

Edo police arrest 22 suspects, rescue four kidnap victims

MIKE OSAROGIAGBON AND
OLIVER IJIOGBE

The Edo State Police Command has recorded significant operational successes in the past week, arresting 22 suspects, including nine suspected armed robbers and seven murder suspects, while rescuing four kidnap victims in separate

● **As robbers raid ADC chairman's residence**

operations across the state. The Command's Public Relations Officer, ASP Eno Ikoedem, disclosed this in statements on the operations, adding that the police also recovered ransom money and intensified efforts to apprehend fleeing kidnappers.

In one of the major operations, nine suspected armed robbers, said to be members of a notorious 15-man gang, were arrested at different locations in Benin City by police operatives working in collaboration with the Edo State Security Corps (ESSC).

The Command also arrested

suspects in connection with separate murder cases.

One of the suspects, 23-year-old Omokhudu Innocent, was arrested over the alleged murder of two children at Ayogwiri Community in Etsako West Local Government Area.

Four other suspects—Daniel

Babatunde, Abraham Mumini, David Michael and Godwin Moses—were arrested in connection with the killing of a man identified as Chief Saturday of Ajife Community in Ovia South-West Local Government Area.

In another operation, police operatives, in collaboration with ESSC personnel and lo-

cal hunters, rescued a woman and her three children who had been abducted and held captive in a forest around Onomi-Iddo, Okpella Community, in Etsako East Local Government Area.

The Command said the rescue operation underscored the importance of collaboration

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#200

Every life in Edo must be protected, says Okpebholo

RICHARD EWEKA

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has assured residents of his administration's commitment to protecting every life in the state, urging community leaders and security stakeholders to strengthen collaboration with security agencies to tackle insecurity.

Okpebholo gave the assur-

ance in Benin City yesterday while addressing Okaighele from the seven local government areas in Edo South Senatorial District on the need for stronger community participation in security.

"Edo has a history. Edo must be protected, as every soul, every life in this land matters to us as a government. We are not prepared to lose any soul in the state as a result of insecurity,"

the governor said.

The meeting, held at the Sir Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub along Airport Road, attracted security stakeholders, including heads of security agencies, vigilante groups, members of the Edo State Security Corps and other community security groups.

The governor described security as a collective responsibility and urged residents to promptly report threats, suspicious per-

sons and unusual movements in their communities.

"Security is not a one-man show but everybody's business and duty. We all live in different communities and streets. I encourage you to report any security threats in your areas," he said.

Okpebholo said his administration would not allow criminals from outside the state to enter Edo to kidnap residents, stressing that all stakeholders must work

together to protect the state.

"We are doing all we are doing to protect our land. We would not allow foreigners and people from other states into our land to kidnap our people. We all have a duty of collaboration to protect the state," he said.

The governor further assured residents that Edo would become safer in the coming weeks, saying his administration had put strategies in place

to improve security operations and response to emergencies.

"In the next few weeks, Edo State will be safer than what it is today because we have put strategies on ground to police the state," Okpebholo said.

He disclosed that the government was working towards strengthening emergency response, assuring that a distress

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Edo LG staff must uphold excellence — Adjoto

BENEDICT OKATE

AKOKO-EDO

Local government workers in Edo State have been charged to uphold professionalism, integrity and excellence in the discharge of their duties to restore citizens' confidence in government and its institutions.

The Chairman of the Edo State Local Government Service Commission, Rt. Hon. Kabiru Adjoto, gave the charge at the graduation ceremony of 682 participants who completed a two-month refresher and onboarding training organised by the Local Government Staff Training School, Bekuma, in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of the state.

Adjoto said the training,

which comprised participants from Batches A and B of the programme, was designed to strengthen the capacity of existing and newly recruited local government staff across the state.

He said the initiative was part of the efforts of the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo to reposition local government administration and improve service delivery to the people.

The commission chairman urged the graduands to translate the knowledge acquired during the programme into improved performance at their respective duty posts, stressing that public servants must remain committed to the highest standards of professional conduct.

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SECURITY MEETING:

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo (3rd right) addressing Okaighele from the seven Local Government Areas in Edo South Senatorial District, yesterday in Benin city. Flanked on the Governor's left is the Commissioner of Police, CP Patrick Daaor and the Commander 107 Air Force Base, Air Commodore Victor Eze.

Okpebholo assures speedy operationalisation of 83 Division in Edo
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Dignitaries celebrate Esama of Benin as Igbiniedion Clocks 92
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Tanzanian President Samia's husband dies in hospital
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NEWS



COURTESY VISIT:

(7th left) Rt. Hon Yekini Idaiyi, Speaker Edo State House of Assembly, Flanked on his left and right by Hon. Richard Oshiomokobo, the leader of the delegation and Hon Anslem Agbabi, former member of the house. Far right is Hon Donald Okogbe, second right, Hon Richard Edosa and Hon Bright Iyamu during the courtesy visit by Akoko Edo Local Government Area APC leaders to Mr. Speaker's office to congratulate him on his emergence as the Speaker of the 8th Assembly recently. Photo. Godwin Iseguan.

Oba Ewuare II suspends royal praise singers, strips leader of title

OGGBOR EHEVBENAGIE
AND JOHN DIVINE

BENIN CITY

The Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty, Oba Ewuare II, has indefinitely suspended the Isikhuan Royal Praise Singers over an alleged breach of palace rules and an ancient Benin traditional protocol.

The disciplinary action followed a traditional performance allegedly staged by the group at the residence of Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion, the Esama of Benin, which the palace said was an act traditionally reserved exclusively for the Oba.

The decision was conveyed by the Obazelu of Benin, Chief Osaro Idah, during an emergency meeting at the palace on Sunday.

According to a statement issued by Osaigbovo Iguobaro, Chief Press Secretary to the Oba of Benin, members of the group were given an opportunity to explain their involvement and individual roles in the alleged breach before the monarch's directives were communicated.

As part of the disciplinary measures, Oba Ewuare II stripped the leader of the group, Juliet Omogui, of her

traditional title of Okao.

Omogui was also directed to return the traditional headgear, known as Okuku, in her possession to the palace pending further directives from the monarch.

The palace said Omogui had admitted her involvement in the alleged incident in a video that subsequently went viral on social media.

Speaking during the emergency meeting, Chief Idah, alongside other palace chiefs, expressed dismay over what they described as a serious act of disrespect to the Benin monarchy.

among the chiefs present were Chief Ada Igbinovia, Eribo N'Ibiwe; Chief Imade Osamuyi Amos, Oshodi N'Ibiwe; and Chief Enoma Ogiesughe, Ogiesughe N'Ewaise.

Chief Idah also questioned why Chief Igbiniedion permitted the performance at his residence, given his status and expected knowledge of Benin customs and traditions.

The Isikhuan, also associated with palace functionaries known

as Isekhian or Emehe, traditionally perform royal praise songs and related rites during ceremonies involving the Oba.

The palace stressed that such traditional rights and protocols are regarded as sacred and that their observance remains central to the preservation of the customs and institutional order of the Benin Kingdom.

The suspension of the group and the sanction against its leader underscore the palace's position that established royal traditions and protocols must be strictly observed.

Okpebholo assures speedy operationalisation of 83 Division in Edo

RICHARD EWEKA

Gov. Monday Okpebholo of Edo has assured that the temporary facility provided by the state government for the operationalisation of the 83 Division of the Nigerian Army will be ready within the next two weeks.

Okpebholo gave the assurance during an inspection of the ongoing rehabilitation and development work at the facility in Teboga, Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area of the state on Monday in Benin.

It will be recalled that President Bola Tinubu approved the establishment of four new divisions of the Nigerian Army in Makurdi (5 Division), Ilorin (9 Division), Jalingo (10 Division), and Benin (83 Division).

The governor said work had already commenced at the site, including environmental sanitation, rehabilitation of existing structures and other necessary preparations.

He said the barracks and other facilities would be ready within the stipulated period, adding that contractors had assured him that

more bulldozers would be deployed to accelerate the work.

"The new division is coming to Edo State, so work is already in progress. Cleaning of the environment is already ongoing, while the existing structures are being worked on.

"The barracks and everything will be ready in the next two weeks. We are sure of progress, and a lot of work will be done here.

"The contractor has assured me that he will add more bulldozers to what he already has on site.

Edo LG staff must uphold excellence...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"Local government staff must conduct themselves well, be professional in all things, incorruptible and excellence-oriented. This is necessary for citizens to have confidence in government and the system," he said.

Adjoto assured that the state government would continue to prioritise capacity building for local government workers, adding that efforts were underway to restore the institution to its original purpose and make it a centre for continuous professional development of local government personnel.

According to him, the Local Government Staff Training School, which serves Edo and Delta states, was established in 1983 but became moribund before its recent revival by Governor Okpebholo through the Local Government Service Commission.

He said the revival underscored the governor's belief in the importance of the institution in strengthening local government administration and facilitating grassroots development.

The Director of Studies at the institute, Mr. Olu Arigame, said the vision and mandate of the training school had received renewed impetus under the leadership of Adjoto.

Arigame urged the graduates to apply the knowledge acquired during the training to their daily responsibilities and contribute meaningfully to effective service delivery at the grassroots.

The Edo State President of the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Scott Aigbovia,

commended Governor Okpebholo for his efforts to revive and reposition the training school.

Also speaking, the Bekuma Village Head, Oba Stephen Obaro, expressed appreciation for the revival of the institution, describing the development as beneficial to the community and the wider local government system.

Some of the participants said the training had broadened their knowledge, improved their professional skills and exposed them to better approaches to public service delivery.

Every life in Edo must be...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

call would trigger a rapid security response, with between five and seven security vehicles expected to arrive at the scene within five minutes.

He also announced plans to provide motorcycles for security personnel to enable them to access difficult and remote areas, including forests where criminals may be hiding.

Okpebholo said the meeting was convened to develop effective modalities for collaboration among Okaighele, the police, vigilante groups and other security agencies in strengthening community policing.

According to him, security agencies have been working late into the night to recover dangerous weapons and protect residents, while his administration has also recorded significant progress in its campaign against cultism.

He urged youths and community leaders to provide credible and timely information to security agencies to sustain the gains recorded in the fight against cultism, kidnapping and other crimes.

Recalling the kidnapping incident at the Vegetable Market, the governor said the perpetrators, who allegedly came from another state to commit the crime in Edo, were arrested within 24 hours.

"If you commit crime in Edo State, you will be caught. We have arrested criminals who come from outside of Edo State, like in Niger, Kogi, Bauchi and other states, and we have rescued our people," he said.

Okpebholo noted that insecurity could discourage investors from coming to Edo, stress-

ing that his administration was determined to create a safe and secure environment capable of attracting investment and supporting economic growth.

The Commissioner for Public Safety and Security, Festus Ebea, commended the governor for his efforts to tackle insecurity, saying the administration had demonstrated commitment and capacity in the fight against cultism and kidnapping.

Ebea urged Okaighele to remain vigilant, report suspicious persons and incidents and provide timely and accurate information to security agencies.

The Edo State Commissioner of Police, CP Patrick Daaor, also commended the governor for convening the meeting, urging Okaighele to regard themselves as custodians of security in their respective communities and work closely with security agencies.

Commander, 107 Air Force Base, Air Commodore Victor Eze Only, said Edo was making progress in the area of security, adding that the necessary machinery had been put in place to tackle criminal elements in the state.

The Special Adviser on Community and Traditional Matters, Chief Emmanuel Iyase, said the Oba of Benin was organising Okaighele in various communities to support the governor's efforts to improve security.

Iyase said the governor had joined forces with traditional and community leaders to strengthen security across the state, adding that Okpebholo had directed Okaighele in Edo South to establish committees across communities to enhance collaboration with the government and security agencies.

Edo police arrest 22 suspects...

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among security agencies, local security outfits and community members in combating kidnapping and other violent crimes.

Meanwhile, suspected robbers raided the residence of the Edo State Chairman of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Hon. Kennedy Odion, in Benin City early Sunday, making away with two Toyota Highlander SUVs, N500,000 cash, four mobile phones and other valuables.

The hoodlums reportedly stormed the residence, located off Winners Road, Uhie, Benin City, at about 3 a.m. and fled with the stolen items.

Following the incident, the Commissioner of Police, CP Patrick Daaor, visited the scene and ordered a comprehensive investigation aimed at identifying and apprehending the perpetrators.

ASP Ikoedem said the case had been taken over by the Violent Crime Response Unit (VCRU), while detectives had processed the scene and commenced investigation.

In a separate operation, security operatives rescued a 66-year-old kidnap victim, Mr. Obareki Emmanuel, from his abductors in Ibeakuma Forest.

Emmanuel was abducted alongside his wife, who was rescued unhurt on September 4. Following sustained intelligence gathering and tracking efforts, a joint security team comprising police officers, soldiers, ESSC personnel, members of the 82 Mobile Police Force and vigilantes moved into the forest at about 4:30 p.m. on Sunday and rescued him unhurt.

The ransom money was also recovered during the operation.

According to the police, the kidnappers engaged the security team in a gun battle before fleeing into the forest with gunshot wounds. The bush-combing operation was still ongoing as security forces intensified efforts to track and apprehend the fleeing suspects.

The Edo Police Command said the operations demonstrated its commitment to proactive and intelligence-led policing, as well as effective collaboration with other security agencies and community-based security groups.

The Command urged residents to remain vigilant and provide credible information that could assist security agencies in preventing and combating criminal activities across the state.

Dignitaries celebrate Esama of Benin as Igbiniedion clocks 92

BENEDICT OKATE

BENIN CITY

The historic residence of the Esama of Benin and Honorary Consul of Romania to Edo and Delta States, Sir Chief Dr. Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion, has continued to wear a festive atmosphere as dignitaries from across different sectors of society converge to celebrate the iconic businessman, philanthropist and community leader ahead of his

92nd birthday.

The Esama, who clocks 92 on September 11, 2026, has, over the decades, carved a distinctive place for himself in the social, economic, political and cultural history of Edo State and Nigeria, attracting goodwill from generations of associates, beneficiaries, institutions and admirers.

In the days leading to the milestone anniversary, his residence has become a gathering point for prominent Nigerians

and organisations wishing to honour a man whose name has become synonymous with enterprise, philanthropy, institution-building and service to humanity.

Among the recent visitors were members of the Law Officers Association of Nigeria, Edo State Branch, led by its Chairman, Mrs. Bridget Ighodalo; the management of Zenith Bank, Edo State, led by the Zonal Head, Monday Osimen; and the management of Okada

Microfinance Bank, led by Dr. Tim Ogbemor.

Also on the roll of well-wishers were officers of the Nigeria Correctional Service, Edo State Command, led by the Assistant Controller General of Corrections, Zone G Headquarters, Mr. Mouse Oizujemen, as well as members of the Edo State Inter-Party Advisory Council, led by its Chairman, Dr. Bishop Akhalamen.

The visiting groups, in separate remarks, paid glowing

tributes to the Esama, acknowledging his remarkable contributions to the development of Edo State and Nigeria.

They described his 92 years as a remarkable journey of enterprise, leadership, generosity and service, while praying for continued strength, sound health and many more years of impact.

For many of the visitors, the celebration is not merely about marking another birthday, but an opportunity to honour a living institution whose influence has transcended business and entered the realms of education, philanthropy, culture, diplomacy and community development.

Responding, the Esama expressed appreciation to the var-

ious groups for taking time to visit and celebrate with him.

He reaffirmed his commitment to continuing to make positive contributions to humanity, stressing that the greatest fulfilment in life comes from using one's opportunities and resources to make a difference in the lives of others.

The steady stream of dignitaries and well-wishers to the Esama's residence has further underscored the enormous goodwill and affection surrounding the forthcoming 92nd birthday celebration.

At 92, the Esama's journey remains a remarkable story of vision, resilience, enterprise and service — a legacy that continues to resonate across Edo State and beyond.



CELEBRATION:

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

FG sets Sept 8 for Kara Bridge expansion joint rehabilitation

AYENOMOH WINNER ALUKHEI / EKHABAFE BELOVED

ABUJA

The Federal Government has announced that repair work on the damaged expansion joints on the Kara Bridge section of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway will commence on September 8.

The Federal Ministry of Works said on Saturday that the rehabilitation is expected to be completed within two weeks.

The Acting Controller, Federal Ministry of Works, Ogun State, Engr. Richard Adeleye, disclosed this while speaking with journalists during an inspection of the affected portion of the expressway.

Adeleye said the repair had become necessary because the expansion joints had exceeded their service life and were posing risks to motorists using the busy highway.

He explained that the work would be carried out in phases to minimise its impact on traffic. One half of the affected section will be closed initially while motorists use the other half under strict traffic control.

"There will be traffic control here from the 8th of this month, which will last for two weeks, precisely because of the curing that is expected before it is opened to traffic," he said.

"We will first work on half of the expansion joint to allow traffic to go slowly on the other

half of the carriageway. After one week, we will switch to the other end."

Adeleye said personnel of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps and Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, among other agencies, would be deployed to manage traffic throughout the exercise.

He explained that expansion joints were designed to accommodate the natural movement of bridge structures caused by changes in temperature.

"Without expansion joints on the bridge, there could be seri-

ous damage to the bridge itself because of expansion due to the heat during the day and shrinking during the cold times of the day," he said.

"The expansion joint absorbs that movement of the bridge; otherwise, it can cause serious damage by buckling or cracking," Adeleye added. He assured motorists that the rehabilitation would not exceed two weeks "all things being equal."

The controller appealed to road users to exercise patience during the construction, noting that the damaged expansion joint had contributed to accidents along the section.

"It is better done now because it has been causing a lot of accidents. We have witnessed it, even the last time we came here. It happened right here in our presence," he said.

Adeleye urged motorists travelling towards Ibadan to consider alternative routes, including the Ogijo-Ikorodu Road and routes around the Sango and Abeokuta axes where appropriate.

He, however, said motorists who chose to use the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway would still be allowed through the construction zone under controlled traffic conditions.

Insecurity: Gov. Sani's aide cautions against criticisms that could distract defence minister

KADUNA

As Defence Minister, Christopher Musa's views in a recent interview continue to generate public interest, Mr Victor Bobai, media aide to Gov. Uba Sani of Kaduna State, has cautioned against criticisms that could distract him.

Bobai told newsmen on Sunday in Abuja that the minister should be allowed to focus on the "all-important task of tackling insurgency, banditry, kidnapping and other crimes plaguing the nation."

Musa, in the recent television interview, spoke on various issues including politics,

security and the 2027 elections.

He commended efforts by Gov. Sani to restore peace, mutual respect, friendship and love across all lines in Kaduna State.

He said that Sani's efforts were a sharp contrast to his predecessor's actions that polarised the state along various divides.

The minister's views have generated various reactions with some describing them as "frank, truthful and forthright", while others felt otherwise.

But Bobai, while acknowledging Nigerians' right to hold their individual opinions on every issue, said that the min-

ister's frank response to newsmen's questions only reflected his readiness to speak openly about sensitive issues, particularly those relating to security and governance.

Bobai, Senior Special Assistant on Public Affairs to the Governor, urged Nigerians to encourage Musa to remain focused on his professional responsibilities.

"We are happy standing with someone who has considered truth as his shield and honour."

"We must encourage him to stay focused on his professional career as he is winning the war against insecurity in the country."

Alausa orders contractors to meet National Library project targets

ABUJA

The Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, has directed contractors and consultants handling the National Library of Nigeria project to meet agreed delivery timelines or face sanctions.

This is contained in a statement issued on Sunday in Abuja by Mr Ikharo Attah, Special Adviser to the Minister on Media and Communications.

Alausa gave the directive at a meeting with contractors, consultants and officials of the National Library of Nigeria, where he stressed the need for quality work, accountability and timely completion of the project.

"This is a change day. We will make you accountable for the timelines we're going to set for ourselves," he said.

Alausa said the Federal Government was ready to provide the funds needed to complete the project but would expect contractors and consultants to deliver according to agreed standards.

If you're not meeting your guidelines, the timelines, I'm sorry, you'll be penalised," he warned.

2027: INEC deploys early-warning system to prevent election failures

CAROLINE AMEH

ABUJA

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has unveiled a real-time operational tracking system to identify and resolve potential challenges before they undermine the conduct of Nigeria's 2027 general elections.

The new mechanism will give INEC headquarters real-time access to information on the preparedness of its offices across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, signalling a shift towards early intervention in election management.

INEC Chairman, Prof. Joash Amupitan, announced the initiative on Monday in Lagos while declaring open a two-day Strategic Operational Workshop for the commission's Administrative Secretaries.

