams, describing his passing as a painful loss to Cross River State.

Williams died on Saturday, September 12, 2026, at a hospital in Abuja.

In a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Matthew Okache, and made available to journalists on Monday in Calabar, the speaker described the late commissioner as a committed politician and dedicated public servant who contributed meaningfully to the political development and administration of the state.

The statement read, "The Speaker of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Rt. Hon. Elvert Ayambem, on behalf of the 10th Cross River State House of Assembly, has expressed deep sadness over the death of the Commissioner for Power and Renewable Energy, Prince Eka Williams, describing his passing as a painful loss to Cross River State."

Ayambem said Williams brought dedication to his responsibilities as a member of the State Executive Council and also contributed to national conversations on the power sector through his leadership of the Forum of Commissioners for Power and Energy in Nigeria.

He commiserated with Governor Bassey Otu, members of the State Executive Council, the APC family, the people of Ikom and Akparabong communities, as well as the deceased's family, friends and associates, adding that the deceased gave himself to the advancement of the state.

"Prince Eka Williams believed in service and gave himself to the advancement of Cross River. His death is a painful loss to the state, and his contributions to public service will not be forgotten", the speaker added.

How Nigerians can apply for 2027/2028 UK commonwealth scholarship – FG

LAGOS

The Federal Ministry of Education has invited qualified Nigerian university graduates to apply for the 2027/2028 Commonwealth Scholarships and Fellowship Plan, with applications closing on October 20, 2026.

The scholarship notice was shared by the Lagos State Scholarship Board.

The scholarships, which are tenable in the United Kingdom, are available for a one-year taught Master's programme or doctoral studies of up to three years.

The notice was issued by the ministry's Department of Scholarship Awards, formerly known as the Federal Scholarship Board, and signed by the Director Overseeing the Office of PSE, Dr Folake Olatunji-David, for the Minister of Education.

According to the notice, applicants for the Master's category must have a first degree with at least a Second Class Upper Division.

For doctoral studies, applicants are required to possess a relevant Master's degree in addition to at least a Second Class Lower Division in their first degree.

Applicants for both categories must have secured admission into at least two UK institutions.

Doctoral applicants are also required to provide a supporting statement from a prospective supervisor at their chosen UK institution.

The ministry further listed evidence of participation in the National Youth Service Corps among the eligibility requirements.

The notice stated that the selection process would focus on three key areas.

"Applications will be assessed on Academic merit, Development impact on completion and Quality of Study plan," it said.

How to apply

The notice said all applications must be submitted through the Electronic Application System.

Applicants are required to register on the EAS portal and complete the application form online.

They must also upload scanned copies of their passport photographs, university academic transcripts, birth certificates and admission letters received from a UK institution listed in the application form.

Terrorist surrenders in Borno as soldiers arrest six kidnappers in Adamawa

YOLA

Troops of Operation Hadin Kai have arrested six kidnappers operating around Soktu Hill in Song Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

The Army also said it received a surrendered Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorist at Borgozo in Benisheikh, Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State.

The Acting Military Information Officer, North-East Joint Task Force, Operation Hadin Kai, Captain Mohammed Goni, disclosed this in a statement on Monday.

Goni said the six kidnappers were arrested following credible human intelligence on their activities.

The statement read, "Following credible human intelligence on the activities of a suspected kidnapping syndicate operating around Soktu Hill in Song Local Government Area of Adamawa State, troops of Sector 4 OPHK, in conjunction with local hunters, swiftly mobilised and raided the identified hideout."

The operation, he said, "led to the arrest of three suspected members of the syndicate and the recovery of one Dane gun."

"Further investigation and subsequent covert operations led to the arrest of three additional members of the syndicate, bringing the total number of suspects arrested to six," he added.

According to Goni, preliminary investigation revealed that the syndicate had been operating within the Soktu, Dumne and Maigero general areas of Song LGA.

The suspects, he said, also reportedly admitted involvement in the abduction of several victims for ransom and other violent crimes within the area.

"They remain in military custody for further investigation and appropriate legal action," he stated.

Goni, however, noted that on September 13, 2026, troops of 29 Task Force Brigade operating under Sector 2 OPHK, in conjunction with Forest Guards, received a surrendered Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorist at Borgozo in Benisheikh, Kaga Local Government Area of Borno State.

Anambra still repaying debts incurred by administrations of Obi, Obiano — Commissioner

AWKA

The Anambra State Government has said the administration of Governor Chukwuma Soludo is still servicing loans and other debts incurred by previous administrations, including those of former governors Peter Obi and Willie Obiano.

The Commissioner for Finance, Izuchukwu Okafor, disclosed this during a Ndi Anambra podcast uploaded by Anambra State New Media on Monday while explaining the state's debt position under the Soludo administration.

Okafor said the current administration had not borrowed from any commercial bank since taking office but had continued to service loans inherited from previous governments.

"It's on record, you know, that this administration has not borrowed a kobo from any commercial bank since the inception of this administration," he said.

The presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 general election and a leading opposition figure ahead of the 2027 presidential election, Peter Obi.

The presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress, Photo: X | Peter Obi.

He explained that deductions were made from the state's Federation Account Allocation Committee funds every month to service loans obtained by previous administrations.

"Yes, every month during our FAC meetings, and when you see the schedule of FAC, you will notice there were substantial, significant deductions from our own FAC because of loans previously borrowed by previous administrations," Okafor said.

He said some of the loans were obtained during the administrations of Obi and Obiano.

"These loans were borrowed, you know, during the time of, even, not the immediate predecessor, even during the time of Peter Obi and Willie Obiano, His Excellency, the past governors," he said.

Okafor, however, said the Soludo administration had significantly reduced the state's debt burden while also clearing several inherited domestic obligations.

NEWS

CONDOLENCE VISIT:
Former President, Goodluck Jonathan signing a condolences register, during his visit to the late former Aso Rock Chaplain, Rev. William Okoye's residence in Abuja.

Ondo: Police arrest suspected producer of killer herbal drinks

AKURE

The Ondo State Police Command has arrested a man, Oloruntoba Babatunde, who allegedly produced a herbal liquid substance that killed many people in Araromi-Obu and Odigbo communities in Odigbo Local Government Area of the state.

It was earlier reported that no fewer than 29 residents of the two communities were killed, while about 60 others were hospitalised following their consumption of the killer herbal drinks.

In a statement issued by the Public Relations Officer of the state police command, DSP Abayomi Jimoh, on Monday, the suspect was apprehended while 14 others were arrested for violating the ban placed by the local government on the sale of herbal products.

The command also said it had commenced an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths, while the bodies of the deceased were undergoing the necessary medical and forensic procedures.

The statement read, "The Ondo State Police Command has contained the situation arising from reported cases of sudden and unnatural deaths involving youths in Araromi-Obu, Odigbo Local Government Area of the state, following sustained security, medical and investigative interventions.

"The development follows the arrest of one Oloruntoba Babatunde, a.k.a. 'Meko,' who is suspected to be involved in the production of substances suspected to contain methanol and is currently assisting the police with investigations.

"Substances suspected to be methanol were also recovered and have been subjected to further investigation and necessary forensic examination to establish their exact composition and determine any possible link to the reported deaths.

"The command has commenced investigation into the circumstances surrounding the deaths, while the bodies of the deceased are undergoing the necessary medical and forensic procedures."

According to the PPRO, the outcome of the ongoing post-mortem examinations "is expected to provide further medical evidence regarding the actual causes of the deaths."

He added, "In the meantime, health officials have intensified medical intervention, with a significant number of youths from the affected communities taken to the Odigbo Local Government medical facility for medical assessment, testing and treatment."

On the other 14 suspects, the police spokesman said they were arrested for selling and consuming herbal drinks at different locations, in violation of the subsisting order banning the sale and consumption of the products.

According to him, the suspects are Ayemobola Abayomi, Ebeyilo Oyekan, Fadeyi Folake, Febisola Solomon, Olamojiba Akinyosoye, Julius Ogeichi, Seyifunmi Aduke, Adesanmi Toyin, Oluwoye Amaka, Adeyayi Ojo, Adebayo Olaniyi, Raphael Emeka, Adenuga Oluwaseun and Adediwura Godwin.

"The case has been transferred to the State CID, Akure, for discreet and comprehensive investigation. A team of detectives was also at Araromi-Obu on 12 September 2026 to advance investigative activities and gather further evidence," the PPRO said.

How police helped woman secure N300,000 surgery debt waiver – Ogun CP

ABEOKUTA

The Ogun State Police Command has helped a bereaved woman secure a waiver of her outstanding N300,000 hospital bill following the death of her baby after a Caesarean Section.

The woman, Precious Mathew, of the Ogooluwa area behind Owode Market, approached the Owode-Yewa Police Division on Sunday, over the outstanding bill incurred at Longe Hospital Medical Centre, Sabo, Owode-Yewa.

This was disclosed in a statement signed by the Command Public Relations Officer, Oluseyi Babaseyi, on Monday.

Precious had undergone a Caesarean Section at the hospital on June 30, 2026, but lost her baby after the procedure.

According to the police, the total hospital bill was N400,000, of which she had already paid N100,000, leaving an outstanding balance of N300,000.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Commissioner of Police, Ogun State Command, CP Olubode Bode Ojajuni, who intervened by engaging the medical doctor, Dr Babanki Samuel, and appealing for understanding and compassion.

The command said, "The Commissioner of Police, Ogun State Command, CP Olubode Bode Ojajuni, psc, FCSS, MNIPR, upon being informed, immediately interfaced with the medical doctor, Dr Babanki Samuel, appealing for understanding and compassion."

Following the intervention, the doctor voluntarily waived the entire N300,000 outstanding bill, allowing Precious to leave without the burden of further payment.

The police said the doctor was "moved by the circumstances" surrounding the woman's situation and responded with compassion.

The statement said, "Moved by the circumstances and in a remarkable display of compassion, the doctor voluntarily forgave the entire outstanding balance of N300,000, allowing the woman to leave without the burden of further payment."

The command said the development demonstrated the importance of dialogue and compassion in resolving disputes involving members of the public.

It said, "This intervention, devoid of confrontation or recrimination, opened a channel for dialogue and ultimately resulted in an act of compassion."

2027: NAS calls for electoral offences court

ABUJA

The National Association of Seadogs, popularly known as the Pyrates Confraternity, has renewed its call for the establishment of an Electoral Offences Court ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The association said the specialised court would ensure the speedy prosecution of individuals who perpetrate or legitimise electoral threats, violence and other offences capable of undermining Nigeria's democratic process.

The NAS Cap'n, Dr Charles Meribole, made the call in a statement he signed, titled, "2027 Elections: A Choice, Not Warfare," made available newsmen on Monday, while expressing concern over alleged political intimidation, violence and declining civility among political actors ahead of the elections.

Meribole said the country could not afford to repeat the cycle of electoral violence and impunity that had characterised some previous elections.

He urged the Nigeria Police Force and the Department of State Services to ensure that investigations into reported cases of political violence did not end with arrests, but resulted in the prosecution of those found culpable.

The NAS Cap'n commended the police for arrests reportedly made in connection with the alleged blockade of the convoy of the presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress, Peter Obi, in Benue State, as well as the killing of social media political commentator, Ibrahim Khalil Dan Shagamu.

Ondo monarch urges indigenes in diaspora to invest

AKURE

The Deji of Akure Kingdom, Ondo State, Oba Aladetoyinbo Aladelusi, has called on indigenes of the community at home and abroad to contribute to the development of the state capital by investing in the town.

The first-class monarch said investing in the community would further expand the town and generate employment opportunities for the teeming youths.

Oba Aladelusi made the appeal at the official inauguration of Baseline Event Centre in Akure on Sunday.

"I have always been appealing to our Akure indigenes in diaspora to come and invest at home to develop this community. I'm happy that we have good things happening in this town, Akure is growing everyday in terms of development.

"You can see that Akure is expanding but I want to appeal to our sons and daughters who are outside to invest in the town, I can assure them that Akure is safe, their investments are safe, they should come home to invest. Apart contributing to the development, employment opportunities would also be available if we have many investments."

Oba Aladelusi also commended the management of the Baseline Event Centre for investing in the community, promising that the palace would always support such initiatives.

In his remarks, the Managing Director of the event centre, Olusegun Odemakinwa, said one of the most important reasons for locating the centre in Akure was to contribute to employment and economic activity in the city.

DMO opens N1tn FGN bond subscription, sets N50m minimum

ABUJA

The Debt Management Office has announced an offer of two Federal Government of Nigeria bonds valued at N1tn for subscription at N1,000 per unit.

The DMO, in a statement on Monday, said the first offer was a new 10-year FGN bond valued at N400bn and due in September 2036.

The second was a N600bn reopening of a 15-year FGN bond due in 2038, with a coupon rate of 15.45 per cent per annum.

The offer opened on September 14, while the settlement date is September 16.

"The FGN bonds are offered at N1,000 per unit subject to a minimum subscription of N50 million and in multiples of N1,000 thereafter," the DMO said.

It added that for reopenings of previously issued bonds, where the coupon is already set, successful bidders would pay a price corresponding to the yield-to-maturity bid that clears the volume being auctioned, plus any accrued interest.

"Interest is payable semi-annually, while bullet repayment is on the maturity date," the DMO said.

The office said the bonds, like other Federal Government securities, were backed by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government and charged upon the general assets of Nigeria.

It added that the securities qualified as investments for trustees under the Trustee Investment Act and as government securities under the Company Income Tax Act and Personal Income Tax Act for relevant tax exemptions.

The DMO said the bonds were listed on the Nigerian Exchange Limited and FMDQ OTC Securities Exchange and qualified as liquid assets for liquidity ratio calculations for banks.

FGN bonds are fixed-income debt securities issued by the DMO on behalf of the Federal Government. They enable investors to lend money to the government, with proceeds used to finance government spending, including infrastructure and other public projects.

Etsako West chairman begins rehabilitation of strategic roads in Jattu

AUCHI

LAMAI CASSIUS

The Executive Chairman of Etsako West Local Government Council, Hon. Romeo Aloaye Omoike, has commenced the rehabilitation of the Alhaji Shaibu Poultry Road/ Abass Street axis in the Oghemese area of Jattu-Uzairue.

The road, regarded as a strategic link between the Benin-Auchi Expressway and the Jattu community, is being rehabilitated to improve accessibility and ease movement within the rapidly developing area.

During an inspection of the ongoing work, heaps of laterite were seen being spread along the road by tractors and other earth-moving equipment under the supervision of the Council's Works Department.

The rehabilitation is also expected to provide an alternative route for motorists and residents around the multi-billion-naira Uzairue International Market currently under construction by the Monday Okpebholo's administration.

The intervention forms part of a series of activities undertaken by Omoike within his first seven days as chairman, following his swearing-in alongside other newly elected local government chairmen in Edo State.

The new Council Chairman has also commenced the rehabilitation of the Otaru Palace/ Old Prison Road in Auchi, while initiating interventions in environmental sanitation, primary education, public health, and security.

The pace of activity during the administration's first week has attracted attention across Etsako West, with residents watching closely to see whether the early interventions will translate into sustained development.

The rehabilitation of strategic roads is expected to form part of a broader development approach aimed at improving infrastructure, facilitating economic activities, and opening up communities across Etsako West.

COLLAPSED BUILDING:
Site of a four story building collapse at Independence Layout in Enugu Metropolis on Sunday.

2027: My achievements will speak for me – Alia

MAKURDI

The Benue State Governor, Rev Fr Hyaccinth Alia, has stated that his developmental projects would enhance his re election comes 2027.

Speaking through his Chief Press Secretary, Kula Tersoo, in a statement issued on Sunday, the governor declared that he was not perturbed by the opposition tantrums.

The governor mentioned the recent Memorandum of Understanding with Hudson Global Ltd, which is expected to attract a $5bn investment as part of his administration's efforts to transform the state's economic landscape.

He also highlighted various infrastructural projects ongoing in the state, including roads, industries, improved welfare for the workforce, care for senior citizens and billions of naira in investments.

The statement read, "The growing confidence in Benue's economic prospects is not accidental.

Just a few days ago, the state government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hudson Global Ltd to attract a $5bn investment aimed at transforming Benue's economic landscape.

