

FG reviews NYSC feeding allowance, new rate begins 2027

CONFIDENCE IGIEBOR

CALABAR

The Federal Government has approved an upward review of the feeding allocation for Na-

tional Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members during orientation, with the new rate expected to take effect in 2027.

NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General Olakunle Nafiu, disclosed this while addressing members of the 2026

Batch 'C' Stream One at the Cross River State Orientation Camp in Obubra.

He said the Budget Office had been notified of the adjustment, aimed at improving corps members' feeding arrangements.

Nafiu urged corps members to cultivate sound financial habits, avoid unnecessary spending and develop savings for life after service.

On security, he advised them against travelling after 6 p.m., urging those unable to

reach their destinations before then to suspend their journeys until the following morning.

He also warned against sleeping in public places and at filling stations, advising corps members in distress to seek assistance at military in-

stallations, police stations or DSS offices and contact the NYSC hotline.

The Director-General pledged to engage relevant stakeholders to address in-

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No mercy for cultists who refuse to renounce — Okpebholo

RICHARD EWEKA

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has issued a stern warning to cultists who refuse to renounce their membership, declaring that his administration will show no mercy to anyone who continues to en-

... Over 300 annual cult killings reduced to almost zero

gage in cult-related killings and other violent crimes.

The governor, who vowed to sustain the onslaught against cultism and kidnapping, warned that houses used for cult-related activities would be demolished, stressing that no individual, regardless of family ties or personal connections,

would be shielded from the law.

Okpebholo gave the warning during a mass voluntary renunciation and denunciation of cultism, themed "Restitution, Rehabilitation and Safer Edo State," at the Sir Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, Airport Road, Benin City.

He commended youths who publicly renounced their membership of various cult groups, describing their decision as a courageous step towards saving their lives, restoring peace to their families and contributing to the security of the state.

The governor, however, drew a sharp line between

those willing to abandon criminality and those determined to continue, insisting that his administration would pursue the latter without compromise.

"On our part, we are not afraid to go after cultists and criminal elements in the state. Please take the message back to those that

have not changed, they still have the power to renounce because if they are caught, there will be no mercy," he declared.

"I am ready and hungry to give the directive to demolish any house used for cult-related activities."

Okpebholo said his administration was combining tougher security operations and enforcement with rehabilitation opportunities to encourage young people to abandon violence and re-

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EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC RENUNCIATION:

Gov Monday Okpebholo (middle) in a group photograph with members of Edo State Special Security Squad codenamed Operation flush out cultists and kidnappers in a renunciation ceremony held at Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub, Airport road Benin City on Monday

Court strikes out FG's eight-count charge against alleged fake agency DG

ABUJA

The Federal High Court in Abuja has struck out the eight-count criminal charge filed by the Federal Government against Adeniyi Adeyemi, the alleged fake Director-General of the Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council (PFIPC).

Justice Mohammed Garba Umar terminated the proceedings on Monday following an application by the Federal Government seeking the withdrawal of the charge to pave the way for Adeyemi's fresh arraignment before the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Moving the application, the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation (DPPF), Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, said the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, SAN,

had reviewed the case file and the charge initially filed by the Inspector-General of Police and identified certain legal gaps.

Oyedepo explained that the alleged forged documents involved in the case fell within the jurisdiction of the FCT High Court rather than the Federal High Court.

He informed the court that a fresh charge had already been filed before the FCT High Court, adding that the government intended to arraign the defendant afresh without delay.

The prosecution consequently urged the court to strike out the existing charge in accordance with the law.

Counsel to Adeyemi, Ibrahim Angulu, SAN, did not oppose the application, following which Justice Umar granted

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NEWS

Retired police officers give FG Oct 15 deadline, threaten Abuja protest

AYENOMOH WINNER ALUKHEI

ABUJA

Retired police officers under the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) have given the Federal Government, the National Pension Commission (PENCOM) and the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) until October 15, 2026, to fulfil agreements on unpaid gratuities and pension enhancement, threatening a mass protest in Abuja if their demands are not met.

The retirees said they would stage a peaceful protest on No-

vember 2, 2026, to demand their exit from the pension scheme if the authorities failed to honour the agreements by the deadline.

The ultimatum was contained in a statement signed by the National Coordinator and Chairman of the Kaduna State Chapter of the association, retired Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) Mannir M. Lawal Zaria.

The association accused the relevant authorities of failing to implement commitments made during negotiations with representatives of the retired

officers, despite assurances that the measures would be implemented by the end of September 2026.

According to the statement, the Director-General of PENCOM had assured the retirees that they would receive gratuities equivalent to 300 per cent of their annual emoluments, alongside an increase in monthly pensions to 100 per cent of the applicable salary benchmark.

The retirees expressed disappointment over the failure to implement the measures, saying it had eroded confidence

in the negotiation process and heightened concerns about their welfare.

They stressed that they had devoted their productive years to protecting lives and property and safeguarding national security, warning that their patience and commitment to dialogue should not be misconstrued as weakness.

The association called on the Federal Government, PENCOM and the IGP to take concrete steps to fulfil the agreements and provide a clear timeline for implementation.

It described the planned demonstration as a last resort after exhausting dialogue, assuring that the protest would be peaceful, lawful and order-

ly.

The association also urged affected retired police officers across the country to remain united and prepared to par-

ticipate in the demonstration should the October 15 deadline pass without a satisfactory response from the authorities.

Yilwatda: APC polls predict Tinubu's 2027 Victory

ABUJA

National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Nentawe Yilwatda, has expressed confidence that President Bola Tinubu will secure re-election in 2027, claiming that surveys conducted by the ruling party across different states favour the president ahead of the poll.

Yilwatda made the claim during an interview on Channels Television's Sunday Politics, where he said the party's internal surveys indicated that Tinubu was ahead of potential challengers.

Asked whether the findings suggested that Tinubu would win the 2027 presidential election, the APC chairman responded emphatically: "Of course!"

He said the ruling party was not threatened by opposition parties, including the African Democratic Congress (ADC), linked in the report to former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, and the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), associated with Peter Obi.

According to him, the opposition's performance in previous elections had strengthened the APC's confidence as it prepared for the 2027 general election.

Comparing Tinubu with Atiku, Yilwatda described the incumbent president as "far better" than the former vice-president.

The APC chairman also defended the Tinubu administration's economic policies, particularly its tax reforms, arguing that they had expanded the tax base, increased government revenue and delivered benefits

to the poorest Nigerians.

On electricity, he said reforms in the power sector had created opportunities for state governments to participate in electricity generation, transmission and distribution.

Yilwatda, however, acknowledged the economic difficulties Nigerians were experiencing, particularly the impact of rising petrol prices on households and businesses. He maintained that the hardship was temporary and expressed confidence that Nigerians would continue to support the administration.

"What we are passing through in Nigeria, for example, at this moment, is temporary. The increase in the cost of fuel is temporary. Nigerians believe in us," he said.

Addressing allegations that the APC shields its members from prosecution, Yilwatda rejected the claim, citing party members facing court proceedings as evidence that membership of the ruling party did not confer immunity from the law.

He further disclosed that the party was reviewing its presidential campaign council list ahead of the inauguration of the council.

On efforts to mobilise support for Tinubu's second-term ambition, the APC chairman said he welcomed individuals and groups willing to endorse the president, including the Rainbow Coalition associated with the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Nyesom Wike.

Yilwatda also dismissed the "Tinubu Must Go" campaign, describing it as an opposition initiative that, in his view, did not reflect the general position of Nigerians.



RENUNCIATION:

A cross-section of persons who renounced their membership of various cult groups as they subscribe to relevant oath monitored by the Solicitor General of Edo State during an extraordinary public renunciation ceremony held in Benin City yesterday.

...No mercy for cultists

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

build their lives.

He disclosed that Edo State recorded more than 300 cult-related killings annually when his administration assumed office less than two years ago, claiming that the figure had since dropped to almost zero.

"Through stronger laws, better security operations, improved intelligence, and tougher enforcement, these killings have been reduced to almost zero," he said.

The governor also reported a decline in kidnapping incidents, attributing the progress to intensified security operations and efforts to dismantle criminal networks across the state.

He identified cultism as a

breeding ground for kidnapping, armed robbery and other violent crimes, urging those still involved to reject intimidation, fear and peer pressure and embrace the government's rehabilitation programme.

"Your life is worth more than cult loyalty. Your family, community and Edo State need you," he appealed.

Reaffirming his commitment to public safety, Okpebholo declared that the fight against cultism, kidnapping and other violent crimes would continue, adding that even his own child would not be exempted from the law if found culpable.

"Even if my child is involved, the right thing must be done. No hiding place for

criminals in Edo State. No colour in Edo State, we are all brothers," he said.

The coordinator of the Edo State Special Security Squad, Operation Flush Out Kidnapping and Cultists, Noah Idemudia, commended the governor for establishing the squad and supporting its collaboration with security agencies.

The Commissioner of Police, Patrick Daaor, described the renunciation exercise as an opportunity to save young lives and redirect former cult members towards productive and lawful living.

Commissioner for Public Safety and Security, Festus Ebea, said the initiative aligned with the security component of the gover-

nor's SHINE Agenda, reiterating the administration's zero tolerance for cultism, kidnapping and other criminal activities.

A political figure in the state, Francis Inegbeneki, also praised the governor's efforts, urging him to extend the same determination to tackling drug abuse, which he said was closely associated with cultism.

The Edo State Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Roland Otaru, said the government's commitment to restoring peace was further demonstrated by the establishment of a Special Criminal Court, urging cultists to seize the opportunity to renounce their membership and embrace lawful living.

...Court strikes out FG's eight-count

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

the request and struck out the charge.

Adeyemi, 38, was charged alongside two other defendants, identified as Femi and Anu, whose surnames were not provided and who were said to be at large.

The defendants faced al-

legations bordering on conspiracy and forgery in the charge marked FHC/ABJ/CR/25/2025.

The striking out of the charge clears the way for the Federal Government to pursue the case against Adeyemi before the FCT High Court under the newly filed charge.

...NYSC feeding allowance

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

options. Earlier, the Cross River State NYSC Coordinator, Mrs Adejoke Oyenuka, commended Nafu for his visit, describing it as a demonstration of commitment to corps members' welfare.

Oyenuka disclosed that 1,064 corps members had registered for the orientation programme and successfully adjusted to the camp's routines.

NEWS

NARD gives FG 14-day ultimatum over unmet demands, threatens nationwide strike

AGHEDO IYOBOR

CALABAR

The National Association of Resident Doctors (NARD) has issued a fresh 14-day ultimatum to the Federal Government to meet its

outstanding demands or face a nationwide strike.