At the centre of the strategy is the Administrative Sec-

retary Master Operational Tracker Template, a data-driven tool designed to provide the commission with up-to-date information on election preparations nationwide.

The tracker will be linked to INEC's Election Monitoring and Support Centre, allowing the commission to monitor critical activities, including the movement of electoral materials and the training of election personnel.

Amupitan said the system would enable the commission to identify operational challenges early and address them before they develop into major obstacles to the successful conduct of the elections.

He described Administrative Secretaries as the "engine room" of INEC's state-level operations and charged them to maintain discipline and ensure strict compliance with established procedures.

NEWS

NDLEA seizes fuel tanker concealing 2.1 tonnes of cannabis in Ondo

• Agency recovers N1.1bn tramadol, destroys cannabis farm in 9-state sweep

By Osemudiamhen Faith / Divine John

ABUJA

Operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) have intercepted a 20,000-litre fuel tanker allegedly modified with a concealed compartment to smuggle 2,145 kilograms of cannabis along the Akoko/Lokoja Expressway in Ondo State.

The tanker, with registration number MKA 960 XC, was flagged down by NDLEA operatives on Friday, September 4, 2026, but its driver reportedly refused to stop. He later abandoned the vehicle at a church premises in Ugbe Akoko and fled into the bush.

The NDLEA Director of Media and Publicity, Femi Babafemi, disclosed this in a statement on Sunday, September 6.

According to the agency, a search of the tanker uncovered 165 bags of cannabis weighing 2,145kg concealed in a false compartment built into the vehicle.

The tanker was also carry-

ing legitimate fuel reportedly destined for Jos, Plateau State.

The agency said the vehicle had previously been flagged during operations for allegedly evading arrest, describing its interception as a major breakthrough in efforts to dismantle drug trafficking networks.

The Ondo seizure formed part of a coordinated nationwide operation that recorded major recoveries across Lagos, Adamawa, Ondo, Kaduna, Bauchi, Ekiti, Kogi, Taraba and Enugu states.

In Lagos, NDLEA operatives intercepted 966,200 tablets of Tramadol 225mg, with an estimated street value of more than 1.1 billion. The drugs were concealed in 21 cartons of thrift trousers imported from Pakistan.

The agency also recovered 57.80kg of "Loud," a potent strain of cannabis, valued at more than N173 million, from a consignment originating from Singapore.

At the Tincan Port in Lagos, operatives seized 598.08kg of cannabis-laced cookies and gummies packed in 890 packets from a 40-foot

container. The seizure was linked to an earlier interception involving 842.54kg of cannabis-infused cookies.

In Adamawa State, operatives recovered 864,000 opioid pills, mainly tramadol, from a house allegedly linked to a fleeing suspect. Another 2kg of methamphetamine

was seized in Michika.

In Kogi State, NDLEA officers intercepted a bus travelling from Ondo to Jos and recovered 636kg of cannabis concealed in bags of chicken manure along the Okene/Lokoja highway.

Similarly, 1,179kg of skunk

was recovered from a cement-laden truck along the Zaria-Kano Expressway in Kaduna State.

In Ekiti, NDLEA operatives destroyed a four-hectare cannabis farm in Efon-Alaaye forest and recovered 117kg of harvested skunk.

Taraba State also recorded the seizure of more than 109kg of assorted controlled drugs, including tramadol, diazepam, pentazocine, phenobarbital, nitrazepam, bromazepam and pregabalin, from a vehicle travelling from Onitsha to Yola.



COURTESY VISIT:

(7th left) Rt. Hon Yekini Idaiyi, Speaker Edo State House of Assembly, Flanked on his left and right by Hon. Richard Oshiomokobo, the leader of the delegation and Hon Anslem Agbabi, former member of the house. Far right is Hon Donald Okogbe, second right, Hon Richard Edosa and Hon Bright Iyamu during the courtesy visit by Akoko Edo Local Government Area APC leaders to Mr. Speaker's office to congratulate him on his emergence as the Speaker of the 8th Assembly recently. Photo. Godwin Iseguan.

NELFUND debunks viral claim of life imprisonment for student loan defaulters

By Ayenomoh Winner Alukhei / Salihu Maryam Saidu.

ABUJA

The Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) has dismissed as false a viral publication claiming that President Bola Tinubu has approved life imprisonment for students who fail to repay their education loans after graduation.

NELFUND, in a statement posted on its official X account on Sunday, described the report as "fake news".

The fabricated publication, dated Thursday, May 27, 2026, carried the headline: "All students who fail to repay their loan after graduation will go to jail for life."

According to NELFUND, the purported announcement did not emanate from the Federal Government and should be disregarded by members of the public.

The Fund said the clarification became necessary to counter the spread of misleading information about the student loan scheme. It noted that it had previously debunked fabricated circulars and notices concerning the alleged suspension of loan disbursements.

NELFUND was established under the Student Loans (Access to Higher Education) Act, signed by President Tinubu and subsequent-

ly re-enacted in 2024.

The Fund provides zero-interest loans to eligible students in public tertiary institutions to cover institutional charges and, where applicable, upkeep allowances.

Under the current repayment structure, beneficiaries are not required to commence repayment immediately after graduation.

Repayment becomes due two years after completion of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme, provided the beneficiary is employed or earning an income.

For beneficiaries in paid employment, employers are required to deduct 10 per cent of their monthly salary, wages and other income at source and remit the amount for loan repayment.

Self-employed beneficiaries are required to remit 10 per cent of their total monthly profit to NELFUND.

However, beneficiaries who remain unemployed and have no income after the repayment period may apply for an extension by submitting a sworn statement in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the NELFUND Board.

The Fund urged members of the public to disregard the viral publication and rely only on its official communication channels for accurate information concerning the student loan scheme.

NiDCOM dismisses financial allegations as blackmail, pledges full response to authorities.

By Osarugue Sophia Osadolor

ABUJA

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) has dismissed allegations concerning its financial activities, describing the claims as an attempt to blackmail the commission.

NiDCOM said it was prepared to provide the necessary

explanations and documentation on the issues raised before the appropriate government authorities.

The commission maintained that its financial records and activities were open to scrutiny by relevant government institutions with statutory responsibilities for oversight, accountability and public financial management.

The response followed allegations concerning the commission's expenditure and the management of funds under

its supervision.

NiDCOM said it would cooperate fully with any legitimate inquiry and make available relevant records and documents whenever required by the appropriate authorities.

The commission also urged members of the public to exercise caution and refrain from relying on unverified claims circulating on social media, particularly on matters concerning government institutions.

It stressed that allegations involving public agencies should be addressed through established institutional and legal channels rather than through unsubstantiated claims in the public domain.

NiDCOM reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and accountability in the discharge of its mandate, saying it would continue to cooperate with relevant authorities in addressing any legitimate concerns regarding its operations and financial activities.

Customs revenue hits N4.3tn as board confirms senior officers

• Earns ministerial praises, charged to set global trade standards

By Osarugue Sophia Osadolor / Amaka Vivian / Divine John Oshone

ABUJA

The Nigeria Customs Service has recorded N4.3 trillion in revenue collection, highlighting its growing contribution to the finances of the Federal Government.

The development was announced as the Nigeria Customs Service Board confirmed the appointment of a Deputy Comptroller-General and five Assistant Comptroller-Generals.

The confirmation of the senior officers is expected to strengthen the leadership and administrative structure of the service and improve its operations. The Customs Service

has continued to intensify efforts to increase revenue generation, combat smuggling and facilitate legitimate trade across Nigeria's borders.

The increase in revenue collection is significant as the Federal Government continues to explore ways of expanding its sources of income and reducing dependence on crude oil revenue.

The service has also been implementing reforms aimed at making customs procedures more efficient and improving the ease of doing business for legitimate importers and exporters.

The newly confirmed officers are expected to support these reforms and ensure that the service meets its revenue and trade facilitation responsibilities.

The Nigeria Customs Service has also been encouraged to maintain professionalism, transparency and accountability while carrying out its duties.

The development is expected to contribute to the government's broader efforts to strengthen domestic revenue mobilisation.

Meanwhile, The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) had received commendation from the Federal Ministry of Finance for its recent operational reforms, along with a firm charge to elevate its performance to match global international trade benchmarks.

The ministerial praise was delivered during an official management engagement with senior leadership from

the service. Officials highlighted the agency's ongoing efforts in revenue collection, border security, and trade facilitation, noting that modernizing trade infrastructure remains critical to strengthening Nigeria's position in global commerce.

To achieve standard international benchmarks, the Ministry urged the leadership of the Service to accelerate the integration of automated trade systems, deepen port decongestion measures, and improve cross-border security operations.

The service was tasked with establishing transparent, tech-driven customs processes to eliminate administrative delays, lower trade barriers, and position Nigeria as a leading trade hub across the region.

Bauchi senator denies bandit link, insists viral videos fake

ABUJA

The senator representing Bauchi South Senatorial District, Shehu Buba, has denied fresh allegations linking him to banditry, describing viral videos and claims circulating on social media as part of a sustained

campaign of disinformation and character assassination.

Buba, a former chairman of the Senate Committee on National Security and Intelligence, has faced allegations since 2024 of having links with suspected bandits, accusations he has consistently denied.

The latest controversy followed the circulation of videos by a content creator known as 'D English Alhaji', who alleged that suspected bandit kingpins had visited the senator's residence.

The allegations were further amplified after a resident identified as Hassan accused Buba,

during an interview with the social media influencer, of being among politicians allegedly aiding bandits in the area.

Hassan also alleged that individuals linked to notorious bandit kingpin, Dogo Gide, were brought to Abuja for specialised training, allegedly facilitated by an aide of the

senator.

However, in a statement issued on Sunday titled, "Setting the Record Straight: My Response to Fabricated Videos, False Allegations and a Sustained Campaign of Disinformation," Buba dismissed the allegations as false.

The senator, who is currently chairman of the Senate Committee on Livestock and Animal Husbandry and a governorship aspirant on the platform of the Peoples Redemption Party, said he initially avoided responding to the allegations because of the sensitivity of his previous role overseeing national security matters.

According to him, his silence should not be interpreted as an inability to respond to the allegations.

He said, "For much of my public life, I have resisted the temptation to respond to every allegation, criticism or provocation directed at me. Citizens have a legitimate right to scru-

tinise those entrusted with public responsibility, and public officials must be prepared to account for their conduct.

"My election as senator representing Bauchi South Senatorial District — and particularly my responsibility as chairman of the Senate Committee on National Security and Intelligence — reinforced the need for restraint. National security demands discretion.

"Operational successes cannot always be publicised without jeopardising ongoing efforts, exposing sources or endangering individuals and communities involved in sensitive interventions."

Buba said the controversy surrounding him began after an incident on September 15, 2024, when Umar Shayi allegedly led a militia group purportedly working as hunters for the Bauchi State Agency for Vigilante and Youth Empowerment.

**INAUGURATION:**

Chief of Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Sunday Aneke, during the inauguration of projects for personnel of the Nigerian Air Force in Abuja. With him are Chief Executive Officer, Green Gardens Consultants Ltd, Chief Bento Mac Ozigbo and other senior Officers

Osun poll: Adeleke's victory unchallenged as 21-day petition window closes

LAGOS

The Osun governorship election petition tribunal has received no petition challenging the outcome of the August 15 governorship poll during the 21-day window stipulated by the constitution.

The 21-day window for filing a petition to challenge the outcome of the poll ended on Saturday, and none of the 14 parties defeated in the poll challenged the result.

The incumbent Osun State Governor, Ademola Adeleke, who contested the poll on the

platform of the Accord, was declared elected by the State Returning Officer of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof. Joshua Ogunwole, in the August 15 governorship poll.

Adeleke won the governorship poll with a total of 511,067 votes to defeat his closest challenger, Bola Oye-bamiji of the All Progressives Congress, who polled 444,815 votes.

Fifteen political parties fielded candidates in the poll.

Shortly after the results of the poll were announced, the office of the Election Petition Tribunal that will hear matters arising from the poll opened

for operation on the premises of the State High Court in Oke Fia, Osogbo, Osun State.

On Saturday, the last day for the filing of petitions on the outcome of the poll, during a visit to the tribunal office, its registry was opened for business.

But a staff member who responded to enquiries told our correspondents that no petition had been received.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Osun APC to the development failed, as calls to the party's spokesperson, Kola Olabisi, rang out, while a response to a message sent to him via WhatsApp seeking to know the party's position on the re-

fusal of the opposition parties to challenge Adeleke's victory was still being expected as of the time of filing this report.

Meanwhile, Osun Accord Chairman, Mr Victor Akande, during a telephone interview on Sunday, said that by refusing to challenge Adeleke's victory at the poll, the opposition candidates had exhibited political maturity.

"We appreciate the maturity of the candidates of the opposition for not challenging the outcome of the poll. That itself is good for democracy, if an election stops at the poll. The idea of going to court to regain a mandate is sometimes not good for democracy," Akande said.

Gunmen shoot NOUN bursar dead in Zamfara

GUSAU

The Bursar of the National Open University of Nigeria, Nasiru Marafa, has reportedly been shot dead in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital.

The university disclosed this in an official notice signed by its Registrar and Secretary to Council, Oladipo Ajayi, on Sunday.

Ajayi stated that Marafa was reportedly shot while returning from Gusau, although the university did not provide further details about the circumstances surrounding the incident.

"Inna lillahi wa inna ilayhi raji'un," the university stated in announcing the death of the bursar.

The statement read, "The Vice-Chancellor, on behalf of the Governing Council, Management, Senate, Staff and Students of the National Open University of Nigeria, regrets to announce the sudden and untimely passing of the University Bursar, Mallam Nasiru Gusau Marafa, which occurred today, Sunday, 6th September 2026."

The university described Marafa as a "dedicated and committed staff member" who served the institution meritoriously and held various positions of responsibility during his career.

It said he was appointed Bursar of NOUN in September 2022 and assumed the position with "a strong sense of duty and commitment to the

advancement of the University."

The statement added, "The entire University community mourns the passing of a distinguished colleague, dedicated administrator and valued member of the NOUN family."

The institution extended its condolences to his immediate family, relatives, friends, colleagues and others mourning his death.

The statement said further information on the burial arrangements would be communicated after details were released by the family.

The university prayed that Allah would forgive his shortcomings, grant him Al-Jannah Firdaus and give his family, friends, colleagues and the entire university community the strength to bear the loss.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Zamfara State Police Public Relations Officer, Abubakar Yazid, proved abortive, as his line was unreachable at the time of filing this report.

In June, that grief and sorrow enveloped the campus of Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye, after armed robbers reportedly shot dead a 100-level student of the Department of Arts and Social Science Education of the university.

The incident had forced the management of the school to declare a lecture-free day to mourn the sudden demise of the student while also commiserating with the student body and the family of the deceased over the irreplaceable loss.

Ebonyi PDP youth leader condemns Nwifuru's threat to sack council chairmen

ABAKALIKI

The Peoples Democratic Party Youth Leader in Ebonyi State, Francis Okechukwu, has condemned Governor Francis Nwifuru's threat to sack the newly elected chairmen of local government areas in the state.

According to the PDP youth leader, Nwifuru's statement was not only undemocratic but also signalled a mockery of the constitutional foundations that established local government areas

across the federation.

Nwifuru, while inaugurating the newly elected chairmen on Wednesday, said, "If you don't deliver your local government area for APC during the elections, you will be removed."

Speaking to journalists in Abakaliki, the PDP chieftain condemned the governor's perceived high-handedness, saying he was quick to forget the non-violent processes that brought him to power.

He said, "Walking the path of the Constitution is not weakness; it is strength. We will not be in-

timidated into silence or forced into submission. Our commitment is to the rule of law, free and fair elections, and the fundamental rights of every citizen to associate, campaign and vote according to their conscience."

He called on PDP youths across the 13 local government areas of Ebonyi State to remain law-abiding at all times while standing firm against any form of violence or intimidation designed to prevent them from exercising their constitutional rights.

He added, "We urge our members to resist every attempt to sup-

press legitimate political activity. Violence is not an option, but neither is surrender. We will defend our democratic space within the bounds of the law."

The PDP youth leader further reminded Nwifuru of the exalted status and responsibilities of a state governor under the Nigerian Constitution. A governor, he noted, is the chief security officer and the highest elected public servant in the state, is expected to protect the rights of all citizens regardless of political affiliation, uphold the Constitution and foster an atmosphere of peace and fairness.

NEWS



INAUGURATION:

From left: Director-General, City Boy Movement, Francis Oluwatosin Shoga; National Director of Public Affairs, Mr Daniel Ogoloma; Patron, City Boy Movement, Seyi Tinubu and Co-Patron City Boy Movement, Amir Kashim Shettima (Jnr), during the inauguration of the movement's Governing board, ahead of the 2027 general elections in Abuja on Sunday

FG to give Nigerian shipowners \$25m each under new shipping fund

ABUJA

The Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola, has revealed that the Federal Government will provide qualified Nigerian shipowners with up to \$25m each, under the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund, a move he said could strengthen indigenous shipping and create more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs.

This comes as he also disclosed that disbursement of the long-awaited CVFF to qualified Nigerian shipowners to strengthen indigenous shipping and create thousands of jobs will soon commence.

Oyetola disclosed this in a post on his X handle on Monday, saying the government was finally moving to unlock the fund more than 20 years after it was established.

He said the initiative would help address one of the major challenges confronting Nigerian shipowners.

"After more than 20 years,

we are finally moving to unlock the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF) for Nigerian shipowners. This is a major step towards building a stronger Nigerian-owned shipping industry, creating jobs and ensuring that more of the value generated from activities in our maritime space stays in Nigeria.

"Under the CVFF, each successful applicant will be able to access up to \$25 million in financing to acquire vessels, subject to the applicable assessment and approval process. This is significant because access to affordable, long-term financing has been one of the major challenges limiting the growth of Nigerian-owned shipping companies", the minister stated.

On how the fund would improve the competitiveness of indigenous operators, the minister said, "With access to financing at very low interest rates, our shipowners can acquire modern vessels, expand their fleets and compete for coastal and offshore contracts that are currently dominated by foreign operators.

"Our objective is to ensure that more Nigerian-owned vessels operate on Nigerian waters, more Nigerian businesses participate in our maritime economy, and more Nigerians benefit from the wealth our waters generate. Providing Nigerian shipowners with the financial capacity to acquire vessels is a critical step towards reducing foreign dominance in our maritime space."

Oyetola said he had directed the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency to accelerate the process of disbursing the fund to qualified applicants.

He stated, "I have, therefore, directed the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to work closely with the 12 approved banks, known as Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs), to accelerate the disbursement of the fund to qualified applicants.

"NIMASA has so far received 92 applications. Of these, 20 have been forwarded to the Primary Lending Institutions, while one has so far been reviewed and forwarded for approval. To further speed up access, we have expanded the number of approved banks from five to 12 and

launched the CVFF Application Portal to make the process more transparent, structured and accessible."

'Foreign fleets maintain dominance in Nigeria's maritime support industry'

The minister added that the expected impact of the fund extended beyond vessel acquisition, as increased indigenous ownership could stimulate several areas of the maritime economy.

He said, "The disbursement of the CVFF could help create a stronger indigenous fleet, which will in turn stimulate activity in shipyards, marine engineering, vessel maintenance, maritime logistics and other supporting industries. It could also create more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs, while strengthening Nigeria's ship-owning and ship-building ecosystem.

"This initiative is part of the Tinubu Administration's commitment to unlocking the full potential of Nigeria's Blue Economy, strengthening indigenous capacity and ensuring that Nigerians take a greater share of the opportunities in our maritime sector."

Hunter's loaded dane gun kills 13-year-old boy in Bauchi

BAUCHI

The Bauchi State Police Command has foiled an armed robbery attempt along the Kajala-Kere Road and recovered two stolen motorcycles after suspected hoodlums fled the scene.

The command also arrested a suspect in connection with the death of a 13-year-old boy who was allegedly shot after pulling the trigger of a loaded Dane gun in the Gamawa Local Government Area of the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Nafiu Habib, disclosed this in a statement in Bauchi.

Habib said the robbery incident occurred on Saturday at about 9:45pm after hoodlums

armed with cutlasses and sticks blocked the Kajala-Kere Road and dispossessed four residents of Kere village of their belongings.

He said, "On 5th September, 2026, at about 2145hrs, a report received from the Officer-in-Charge, Kajala Police Outstation, on the outskirts of Burra, indicated that yet-to-be-identified hoodlums armed with cutlasses and sticks blocked the Kajala-Kere road and dispossessed one Mr Ado and three others, all male of Kere village, of two Bajaj motorcycles, two Android phones and a power bank."