"The difference is also visible in the everyday lives of the people. The construction of rural and urban roads, consistent payment of salaries and gratuities, and the establishment of the Food Basket Bakery are among the achievements that cannot be hidden."

The governor asked the opposition to stop engaging in political distractions but to allow him to focus on governance, stating that his administration had brought greater accountability and transparency to the management of the state.

"This is evidenced by certifications and recognitions from reputable international audit firms. He has also restored Benue to creditworthy status and created a safer and more credible environment for investment," the statement read.

Ex-PDP chair Tukur buried, Obasanjo, Dangote, Fintiri, others pay tributes

YOLA

Former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Chairman of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, Governor Ahmadu Fintiri of Adamawa State, and a host of others rendered tributes as former national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, was buried in Yola, the Adamawa State capital, on Sunday.

The burial at Tukur's private residence was preceded by a Janazah prayer led by Islamic clerics, which was attended by dignitaries from all walks of life.

Business activities were temporarily shut down in Yola, as both Christian and Muslim faithful turned out in the thousands to pay Tukur their last respects.

Tukur died on Saturday in Abuja at the age of 90.

The deceased was born on September 15, 1935, and would have turned 91 three days after his death.

He served as governor of Old Gongola State in 1983, Minister of Commerce and Tourism, PDP national chairman between 2012 and 2014, and Managing Director of the Nigeria Ports Authority.

Fintiri led the state delegation, comprising members of the State Executive Council, National and State Assembly members, and top PDP stakeholders, to the burial.

Also in attendance were former governor of Adamawa State, Muhammadu Bindow; Lamido of Adamawa, Barkindo Mustapha; the All Progressives Congress governorship candidate in Adamawa State, Ahmed Galadima; the All Progressives Movement governorship candidate, Abdulrahman Haske; and other dignitaries.

In his tribute, former President Obasanjo mourned the loss of a long-time associate whom he described as a patriot, whose life was a testament to patriotism, unwavering commitment and stellar public service.

In a statement by his Special Assistant on Media, Kehinde Akinyemi, on Sunday, Obasanjo noted that the former PDP chairman, throughout his life, carried himself with an unmistakable sense of duty.

"With his passing, Nigeria has lost a colossus and a bridge-builder. He has run his race, made his mark, and left an indelible footprint in the history of our republic," Obasanjo said.

Dangote, who attended the Janazah prayer, described Tukur as a pioneer of private enterprise in Northern Nigeria.

"He was an engineer in private industry, in job creation, in building Nigeria. He opened doors for many of us in business," he said.

Fintiri described the late Tukur as a father, mentor and builder of men.

"From NPA to Government House, from the boardroom to PDP national secretariat, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur served Nigeria with distinction.

"Adamawa has lost an Iroko tree. His wisdom, generosity and commitment to development will be greatly missed," he said.

The governor announced three work-free days beginning on Monday, September 14, adding that the state government would immortalise the late elder statesman.

Bindow, who served as Governor of Adamawa from 2015 to 2019, also described Tukur as a political father whose counsel and experience benefited successive administrations in the state.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **Miss TSAVAA ESTHER MSEVE** ow wish to be known as **Mrs. AGIBI ESTHER MSEVE.** Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

2027 budget: FG gives MDAs September 18 deadline

ABUJA

The Federal Government plans to submit the 2027 budget proposal to the National Assembly in September, in an attempt to advance the budget cycle amid persistent implementation challenges and overlapping fiscal years.

The plan is contained in the Federal Government of Nigeria 2027 Personnel Costs Budget Call Circular dated September 4, 2026 and signed by the Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation, Tanimu Yakubu.

The document, obtained by The PUNCH on Sunday from the website of the Budget Office of the Federation, provides guidelines for ministries, departments and agencies preparing and submitting their personnel cost proposals for the 2027 fiscal year.

The Budget Office disclosed that the draft 2027-2029 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper had been concluded since July to facilitate the early presentation of the spending plan.

"As you are aware, the 2027-2029 draft Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper was concluded by July 2026 in line with the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 to facilitate the submission of 2027 Budget to the National Assembly by September 2026," the Budget Office said.

Although the circular did not provide a specific presentation date, the timetable indicates that the government intends to send the spending plan to lawmakers about three months before the beginning of the 2027 fiscal year.

Nigeria's budgets have faced persistent implementation challenges, with overlapping fiscal cycles becoming a recurring feature since 2024.

The Federal Government earlier partly blamed budget underperformance on conflicting macroeconomic projections by agencies responsible for fiscal and monetary policy, prompting the Economic Management Team to establish a committee to harmonise key assumptions used for budgeting and economic planning.

Following findings from a joint budget retreat and technical validation workshop, the government said differences in projections for crude oil prices and production, exchange rates, inflation and non-oil revenues had created inconsistencies in budget planning and contributed to actual fiscal outcomes falling short of expectations.

The Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Taiwo Oyedele, said harmonising the assumptions should reduce discrepancies between budget expectations and actual economic outcomes.

Ahead of the September target, the Budget Office has fixed 4pm on Friday, September 18, 2026, as the deadline for MDAs to submit hard and soft copies of their 2027 personnel budget proposals and accompanying information.

The circular also introduced a new requirement compelling MDAs to submit the laws establishing them alongside their budget proposals, following the controversy over the inclusion of a fake agency in the 2026 budget.

The Budget Office said, "To further strengthen the budget preparation process and mitigate against any entry of unestablished agencies in the FGN Budget, it has become compulsory for MDAs to submit budget proposals along with their respective Establishment Acts as failure to do so, may lead to rejection."

The directive follows the fake agency scandal involving the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council, which was allocated about N1.3bn in the 2026 budget despite questions about its legal existence.

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 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.

1. MR. ZACCHEAUS OLABISI, late of Ososo, Akoko-Edo L.G.A., who died on the 12th day of November, 2023 in Ekpesa.	PED/160/2025 Mr. David Alabi and Mr. Friday Dele of Igigmoke Quarters, Ekpena, Ososo, Edo State, sons of the deceased.
2. MRS. FATIMA STELLA IYAFOKHAI, late of Auchi, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 15th day of January, 2024 at Uzairue.	PED/555/2024 Mr. Edward Patrick Iyafokhai and Miss. Ochuwa Jessica Iyafokhai of No 5, Ebode Street, Auchi, Edo State, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
3. HAJIA. NANA SUMAILA, late of Ivbiaro, Owan East L.G.A., who died on the 13th day of March, 2024 in Ivbiaro.	PED/310/2026 Mr. Ayuba Ozeto Sumaila and Mr. Abdullahi Oshomai Sumaila of No 12, Obuo Street, Ivbiaro, Owan East L.G.A, sons of the deceased.
4. MR. BOLD AIGBONA UGANE, late of Iyora, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 6th day April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/515/2026 Mr. Emmanuel Ugane and Mr. Prince Ugane of Iguikpe, After Ogida Barracks, Benin City, father and brother respectively of the deceased.
5. MR. AUGUSTINE ASOTIE OKODEDE, late of Ebhoiyi, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 25th day of December, 2025 in Ogere Remo.	PED/529/2026 Mrs. Rosemary Okodede and David Okodede of No 14, Ebhodaghe Street, Kara, Benin Auchi Road, Eyaen, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
6. MRS. DEBORAH EYITEMI, late of Nickrogha, Ovia South West L.G.A., who died on the 30th day of September, 2021 in Benin City.	PED/272/2023 Mr. Basil Felix Eyitemi and Mr. Tunkaye Eyitemi of No 45/47, Aduwawa Street, Goni Gora, Kaduna State, sons of the deceased.
7. MRS. BENEDICTA OBOH, late of Ebelle, Igueben L.G.A, who died on the 25th day of May, 2025 in Lagos.	PED/566/2026 Miss. Omonyemen Egiodame Oboh and Miss. Ehizele Godschoice Oboh of No 1, Richard Aviomoh Avenue, Off Irhirhi Road, Airport Road, Benin City, daughters of the deceased.
8. MR. JOEL NWABUIFE USHIEAGU, late of Ushie, Ndokwa East L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 2nd day of March, 2023 in United Kingdom.	PED/569/2026 Madam faith Inegbenose Ebighe and Miss. Judith Kelikume Ushieagu of No 6, Avbarayi Street., Iwogban, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, widow and sister respectively of the deceased.
9. RTD. AIG. AMBROSE OJEMUNDIA AISABOR, late of Igueben, Igueben L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of February, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/534/2026 Mrs. Josephine Onojimensike Aisabor and Jude Aisabor of No 59, Second Ugbor Road, GRA, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
10. MR. PAUL ONAH, late of Igbanke, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 30th day of October, 2024 in Benin City.	PED/325/2026 Mr. Goddy Agbonrimien Onah and Mr. Promise Onyiwe Agbonrimien of No 30, Obasohan Street, Off Oko Central Road, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
11. MISS. MARY IMABON PATRICK, late of Abraka, Ethiope East L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 29th day of October, 2024 in Lagos.	PED/475/2026 Mr. Chikezie Honey Okonkwo and Mrs. Caroline Ogelugeri Patrick of No 63, Osayogie Street, NITEL Junction, Oluku, Benin City, brother and sister respectively of the deceased.
12. MR. OSADOLOR ISAAC, late of Evboesi, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 13th day of April, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/580/2026 Miss. Adesuwa Treasure Isiekpen and Mr. Osasumwen David Isiekpen of No 4, Izogie Street Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
13. MR. DAVID EHIZOGIE, late of Unogbo, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 5th day of January, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/422/2026 Madam Aluya Hope and Oseghae Stephen Usiholo of No 3, Agho Street, Off Eyeye Lane, Benin City, widow and son of the deceased.
14. DN. PROF. OKHUMHEN JOEL ABOLAGBA, late of Eruere, Owan West L.G.A., who died on the 17th day of March, 2026 in Ikeja.	PED/413/2026 Mr. Joshua Ohiosimuan Abolagba and Miss. Godsfavour Omoafese Abolagba No 97, Textile Mill Road, Ogida Quarters, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
15. MR. OSARETIN HENRY OBAHANYE, late of Ogbe, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 26th day of November, 2021 in Benin City.	PED/918/2021 Mr. Edosa Obahanye and Mrs. Alice Itota Ogahanye of No 47, Igunma Street., Evbuotubu Quarters, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
16. MR. ERIC DADA OJO, late of Ibillo, Akoko-Edo L.G.A., who died on the 28th day of January, 2026 in Ibillo.	PED/561/2026 Mr. Precious taiye Eseserimidomo and Mr. Peter Taiye Eseserimidomo of No 10, Back of Library Uwhosi Quarters, Ibillo, sons of the deceased.
17. MRS. OMOSIVIE OSARIEMEN ERHARUYI NOSAKHARE, late of Utezi, Ikpoba Okha L.G.A., who died on the 3rd day of December, 2023 in Benin City.	PED/577/2026 Mr. Erhunmwense Nosakhare and Miss. Aisosa Becky Nosakhare of No 10, Enoduwenben Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
18. MRS. JULIET ORIASOTIE EDOSOMWAN, late of Ujabhole Uwessan, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 15th day of January, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/583/2026 Mr. Eddie Ehigiator Edosomwan and Mr. Monday Okhomina of No 2, 4th Lane, Off School Road, Benin-Auchi Road, Idokpa, Benin City, widower and family friend respectively of the deceased.
19. MR. EMMANUEL EMMANUEL ONAIWU OMERE, late of Ugbague, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 28th day of February, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/581/2026 Mrs. Oyenmwosa Kate Omere and Mr. Osagumwenro Ephraim Omere of No 4, Omogiate Street, Off 1st Ugbor Road, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
20. INSP. ETUMUDOR FRANCIS SATURDAY, late of Idumesha, Ika North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 23rd day of October, 2020 in Nnewi.	PED/471/2026 Mr. Godstime Ogechukwu Francis and Miss. Goodness Ukamaka Francis of No 43, Imade Street, Off Upper Sokponba Road, Benin City, son and daughter of the deceased.
21. MR. HENRY OSEGBOWA, late of Igbanke, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 21st day of February, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/210/2026 Madam. Oyemwen Tina Ehigie and Miss. Chukwuamaka Aminu Osegbowa of No 19, Iyase Street, Off Aerodrome Close, Benin City, widow and daughter respectively of the deceased.
22. MR. TOSAN UZAMA late of Ogbe, Oredo L.G.A, who died on the 20th day of January, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/572/2026 Mrs. Maris Marietu Uzama and Miss. Light Eghosasere Uzama of No 45, Judiciary Estate, Okha Community, Off Sapele Road, Benin City, widow and daughter respectively of the deceased.
23. MR. KENNETH OMOGIATE AGANMWONYI, late of Uzebu, Oredo L.G.A, who died on the 9th day of August, 2020 in Germany.	PED/592/2026 Madam. Joy Uwuigbe and Mr. Osavbie Vision Aganmwonyi of No 56, Uwadiae Street, Off Upper Ekehuan Road, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
24. MADAM. JOSEPHINE LERAMA, late of Ibillo, Akoko-Edo L.G.A., who died on the 28th day of November, 2025 in Ibillo.	PED/591/2026 Mr. Christopher Bluejack Olaremu and Mr. Henry Foriti of Uwhosi Quarters, Ibillo, sons of the deceased.
25. BARR. ONADIGHA DESTINY PEREWARI, late of Ajakurama, Ovia South East L.G.A., who died on the 1st day of May, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/416/2026 Madam. Sarah Omoye Akhimien and Mr. Peter Douwei Perewari No 10, Ehigiator Street, Useh Quarters, Benin City, widow and brother respectively of the deceased.
26. MRS. QUEEN ESOHE ABUMERE, late of Igieduma, Uhunmwonde L.G.A., who died on the 11th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/518/2026 Mrs. Glory Enowandeweigbe Iyayi and Miss. Testimony Abumere of Street X, Convenant Road, Of Upper Mission Extension, Uteh, Benin City, daughters of the deceased.
27. MR. CHARLES OKUNDAYE, late of Udo, Ovia South West L.G.A., who died on the 19th day of November, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/536/2026 Mr. Elvis Okundaye and Mr. Maxwell Okundaye of No 28, Idahor Street, Off Uwelu Road, Benin City,
28. MR. MARTINS OSAGIELE OHONSI, late of Idumebo, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 23rd day of June, 2026 in Zaria.	ED/602/2026 Mrs. Obhajajie Vivian Ohonsi and Mr. Goodluck Osajie Okoeguale of No 62, Idumebo, Irrua, Esan Central L,G,A, Edo State, widow and family friend respectively of the deceased.
29. MR. GEORGE ANEGBE USIHOLO, late of Uromi, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 30th day of	ED/542/2026 Mrs. Rita Osemenon Anegbe and Mr. Testimony Miracle Anegbe of Uyiekpe Avenue, Iduwowina Quarters, Benin City, widow and son of the deceased.
30. MISS. PEACE OMOROVBIYE, late of Obagie, Ikpoba Okha L.G.A., who died on the 25th day of July, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/664/2026 Mr. Kennedy Osarugiagbon and Mr. Clinton Osarugiagbon of No 15, Ogunsuyi Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, brothers of the deceased.
31. MR. MICHAEL EHIAWAGUAN IMHANREBHOR, late of Obolo, Esan South East L.G.A, who died on the 23rd day of June, 2026 at Obolo.	PED/554/2025 Mr. Melody Eric Ehiawaguan and Mrs. Blessing Ehiawaguan of No 18, Edaiken Primary School Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
32. MRS. FLORA UYINMWEN OTOTE late of Ogida, Egor L.G.A., who died on the 9th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/545/2026 Mrs. Amy Bamawo and Miss. Ornella Sossou of No 16, Idehen Street, Off Irhirhi Road, Off Airport Road, Benin City, daughter and cousin respectively of the deceased.
33. R. IMOUDU SAMSON, late of Okpella, Etsako East L.G.A., who died on the 13th day of January, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/607/2026 Mr. Prosper Franklin Imoudu and Mrs. Mary Osuemomoh Imoudu of No 8, Framuyiwa Obodu Street, Ajah, Lagos, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
34. MADAM. FAITH OGHOGHO IHAZA late of Obazagbon, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 13th day of June, 2025 in Benin City.	Miss. Rowena Christiana Obayuwana and Mrs. Sonia Oghomwen Noruwa of No 5. Idelegbagbon Street, Ugbor Village, Benin City, sisters of the deceased.
35. MR. UCHE OSADEBE (A.K.A) UCHECHUKWUKA DESMOND OSADEBE, late of Ejeme-Aniogor, Aniocha South L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 10th day of July, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/549/2026 Miss. Ruth Ifeoma Osadebe and Miss. Oluchi Esther Osadebe of No 36, 2nd East Circular Road, Benin City, sisters of the deceased.
36. MR. MOSES OMOZUSI UBEBE, late of Adesagbon, Uhunmwonde L.G.A., who died on the 28th day of September, 2014 in Benin City.	PED/609/2026 Mrs. Amenaghawon Amens Kosin and Mr. Edos Ubebe of No 2, Akugbe Street, Off Tony Ogbewe, Upper Mission Extension, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
37. MR. JOSEPH OTSEMOBOR OGHUMA, late of Fugar, Etsako Central L.G.A., who died on the 6th day of January, 2017 in Fugar.	PED/568/2026 Mr. Roland Okuobomhe Oghuma and Miss. Lydia Olere Oghuma of No 12, Adjacent Christ Chosen Church, Ivhiavhe Quarters, Fugar, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
38. MR. FRANCIS AYODELE OMOGBAI, late of Ovbiomu-Emai, Owan East L.G.A., who died on the 4th day of September, 2021 in Afuze-Emai.	PED/608/2026 Mr. Edgar Imoukhome Omogbai and Mr. Curtis Erale Omogbai of 14th Faith Street, Off Nomayo Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
39. MR. RAPHAEL AIBOMOSI EBHODAGHE, late of Ibore, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 17th day of October, 2024 in Benin City.	PED/599/2026 Mr. Godwin Oyazewelo Ebhodaghe and Mr. Ehis Jocob Ebhodaghe of No 9, Osagiede Agho, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, sons respectively of the deceased.
40. MRS. EFE OSAGIEDE, late of Orhua, Uhunmwonde L.G.A., who died on the 15th day of March, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/635/2025 Mr. Etinosa Praise Osagiede and Miss. Iwinosa Peace Osagiede of B12, Senior staff Quarters, Uniben, Ugbowo, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
41. MR. ZEBERU EZOMO MOMODU, late of Auchi, Etsako West L.G.A., Edo State, who died on the 15th day of August, 2026 in Auchi.	PED/626/2026 Mr. Abdulrasaq Omoh Momodu and Miss. Ketim Abimiere Momodu of No 1, Momodu Lane, Behind Blessed Coldroom, Waterboard Road, Auchi, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
42. MR. NDUKA OKOH, late of Igbodo, Ika North East L.G.A, Delta State, who died on the 4th day of July, 2015, in Benin City.	PED/621/2026 Mrs. Ivy Omonye Okoh and Miss. Ebelechukwu Efua Okoh of No 53, Gapiona Street, Off Oko Central Road, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
43. MADAM. BLESSING TAIWO IDAHOSA, late of Urhonigbe, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 7th day of May, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/603/2026 Miss. Rita Osasumwen Obasuyi and Mr. Lucky Ehiosa Igbinigie of No 10, Oghagbon Street, Off Omore Road, Isihor, Benin City, daughter and son of the deceased.
44. MR. OSARETIN AUGUSTINE IMADE, late of Eyaen, Uhunmwonde L.G.A., who died on the 8th day of November, 2024, in Benin City.	PED/582/2026 Precious Imuetinyan Imade and Mrs. Margaret Evbusogie Asemota of No 12, Aiyevbekpen Street, Off Saint Saviour Road, Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, daughter and sister of the deceased.
45. ELDER. SOLOMON OSAYANDE EHIGIATOR, late of Evbuobanosa, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 23rd day of April, 2025, in Benin City.	PED/578/2026 Mrs. Edith Osas Iyoha, Mr. Igbinehi Enogiomwan Curtis and Derrick Iserhienrhien Oronsaye of No 5, Upper Mission Lane, Off Upper Mission Road, Benin City, daughter and sons respectively of the deceased.
46. MR. JOHN ONOGIESEKOGHENE EFENUDU, late of Isoko, Isoko North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 20th day of May, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/619/2026 Madam Regina Adamma Ugoji and Mrs. Chinyere Christiana Okereke of Chop 1, Chop Estate, Upper Ekenwan Road, Benin City, widow and family friend respectively of the deceased.
47. MR. JACOB OLANIYO OMOBAYO BAYODE, late of Lampese, Akoko-Edo L.G.A., who died on the 27th day of July, 2022, in Benin City.	PED/669/2026 Mr. Marvellous Godwins Omobayo and Miss. Happy Ofuje Omobayo of No 1, Agba Quarters Lampese, Akoko-Edo L.G.A., Edo State, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
48. MR. MOSES OKOSUN DADDI, late of Uzogholo-Ewu, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 20th day of January, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/617/2026 Mrs. Augustine Enakemere of HMB Housing Estate, Obe, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
49. MR. GODWIN TORITSEJU EYUGHAGHAN, late of Obeda, Warri North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 31st day of August, 2023, in Lagos State.	PED/531/2026 Mrs. Blessing Iyabo Eyughanghan and Mr. Shekinah Oritseghomi Eyughanghan of No 4, Osasco Street, Off 2nd Agho Street, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
50. PROF. RASAK OKUNZUWA UZAMERE, late of Usen, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 10th day of September, 2025, in Benin City.	PED/593/2026 Mr. Bright Evbuomwan and Mr. Osamuyi Destiny Iduhon of No 14, 4th Erediauwa Lane, Erediauwa Road, Sapele Road, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
51. MR. DENIS AKEM ESIDENA, late of Utugwang, Obudu L.G.A., Cross River State, who died on the 30th day of June, 2026, in Obudu	PED/616/2026 Mr. Simon Akem Akem and Mr. Francis Ogar Akem of No 170, Murtala Muhammed Way, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
52. MRS. GRACE AIMUFUA, late of Eko Abetu, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 6th day of May, 2026, in Benin City.	Mr. Efosa Aimufua and Mrs. Adesuwa Charity Omoruyi of No 13B, Eguadase Street, Off Akpakpava Road Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
53. MR. KINGSLEY JOHN OGBEKILE, late of Igbanke, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 28th day of March, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/472/2026 Mrs. Rose Ihionukwuagu Ogbekile and Mr. Martins Onyenkaosolobue Ogbekile of No 6, Odigie Avenue, Off Omore Road, Evbuomore, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased
54. MR. FRANCIS OKOZI OFANGBON, late of Ubiaja, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 5th day of July, 2026, in Ubiaja.	PED/623/2026 Mr. Innocent Itoya Ofangbon and Mr. Solomon Ofangbon of No 20, Ebhoeson Quarters, Along Egba Road, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
55. MR. JOSEPH ARIO, late of Nkalaha, Ishielu L.G.A., Ebonyi State, who died on the 20th day of January, 2026, in Ihiala.	PED/623/2026 Mr. Smart Onwudiwe Ario and Miss. Anulika Ario of No 43, Ajayi Street, Off Obazee Street, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.