The ultimatum was contained in a communiqué read by the association's new President, Dr. Emmanuel Ogar, before journalists at the end of its 46th Annual General Meeting (AGM), which concluded in Calabar at the weekend.

NARD accused the Federal Government of failing to implement several agreements reached with the association on remuneration, career progression, professional allowances and improved conditions of service, despite repeated assurances and engagements.

The association expressed concern that persistent delays in implementing the agreements

had continued to undermine the welfare and morale of resident doctors across the country.

It lamented that the current salary structure no longer reflects prevailing economic realities, while severe manpower shortages have left resident doctors grappling with excessive workloads.

According to the association, the situation has been

compounded by the continued migration of doctors and other health professionals abroad, popularly known as *japa*, leaving the remaining workforce to shoulder additional responsibilities.

To address these challenges, NARD demanded the immediate implementation of all outstanding agreements, prompt payment of salaries and

entitlements owed to house officers, and the introduction of a standardised template for compensating doctors for excess workload.

The association also called for the full enforcement of anti-assault policies to protect health-care workers, improved hospital infrastructure and equipment, and increased budgetary allocation to the health sector.

**PLENARY:**

Alhaji Yahaya Omogbai, Clerk of Edo State House of Assembly (right) interacting with Hon Kaycee Osamuyi (middle) and Hon Lecky Hussein Mustapha during the house plenary session yesterday.

Photo: Godwin Iseguan.

Oborevwoiri orders rehabilitation of dilapidated schools across Delta

BETTY IDIALU, WARRI

OGHARA

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwoiri, has directed the immediate assessment and rehabilitation of dilapidated public primary and secondary schools across the state to improve educational infrastructure and provide a safe, conducive learning environment for pupils and students.

The governor gave the directive during the inauguration of the Model Technical College,

Oghareki, where he reaffirmed his administration's commitment to strengthening the education sector and equipping young people with practical and technical skills for self-reliance.

The newly inaugurated institution boasts modern technical workshops, accommodation and sports facilities designed to promote skills-based education and prepare students for employment and entrepreneurship.

Oborevwoiri also announced plans to inaugurate three additional model technical colleges before December 2026 as part of efforts to expand access to

technical and vocational education across the state.

In another intervention, the governor approved a N50 million education support fund for a student, Davina Ogheneovo.

He explained that the directive to assess and rehabilitate dilapidated schools was intended to ensure that pupils and students across Delta State had access to safe, functional and improved learning facilities.

The initiative is expected to strengthen public school infrastructure and complement ongoing investments in technical and vocational education.

Former Delta State Governor, Chief James Ibori, com-

mended Oborevwoiri for what he described as developmental strides across the state.

Ibori also pledged support for President Bola Tinubu, Governor Oborevwoiri and other All Progressives Congress (APC) candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections, signalling his stated political alignment with the party's candidates.

The inauguration of the Model Technical College, Oghareki, and the directive on school rehabilitation highlight the place of educational infrastructure, technical training and human capital development in Delta State's development agenda.

Black sunday for kidnappers as Edo police neutralize 3 suspects, rescue victim

MIKE OSAROGIAGBON

BENIN CITY

It was a black Sunday for suspected kidnappers in Edo State as a joint security team rescued an abducted victim and killed three suspected members of the gang during a forest raid in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

The dramatic operation, conducted at about 2am on Sunday, October 11, 2026, followed credible intelligence on the whereabouts of the victim, identified as Michael Akano, who was abducted on October 9, 2026.

The Edo State Police Command spokesperson, ASP Eno Ikoedem, disclosed that the joint team stormed the Geo Works bushes bordering Otuo in Igarra, where the victim was being held.

She said the operation involved police operatives from Igarra Division, personnel of the Nigerian Army's 195 Battalion, the Department of State Services (DSS), local hunters and members of the Edo State Security Corps (ESSC).

According to ASP Ikoedem, the victim was rescued and taken to a hospital for medical attention.

Items recovered during the operation included three locally fabricated single-barrel shotguns, eight live cartridges, five expended cartridges, two cutlasses and five mobile phones of different brands.

The police spokesperson added that the bodies of the three neutralised suspects had been deposited at a hospital mortuary in Igarra for autopsy.

She said a bush-combing operation was ongoing to track down and arrest fleeing suspects believed to have sustained gunshot wounds during the encounter.

She added that the Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, CP Patrick Daaor, commended the joint security team for its swift response, effective collaboration and courage.

CP Daaor reiterated the command's commitment to sustaining intelligence-led operations and denying criminal elements safe havens across the state.

2 females on presidential ballot, highlights challenges facing Nigerian women in politics

-Okereke**ABUJA**

Presidential Candidate of the National Rescue Movement (NRM), Dr Esther Okereke, says only two females out of 18 presidential candidates contesting the 2027 presidential election highlighted the challenges facing Nigerian women in politics.

Okereke stated this when she featured on the NAN, Personality interview series on Sunday in Abuja.

Okereke identified finance, cultural biases and political intimidation as the primary barriers suppressing women's active participation in Nigerian politics.

"Women are usually scared for three reasons: money. You and I know how expensive it is to run election.

"Second is culture. We've been told and brought up to believe that women should not participate in politics.

"They make us understand or believe that, no, all we do is

take our wrapper, chant, campaign slogan, go to the market, convince everyone to vote for the men.

Okereke, however, said that the country's political landscape was now going through transformation because there were now more "he for she" supporting women participation.

"There are now more he-for-she, men that truly want the women to come out, the men that have understood what role the women play in decision-making starting from the home," she said.



NRM PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

2027: I'm not intimidated by Tinubu, Atiku, others - NRM Presidential Candidate

ABUJA

Presidential Candidate of the National Rescue Movement (NRM), Dr Esther Okereke, says she is not intimidated by the incumbent, President Bola Tinubu, Atiku Abubakar, Peter Obi or any 'heavyweight' candidates on the ballot for the 2027 presidential election.

Okereke stated this during the NAN Personality Interview Series in Abuja on Sunday.

She expressed confidence in her capacity and party's vision to rebuild the country.

The female presidential

candidate said that political credibility rested on clear governance blueprints rather than party size or political longevity.

She said that NRM's symbol, the bee, reflects the party's core ideology of productivity, public service and national development.

"Yes, NRM, like you said, is small but mighty. You see our logo, the bee? It's an insect that produces.

"Why the party choose that, the size of the party and then the bee, is because we're here to produce and feed, not to devour and eat.

"It is not about the party. It

is the individual; it's the candidates that makes the party. Who knows Labour Party before Peter Obi?

"Even the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), even the All Progressives Congress (APC), it is the candidate that made up the publicity that gave them that big name that you just mentioned.

"That is how I'm going to give that same big name to NRM," she said.

Okereke said that her decision to run on the NRM platform was driven by a shared commitment to accountability, structural reform and effective service delivery.

NEWS

Wellspring University to graduate 404 students, as institution attains academic milestones

BENIN CITY

Wellspring University Benin City is set to graduate a total of

404 students during its 14th convocation.

The convocation ceremony billed for October 23, 2026 is expected to showcase the

institution's academic milestones in the various disciplines.

Disclosing this on Monday in a pre-convocation press

conference, the University's Vice Chancellor Prof Isaac Ajayi said that of the number, 292 graduates would be awarded First Degrees, 93 with postgraduate Diploma and Masters degrees, while 15 would be awarded Doctorate degrees.

According to Prof Ajayi, the graduands had been adequately equipped with sound intellectual knowledge, entrepreneurial and leadership skills, and strong moral values to enable them contribute meaningfully to society.

"This is a significant milestone for the University and a moment of great pride for our graduating students, their parents and guardians, our staff, and the entire Wellspring University community.

"Of the 292 graduating students with First Degrees, 47 (16%) have earned First Class degrees, 145 (50%) have obtained Second Class Upper Division degrees, 91 (31%) have earned Second Class Lower Division degrees, 11(4%) will graduate with Third Class degrees", he explained.

The results he said repre-

sented the academic outcomes of the students' efforts, the dedication of the institution's lecturers, and the support of parents and guardians, even as he congratulated the graduating students for reaching the important milestone in their academic journeys.

The Vice Chancellor said that the institution would within the same period host three professional inductions of the institution's graduates of special disciplines to be carried out by relevant professional bodies in Nigeria including the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria, the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and the Computer Registration Council of Nigeria.

He described the graduation of the University's pioneer set of doctoral graduates as a landmark achievement in the development of Wellspring University and a clear indication of its growing capacity to contribute to advanced scholarship, research, innovation, and knowledge creation.

Another area of significant achievement Professor Isaac

said, is the graduating of its pioneer set of Public Health students whose services he explained are particularly important for the wellbeing of communities, the prevention of diseases, and the strengthening of healthcare systems.

"We expect these graduates to apply their knowledge and skills towards improving health outcomes and addressing public health challenges in Nigeria and beyond", he concluded.

The Vice Chancellor commended staff and other stakeholders, whose collective commitment he said continues to advance the university's vision of academic excellence and societal impact.

He also used the occasion to commend the University's host communities for their peaceful disposition to the progress and development of the institution.

A major feature of the convocation ceremony would be the delivering of the convocation lecture to be delivered by Dr. Alban Igwe, Director-General of the Dangerous Goods Academy, Lagos, Nigeria.



PRESS BRIEFING:

L-R: The Bursar, Wellspring University Mr. Paradise Iwoh, the Registrar, Dr. Helen Uzezi Wara, Vice Chancellor, Professor Isaac Rotimi Ajayi FNIP, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Patrick Ohikhena, Ag. Librarian, Dr. Adedoyin Esan, during the Vice Chancellor's pre-convocation press briefing on Monday in Benin City.

Magodo residents urge Sanwo-Olu to stop wetland encroachment

LAGOS

The Magodo Phase II Residents Association has called on Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to halt what it described as an unauthorised attempt by developers to construct link roads through the estate to access a protected wetland.

The association said a number of articulated trucks and heavy-duty equipment had been stationed outside the Shangisha Gate, raising concerns about a possible forceful entry into the estate.

In a press statement issued on Monday and signed by its chairman, Niyi Odusi, the association urged the governor to order the removal of the vehi-

cles and secure the boundaries of Magodo Phase II.

"The estate is currently under threat. A large number of articulated trucks and heavy-duty equipment are currently stationed outside the Shangisha Gate, ready to make a forceful entry," the statement read.

"This standard tactic by land grabbers poses a direct threat to the security of our residents and risks a total breakdown of peace. We call upon Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to order the immediate evacuation of these vehicles and protect the boundaries of Magodo Phase II."

The association said the alleged development could compromise the Magodo wetland and lead to flooding in surrounding communities, urging

the state government to intervene before construction begins.