According to him, a combined team of policemen from the Burra Division and vigilantes was immediately mobilised to the scene following the report.

"The hoodlums, on sight-

ing the team, abandoned the stolen motorcycles, aborted their mission and fled to an unknown destination," he stated.

The PPRO added that the operatives recovered the motorcycles and searched the surrounding bushes in an attempt to apprehend the fleeing suspects and recover the remaining stolen items.

In another development, Habib said the command was investigating the death of a 13-year-old boy, Mubarak Mohammed, in Udubo village, Gamawa LGA. He said a 35-year-old hunter, Suleiman Hamza, allegedly returned from hunting at about 4:30pm on Saturday and negligently left his loaded Dane gun inside his room before

going out.

The PPRO said, "Thereafter, a teenager, Mubarak Mohd 'm', 13 years old, of the same address, allegedly entered the room and pulled the trigger, causing the gun to discharge and inflicting fatal injuries on him."

He said detectives attached to the Gamawa Division were immediately mobilised to the scene for preliminary investigation.

"The victim was evacuated to the General Hospital, Gamawa, for post-mortem examination, where the medical doctor on duty confirmed him dead," Habib stated.

He added that photographs were taken before the remains were released to the victim's relatives for burial in accordance with Islamic rites.

Probe begins after three siblings found dead on Ondo farm

AKURE

Residents of Oke Ogba, Akure, the Ondo State capital, have been thrown into mourning following the tragic death of three children of one of the residents, Mr Samuel Jonah, on Saturday.

The lifeless bodies of the deceased were said to have been found on their father's farm near a stream in the community.

The deceased were identified as Joshua Jonah, 11; his twin brother, Jacob Jonah, 11; and their five-year-old sister, Blessing Jonah.

According to a source, the children went to the farm with their father on Friday but later left the farm for home while their father was still working on the farm.

However, after some hours, when their father got home and did not see the children, the family began searching for them.

The lifeless bodies of the children were later found on the farm on Saturday near a stream.

The cause of their deaths had yet to be unravelled as of

the time of filing this report.

Confirming the incident by telephone, the state Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Abayomi Jimoh, said the command had commenced an investigation into the incident.

The PPRO said, "The Ondo State Police Command confirms the tragic loss of three siblings at a farm located around the Owena Army Barracks, Akure, on 4th September 2026.

"The victims, identified as Joshua Jonah, 11 years; Jacob Jonah, 11 years (twins) and Blessing Jonah, five years, reportedly accompanied their father, Samuel Jonah, to the farm.

"They later left the farm for home but were discovered missing when their father returned home. A search was subsequently conducted, and on 5th September 2026, the bodies of the three children were discovered around the bank of a small river within the farm."

Jimoh said the bodies had since been taken by their father for burial, adding that the police were still documenting the incident and investigating to determine what led to the deaths.

NDLEA arrests ex-convict posing as herbal tea dealer

LAGOS

The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency has arrested a convicted cocaine trafficker who allegedly disguised himself as an herbal tea businessman and intercepted a 20,000-litre fuel tanker fitted with a concealed compartment containing over two tonnes of cannabis.

A statement on Sunday by the agency's spokesman, Femi Babafemi, said the suspect, identified as 34-year-old Dunu Ebubechukwu, was arrested in a sting operation at Article Market, opposite Trade Fair Market, Ojo, Lagos, on Friday, September 4, 2026.

According to the NDLEA, Ebubechukwu was tracked following the interception of 1.2kg of cocaine concealed in phone chargers and destined for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at a courier company in Lagos on July 31.

The agency said the suspect admitted to masterminding some illicit drug shipments in the past and discarded his telephone SIM card after learning that the latest consignment had been intercepted.

The statement partly read, "The suspect, arrested in a sting operation at Article Market, opposite Trade Fair Market, Ojo area of Lagos, on Friday, September 4, 2026, while posing as a herbal tea businessman, was identified as 34-year-old Dunu Ebubechukwu.

"In his statement, he admit-

ted being the mastermind of some illicit drug shipments in the past while stating that he discarded his telephone SIM card once he learnt his latest consignment had been intercepted by the NDLEA. Further investigation revealed the suspect is no stranger to the Agency: he was first arrested in 2011 at the MMIA Ikeja, Lagos, after ingesting 900grams of cocaine and 130grams of heroin in an attempt to fly to Austria under the name Dunu Chukwuyenre Enoch.

"A search of his residence in Ejigbo, Lagos, also led to the recovery of phone chargers similar to those used to conceal the intercepted cocaine, with their internal components removed to create space for drugs."

Babafemi disclosed that Ebubechukwu was prosecuted, convicted and sentenced to five years in prison, but later changed his name from Dunu Chukwuyenre Enoch to Dunu Bethel Ebubechukwu before returning to the illicit drug trade.

"He was prosecuted for the crime, convicted and sentenced to five years in jail. He thereafter changed his name to Dunu Bethel Ebubechukwu and returned to the criminal trade.

"A search of his residence located at 6 Yemishola Street, Ejigbo, Lagos, on Friday, September 4, led to the recovery of phone chargers similar to those used to conceal the intercepted cocaine, with their internal components removed to create space for drugs," he said.

ABUJA

The Minister of Education, Tunji Alausa, has directed contractors and consultants handling the National Library of Nigeria project to meet agreed delivery timelines or face sanctions.

In a statement issued in Abuja by Ikharo Attah, the Special Adviser to the Minister on Media and Communications, Alausa gave the directive at a meeting with contractors, consultants and officials of the National Library of Nigeria, where he stressed the need for quality work, accountability and timely completion of the project.

National library: FG warns contractors against failure to meet target

"This is a change day. We will make you accountable for the timelines we're going to set for ourselves," Alausa told the stakeholders.

The minister said the government would establish reasonable delivery timelines and hold the contractors and consultants to the commitments contained in the agreements being developed for the project.

"If you're not meeting your guidelines, the timelines, I'm sorry, you'll be penalised," he

warned.

He said the Federal Government is ready to provide the funds needed to complete the project but will expect contractors and consultants to deliver according to agreed standards.

To further accelerate completion, Alausa disclosed that the project had been divided into two major components — physical infrastructure and furnishing — allowing both aspects to be pursued concurrently.

The minister's renewed push for the completion of the National Library is coming against the backdrop of President Bola Tinubu's prioritisation of education and human capital development as key drivers of national transformation.

Alausa described the National Library as far more than a physical structure, stressing that it is a critical national institution for learning, research, knowledge development and the building of Nigeria's human

capital.

He recalled that the National Library was conceived in 1981, while construction commenced in 2006 with an initial 24-month completion period. Despite the original target of 2008, the project remained unfinished for years.

The Minister noted that the National Library occupies a prominent position in Abuja's Central Business District, alongside other major national edifices, including the National Mosque and the National Economic Centre, which were

completed earlier.

He said the renewed attention being given to the project reflects a fundamental shift in the Federal Government's approach to education infrastructure under President Tinubu.

According to Alausa, the President has demonstrated strong political commitment to education through increased attention to the sector and innovative financing arrangements aimed at completing critical projects such as the National Library.

AIDN Edo Chapter felicitates with Chief Gabriel Igbiniedion on 92nd birthday

FRANCIS ODUPUTE

BENIN CITY

The leadership of the Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of Nigeria (AIDN) Edo State chapter has felicitated with Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion, the Esama of Benin Kingdom on the occasion of his 92nd birthday anniversary billed for 11th September, 2026.

The group led by Ambassador Onome Otueroro, National Secretary of AIDN, described the Esama as a notable leader and father of all, stating that their visit was to celebrate a man who has done so much for humanity and to sincerely wish him a happy and glorious birthday.

"Sir, your life represents a remarkable story of leadership, service, philanthropy, enterprise and commitment to humanity. Your contributions to the development of Edo State and Nigeria have touched

many lives and your legacy continues to inspire generations."

The AIDN leader said their organisation is committed to promoting the rights, dignity, inclusion and empowerment of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and that they were particularly grateful for the opportunity to identify with a great son and father of Edo State on the special occasion.

Otueroro said that AIDN nationwide prays that Almighty God continues to strengthen and grant the Esama of Benin kingdom sound health, greater wisdom, peace and many more fruitful years.

In his remarks, Chief Igbiniedion urged AIDN to remain focused in their project of caring for the intellectual development of persons with disabilities.

High point of the visit was the presentation of a giant birthday greeting card to Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion.

**EDO STATE CHAPTER:**

Representatives of the Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities of Nigeria (AIDN) Edo State chapter, shortly after a felicitation visit to Chief Sir Gabriel Osawaru Igbiniedion, Esama of Benin Kingdom, on Friday, 4th of September, 2026, on the occasion of his 92nd birthday anniversary.

FG deepens support for student innovators with N50m each in equity-free funding scheme

ABUJA

Minister of Education, Dr. Tunji Alausa, is leading efforts to give young Nigerians practical opportunities to turn innovative ideas into viable enterprises, as the second cohort of the Student Venture Capital Grant (S-VCG) opens applications for student innovators nationwide.

The programme forms part of the Federal Government's commitment, under the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu, to expand opportunities for young Nigerians, with 50 student-led ventures set to receive up to N50 million each in equity-free funding.

According to a statement by Ikharo Attah, Special Adviser (Media and Communications) to Alausa, the National Project Coordinator of the S-VCG, Adebayo Onigbanjo, disclosed the development at a press briefing ahead of the nationwide campus mobilisation campaign scheduled for September 6-30, 2026.

The mobilisation is designed to take the programme directly to students across

the country, particularly those developing solutions in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM), while providing information on eligibility, application requirements and the selection process.

The S-VCG team will visit nine tertiary institutions across the six geopolitical zones: University of Abuja, Nile University, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Bayero University Kano, Kano University of Science and Technology, Wudil, Federal Polytechnic Nekede, Owerri, Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, University of Lagos and Covenant University, Ota.

A Campus Ambassador Programme will also be activated in 20 additional institutions to extend awareness of the opportunity to more students nationwide.

The Ministry is encouraging Vice-Chancellors, Rectors, Provosts, lecturers and student leaders to identify promising innovators within their institutions and encourage them to apply.

For the second cohort, the selection process has

been strengthened to ensure that promising ventures receive rigorous assessment. Applications will undergo AI-assisted screening and assessment by 10 human evaluators. Shortlisted applicants will make virtual presentations before an Evaluation Committee, while finalists will proceed to a bootcamp and in-person presentations.

A major addition to the S-VCG program is a six-month mentorship programme for successful beneficiaries. Through the initiative, student entrepreneurs are connected with experienced organisations and business leaders across technology, logistics, e-commerce, health, education and other sectors.

Supporting organisations include Lafarge, Chowdeck, Powerhouse, HostAfrica, Klasha, LifeBank, Future Africa, GetEquity and OneHealth, among others.

The expanded model reflects Dr. Alausa's approach to supporting student entrepreneurship beyond funding, by providing beneficiaries with access to mentorship, networks and practical business support as they develop and scale their ventures.

The second cohort builds on the strong response to

the inaugural S-VCG cycle, which attracted 17,914 registrations from 404 institutions across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory within three weeks of opening in November 2025.

The registrations came from 348 public and 56 private institutions, with 52 per cent male and 48 per cent female participation. A total of 3,014 completed submissions subsequently underwent AI-assisted screening and review by 10 human evaluators.

A total of 65 finalists advanced to the three-day S-VCG Bootcamp held from March 27-29, 2026, where they presented their ventures before a panel comprising venture capitalists, industry experts and academic leaders.

The S-VCG, known as the "Next Moonshot Initiative", is part of the Ministry's Nigeria Education Sector Renewal Initiative (NESRI), particularly its STEMM pillar on research, innovation and entrepreneurship. It is implemented in partnership with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Bank of Industry (BOI) and Afara Initiative.

Police arrest two over burglary as stolen iPhone sells for N25,000

OSOGBO

A 28-year-old man allegedly bought an iPhone 12 for N25,000 after it was stolen during a burglary in Osun State, the state police command said on Sunday, announcing the arrest of two suspects over the incident.

The Command says it arrested the two men over an alleged burglary in which valuables estimated at N3m were stolen, including laptops, phones and power banks.

One one of the suspects, 27-year-old Eyelade Anuoluwa, was arrested in Ibadan, Oyo State, following intelligence gathered by operatives attached to the Ilesha Area Command.

According to a statement issued on Sunday by the command's spokesperson, DSP Abiodun Ojelabi, Anuoluwa allegedly burgled the residence of the complainant on July 26, 2026, and stole "one HP laptop, one Dell laptop, an iPhone 12, one Android phone, two power banks and recharge cards, with an estimated total value of N3,000,000."

The police said the suspect was subsequently transferred to the State Criminal Investi-

gation Department for further investigation, where he allegedly confessed to the crime.

The command said further investigation and intensive interrogation led to Anuoluwa's disclosure that some of the stolen property had been transferred to a receiver in Ibadan.

"Consequently, Police operatives from SCID embarked on an intelligence-led operation which resulted in the arrest of one of the receivers, Abdullah Musa'm' aged 28 years, in Ibadan," the statement said.

The police said Musa also confessed to receiving the stolen properties and was being investigated over his alleged involvement in "the activities of a syndicate dealing in stolen items."

According to the statement, Musa further confessed that "he bought an iPhone 12 from the suspect for the sum of twenty-five thousand naira (N25,000)."

The command said the operation led to the recovery of several items, including one HP laptop, one Dell laptop, one small Samsung phone, one mini DP charger, two power banks, one Apple iPad, 16GB, and one scrap phone.

NEWS

2027: Defend your votes from polling unit to final results, Obi urges supporters

ABUJA

The presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, has urged Nigerians to turn out in large numbers for the 2027 general elections and defend their votes from the polling unit through to the final declaration of results.

Obi made the call in a post on his official X handle, following a series of engagements with party supporters, stakeholders and residents across Kogi, Benue and Enugu states.

The former Anambra State governor said he began the latest leg of his engagements in Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State, where he met with stakeholders and party members alongside the NDC's Kogi East Senatorial candidate, High Chief Peter Ameh.

According to Obi, the discussions centred on some of

the major challenges confronting Nigerians, including insecurity, healthcare, education, unemployment and poverty.

He stated that his supporters must remain committed to the democratic process and play an active role in ensuring that their votes are protected.

"We urged our supporters to remain dedicated to the democratic process, turn out in large numbers to vote, and, above all, safeguard and defend their votes from the polling unit through the final declaration of results," Obi said.

The NDC candidate also visited Otukpa in Ogbadibo Local Government Area of Benue State and Obollo Afor in Enugu State, where he interacted with residents and traders operating along the routes.

He said the concerns raised during the engagements were largely similar, particularly the need for security, jobs, functional hospitals and

schools, and opportunities for citizens to improve their livelihoods.

"Across all these engagements, the concerns expressed by our people remain essentially the same. They seek security in their communities, meaningful employment opportunities for our youths, access to properly functioning hospitals and schools for their children, and the means and resources to lead decent, dignified lives

"These are not excessive demands. They represent the basic expectations citizens hold of a government dedicated to their welfare. As we move forward on this journey, our message remains unequivocal: Nigeria can succeed, and government can be made to serve its people," Obi said.

The ex-Anambra governor's latest call came days after he told supporters at a town hall meeting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, that he was pre-

pared to stand with Nigerians seeking to protect their votes ahead of the 2027 election.

Responding to a supporter who said Nigerians were "ready to die" to defend their mandate, Obi said, "Don't be intimidated. Somebody said, 'We are ready to die.'"

"Let me tell you, I'm equally ready to die. So you're not alone."

The presidential hopeful also warned that attempts could be made to manipulate

the electoral process but expressed confidence that Nigerians would be better prepared to resist such efforts.

Obi is seeking the presidency for a second consecutive time after his 2023 run under the Labour Party, when he finished third with 6,101,533 votes behind Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party, who polled 6,984,520, and Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress, who won with 8,794,726 votes.

Demand for Student Loans overwhelming, says NELFUND

ABUJA

The Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), Akintunde Sawyerr, says demand for student loans has been 'overwhelming'.

Sawyerr stated this during an interview on Channels Television's Sunday Politics programme, saying that the student loan scheme has provided a lifeline for students who would otherwise struggle to finance their education.

"The demand has been overwhelming, because clearly a lot of people have struggled to get into these institutions," he said. "They are hanging on by the skin of their teeth to stay in the institution, and this

programme came as a rescue for them."

According to Sawyerr, NELFUND was now analysing the growing demand and the figures around its disbursements to better understand the financial requirements of the scheme.

The NELFUND boss noted that the scheme has so far disbursed 162 billion in upkeep allowances to students, as the government-backed scheme continues to expand its reach across public tertiary institutions.

He said the programme was also beginning to influence competition among tertiary institutions, as students gained greater financial flexibility in choosing where to study.

Remi Tinubu commissions 1bn ICT Digital Experience Centre in UNICROSS

CALABAR

First Lady Oluremi Tinubu has commissioned a 1 billion Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Digital Experience Centre at the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Calabar, providing students with free access to laptops, desktop computers and other digital resources.

The facility was delivered through the Renewed Hope Initiative in partnership with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to expand access to digital tools, particularly for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who may be unable to afford personal devices.

Speaking at the commis-

sioning ceremony held over the weekend at the university's main campus in Calabar, Senator Tinubu said the centre would provide students with uninterrupted opportunities to learn, create and develop digital skills without being constrained by the cost of devices or unstable electricity supply.

She said the project forms part of a nationwide initiative targeting tertiary institutions across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, with selected institutions serving as beneficiaries in the pilot phase.

Other institutions included in the initiative are Ekiti State University; Federal Polytechnic, Oko, Anambra State; Kaduna State University; Kwara State University; and Taraba State University, among others.



RETREAT:

From left: Secretary to Enugu State Government, Prof. Chidebere Onyia; APC Deputy National Chairman South, Dr Ben Nwoye; Chairman APC Enugu State, Dr Martin Chukwu Nweke; APC Southeast Zonal Women Leader, Dr Oby Ajih and Senior Special Adviser to the Governor of Enugu State on Political Matters, Chief Peter Okonkwo, during APC Enugu State Candidates Retreat in Enugu on Monday.

Police arrest three over masquerade-related disturbance in Akwa Ibom

UYO

Operatives of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command have arrested three men following a suspected masquerade-related disturbance along Mbak Akpan Ekpenyong, as the Command vowed to prevent activities capable of threatening public peace across the state.

The suspects were arrested on August 31, 2026, following a distress call received by the

Command at about 5:52 p.m. over the incident.

According to the Police, its operatives promptly mobilised to the area, where they restored normalcy and prevented the situation from escalating.

Other participants at the scene reportedly fled on sighting the Police, while masquerade regalia found in the possession of the three arrested men were recovered and secured as exhibits.

The Commissioner of Po-

lice, Akwa Ibom State Command, CP Baba Mohammed Azare, commended the operatives for their prompt response and professional handling of the situation.

Azare warned individuals and groups against using cultural or traditional activities as a cover for disorder, intimidation, violence or other unlawful conduct, stressing that no person or group would be allowed to undermine peace and security in the state.

The Commissioner, how-

ever, clarified that the Police Command respects lawful cultural and traditional practices and would continue to work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that such activities are conducted peacefully and within the law.

He also urged residents to remain vigilant and promptly report suspicious activities, threats to public safety and breaches of the peace to the nearest police formation or through established emergency communication channels.

COAS charges 924 Borno forest Guards to secure forests, protect communities

MAIDUGURI

The Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Waidi Shaibu, has charged 924 newly trained forest guards from Borno State to deploy their skills with professionalism, vigilance and restraint in protecting forests and securing communities across the state.

The guards graduated after six weeks of intensive military training at the Medium Range of the Nigerian Army's

3 Division in Jos, Plateau State, where they were trained in weapon handling, shooting, patrol techniques, physical fitness, discipline and tactical awareness.

At the graduation ceremony, the recruits demonstrated some of the skills acquired during the exercise, including ambush drills and shooting exercises at different ranges, where they displayed precision and tactical coordination.

Representing the Chief of Army Staff, the General Of-

ficer Commanding 3 Division and Commander, Operation Enduring Peace, Major General Maxwell Dangana, urged the guards to combine vigilance with professionalism, restraint and respect for human rights as they assume their new responsibilities.

He said their ability to identify threats, respond appropriately and provide timely information could make a significant difference in saving lives and protecting communities.