DATED THIS 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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 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.

1. MR. ROBERTO PISTOLESI, late of Casciana Terme, Pisa L.G.A., Italy, who died on the 20th day of September, 2021 in Warri.	**PED/660/2026** Mr. Paolo Pistolesi and Mr. Augustine Osayaba Ogbeide of No. 13, Okoro-Otun Avenue, G.R.A, Benin City, cousin and family friend respectively of the deceased.
2. MR. SUNDAY OMOZUWA, late of Utesi, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 12th day of March, 2021 in Benin City.	**PED/665/2026** Mr. Joseph Omozuwa and Mr. Abraham Oscar Omozuwa of No 12, Osagie Street, Oluku Community, Benin City, sons of the deceased.

DATED THIS 14th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2026.

B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

REMOVAL OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **OSILAMA EMIKE** and **OSILAMA EMIKE GIFT**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and Addressed as **OSILAMA EMIKE**. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **VALERIE OSASERE ORUMWENSE** now wish to be known and Addressed as **VALERIE OSASERE IGUNM**A. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that I, **Martins Ikuenobe Utomi** is the lawful owner of a piece/parcel of land measuring 419.5ft by 405,5ft by 319,8ft by 319.8ft, lying and situate alone at Iguosa Village, Ward 1A, shown in Survey Plan No.MWC/1315/77 dated 10/10/77 and attached to the Deed of Conveyance registered as No. 26 at page 26 in Volume 485 in the Deeds of Registry in Benin City. It is particularly described and delineated in Survey Plan No. ISO/ The land was ED/127/93 and dated 13/12/93. I bought it from **Prof. Abel Anunu**, who acquired it from **Mr. David Uhunagho**, who had earlier acquired it from **Mr. Gabriel Joshua Obanor**. The Certified True Copy of the documents is now required for use and record purposes.

Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

Signed: **Mr Martins Ikuenobe Utomi**

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Formerly known as **AKHIGBE OMOYE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **EHIMUAN OMOYE NAOMI**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Formerly known as **Miss OTITOJU ADEYEMI DUPE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. ADEYEMI DUPE AYODELE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I, Formerly known as **Miss. KELECHI MERCY IBE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. UMUDU - OBINNA KELECHI MERCY**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is hereby Notified that my Correct Name is **NWANGBADA IFEANYI**. and not **DOMINIC IFEANYI**. As was wrongly Captured on my Bank Verification number. And my Correct Data of Birth is 25th December, 1990 and not 1st May 1984. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **Miss. JOSEPHINE EMENAHO**. Now wish to be known and Addressed as **Mrs. ASEMIEN JOSEPHINE EMENAHO**. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **IDEHEN JENNIFER ENOMA**. and **IDEHEN JENNIFER**. are one and the same person henceforth I now wish to be known and Addressed as **IDEHEN JENNIFER ENOMA**. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **AGENE JULIE AIMEBENOMON**. now wish to be known and Addressed as **AGENE JULIANA AMIMEBENNOMON**. all former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as Miss. LINUS FAITH now wish to be known and Addressed as MRS. SOLOMON FAITH. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that my correct name is **EDOJAWENE GODDAY** and not **EDOJIAWENE GODDAY**. Henceforth now wish to be known and called **EDOJAWENE GODDY**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **Miss GIFT AIMEDE IKHIDE** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. GIFT AIMEDE OVENSERI**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

REARRANGEMENT/ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that **OBOK ADEBAYO ERNEST** and **OBOK ERNEST** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **OBOK ADEBAYO ERNEST**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME/ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **OGBOE EVBIAYOWERU KINGSLEY** and **OGBOE KINSLEY** are one and same person hence now wish to be known and called **OGBOE EVBIAYOWERU KINGSLEY**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is hereby notified that **OSADOLOR DAVINA OGHOMWEN** correct date of birth is **14/10/2018** and not **14/10/2019** as wrongly captured on my Internation passport. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **OMORUYI ISOKEN** now wish to be known and addressed as **AJAYI JOY**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

BOX FOR SALE

RECONCILATION OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that **AILENOKHUORIA ITUA** VERITY and **AILENOKHUORIA ITUA** and **EHIABHI ITUA** is one and the same person. Now wish to be known and addressed as **AILENOKHUORIA ITUA VERITY**, concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **JIMOH CARO** now wish to be known and addressed as **OBAZEE CARO**. All former document remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **EMEODI STELLAMARIS IFEOMA** now wish to be known as **OKOTIE STELLAMARIS IFEOMA**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Formerly known as **AMENAGHAWON IMUETINYAN FAVOUR**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **ALEX IMUETINYAN FAVOUR**. All former documents remain valid, concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

REMOVAL OF NAME/ DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is here by notified that **IGBINEDION PROMISE FRANK** and **IGBINEDION PROMISE** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **IGBINEDION PROMISE** and also my correct date of birth is 17/9/1982. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF SURNAME

I, formerly known and called as **OLUSEGUN ADEGABRIEL** now wish to be known and addressed as **ORUNWO ADEGABRIEL**. Surname is **ORUNWO**, first name is **ADEGABRIEL**. All former document remain valid.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LANDLORDS AND LANDLADIES ASSOCIATION OF COOPERATIVE ROAD IDUNMWUNGHA BENIN CITY

The general public is hereby notified that the above-named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under Part F of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), 2020.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
1. OVIASOGIE EFOSA (Chairman)
2. Omobhude Ehikioya (Vice Chairman)
3. Okungbowa Osayande (Secretary)

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
1. To promote and protect the common interests, welfare and peaceful co-existence of all landlords and landladies within the Quarters.
2. To maintain, improve and facilitate the provision of essential communal facilities and infrastructure within the estate, including roads, drainage, security, electricity, water supply and sanitation.
3. To foster unity, cooperation and mutual understanding among members and to provide a platform for the peaceful resolution of disputes and matters affecting the association and its members.

REGISTERED OFFICE:
No. 13 Ighile street, Benin city, Uhunmwonde LGA, Edo state

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
OVIASOGIE EFOSA, *Chairman*

NOTICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

AIDEYANOBA COMMUNITY

SOKPONBA

The Odionwere, No, 7, Agbadi Street, Aideyanoba–Sokponba, Orhionmwon, L.G.A, Edo State
MOTTO: Unity And Progress

DISCLAIMER: PURPORTED APPOINTMENT OF GODFREY OGBOMWAN AS OKAIGHELE OF SOKPONBA DUKEDOM

I. The attention of Adeyanoba– Sokponba Community in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State has been drawn to the claim that one Godfrey Ogbomwan has been parading himself to your Company as the "Okaighele of Sokponba Dukedom" and as a liaison person for this community.

2. We wish to state categorically that the said Godfrey Ogbomwan has never been appointed, installed, or recognized as Okaighele by this community. Furthermore, there is no entity, quarter, or jurisdiction known as "Sokponba Dukedom" within this community.

3. For the avoidance of doubt, any dealings, agreements, or representations made by the said Godfrey Ogbomwan in the name of Aideyanoba- Sokponba community are unauthorized, null, and void. The community has never in anyway given him the mandate to represent her interests in any capacity.

4. Please accept the assurance of our highest regards.

SIGNED
1. Pa Paul Aghayedo (Odionwere):
2. Pa Avielele Aiworo (2nd in Command):
3. Prof. Eribo (3rd in Command):
4. Lucky Egharevba (Secretary)
5. Daniel Onah (General Okaighele):
6. Evan Odeh (2nd Okaighele)

cc:
1. Seplat Energy Company
2. Godfrey Ogbomwan
3. DPO Ugo Police Division
4. The Chairman, Orhionnwon LGA, Edo State.

PA. PAUL AGHAYEDO
GENERAL ODIONWERE Tel: 08063236266

Mr. ONAH DANIEL
GENERAL OKAIGHELE Tel: 09154201977

Mr. EGHAREVBA LUCKY
SECRETARY Tel: 07057232450

INSIDE EDO STATE

Uhunmwode: Imafidon constitutes Executive, Legislative machinery

The Executive Chairman of Uhunmwode Local Government Council, Hon. Austin Imafidon, popularly known as Isiwina, has received the newly sworn-in councillors of the Uhunmwode Local Government Legislative Arm and inaugurated members of the Council Executive Committee.

The ceremonies, which took place on Monday, followed the successful swearing-in and inauguration of the councillors into the Legislative Arm of the council.

Briefing the Executive Chairman on the conduct of the inauguration, the Clerk of the Legislative Arm, Mr. Iwerebor Godstime, said the process commenced with the reading of the Letter of Proclamation, followed by the election of the principal officers of the Legislative Arm.

The Clerk thereafter introduced the leadership and members of the Legislative Arm to the Executive Chairman.

They include Rt. Hon. Moses Igbinoba, Leader; Rt. Hon. Osasun Adaa, Deputy Leader; Hon. Ogbemudia Osabuohien, Deputy House Leader; Rt. Hon. Osarobo Patrick Osemwegie Ogbegiere, House Leader; Hon. Friday Agbonzee Ose, Chief Whip; and Hon. Okoro Felix, Deputy Whip.