It also called on the administration to honour assurances it said were given to the association on November 26, 2023, by the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Oluyinka Olumide.

"At that time, the Commissioner for Physical Planning and Urban Development, Mr. Oluyinka Olumide, assured the MRA that the state would not facilitate access routes through the estate into the virgin land, respecting the structural integrity of our community," the statement said.

The residents argued that allowing the proposed development to proceed would conflict with the state's environmental policies on wetland protection.

Lawyer seeks transfer of Wike's son's \$2.1m suit over bias concerns

ABUJA

Counsel to Safwan Garba GY and GY Global Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited, Ibrahim Waru, has asked the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf, to transfer an alleged \$2.1m land deal suit involving Jordan Wike, son of the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, over concerns about the trial judge's alleged family and community ties with the defendant.

Waru, in a letter dated October 7, sought the transfer of the suit, marked CV/008/2026, from Court 2 of the FCT High Court, presided over by Justice Sylvanus Oriji, to another court, citing what he described as a reasonable apprehension of bias.

An acknowledged copy of the letter, received by the Chief Judge's chambers on October 8, was made available to journalists on Monday in Abuja.

Titled "Request for Transfer of Suit CV/008/26 between Safwan Garba GY & Another Vs Jordan Hussein Baba-Yusuf, to transfer an alleged \$2.1m land deal suit involving Jordan Wike, son of the FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike, over concerns about the trial judge's alleged family and community ties with the defendant.

Waru wrote, "We respectfully write on behalf of our clients, the claimants, to request the transfer of the above-mentioned suit from Court 2 to another court within the FCT High Court."

Explaining the basis for the

request, he said the claimants' concerns arose from social media publications which, in their view, suggested a close geographical, community and family affinity between the judge and Jordan.

"In particular, the Honourable Judge presiding over the matter is from the same area/community as the defendant, and there exists a close geographical/community and family affinity between His Lordship and the defendant," the lawyer stated.

Waru, however, stressed that the request was not intended to impugn the judge's integrity, impartiality or professional competence.

"Our clients do not equally allege actual bias against His Lordship, the presiding Judge.



WELLSPRING UNIVERSITY

Irhiri/Ogbaneki Layout, Off Airport Road, GRA, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.
www.wellspringuniversity.edu.ng

On behalf of the Chancellor, the Board of Trustees,
the Governing Council, the Senate, and the Management of the University

The Vice-Chancellor
Professor Isaac Rotimi Ajayi, FNIP, FCP
invites the general public

14th



CONVOCATION OF
WELLSPRING UNIVERSITY

for the

AWARD OF FIRST AND HIGHER DEGREES,
AND PRESENTATION OF PRIZES

CONVOCATION LECTURE:

‘THE UNIVERSITY AND THE FUTURE:
EDUCATED MINDS IN AN ERA OF DISRUPTION AND
OPPORTUNITY.’

To be delivered by
DR. ALBAN IGWE B.Tech., Msc., Ph.D., LL.M, FCILT
Director General, Dangerous Goods Academy, Lagos, Nigeria.

DATE: Friday 23rd October, 2026

VENUE: University Auditorium

TIME: 9:00 AM

Professor Patrick Ohikhena, MCIPM
Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Chairman,
Ceremonials Committee
08033079065

NEWS

Ebonyi govt tasked on quiz competition revival as students dazzle at Dr. Oforbuike Foundation schools challenge

Maxwell Okechukwu

ABAKALIKI

Over one hundred and seventy six secondary schools students participated in this year's annual school quiz competition, 2026 organized by Oforbuike Foundation across the 13 local government Council Areas of Ebonyi State.

Held at Government Technical

college in Abakaliki the state Capital, the competition had twenty seven secondary schools across the 13 Local government Council Areas of the state, including Government Technical College, Abakaliki, St. Theresa Secondary School Abakaliki, Girls Secondary School, Agba ini Ishielu Local government Council, Ebonyi State, among others.

Founder of Oforbuike Foundation, Dr. Oforbuike Foundation, based in United Kingdom, said the annual quiz competition was part of his contribution to the educational advancement of students and community.

He explained that investment in the knowledge capital of students, remained the best gift anyone or institution could give to any scholar.

He said that participation in the quiz competition was made easy for the students by removing every financial obstacle that could impede participation and making, beginning from registration to even writing materials.

He urged the participating schools and students to take their studies seriously by imbibing valuable attitudes including reading

culture and abstinence from social vices.

Speaking on the reward for winners at the exercise, Dr Oforbuike said a cash of N500,000 would be given to the overall winner, while the first runner up would receive the sum of N300,000, just as the second runner up will get N200,000.

"I believing that the benefits would encourage every student to study harder in their academics while those who may not win today could gear up for the next opportunity"

He further, expressed his ap-

preciation to the state Governor, Rt. Hon. Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru for maintaining the existing free Education policy in the public schools across the State, in addition to the peaceful and conducive learning environments in the State.

He advised the government to revive the general school quiz competition as was the case in the early 80's which significantly encouraged schools, students and teachers to work and study harder, thus promoting healthy academic rivalry amongst schools and students to leading to measurable outcomes in terms of academic performance.



Winners at the Dr. Oforbuike Nwanku Foundation quiz competition in Ebonyi display their respective dummy cheques at the end of the exercise.

2027: Mobilise for Tinubu, APC candidates, Owan East chairman urges party leaders

By Lamai Cassius

AUCHI

The Executive Chairman of Owan East Local Government Area, Hon. Ernest Oyaole Aitalegbé, has urged leaders, stakeholders, youths and party faithful of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the local government to throw their weight behind the administration of Governor Senator Monday Okpebholo and ensure total victory for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and all APC candidates in the 2027 general elections.

The Chairman made the call during Governor Ok-

pebholo's thank-you visit to Afuze and Otuo in Owan East Local Government Area, as part of his tour across the 18 local government areas of the state.

Hon. Aitalegbé described Governor Okpebholo as a pragmatic and visionary leader whose developmental strides have cut across all 18 local government areas of Edo State within a short period in office.

According to him, the SHINE Agenda of the Okpebholo administration has opened the eyes of Edo people to the true dividends of democracy, noting that Owan East has benefitted massively in the areas of road

infrastructure, healthcare delivery, education and human capital development.

"The governor has shown capacity, compassion and commitment. For the first time in a long while, our people are feeling the direct impact of government. From Afuze to Otuo and all our communities, there is renewed hope," he said.

He assured the governor that Owan East remains a stronghold of the APC and pledged that the party will deliver all 11 wards in the local government for President Tinubu and other APC candidates in 2027.

Aitalegbé also called on party leaders to close ranks,

mobilise at the grassroots and sustain the tempo of sensitisation ahead of the elections, stressing that unity remains the party's greatest strength.

He commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for his bold reforms under the Renewed Hope Agenda, noting that despite initial challenges, the policies are laying a solid foundation for national recovery and growth.

The visit attracted APC leaders, ward chairmen, women leaders, youth groups and traditional rulers who trooped out in large numbers to welcome the governor and reaffirm their support for the party.

Why FG diverted N100bn CNG bus fund to vehicle conversions, tricycles - Official

AWKA

The Federal Government has changed its original plan to spend the N100bn allocation announced by President Bola Tinubu on 3,000 compressed natural gas buses, redirecting the intervention towards vehicle conversions, tricycles and higher-capacity buses, an official has said.

The Chief Operating Officer of the Presidential Compressed Natural Gas and Electric Vehi-

cles Initiative, Tosin Coker, disclosed this during an interview with ARISE NEWS on Sunday.

Coker said the government reviewed the initial plan after the presidential initiative was established in October 2023, concluding that buying 3,000 buses alone would not reach enough Nigerians.

He said the revised programme was designed to expand access to alternative-fuel transportation through vehicle conversions and different categories of buses.

"Yes, July was when that was announced, but that amount, that 100 billion, was used more, put to better use in what I've just said, in the conversion kits, as well as buses, bigger capacity buses, not 20-seater. We've done 50-seater buses in some cases and some smaller buses too. So yes, that's what that has gone into," he said.

Tinubu announced the N100bn allocation in July 2023 as part of efforts to ease the impact of the removal of the petrol subsidy.

Coker said the original plan had been reviewed following

the establishment of the presidential initiative.

"That announcement of 100bn being set aside was made in July 2023. And the plan was to have gone ahead with 3,000 buses. I understand, I believe that when that was looked into, it was realised that a better strategy was needed. And that was probably what, I think that's what led to the formation or the setting up of the presidential CNG initiative in October," he said.

He argued that the initial plan would not have been sufficient to meet the country's public transportation needs.

Kaduna APC urges North to back Tinubu over past support

KADUNA

The Kaduna State chapter of the All Progressives Congress has urged northerners to vote for President Bola Tinubu in the 2027 general election, saying the President deserves their support for backing northern politicians who aspired to lead the country.

The party also declared that Kaduna was ready to host the flag-off of Tinubu's 2027 presidential campaign on October 24, expressing confidence that the state would deliver two million votes for the President.

The APC State Publicity Secretary, Mohammed Haruna, said this at a press conference in Kaduna on Monday, citing Tinubu's political alliances with former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, ex-President Muhammadu Buhari, the late General Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, and former presidential candidate Nuhu Ribadu.

Haruna said Tinubu had demonstrated a longstanding commitment to northern political aspirations and deserved reciprocal support from the region ahead of the 2027 presidential election.

"It is on record that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu is one of the few Nigerians in living memory who has shown and declared support, both in action and in spirit, for northern Nigeria's aspiration to lead Nigeria," he said.

The APC spokesman recalled that Tinubu supported Yar'Adua's political movement in the early 1990s and backed his presidential ambition during the Social Democratic Party primaries in 1992.

He also cited Tinubu's political support for Atiku in 2007 and Ribadu in 2011, adding that the coalition that produced the APC helped Buhari secure victory in the 2015 presidential election after three unsuccessful attempts.

Haruna said, "This is the only individual in the history of

Nigeria that has supported the aspiration of northerners at different times to be the president of Nigeria."

He urged northerners to reciprocate the gesture by supporting Tinubu's second-term ambition.

"Going by the antecedents of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, I am bold to say that it is we, the northerners, that owe President Bola Ahmed Tinubu our support," he added.

Haruna further argued that Tinubu's relationship with Buhari during the latter's eight-year administration demonstrated his respect for northern leadership.

"A lot of northerners during those eight years of President Muhammadu Buhari had cause to say negative things about the president then, but Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu has never for once castigated or condemned the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari," he said.

Explaining the choice of Kaduna as the venue for the campaign flag-off, Haruna described the state as the "heart-beat of northern Nigeria", citing its historical significance as the former capital of the Northern Region and its ethnic and religious diversity.