"Newly trained forest guards have been charged to combine vigilance with professionalism, restraint and respect for human rights as they assume responsibilities for protecting communities and securing forest areas," he said.

Dangana reminded the guards that their new responsibilities came with a high level of accountability, urging them to uphold the law and respect the rights and dignity of the people they were entrusted to serve.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **EHOLOR MONDAY OSAMEDE** and **EHOLOR MONDAY** are one and same person. hence now wish to be known and called **EHOLOR MONDAY OSAMEDE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **IDADA HAPPY** now wish to be known and addressed as **IDADA OYENMWEN**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME

I, formerly known as **NAPOLEON OJA** now wish to be known and addressed as **NAPOLEON SATURDAY OJA**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **Miss EDESIRI OYUODEYOREN** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs EDESIRI VENN**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE**LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENTS**

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

Signed:
OKUONGHAE PRECIOUS FAITH

PUBLIC NOTICE**CAVEAT EMPTOR**

The general public is hereby notified that, the property known and called as **OSEYOMON'S HOUSE** and its appurtenances, lying, situate and being opposite S.Dory Ikpasaja's house, Uromi/Ubiaja Road, Efundion, 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!

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

SIGNED:

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

REARRANGEMENT OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CORRECTION OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CORRECTION OF NAME/DATE OF BIRTH

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

Yoruba leaders rally support for Tinubu, back President's 2027 second-term ambition

HASSAN DAISY

BENIN CITY

A coalition of prominent Yoruba leaders, traditional stakeholders and political figures has declared its support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's bid to seek a second term in office, urging the people of the South-West

to rally behind his administration ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The leaders, who spoke during a gathering of stakeholders, said the President deserved the opportunity to consolidate ongoing reforms and complete programmes which they believe could further strengthen the nation's economy and promote development across the country.

According to the group, the decision to support Tinubu was based on what it described as the administration's commitment to economic transformation, infrastructure development, social investment and the empowerment of Nigerians.

They maintained that Tinubu, having spent the first term implementing what they described as

difficult but necessary economic policies, should be given another opportunity to consolidate the gains of his administration.

The leaders appealed to political, traditional and community stakeholders in the South-West to put aside partisan differences and work collectively towards ensuring the success of the President's 2027 ambition.

RE AGREEMENT OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that my correct arranged name is **AMAITEM EVBAREKE ISABELLA** and not **AMAITEM ISABELLA EVBAREKE** hence now wish to be known and addressed as **AMAITEM EVBAREKE ISABELLA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **VIVIAN TORITSEJU ESIMAJE** now wish to be known and addressed as **GRACE ALERO ESIMAJE**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I formerly known as **Miss AHMED ZULIAT** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs IKHELOWA ZULIAT**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

REMOVAL OF NAME/ARRANGEMENT OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that my correct arranged name is **OMOROGIEVA SOLOMON** and not **OMOROGIEVA DICKSON SOLOMON**. hence now wish to be known and addressed as **OMOROGIEVA SOLOMON**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME/ CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

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

CORRECTION OF NAME/DATE OF BIRTH

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

CORRECTION OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CHANGE OF NAME

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

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BENIN CITY, EDO STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE REGISTRY

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

MRS. BERNADETTE GRACE AMIEBENOMO, late of Ubiaja, Esan South East L.G.A., who died on the 7th day of November, 2025 in Benin City.

MR. PETER ONOSHOAGBE BRAI IZOBH, late of Udaba-Ekperi, Etsako Central L.G.A., who died on the 24th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.

PED/627/2026
Mr. Momodu Junior Amiebenomo and Mrs. Afishetu Omozele Otirikpen of No 54, Nehizena Street, Off PZ Road, Sapele Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.

PED/556/2026
Mrs. Roseline Asesele Izoboh and Matthew Ikemosimhe Izoboh of No 43B, Sapele Road, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.

DATED THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE BENIN CITY, EDO STATE OF NIGERIA PROBATE REGISTRY

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

MR. OSAMWONYI AUGUSTINE EGBON, late of Ugoneki, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 16th day of November, 2025 in Benin City.

PED/138/2026
Mrs. Grace Osamwonyi Airohi, Mrs. Uwa Sandra Oamen, Mr. Oghosa Best Osamwonyi and Mr. Ehi Paul Osamwonyi of No 3, Ugege Street, Off Jemila Road, Ikpoba Hill, Benin City, daughters and sons respectively of the deceased.

DATED THIS 26th DAY OF AUGUST, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

FEATURE

ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES: When a man rapes his wife

BAGUDU MOHAMMED

There are sentences that stop a room cold, and "a husband can go to prison for life for forcing his wife" is one of them. In Lagos, that sentence is no longer a whisper or a Twitter argument. It is law speaking, plainly, through the Director of Public Prosecutions during the flag-off of Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness Month on September 3, 2026. The caption reads: "Sex without a wife's consent can attract life imprisonment." Not rape, technically. "Sexual assault by penetration." The name changes. The penalty does not.

That is what makes people uneasy. It feels like Kano boasting "Tumbin giwa, Kano, ya fi a komai" which means, Kano surpasses all, except this time it is Lagos setting the pace, and the bloggers like Tara Aisida would say, "This is Lagos." Because Lagos has always loved to be first: first to test, first to legislate, first to endure the backlash. And now it has walked into the oldest room in human life, the marital bedroom, and asked a question law has avoided for centuries: can consent be withdrawn inside marriage?

The DPP, Dr. Babajide Martins, answered with legal precision. Under Nigerian law, a husband cannot be charged with "rape" of his wife if they are together. But under Section 261 of the Lagos State Criminal Law, anyone who penetrates another person without consent commits sexual assault by penetration, and the maximum is life. The distinction is semantic. The consequence is not. What it means, in the eyes of the state, is that a man who forces himself on a stranger and a man who forces himself on his wife can stand in the same dock. Marriage is no longer a blanket license. Dowry is not a receipt for the body.

That jars, because our childhood memory of marriage was different. We grew up hearing girls say, "Wait until you marry me," as if marriage was the switch that turned entitlement on. We grew up hearing men say, "She is my wife," as if that phrase alone settled every argument about access. Feminist legal scholar Catharine MacKinnon called that the "consent fiction", the idea that a single yes at the altar erases the need for a thousand small yeses afterward. Sociology tells us the same. Anthony Giddens, writing on the "transformation of intimacy," argued that modern marriage is moving from institution to relationship, from duty to negotiation. In that shift, the body stops being property and becomes territory that must be asked for each time.

And yet lived experience complicates it. Talk to men in banks who come home at midnight with nothing left, to drivers who fall asleep with their shoes on, and you will hear stories of wives who initiate, wives who withhold, wives who say "pay tax" before intimacy, husbands who beg, bribe, or wait. Talk to women and you will hear the reverse: husbands who demand, who sulk, who equate refusal



with rebellion. Consent, in real homes, is rarely a courtroom yes or no. It is mood, fatigue, pregnancy, fear, love, spite, reconciliation sex, makeup sex. That is why the law feels like an overkill to many. It takes a private, messy negotiation and threatens it with the state's heaviest hammer.

The moral logic behind Lagos, however, is not new. It is now global. England abolished the marital rape exemption in 1991. Canada did it in 1983. South Africa in 1993. The principle is simple and brutal in its clarity: marriage cannot mean permanent ownership of another person's body. Jurist Matthew Hale's 17th century doctrine, "the husband cannot be guilty of rape" has been overturned almost everywhere because it mistook a contract for a surrender. Legal philosopher Martha Nussbaum argues that bodily autonomy is a "central human capability." Without it, no other freedom matters. From that view, Lagos is not destroying marriage. It is protecting the person inside it.

The problem is in the drafting and the optics. The DPP tied prosecution to "having an issue" between spouses. That creates a dangerous grey zone. Does disagreement equal non-consent? Does good terms equal implied consent? Criminal law scholar Andrew Ashworth warns that sexual offences are uniquely vulnerable to he-said-she-said evidence because they happen in private. Without clear standards such as force, threat, incapacity, withdrawal of consent mid-act., the law risks becoming a weapon in custody battles and divorce negotiations. And with only one penalty on the table, life, the court has no ladder. It cannot distinguish between violence and a terrible judgment call made in anger.

There is also the fear of abuse, and

it is not imaginary. Any law that lives in the bedroom can be misused. That is why comparative jurisdictions built safeguards: a requirement that the accused knew or had no reasonable basis to believe there was consent, graded sentencing that separates coercion from violence, and penalties for false allegations. Without those, the law may unintentionally push men toward the very thing marriage was supposed to cure by negotiating sex like a transaction, with gifts, bribes, and conditions, because the cost of guessing

wrong is a lifetime behind bars.

So where does that leave us? The first truth is cultural. We have to let go of the idea that paying bride price buys permanent access. Anthropologist Ifi Amadiume showed decades ago that in many Nigerian societies, women retained sexual agency even within marriage. The law is only catching up to what many women have always practiced.

The second truth is legal. Lagos has not invented marital rape. It has bypassed the exemption by using a broader assault provision. In effect, the state

is saying: we will protect you, even if we do not call it by the old name. That is clever, but cleverness is not clarity.

The third truth is practical. A better law would say three things clearly. One: marriage is not perpetual consent. Two: consent is absent when there is force, threat, fraud, or incapacity, not merely silence or a bad mood. Three: punishment should fit harm, and proof should be rigorous, because the state's power to imprison for life demands the highest evidential bar.

CARTOON

By Francis Odupute



GENDER/SOCIETY

FEATURE

The silent workforce: Nigerian women in the informal economy

GRACE IJEOMA UMEH

It is 5am at Mile 12 Market, Lagos. The generators are roaring, the air smells of tomatoes and pepper, and the floor is already wet from washing.

Mama Titi, 42, is arranging baskets of tomatoes. She has been here since 4am. She employs three young girls who help her sort, carry, and sell. She pays market dues, union dues, and “area boy” levies every week. She feeds six people at home in Ketu.

She has no bank account. No health insurance. No pension. No contract. If she falls sick tomorrow, the business stops. If the market is demolished, she has nowhere to go.

Mama Titi is part of Nigeria’s silent workforce. She is one of 41 million women who keep this country running from the informal economy. They are traders, food processors, hairdressers, tailors, caterers, and roadside vendors. They are not in government statistics the way civil servants are. But without them, the economy collapses.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, 80 percent of Nigeria’s workforce is informal. Of that number, women make up about 60 percent.

That means for every 10 people hustling to survive outside formal jobs, 6 are women.

They sell in markets from Kano to Onitsha. They fry akara in Port Harcourt. They sew aso-ebi in Abuja. They process garri in Benue. They run POS shops in villages.

The informal economy contributes an estimated 65 percent to Nigeria’s GDP. Yet it is treated like it doesn’t exist in policy.

Dr. Nkiru Nwagbo, an economist, says, “We talk about oil, about tech, about foreign investment. But the woman selling tomatoes is the one feeding the family and paying school fees. She is the real stimulus package.”

Follow Mama Titi for one day and you will understand.

She wakes at 3:30am, prays, and takes two buses to the market. By 6am she has bought tomatoes from wholesalers, using cash she borrowed at 10 percent interest. By 10am the sun is hot and there is no shade. By 2pm she has made N8,000 profit — on a good day.

From that, she pays N1,000 for transport, N500 for market dues, N1,000 to the girls who help her, and N2,000 for food at home. The rest goes to rent and school fees.

She closes at 7pm and gets home at 9pm. Then she cooks, washes, and checks the children’s homework.

“Government does not know I exist,” she says, wiping sweat. “But if I don’t come here tomorrow, people will not eat.”

Her story is repeated millions of times. In Kano, women run grinding mills. In Aba, women sew clothes for export. In Edo, women process palm oil. In Lagos, women run the entire food supply chain from market to restaurant.

The informal economy is not a choice for most women. It is survival. And it comes with heavy costs.

First, there is no social protection. No pension. No sick leave. No maternity leave. If a woman has a baby, she loses income for weeks. If she is sick, the business dies.



Second, there is harassment. Market women deal with touts, local government officials, and police who demand money daily. “They call it levy,” a trader in Oshodi said. “But it is extortion.”

Third, access to credit is almost impossible. Banks want collateral and paperwork that market women don’t have. So they borrow from money lenders at 20 to 30 percent interest.

Fourth is the double burden. A woman is expected to run a business and run a home. She wakes first and sleeps last. Many girls are pulled out of school to help their mothers, continuing the cycle.

Government has tried. TraderMoni gave N10,000 to market women. NYIF was for youth. SMEDAN has grants. NIRSAL gives agricultural loans.

But the gap between policy and reality is wide.

A 2025 survey by Women in Business found that only 18 percent of women in the informal sector knew about these programs. Of those who applied, most were rejected for lack of BVN, CAC registration, or collateral.

“The forms are online,” a tailor in Benin said. “I don’t have a smartphone. I don’t have data. Who will help me fill it?”

Even when money is disbursed, it is often too small and too late. N10,000 cannot buy inventory for a trader. And the repayment starts in 3 months, whether business is good or not.

Despite everything, women are organizing themselves.

In Edo State, women cooperatives have pooled money to buy grinding machines and cold rooms. They sell in bulk and share profits.

In Kano, women’s groups have

moved to digital payments. They use POS and transfer to avoid carrying cash. This has reduced robbery.

In Benue, women-led agro-processing centers are turning cassava into flour and garri for export. They employ 20 women each.

In Lagos, market associations have negotiated with government for better toilets and security in markets.

These are not waiting for government. They are building their own economy.

Economists have a saying: “When a woman earns, 90 percent goes back

to the family.”

That is true for Mama Titi. Her profit pays school fees, hospital bills, and food. It pays her brother’s WAEC. It pays her mother’s drugs.

Yet policies are made as if she doesn’t exist. Budgets for agriculture go to big farms, not women processors. Budgets for trade go to importers, not market women.

“We are invisible in GDP but visible in the market,” says Iyaloja General of Lagos, Folashade Tinubu-Ojo. “Any policy that ignores market women will fail.”

The gender gap also shows in time. A man can close shop and go home. A woman closes shop and starts a second shift at home.

With 2027 approaching, politicians are beginning to notice the market.

During campaigns, you will see candidates at Mile 12, at Wuse Market, at Ariaria. They promise to build new markets, reduce levies, and give loans.

Women groups are now organizing. NAWOJ, FOMWAN, and market women associations are asking candidates to sign a “Women’s Economic Charter.” The demands are clear: gender-responsive budgeting, access to single-digit loans, market infrastructure with water and light, and inclusion of women in economic planning.

“Don’t come and take pictures with us and disappear,” a market leader in Ibadan told a gubernatorial candidate. “Tell us how you will make our work easier.”

Prof. Nwagbo believes this could shift elections. “Women are the majority of voters. They are also the majority of the economy. Any party that ignores them will lose.”

“Formalize the informal,” says Dr. Nwagbo. “That doesn’t mean forcing

everyone to register a company. It means bringing services to where the people are. Mobile banking. Health insurance at the market. Training at the motor park.”

She adds, “If we can get 10 million women into cooperatives with access to credit and markets, we will cut poverty by half in five years.”

Back in Mile 12, Mama Titi is closing up. It is 7pm.

“All I want is light in the market so I can close late and make more money,” she says. “And a place where I can save small without someone stealing it. And maybe health insurance so if I’m sick, I won’t close.”

She laughs. “Government should just see us. We are here. We are working.”

Nigeria’s economy does not run on oil alone. It runs on women like Mama Titi.

They wake before dawn. They carry the market on their heads. They feed families, pay school fees, and keep communities alive. They do it without contracts, without safety nets, and without recognition.

The informal economy is not a problem to be solved. It is the solution we have not yet supported.

If Nigeria is serious about growth, about poverty reduction, about 2027, then policy must start from the market, not from the boardroom.

Formalize the informal. Finance the women. Protect the workers.

Because until Nigeria sees the women who have been holding it up all along, our growth will remain incomplete.

As Mama Titi packed her last basket, she said one more thing. “We are not begging. We are building. Just give us the tools.”

”
A place where
I can save
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someone
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close.

FEATURE

12 things you should know before entering a relationship

OSARUGUE SOPHIA OSADOLOR

Relationships are often portrayed as one of the most beautiful experiences in life. We see couples holding hands, going on dates, celebrating anniversaries, posting each other on social media and talking about how they have finally found “their person.” It can make being in a relationship seem like the ultimate destination of happiness. But relationships are much more than romantic dates, cute pictures and saying “I love you.”

A relationship brings two different people together, each with their own personality, experiences, expectations, insecurities, habits and ambitions. While love can bring two people together, it takes much more than love to keep them together in a healthy way.

Before entering a relationship, there are certain things you need to understand—not only about the person you are interested in, but also about yourself. Knowing these things beforehand can help you make better decisions, recognize unhealthy patterns and build a relationship that is based on more than just emotions.

Here are twelve important things you should know before venturing into a relationship.

Know What You Actually Want. One of the first questions you should ask yourself before entering a relationship is: “What am I looking for?”

This sounds simple, but many people enter relationships without knowing what they want. Some people want something serious, while others simply want companionship. Some are dating with marriage in mind, while others are not ready for that level of commitment.

There is nothing wrong with having different intentions. The problem occurs when two people have completely different expectations but refuse to acknowledge them.

For example, imagine a 23-year-old woman who starts dating a man who tells her that he likes her and wants to “see where things go.” She assumes that because they are spending time together, talking every day and becoming intimate, the relationship will eventually lead to marriage. Meanwhile, he has no intention of getting married anytime soon and simply wants to enjoy the relationship.

After two years, she becomes frustrated because she feels that he is wasting her time. He, however, feels confused because he never promised marriage.

Neither person necessarily lied. They simply had different expectations.

Before getting involved with someone, understand what you want. Do you want a serious relationship? Are you looking for marriage eventually? Are you comfortable with something casual?

You don't need to have every detail of your future figured out, but you should have enough self-awareness to communicate your intentions honestly.

Know Yourself Before Trying to Know Someone Else. It is difficult to build a healthy relationship when you don't understand yourself. You should have some idea of your emotional needs, boundaries, insecurities, strengths and weaknesses. You should know what makes you feel appreciated and what behaviours you find



unacceptable. For example, imagine someone who grew up in an environment where people rarely expressed affection. They may enter a relationship with a partner who is equally emotionally reserved. Instead of communicating that they need more affection, they begin assuming that their partner doesn't love them. They become upset when their partner doesn't send good morning texts or verbally express their feelings. Rather than communicating their needs, they withdraw and expect their partner to figure it out. This creates unnecessary conflict. Knowing yourself means being able to say, “I need regular communication to feel connected,” rather than expecting someone to magically understand your emotional needs.

You also need to recognize your own unhealthy behaviours. Perhaps you become defensive whenever someone criticizes you, or maybe you tend to become overly attached very quickly.

Self-awareness doesn't mean being perfect. It means being honest enough to recognize the areas you need to work on.

Understand That Attraction Is Not the Same as Compatibility. Someone can give you butterflies and still not be the right person for you. Physical attraction, chemistry and excitement are powerful, but they are not enough to sustain a long-term relationship.

Compatibility involves deeper issues such as values, communication, lifestyle, ambitions, finances, family expectations, religion and views about children. Consider a couple who are extremely attracted to each other. They have amazing chemistry and enjoy spending time together. However, one person wants children while the other is completely certain they never want children.

They may love each other deeply, but this disagreement could become a major problem later.

Another example is career ambition. Imagine a woman who dreams of building an international career and travelling frequently for work, while her partner expects her to stay close to home and prioritize domestic responsibilities.

Neither person is necessarily wrong. Their lifestyles and expectations simply may not be compatible.

Love can make differences seem insignificant at the beginning, but major differences can become much more

serious as the relationship develops.

Before committing deeply to someone, ask yourself whether you are compatible—not just whether you are attracted to them.

Pay Attention to Their Character, Not Just How They Treat You. One of the biggest mistakes people make when dating is judging someone's character solely by how that person treats them.

Someone may treat you wonderfully because they are trying to impress you. But observe how they treat people who cannot offer them anything.

How do they treat waiters? Drivers? Their family members? Friends? Employees? Strangers?

Imagine going on a date with someone who is extremely polite and romantic toward you but becomes rude and insulting toward a restaurant worker because their food took too long. You might think, “At least he treats me well.” But that behaviour tells you something about his character.

People eventually reveal themselves when they are angry, disappointed or inconvenienced. Suppose your partner makes a mistake and you confront them. Do they immediately blame you? Do they insult you? Do they dismiss your feelings? Or can they say, “You're right. I handled that badly, and I'm sorry”? Character is revealed through consistency, accountability and behaviour when things don't go according to plan.