Others are Hon. Irune Odese, Councillor, Ward 9; Hon. Patience Uwa Aiguobasimwin, Councillor, Ward 3; Hon. Onaghise Israel, Councillor, Ward 5; and Hon. Osifo Felix Alfred, Councillor, Ward 4.

Speaking on behalf of the Legislative Arm, its Leader, Rt. Hon. Moses Igbinoba, assured the Executive Chairman and the Executive Arm of the council of a cordial and productive working relationship in the overall interest of the people.

Igbinoba said the developmental strides recorded by Imafidon during his period in an acting capacity were evidence of his commitment to the people, assuring that the legislature would partner the Executive to advance the administration's development agenda.

Earlier, Imafidon had supervised the swearing-in of newly appointed members of the Council Executive Committee.

The ceremony, conducted by the Head of the Legal Department of the council, saw six appointees take their oaths of office.

Those inaugurated are Hon. Amity Uwagboe Orhiakhi, Secretary to the Local Government; Comrade Oziegbe Ighodaro, Special Adviser on Humanitarian Services and Traditional Institutions; Mr. Ogiehor Ehis Tornado, Chief Press Secretary; Mr. Fola Odimayo, Chief Security Officer; Mr. Nosa Omokaro, Special Adviser on Youth Development and Community Works; and Mr. Believe Orhiakhi, Chief of Staff.

The ceremonies were witnessed by the Uhunmwode Local Government Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Rt. Hon. Osawe Osayemwere; the party's Vice Chairman, Hon. Sylvester Obazee, popularly known as Dagbo; and the party's Local Government Leader, Prof. David Osarumwense Osifo.

Also present were the Head of Local Government Administration (HOLGA), Dr. Charles Okpere; the Director of Administration and General Services (DAGS), Mr. Edward Okosun; and other senior officials of the council.

Speaking after the ceremonies, Imafidon expressed confidence in the newly appointed members of the Executive Committee as well as the leadership and members of the Legislative Arm.

He assured residents that the constitution of the full machinery of government would pave the way for greater development and improved service delivery across the local government.

The chairman charged the councillors to discharge their legislative responsibilities with diligence, commitment and a strong sense of responsibility, urging them to place the interests and welfare of the people above all other considerations.

Imafidon also disclosed that he deliberately refrained from interfering in the election of the principal officers of the Legislative Arm because he believed the councillors should be allowed to freely choose their preferred leaders.

He assured the legislators of his administration's readiness to maintain a cordial and cooperative relationship with the legislature, stressing that both arms of government must work as partners in progress to achieve sustainable development across the ten wards of the local government.

The chairman reiterated his commitment to purposeful leadership and people-oriented development, assuring the people of Uhunmwode that his administration would remain focused on building a greater and more prosperous local government.

Auchi Polytechnic

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR | P.M.B. 13, AUCHI

2026/2027ADMISSIONS INTO NATIONAL DIPLOMA (ND) AND HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND) PROGRAMMES OF THE SCHOOL OF EVENING STUDIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the School of Evening Studies (S.E.S.), Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi for the under-listedprogrammes beginning in the 2026/2027 Academic Session.

A.	SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT	National Diploma (ND)Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the following: Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	MARKETING	National Diploma (ND)Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the following: English Language, Mathematics, Economics /Commerce or Marketing
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma in Marketing from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce or Marketing. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
3.	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	National Diploma (ND)Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the following: Mathematics, English Language and Government or Civil Education or History
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Government or Civil Education or History. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
4.	HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma in Business Administration or Public Administration from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce/Government/Civil Education/History.
5.	PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma. Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sitting in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which MUST include credit pass in the following: Mathematics, English Language and any two of Economics, Business Methods, Principles of Accounts, Commerce and any other one or two subject(s).
B	**SCHOOL OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY (SLT)	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at on sitting or six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE,NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the followings: English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) 2 Years Evening Programme (i) Biochemistry Option (ii) Microbiology Option	National Diploma in Science Laboratory Technology from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include English Language, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) Years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	FOOD TECHNOLOGY	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme.	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit passes in the following: English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	National Diploma in Food Technology from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit passes in the following: English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry, Biology and Physics. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
3.	HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB which **MUST** include English Language, Mathematics, Biology/Agricultural Science and any other relevant subject.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) 2 Years Evening Programme	National diploma in Hospitality Management from any recognized accredited Polytechnic in addition to National Diploma requirements. One Year Industrial Training (I.T.) or Two Years Industrial Training (I.T) for candidate with pass Grade in National Diploma (ND).
C.	**SCHOOL OF ART AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	FASHION DESIGN & CLOTHING TECHNOLOGY	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme.	Five (5) Credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) Credit passes at Two (2) sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include Mathematics, English Language and ANY other three (3) subjects at one sitting or any other Four (4) subjects at two sittings. In addition, candidate MUST meet JAMB entry requirements.

		Higher National Diploma (HND) 2 Years Evening Programme	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and ANY other three (3) subjects at one sitting or any other Four (4) subjects at two sittings. In addition, candidate MUST meet JAMB entry requirements. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) Years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	**GENERAL ART AND INDUSTRIAL DESIGN**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme.	Five (5) Credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) Credit passes at Two (2) sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include Mathematics, English Language and ANY other Three (3) subjects at one sitting or any other Four (4) subjects at two sittings. Candidate with Art will be at advantage. In addition, the candidate MUST meet JAMB entry requirements.
D	**SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	**CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, chemistry and any other subject from the Sciences.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	National diploma from Engineering Technology in the preferred programme from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other Subject from the Sciences. One (1) year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	**MECHANICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics Chemistry and any other subject from the Sciences
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme (i) Plant Option (ii) Manufacturing Option	National Diploma from Engineering Technology in the preferred programme from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other Subject from the Sciences. One (1) year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma
3.	**ELECTRICAL/ ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, whih**MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other subject
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme (i) Power and Machines Option (ii) Electronics/Telecommunic ation Option	National Diploma from Engineering Technology in the preferred programme from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other Subject. One (1) year Industrial Training (I>T>) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
4.	**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, whih**MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other subject.
5.	**MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCEor NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other subject from the Sciences.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) (i) Geology Option (ii) Mining Option	National diploma in Mineral and Petroleum Resources Engineering Technology in the preferred programme from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Physics, Chemistry and any other subject from the Sciences. One (1) year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
6.	**COMPUTER ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, NABTEB which must include English Language, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and any other subject from the sciences.
E	**SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	**ESTATE MANAGEMENT AND VALUATION**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language, Economics and a basic Science subject.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	National diploma in Estate Management from any recognized accredited Polytechnic with five (5) credits passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, Economics, English Language and a basic Science subject. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
F.	**SCHOOL OF FINANCIAL STUDIES**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	**PROGRAMMES**	**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**
1.	**ACCOUNTANCY**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the following: Mathematics, English Language and Economics
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Economics. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	**BANKING AND FINANCE**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which **MUST** include credit pass in the following: Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce

		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years (Evening Programme)	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which **MUST** include Mathematics, English Language and Economics/Commerce. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
G.	**SCHOOL OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)**		
S/N	**DEPARTMENT**	PROGRAMMES	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:
1.	**MASS COMMUNICATION**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include Literature in English, Mathematics and English Language.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme (1) Journalism and Media Production (2) Communication in Film and Multimedia Production (3) Strategic Communication and Media Studies	National Diploma in Mass Communication from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include Literature in English, Mathematics and English Language. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
2.	**OFFICE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT (O.T.M.)**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which MUST include English Language and Mathematics.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	National Diploma in Office Technology & Management (Secretarial Administration) from any recognized accredited Polytechnic and Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include English Language, Mathematics and any other Social Science or Natural Science subjects. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T) experience or Two (2) years I.T. for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
3.	**COMPUTER SCIENCE**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which MUST include Mathematics, Physics and English Language.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programme i. Artificial Intelligence Technology ii. Cyber Security Technology iii. Computer Networks and Cloud Computing Technology iv. Software and Web Development	National Diploma from any recognized accredited Polytechnic, with Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE or NABTEB, which MUST include Mathematics, Physics and English Language. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years I.T for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.
4.	**STATISTICS**	National Diploma (ND) Two (2) years Evening Programme	Five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCR, NECO, GCE, or NABTEB, which MUST include credit pass in the following: English Language, Mathematics and any other three/four passes in Geography. Biology/Agriculture, commerce/Economics,Civic Education/government, Accounting, Physics and Chemistry.
		Higher National Diploma (HND) Two (2) Years Evening Programe	National Diploma in Statistics from any recognized accredited Polytechnic with five (5) credit passes at one sitting or Six (6) credit passes at two sittings in SSCE, NECO, GCE,orNABTEB, which MUST include Mathematics, English Language, and any other three or four relevant subjects. One (1) Year Industrial Training (I.T.) experience or Two (2) years (I.T.) for candidates with Pass Grade in National Diploma.

NB: *Students who, on verification at any level, are found to fall short of the Polytechnic's minimum requirements for admission will be withdrawn.*

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms will be completed online via the Polytechnic website www.auchipoly.edu.ng (All applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application and screening fee of **Twenty-Seven Thousand, Five Hundred (N27,500.00) Naira only** in favour of Auchi Polytechnic Treasury Single Account (TSA).

RETURN OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

All applicants are expected to complete application forms and submit online.
Thereafter, follow the links provided on the portal to print:

(1) A copy of the Acknowledgement Slip. This will be presented at the screening venue before an applicant is screened;
(2) Two copies of the application form; and
(3) Two photocopies of e-receipt and Bank tellers.

The forms, accompanied with two (2) sets of photocopies of credentials and two (2) recent passport-sized photographs should be enclosed in an envelope. Then, bring the envelope with you to the Polytechnic during the screening exercise. Closing date is TWO MONTHS from the date of this advertisement.

PROCEDURE FOR USING THE AUCHI POLYTECHNIC ONLINE APPLICATION ADMISSIONS PLATFORM

Read and follow the steps below carefully.

- Open your web browser and type in Auchi Polytechnic URL: www.auchipoly.edu.ng. to display the Auchi Polytechnic web page. Select the desired portal (morning, evening or degree).
- Click on the link. Apply for 2026/2027Auchi Polytechnic ND or HND as it applies to you.
- The application form request will display.
- Carefully complete the application form request. Ensure that you provide all required information correctly.
- **NOTE:** Provide a username, (Preferably your phone number) and a password. Write your username and password in a safe place because you will need them for subsequent logins. Then, click **Generate Remita Payment Reference.**
- Take the generated REMITA PAYMENT REFERENCE (RRR) to the designated bank and request that your payment be processed on the REMITA platform. You can also make payments on any REMITA approved payment channels. Allow a couple of hours for your payment to be processed before returning to the portal to continue with your application. Login with your username and password.
- Click on **Continue With My Application Form.**
- Complete the application form carefully. Ensure that you provide required information correctly as false information may disqualify your application. Upload your passport photograph as well as the scanned copies of your required credentials.
- Print a copy of the Acknowledgement slip and two copies of the application form.
- Enclose two (2) sets of photocopies of your credentials, e-receipt of remitapayment, birth certificate and two (2) recent passport-sized photographs with the forms in an envelope. Then bring the envelope with you to the Polytechnic on the yet to be announced date, for a physical screening exercise.

Note: *Any payment procedure generated and processed on any other platform for the purpose of admission is invalid. All payment procedure must originate from the auchipoly.edu.ng Portal; the Portal is already integrated with the Remita payment platform.*

If you have any difficulty in completing the application form, please call or send an SMS to the GSM number 08182284195 or e-mail missupport2@auchipoly.edu.ng (between 9. a.m. and 4p.m,week days only).

SIGNED: MRS. FELICIA I. ESHIOTSE
Registrar

China criticises idea it is in 'malicious competition' over AI

China has hit out against what it has called "threat narratives" over AI governance and warned against "engaging in confrontation and malicious competition".

It follows Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei's calls for a slowdown in AI development - but in a way that prevents China from pulling ahead in the AI race.

Over the past week, industry insiders at the leading US artificial intelligence labs have been warning in extremely stark terms about the potential threat AI poses, with some saying it could wipe out humanity.

But US President Donald Trump has said that his priority is making sure the US develops the tech faster than China.

Anthropic researcher believes more than 10% chance AI 'could kill all humans'

On Monday, China's foreign ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun told reporters that "narratives of threat, confrontation, and malicious competition serve only to disrupt the process of global AI governance and are not in anyone's interest".

"All parties should work together to advance AI in a manner that is open, inclusive, beneficial to all, and oriented toward the good," he added.

His comments highlight the difficulties in getting an agreement between the world's two leading AI powers.

An agreement between the US and China to regulate AI development is "next to impossible", says Chang Jun Yan, an assistant professor with the military studies programme at Singapore's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

"As part of each state's core national security interests, cooperation in taking things slower and more safely in relation to AI, is very, very unlikely."

Artificial intelligence now sits at the heart of the US-China rivalry as the world's two largest economies seek to gain an edge in advanced tech. Despite US export bans on critical chips, Chinese AI innovation has been expanding, driven by open-source technology and Beijing's backing.

Many experts believe the US is still ahead, and Chinese firms are trying to catch up as they struggle to raise the hundreds of billions of dollars that investors are ploughing into American AI.

But Beijing, including Chinese leader Xi Jinping himself, has also spoken about the risks posed by AI. China must "balance development and security", and introduce and improve relevant laws and ethical guidelines, and strengthen prevention of risks, to "safeguard the interests of the people and national security", state security minister Chen Yixin wrote on Sunday.

He warned of the dangers of "hostile forces" such as foreign intelligence using AI and called for international cooperation.

"There are strong signals that Washington and Beijing share an understanding of frontier risks," Kenton Thibaut, a senior resident China fellow at the Atlantic Council, wrote recently.

China has "technical reasons" to work with the US, she argues, because its developers would be able to see how their models are deployed outside China, and detect and understand vulnerabilities.

In July, China set up the World AI Cooperation Organisation, which aims to shape global AI governance. And speaking at the Brics summit in India on Sunday, Xi proposed creating a community for open-source AI.

All this comes as calls for AI regulation grow louder in the US, especially after a former Anthropic researcher Jacob Coxon said last week that "there is a strong chance that we could all die in the immediate future" if the current pace of development continued.

Since then top industry bosses, such as Dario Amodei, have called for a slowdown and more regulation.

"We need ways to ensure that alignment and safety techniques stay ahead of progress in model capabilities," Open AI's chief executive Sam Altman wrote on X on Monday, which was echoed by Microsoft boss Satya Nadella who said AI development "cannot be controlled by a handful of entities".

But US President Donald Trump downplayed the risks, saying that he wanted to keep the US's lead over China "because whoever wins AI, wins".

The competition is fierce.

The former Anthropic employee Coxon told the BBC that there needed to be "some sort of coordinated slowdown with China, if we're going to avoid a race at an international scale".

Russia hits Ukrainian train shortly after Boris Johnson and top European officials leave station

A Russian drone has hit a train near the Ukraine-Poland border shortly after former UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson and top European security officials had passed through.

No casualties were reported after the strike at Yahodyn, which hit the train's engine. All the passengers had been evacuated, Ukrainian authorities said.

Johnson and other European national security advisers, including the UK's Jonathan Powell, had passed along the same line on a different train on their way back from a conference in Kyiv.

Russia's defence ministry said it had struck "railway infrastructure" in western Ukraine, but Ukraine's state railway company Ukrzaliznytsia said the drone's target "could have been the diplomatic train".

Professor Katarzyna Pisarska, chair of the Warsaw Security Forum, said she was in the same carriage as Johnson and Powell, and the attack had happened about 30 minutes after their train had crossed into the Polish border.

In a statement, Ukraine's railway authority Ukrzaliznytsia said the diplomatic train "had left the station earlier than expected because of the timetable change... due to constant threats of Russian strikes".

It also said that an evacuation order for passengers on the hit train had been given "just 15 minutes" before the strike by a Russian jet-propelled drone.

Former CIA chief David Petraeus, who had been on board another train at Yahodyn station at the time of the strike, said the incident was "terrifying".

In an interview with the New York Times, Petraeus said: "This is the act of a truly barbaric leader trying to terrorise Ukrainian civilians."

Both Ukrainian and Polish authorities said the Russian drone had struck 2km (1.2 miles) from the Polish border.