"There is no better solidarity or show of love for northern Nigeria than the choice of Kaduna as the city to host the flag-off of the presidential campaign," he said.

He added, "Anybody who chooses Kaduna for whatever action he wants to execute is not showing solidarity or love to the city of Kaduna alone; rather, he is showing that love to the whole of northern Nigeria."

The APC spokesman expressed confidence that Governor Uba Sani's administration would mobilise massive support for Tinubu and other party candidates in the 2027 elections.

"The show that our able governor has promised Mr President that Kaduna State is going to produce two million votes for the President is not just a mere saying; it is a fact," Haruna said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

BENIN CITY, EDO STATE OF NIGERIA

PROBATE REGISTRY

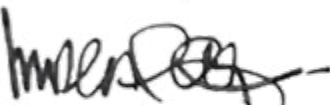
WHEREAS the persons whose names are set out in the first column hereunder died intestate on the date and at the place stated in the column;
AND WHEREAS the persons whose names, addresses and claimed relationship to the deceased are set in the second column hereunder have applied to the Probate Registrar,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

1. MR. USMAN BAWA, late of Ijaha Ebele, Apa L.G.A., Benue State, who died on the 27th day of May, 2023 in Benin City.	PED/620/2026 Mr. Alexander Ochoche Adikwu and Madam. Igbe Gabriel of No 18, 2nd Unity Street, Ogida Barrack, Benin City, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
2. BARR. EUGENE OSHIOBUGHE INAEDE, late of Fugar, Etsako Central L.G.A., who died on the 27th day of June, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/622/2026 Josephine Eromesele and Olere Vanessa Inaede of Obagie Community, Off Sapele Road, Benin City, widow and daughter respectively of the deceased.
3. MR. JIMOH OGBOGHODO, late of Ibiwe, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 17th day of May, 2019 in Beni n City.	PED/609/2025 Mrs. Osariemen Esther Peter and Mr. Osasenaga Maxwell Ogboghodo of No 2, Ehigiator Street, Off agho Road, Off Ekehuan Road, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
4. MR. CLEMENT ENERABHAGBE EIYA, late of Udoneria, Igueben L.G.A., who died on the 14th day May, 2026 in Enugu.	PED/587/2026 Mr. John Ambassador Idahosa and Mr. Isaac Eiya of Udoneria Village, Igueben, Edo State, brothers of the deceased.
5. MR. ADENIYAN POJO, late of Ilara Mokin, Ifedore L.G.A., Ondo State, who died on the 24th day of November, 2024 in Ondo.	PED/170/2026 Miss. Opeyemi Gloria Adeniyana and Mrs. Amina Hassan Adeniyana of Akpene Omuizua Street, Off Egbaen Road, Isihor, Benin City, daughter and widow respectively of the deceased.
6. CHIEF. MARTINS MADUKA OSUNKWO, late of Igbo-Ukwu, Aguata L.G.A., Anambra State, who died on the 15th day of March, 2005 in Benin City.	PED/675/2024 Mr. Nnaemeka Martins Osunkwor and Mr. Davidson Gbenga John of No 71, Benin Agbor Road, Benin City, son and family friend respectively of the deceased.
7. MR. ESE MONDAY EKHATOR, late of Ebueneki, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 16th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/595/2026 Miss. Osamagbe Precious Ekhator and Mrs. mercy Iyobosa Ekhator of No 16, Akin Oladiyun Street, Off Ughor Village Road, Benin City, daughter and widow respectively of the deceased.
8. MISS. PEJERO BASSEY ETIM, late of Ikotnakanda, Akpabuyo L.G.A., Cross River State, who died on the 23rd day of July, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/640/2026 Miss. Iquo Bassey Etim and Miss. Peace Imiamieye Omorodion of Road 4, Westend Estate, Lagos State, sister and family friend respectively of the deceased.
9. MR. CHARLES TAYLOR OKORODUDU, late of Ugbuwangue, Warri South L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 27th day of April, 2023 in Benin City.	PED/614/2026 Mrs. Osarumwense Ruth Okorodudu and Mr. Jolomi Divine Okorodudu of NIPOST Staff Quarters, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
10. MR. EHIMHEN STEPHEN UNUODIONSE, late of Uroh-Uzea, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 29th day of December, 2019 in Benin City.	PED/612/2026 Mr. Joshua Osemhanre Ehimhen and Mr. Astropexjude Ehimhen of No 4, Ogbeide Street, Off Onaiwu Road, Igukpe Community, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
11. MISS. RACHEL NDUDI ONAHU, late of Owaleri, Ika South L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 5th day of September, 2021 in Benin City.	PED/827/2022 Godfrey Uwaifo Onahu and Glory Onahu of No 11, Evans Street, Off Ekenwan Road, Benin City, widower and daughter respectively of the deceased.
12. MR. FRANCIS EDOKITA ODION, late of Ugun, Igueben L.G.A., who died on the 29th day of March, 2024 in Igueben.	PED/234/2025 Mr. Christopher Osalumense Odion and Mr. Edmund Osayande Odion of No 1, Akugbe Street Central Eguare, Ugun, Igueben, Edo State, sons of the deceased.
13. MR. SYLVESTER ENOYOZE IGBINEWEKA, late of Utekon, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 15th day of September, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/145/2026 Daniel Omozuhimwen Igbineweka and Treasure Nosayaba Igbineweka of No 6, Joshua Obakpe Street, Opp Evidence, Isihor, Benin
14. MR. JOHN OSAMWONYI UWUODIA, late of Eguaholor-Isi, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 22nd day of January, 2020 in Eguaholor-Isi.	PED/598/2026 Mr. Friday Uwadia and Mrs. Roseline Uwudia No 6, Ohuoba Street, Off Ogbelaka Street, Benin City, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
15. MR. IME AKPAN EMEKONG, late of Okon, Eket L.G.A., Akwa-Ibom State, who died on the 2nd day of April, 2026 in Eket.	PED/671/2026 Miss. Eno Ime and Mrs. Beauty Ime of No 5, Uwa Street, Off Sapele Road, Benin City, daughter and widow respectively of the deceased.
16. MADAM. SUBE GIFT TOKURAH, late of Auchl, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 23rd day of January, 2024 in Benin City.	PED/600/2026 Mr. Augustine Eromosele Ufuah and Mr. Akugbe Benjamin Ikponmwosa of No 2, Hon Justice Oyomire Way, Ebo, Benin City, widower and family friend respectively of the deceased
17. MR. PRECIOUS EBOIGBE OSULA, late of Igbanke, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 8th day of July, 2026 in Lagos.	PED/594/2026 Mrs. Glory Osula and Isaac Isioma Osula of Ikenna Street, Off Ikpira, Benin Agbor Road, Iguomon Quarters, Benin City, widow and son respectively of the deceased.
18. MRS. HELEN OMOSIVE UGIAGBE, late of Oye, Ovia South West L.G.A., who died on the 27th day of June, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/684/2026 Miss. Evelyn Ugiagbe and Mr. Victor Osagiemwangbon Igbinedion of No 15, Osarumwense Street, Off Upper Mission Extension, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
19. MR. KINGSLEY OGBEIDE, late of Iguelaba, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of March, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/675/2026 Mr. Jude Osazemwinde Ogbeide and Miss. Glory Ogbeide of OZ Avenue, Okunwague Street, Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.

20. MR. IYOBHEBHE PAUL AKHIMIEN, late of Egeble, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of June, 2020 in Irrua.	PED/374/2026 Mr. Christopher Akhimien and Mr. Israel Osas Akhimien of No 35, Uye-Oro Street, Uromi, Edo State, sons of the deceased.
21. MR. OSAZE DONALD OHOMINA, late of Isi, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 10th day of December, 2023 in Benin City.	PED/632/2026 Mrs. Margaret Osas Ohomina and Miss. Osariemen Theresa Ohomina of Happy Street, Off Peanut Junction, Off Sapele Road, Benin City, widow and daughter respectively of the deceased.
22. MR. ASIRIUWA NEKPEN AIGBEKAEN late of Obadan, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 29th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/672/2026 Aghahowa Aigbekaen and Miss. Omoroghomwan Francess Aigbekaen of No 3, TTH Osemwende Lane, Off M.M Way, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
23. MR. JOHN IDEMUDIA EGBON, late of Igushodi, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 31st day of August, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/672/2026 Mr. Eghosa Emmanuel Egbon and Mrs. Mary Edogiawerie of No 10, Osamwonyi Street, Off Ekehuan Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
24. MR. JUDE ABUJAI, late of Ubulu-Okiti, Aniocha South L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 28th day of April, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/573/2026 Emmanuel Abujai and Miss. Isioma Abujai of No 7, Forestry Lane, Off Akpakpava Road, Benin City son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
25. MR. OSAYI OSAGIEDE, late of Igueze Ovia South West L.G.A., who died on the 22nd day of August, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/668/2026 Mr. Edomwonyi Asemota Osagiede and Mr. Efe Osagiede No 7, Ebo Street, Egor Quarters, Benin City, father and brother respectively of the deceased.
26. MR. DAVID AZUGO OBIUWEVBI, late of Oghara Agbarha-Otor, Ughelli North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 1st day of May, 2026 in Irrua.	PED/631/2026 Miss. Eguono Obiuwevbi and Mr. Friday Ogaga Azugo of No 2, Efe sidon Close, Off Evbukhu, Off Sapele Road, Benin City, daughter and brother respectively of the deceased.
27. MRS. ANTHONIA IMUETIYAN ORIMOLADE, late of Ugoneki, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 21st day of December, 2023 in Benin City.	PED/685/2026 Kate Eboigbe and Mrs. Aina Patsy Usiomifo of No 13, Omosoma Street, Off Aruogba Quarters,
28. MR. YOUNG IGHODARO INNEH, late of Idogbo, Ikpoba Okha L.G.A., who died on the 5th day of August, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/680/2026 Miss. Favour Osamaghioghomwenwi Inneh and Mr. Agbonifo Emmanuel Inneh of No 165, okunwague Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
29. MR. SAMUEL EHIGIE, late of Aghor, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of February, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/689/2026 Michael Ogundele and Charles Edosa Ehigie of No 42, Temboga Road, Off Upper Mission Extension Road, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
30. MR. GODDAY ATIVIE, late of Unogbo, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 3rd day of January, 2022 in Ekpoma.	PED/18/2023 Miss. Akhere Ativie and Festus Ativie of No 10, Philip Obakhien Street, Emaudo, Ekpoma, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
31. MRS. CAROLINE OKAFOR, late of Umana, Ezeagu L.G.A., Enugu State, who died on the 11th day of December, 2025 in Enugu.	PED/692/2026 Mrs. Augusta Ifesinachi Egbala and Miss. Joy Chigemezu Ogbodo of No 26, Osunde Street, Off Eweka Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, daughter and niece respectively of the deceased.
32. MRS. WIN FAITH AGHAHOWA, late of Ogbese, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 20th day of February, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/677/2026 Princewill Osas Aghahowa and Osas Godsgift Aghahowa of No 1, Aghahowa Lane, Evbuotubu Quarters, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
33. BARR. PHILIP OWEDE OTOBOH, late of Ewohimi, Esan South East L.G.A., who died on the 23rd day of December, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/678/2026 Philomena Obehi Otoboh and Sunday Ebohohn Otoboh of No 5, Namuna Street, Off Limit Road, Sapele Road, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
34. MR. JULIUS ATAIRU AKHARUME, late of Ihievbe, Owan East L.G.A., who died on the 1st day of June, 2024 in Benin City.	PED/456/2026 Emmanuel Ehimai Akharume and Eng. Linus Inokhoefe Oseghale of No 10. Edobor Street, Ogbor, Ekae, Benin City, son and family friend respectively of the deceased.
35. MR. IDRIS AUDI, late of Gantom, Ganye L.G.A., Adamawa State, who died on the 4th day of February, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/655/2026 Ibraheem Idris and Madam. Sa,adatu Mahmudu of No 18, Agbolahor Street, Off Ekenwan Road, Benin City, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
36. MADAM. KELIMATU ADAMU, late of Auchl, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 13th day of September, 2024 in Jattu-Uzairue.	PED/707/2026 Mr. Mafaz Jimoh and Miss. Khadijat Jimoh Saba of No 4, Catholic Church Road, Water Board, Auchl, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.