Learn How They Handle Conflict. Every relationship will experience disagreements. The idea of finding someone with whom you will never argue is unrealistic. The important thing is learning how the two of you handle disagreements. For example, imagine a couple arguing because one person feels ignored. During the argument, the boyfriend says, “You're always complaining. You're too dramatic,” and walks away. The girlfriend responds by sending twenty angry messages and threatening to end the relationship. The actual issue becomes less important because both people are now focused on hurting each other. A healthier couple might have the same disagreement but approach it differently. One person could say, “I've been feeling ignored lately, and I want us to talk about it.” The other might respond, “I didn't realize you felt that

way. I've been busy, but I understand why you felt neglected.” Conflict doesn't have to become a competition where one person must win. Before entering a relationship, understand that disagreements are inevitable. What matters is whether both people can communicate, listen, apologize and find solutions without destroying each other emotionally.

Know Your Boundaries. Boundaries are limits that protect your emotional, physical and personal wellbeing. Before entering a relationship, you should know what you are comfortable with and what you are not willing to accept. For example, perhaps you don't want your partner reading your private conversations without permission. That is a boundary or perhaps you are not comfortable with physical intimacy until you are emotionally ready. That is also a boundary. A healthy partner may not always agree with every boundary, but they should respect it. Imagine telling your partner, “I'm not comfortable giving you access to my phone.” If their response is, “If you really loved me, you would give me your password,” that is manipulation not proof of love. Your boundaries should not constantly have to be defended. At the same time, remember that boundaries work both ways. You cannot demand respect for your boundaries while deliberately ignoring your partner's.

Don't Ignore Red Flags Because You Like Someone. Sometimes attraction makes people excuse behaviour they would normally recognize as unacceptable. You might notice that someone constantly lies, insults you, controls who you talk to or becomes extremely jealous. But because you like them, you tell yourself they will eventually change. For example, a woman notices that her boyfriend becomes angry whenever she spends time with her male classmates. At first, she thinks his jealousy is cute because it makes her feel wanted. Eventually, he starts telling her which friends she can have, what clothes she can wear and where she can go. The behaviour didn't suddenly appear. The warning signs were there, but she dismissed them because she was emotionally attached. This doesn't mean that every mistake is a red flag. People are im-

perfect and can grow. The important distinction is between a person who recognizes harmful behaviour and works to change it and someone who repeatedly hurts you while expecting you to tolerate it. Never confuse potential with reality, you should date the person they are, not the person you hope they will become.

Understand That Relationships Require Effort From Both People. A relationship cannot survive if one person is doing all the work, both people should contribute emotionally and practically. Imagine a woman who is always the one initiating conversations, planning dates, checking on her boyfriend and apologizing after disagreements. When she stops making the effort, the relationship becomes almost completely silent. That tells her something, love shouldn't feel like constantly trying to convince someone to choose you. Of course, relationships won't always be perfectly balanced. There may be periods when one person is dealing with school, work, family problems or other responsibilities and cannot contribute equally. But over time, there should be mutual effort you should not constantly wonder, “If I stop trying, will this relationship disappear?” Healthy relationships involve two people who both want the relationship to work.

Have Difficult Conversations Early. Some conversations are uncomfortable, but avoiding them doesn't make the issues disappear. Before becoming deeply committed, couples should eventually discuss important subjects such as marriage, children, finances, career goals, family involvement, communication and expectations. For example, imagine a man who assumes his girlfriend wants children because she has never said otherwise. Five years into their relationship, he discovers that she has always known she never wanted children. They love each other, but now they face a major conflict. This could have been discussed much earlier. You don't have to turn your first date into an interview, but as the relationship becomes more serious, important conversations should happen, ask questions, listen to their answers. Don't assume that someone thinks the same way you do simply because you love each other.

Don't Lose Yourself in the Relationship. Being in love can make someone want to spend every possible moment with their partner. While closeness is beautiful, completely losing your individuality can become unhealthy. You should still have friends, interests, goals, education, career ambitions and personal time. For example, imagine a university student who starts dating and gradually stops spending time with her friends. She abandons her hobbies, neglects her studies and structures her entire schedule around her boyfriend. Eventually, the relationship becomes her entire identity. Then, if the relationship ends, she feels as though she has lost everything. A relationship should add to your life, not replace your life. You should be able to love someone deeply while still being your own person. Your partner should be someone you choose to share your life with—not someone who becomes your entire life.

INTERVIEW

I want to tell African Stories that can speak to the World – Ino Moses Jonah

His journey began on stage, where storytelling first drew him in. He later studied Mass Communication at Kogi State University and trained in Film and Television Production at NTA Television College, Jos. Over the years he has worked on productions including *‘NANA’*, *‘Gbege’* and *‘Mechanic Diary’*, and has directed and produced cinema films such as *ALMOST* and *AKATE*.

In this conversation with Grace Ijeoma Umeh, our Features Editor, he speaks about his path into filmmaking, the state of Nollywood, technology and creativity, youth development, Edo’s creative potential, and his drive to put African stories on the global stage.

Q: Who is Ino Moses Jonah?*

Ino Moses Jonah:

I am a filmmaker and storyteller. I believe strongly in the power of stories to shape how we see ourselves and our society.

I started from stage drama and moved into television and film. For me, filmmaking is not just about making movies. It is also about creating space for other people to grow and tell their own stories.

Q: What drew you to filmmaking?

Storytelling has always fascinated me. Film allows you to reach people you may never meet in person.

A film can take someone into another person’s reality. It can raise questions, preserve culture, teach and still entertain. That range is what keeps me committed to the work.

Q: Your films often touch on social issues. Why?*

Because I think stories should do more than entertain.

Ino Moses Jonah is a Nigerian filmmaker, director, producer and storyteller whose work has cut across theatre, television, cinema and creative training, with GRACE IJEOMA UMEH.

With *‘ALMOST’*, I was concerned with the realities around irregular migration and the choices young people face. With *‘AKATE’*, I explored themes of migration, betrayal, culture, family and redemption, while also centering Edo culture in the narrative.

Film can hold up a mirror to society. That is important to me.

Q: What has been your most significant project so far?

AKATE stands out. It was an attempt to tell an Edo story on a scale that could travel beyond the state.

My interest is in showing that stories from any part of Nigeria can compete, travel, and start conversations at home and abroad.

Q: You’ve spoken about Edo becoming a film destination. What is your view?*

Edo has all the ingredients: culture, history, locations and talent. What is needed is a stronger ecosystem.

That means investment, training, basic production infrastructure, more cinemas, and better collaboration between government and private players.

The creative sector can create a lot of jobs if we build the right structures. Edo can play a major role in that.

***Q: What is your view on Artificial In-**



Director Ino Moses, Nollywood film director

telligence in filmmaking?*

AI is a tool, not a replacement for the storyteller.

Filmmakers should learn to use it. It can help with research, idea development, script work, planning and other parts of production.

I’ve also been involved in training young creatives on practical uses of AI in film. The goal is simple: use technology to tell better, bolder stories, while keeping the human element at the center.

***Q: What major challenge do you see in**

Nollywood?*

Patience, professionalism and structure.

Many young people want to achieve in two years what took others ten or twenty years. Ambition is good, but it must meet preparation.

My advice is always: go to set, learn, serve, observe. Experience, discipline and relationships matter a lot at the beginning. Money will follow competence.

What advice do you have for young filmmakers?*

Get on set.

Don’t just watch films as an audience. Watch as a filmmaker. Study the camera, lighting, sound, editing, performance and storytelling.

And don’t be afraid to start small. Every set is a classroom.

Q: What is your greatest ambition?

To make a film that becomes part of the African conversation.

I want to tell African stories that can travel to the biggest screens in the world and still carry our values, our morals, and our realities. Stories that parents, schools and communities can also learn from.

I believe I’m getting closer. My job now is to keep preparing so that when the opportunity comes, I’m ready.

Q: What does “Edo to the World” mean to you?*

It’s more than a slogan. It’s responsibility.

If your work comes from Edo, you carry Edo with you. That means professionalism, learning, excellence, and respect for the culture and people that raised you.

Q: How would you like to be remembered?

As someone who used creativity to create opportunities for others.

I don’t want the story to be only about the films I made. I want it to include the people I worked with, the young people I encouraged, and the stories we told together.

My goal is simple: tell stories that matter, build people, and leave the industry better than I met it.

“Filmmaking is life. And in making a film, you must give the script the lens to life.” — Ino Moses Jonah

The Sahel is moving South: How Climate Change is redrawing Nigeria’s Map

MARTHA OBI-DIKE

Malam Suleiman was born in Jigawa 62 years ago. For most of his life, he planted millet and sorghum in May and harvested in October. The rains came like clockwork. The grass was tall. His cattle were fat.

This year, he planted cassava. “Millet no longer grows here,” he said, looking at his dry field. “The rain now comes late and goes early. The desert is following us.”

Four hundred kilometers south in Bayelsa, Mrs. Ebizomor watches the sea eat her community. Every rainy season, the Atlantic takes another two meters of land in her village in Brass LGA. Her father’s house is now under water. “We are not fighting Boko Haram,” she said. “We are fighting water.”

From the far North to the Niger Delta, Nigeria is feeling climate change in real time. The Sahel is moving south. The sea is moving inland. And millions of Nigerians are being forced to move with them.

This is no longer a story about glaciers in Antarctica or polar bears. This is about farms in Kano, fishing nets in Lagos, and classrooms in Borno.

Climate change has arrived, and it is redrawing Nigeria’s map.

Scientists have warned for years that the Sahel, the semi-arid belt below the Sahara, is expanding. New data from NEMA and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency shows it is moving south at about 3 kilometers every year.

That means land that was good for farming 20 years ago is now desert. Grasslands are turning to dust. Wells are drying up.

At the same time, the opposite is happening on the coast. Sea levels are rising. NEMA reports that 19 states are now classified as “highly vulnerable” to climate impacts. In 2025 alone, floods displaced 1.2 million Nigerians. In 2026, a heatwave across the North killed more than 200 people, most of them elderly and children.

Dr. Salisu Dahiru, Director General of the National Council on Climate Change, puts it bluntly. “Climate change is not coming. It is here. And it is the biggest threat to our development.”

In the North, the problem is drought and desertification. The rainy season used to be from May to September. Now it starts in June and ends

in August. That 20-day loss may sound small, but for a farmer it is the difference between harvest and hunger.

Crop yields have dropped by about 15 percent in the last five years according to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. Maize, millet and beans are failing. Farmers are switching to cassava and rice, crops that need more water, which makes things worse.

As the land dries, herders move further south looking for grass. Their routes cut through farms. Clashes follow. What used to be a farmer-herder disagreement has become a security crisis fueled by a changing climate.

In Benue, Plateau and Nasarawa, communities tell the same story. “The herders came earlier this year,” a village head in Guma LGA said. “Their cows were thin. There was no grass in the North. We fought because there was no land left for both of us.”

In the South, the problem is water — too much of it.

In Bayelsa, Delta, Rivers and Lagos, coastal erosion is swallowing communities. In Ayetoro, Ondo State, a town known as the “Venice of Africa,” houses collapse into the sea every year. The

government declared it a climate disaster zone in 2024.

In Lagos, the 2025 floods shut down parts of Victoria Island and Lekki for days. Businesses lost billions. In Port Harcourt, salt water is entering boreholes, making drinking water salty.

The irony is that the Niger Delta, which produces the oil that contributes to global emissions, is also the place paying the highest price.

“We drilled for oil and got pollution,” said an elder in Nembe. “Now the sea is taking what is left.”

Climate change is also making Nigerians sick.

With more heat, malaria is spreading to areas that never had it before. Jos and Plateau, once too cool for mosquitoes, now report rising cases. Cholera outbreaks follow floods. In 2025, over 7,000 cholera cases were recorded after heavy rains.

Heatwaves are a new danger. Hospitals in Kano and Sokoto reported dozens of cases of heat stroke in 2026. Most victims were outdoor workers — roadside mechanics, farmers, and market women.

Dr. Zainab Shuaib, a public health expert, says the health system is not

ready. “We are still fighting malaria and maternal mortality. Now we have to add climate diseases. Our clinics don’t even have fans, talk less of cooling centers.”

WOMEN AND CHILDREN CARRY THE WEIGHT

If climate change is a crisis, women and girls are on the frontline.

In rural communities, it is women who fetch water and firewood. When wells dry, they walk farther. In parts of Katsina and Zamfara, women now walk 5 kilometers instead of 1 to get water. That means less time for farming, trading, or sending girls to school.

When farms fail, girls are the first to be pulled out of class to help at home or to be married off. NGOs working in the Northeast say they have seen a spike in child marriage in communities hit by drought.

But it is also women who are leading adaptation. In Yobe, women’s groups are planting trees as part of the Great Green Wall. In Enugu, women cooperatives are making clean cookstoves to reduce firewood use. In Lagos, female-led NGOs are teaching communities how to build flood-resistant homes.

NEWS

FOREIGN

Nepal observes national day of mourning for victims of flash flood disaster

Oil lamps burn to mark the last day of the 13-day Buddhist mourning ritual in Dhunge, Nuwakot district, Nepal, 7 September 2026.

Nepalis observed a national day of mourning for the victims of the flash flood on Monday, lighting candles to mark the last day of the traditional 13-day Hindu mourning period.

While flags were flown at half mast, commemorations were scaled back as rescue teams continue to search for survivors. Candlelight vigils were planned for Monday evening.

At least 1,287 people are known to have died after a flash flood, believed to have been triggered by a glacial collapse, swept through villages in a Himalayan valley along border between Nepal and Tibet.

Almost two weeks later, more than 5,000 people are still missing.

Phanindra Paudel of the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) told the Reuters news agency that there would be "no government programmes organised as the rescue and search operation is still going on in the flood-hit areas."

Nepal's president, Ram Chandra Paudel, toured areas devastated by the floods on Monday, an aide told Reuters.

The home ministry said that government offices, as well

as missions abroad, would fly the national flag at half mast to mark the final day of the mourning period.

Army spokesperson Raja Ram Basnet told Agence France-Presse that rescue efforts were continuing "with the same tempo we had on day one".

"Our focus is on search and rescue at three levels - on ground, by air, and in the tunnels," he said.

"We are making sure that no one is still stranded."

Among the few places where rescuers still see a chance of finding survivors is in tunnels that form part of the region's hydropower stations, with hundreds of workers among the missing.

Australian tunnel rescue expert Arnold Dix, who is advising Nepali teams, said in an update on X that the operation meant facing "multiple potential rescues, unfolding at the same time, in different places, each with its own dangers, uncertainties and lives that may still be saved."

Four people have been rescued in recent days, three at hydropower stations or tunnels.

On Saturday, a 64-year-old Nepali woman was pulled from her buried house on Saturday, more than 10 days after a wall of ice, rock and mud partially buried her house in the Nuwakot district.

Probe begins into why cargo plane overran Miami runway

Five people were killed and five others seriously injured when the plane, which was operated by 21 Air, crashed just before 14:00 (18:00 GMT). None of the group have yet been identified.

The plane, a Boeing 767-300, crossed a road beyond the runway and hit several vehicles on the ground. It is not yet clear whether those who died were in the aircraft, on the ground, or both.

21 Air, a charter company based in North Carolina, said it was "devastated by the accident involving one of our aircraft in Miami".

Both 21 Air and Amazon said they were co-operating with the investigation.

"At least five people have lost their lives, and five others are injured," Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said at a news conference on Sunday evening.

She added that rescue crews arrived at the scene within "seconds" of the crash.

Three of the five people injured were in critical condition, Miami Fire Chief Raied Jadal-

lah said.

Several of the injured were trapped inside or under vehicles on the ground, and needed to be extricated by fire and rescue crews, Jadalallah added.

Over 200 firefighters responded after the plane burst into flames.

Officials say it is too early to know the cause of the crash, which is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The federal agency, which investigates all air crashes in the US, plans to hold a news conference of its own on Monday.

Experts who spoke to the Associated Press news agency said video footage of the plane's landing would present investigators with the question of whether or not the aircraft touched down within its designated zone on the runway - and if so, what happened.

All flights at the airport were temporarily grounded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The incident came over Labor Day weekend, one of the busiest travel times of the year.

Rescuers dig through debris as seven dead in building collapse in Delhi

Rescuers are digging through the rubble a day after a residential building collapsed in the Indian capital, Delhi, killing at least seven people.

It's not clear how many people were inside the five-storey building in south-west Delhi - or if there are still people under the debris.

Eyewitnesses told local media on Sunday that two-to-four dozen people were inside, but no official numbers have been shared. Authorities have confirmed 12 people were taken to hospital and that seven died while others are receiving treatment.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said "accumulation of water, combined with ongoing repair work in the basement"

of the building, Hostel Daze, caused the collapse.

The building owner has been arrested and five senior civic officials of Delhi Municipal Corporation (MCD) have been suspended following the tragedy, Gupta added.

The building in the Satya Niketan neighbourhood of south-west Delhi, which sits a short distance from Delhi University's south campus which has five colleges, came down around 13:30 local time (08:00 GMT) on Sunday.

A majority of the residents were students and many were thought to be in their rooms at the time of the collapse as there were no lessons on Sunday.

On Monday morning, Gupta said "approximately 80% of the debris had been cleared"

from the building, and "only the rubble from the basement remains".

The BBC found the area around the site of the collapse cordoned off and teeming with rescue workers in bright orange uniforms.

An excavator dug through the rubble in the hope of finding survivors amidst a pile of bricks. In another corner, a few mattresses half covered in debris were lying in a pile.

The smell of burning metal was overpowering as teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) could be seen using electric saws to cut through iron grills, penetrating layers and layers of steel and concrete.

There is no confirmation if there are still people under the

debris or if there are more survivors.

Hospital officials are not saying whether the casualties include students, local residents or labourers who were working in the basement.

The area around the site of the collapse has been cordoned off and police and rescue workers have been deployed.

On Sunday, a local legislative assembly member at the scene said that some of the trapped students had been making calls from under the rubble.

An eyewitness who was at his shop nearby when the tragedy struck told news agency ANI that the building collapse sounded "like the rumble of an earthquake".



MOURNING RITUAL:

Oil lamps burn to mark the last day of the 13-day Buddhist mourning ritual in Dhunge, Nuwakot district, Nepal, 7 September 2026.

Germany's far-right AfD says 'democracy demands' parties work with them after state election win

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) is "very, very close" to taking power, its deputy parliamentary leader has told the BBC, after a historic victory in elections for the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt.

Sunday's preliminary results show it fell three seats short of an outright majority, with 43.8% of the vote. It is now seeking support from other parties or individuals in order to govern.

While most German political parties refuse to work with the AfD, Beatrix von Storch called for its opponents to enter talks and said: "You cannot say I do not accept the vote of the people".

Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said he was "deeply shocked" by the result,

describing it as "seismic... not just in the country but also in my own political party and I take that very seriously".

His party, the conservative CDU, saw its share of the vote almost halved to 17.2% in the state's preliminary results.

Merz said it was not possible to return to "business as usual", adding that the country needed "profound reforms" and the CDU needed to "reach people at an emotional level."

"This election result is a seismic result not just in the country but also in my own political party and I take that very seriously," he said.

No far-right party has controlled a German state since World War Two, and governing at state level would mean powers over policing and local education.

Von Storch said the state's results "were on the table and now democrats have to talk to [one] another. This is what democracy demands".

She added that if parties refused to work with the AfD, "then we might end up in severe chaos and maybe we have a new election".

Her comments were echoed by AfD's leader in Saxony-Anhalt, Ulrich Siegmund, who told a news conference on Monday that the party had won a "clear mandate to govern".

The state's defeated premier, the CDU's Sven Schulze, also said the mandate to govern Saxony-Anhalt "now lies with the AfD".

Saxony-Anhalt has a small population of 2.1 million and the AfD in the state is assessed

by domestic intelligence as "right-wing extremist", a classification rejected by Siegmund, 35.

The party's plans for Saxony-Anhalt, which include segregating child refugees into special classes and setting up a task-force to help detain and deport migrants who no longer have the right to be in the state, are highly controversial within Germany.

Siegmund said discussions with other parties were initiated on Sunday night and could potentially take days or weeks to conclude.

"We reach out to everybody first, we will have consultations and then we'll see whether [there are] individual parliamentary groups or MPs who would be willing to help us," he added.