Former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, who had also attended the conference in Kyiv, told the BBC that passengers on board his train had been told to prepare for evacuation before subsequently being allowed to continue their journey.

That train then safely arrived at Poland's border station in Dorohusk.

Some reports have suggested Bildt was on the same train as Johnson, but the former UK prime minister has not confirmed any details.

Johnson wrote on X: "I don't know what warped logic drove Putin to blow up a stationary Ukrainian locomotive on the Polish border this morning.

He said this was "the kind of random and senseless attack Ukrainians are enduring every day - even on civilian railways" and urged Kyiv's allies to urgently provide Ukrainians "the air defences they need".

Ukraine has made repeated pleas to its allies - particularly the US - to provide more interceptors to defend against daily Russian attacks that increasingly use fast-moving ballistic missiles and jet-propelled drones.

UK PRIME MINISTER:
Johnson, seen here at a book fair in Lviv last week, was on the train alongside top European security officials.

Swedish left-wing bloc narrowly ahead with election too close to call

Sweden's general election remains too close to call with the left-wing bloc marginally ahead as the vote count continues.

With more than 90% of ballots processed early on Monday, the left-wing bloc was in front by approximately 20,000 votes.

Preliminary counts by Sweden's electoral authority projected the Social Democrats' Magdalena Andersson would likely finish with a three-seat majority over the rival four-party coalition led by current conservative Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

Kristersson has been supported in government by the hard-right Sweden Democrats (SD), which have neo-Nazi roots. He has promised cabinet jobs for the SD if he stays in charge.

Early on Monday morning, Kristersson said it remained unclear who would form the next government.

"The voters have had their say, but we still don't have a final result. Which government will lead Sweden in the coming years is still an open question," he told supporters.

No major media outlets have declared a winner yet.

Sweden uses a mandate distribution voting system, a proportional representation method to elect "mandates", or "seats", in the Riksdag – the Swedish parliament. A party needs at least 4% of the vote to enter parliament.

With 95% of votes reported, the left-wing bloc led by the Social Democrats was ahead with 176 mandates compared to the right-wing bloc's 173.

Counting will continue on Wednesday before the final results determine which side has a clearer path to majority.

The counting restarts then to include early votes that were submitted late, as well as votes from abroad that did not arrive before election day.

It is not yet known how many votes will be counted on Wednesday, but back in 2022, more than 220,000 votes were included in the later count.

If the figures are similar this year, Wednesday's count could make the difference in the outcome, given that only about 28,000 votes currently separate the blocs.

Sweden has two major political blocs featuring four parties on the right and four on the left - meaning coalition and minority governments are relatively common.

On Sunday night, Andersson - the leader of the country's main opposition party - urged supporters to wait for the final result, but added that if the current results hold, "Sweden will have a new government."

Thousands demand end to violence in Mexican cartel hotspot

Thousands of people have taken to the streets of Culiacán to demand an end to the violence that has wracked the city in northern Mexico.

The state of Sinaloa has seen the number of murders and disappearances skyrocket since two factions of the Sinaloa cartel started a bloody war two years ago.

Residents dressed in white held up posters of missing loved ones and signs reading "We don't want fear, we want peace" at the protest on Sunday.

More than three million people live in Sinaloa and many say that the war between the two rival factions - known as Los Chapitos and La Mayiza - has blighted their lives.

The march was scheduled to coincide with the second anniversary since the start of the conflict - which broke out after the arrest of wanted drug lord Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada in the US.

His followers, La Mayiza, allege he was betrayed by the son of the infamous founder of the Sinaloa cartel, Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, and have turned on members of his faction, Los Chapitos.

The two factions regularly carry out ambushes, drive-by shootings and erect roadblocks by hijacking trucks, which they set alight.

Residents of Culiacán have been caught up in this internecine war.

Not only has the number of murders and disappearances shot up in the state but also those of extortions and robberies, official figures suggest.

Sunday's protest was organised by relatives of victims, local businesses, civil society groups and the Catholic Church.

Businessman Sergio Esquer told AFP news agency that more than 5,000 businesses had closed since the start of the feud.

"That's the tragedy Sinaloa is experiencing," Esquer, who is a leader in the centre-left opposition party Movimiento Ciudadano, said.

FOREIGN NEWS

GRAZING ANIMALS:
Anthrax mainly affects grazing animals and can lead to sudden death.

Zambians warned not to eat dead wildlife after anthrax kills dozens of animals

Authorities in Zambia have warned people not to eat meat from wildlife after dozens of wild animals, including hippos, elephants, buffalo and a crocodile died following an anthrax outbreak.

A disaster management agency official said over the weekend that 12 people had been infected with the disease after consuming dead wildlife in the Munyamadzi River area.

The official urged the public not to consume meat from animals that die naturally or from unknown causes, while urging the public to report any such cases.

Authorities have also called for hunting in the affected area to be suspended until the extent of the disease and associated risks are established.

Officials have not yet ascertained the full geographical extent of the latest outbreak, with surveillance and laboratory investigations ongoing.

Anthrax is endemic to Zambia but human deaths are not common. In 2023, the country experienced what was described as an "unprecedented outbreak", which killed four people and spread to nine out of 10 provinces.

Another large-scale outbreak was reported in 2011, with more than 500 cases, when five people died after consuming meat from infected hippos.

In the latest outbreak in the Munyamadzi Game Management Area, in Muchinga province, Zambia's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit said 46 hippos, eight elephants, five buffaloes and one crocodile had died since July.

"The sad story about the deaths of this wildlife is that the carcasses ended up being eaten by the local people - that's what they depend on for their food," said the unit's national coordinator Norman Chipakupaku.

No human deaths have been reported, and the 12 infected people are currently receiving treatment.

Anthrax is caused by a bacteria called Bacillus anthracis, which largely survives as spores that hide away in soil for years before entering an animal through inhalation or a cut or wound.

It mainly affects grazing animals and can lead to sudden death. It can be transmitted from animals to humans through contact with contaminated animal products.

Zambians have been urged not to consume, sell, distribute or handle meat from animals that have died suddenly or from suspected anthrax. The public has also been advised against handling wild animals.

Police say it could take months to identify Philippine ferry fire victims

Philippine authorities said it could take weeks or months to identify victims of a ferry fire that killed 76 people last week.

"Most of them are already in a charred condition," Richard Allan Mangalip, a forensic specialist from the Philippine National Police, told reporters on Sunday. Family members have been asked to help identify victims with personal items or DNA samples.

The MV June Aster was heading from Manila to Coron in Palawan province, a popular holiday destination, when a fire started in its cargo hold and spread rapidly throughout the vessel.

Forty-three people survived the disaster, while 13 people remain unaccounted for, authorities said.

Mangalip said they were "trying [their] best to collect the possible identifying marks" from victims' remains.

But it was hard to give a clear timeline on how long the identification process would take because of the volume of specimens, he said, adding, "It could be weeks, or it could be months."

A coast guard official said on Saturday that the priority was identifying victims and determining the cause of the blaze.

The fire continued burning for more than a day, releasing heat and toxic fumes that impeded search and rescue operations. It took more than 40 hours before rescuers could board the ship in search of survivors.

The MV June Aster had set off last Tuesday from Manila to Coron, a popular destination among both local and foreign tourists, known for its beaches and WW2 shipwreck diving sites.

Besides tourists, there were also passengers on the ferry who had been travelling to Coron for work or to visit family.

Survivors recall hearing a loud explosion before seeing smoke and fire. When fire engulfed the ship, chaos erupted on board, they said.

One told the BBC that he had been trampled after falling on the floor. He jumped off the boat into the sea before being rescued hours later.

But many burned to death on the ship. Mangalip said at the press conference on Sunday that some victims' remains were found clustered together in parts of the vessel.

"Our thoughts are also with the survivors and families still waiting for news of their loved ones," the Philippine Coast Guard said in a statement on Sunday. "We recognise the pain and uncertainty they continue to endure as recovery and identification efforts remain underway."

Spain says more than 5,300 migrants have left Ceuta for Morocco

More than 5,300 migrants who remained in Spain's North African territory of Ceuta after a mass influx in July have returned to Morocco over the past month, the Spanish government has said.

Migration Minister Angel Victor Torres said 5,321 people had voluntarily returned since August 10, while 90 others had withdrawn requests for international protection.

The government says nearly 1,000 more migrants are being registered to complete their return procedures.

More than 70,000 people crossed into Ceuta on July 30 and 31 in an unprecedented and deadly rush, although most returned to Morocco within hours.

Thousands who remained have had to undergo checks to determine whether they qualify for asylum. Unaccompanied minors cannot be summarily deported.

The exact number still in Ceuta remains disputed. The city's conservative leader estimates around 13,000 migrants remain, while the national government puts the figure significantly lower.

Trump says he will remove all Irish whiskey tariffs as he ends two-day visit

US President Donald Trump has announced he will lift all tariffs on Irish whiskey at the end of his two-day visit to Ireland.

He made the announcement before handing over the winner's trophy at the Trump International golf resort in Doonbeg, Co Clare, to Irish Open winner Shane Lowry.

Whiskey distilled in the Republic of Ireland faces the standard 15% tariff which applies to EU goods entering the US, while whiskey made in Northern Ireland or elsewhere in the UK has no tariff.

It comes after Trump doubled down on his support for a united Ireland and said joining Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland was "one of the naturals of all time".

He spent day two of his visit to Ireland watching the final day of the Irish Open.

On Saturday, Trump was in Dublin where he met with Taoiseach (Irish PM) Micheál Martin and Irish President Catherine Connolly.

Addressing the crowd before the trophy presentation, Trump said he had discussed whiskey tariffs with Martin and with golfer Lowry.

"Everybody's been bugging me," he said.

"They are saying would you do me a favour? It's so unfair what's going on.

"Could you possibly take the tariffs off of Irish whiskey and I said, on behalf of the United States of America, I am going to take the tariffs off Irish whiskey."

The presentation ceremony marked the end of Trump's two-day trip to Ireland before boarding Air Force One at Shannon Airport and departing for Washington.

Assuming the Trump tariffs on Irish whiskey are removed it will end the advantage that some Northern Ireland distillers had over competitors in the Republic of Ireland.

That is because producers north of the border were covered by the removal of tariffs on all UK-made whiskey which Trump announced in May.

All-island supply chains meant that some NI whiskey brands could not benefit from the earlier tariff cut.

Newer distilleries bottle whiskey produced by other companies while they wait for their own product to mature.

This service is dominated by the Great Northern Distillery in Dundalk, County Louth which produces whiskey under licence for brands across the island.

It means the NI distilleries bottling that liquid have been classified as EU rather than UK producers.

On Saturday, Trump told reporters he would love to see a united Ireland while at a meeting with Micheál Martin.

Speaking on Sunday at his Doonbeg golf resort, he said it would be natural to put Ireland and Northern Ireland "together".

He spoke to reporters after watching Lowry tee off.

He described what he said about a united Ireland as "a fairly routine comment".

"I've always loved the people of Ireland. It just seems to me you have Northern Ireland and Ireland," he said

"It seems that one of the naturals of all time is to put them together.

"That's only my opinion, and by the way many people agree."

The president sidestepped a question about Scottish independence.

"I won't talk about Scotland yet I will save that," he said.

Asked about Prime Minister Andy Burnham's remarks that there would be no poll on Irish unity until a majority in Northern Ireland were likely to vote in favour, Trump added: "Everybody says that and then things happen."

"He would make the point this is his view. He believes unity is the logical way for the island to be configured and organised," Martin said.

Presidents of Guinea and Ivory Coast agree to strengthen cooperation

Guinea's President Mamady Doumbouya, arrived in Abidjan on Friday for talks with his Ivorian counterpart, Alassane Ouattara.

During a meeting on Sunday, the two leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas, including security, trade and politics.

Doumbouya stressed the need for closer intelligence cooperation to address regional security challenges.

"Like you, I am convinced that there can be no development without peace and stability," Doumbouya said. "Yet our geographical area is facing security challenges of all kinds. We are ready to work with you in terms of exchanges, intelligence, and the fight against cross-border crime and terrorism."

According to a statement released by Ouattara's office, Doumbouya also emphasized the fight against illegal gold mining, which he deemed a strategic issue. A 2024 report found that up to 40 percent of gold produced across Africa is not declared, costing the continent billions of dollars in lost revenue.

FEATURE

Reducing the burden of education on parents

Matthew Okagha

As schools across Nigeria reopen for another academic session, millions of children are returning to classrooms with renewed hopes and dreams of a better future.

For their parents, however, the beginning of a new session is often a period of serious financial anxiety. Before the first lesson is taught, families are confronted with school fees, textbooks, uniforms, shoes, school bags, writing materials, examination fees, development levies and transportation costs.

For families already struggling with the rising cost of food, rent, electricity and healthcare, these demands can be overwhelming.

Education is an investment, no doubt. But that investment should not become an unbearable burden.

This is why governments at all levels, school proprietors, parents, non-governmental organisations and corporate bodies must rethink how education is financed and delivered in Nigeria.

The rising cost of education is particularly evident in private schools. Thousands of parents choose private schools because they believe they offer better learning environments, discipline, infrastructure and supervision.

There is nothing wrong with schools charging fees that reflect the cost of providing quality education. Private school operators must pay teachers, provide infrastructure, power their facilities and maintain their schools.

But there must also be consideration for the economic realities of parents.

A situation in which parents borrow heavily, sell property or exhaust their savings simply to keep their children in school cannot be healthy or sustainable.

One practice that deserves urgent attention is the insistence by some schools that students purchase new textbooks every academic session.

In some families, a younger child is required to buy a new set of books even when an older sibling has used the same books and they remain in good condition.

This is difficult to justify.

Where the curriculum has not changed and the textbook remains approved and relevant, why should a perfectly useful book be discarded simply because another child has used it?

Governments should establish clear policies encouraging textbook reuse. Where there has been no significant curriculum change, approved textbooks should ordinarily serve for two or three academic sessions.

A child who completes Primary Five, for instance, should be able to pass useful textbooks to a younger sibling or another pupil entering the same class.

Such a policy would save families money, reduce waste and promote responsible resource management.

Transportation is another major challenge. With rising transport fares, families with two, three or four schoolchildren can spend substantial sums every month simply taking them to and from school.

State and local governments should therefore consider free or heavily subsidised school bus services, particularly in areas with large concentrations of schoolchildren.

Such a programme would reduce the financial burden on parents, improve the safety of pupils, reduce the number of private vehicles on the roads and potentially ease traffic congestion around schools.

STUDENTS IN SCHOOL

Ultimately, one of the best ways to reduce the burden on parents is to make public schools genuinely attractive alternatives.

Governments must continue to invest in functional classrooms, qualified and motivated teachers, laboratories, libraries, digital learning facilities, toilets, water and other essential infrastructure.

The quality of public education must improve to the point where parents choose public schools because they are good, not merely because they are affordable.

A strong public education system is one of the greatest forms of social protection any government can provide.

Government cannot do everything alone.

NGOs, philanthropic foundations, religious organisations and corporate bodies should expand their interventions in education. Thousands of children from poor and vulnerable families need school bags, uniforms, shoes, textbooks, writing materials and other basic supplies.

Organisations can adopt schools and communities and provide such items through their social responsibility programmes.

More scholarships and educational assistance should also be provided at the primary and secondary levels, where the foundation for future success is laid.

What may appear small to a wealthy person—a school bag, books, uniform or pair of shoes—can mean everything to a struggling family.

School proprietors and administrators also need to show greater sensitivity to the economic realities of Nigerian families.

Where parents genuinely cannot meet their financial obligations at once, schools should consider reasonable payment plans instead of immediately threatening to send children away.

No child should be publicly embarrassed because his or her parents are experiencing financial difficulties.

Education should build confidence and dignity, not destroy them.

The solution requires a collective approach.

The Federal Government should develop policies that promote affordability where appropriate. State governments should strengthen public schools and introduce school transportation schemes, while local governments should support basic education within their communities.

Private schools should adopt reasonable and transparent fee structures, reduce unnecessary demands for new textbooks and encourage textbook reuse.

NGOs, charities and corporate organisations should increase support for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, while communities should develop systems to assist families struggling to keep their children in school.

The cost of educating a child should not be left entirely to the parent.

At the centre of this discussion is the Nigerian child.