37. MR. INNOCENT AMUDA, late of Elele, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 29th day of July, 2023 in Elele.	PED/134/2025 Mr. Christian Amuda and Mr. Joel Okhidenia of No 5, Elele Ayua Road, Elele, Uzairue, sons of the deceased.
38. MRS. NGOZI ROSELINE EVBUOMWAN, late of Olona, Onicha North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 2nd day of May, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/714/2026 Miss. Omoroviye Divine Evbuomwan and Miss. Ehiwenma Iyekekpolor of No 10, Idehen Street, Off Gapiona Road, Oko Central Road, Benin City, daughter and foster daughter respectively of the deceased.
39. MR. JOHN GBESIMI MATE, late of Ureju, Warri North L.G.A., Delta State, who died on the 8th day of August, 2026 in Benin City.	PED/713/2026 Mr. Gbubemi Precious Mate and Miss. Roli Favour Mate of No 44, John Ogbeide Street, Evbuotubu, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
40. MR. DENNIS ETAMHESOR, late of Fugar, Etsako Central L.G.A., who died on the 27th day of April, 2026 in Fugar.	PED/453/2026 Mr. Godfrey Etamhesor and Mr Richard Omosimhoya Etamhesor of No 13, Ogieriakhi Street, Eyeana, Benin City, sons of the deceased.
41. MR. DANIEL OSAREMWINDA, late of Isi, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of February, 2025 in Benin City.	PED/597/2026 Mr. Godfrey Osaremwinda and Mr. Thompson Osaremwinda of No 38, Holy Cross Road, New Benin, Benin City, Auchl, sons of the deceased.
42. MR. EVANSIMASEKHOMWAN, late of Udo, Ovia South West L.G.A., who died on the 25th day of November, 2025, in Benin City.	PED/553/2026 Miss. Grace Onotobo Idimoku and Mr. Osarodion Imasekhomwan of No 19, College Road, Udo Town, Edo State, widow and brother respectively of the deceased.
43. MR. MICHAEL AIMIESOMON ERHAYIMWEN, late of Evbuokabua, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 4th day of March, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/407/2026 Mrs. Roseline Emuobosa Erhayimwen and Miss. Blessing Efemena Erhayimen of No 6, Obey-God Street, Off Osasogie Street, Ugbowo, Benin City, widow and daughter respectively of the deceased.
44. MR. JUDE OROGUNCHA, late of Ovade, Ethiopie West L.G.A.,Delta State, who died on the 8th day of February, 2024, in Jesse.	PED/531/2024 Faith Orogun and Godstime Monday of No 2, Goody Goody Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
45. MR. JOSEPH OSAMUDIAMEN UWUIGBE, late of Ugbokhirima, Orhionmwon L.G.A., who died on the 22nd day of May, 2025, in Benin City.	PED/730/2026 Mrs. Violet Eronmwon Stanley and Mr. Agbonmwanne Uwuigbe of No 1, Uwuigbe Street, Off Ewoleken Road, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.
46. MISS. JUSTINA ASAKIODUWA EZEMWENGHIAN, late of Ugbekun, Ikpoba Okah L.G.A., who died on the 7th day of May, 2026, in Abakaliki.	PED/716/2026 Mr. Kelvin Emmanuel Ezemwenghian and Miss. Elizabeth Ezemwenghian of No 27, Ogbeide Street, Off Upper Sakponba Road, Benin City, brother and sister respectively of the deceased.
47. MRS. EGBE IKUOYEMWEN, late of Utekon, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of July, 2022, in Benin City.	PED/762/2026 Mr. Ogiesoba Anthony Giegbefumwen and Mr. Adesewa Henry Giegbefumwen of No 3, Osagiede Street, Off Igiehon Street, Okpaga Ewuare, benin City, brothers of the deceased.
48. BARR (MRS). ALICE AIFEKELU AIREFFETALOR, late of Illeh, Esan West L.G.A., who died on the 27th day of September, 2021, in Irrua.	PED/709/2026 Miss. Omoivie Ilokugbe Amanda Airefetalor and Miss. Jennifer Osebahiemien Elimihiele of No 1, Airefetalor Street, Eguare, Ekpoma, daughter and sister respectively of the deceased.
49. MRS. DORCAS OMOHE AGBONLAHOR, late of Uselu-Nahor, Uhumwonde L.G.A., who died on the 24th day of July, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/589/2026 Mr. Courage Oghogho Agbonlahor and Miss. Imuantiyan Joan Agbonlahor of No 8, Omede Street, Off Uselu Lagos Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
50. MR. LAWRENCE OSAS OSADIAYE (A.K.A) OSAS OSADIAYE late of Uzebu, Oredo L.G.A., who died on the 2nd day of June, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/523/2026 Mr. Larry Aiye Osadiaye and Mrs. Bose Osadiaye of No 13, 2nd Imasabemwen Lane, Off Siluko/Ekehuan Road, Benin City, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
51. MR. VICTOR IRIA AIGBOGUN, late of Igueben, Igueben L.G.A., who died on the 10th day of February, 2024, in Benin City.	PED/243/2024 Mr. Dominion Osayomire Iria and Miss. Precious Omoye Iria of No 9, Momodu Crescent, Off Benin Auchl Road, Benin City, son and daughter respectively of the deceased.
52. MR. GABRIEL EROMETSE ITAKPE, late of Afowa, Etsako West L.G.A., who died on the 8th day of June, 2026, in Benin City.	PED/634/2026 David Obosiyo Gabriels and Mrs. Christiana Aneghaade Itakpe of No 80, Oba Eweka Street, Off Benin Auchl Road, Benin City, son and widow respectively of the deceased.
53. MR. FRIDAY IBHABILU OKHAE, late of Uzoghoh Ewu, Esan Central L.G.A., who died on the 19th day of October, 2022, in Uzoghoh Ewu.	PED/271/2026 Mr. Sylvester Oamen Okhae and Mr. Godstime Okhae of No 3, Old Uromi Road, Uzoghoh Ewu, Edo State, sons of the deceased
54. MISS. BENEDICTA UBUANE, late of Ebhoiyi, Esan North East L.G.A., who died on the 22nd day of June, 2026, in Irrua.	PED/656/2026 Mrs. Blessing Needam and Mrs. Clara Onokhua of No 30, Ujeiroro Street, Uromi, Edo State, sisters of the deceased.
55. MADAM. VICTORIA ASEMOTA, late of Isiohor, Ovia North East L.G.A., who died on the 1st day of December, 2022, in Benin City.	PED/697/2026 Mrs. Eureka Omede and Mr. Evans Ovbokhan Osawe of No 15, Igudala Street, Off Eweka Road, Egor, Benin City, daughter and son respectively of the deceased.

DATED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

CJN swears in 68 new SANs

ABUJA

Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, has sworn in 68 legal practitioners as Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the 2026/2027 Legal Year ceremony.

The swearing-in on Monday follows the approval of the 68 nominees by the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee about three months ago.

The committee approved their elevation during its 174th plenary session, chaired by Kekere-Ekun.

According to a statement issued by the Chief Registrar of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and Secretary of the LPPC, Kabir Eniola, the new SANs comprise 67 advocates and one academic, Professor Nnamdi Onyeka Obiaraeri, Tribune also reports

Obiaraeri was recognised for his "contributions to legal scholarship, making him the only academic among the 68

recipients."

The rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria is one of the highest professional distinctions in the country's legal sector.

It is conferred on legal practitioners who meet the required standards of professional achievement in advocacy or legal scholarship.

Before the conferment, the LPPC "stipulated that successful applicants must participate in and complete a mandatory induction programme, with the date to be announced later."

The committee also reminded the newly elevated SANs to comply with paragraph 25(1) of the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Guidelines and Rule 39(3) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, 2023.

It warned against "publishing or encouraging advertisements, congratulatory messages or goodwill notices concerning their nomination or conferment, adding that violations could attract sanctions."

Ebonyi unveils free medical screening, surgery for prostate conditions

ABAKALIKI

Ebonyi State Governor, Francis Nwifuru, has launched a free medical screening and surgical intervention programme in the state targeting men, particularly those with prostate-related conditions.

Flagging off the exercise on Sunday at Izhamgbo General Hospital in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of the state, Nwifuru said the programme was aimed at tackling prostate conditions in men aged 40 and above.

Represented by his Chief of Staff, Prof. Emmanuel Echigwu, the governor said the initiative was the first state health programme specifically focused on men and charged them to embrace the initiative for better health.

Speaking at the unveiling, the Commissioner for Health, Dr Moses Ekuma, said, "The administration has also expanded health insurance coverage to vulnerable groups. I applaud the governor's policy on health development across the state."

The Medical Officer of

the hospital and initiator of the programme, Dr Ifeanyi Edeaja, said the facility had successfully performed eight telescopic prostate surgeries without casualties, mortality or morbidity.

He stated, "The screening and surgery, which can cost over N2 million, will be provided free to eligible beneficiaries, alongside medical tests."

The Special Adviser on Primary Health Care, Dr Sabinus Nwibo, and the Vice-Chancellor of David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, Uburu, Prof. Jesse Uneke, urged men to embrace regular medical check-ups, stressing that early detection could prevent complications and even deaths.