FOREIGN

NEWS



Tanzania First Gentleman, Hafidh Ameir Hassan

Israeli strikes in Southern Lebanese village kill nine

Israeli air strikes on a village in southern Lebanon have killed at least nine people, the Lebanese health ministry says.

Eight people, including a child and two women, were killed in one strike that destroyed a residential building in Kfar Roummane overnight, according to the ministry. A second strike on a vehicle killed a paramedic.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports.

On Sunday, Israeli strikes killed seven people across southern Lebanon, as the Israeli military retaliated for what it said were drone attacks by the Shia Muslim armed group Hezbollah on troops in occupied areas of the country.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said the "dangerous escalation" was jeopardising June's US-brokered ceasefire, which was meant to end the conflict between Israel and

Hezbollah.

He urged the international community to put pressure on Israel to stop the attacks.

The Israeli military has intensified its strikes in southern Lebanon in recent days.

They have happened in places near the strip of territory that is occupied by Israeli troops, and large numbers of residents have again been fleeing those areas.

The latest attacks targeted Kfar Roummane, in Nabatieh district, which is only a few hundred metres from what the Israeli military calls its "security zone".

The first air strike destroyed a three-storey residential building near the town's Shuyuiya roundabout shortly after midnight, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported.

The Lebanese health ministry said that in addition to the eight people killed, 11 were in-

jured, including four children, two women, and a paramedic from the Islamic Health Association, which is an emergency service linked to Hezbollah.

The second strike hit a vehicle carrying paramedics from the Islamic Risala Scout Association, killing one of them and injuring two others, according to the ministry. The Risala Scouts is an emergency service affiliated with the Amal movement, a Shia group allied to Hezbollah.

An initial report from the NNA said 11 people were killed in the two strikes.

The health ministry said the death toll "serves as further irrefutable evidence of the grave violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Israeli occupation, targeting medics and children".

A resident of Kfar Roummane, Sara Moallaem, 35, told the BBC that she had been asleep with her five children in their rental home when she heard the explosions.

She immediately grabbed

her children and moved them into the home's "safe room" while they waited for the booms and the sirens to stop.

Some of those killed in the strikes were distant relatives of Sara's husband. She insisted they were civilians with no affiliation to Hezbollah.

Sara said she was planning to move her family to the coastal city of Sidon for their safety.

"During the day, it is almost normal, [with] people going back and forth. But as it comes near the night, things escalate, and now my children are afraid and I am packing now for the sixth or seventh time. It is terrible," she explained.

"Now that they are targeting civilians, I don't want to weep for my children."

Although there was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, the Israeli foreign ministry accused Hezbollah of "repeated drone attacks" and "attempting to rebuild its military capabilities in southern Lebanon".

Tanzanian President Samia's husband dies in hospital

The husband of Tanzania's President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Hafidh Ameir Hassan, has died while receiving treatment at a hospital in Zanzibar.

Vice-president Deogratius Ndejmbi - who made the official announcement of Ameir's death - said he had been suffering from a heart condition.

Ndejmbi added that funeral arrangements are under way in Kizimkazi, a village on the country's semi-autonomous island of Zanzibar.

Ameir was an agricultural academic who largely kept a low public profile. He became Tanzania's First Gentleman after President Samia took office in 2021.

In his announcement, Ndejmbi said Ameir died at 08:00 local time (06:00 GMT) on Monday at the Emilio Mzena Memorial Hospital.

The vice-president led tributes as he conveyed his condolences to Samia, as well as

Ameir's family and friends.

Kenyan President William Ruto said he received the news of his passing with "deep sorrow".

"President Samia has lost a lifelong companion, her children a beloved father, and Tanzania a distinguished son," he wrote on social media.

Zambia's President Hakainde Hichilema also shared his condolences, saying that they "stand side by side" with the first family, and all of Tanzania during "this difficult time".

Similarly, Burundi's President Évariste Ndayishimiye paid his respects and prayed for Samia and her family to have "comfort and strength in this difficult moment".

"May he [God] grant eternal rest to the soul of Hafidh Ameir Hassan," he added.

The First Gentleman rarely appeared in public alongside the president. He was only occasionally seen with her at official events.

Kenya minister warns foreigners against 'misusing' visas to trade

Trade Minister Lee Kinyanjui says foreign nationals must comply with the law

Kenya's trade ministry has warned foreign nationals that visa-free entry into the country does not grant them the right to work, as the government vows to shut down unlicensed small businesses run by foreigners.

President William Ruto had set today as the deadline for foreigners operating small-scale businesses to cease work.

Ahead of the move, the Burundian embassy in Kenya said it would offer emergency free travel documents to its citizens willing to go back home, amid reports of the mistreatment of Burundians.

It is unclear how many foreign nationals are involved in small-scale trading or how many would be affected by the crackdown.

In a statement, the trade ministry said there was a "deliberate misuse of visa applications by some visitors", adding that some entered Kenya as investors or tourists but then got involved in business activities in breach of their declared status.

"Owing to the high number of foreigners involved in the retail and local trade sectors, there is therefore a need to align their activities and ensure compliance with work permit provisions," Trade Minister Lee Kinyanjui said.

Last week, Ruto said that Kenya remained open to foreign investment, but it could not be "that a person comes from China or elsewhere to

be a hawker or open a small shop".

He argued that investors should create jobs and expand production rather than compete with Kenyans in small businesses.

Ruto's comments sparked mixed reactions, with some critics describing them as a populist move that risked stoking xenophobia. Government officials deny the allegation.

Burundi's Foreign Affairs Minister Edouard Bizimana said in a post on X that "Kenyans in Burundi were living peacefully but if the hate speech against Burundi continues things will certainly change".

"Kenya government is responsible for the lives of Burundians living in Kenya," he added.

Bizimana's post followed an urgent meeting he held with representatives of the East African Community (EAC), an eight-member bloc which promotes economic integration in the region.

Both Kenya and Burundi are part of the group. Kenyan representatives attended the meeting called by Bizimana in Burundi.

Bizimana said he had asked the Kenyan ambassador to convey to his government Burundi's concerns and to ensure that no Burundian was subjected to abuse.

On Sunday, a top official in Kenya's foreign affairs ministry said foreigners, with the required documentation, including "work permits and licences", could continue their activities.

Kyiv air raid alerts at record high as Russia launches round-the-clock strikes

Kyiv is suffering more daily air raid alerts than at any time since Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, according to BBC Verify analysis of government figures.

Most air attacks used to come at night but Russia's new tactic of striking Ukraine's capital during the day is causing huge disruption to schools and businesses.

The round the clock attacks have forced people to head for shelter as many as 13 times a day, with air raid alerts lasting from a few minutes to nearly four and a half hours.

Residents in Kyiv are strug-

gling to adapt to this new reality, adding to existing stress and anxiety. The alerts force pupils to leave their classrooms and workers their offices and leave commuters struggling to get home as overland trains stop.

This has forced the government to plan a new, two-tier warning system that allows people to carry on working, travelling and studying depending on the scale of the threat.

There was a brief pause in attacks on Kyiv over the weekend while US envoys were in town for talks about trying to end the war.

But analysis of figures from the state-owned app Kyiv digital shows that since the round-the-clock Russian attacks began at the end of August, air raid sirens have sounded across Kyiv's skies on average 10 times a day.

In the seven days from Thursday 27 August, Kyiv endured 76 air raid alerts. The largest comparable number in 2022 was the week beginning 27 February when there were around 66 alerts.

Absolute comparisons are not possible because data gathered in the first few days of the invasion was sometimes incomplete. But the

trend shown by the numbers is clear.

From the BBC's office, we hear the near constant rumble of air defences and drone explosions.

The more frequent Russian strikes are exacerbated by a second development, the use of newer and faster attack drones powered by jet engines. Some of these fly almost 370 mph (595 km/h), three times as fast the older Shahed drones driven by propellers, and are harder to shoot down. Ukraine's air force says Russia launched 2,800 fast drones in August, almost twice as many as in July.

FEATURE

Termite threat in the Museum environment

EROMINA HAFSAH YUSUF

ABSTRACT

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

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

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

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



NATIONAL MUSEUM

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

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

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

In many developing countries;

* Aging museum buildings

* Inadequate maintenance

* Insufficient funding

* poor environmental control and

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

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

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

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

* Controlling environmental conditions

** Implementing routine inspections

* Maintaining cleanliness .

* Monitoring pest activity and

* Adopting Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

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

FACTORS ENCOURAGING TERMITE INFESTATION IN MUSEUMS

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

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

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

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

DETECTION AND MONITORING OF TERMITES

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

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

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

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT IN MUSEUMS

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

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

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

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

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

IMPACT OF TERMITES ON MUSEUM BUILDINGS AND COLLECTIONS

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

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

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

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

DAMAGE TO MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

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

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FEATURE

Learning in the Dark: How Nigeria's power crisis is failing our schools

CLARETH SOLOMON

It is 10am on a Tuesday at Government Secondary School, Makurdi, Benue State. The sun is already hot, but inside SS2B the air is still. Sixty students are squeezed together, some standing, all of them craning their necks toward the single window where light comes in. The ceiling fans have not moved in three days. The smartboard on the wall is black. On the chalkboard, Mrs. Aondo, their Civic Education teacher, is writing with chalk that is down to a stub.

"We were supposed to do computer studies today," she says, pausing to wipe sweat from her brow. "But NEPA has not brought light since Saturday. And the principal said we cannot use the generator because diesel is N1,300 per litre now. The PTA money finished last term."

The students nod. This is normal for them. In a country that wants to be among the top 20 economies by 2030, a generation of children is learning by sunlight.

Makurdi is not unique. From Sokoto to Port Harcourt, from rural classrooms in Ebonyi to overcrowded schools in Lagos, Nigeria's power crisis has crept into the one place it should never have reached: the classroom. While politicians debate inflation, insecurity and the 2027 elections, another emergency is unfolding quietly. Millions of Nigerian children are being educated in darkness.

THE QUIET CRISIS IN OUR CLASSROOMS

Nigeria has more than 100,000 public primary and secondary schools. They are supposed to be the engine room for producing the doctors, engineers, coders and teachers of tomorrow. But according to a 2025 joint survey by UBEC and the World Bank, three out of every four public schools in Nigeria do not have reliable electricity.

That means no power to run computers where ICT is now part of the curriculum. No fans in classrooms where temperatures hit 38 degrees. No water pumps for toilets. No lights for evening classes or exam preparation. In more than 40,000 classrooms across the country, the roofs leak, the windows are broken, and the only teaching aid is a chalkboard.

In Jos, Plateau State, students at a government college told reporters they take turns charging their phones at a nearby shop because the school has not had light for weeks. In Katsina, a head teacher said they had to suspend computer classes entirely. "We have 20 computers donated by an NGO," he said. "But they are just furniture now."

The irony is painful. The federal government says digital literacy is key to the future. Yet most children will leave secondary school without ever touching a computer in class.

The problem did not start yesterday. But it has gotten worse in the last two years.

When fuel subsidy was removed in 2023, everything that depended on diesel and petrol became expensive overnight. Schools that used to run generators for a few hours a day suddenly could not afford it. A generator that used N50,000 a week now gulps N150,000. For a public school that gets N200,000 for running costs in a term, the maths does not add up.



Students learning in the darkness

Then there is the national grid. In 2025 alone, the grid collapsed eight times. Each time, schools were the last to be reconnected. Rural schools are worse off. In many villages, the poles are down and no one has come to fix them.

Poor planning has not helped. In the last five years, several states commissioned "smart schools" and "e-learning centres" with fanfare. Laptops were distributed, projectors installed. But no one budgeted for solar, for maintenance, or for training teachers. Two years later, most of the equipment is gathering dust.

And then there is debt. Many state governments owe electricity distribution companies billions of naira. As a result, Discos cut power to schools, hospitals, and government offices. In Ogun State last year, over 200 public schools were disconnected in one month.

Dr. Yemi Ogundipe, an education policy analyst in Abuja, puts it plainly. "We are asking schools to produce 21st century graduates with 19th century infrastructure. It cannot work. A child who has never used a computer in school cannot compete globally."

To be fair, government has not been completely silent.

The Federal Ministry of Power, working with the Ministry of Education, launched the Energizing Education Programme. The idea is to install solar power in 37 federal universities and 7 teaching hospitals. Some of those projects are working. Students in ABU Zaria and UNN Nsukka now have hours of solar-powered light.

UBEC also announced a solar intervention for basic education. The target is 2,000 public primary and junior secondary schools to get solar systems in 2026.

At the state level, Lagos has piloted solar-powered classrooms in 20 schools. Edo State, under EdoBEST, has equipped some schools with tablets and solar charging stations. Jigawa and Kano have experimented with early morning

classes to make use of daylight.

But the scale is tiny compared to the problem. Two thousand schools out of 100,000 is just 2 percent.

"The interventions are good," says Ogundipe. "But they are drops in the ocean. We need a national emergency plan for school electrification, not pilot projects."

If the power crisis is bad for all children, it is worse for girls.

In schools without electricity, there is often no running water. That means no clean toilets. For girls who are menstruating, that is enough reason to stay home for a week every month. In many northern states, parents already hesitate to send girls to school. Add darkness, insecurity, and poor sanitation, and the decision becomes easier.

"An unlit school is an unsafe school for a girl," says Aisha Ibrahim, National Chairperson of NAWOJ. "When there is no light, there are corners where boys can hide. There is no CCTV. There is no security. Parents say, keep her at home."

NAWOJ's monitoring in 2025 found



We are tired. We teach with passion, but passion cannot charge a computer. Government needs to act now. Otherwise we are wasting these children's time

that in six states, girls' dropout rates increased in schools that lost power for more than a month. In the same period, cases of teenage pregnancy and early marriage rose in those communities.

The connection is direct. When school becomes difficult, girls are the first to be withdrawn. And when girls drop out, the cycle of poverty continues.

Government may be slow, but communities are not waiting.

In Ibadan, Oyo State, a PTA in one public school raised N3 million to install solar panels. The parents agreed to pay N5,000 each. Now the school has light from 8am to 4pm.

In Enugu, an NGO called Solar for Schools installed pedal-powered lights in 10 rural schools. Children pedal for 10 minutes and get two hours of light for reading at night.

In Kano, some Islamiyya schools have shifted their timetable. Classes now start at 6am and close by 1pm to take advantage of natural light and cooler weather.

These solutions are inspiring, but they are also unfair. Why should parents be paying twice — taxes to government and levies to PTA — just to get light in a public school?

With elections less than 18 months away, education is again not topping campaign posters. Roads, security, and stomach infrastructure dominate the conversation.

But civil society groups are trying to change that. A coalition of education NGOs is pushing governors and presidential candidates to sign a "Power for Schools Compact." The demand is simple: dedicate at least 10 percent of state budgets to school infrastructure, including power, and publish how the money is spent.

Parents are also asking questions at town halls. "What is your plan for the school in my ward?" is becoming a common question.

Prof. Pat Utomi, a political econo-

mist, believes the issue will become political whether politicians like it or not. "You cannot have 21st century learning with 19th century power. Voters are beginning to understand that. A governor who cannot keep lights on in schools will have a hard time in 2027."

Back in Makurdi, the bell rings for break. The students file out, some fanning themselves with their notebooks.

Terhemba, 14, wants to be an engineer. He sits under a tree to read. "I like mathematics and physics," he says. "But we have not done practicals this term because the lab has no light. How will I learn coding? How will I compete with children in private schools who have 24 hours light?"

His teacher, Mrs. Aondo, is more direct. "We are tired. We teach with passion, but passion cannot charge a computer. Government needs to act now. Otherwise we are wasting these children's time."

Nigeria's power problem is usually discussed in terms of factories, hospitals, and households. Rarely do we talk about schools.

But that is where the future is being made or broken. Every hour a child spends in a dark classroom is an hour lost. Every computer that gathers dust is an opportunity lost. Every girl who drops out because the school has no water or light is a potential lost.

The country has the money, the technology, and the young people. Solar is cheaper now than it was five years ago. Mini-grids can power clusters of schools. States can partner with the private sector.

What is missing is urgency and political will.

As 2027 approaches, the question for leaders is simple. Will we invest in the lights that will power the next generation? Or will we continue to let them learn in the dark?

Because until we turn on the lights in our classrooms, we are not just failing our children. We are dimming the future of Nigeria itself.

Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan: Similar political journeys, different constitutional questions

AKINWUNMI LALEYE, ESQ

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It should be noted that before the



GOV. LUCKY ORIMISAN AIYEDATIWA



GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*THE CASE OF GOVERNOR AIYEDATIWA :

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

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

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

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

The question is whether, after completing his present elected tenure, he can contest another governorship election.

The argument against his eligibility is based on section 182(3).

The provision was already part of the Constitution when Aiyedatiwa succeeded Governor Akeredolu in 2023. He therefore assumed office under a constitutional framework that expressly limited a successor who

completed another Governor's tenure to only one further elected term.

Supporters of the view that he cannot contest again argue that his present elected tenure is the single further term permitted by section 182(3).

They also contend that the Constitution does not require the successor to spend a particular minimum period in office before the limitation applies. The relevant issue is whether the person was sworn in to complete the tenure for which another person had been elected.

The controversy has moved beyond political speculation. A recent decision of the Federal High Court has reportedly brought the issue into sharp legal focus by holding that Governor Aiyedatiwa would not be qualified to seek another term in 2028.

However, the final legal position will depend on the outcome of the appellate process. A decision of a trial court remains binding unless set aside, but the interpretation of the Constitution may ultimately be determined by the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court.

The issue should therefore be discussed with caution and without prematurely presenting any appealable decision as the final position of Nigerian law.

THE CASE OF FORMER PRESIDENT JONATHAN :

The case of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan is more complicated.

Jonathan was elected Vice-President alongside the late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua in 2007.

Following President Yar'Adua's death on 5 May 2010, Jonathan succeeded to the office of President under section 146(1) of the Constitution.

He completed the unexpired tenure of President Yar'Adua and subsequently contested the 2011 presidential election, which he won.

He later contested the 2015 presidential election but was defeated.

The renewed discussion concerning his possible participation in the 2027 presidential election has raised the question whether he remains con-

stitutionally qualified to contest.

The argument against his eligibility is that he completed President Yar'Adua's tenure and was subsequently elected President in 2011. Therefore, the 2011–2015 period should be regarded as the one further elected term permitted by section 137(3).

However, Jonathan's supporters rely on a major constitutional distinction.

When Jonathan succeeded President Yar'Adua in 2010, section 137(3) did not exist.

The Fourth Alteration, which introduced the one-further-term limitation, came several years after Jonathan had succeeded to the presidency and had already been elected President in 2011.

The issue is therefore whether the constitutional amendment can be applied retrospectively to affect events that occurred before it came into force.

The general principle of legal interpretation is that laws are presumed to operate prospectively unless the law clearly states that it is intended to operate retrospectively.

A law may be regarded as retrospective where it attaches a new legal consequence to an event that occurred before the law came into force.

Jonathan's argument may therefore be stated simply:

At the time he succeeded President Yar'Adua, the Constitution did not contain a provision limiting a successor to one further elected term. The subsequent amendment should not be used to alter the legal consequences of his earlier succession.

The contrary argument is that eligibility for election is determined by the Constitution in force at the time of the election.

According to this view, a person seeking election in 2027 must satisfy the constitutional requirements applicable in 2027, irrespective of when the events relied upon occurred.

The issue is therefore not merely political. It is a serious constitutional question involving the meaning, commencement and possible retrospective effect of section 137(3).

The cases of Aiyedatiwa and Jonathan should not be treated as identical merely because both men became substantive office holders through constitutional succession.

The crucial difference is constitutional timing.

Aiyedatiwa succeeded to the office of Governor in 2023, when section 182(3) was already part of the Constitution.

Jonathan succeeded to the office of President in 2010, before section 137(3) was introduced.

Thus, Aiyedatiwa's case is principally about the direct application of an existing constitutional limitation.

Jonathan's case raises the additional question whether a constitutional amendment enacted after his succession can affect his present eligibility.

This distinction may explain why the two cases could produce different legal outcomes without creating any inconsistency in Nigerian constitutional law.

FEATURE

Termite threat in the Museum environment

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lose, many of these materials provide an abundant source of nutrition.

Wooden artifacts are especially vulnerable because they consist almost entirely of cellulose and lignin. Subterranean termites typically invade these objects from hidden surfaces, consuming the interior while leaving the exterior relatively intact. As a result, an artifact may appear undamaged until slight pressure causes it to collapse. Such hidden deterioration complicates conservation efforts because damage is often extensive before it becomes visible.