Every child deserves the opportunity to sit in a classroom, learn, dream and develop his or her potential, regardless of the economic circumstances of the family.

We cannot claim to be preparing Nigeria for a prosperous future while allowing the rising cost of education to place unbearable pressure on families.

Let us reduce unnecessary expenses. Let us make textbooks reusable. Let us provide affordable or free transportation for schoolchildren. Let NGOs and corporate organisations fill some of the gaps. And, most importantly, let government invest sufficiently in public education.

Education is not a luxury. It is the foundation upon which Nigeria's future will be built. If the burden becomes too heavy for parents to carry, society must step in and share it.

The future cannot wait.

CARTOON

By Francis Odupute

FEATURE

Beyond the pay gap: **The unfinished work of gender equity in Nigerian workplaces**

Grace Ijeoma Umeh

On a Monday morning in Lagos, two people walk into the same office building. Both have master's degrees. Both have five years of experience. Both were hired in the same month. By December, one will likely get a promotion. The other will likely be asked to "take notes" in the meeting. The difference is not performance. The difference is gender.

This is the quiet reality of many Nigerian workplaces in 2026. We have made progress. Women are CEOs, judges, pilots, and tech founders. But progress is not the same as equity. And equity is not the same as culture change.

For years the conversation has centered on the pay gap. It matters. Data from multiple HR surveys show that women in Nigeria earn on average 20% to 30% less than men in comparable roles, especially in finance, tech, and manufacturing. But the gap is not just in salary. It is in opportunity, in voice, in safety, and in the unwritten rules that decide who gets ahead.

Start with recruitment. Many job ads still say "young, energetic male preferred." In others, the requirement for "willingness to travel extensively" is used to screen out women with caregiving responsibilities, even when the travel is minimal. During interviews, women are routinely asked about marriage plans, children, and "who will cook at home." Men are rarely asked the same.

Then look at promotion. Women enter the workforce in large numbers. But at middle management, the pipeline leaks. The reasons are complex. Some leave for better work-life balance. Some are passed over because they did not play golf with the boss. Some are held to a higher standard — they must be twice as good to be considered half as ready.

A senior manager in a bank in Abuja described it this way: "A man makes one good presentation and he's 'leadership material.' A woman makes five and she's 'detail-oriented.'"

The problem is compounded by caregiving. Nigeria has no national paid parental leave policy for the private sector. Maternity leave is 12 to 16 weeks, and many women return to find their projects reassigned. Paternity leave is almost nonexistent. The result is that child-rearing defaults to women, and careers stall.

Harassment is the other open secret. From unwanted comments to quid pro quo demands, many women navigate workplaces where reporting means risking their job. HR departments exist, but trust is low. "Who will believe me over the VP?" a young marketer in Port Harcourt asked.

Yet to tell only the problem story is to miss what is happening. Nigerian women are organizing, building, and demanding better.

In tech, women-led communities like She Code Africa and Women in Tech Nigeria are training thousands of girls and creating hiring pipelines. In law, female senior advocates are mentoring younger women and pushing for more women on the bench. In manufacturing, women are running factories and proving that safety and productivity can rise together.

Companies are also changing, though unevenly. A few multinationals and large Nigerian firms have adopted transparent pay bands, mentorship programs, and zero-tolerance harassment policies. Some have introduced flexible work and childcare support. The results are clear: retention improves, and performance improves.

But policy on paper is not culture in practice. A policy that says "no harassment" means little if managers still joke inappropriately. A mentorship program means little if senior men only mentor other men.

> "
> A man makes one good presentation and he's 'leadership material.' A woman makes five and she's 'detail-oriented.

What would real equity look like?

First, pay transparency. When salary ranges are published, negotiation gaps shrink. When bonuses are tied to clear metrics, bias has less room.

Second, caregiving support. This does not have to mean a corporate creche. It can mean flexible hours, remote options, and paid parental leave for both parents. When men take leave, the stigma around women taking leave drops.

Third, accountability. Boards and executives should be asked: what is your percentage of women at each level? What is your harassment reporting and resolution rate? What are you doing about it? And the answers should be public.

Fourth, culture. This is the hardest. It means calling out sexist jokes. It means men sponsoring women, not just mentoring. It means recognizing emotional labor — the planning of office events, the onboarding of new staff — and not assuming it will be done for free by women.

There is also a business case. Companies with more women in leadership make better decisions. They understand a wider range of customers. They are more attractive to global investors who now ask about ESG. In a country with a young, educated population, you cannot afford to waste half your talent.

The government has a role. Enforce existing labor laws. Create incentives for companies that meet gender equity benchmarks. Collect and publish data. And model the behavior in public service.

But change will not come from Abuja alone. It will come from the manager who decides to give the high-profile project to the woman on his team. It will come from the male colleague who says "let her finish" in the meeting. It will come from women who refuse to accept less and who pull others up with them.

In Kano, a factory owner started a "returnship" program for women who left work to have children. After six months, 80% were still with the company and three had been promoted. In Enugu, a media house instituted a rule: every panel must have at least one woman. At first it was hard. Now their content is better and their audience is bigger.

These are not miracles. They are choices.

Nigeria in 2026 is at a crossroads. We talk about a 1 trillion dollar economy. We talk about digital transformation. We talk about youth. But none of that works if we keep sidelining women.

The pay gap matters. But so does the voice gap, the safety gap, and the leadership gap. Closing them will take law, money, and courage.

As one CEO put it: "We didn't change because it was easy. We changed because we couldn't afford not to."

The women walking into offices today are not asking for favors. They are asking for fairness. And fairness is not a women's issue. It is a Nigeria issue.

The river is rising: **climate displacement and the new map of Nigeria**

Martha Obi-Dike

In Bayelsa, the water comes to the door in June now, not October. In Borno, the rains come late and leave early. In Benue, the river that fed three villages now cuts through the middle of the road. Climate change in Nigeria is not a future report. It is an address change.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Nigerians move. Some move because their farms failed. Some move because their homes flooded. Some move because conflict over water and land became too dangerous. They are called IDPs, migrants, squatters. They are also teachers, farmers, traders, and students. They are redrawing the map of Nigeria in real time.

The science is straightforward. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, and sea level rise are hitting Nigeria hard. The north is getting drier. The south is getting wetter. The middle belt is caught between herders moving south and farmers trying to hold on. Coastal communities are losing land to erosion.

But statistics do not capture what it feels like to pack your life into two bags. Or to arrive in a city where you know no one and rent costs three times your monthly income. Or to send your child to a school where there are 90 pupils in one classroom because three other schools are underwater.

Displacement is not new. But climate displacement is different. It is slower, and then sudden. It is recurring. A family may flood out, return, and flood out again. Each time, they have less to return to.

Government response is stretched. NEMA and SEMA do heroic work during emergencies. But emergency response is not the same as planning. We are still building houses in flood plains. We are still approving developments without drainage. We are still treating climate as an environment ministry issue, not a finance, housing, and security issue.

Cities are feeling it most. Lagos, Kano, Abuja, and Onitsha are receiving people who cannot farm anymore. The result is pressure on housing, water, and jobs. Informal settlements grow. Tensions rise.

> "
> Funding early warning systems so people can move before the water reaches the roof.

Yet there are also stories of adaptation. In Jigawa, farmers are using solar pumps and drought-resistant seeds. In Rivers, communities are building raised homes and floating gardens. In Kaduna, local government and traditional leaders are mapping grazing routes to reduce farmer-herder clashes.

The key is to stop treating displacement as a one-off disaster and start treating it as a development issue. That means:

Planning cities for people who are coming.

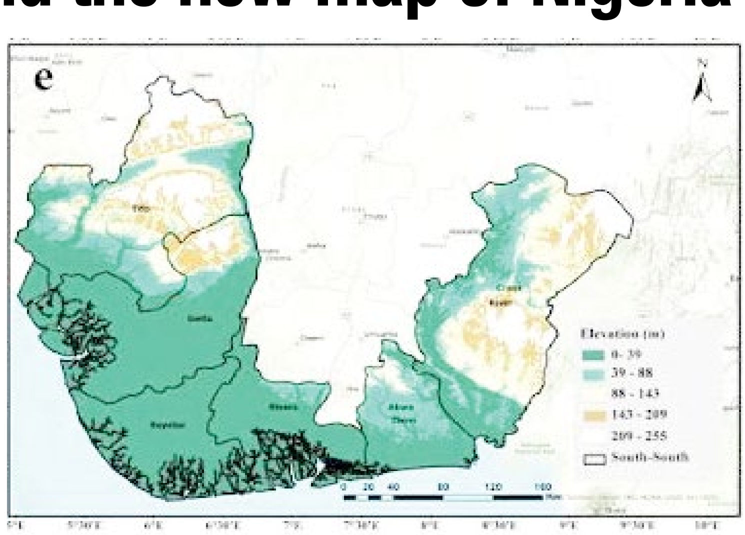
Investing in climate-smart agriculture so people can stay if they choose.

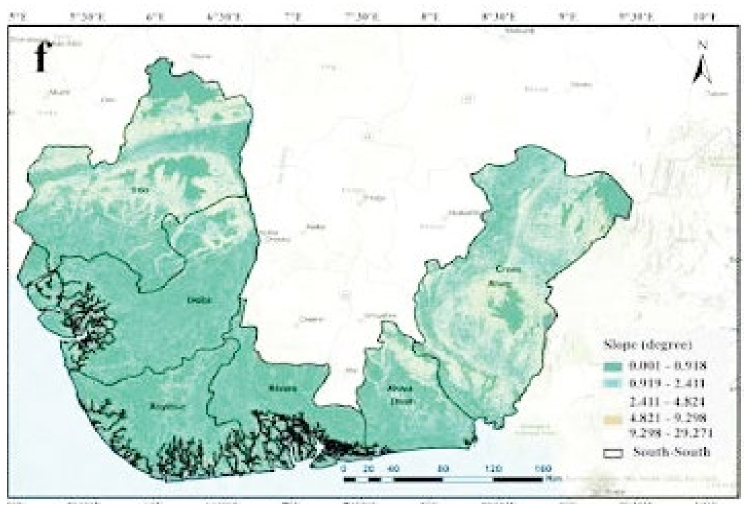
Creating legal pathways for internal migration so people have rights wherever they land.

Funding early warning systems so people can move before the water reaches the roof.

International funding helps, but Nigeria must lead. We need a national climate displacement framework. We need to budget for it. And we need to listen to the people who are moving. They know which roads flood first. They know which crops survive. They know what they need.

The river is rising. The question is whether our policies will rise with it.





FEATURE

The obsession with capital punishment

Professor Mojisola Adeyeye

Bagudu Mohammed

Two days ago the news broke that the Director-General of NAFDAC, Professor Mojisola Adeyeye, is calling for life imprisonment and the death penalty for dealers in fake products, branding them "merchants of death." According to ThisDay, between May and July 2026 her agency's post-marketing surveillance visited 5,738 facilities and mopped up 7,210 non-compliant products, with food and water making up 3,633 and drugs and herbals 2,459.

Suspects behind counterfeit CWay water, Oral-B and Colgate toothpastes were arrested, and a factory in Nasarawa was caught repackaging rice. From 2025 to 2026, raids led to the seizure and destruction of goods worth over N1.5 trillion and another N15 billion destroyed in Ibadan.

Adeyeye noted that 64 convictions had been secured, with sentences of one to seven years without option of fine, but she insisted the penalties are too weak for the scale of the public health threat. She urged Nigerians to report directly to NAFDAC rather than trial by social media, and defended the agency's rise since 2017 from "maturity level one" to level three, the first in Africa, as proof that NAFDAC can now stand with global regulators.

In almost the same breath came another cry for the gallows. On September 7, 2026, Mahmud Abdulraheem, Esq., Ph.D. in Mass Communication, Chief Promoter of Gerin FM 95.5 Ilorin, former GM of KWSBC/KWTV and former Head of Mass Communication at the University of Ilorin, published an urgent opinion titled: "Illicit Drugs and a Wasted Generation: Why Nigeria Must Adopt a Chinese-Style Crackdown.".

He argues that Nigeria is in a national emergency with over 14 million Nigerians aged 15 to 64 using drugs, and that campuses, barracks and homes are bleeding talent to addiction and crime. He traces the slide to 1985, when the Buhari military decree that made drug trafficking a capital offence and executed three traffickers was abandoned, after which Nigeria moved from transit route to consumer nation.

Borrowing from China's war on opium, which combined death penalties for large traffickers with school-based education, tight border tracking of precursor chemicals and three years of monitored rehabilitation, Abdulraheem asks for the NDLEA Act to be amended for death on cocaine, heroin, meth and fentanyl, for special drug courts to deliver judgment in six months, for proper funding of scanners and drones, for rehab centers in all six zones, and for the net to catch barons instead of only street boys. He also turns to parents, pastors, imams and traditional rulers to make anti-drug preaching weekly, and tells young people that drugs will not make them rich or manly, only broken.

I do not in any way downplay the danger. Fake drugs kill. Tramadol and mkpuru mmiri hollow out communities. But what I see emerging is a pattern I call the obsession with capital punishment, a reflex to reach for the harshest sanction as proof of seriousness, as if severity alone were policy.

> "Nigeria is in a national emergency with over 14 million Nigerians aged 15 to 64 using drugs, and that campuses, barracks and homes are bleeding talent to addiction and crime.

Sociologically, this looks like what Emile Durkheim described as punishment as a ritual of collective conscience, and what Michel Foucault warned against when the spectacle of the scaffold substitutes for the boring work of institutions. In Nigeria it often plays as symbolism over substance, brinkmanship that wins applause without changing incentives.

We love to show strong will. We chant death for stealing, for bike snatching, for cyber fraud, for rape, and in some places we skip the court and go straight to jungle justice. Yet the crimes persist, sometimes even metastasize, as when children stage their own kidnappings or influencers cry rape to harvest sympathy and crowdfunding.

Look at the law books and you will see we are already heavy on the sword. Murder, treason, robbery with firearms and certain drug trafficking already attract death under the Criminal and Penal Codes. The Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022 makes terrorism, membership of groups like Boko Haram, ISWAP and IPOB, financing, arms trafficking and concealment capital offences.

By Senate resolution in 2025, kidnapping and banditry were designated terrorism, with proposals to make death mandatory even where no one dies, and to extend it to informants, logistics men, harbourers and transporters. Life imprisonment sits beside these for rape under the VAPP Act, for human trafficking, for piracy, and for other terrorism-related acts. Between May and June 2026, 12 people were sentenced to death for terrorism and kidnapping, including convicts in the Owo church attack, and in May 2026 three men got life for abducting 46 pupils and teachers in Oyo. Ransom payment itself now carries at least 15 years.

If severity worked automatically, kidnapping should have vanished. Instead it is an epidemic. Criminology tells us why. Cesare Beccaria argued 250 years ago in On Crimes and Punishments that certainty of detection deters more than severity of punishment, and modern research keeps confirming it. A 2014 study in the Journal of Quantitative Criminology found that increases in the probability of arrest reduce crime far more than increases in sentence length. In Nigeria, the bottleneck is not the penalty on paper but the pipeline from report to conviction.

NAFDAC's 64 convictions are commendable, but they scratch the surface. An NDLEA officer once told me how cases die: you report a dealer, and the first call the suspect gets is from inside. In many compounds you could, if you enforced the law to the letter, indict a significant portion of the population, and our prisons would burst. The problem is not that one year is too small, it is that one in ten does not see a courtroom at all.

FEATURE

How much does it really cost to be a student in Nigeria today?

Precious Agbejesi

For many Nigerian students, going to school is no longer simply about paying school fees and buying a few notebooks. Behind every lecture attended, assignment submitted and examination written is a growing list of expenses that parents and students must somehow meet.

From accommodation and food to transportation, data, textbooks, printing and other academic requirements, the financial burden of being a student has become increasingly difficult to ignore.

The question is no longer just whether a student can afford university education.

The bigger question is: how much does it really cost to survive as a student in Nigeria today?

For students living away from home, accommodation is often one of the biggest expenses. While students in university-owned hostels may pay considerably less, those who live off campus face rising rents and additional charges for electricity, water and other services.