One of the beneficiaries, John Ogbonna, who said he had battled a prostate condition since 2013, expressed gratitude to the governor for the free intervention, saying the intervention had given him an opportunity to overcome a condition that had severely affected his ability to urinate.



TRAINING:

Participant at the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB), training of skills for 60 Nigerians on oil and gas and machine tools, Osogbo in Osun State yesterday.

Afenifere faction demands N400 petrol price, minimum wage hike

LAGOS

A faction of the pan-Yoruba socio-political organisation, Afenifere, led by Oba Oladipo Olaitan, has called for an immediate reduction in the price of petrol to between N350 and N400 per litre to ease the economic hardship facing Nigerians.

The group described the government's proposed petrol price stabilisation mechanism, which would keep the price at not more than N1,350 per litre, as falling far short of public expectations.

The demand comes days after the Federal Government announced plans to negotiate a N1,350-per-litre ceiling on the ex-gantry or landing cost of petrol under a proposed price modulation mechanism

aimed at stabilising prices.

The Minister of Finance, Taiwo Oyedele, had said the arrangement would help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs.

Afenifere made the demand in a communiqué issued after its monthly National Executive Committee meeting held in Lagos at the weekend.

The communiqué was signed by Afenifere's National Leader, Olaitan, and its newly appointed substantive Secretary-General, Alade Rotimi-John.

The communiqué partly read, "The meeting observed the announcement by government through its Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy respecting a putative price modulation mechanism for ensuring petrol price stabilisation at not more than N1,350 as a far cry from the expectation of the people.

"The meeting proposed an immediate review of the fuel price to between N350 – N400 per litre so as to ease the general situation regarding the unaffordability of the product."

The group also lamented the prevailing economic hardship, hunger and high inflation, which it described as defining features of the President Bola Tinubu administration.

It decried what it called the government's casual approach to its responsibilities, saying it had failed to adequately address issues relating to safety, security, the economy and the general well-being of Nigerians.

"The meeting reviewed the general socio-political and economic situation of the country and observed that a pervasive climate of hardship, hunger and hyperinflation is yet the defining characteristic

of the Tinubu presidency.

"The meeting decried the casual or footloose carriage of the government respecting its covenant responsibilities on safety, security, the economy, and general well-being," the communiqué added.

Afenifere also expressed concern over rising political intolerance and inflammatory statements by some members of the political class ahead of the 2027 general elections.

"Meeting denounced the rising wave of intolerance among a cross-section of the political class who make reckless, inflammatory and inciting statements thereby heating up the polity and constricting the democratic space," it added.

The organisation called for decorum among politicians, urging them to conduct their electioneering campaigns in a civilised manner.

JAMB warns candidates against accepting admissions outside CAPS

ABUJA

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board has warned candidates against accepting admission offers outside its Central Admissions Processing System, saying such offers may not be recognised as valid.

The board gave the warn-

ing in a post shared across its official social media platforms on Monday, urging prospective students to verify their admission status on CAPS before accepting an offer.

"An admission offered by an institution outside the approved JAMB admission process may not be recognised as valid.

"Accepting such an offer could put your academic

journey at risk and create complications with your admission records and related processes," the board said.

JAMB issued the warning while promoting an episode of its JAMB Explained series, which addresses what makes an admission illegal, the implications and how candidates can protect themselves.

The board urged candidates to verify their admission status through CAPS before proceeding with an offer.

"Your admission journey deserves the right foundation. Verify before you accept," it added.

According to information on JAMB's official website, CAPS was developed to automate the admission process into tertiary institutions.

The system allows candidates to check their ad-

mission status and confirm provisional offers, while enabling institutions to process admissions through the approved framework.

JAMB's 2026 admission guidelines state that admissions offered by institutions must come through the board and be printed on its e-Facility platform.

"Any offer of admission from any tertiary institution without JAMB Admission Letter is illegal and is not recognized by the Board," the guidelines state.

The guidelines further state that candidates who accept admission outside CAPS do so at their own risk, adding that the board would neither recognise such admissions nor condone them.

Candidates can check their admission status and access CAPS through JAMB's official website, jamb.gov.ng.

2027: PWD group pledges five million votes for Tinubu, Kano gov

KANO

The Society for People with Disability Forum in the North-West has pledged to mobilise five million votes for President Bola Tinubu and Kano State Governor Abba Yusuf in the 2027 general elections.

The forum announced its endorsement of the two leaders on Sunday during a sensi-

tisation programme in Kano aimed at encouraging persons with disabilities to participate in the elections.

The forum's National Chairman, Yarima Suleiman, said the endorsement was based on what the group described as the contributions of the All Progressives Congress-led governments to the welfare of persons with disa-

bilities.

"As a forum, we are committed to mobilising five million votes for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Governor Abba Kabir Yusuf in the 2027 general elections.

"Today, we call our people with disabilities from 19 states, including Abuja, to show our interest in voting for President Bola Tinubu for

a second term, for what the APC has done for us," Suleiman said.

He cited the establishment of the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the appointment of a Senior Special Assistant to the President on disability matters as some of the initiatives the group considered significant.

NEWS



HOUSE PLENARY SESSION:

Hon. Lecky Hussein Mustapha, the Chief Whip, Edo State House of Assembly (left) Hon. Kaycee Osamuyi during the 2nd reading and debate on a bill for a law to establish the Edo Emergency management Agency and to provide other purposes therewith at the house plenary session yesterday.

Photo: Godwin Iseguan.

Police arrest four over sexual offences in Bauchi

BAUCHI

The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested four male suspects over alleged defilement and sexual exploitation involving three minors and a 20-year-old woman with a mental health condition across the state.

The incidents occurred in Ningi, Katagum, Shira and Bauchi metropolis, according to a statement issued on Sunday by the command's Police Public Relations Officer, SP Nafiu Habib.

Habib said a resident of Gadar Maiwa Village in Ningi Local Government Area reported on October 9, 2026, that his 50-year-old neighbour, Musa Ibrahim, alias Musa Fawa, had allegedly lured his 10-year-old daughter into a guinea corn farm behind their houses and defiled her.

"The victim was evacuated to General Hospital, Ningi, for medical examination, which confirmed sexual assault. The suspect has been arrested and has confessed to the crime," the statement partly read.

The police spokesman disclosed that another case was reported on the same day by a father from Unguwar Makafi, Azare, who alleged that a 20-year-old man, Yakubu Musa, of Layin Da'u Mai Itace, Azare, had lured his 11-year-old daughter into an empty classroom at Bakoshi Primary School, Azare, on separate occasions in September and October 2026 and had unlawful sexual intercourse with her.

According to the statement, the victim was taken to Gener-

al Hospital, Azare, for medical examination, while the suspect was arrested.

"The suspect has been arrested and has confessed to the offence," Habib stated.

In another incident, the PPRO said a resident of Dago Village in Shira Local Government Area reported on October 8, 2026, that a 40-year-old man, Abdullahi Sule, had allegedly had sexual intercourse with his 12-year-old daughter.

"Investigation revealed that the suspect had lured the victim about four times with N500 each

time. The victim has been rescued and taken for medical care. The suspect has been arrested," the statement continued.

Habib further disclosed that a couple reported on October 10, 2026, that a 55-year-old man, John Madaki, had allegedly lured their 20-year-old daughter, who has a mental health condition, given her N1,000 and had sexual intercourse with her.

"The suspect was arrested while the victim was taken to Police Clinic, Bauchi, for medical examination," he said.

The Commissioner of Police,

Sani-Omolori Aliyu, condemned the alleged acts, describing them as abominable and inhuman.

Habib said the commissioner had directed the immediate transfer of all four cases to the State Criminal Investigation Department, Bauchi, for discreet investigation and diligent prosecution.

He added that the command maintained zero tolerance for sexual and gender-based violence, particularly offences involving minors and vulnerable persons.

"The command assures the public that justice will be served," the statement concluded.

2027: PDP gov candidate pledges to rebuild demolished markets in Enugu

MAXWELL OKECHUKWU

ENUGU

The governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in Enugu State, Uche Nnaji, has promised to rebuild demolished markets and provide free shops to affected traders if elected in the February 6, 2027 election.

Nnaji made the pledge on Sunday while receiving a coalition of interest groups at his campaign office in Enugu. He said his administration would review the circumstances surrounding the demolition of markets and work out arrangements to restore the livelihoods of displaced traders.

The delegation comprised leaders of the Arewa Northern Forum, traders and artisans displaced from Gariki Mar-

ket, members of the Inter-Faith Council and leaders of non-indigene communities resident in the state, among other stakeholders.

The groups, who expressed solidarity with the PDP candidate, lamented the hardship allegedly caused by market demolitions, multiple taxation and difficulties in securing trading spaces. They also expressed dissatisfaction with what they described as unfulfilled political promises by the present administration.

Responding, Nnaji said the loss of businesses and sources of livelihood had caused severe hardship for many families, insisting that the government should prioritise wealth creation and citizens' welfare rather than implement policies that leave people destitute.

"From the experience people have had and the trauma they

have gone through, I know for a fact that many people have died. Many people have died because of the trauma they have experienced.

"It is not easy for a family man to lose his means of livelihood. The essence of government is to create wealth, not to destroy people's livelihoods or cause their deaths. If you take away a man's or woman's means of livelihood, you are virtually sentencing that person to death.

"The government should not target our people. In fact, no government should target anybody, whether the person is an indigene of the state or not," he said.

The PDP candidate said his administration would undertake a comprehensive review of the situation confronting traders whose shops had been demolished and consider building replacement markets to accommodate them.

Alaafin pledges support for schools, infrastructure growth in Oyo

IBADAN

The Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Akeem Owoade, has pledged to support infrastructure development and other educational programmes in schools across Oyo town, particularly Oliveth Baptist High School.

The monarch made the pledge on Sunday during a fundraising ceremony and thanksgiving service marking the 50th anniversary of the 1972-1976 set of the school's old students' association. The event was held in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital.

He commended the old students for giving back to their alma mater, saying responsibility for running schools should not rest solely on the government.

The Alaafin said, "I want to appreciate you for the good works that you are doing by giving back to the school that made you who you are today. You are building on the good legacies of the founding fathers and the various principals who had presided over the affairs of the school in the past.

"I am assuring you of my support for every one of your programmes that are aimed at raising the standard of education in the school. Let me also pledge my support to the various programmes of schools across Oyo town."

Also speaking, Chief Wale Babalakin stressed the need for different sets of old students to work together to achieve the school's development goals.

Commenting on the 1972-1976 set's plan to take over the management of the school, Babalakin said its administration should not be left solely to the government or the mission.