Paper-based collections are equally susceptible. Historical manuscripts, rare books, archival documents, maps, photographs mounted on paper supports, and administrative records may all be attacked by termites. Since many historical documents exist as unique originals, their destruction represents an irreversible loss of historical information. In many instances, no duplicate copies exist, making termite damage a permanent loss to national memory.

Ethnographic collections frequently contain untreated plant materials such as bamboo, raffia, palm fibres, bark cloth, reeds, and woven grasses. These materials are particularly attractive to termites because they contain natural cellulose and often receive minimal chemical treatment. Indigenous artifacts constructed from these materials therefore require careful monitoring within museum storage facilities.

Even composite objects may be affected. Many museum artifacts combine wood with metals, ivory, ceramics, leather, or textiles. Although termites consume only the organic components, the destruction of supporting wooden structures may destabilize the entire object, leading to cracking, distortion, or collapse of non-cellulosic components.

CULTURAL, HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC CONSEQUENCES

The significance of termite damage extends beyond the physical destruction of museum objects. Museum collections preserve the historical experiences, artistic achievements, religious beliefs, technological innovations and cultural identities of societies. Each artifact represents evidence of human creativity and provides valuable information for researchers, educators, students and future generations.

When termites destroy an archaeological object, historical manuscript, ceremonial mask or traditional musical instrument. The associated historical knowledge may also disappear. Such losses cannot be measured solely in financial terms because cultural heritage possesses educational, symbolic, spiritual and national value. Unlike commercial products, many museum objects are unique and irreplaceable.

The destruction of museum collections also affects academic research. Historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, conservators and other scholars depend upon museum collections for scientific investigation. Damaged or destroyed artifacts reduce opportunities for future research and may prevent the reconstruction of important aspects of cultural history.

Tourism may likewise be affected. Museums contribute significantly to cultural tourism by attracting visitors interested in heritage and history. Deteriorated collections diminish exhibition quality and reduce visitor satisfaction, potentially affecting museum revenue and public con-



fidence in heritage institutions.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF TERMITE INFESTATION

Although the cultural consequences of termite damage are often emphasized, the economic burden is equally significant. Costs associated with termite infestation include building repairs, conservation treatment, collection relocation, pest control services, replacement of storage furniture, environmental monitoring and staff training.

Conservation treatment following termite damage is frequently expensive because each object requires individual assessment and stabilization. Severely damaged wooden artifacts may require consolidation, reconstruction, cleaning, insect eradication, environmental conditioning and long-term monitoring. In many cases, treatment may continue for several months or years.

Museums experiencing major infestations may also face indirect financial losses through temporary closure of galleries, cancellation of exhibitions, reduced visitor numbers and interruption of educational programmes. Insurance costs and emergency response expenditures further increase the economic impact of infestations.

For museums operating in developing countries, these financial demands present substantial challenges. Limited conservation funding often forces institutions to prioritize emergency repairs over long-term preventive conservation, increasing the likelihood of recurring infestations.

IMPORTANCE OF RISK ASSESSMENT

Effective termite management begins with comprehensive risk assessment. Museums should identify areas most vulnerable to infestation by evaluating building design, construction materials, environmental conditions, surrounding vegetation, drainage systems, and previous infestation history. Collections containing untreated wood, paper, bamboo, or other cellulose-rich materials should receive priority during routine inspections.

Risk assessment should also consider the significance of individual artifacts. Objects possessing exceptional historical, cultural, or scientific value require enhanced protection because their loss would have profound consequences. Documentation through

condition reports, photography, and digital cataloguing enables conservators to detect subtle changes indicating early termite activity.

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that termites constitute one of the greatest biological threats to museum environments. Their ability to damage buildings, collections, and supporting infrastructure simultaneously makes them particularly difficult to manage. The adoption of comprehensive risk assessment, combined with preventive conservation and integrated pest management, is therefore essential for ensuring the long-term preservation of museum collections and the cultural heritage they represent.

CONCLUSION

Termites remain one of the most significant biological threats to museum environments due to their ability to cause extensive and often irreversible damage to both museum buildings and collections. Their concealed feeding behaviour enables infestations to progress unnoticed, resulting in the deterioration of wooden structures, archival records, ethnographic materials, furniture, manuscripts and other cellulose-based artifacts that embody a nation's cultural and historical identity. Beyond the physical destruction of collections, termite infestations impose substantial economic costs, disrupt museum operations, and undermine the educational, scientific and cultural functions of museums.

This paper has demonstrated that termite infestation is influenced by a combination of environmental, structural and management-related factors—including high humidity, poor building maintenance, inadequate environmental control, untreated timber and insufficient pest monitoring.

These conditions are particularly prevalent in many tropical regions, where favourable climatic conditions support year-round termite activity. Consequently, museums in such environments require proactive and sustainable strategies to reduce the risk of infestation and safeguard their collections.

The review further highlights that effective termite management cannot rely solely on chemical treatments. Instead, successful protection of museum collections requires a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme that combines preventive conservation, regular in-

spection, environmental monitoring, sanitation, building maintenance, early detection technologies and carefully selected control measures.

Staff training, documentation and collaboration among conservators, entomologists, architects, facility managers and museum administrators are equally important in ensuring the long-term success of pest management programmes.

Ultimately, protecting museum collections from termite attack is fundamental to preserving cultural heritage for future generations. Since many museum objects are unique and irreplaceable, their loss represents not only the destruction of physical artifacts but also the erosion of historical knowledge, cultural identity, and collective memory. Therefore, sustained investment in preventive conservation, scientific research, institutional capacity building, and integrated pest management should remain a priority for museums and heritage institutions worldwide. Through these collective efforts, museums can continue to fulfil their mission of preserving and transmitting humanity's cultural legacy for the benefit of present and future generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance termite management and ensure the long-term preservation of museum collections and cultural heritage:

Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Museums should adopt a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme that emphasizes prevention, routine monitoring, environmental control and the judicious use of chemical treatments. IPM should become a core component of every museum's preventive conservation policy.

Conduct Regular Inspections and Monitoring: Routine inspections of museum buildings, exhibition galleries, storage areas and collections should be carried out to detect early signs of termite activity. Monitoring tools such as termite bait stations, moisture meters, acoustic detectors and infrared thermographs.

Improve Environmental Control: Museums should maintain stable environmental conditions by controlling temperature and relative humidity, ensuring adequate ventilation, repairing water leaks promptly, and improving drainage systems around museum

buildings. Reducing excess moisture will significantly decrease the likelihood of termite infestation.

Strengthen Building Maintenance: Regular maintenance of museum structures should include sealing cracks in walls and foundations, replacing deteriorated timber, treating structural wood with appropriate preservatives where suitable, and preventing direct contact between wooden components and soil.

Enhance Preventive Conservation Practices: Museum collections should be stored using archival-quality materials and shelving that minimize pest risks. Wooden artifacts, archival materials, and ethnographic collections should receive regular condition assessments, while newly acquired objects should be quarantined and inspected before being introduced into collection storage.

Provide Continuous Staff Training: Museum staff, including conservators, curators, collection managers, maintenance personnel, and security officers, should receive periodic training on termite identification, early signs of infestation, reporting procedures, and preventive conservation techniques. Well-trained personnel are essential for early detection and effective response.

Increase Funding for Conservation: Governments, museum authorities, and cultural heritage organizations should allocate sufficient financial resources for preventive conservation, building maintenance, pest monitoring equipment, research, and professional development. Sustainable funding is critical for protecting museum collections against biological deterioration.

Promote Research on Museum Pests: Universities, research institutes, and museums should collaborate to investigate termite species associated with museum environments, particularly in tropical countries such as Nigeria. Research should focus on termite biology, infestation patterns, environmentally friendly control methods, and the long-term effects of treatment methods on museum objects.

Develop Institutional Pest Management Policies: Every museum should establish written pest management policies that define inspection schedules, documentation procedures, emergency response plans, and responsibilities of staff members. These policies should be reviewed regularly and integrated into the museum's overall collections management strategy.

Strengthen Collaboration and Public Awareness: Effective termite management requires collaboration among museum professionals, entomologists, architects, conservation scientists, government agencies, and local communities. Public awareness programmes should also emphasize the importance of protecting cultural heritage from biological threats and encourage support for conservation initiatives.

Implementing these recommendations will reduce the risk of termite infestation, improve the preservation of museum buildings, collections and strengthen the capacity of museums to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

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FEATURE

Special courts for kidnapping and cultism in Edo: A bold step that must be matched with justice

AKINWUNMI LALEYE, ESQ

The decision of the Edo State Government to establish Special Courts for the trial of kidnapping, cultism, and other related offences is a timely and commendable initiative. At a time when violent crimes continue to threaten public safety, disrupt economic activities, and create fear among citizens, every genuine effort aimed at strengthening the administration of criminal justice deserves recognition.

Kidnapping and cult-related violence have, for years, posed serious security challenges in many parts of Edo State. Families have suffered painful losses, businesses have been disrupted, and communities have lived under constant fear. In these circumstances, the establishment of Special Courts demonstrates the Government's resolve to confront these crimes through a more focused and efficient judicial process.

One of the major advantages of Special Courts is the possibility of faster trials. Criminal cases involving serious offences often take years before they are concluded. Delays not only prolong the suffering of victims but also undermine public confidence in the justice system. A specialised court, with dedicated judicial attention, has



the potential to reduce unnecessary delays while ensuring that justice is delivered within a reasonable time.

Another significant benefit is deterrence. Criminals are more likely to think twice when they know that offences such as kidnapping and cultism will receive prompt judicial attention. The certainty of prosecution and timely adjudication strengthens the rule of law and sends a clear message that crime will not be tolerated.

The initiative also has the potential to improve the quality of criminal adjudication. Judges who regularly handle specialised criminal matters develop greater familiarity with the legal and evidential issues commonly associated with such offences. This

can contribute to greater consistency and efficiency in the administration of justice.

However, while the establishment of Special Courts is commendable, equal attention must be given to the conduct of investigations by law enforcement agencies. The effectiveness of any criminal justice system depends not only on the courts but also on the integrity of the investigative process.

There is a legitimate concern that the existence of Special Courts could, if not carefully monitored, create opportunities for abuse. Allegations of kidnapping or cultism are extremely serious. Once such allegations are made, suspects often face prolonged detention, reputational damage, finan-

cial hardship, and immense psychological pressure, even before any court determines their guilt or innocence.

There are concerns from members of the public and the legal profession that, in some instances, investigations into these offences may not always meet the highest standards of fairness. Because of the gravity of the allegations, innocent persons may find themselves subjected to prolonged investigations or other pressures before the facts are fully established. Such situations, if they occur, undermine public confidence in both law enforcement and the justice system.

The presumption of innocence remains a fundamental principle of our Constitution. Every suspect, regardless of the nature of the allegation, is entitled to a fair investigation, legal representation, and due process. The existence of Special Courts should never become a justification for arbitrary arrests, indiscriminate detention, or investigations unsupported by credible evidence.

For this reason, the establishment of Special Courts should be accompanied by strong safeguards. Investigating officers should receive continuous training on lawful investigative procedures and respect for constitutional rights. Internal oversight mechanisms should be strengthened to promptly address

complaints of abuse or misconduct. Prosecutors must also ensure that only cases supported by sufficient evidence are brought before the courts.

Ultimately, the success of this laudable initiative will not be measured merely by the number of convictions secured. It will be measured by the extent to which justice is administered fairly, efficiently, and in accordance with the rule of law. Society is protected not only when the guilty are punished but also when the innocent are protected from wrongful prosecution.

The Edo State Government deserves commendation for taking decisive steps to strengthen the fight against kidnapping and cultism. It is now equally important to ensure that the implementation of this policy remains firmly anchored on professionalism, accountability, and respect for constitutional rights.

A Special Court must never become merely a Special Conviction Court. It must remain, above all, a Special Court of Justice—where the guilty are held accountable, the innocent are protected, and the rule of law remains supreme.

By Akinwunmi Laleye, Esq
*Human Rights Activist
Former Secretary, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Ekpoma Branch*

Osun Election: Our Democracy is undoubtedly developing – **Idaomi**

RICHARD EWEKA

The Osun governorship election has come and gone but the fallout of the exercise is still being discussed in the political space. The Osun election has shown that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is a Democrat and our democracy is undoubtedly developing.

Commenting on the outcome of the election, a political commentator, analyst and activist Prince Oluwatobi Idaomi said President Tinubu has consistently maintained that every vote must count, and the outcome of the election demonstrates that commitment.

How will you describe the outcome of the Osun governorship election?

The Osun election is a reflection of the commitment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration to good governance and democratic principles.

Before the election, the opposition and some sections of the media raised concerns that the Federal Government might deploy its influence to manipulate the process. However, President Tinubu has consistently maintained that every vote must count, and the outcome of the election demonstrates that commitment. That reminds me about the architect of one man, one vote. It was our comrade governor then

that launched that program of one man, one vote. IBB was at the Ogbe stadium then. I still recollect vividly how Mr Keyamo schooled IBB about democracy.

Does the results show INEC has gotten it right this time?

INEC should also be commended where it deserves recognition. Unlike the days when ballot boxes were snatched and electoral processes were disrupted. But in this election, accreditation and voting commenced early and proceeded smoothly across Osun State. The results were also transmitted to the IReV portal in a timely manner. These are positive developments that deserve acknowledgment.

Is Our Democracy Truly Developing?

Yes, our democracy is undoubtedly developing. The President deserves commendation for allowing the electoral process to take its course without interference. The security agencies deployed for the election maintained law and order and provided an environment where citizens could exercise their franchise peacefully.

Does the Opposition's Victory in Osun Portray President Tinubu as a True Democrat?

Absolutely. The fact that the opposition party won the Osun governorship election is, in itself, evidence that President Tinubu is

committed to democratic values. This administration has consistently expressed its desire to leave behind a legacy in which the people's choices are respected.

Those who predicted that the Federal Government would manipulate the election have been proved wrong. The elec-

tion was conducted in a manner that allowed voters to freely express their preferences, and the results reflected the choices made at the polls.

I would also like to address those opposition figures who have repeatedly claimed that incumbent governors cannot

win elections and that elections would be contested between the APC and the people. The Osun election has shown otherwise. The governor was able to connect with his people, present his message to them, and ultimately secure their support.

In Edo State, we are equally

prepared to support the leadership of Governor Okpebholo. Where he provides direction in the interest of the people, we are ready to follow. The people of Edo State have great confidence in him, and when it comes to our political direction, it is Asiwaju all the way.



Party supporters during a campaign in Osun State recently

Sports

● Football ● Athletics ● Golf ● Basketball ● Tennis ● Boxing

Nigeria Wrestling Federation concludes Oklahoma camp ahead of World Championships in Astana

The Nigeria Wrestling Federation (NWF) has concluded its open camp training programme in Oklaho-

ma, United States, as Team Nigeria intensifies preparations for the World Wrestling Championships scheduled to hold in As-

tana, Kazakhstan, later this year.

Recall a few weeks ago, the President of the Nigeria Wrestling Federation, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi MFR, had sanctioned the open camp in the United States for foreign based athletes and those with visas.

The training camp provided Nigerian wrestlers with valuable exposure and a competitive environment to sharpen their skills ahead of the global championship.

As part of the programme, the wrestlers had the opportunity to compete in dual meets against athletes from various NCAA Division I schools in the United States, giving the team a chance to test its strength against high-level opposition.

The camp was supervised by Nigeria's Women's Wrestling Head Coach, Akuh Purity, who guided the athletes through intensive training and competitive sessions.

Purity described the exercise as a valuable training and preparatory experience, noting that the exposure provided the wrestlers with an excellent opportunity to assess their current level and identify areas that require further improvement.

"We continue to intensify our training and remain fully focused on improving our performance. Recently, we participated in an open camp in Oklahoma, where we had the opportunity to compete in duals against athletes from other Division 1 schools."



NIGERIA WRESTLER

Olympic Qualifier: Ikenne to host Super Falcons versus Comoros clash

The Remo Stars Stadium in Ikenne-Remo has been selected as the venue for both legs of Nigeria's second-round Olympic qualifying fixture against Comoros.

The Super Falcons will host Comoros on October 9, with the return leg scheduled for October 13 at the same venue as Nigeria begins its quest for qualification for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

The Nigeria Football Federation has confirmed the development and expressed confidence that the 10-time African champions can secure a second

consecutive Olympic ticket after featuring at the 2024 Paris Games.

Nigeria, one of the three highest-ranked teams in the qualifying competition, received a bye into the second round and will now face Comoros in a two-legged tie.

Comoros booked their place in the second round after recording a comprehensive 30-0 aggregate victory over Sudan in the opening round.

The Super Falcons will be hoping to make full use of home advantage in Ikenne and progress to the next stage of the qualification race.

D'Tigress crash out of 2026 FIBA Women's World Cup after South Korea's defeat to France

Nigeria's D'Tigress have been eliminated from the ongoing 2026 FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup in Berlin, Germany, after South Korea's 95-69 defeat to France on Saturday, September 5, ended the African champions' hopes of advancing to the knockout phase.

France's emphatic victory gave the European powerhouse a second win in two group games, having earlier defeated Hungary, while South Korea had already secured a crucial victory over Nigeria.

The result leaves Nigeria unable to finish above South Korea or Hungary, regardless of what happens in their final group match against France.

Even a remarkable 100-point victory over France would not be enough to propel D'Tigresses into the next phase because of the head-to-head rule used to separate teams tied on points.

The development is particularly painful for Nigeria because of the structure of the 2026 competition.

Under the World Cup format, the four group winners advance directly to the quar-

ter-finals, while teams finishing second and third in each group enter a single-elimination qualification round for the last eight.

The crossover qualification games are played between teams from Groups A and B, and Groups C and D. The winners of those do-or-die encounters then advance to the quarter-finals to face the four group winners.



NIGERIA'S D'TIGRESS TEAM

Charlton confirm Okonkwo's Super Eagles call-up for AFCON qualifiers

English Championship club Charlton Athletic have confirmed that goalkeeper Ar-

thur Okonkwo has been invited to the Nigeria national team squad for the upcoming 2027 Africa

Cup of Nations qualifiers.

The club announced that the 24-year-old has been called up by the Super Eagles for their opening qualifying fixtures against Madagascar and Guinea-Bissau later this month.

"Arthur Okonkwo has been called up to the Nigeria squad for their upcoming AFCON qualifiers against Madagascar and Guinea-Bissau," Charlton Athletic stated.

The invitation gives Okonkwo another chance to push for a regular place in the Super Eagles as Nigeria begin their campaign to reach the 2027 AFCON, which will be jointly hosted by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.



CAFCC: Salisu Yusuf unhappy, laments Shooting Stars wasted chances in CS Sfaxien win

Shooting Stars head coach Salisu Yusuf believes his side could have secured a much bigger first-leg advantage after defeating Tunisian giants CS Sfaxien 1-0 in their CAF Confederation Cup preliminary-round tie in Abeokuta on Saturday.

The Oluyole Warriors secured a narrow victory on their return to continental football after 27 years, but Yusuf felt

the scoreline did not reflect the chances created by his players.

According to the experienced coach, Shooting Stars could have finished the encounter with a three- or four-goal advantage had they been more clinical in front of goal.

"The game was tactical. They tried to play long balls. We tried to score more goals to no avail," Yusuf said after the match.

"The game was supposed to

have finished three to four-nil."

Despite the frustration over missed chances, Yusuf praised his players for producing a co-ordinated performance, particularly during the first half.

Shooting Stars created several opportunities before and after taking the lead, but CS Sfaxien's defensive resilience prevented the hosts from extending their advantage.

"We played a very coordinated

game in the first half. The pressure was more in the second half. We created more goal-scoring opportunities in the first half than the second," the coach explained.

The result gives Shooting Stars a slender advantage heading into the second leg in Tunisia, but Yusuf knows the Nigerian side cannot afford to approach the return fixture with a defensive mentality.

Onuachu ends goal drought with brace as Trabzonspor thrash Gençlerbirliği 5-0

Paul Onuachu marked his first goals of the season with a brace as Trabzonspor claimed a dominant 5-0 victory over Gençlerbirliği on Sunday.

The Nigerian striker, who finished as joint-top scorer in the Süper Lig last season, had struggled for form early in the campaign, drawing a blank in his first five appearances across all competitions.

Onuachu ended that barren run in emphatic fashion, opening the scoring in the fifth minute before adding Trabzonspor's third goal in the 23rd minute shortly after Mohamed Salah converted a penalty.