A May 2026 report by The Guardian noted that students in some university towns were paying between N150,000 and N250,000 yearly for a single room, while self-contained apartments could cost between N350,000 and N600,000 annually. In some areas, furnished student accommodation was reportedly much more expensive.

For a student whose parents are already struggling with household expenses, paying hundreds of thousands of naira for accommodation can be a major challenge.

Then comes food:

A student has to eat every day, regardless of whether there is an examination, school fees deadline or assignment to submit. Yet the cost of food remains a major concern for Nigerian households. In May 2026, Nigeria's food inflation was reported at 16.96 per cent, according to figures attributed to the National Bureau of Statistics.

The effect can be seen around campuses. Students who previously bought complete meals may now choose cheaper options. Some cook in groups, reduce the number of meals they eat outside or depend on food supplied from home.

Transportation is another unavoidable expense, particularly for students living off campus. The daily trip to and from school may appear insignificant when considered separately, but the cost becomes substantial when multiplied by several days every week and several months in a semester.

Academic expenses also quietly consume students' money.

Printing assignments, photocopying materials, buying textbooks, paying for practical work, purchasing stationery and subscribing to internet data are all part of student life. With many academic activities now requiring internet access, data has become almost as important as notebooks and pens.

For students who depend on their phones or laptops for research and communication, electricity is another concern. Charging devices, powering laptops and accessing the internet can add to the monthly budget.

The financial pressure does not end with education-related expenses.

Students still need clothes, toiletries, healthcare, personal items and emergency money. There are also unexpected expenses that cannot be planned for, such as repairing a phone, replacing a damaged academic material or travelling home during an emergency.

The result is that some students have had to find ways of making money while studying.

Some sell clothes, food, cosmetics and other products. Others offer services such as hairdressing, graphic design, photography, writing or tutoring. For some students, these businesses provide useful financial support. For others, however, combining work with lectures can become exhausting.

The pressure is particularly difficult for students whose families depend on irregular incomes.

STUDENTS

Nigeria's wider cost-of-living crisis has made the situation more complicated. A Reuters report in August 2026 noted that households were still struggling with high food, transport and housing costs despite signs of improvement in some economic indicators.

This means that the student is not experiencing the financial pressure alone. The parents or guardians paying the bills are also facing increased expenses.

A student who receives a monthly allowance may discover that the same amount that once lasted for several weeks now disappears much faster. What looks like poor financial management may sometimes simply be the reality of rising prices.

Yet, despite these challenges, thousands of Nigerian students continue to attend lectures, sit for examinations and pursue their dreams.

For many, education remains the hope of securing a better future. The struggle, therefore, is not necessarily a lack of willingness to study but the increasing cost of remaining in school.

The real cost of being a student in Nigeria today cannot be measured by school fees alone. It includes the roof over the student's head, the food on the table, the transport to lectures, the data used to conduct research and the countless small expenses that accumulate throughout the academic year.

As the cost of living continues to put pressure on families, supporting students requires more than encouraging them to work harder. Affordable accommodation, improved campus facilities, student welfare programmes and practical financial support can make a significant difference.

For now, many Nigerian students are learning two things at the same time: what their lecturers teach in the classroom and how to survive financially outside it.

OMOIKE: The capacity man Etsako West trust to deliver - Seeks traditional backing, promises equitable development and crackdown on drug abuse

Lamai Cassius

When Hon. Romeo Aloaye Omoike took the oath of office as Executive Chairman of Etsako West Local Government Council, the message from the people was clear: _Deliver._

One week into office, the signs suggest he understands the assignment. From grassroots consultations to palace visits, Omoike has moved quickly to lay the foundation for what he calls "an equitable development agenda" for Etsako West.

To many, he is "The Capacity Man" - a leader tested by time and now entrusted with the mandate to transform the council.

Omoike's approach from day one has been inclusive. Within his first week, he received delegations of Arewa cattle dealers, Hausawa leaders, party stakeholders, and youth groups.

His message has remained consistent: peace, unity, and development.

"The responsibility of maintaining security and peaceful coexistence requires the cooperation of all residents, irrespective of ethnic or cultural background," he told Arewa and Hausawa leaders.

Community leaders have described his early engagements as a sign that the administration will be people-focused. The emphasis, they say, is on listening first before acting.

A major plank of the new administration was on display on Thursday when the Chairman paid a courtesy visit to the Otaru of Auchi Sacred Kingdom, HRM Alhaji H.A. Momoh, Ikelebe III.

The purpose: to seek the partnership of the traditional institution in tackling three critical challenges - illicit drug abuse, insecurity, and poor environmental sanitation.

Hon. Omoike expressed appreciation to the Otaru and the Traditional Council for their "overwhelming support and prayers" before, during and after the election. He stressed that the success of his administration would require collective effort.

"We believe in correction before coercion," the Chairman told the monarch.

"We will initially use a period of grace to educate, counsel and rebuke those involved in the illicit drug trade. This is to give offenders the opportunity to desist, while we protect our youths and safeguard the social fabric of our communities."

He also pledged closer collaboration with the palace on public sanitation and protection of government property.

The Otaru, in his response, commended the Chairman for the early steps taken within the first week and pledged the full support of the Auchi Sacred Throne.

"The traditional institution will provide the necessary cooperation to enable this administration to deliver the expected transformation to the people at the grassroots,"_ HRM Momoh said.

The monarch also called for sustained cooperation between the local government and traditional institutions in addressing security and sanitation.

Political observers note that securing the backing of the Otaru this early provides the administration with strong traditional legitimacy in Etsako land.

Beyond consultations, the administration has set its sights on tangible projects. The first 100 days will prioritize fixing access roads, improving Primary Health Centers, and supporting education - all in line with the SHINE Agenda of Governor Monday Okpebholo.

According to officials in the council, the Chairman has directed that projects be prioritized based on immediate community needs and impact.

The Chairman has assured that development will be equitable across all communities in Etsako West.

"The cooperation and support of traditional institutions will be critical to achieving meaningful grassroots development,"_ he assured the Otaru.

Residents have expressed optimism, noting the Chairman's visible presence in markets and communities within his first week.

From seeking royal blessings to meeting community groups, Hon. Romeo Aloaye Omoike has signaled that his administration will be about partnership, peace, and performance.

"To whom much is given, much is expected,"_ he said at his inauguration.

For Etsako West, the gamble is on capacity. And with the Otaru's support and the goodwill of the people, the Capacity Man has begun the work.

FEATURE

The Silent Economy: **How Nigerian Women are rewriting rural markets**

Grace Ijeoma Umeh

At 4:30am in Oja Oba Market, Ilorin, the generators are already humming. By 5:00am, Mama Risikat has arranged her baskets of pepper, tomatoes, and onions in perfect pyramids. By 6:00am, she has extended credit to three younger traders, settled a dispute between two suppliers, and sent money to her daughter in a university in Owerri. She has not yet had breakfast.

This is the quiet engine of Nigeria's economy, and it runs almost entirely on women.

For decades, development reports have talked about "women in agriculture" and "women in SMEs" as if they were a special category. The truth is simpler: in rural and peri-urban Nigeria, women _are_ the market. They decide what is planted, what is bought, what is sold, and what profit is reinvested. They are wholesalers, retailers, processors, transporters, and financiers. Yet their work remains largely undocumented, undercapitalized, and undervalued.

The numbers tell part of the story. Women make up nearly 60% of Nigeria's agricultural labor force. They produce an estimated 70% of the food consumed in households. In markets across the country — from Mile 12 in Lagos to Kasuwan Mata in Kano — women control the bulk of fast-moving consumer goods. But when you look at access to formal credit, land ownership, or representation in market associations' leadership, the picture changes. Women do the work, but men often sign the papers.

That gap is now being challenged, not by policy papers alone, but by the women themselves.

Take Aisha Bello in Katsina. Ten years ago she was selling sachets of groundnut oil from a tray. Today she runs a processing plant with 22 employees, 18 of them women. She did not get a bank loan. She got it from a rotating savings group of 40 market women. Every Friday, each woman contributes 10,000 naira. Every week, one woman takes the full pot. "Banks ask for collateral we don't have," Aisha says. "But we have trust. We have seen each other's children grow."

That trust is the currency of the silent economy. It is how goods move when roads are bad. It is how businesses survive when inflation spikes. It is how communities feed themselves when government programs are slow.

The COVID-19 years made this visible. When supply chains broke, it was women's networks that kept food moving. When schools closed, it was mothers who turned kitchens into classrooms. When palliatives arrived late or not at all, it was women's associations that pooled resources to feed widows and the elderly.

But visibility has not yet translated into power. In most state market boards, women are present but not in charge. In land allocation, customary law still favors male inheritance in many communities. In digital finance, many women are left behind because they do not have smartphones or digital IDs.

This is starting to shift. Across the six geopolitical zones, new models are emerging. In Enugu, a cooperative of cassava processors secured a contract to supply garri to school feeding programs. They did it by forming a union, registering with CAC, and hiring a young graduate to handle the paperwork. In Oyo, a group of tomato traders partnered with a logistics startup to move produce at night, cutting spoilage by 30%. In Borno, women displaced by conflict have formed drying and packaging collectives, selling to buyers in Abuja and Port Harcourt.

> They need market leadership that can negotiate with local government and security agencies. They need insurance. They need childcare facilities in major markets so a mother does not have to choose between earning and caring.

What do these stories have in common? Three things: organization, technology, and recognition.

Organization matters because a single trader cannot negotiate with a bank or a government agency. But 200 traders can. Across Nigeria, women are formalizing their groups. They are keeping records, electing leaders, and opening group bank accounts. Some states have begun to include women's market leaders in policy consultations on pricing and sanitation. It is slow, but it is happening.

Technology is the second lever. Mobile money agents are now common in rural markets, and most of them are women. They charge small fees to help others send and receive money, pay school fees, and buy airtime. WhatsApp groups are used to share price information, so a woman in Makurdi knows what pepper is selling for in Onitsha before she loads her truck. Young women are teaching older traders how to use POS machines and track inventory on their phones.

The challenge is access. Data is expensive. Phones break. Power is unreliable. But where these barriers are lowered, productivity jumps. A study by a development agency in 2025 found that women traders who used digital payment systems increased their monthly revenue by an average of 22%, mainly because they could stay open later and avoid cash theft.

Recognition is the third and hardest part. For too long, the contribution of market women has been treated as "informal," as if that meant "unimportant." Governments are beginning to change that language. Several states now include market associations in their economic planning committees. The federal government's trader empowerment schemes have started to earmark funds specifically for women.

But recognition must go beyond money. It must include legal protection. Many women traders face harassment, illegal levies, and eviction. They need market leadership that can negotiate with local government and security agencies. They need insurance. They need childcare facilities in major markets so a mother does not have to choose between earning and caring.

There is also a cultural dimension. In many communities, a woman who is too successful is viewed with suspicion. She is asked, "Who is your husband?" or "Who is backing you?" The answer is often: herself, and other women. Changing that narrative requires public acknowledgment. It requires male leaders — traditional rulers, religious leaders, and politicians — to speak openly about the value of women's economic work.

The impact goes beyond income. When a woman controls money, she invests it differently. Studies consistently show that women spend more on food, health, and education for their children. A woman who earns 50,000 naira a month is likely to ensure her daughters stay in school. She is likely to buy better nutrition. She is likely to save for emergencies. Multiply that by millions, and you are talking about national development.

The next five years will be decisive. With inflation, climate change, and population growth, Nigeria's food system will be under pressure. Women are already adapting. They are planting drought-resistant crops.

FEATURE

After the phone: **How Nigerian youth are building offline communities**

Clareth Solomon

In 2012, the answer to everything was "there's an app for that." In 2026, the answer for many Nigerian youth is "there's a meeting on Saturday."

After a decade of digital everything, a counter-movement is growing. Young Nigerians are logging off, not forever, but intentionally. They are forming book clubs, running clubs, art collectives, and skill-share groups. They are meeting in parks, in cafes, in church halls, and in each other's living rooms. They are building community the old-fashioned way: face to face.

This is not a rejection of technology. WhatsApp is still how they organize. Instagram is still how they invite people. But the goal is no longer virality. The goal is proximity.

Why now? Three reasons: burnout, cost, and meaning.

Burnout from the timeline. The constant news, the constant comparison, the constant need to post. Many young people say they feel more anxious after scrolling than before.

Cost. Data is expensive. Phones break. And the economy is hard. Meeting with five friends to cook and talk costs less than trying to keep up online.

Meaning. During COVID, people learned that a Zoom call is not the same as sitting together. After the protests, after the elections, after the layoffs, many youth wanted spaces where they could argue, laugh, and plan without an algorithm in the room.

The results are visible. In Lagos, there are over 200 active book clubs. In Abuja, running groups meet at 5am every Saturday. In Enugu, young artists run monthly open-mic nights in community centers. In Kano, women's entrepreneurship circles meet to trade skills and capital.

These groups are not formal NGOs. Most have no registration, no funding, no logo. They run on dues, contributions, and goodwill. But they are doing real work. They are mentoring. They are job-hunting together. They are providing mental health support. They are creating the social trust that institutions have failed to provide.

There are challenges. Space is expensive. Security is a concern. And there is always the risk that the group becomes an echo chamber. But the energy is undeniable.

Experts say this is part of a global pattern. After periods of hyper-digitalization, people crave tangible connection. In Nigeria, it is also pragmatic. You cannot get a job, a loan, or a collaborator from a like. You get it from a person who knows you.

The government and private sector should pay attention. These groups are where the next ideas, businesses, and leaders are forming. Supporting them does not mean taking them over. It means providing public spaces, small grants, and recognition.

The phone is not going away. But the future may belong to those who know when to put it down.

> Cost. Data is expensive. Phones break. And the economy is hard. Meeting with five friends to cook and talk costs less than trying to keep up online.

NEWS

Adesuwa Ehimuan Appointed TTB National Director of engagement Edo State

BENIN CITY

Hon Adesuwa Ehimuan, a former aspirant for the Edo State House of Assembly, Oredo East Constituency and immediate past Chairperson, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), Edo State Chapter, has been appointed National Director of Engagement, Edo State Chapter, Tinubu Torch Bearers (TTB).

Her appointment was contained in a list of National Directors of Engagement approved by the National Woman Leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Convener of the Tinubu Torch Bearers, Hon. Dr. Mary Alile Idele, PhD.

The appointment is part of efforts by the Tinubu Torch Bearers to strengthen its engagement structure across Nigeria, deepen grassroots interaction and advance its mobilisation and advocacy activities.

As National Director of Engagement, Edo State Chapter, Hon. Adesuwa Ehimuan is expected to coordinate the movement's engagement activities across the state, strengthen relationships with stakeholders and promote grassroots participation.

Her experience in politics, media and women-focused advocacy is expected to contribute to her new role. She previously contested for a seat in the Edo State House of Assembly to represent Oredo-East Constituency and also served as Chairperson of NAWOJ for two term in Edo State Chapter, where she was involved in initiatives focused on women and professional development.

The TTB said the newly appointed directors have been entrusted with the responsibility of fostering meaningful relationships with stakeholders, coordinating engagement activities, amplifying the values of the movement and ensuring that the voice of the people remains central to its activities.

The movement described the appointments as part of a new architecture of engagement aimed at building a structured and people-oriented network capable of connecting communities, women, youths and other stakeholders across Nigeria.

yuThe Tinubu Torch Bearers congratulated the newly appointed directors and charged them to approach their responsibilities with discipline, integrity, humility and a strong commitment to service.a

ADESUWA EHIMUAN

Sports

• Football • Athletics • Golf • Basketball • Tennis • Boxing

SPORTING PLAYERS CELEBRATE

EuroMatch NPFL Matchday 3: Sporting paint Lagos red, Doma stay perfect as 19-goal explosion lights up Nigerian football

LOVETTE OCHICHA

Three matchweeks into the 2026/27 EuroMatch Nigeria Premier Football League, and the stories are beginning to write themselves.

A Lagos derby returned after more than a decade — and produced a new name for the history books.

A newly promoted club faced nine-time Nigerian champions Enyimba and refused to be intimidated.

A defensive fortress that had not conceded all season suddenly shipped four goals.

Barau FC continued turning Kano into an uncomfortable destination for visitors.

Kwara United finally found their first victory.