He said, "The Mission will be doing commerce with the running of the school. This will not augur well for its all-round development."

Earlier, the president of the 1972-1976 set, Adeoye Mapederun, said the association would complement the government's efforts to restore the school to its former glory.

He spoke at the unveiling of renovated classrooms at the school in Oyo, disclosing that nearly N10m was spent on ren-

ovating a block of three classrooms.

Mapederun said the renovation was part of the association's efforts to improve the school's facilities and create a conducive learning environment for students.

"We found that this particular block was totally in disrepair. There was no roof, no windows, no blackboard, nothing. So, we decided to start with these three classrooms to ensure that we brought them up to standard," he said.

He added that the renovation included the installation of ceiling fans and the provision of other facilities to make the classrooms more comfortable.

Mapederun said the expenditure was slightly below N10m, describing the project as the beginning of the set's planned interventions at the school.

He disclosed that the old students intended to raise funds for further projects, noting that another classroom block on the premises was also in a deplorable condition.

The president said the project was being undertaken alongside interventions by the national body of the old students' association, adding that members of the set remained committed to the school's development.

Explaining the motivation behind the intervention, Mapederun said the old students wanted to give back in appreciation of the quality of education and facilities available during their time at the school.

"When we came to this school about 50 years ago, everything was working. We had the best of education and the best environment. Everything you could talk about was in place," he said.

He lamented the deterioration of the school's facilities since then, arguing that government intervention alone might not be enough to address its challenges.

Mapederun also disclosed that the national body of the Oliveth old students' association was considering taking over the school's administration, subject to its ability to raise sufficient funds to sustain the plan.

New zone 10 AIG pledges stronger security across Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara

SOKOTO

The newly appointed Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Zone 10 Headquarters, Sokoto, Ahmed Musa, has assumed duty with a pledge to strengthen security, improve public confidence and intensify the fight against violent crimes across Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara states.

Musa officially assumed office

on Monday, October 12, 2026, following the retirement of his predecessor, AIG Augustine Grimah.

In his maiden address to officers and men of the zone on Monday, the new AIG charged them to maintain discipline, professionalism and dedication to duty.

He also urged residents to support the police with credible and actionable information to prevent and detect crimes.

He reaffirmed his commitment

to intensifying efforts to combat violent crimes across the three states, stressing the importance of collaboration with the Armed Forces, other security agencies and relevant stakeholders to sustain peace and protect lives and property.

According to a statement issued on Monday by the Zonal Public Relations Officer, Zone 10 Headquarters, Sokoto, ASP Abdallah Ambursa, Musa also promised to maintain an open-door policy to

enable members of the public to engage the zonal headquarters on police-related matters.

The statement quoted the AIG as reaffirming his resolve to strengthen inter-agency collaboration towards ensuring "a safer and more secure environment throughout the Zone's areas of responsibility."

Musa, an indigene of Mubi North Local Government Area of Adamawa State, holds a

Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Maiduguri. He joined the Nigeria Police Force as a cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police under Course 18 on June 10, 1994.

With more than three decades of service, he has held several strategic positions, including Assistant Inspector-General of Police in charge of Community Policing at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, and Commissioner of Police in

Sokoto State. He also served as Commissioner of Police in charge of Community Safety and Crime Prevention at the Force Headquarters, among other positions.

The new zonal police chief has attended several professional and specialised courses within and outside Nigeria, including tactical leadership training at the Staff College, Jos; community policing and intelligence-led policing courses.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST OF DOCUMENT

The general public is here by notified that I, **MR FRED ESENE** is the rightful owner of a said property suited at NO 15, AIHIA STREET, OFF DAWSON ROAD, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, NIGERIA. That late **Madam AYODELE OGHOGHO ESENE** was my Mother, and I am the eldest son to her. That the late **Madam AYODELE OGHOGHO ESENE**, died on the 26th day of September, 2001, and was buried in October, 2001. That in her life time she owned the property which she inherited from her late father **Mr. THOMAS UKPEGBE**. That after the death of my mother, we the children searched for the Title Documents of the House, we could not find it. That I took extra time to search for the documents after my mother's burial, I asked all my siblings if any by chance have the documents but no one claim to have the document. That all efforts made to trace the document proved abortive. Hence this publication for record purposes concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

SIGNED:
MR EMMANUEL

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME/
CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is hereby notified that **TERKENDE TARSEER RONALD** and **TARSEER ROLAND RONALD** is one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **TERKENDE TARSEER RONALD**. And my correct date of birth is 4th day of May, 1989, and not 11th day of May 1990. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **OKUNDIA OSAOSEMWE OSEI** and now wish to be known and addressed as **OKUNDIA OSAOSEMWE AUSTIN**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION/REARRANGEMENT
OF NAME/DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is hereby notified that that my correct name arranged name is **BEN PEACE EMEM** and not **SUNDAY EMEM** and my correct date of birth is 27th September, 1985. And not 09th February 1988. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that that my correct name is **EKIOMADO NILL ERIAMIATOR** and **ERIAMIA TOR BRIDGET EKI**. Hence now wish to be known as **ERIAMIA TOR BRIDGET EKI**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as Miss **OGOR JOSEPHINE** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. NWAKA JOSEPHINE CYNTHIA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as Miss. **VIVIAN ORIVIRI** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. VIVIAN ORIVIRI IYAW**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **JOSEPH THOMAS**. now wish to be known and addressed as **TERVER TERKUMA THOMAS**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **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.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **AMASOWOMWAN OSARUGUE** and not **BRIGHT REJOICE**. Hence now wish to be known and addressed as **AMASOWOMWAN OSARUGUE REJOICE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly Known as **EDOSA RICHIES ENDURANCES** now wish to be known and addressed as **EDOSA RICHIES IYENGUNMWENA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **PATRICIA NELSON-ERUKAYENURE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **PATRICIA ERUKAYENURE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

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

CORRECTION OF NAME

This is to notify the general public that **PRECIOUS OGHOMWEN** and **PRECIOUS OGHOMEN** is one and same person hence now wish to be known and addressed as **PRECIOUS OGHOMWEN**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

RECONCILIATION OF NAMES

The general public is hereby notified that **MACAULEY EKEFUMWEN AIHIELU** and **MACAULEY EKEFUMWEN OMO-AIHIELU** are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **MACAULEY EKEFUMWEN AIHIELU**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I Formerly known as Miss. **IYAMU TREASURE IWINOSA** now wish to be known and addressed as **Miss. EDEKO TREASURE IWINOSA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MUHAMMED JIMOH AHMED**. Now wish to be known and Addressed as **MOMODU AMEDU**. All former document remain valid concern Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME/
RECONCILIATION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **Mrs. AGHAHEKOKHIAN SUCCESS ILES**, **Miss AGHAMA AGHAHEKOKHIAN** and **AGHAMAKOKHIAN SUCCESS** and one are same person. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. AGHAHEKOKHIAN SUCCESS ILES**. All former documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME/
RECONCILIATION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **Mrs AGHAHEKOKHIAN SUCCESS ILES**, **Miss AGHAMA AGHAHEKOKHIAN** and **AGHAMAKOKHIAN SUCCESS** and one are same person. Now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. AGHAHEKOKHIAN SUCCESS ILES**. All former documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **SHUAIB NIMOTALLAHI MOTUNRAYO** and **NIMAHEART MOTUNRAYO**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **SHUAIB NIMOTALLAHI MOTUNRAYO**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **OSIMAHON FORTUNATE** and not **OSIMEAHON FORTUNATE**. Hence now wish to be known and addressed as **OSIMAHON FORTUNATE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

This is to notify the general public that **PRECIOUS OGHOMWEN** and **PRECIOUS OGHOMEN** is one and the same person. I wish to now be known and addressed as **PRECIOUS OGHOMWEN**. All former documents remain valid, concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as Miss **OPUTA UCHE.B.** now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. ABU UCHE BRIDGET**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly Known as **EDOSA RICHIES ENDURANCES** now wish to be known and addressed as **EDOSA RICHIES IYENGUNMWENA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME/
CORRECTION OF DATE BIRTH

The general public is hereby notified that **AGHATISE BETTY** and **AGHATISE BETTY LALA** is one and the same person. Hence forth. Wish to be known and addressed as **AGHATISE BETTY LALA**. And also my correct date of birth is 6th day of April 1997 and not 6th day of April 1996. As was wronged captured on my bank verification number BVN. All documents Remain valid. concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **INEGBEDION MAGDALENA IKHAYERE** now wish to be known and addressed as **EIMIHI MAGDALENA INEGBEDION TIMOTHY**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **ADU JUSTINA** now wish to be known and addressed as **JUSTINA OKPEIGBE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **IZIOMON OMOLEGHO BLESSING**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **UGBIJEH OMOLEGHO BLESSING**. All documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **PATRICIA NELSON-ERUKAYENURE** now wish to be known and addressed as **PATRICIA ERUKAYENURE**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME/
RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME

I, formerly known as **BRIGHT REJOICE** now wish to be known and addressed as **AMASOWOMWAN OSARUGUE REJOICE**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as Miss **EWERE FLORENCE NEKPEN** now wish to be known as **Mrs. OGHADOMWENGBE JOHNBULL FLORENCE** and my correct date of birth is 5th day of October 1973. and not 25th day of October 1968. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is here by notified that **ODOCHUKWU AMARACHI MERCY** and **OKECHUKWU GIFT ONYINYECHUKWU** are one and same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **OKECHUKWU GIFT ONYINYECHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME/
RE-ARRANGEMENT OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that that my correct name is **CHIDI EBUBE PRINCE**. and not **JOSEPH PRINCE EBUBE**. now wish to be known and addressed as **CHIDI EBUBE PRINCE**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

Govt urged to invest in Girls to secure the nation

The Founder and President of Forum of Nigerian Women in Politics (FONWIP), Hon. Elder Florence Gbinigie, has called on government, parents and stakeholders to increase investment in the education, health and protection of the Nigerian girl child.

The call was made in her message to mark the 2026 International day of the Girl child with the global theme "End Child Marriage and Invest in Girls' Rights!"

Hon Gbinigie said no nation can become virile while its girls

are left behind.

"An educated and protected girl today is a woman leader, mother and nation builder tomorrow."

"We must end child marriage, end period poverty, and end violence against girls. Investing in girls is not charity, it is nation-building," she stated.

She announced that in commemoration of the day, FONWIP in collaboration with Foundation Builders NGO will hold outreach programmes for girls featuring motivational talks and distribution of sanitary pads to promote menstrual hygiene and keep girls in schools.