His afternoon was cut short, however, when he was replaced in the 44th minute in what appeared to be an injury-related substitution.

Guinea-Bissau forward Franculino came on in his place. Micu extended the lead in the 59th minute, before Franculino completed the scoring in the 78th minute to seal a comprehensive win for the hosts. Paul Onuachu Ends Goal Drought With Brace As Trabzonspor

Thrash Gençlerbirliği 5-0

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PAUL ONUACHU

Sports

FEATURE

1ST NATIONAL INTERMEDIATE GAMES:

Joint Technical Committee adopt final technical framework, as EKO 2026 enters final preparatory phase

The National Sports Commission (NSC) is concluding major technical and operational arrangements for the maiden National Intermediate Games, EKO 2026, with the Joint Technical Committee approving key measures on athlete eligibility, talent identification, competition, accommodation, transportation, medical services and digital Games management.

The decisions were reached at the Joint Technical Committee meeting held at the Sam Shonibare Community Development Centre, Surulere, Lagos, which was chaired by the Director General of the Commission and Chairman of the Main Organising Committee, Hon. Bukola Olopade.

The Committee comprises representatives of the Main Organising Committee, MOC Secretariat, National Sports Federations, participating States and the FCT, Zonal Coordinators, Technical Sub-Committees and the Lagos State Local Organising Committee, also included an inspection of competition and non-competition facilities as part of final preparations for the Games.

In his remarks, Hon. Olopade reaffirmed the importance of the National Intermediate Games as a critical addition to Nigeria's sports development pathway, particularly in creating a structured bridge between grassroots participation and elite-level competition.

"Our aspiration is that this Games would provide an important platform for talent identification and athlete progression, while ensuring that young athletes with potential are identified early and provided with opportunities to develop into future national team athletes," Hon. Olopade said.

A major resolution of the meeting was the confirmation that participation in EKO 2026 will be restricted to athletes born between January 1, 2008, and September 30, 2011. The MOC Secretariat was directed to harmonize the age provision across the Technical Manual and all official Games documents and issue the necessary clarification.

The committee also placed strong emphasis on the integrity of the Games through comprehensive age and identity verification. All participating athletes will be required to undergo the prescribed verification procedures, including NIMC verification, approved documentary requirements and physical screening.

The Games will also serve as a major talent identification platform for Nigeria. Athletes identified through EKO 2026 will be integrated into a structured national athlete-development pathway, with athletes discovered at the Games to be combined with identified Diaspora athletes to form the core of Nigeria's Invited Junior Athletes national team for the National Sports Festival in Enugu.

The committee further affirmed that athletes identified through the Games are national assets and called on participating States to cooperate with the National Sports Commission and National Sports Federations in releasing identified athletes for ap-



Eko 2026 1st National Intermediate Games, technical committee meeting held at the Sam Shonibare Community Development Centre, Surulere, Lagos.



proved national assignments and subsequent development programmes.

The Joint Technical Committee also approved a number of adjustments to the sports programme. The 5,000 metres has been approved as an official athletics medal event, while weightlifting medals will be awarded based on athletes' overall results in each approved weight category, with separate medals not awarded for the Snatch and Clean & Jerk components.

The Mixed Team event in Taekwondo was removed from the official programme, while Netball and Teqball will be conducted as demonstration sports and will not form part of the official medal programme.

On Games operations, the committee directed strict compliance with accreditation timelines, stressing that only duly accredited athletes, officials and authorized Games personnel will have access to competition venues, operational areas and approved Games Village facilities.

The meeting noted that 16 hostels comprising 38 buildings, with approximately 12,800 beds, have been identified to meet the accommodation requirements of the Games. The Lagos State LOC was directed to ensure that the facilities have adequate secu-

rity, water, electricity, standby power, cleaning, maintenance and fumigation before the arrival of contingents.

In line with the welfare of young athletes, the committee adopted a decentralized catering model designed to improve efficiency and reduce delays associated with movement across the different geographical clusters of Lagos. Breakfast and dinner will be provided at designated accommodation locations, while lunch will be decentralized to competition venues. Two meal options will be provided for each meal, with caterers required to comply with food safety, hygiene and health certification standards.

The LOC was also directed to operationalize the Games' tri-modal transportation system, incorporating road, rail and water transportation where appropriate, to facilitate the movement of athletes, officials, technical personnel, equipment and other Games personnel.

Medical and public health arrangements were also strengthened, with qualified medical personnel to be deployed at competition venues and designated accommodation facilities. The UNILAG Medical Centre will serve as the primary referral point, while ambulance services will be available

at competition venues, with arrangements for specialised referrals where necessary.

Participating States and the FCT are also required to nominate Chief Medical Officers and complete all necessary medical assessments and health screenings. The Games Medical and Public Health Teams will continue working with relevant Lagos State authorities on food safety, water, sanitation, waste disposal, disease prevention and emergency response.

Following the facility inspection, the LOC was directed to complete all outstanding remedial works and venue requirements ahead of the commencement of the Games. National Sports Federations and Technical Committees were equally tasked with concluding all outstanding sport-specific technical requirements, competition schedules, equipment needs and operational arrangements.

In a significant step towards modernizing the administration of the Games, the official EKO 2026 website, mobile application and QR code-enabled systems are to be deployed before the commencement of the Games. The digital platforms will support accreditation, results management, data administration and communication with athletes, officials, stakeholders and the media.

The Committee expressed appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his commitment to Nigerian youth and investment in sports development, while also commending the Lagos State Government and the Local Organising Committee for their commitment, infrastructure investment and cooperation towards hosting the historic maiden edition of the National Intermediate Games.

The committee equally appreciated the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory for the FCT's collaboration and partnership with the National Sports Commission, particularly its commitment to sponsoring and supporting its contingent to participate in the Games.

The meeting further acknowledged the contributions of the National

Sports Commission, National Sports Federations, participating States, the FCT and all stakeholders towards the successful organisation of EKO 2026.

In a national charge, the Joint Technical Committee called on all stakeholders to work collectively towards ensuring that the maiden National Intermediate Games establishes a strong and sustainable foundation for talent identification, athlete development, national unity and the future growth of the competition.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the LOC and Deputy Chief of Staff to the Lagos State Governor, Mr. Sam Egube; LOC Co-Chairman and Director General of the Lagos State Sports Commission, Mr. Lekan Fatodu; Chairman, Media Relations and Publicity Sub-Committee, Mr. Gbenga Omotosho; Chairman, Digital Media and Fan Engagement, Mr. Segun Fafore; Games Consultant, Dr. Kweku Tandoh; and Senior Special Assistant to the President, Chief Adegboye Adeyinka Anthony, among other stakeholders.

The communiqué was signed by Hon. Bukola Olopade, Director-General, National Sports Commission and Chairman, Main Organising Committee, and issued in Surulere, Lagos State, on Saturday, September 5, 2026.

Results of NPFL/Nigeria teams on the continent this weekend

CAFCL
San Pedro 1-1
Rivers United
Rangers Int'l 1-1
AS Sobemap

CAF CC
Shooting Stars 1-0
CS Sfaxien
El-Kanemi Warriors 3-0
UDIB

SPORTS

Multi-billion Naira NPFL sponsorship deal expected after new chairman's appointment

The Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) is on the verge of securing a major sponsorship deal worth several billions of naira, with the announcement expected to coincide with the unveiling of

a new chairman for the league. A senior official of the National Sports Commission (NSC), who spoke to BSN Sports on condition of anonymity, disclosed that discussions surrounding a new

sponsorship package are at an advanced stage and that the deal is expected to provide a significant financial boost to the domestic top-flight league.

The development comes amid a major leadership shake-up within Nigerian football following the reported mass resignation of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) President Ibrahim Musa Gusau, General Secretary Mohammed Sanusi and members of the NFF Executive Committee.

The leadership crisis has created uncertainty around the administration of the NPFL, which has already entered the new season and is scheduled to continue with Matchday 2 this weekend.

Former NPFL Chairman Gbenga Elegbeleye previously

secured a three-year sponsorship agreement reportedly worth \$2.5 million annually, amounting to \$7.5 million over the duration of the contract.

The latest sponsorship package is expected to surpass previous financial commitments and provide additional resources for improving the organisation, commercial value and overall standard of the NPFL.

Speaking, the NSC source said the sponsorship announcement would follow shortly after the appointment of the new NPFL chairman.

"Let me reveal this to you. As soon as the new league chairman is unveiled, a league sponsor that will bring in billions of naira will also be unveiled to boost the standard of the league," the source said.



GBENGA ELEGBELEYE, NPFL CHAIRMAN

Ebonyi 2026 inmates Sports Festival, opportunity for Talents development

MAXWELL OKECHUKWU

The Nigerian Correctional Service, Ebonyi State Command, 2026 Inmates Annual sports festival has come to a close with athletes and officials satisfied with the outcomes.

Held at the state Medium Security Custodial Center, in Abakaliki, the state Capital, the games saw inmates taking parts in all activities to the admiration of guests which included the Controller of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Ebonyi state Command, Mrs. Chika Angela Igwugwu.

Mrs Igwugwu in her address appealed to well meaning individuals and corporate organizations, to support the Service's programmes aimed at reforming prison inmates through sports as part of efforts towards building a safer Society.

She thanked the Governor of Ebonyi State, Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifururu for his support for the state command, and wished it be sustained.

"Your supports can be a piece of sports equipment, vocational tools, educational materials, mentorship, also an opportunity for employment after the Inmate is released because what appears small to you becomes the turning point in another persons life."

She advised the Inmate not to allow the mistakes that brought them to prison to become a mark of identity nor allow it become their destiny, urging them never to stop working towards becoming the person(s)

they were capable of becoming.

Mrs. Igwugwu Further said, "prison Sentence may limit persons' movement for a period of time, but can not imprison your hope, talent, dreams and capacity for positively change change your life."

"Beyond the medals, trophies and excitement, we are celebrating hope, discipline, resilience and transformation while also providing opportunities for their reformation and rehabilitation.



GOV. NWIFURURU

FIFA U20 Women's World Cup: We will approach game against Spain like a Cup final – Aduku



NIGERIA FALCONETS TEAM IN TRAINING

Moses Aduku, Head Coach of Nigeria's U-20 Women National Team, Falconets, has declared that his team will throw everything into Monday's opening match of Group F at the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup, in which they will

confront Spain at the Stadion Sosnowiec.

Nigeria, two-time runners-up of the global championship that began as an U19 tournament in Canada in 2002, go up against the Spaniards from 5pm local time (4pm Nigeria time).

"We are looking forward to

the match against Spain with high expectations. We are ready and set to go. Spain is a good wide no doubt; let us not forget they are champions of the world at men's senior level. However, we will approach the game like a Cup final because we want to win. The three points will put us in good stead in our group phase campaign," Aduku said.

Spain have made remarkable progress in the FIFA U20 Women's World Cup in the past eight years. Against all odds, they went all the way to the final in France in 2018, finishing as runners-up after a 3-1 defeat by Japan. However, Spain's forward Patricia Guijarro won both the Golden Ball and the Golden Shoe. Two years later, in Costa Rica, they were champions of the world, avenging their defeat to Japan four years earlier.

CAFCL: Finidi targets early goal as Rivers United face San Pedro



FINIDI GEORGE

Rivers United head coach Finidi George is targeting an early goal when his side hosts Ivorian club San Pedro in the second leg of their CAF Champions League encounter, BSNsports.com.ng reports.

The Pride of Rivers were held to a 1-1 draw by San Pedro in the first leg, leaving the tie finely poised ahead of the return fixture.

Finidi acknowledged the quality of the Ivorian side but expressed confidence in his team's approach to the decisive second leg.

"We knew their strengths and they are a very good side," Finidi said.

"We are not going to play for a draw. We are targeting a victory, and we are focused on scoring an early goal to kill off the game."



SUPER FALCONS

NFF sheds light on Super Falcons' journey to Los Angeles 2028 Olympics

The Nigeria Football Federation has beamed the light on the route of the senior women national team, Super Falcons, to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games, expressing confidence in the ability of the 10-time African champions to earn a back-to-back ticket to the glamorous Women's Olympic Football Tournament, after their participation at the 2024 Games in Paris.

The Super Falcons have now shifted their focus to a second-round fixture against Comoros in the African qualifying series, with both legs of the fixture to take place at the Remo Stars Stadium, Ikenne-Remo on 9th and 13th October respectively.

The Falcons are required to navigate four rounds of two-leg-

ged knockout ties to earn one of Africa's two available places at the tournament in Los Angeles in two years' time. Nigeria, one of the three highest-ranked teams in the qualifying competition, received a bye into the second round. Comoros secured their place in the second round after defeating Sudan 30-0 on aggregate. Once they overcome Comoros over two legs, the Falcons will progress to the third round, scheduled for 23rd February – 6th March 2027. Either DR Congo or Morocco awaits the Falcons in that round.

Progress to the fourth round will see the Falcons take on one of Tunisia, Senegal, Benin Republic or Mali between 4th – 12th October 2027.

Nigeria defeat Burkina Faso, maintain winning run at IHF Women's Trophy

Nigeria's Senior Women's Handball team continued their impressive campaign at the inaugural IHF Women's Nations Trophy Africa Zone III with a commanding 33-25 victory over hosts Burkina Faso in Ouagadougou on Friday evening.

The Nigerian side, led by Head Coach Michael Taangahar, produced a determined performance to take a narrow 14-13 lead into the half-time break after a keenly contested opening 30 minutes.

Nigeria returned from the break with greater intensity, strengthening their grip on the encounter and eventually finishing with an eight-goal victory at the Palais des Sports de

Ouaga 2000.

Sadiya Musa led Nigeria's scoring with six goals, while Wuraola Nuhu, Kirman Haruna, Rachael Ovetuo, Daina Saaloo and Grace Ahaemefula each contributed four goals as the Nigerian attack proved too strong for the hosts.

Balikisu Muhammed was one of Nigeria's standout performers, scoring four goals and subsequently being voted the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the match.

The victory gives Nigeria two wins from two matches in Group A, following their emphatic 39-18 defeat of Ghana in their opening game on Thursday.



NIGERIA'S SENIOR WOMEN'S HANDBALL TEAM

SPORTS



WAFU-B Crown: Enabulele salutes Edo Queens, dedicates victory to Governor Okpebholo



Governor Monday Okpebholo

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE



to lift the 2026 WAFU-B title and subsequently qualified for the CAF champions league proper.

The Edo state Sports Commission boss described the victory as an historic achievement for Edo State and Nigeria as the state owned club just won the African regional title for the second time

in the history of the tournament.

Enabulele said that he is dedicating the triumph to Governor Monday Okpebholo who gave him the opportunity to serve the state as number sports administrator in the state.

He commended the Governor for his unwavering support for sports development and his commitment to repositioning Edo State as a leading sports destination in Nigeria.

The sports commission chairman also commended the players for their fighting spirit, noting that their ability to come from behind twice in the final match against Ampem demonstrated their through character, discipline and resilience that an average Edo person is known for.

He congratulated the technical crew led by the stand-in coach, Kennedy Boboye, for

their tactical discipline, determination and ability to keep the team bonded and focused throughout the competition.

Enabulele expressed the confidence that Edo Queens would continue to make Edo State and Nigeria proud when they take their place among Africa's elite women's clubs at the CAF Women's Champions League in South Africa later in the year.

The Nigerian champions came from behind twice in Ouagadougou on Saturday night to hand unbeaten Ghanaian champions Ampem Darkoa Ladies their first defeat, edging them 4-1 on penalties after a thrilling 2-2 draw at regulation period to lift the 2026 WAFU-B Women's title and book their place in the CAF Women's Champions League.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino and NSC chairman, Shehu Dikko

FIFA hits Abuja to move Nigerian football reform forward

National Sports Commission (NSC) chairman, Shehu Dikko, confirmed that FIFA officials will make on-site visit to Nigeria as part of the process of comprehensive reform of Nigerian football as directed by President Bola Tinubu.

Dikko said in a television interview that during their meeting with FIFA in Zurich, the world football governing body endorsed this reform but insisted "it must follow the prop-

er process and the rulebook".

He disclosed that the NSC are currently consulting with various stakeholders to agree on the way forward for the national sport.

A Normalisation Committee that would drive this reform could have a lifespan of between three months and a year, Shehu Dikko said.

This interim body will look at the rulebook, put things right with the structures and after which it will conduct an election.

Nigeria edge Zimbabwe to win Africa Qualifier and seal U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027 place

Nigeria edge Zimbabwe to win Africa Qualifier and seal U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027 place Four run final victory completes an unbeaten campaign for Nigeria in Dar es Salaam Nigeria were crowned champions of the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup Africa Qualifier Division 1 after holding their nerve to defeat Zimbabwe by four runs in a dramatic final at the ESTIM Ground, TCA Cricket Arena, on Saturday.

Defending 98, Nigeria dismissed Zimbabwe for 94 with just one delivery remaining to complete a perfect tournament in which they won all five of their matches.

The victory also secured Nigeria Africa's sole qualification place at the ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2027 in Bangladesh and Nepal, where they will join South Africa as the continent's representatives.

Uganda finished third after defeating Rwanda by seven wickets, hosts Tanzania secured fifth position with a 29 run victory over Kenya, while Namibia defeated Malawi by nine wickets to finish seventh.

Nigeria held their nerve in a tense, low scoring final to defeat Zimbabwe by four runs and complete an unbeaten run through the tournament.

Batting first at the ESTIM Ground, Nigeria were made to work for every run by a disciplined Zimbabwe attack. Captain Christabel Chukwuonye provided an important late contribution of 21 from 19

deliveries, while Beauty Oguai made 19 from 35 and Jessica Bieni contributed 15 from 25. Deborah Bassey added a valuable unbeaten 10 from just four balls as Nigeria closed on 98 for six from their 20 overs.

Christina Mutasa was Zimbabwe's leading bowler with two for 11 from four overs, including a maiden, while Tadiwanashe Garutsa conceded only eight runs from her four overs and claimed one wicket. Zimbabwe's pursuit began positively through Nicolette Nyika,

who made 18, and Christina Mutasa, who contributed 13, but Nigeria struck repeatedly to reduce them to 38 for five.



NIGERIA U19 WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2027 WINNER

National intermediate Games is best way to restore Nigeria's lost glory in Sports – Quadri Aruna

Nigeria's foremost table tennis player, Quadri Aruna has described the upcoming 1st National Intermediate Games as 'the best way to restore the country's lost glory in sports,' as he believes new talents will be discovered during the multiple-event competition.

Sports247 reports that Aruna, who is the only African player to break into the top-10 of men's world table tennis rankings, also described the upcoming Games as an important platform for discovering and nurturing Nigeria's next generation of talents in various sporting events.

He added that the Games, tagged Eko 2026, which are

scheduled to hold from October 1st to 15th in Lagos, with more than 15,000 young athletes expected to compete in 28 sports across 10 venues, will revive focus on the grassroots for rebuilding Nigeria's fortunes in the sector.

Aruna made the declaration and expressed support for the Games during a visit along with his wife and children to Lagos State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Honourable Gbenga Omotoso, who is the chairman of Eko 2026 media and publicity sub-committee.

While reflecting on his career, the 37-year-old table tennis star acknowledged Lagos State's contribution to his development and urged athletes taking part in Eko 2026 to see it as an opportunity not only to compete but to also learn, develop and prepare themselves for bigger challenges ahead of them.



QUADRI ARUNA (LEFT) PRESENTING HIS JERSEY

Gov. Makinde approves 32-Seater, 18-seater buses for Shooting Stars

Oyo State Governor, Engr. Seyi Makinde, has approved the immediate release of two buses; a 32-seater and an 18-seater to Shooting Stars Sports Club of Ibadan, in a move aimed at strengthening the club's operational capacity and supporting its activities.

The development was disclosed by the Oyo State Commissioner for Information, Prince Dotun Oyelade, in a statement following Shooting Stars' impressive victory over Tunisian side CS Sfaxien in the first leg of their CAF Confederation Cup preliminary-round tie at the MKO Abiola Sports Arena in Abeokuta.

According to Oyelade, the gov-

ernor's approval reflects the state government's continued commitment to supporting the Oluyole Warriors as they represent Oyo State on the continental stage.

Shooting Stars' participation in the ongoing CAF Confederation Cup marks the club's first appearance in continental football in 27 years, bringing renewed attention and excitement to the historic Ibadan side.

The commissioner said Governor Makinde had reassured the club's supporters that his administration would continue to provide the necessary backing to help Shooting Stars remain competitive in their quest for continental success.



SHOOTING STARS BUS