Abia Warriors and Ikorodu City traded punches in a four-goal contest.

And after 19 goals from seven completed Matchday Three fixtures, there is still more football to come.

If anyone needed evidence that the EuroMatch NPFL can provide entertainment, Matchday Three has supplied plenty.

Sporting Lagos 3-0 Inter Lagos — 3,725 days later, Sodiq Ayoade writes his name into history

Some goals win matches.

Others become part of a city's football history.

Sporting Lagos produced perhaps the most emotionally significant result of Matchday Three, sweeping aside Inter Lagos 3-0 at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena to claim the bragging rights on the return of top-flight Lagos derby football.

And Sodiq Ayoade now owns a special piece of that history.

Ayoade scored the opening goal — the first goal in a Lagos top-flight derby in 3,725 days.

It carried another significance.

It was also Sporting Lagos' first goal of the 2026/27 EuroMatch NPFL campaign following their return to Nigeria's top division.

One goal.

Two milestones.

And Sporting were only getting started.

By full-time, the scoreboard displayed a result their supporters will enjoy repeating:

Inter Lagos 0-3 Sporting Lagos.

It was Sporting's first victory of the season, their first goals since returning to the EuroMatch NPFL and a clean sheet — all delivered against a city rival.

There could hardly have been a better afternoon on which to announce themselves.

For Inter Lagos, the picture is considerably different.

The newcomers have now lost all three of their opening matches, including two defeats at home.

But that is precisely why derbies carry an importance beyond the league table.

If Inter Lagos versus Sporting Lagos grows into one of the EuroMatch NPFL's signature fixtures, supporters will always be able to return to this first chapter.

Who won?

Sporting Lagos.

What was the score?

3-0.

Who scored the first Lagos top-flight derby goal after 3,725 days?

Sodiq Ayoade.

That is not merely a statistic.

That is a player putting his name into the history of Nigerian club football.

Doma United 2-0 Enyimba — three games, nine points and nobody can score against them

Before Sunday's goal rush, Doma United had already delivered the weekend's biggest warning.

2026 U-20 WWC: Falconets still a work in progress despite 10-1 win – Aduku

Falconets head coach Moses Aduku has warned that Nigeria's emphatic 10-1 victory over New Caledonia does not mean his team is a finished product, insisting there is still a lot of work to be done ahead of their knockout-stage clash.

Nigeria produced an outstanding attacking display against tournament debutants New Caledonia in their final Group F fixture in Lodz on Sunday, recording their biggest win of the competition so far.

The commanding result secured the Falconets' passage into the Round of 16 of the 2026 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

Despite the convincing victory, Nigeria ended the group stage in second position in Group F after collecting four points from their three matches.

FALCONETS TEAM

Aduku was pleased with the result but admitted that his players still made mistakes that must be corrected before the next stage of the tournament.

According to the coach, the knockout phase represents the real beginning of Nigeria's World Cup campaign, with the team now needing to improve on the weaknesses exposed during the group-stage victory.

"We are grateful to God for the 10 goals and for qualifying for the next round, but for us, the World Cup is just starting," Aduku said after the win over New Caledonia.

The coach also urged his players not to dwell on the massive scoreline, stressing that the result is already in the past and attention must immediately turn to their next opponent.

"We thank God, but this win against New Caledonia is done and dusted. We are looking forward to the next game," he added.

Édouard Mendy calls time on Senegal International career

Senegal goalkeeper Édouard Mendy has announced his retirement from international football, bringing his career with the Teranga Lions to a close.

The 34-year-old shot-stopper was a key member of Senegal's historic Africa Cup of Nations-winning team, helping the country secure its first continental title.

Mendy played a crucial role during the tournament, including Senegal's penalty shootout victory over Egypt in the final, which delivered the nation's maiden AFCON crown.

Having established himself as one of Senegal's leading goalkeepers, Mendy was an important figure in the country's successful generation that dominated African football in recent years.

His decision brings an end to a distinguished international career during which he represented Senegal on some of football's biggest stages and played a significant part in one of the most successful eras in the nation's history.

Mendy now bows out of international duty as a former AFCON champion and one of the prominent goalkeepers of Senegal's golden generation.

ÉDOUARD MENDY

CAFCL: MC Alger sends warning to Rangers after crushing Nigelec

Algerian giants MC Alger have sent a strong warning to Nigeria's champions Rangers International after cruising past Nigerien side Nigelec in the CAF Champions League preliminary round.

MC Alger produced a dominant display to secure a 5–0 aggregate victory over Nigelec following their two-legged encounter.

The Algerian champions sealed their progression with a comprehensive 5–0 victory, underlining their attacking strength and ambition in this season's continental campaign.

MC Alger's impressive result has set up a mouth-watering second preliminary-round clash against Nigeria Premier Football League champions Rangers International.

Rangers will now face a tough test against the Algerian powerhouse as both sides battle for a place in the next phase of the CAF Champions League.

MC ALGER PLAYERS CELEBRATING

Nigeria's Continental decline: The coaching crisis we can no longer ignore

Sami Adedeji

For decades, Nigerian clubs were regarded as formidable forces in African club football. Although the country has never lifted the CAF Confederation Cup and has not enjoyed the success it might have expected in the CAF Champions League. Nigerian teams traditionally competed strongly against some of the continent's best.

That reputation, however, is steadily fading.

The decline has become increasingly difficult to ignore. Nigerian league champions now routinely struggle to progress beyond the preliminary stages of continental competitions, while clubs representing the country in the CAF Champions League and Confederation Cup have found it increasingly difficult to reach the group stages.

Several factors have contributed to this worrying trend.

Poor players' welfare is certainly one of the factors. Domestic clubs in Nigeria often struggle to retain their best players, weakening the quality of the league. Financial constraints also affect recruitment, preparation, facilities and the general level of professionalism.

But there is another issue that deserves far greater attention: coaching.

It is an uncomfortable conversation, but Nigeria must have an honest and constructive assessment of the quality, methodology and continuous development of coaches working within the domestic game.

If we are to be sincere with ourselves, the coaching system has not consistently produced teams capable of competing at the level demanded by modern African football.

THE COACHING GAP:

Nigeria's situation bears some resemblance to the criticism historically directed at England: a country blessed with talented players but, at various points, unable to maximise that talent through coaching methodology and tactical development.

Nigeria,undoubtedly possesses football talents. What appears increasingly deficient is a modern coaching structure capable of developing players technically, tactically, physically and psychologically while building teams that can compete at the highest level.

The problem is not confined to the Nigeria Premier Football League.

It can also be seen in our performances in continental competitions and, at different times, in the development of our U-17, U-20 and women's teams.

Nigerian teams too often struggle with technical execution, tactical discipline, game management, tempo and speed of play. In several of these areas, the gap between Nigeria and leading African football nations appears to be widening.

South Africa and North Africa have continued to develop sophisticated football structures, while countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo have also made significant progress.

That should force Nigeria to ask an uncomfortable question: how many Nigerian coaches today can genuinely compete, in terms of tactical knowledge and modern methodology, with coaches such as Mohammed Ouahbi, Walid Regragui, Pitso Mosimane, Rulani Mokwena and Florent Ibenge?

This is not an attempt to disparage Nigerian coaches but it is a call for improvement.

African football has evolved rapidly. Coaching is now one of the major differentiating factors between teams that merely possess talent and those capable of consistently competing at the highest level.

Tactical preparation, video and data analysis, sports science, set-piece organisation, pressing structures, positional play, transition management and individual player development are no longer luxuries. They are essential components of modern football.

Nigeria cannot continue to rely primarily on reputation, experience or a coach's former playing career.

The NFF Must Make Coaching Development a Priority

The leadership of the Nigeria Football Federation must recognise coaching development as one of the most important priorities for the country's football.

Nigeria needs a deliberate, structured and sustainable programme for improving the quality of coaches working at every level of the game.

Coaches should be encouraged—and where appropriate required—to acquire the necessary CAF and other relevant coaching qualifications. But certification should not simply become another box to tick in order to obtain a licence.

The real objective must be continuous professional development.

Coaches should regularly participate in technical workshops, study emerging tactical trends, analyse elite football, engage in international exchange programmes and gain exposure to different coaching methodologies.

The NFF, clubs and other stakeholders should also create opportunities for Nigerian coaches to spend time with successful clubs and coaching organisations across Africa and beyond.

If other African football nations can develop coaches capable of succeeding domestically and internationally, Nigeria has no reason to remain behind.

Recruitment Must Change Too-Coaching, however, is only part of the problem.

Player recruitment also requires serious reform.

Questions have frequently been raised about players being selected because of personal relationships, connections or the familiar "my player, my boy" mentality.

Whether such allegations are justified in individual cases or not, the perception itself is damaging.

Recruitment must be transparent and based on merit, potential, tactical suitability and long-term development.

There was a time when Nigerian clubs produced players capable of moving directly into some of Europe's biggest clubs and making an immediate impact.

Kanu Nwankwo and Finidi George moved from Nigerian football to Ajax, while Gbenga Okunowo progressed from Shooting Stars to Barcelona.

Those pathways demonstrated the quality of players Nigerian football was capable of producing.

The clubs are still here.

The academies are still here.

The talent is still here.

So what has changed?

The answer cannot simply be that Nigerian players are no longer good enough.

The entire football ecosystem has changed, and Nigeria has failed to adapt quickly enough.

An Honest Reset Is Needed! For a country with football history, population, talent pool and tradition, seeing its champions eliminated from continental competitions at the preliminary stage should not be accepted as normal.

Neither should it be dismissed as bad luck.

The solution will not come from blaming one individual, one club or one administration. The problems are structural and require a comprehensive response.

Player welfare must improve. Club administration must become more professional. Recruitment must be transparent and merit-based. Infrastructure and training facilities must improve.

Above all, however, coaching must be placed at the centre of the conversation.

If Nigeria wants its clubs to compete consistently with continental heavyweights such as Al Ahly, Espérance, Wydad, Mamelodi Sundowns, Pyramids and others, then the country must invest seriously in the people responsible for transforming talented footballers into tactically sophisticated teams.

That investment must go beyond coaching licences.

It must include education, mentorship, technology, sports science, performance analysis, international exposure and a culture of continuous learning.

The talent is not dead.

The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know

El-Kanemi Warriors face Raja Casablanca as Shooting Stars bow out of CAF Confederation Cup

El-Kanemi Warriors have progressed to the second preliminary round of the 2026/27 CAF Confederation Cup, setting up a mouth-watering clash with Moroccan giants Raja Casablanca, while Shooting Stars have been eliminated from the competition.


El-Kanemi Warriors celebrate

El-Kanemi secured their passage despite suffering a 1-0 defeat to UDIB of Guinea-Bissau in the second leg on Sunday. The Maiduguri-based club advanced 3-1 on aggregate, having produced a commanding 3-0 victory in the first leg in Ikenne.

The Borno Army were unable to add to their first-leg advantage in Guinea-Bissau, with UDIB scoring the only goal of the return fixture. However, the Nigerian representatives successfully protected their aggregate lead to book their place in the next round.

El-Kanemi's reward for overcoming UDIB is a significantly tougher assignment against Moroccan powerhouse Raja Casablanca in the second preliminary round.

According to the confirmed fixture schedule, El-Kanemi Warriors will host the first leg between October 16 and 18, before travelling to Casablanca for the return leg between October 23 and 25.

The tie represents a major test for the Nigerian Federation Cup champions, who will need to build on their impressive first-leg display against UDIB if they are to move closer to the group stage.

Shooting Stars' continental adventure, meanwhile, came to an end after CS Sfaxien overturned their first-leg advantage with a 2-0 victory in Tunisia.

The Oluyole Warriors arrived in Sfax with a narrow 1-0 lead from the first leg in Abeokuta, where Lucky Emmanuel scored the decisive goal. But the Tunisian side produced a strong response in the return leg to win 2-0 and progress 2-1 on aggregate.

Port Harcourt to host 2026 NPBL final four after venue clash

Port Harcourt has been confirmed as the host city for the 2026 Nigeria Premier Basketball League (NPBL) Final Four, with the season-ending tournament now scheduled to take place from September 20 to 22.

The tournament was rescheduled following a venue clash that forced the organizers to adjust the original arrangements.

The Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) announced the new dates and venue in an official communiqué signed by Men's Premier League Chairman, Babatunde Ogunade, and NBBF Secretary General, Amina O. Amanchi.

The Final Four will bring together the top teams from the NPBL campaign as they battle for the league title and conclude the 2026 season.

The NBBF is expected to release further details regarding the fixtures and specific venue arrangements ahead of the competition.

Chelle set to announce two Nigeria squads for AFCON qualifiers, Russia friendly

Super Eagles head coach Éric Sékou Chelle is expected to announce two separate Nigeria squads this week as the team prepares for the upcoming international engagements.

The first squad will be selected for Nigeria's 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifiers and is expected to feature several familiar faces from the Super Eagles setup, alongside at least one new addition to the senior national team.

Chelle is also expected to unveil a second squad for Nigeria's international friendly against Russia, with the team set to feature a large number of Under-23 players.

The decision is reportedly part of the coach's broader plan to build a strong pool of players ahead of the 2027 Africa U-23 Cup of Nations qualifiers, while also giving emerging talents an opportunity to gain international experience.

The Russia friendly is scheduled to provide Chelle with another opportunity to assess Nigeria's young players as he continues to strengthen the national team's options across different age groups.

The two squad announcements are expected to provide further insight into Chelle's plans for both the senior Super Eagles and the country's U-23 setup.


ÉRIC CHELLE

Who should lead Super Eagles without Osimhen against Madagascar, Guinea-Bissau?

Victor Osimhen's injury has handed Super Eagles head coach Eric Chelle a major selection dilemma as Nigeria begin their quest for qualification for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations.

Osimhen, Nigeria's established first-choice striker, is set to miss the upcoming qualifiers after sustaining a suspected groin injury while playing for Galatasaray.

With the prolific forward unavailable, Chelle must decide who will spearhead the Super Eagles' attack when they take on Madagascar and Guinea-Bissau later this month.

The French-Malian coach is not short of alternatives, with Tolu Arokodare, Paul Onuachu, Akor Adams and newly invited George Ilenikhena all capable of filling the void left by Osimhen.

Arokodare could have a strong claim for the starting position after making an impressive impact at Ajax.

The striker has scored four goals and provided two assists in six appearances for the Dutch giants this season, underlining his current form and giving Chelle a player capable of providing both a physical presence and a goal threat.

His combination of height, strength and movement could make him an effective focal point for Nigeria's attack.

Paul Onuachu offers Chelle a more experienced alternative.

The towering Trabzonspor forward has considerable international experience and has previously demonstrated his effectiveness as a traditional target man.

His aerial ability and hold-up play could give Nigeria a different attacking dimension, particularly against opponents expected to defend in compact formations.

Akor Adams is another candidate who could benefit from Osimhen's absence.

The forward has been involved regularly under Chelle and has previously played alongside Osimhen for the national team.


SUPER EAGLES CELEBRATE

Team Nigeria earn $130,000 at World Athletics Ultimate Championship

Team Nigeria has concluded its campaign at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship in Budapest with a total prize money haul of $130,000 across five events.

TOBI AMUSAN

Tobi Amusan emerged as the best-performing Nigerian athlete at the championship, recording the country's highest placing among the Nigerian contingent.

The world-class event brought together some of the leading athletes from across the globe, with Nigerian representatives competing for honours in their respective events.

Despite the varying results, Team Nigeria's performances in Budapest earned the country a combined $130,000 in prize money.

Amusan's strong showing saw her finish as Nigeria's highest-placed athlete at the championship, underlining her continued status as one of the country's leading track and field stars.

Printed and Published by **Bendel Newspaper Corporation**, 24, Airport Road, P.M.B. 1334 Benin City, Edo State.
Editor: Andy Asemota - 08035872075, 09076673265. **Advert Manager:** 08051177163.
Lagos Office: 25A, Alli Street, Off Tinubu Square, Lagos Island. **Abuja Office:** 1st Floor, Edo House, 75 Ralph Shodehinde Street, Central Business District, Abuja.
All correspondence to Bendel Newspaper Corporation, Benin City. Email: nigerianobservernews1@gmail.com - **ISSN 0331-2674**