She therefore urged political leaders to implement laws that protect girls and create more opportunities for women in politics and leadership, as a way to give girls role models.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS. OSAGHA JUSTINA**. now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. JUDE JUSTINA EDINSON**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **VICTOR DICK OTAKHIRE**. now wish to be known and addressed as **VICTOR DENNIS**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

CHANGE OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **VIOLET DUA IGBINOGHO**. and **VIOLET OYEMWEN IGBINOGHODUA**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **VIOLET OYEMWEN IGBINOGHODUA**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **OGBEIDE LUCKY EDOBOR**. and **OGBEIDE LUCKY**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **OGBEIDE LUCKY EDOBOR**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct and Arranged of name is **OBABUDUEDO PAUL ENOMA**. and **OBABUDHED PAUL ENOMA**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **OBABUDUEDO PAUL ANOMA**. all former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notify that I am same person as **PRECIOUS OGHOMEN** and **PRECIOUS OGHOMWEN**. That my Surname was wrongly spelt as **OGHOMEN** instead of **OGHOMWEN**. Henceforth I want to be known and addressed as **Precious OGHOMWEN**. General public, bank and concerned authorities should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **OVENSERI HOPE**. and **OVENSERI OVBOKHAN HOPE**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **OVENSERI OVBOKHAN HOPE**. all former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take notes.

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.

MADAM. CAROLINE OLOHIMAI EVBOMOEN, late of Afuze, Owan East L.G.A., who died on the 31st day of October, 2020 in Benin City.

PED/690/2026
Mrs. Victoria Aizenaobo Alohan and Miss. Stella Olohigbe Evbomoen of No 31, Idele Avenue, Off Goodwill Road, Ekehuan Road, Benin City, sisters of the deceased.

DATED THIS 12th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026.


B. O. OSAWARU ESQ.
Probate Registrar

PUBLIC NOTICE

MISSING ORIGINAL LANDED DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified that I, **MR. OSAIGBOVO ANTHONY OJO-IGBINOBA** is the rightful owner in one (1) landed property documents lying and situate at ward 17H, Behind the European Reservation, Oredo Local Government Area, Edo State, known and described as No 3, Aihayubini Street, Off Aideyan Street, off Adesuwa Road, G.R.A, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria, the land is measuring 220.002 Square Metres, together with the property thereon. That the said property was gifted to me with deed of gift by my mother **MRS DORIS A.O OMORODION** dated on the 1st day of November, 2021. That the said documents was in my father's possession and it was discovered missing sometime in the year 2015 after the demise of my father. That all effort made to trace the said missing original landed documents proves abortive, hence this is a publication for record purposes, the concerned authorities and the general public that if the documents is found, it should be returned to the rightful owner.

SIGNED:

OSAIGBOVO ANTHONY OJO-IGBINOBA

Tinubu says World Bank report confirms economic reforms yielding results

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu says the World Bank's October 2026 Nigeria Development Update confirms his administration's economic reforms are yielding results and strengthening the economy for sustained growth.

This is contained in a statement by the Presidential Spokesperson, Mr Bayo Onanuga, on Sunday in Abuja.

Tinubu welcomed the report, titled 'Beyond the Federal Purse: How Higher Revenues Reshaped State Priorities', highlighting improvements in economic growth, revenue generation and fiscal management.

The President noted the World Bank's finding that Nigeria's poverty rate had stabilised for the first time since 2019.

He said poverty was expected to decline gradually as economic growth outpaced population growth.

According to the report, the economy grew by 4.2 per cent in the first half of 2026, compared with 3.9 per cent in 2025.

The growth occurred despite the impact of the Middle East conflict, while the World Bank projected average growth of at least 4.4 per cent between 2026 and 2028.

The report showed that inflation declined from 27.6 per cent in January 2025 to 15.2 per cent in December 2025.

However, higher global fuel prices linked to the Middle East conflict slowed the decline, although inflation was projected to ease to about 12 per cent by 2028.

Nigeria's external position also improved, with its current account surplus reaching 12

billion dollars, representing 7.0 per cent of GDP, in the first half of 2026.

This compared with 8.6 billion dollars recorded in the corresponding period of 2025.

Gross external reserves increased from 45.5 billion dollars at the end of 2025 to 53.8 billion dollars at the end of August 2026.

The report attributed the gains to reforms introduced since 2023, which increased federation revenues by 69 per cent in real terms between 2023 and 2025.

State governments emerged as the largest beneficiaries, with capital expenditure increasing by 151 per cent in real terms over the period.

Much of the additional spending went towards roads,

transport, agriculture, energy and housing.

The report noted that 29 of the 33 states shifted spending towards economic infrastructure, while real social spending per capita increased in all but one state.

It also found that internally generated revenue grew in real terms in 31 of 35 states.

Meanwhile, 21 states reduced their debt-to-GDP ratios between 2021 and 2025.

Nigeria's overall public debt was projected to decline from 40.0 per cent of GDP in 2025 to 38.1 per cent in 2026.

Tinubu said the findings demonstrated the impact of his administration's decisions to remove the petrol subsidy, unify the foreign exchange market and strengthen fiscal discipline

"The difficult but necessary decisions to remove the petrol subsidy, unify the foreign exchange market and strengthen fiscal discipline have raised revenues.

"The decisions have also stabilised the economy and created fiscal space for every tier of government to invest in its people. The dividends of reform are becoming visible.

"But more work remains to ensure they fully translate into better living standards for every household, starting with lower food prices and decent jobs for our young people.

"Our administration will stay the course of reform and redouble its focus on inclusive growth under the Renewed Hope Agenda," he said.

Specialist hospital achieves 50 robotic surgeries in 1 year

BENEDICT OKATE

LAGOS

Kelina Hospital has performed over 50 robotic radical prostatectomy surgeries in one year, offering a less painful recovery and better functional outcomes for men with prostate cancer.

Its President, Dr Celsus Undie, made the disclosure during a news conference announcing the various medical milestones achieved by the hospital, on Saturday in Lagos.

Robotic-assisted radical prostatectomy is a procedure where the prostate gland and some surrounding tissue are removed, by the use of specialised robotic equipment.

It is a minimally invasive keyhole procedure that aims to remove all of the cancer.

Undie, a Consultant Urological Surgeon, noted that prostate cancer was the most common cancer affecting Nigerian men, noting that previously, patients used to travel abroad for its treatment.

"There is a lot of technology available now, and people do not have to wait until cancer has advanced or spread around the body.

"When cancer is confined to any organ, the best treatment is to take it out, along with that organ, so the person could survive without that part of the body.

"Once it spreads, treatment is not so effective.

"For prostate cancer, robotic surgery is less mutilating and much easier to do," he said.

Undie disclosed that the hospital has been performing robotic prostate surgery weekly since June, and has never given any patient blood transfusion since then.

The nerves responsible for erection run very close to the prostate gland, so prostate cancer surgery carries a risk of temporary or long-term erectile dysfunction, a major reason many men hesitate to undergo treatment.

Undie, however, stressed that cancer surgery is an urgent

matter of life and death.

"If a man's prostate cancer needs to be removed so he can live, the priority is not erection.

"Everybody's erection is gone immediately after prostate cancer surgery. But a lot of the patients recover it naturally.

"Some patients require medications, some require injections, and some even require penile implants.

"We have medicine now that if you take just a 0.3 millilitre injection, no matter what happens, you have an erection. So, we cannot put an erection ahead of the need to save a life," he said.

Highlighting other achievements, Undie said the hospital successfully performed the first Robotic Radical Nephrectomy in Nigeria in 2025, further establishing its position in the advancement of robotic surgery in the country.

Robotic radical nephrectomy is a minimally invasive surgical procedure that removes an entire kidney, its surrounding fat, and sometimes nearby lymph nodes or the adrenal gland using a surgeon-controlled robotic system.

"More than 50 per cent of our patients undergoing urological surgery are discharged within 24 hours, reflecting the efficiency of our surgical approach and our commitment to faster patient recovery."

The president disclosed that the hospital's robotic surgery programme is currently being handled purely by Nigerian surgeons resident in the country, helping to save lives through prompt access to treatment.

He called for increased government support to make affordable financing available to private hospitals to enable them to introduce more equipment, medical advancements and reduce medical tourism.

Similarly, Mr Ifeanyi Anago, Chairman, Board of Directors, Kelina Hospital, said the hospital had achieved over 7,000 surgery landmarks, reflecting its longstanding commitment to excellence in surgical care.



CLIMATE GOVERNANCE PERFORMANCE:

Mabel Gold dancing troupe performing during the 3rd edition of the subnational climate governance performance ratings and ranking of Nigeria's 36 states by the Federal Ministry of Environment in Abuja.

83 Army Division: Air defence regiment in Delta will boost security, devt - Oborevwo

By Ajuwa Victor

ASABA

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwo, has said the establishment of a Air Defence Regiment of the 83 Division of the Nigerian Army in the state will strengthen security, protect critical national assets and accelerate development.

Oborevwo stated this during an inspection of facilities and ongoing works for the establishment of the Air Defence unit of the Nigerian Army in the state.

The governor, who was accompanied by the Chief of Standards and Evaluation, Nigerian Army, Major General Thompson Ugiagbe, and Commander, 63 Brigade, Nigerian Army, Brigadier General Ibrahim Buhari, said the state government was committed to providing the necessary support for the military and other security agencies.

He said the newly created 83 Division, comprising Delta, Edo and Bayelsa states, would

significantly enhance the capacity of the Nigerian Army to respond to security threats across the three states.

According to him, the division comes with several component units, including an Air Defence unit, whose establishment in Delta became necessary because of the strategic location of the state and its proximity to the airport.

Oborevwo said the state had provided land for a temporary facility for the Air Defence unit while arrangements were being made for its permanent site.

He disclosed that the first batch of between 300 and 400 military personnel was expected to arrive in the state within the next few weeks.

"We need to support the security agencies because without security, there cannot be development," the governor said.

He added that the improved security architecture in Delta had contributed to the reduction of incidents of armed robbery, kidnapping and other violent crimes across the state.

Oborevwo said the pres-

ence of the new military formation would also help to protect critical national assets, particularly oil and gas infrastructure in the state.

"The most important benefit is to secure national assets and the people. That is the truth. If you don't have all these security formations here, you know how it will be," he said.

The governor commended the Nigerian Army and other security agencies for their efforts in maintaining peace and protecting lives and property in the state.

He said his administration would continue to collaborate with security agencies, noting that the partnership had contributed to the growing confidence of residents, investors and businesses in Delta.

Oborevwo also recalled his recent visit to the Trans-Forcados pipeline area, where he said residents were happy with the improved security situation.

He said the state government was working with the military and other stakeholders to ensure that the required facilities were provided for the

new formation.

The governor directed the Commissioners for Housing and Lands to commence the necessary assessment and scoping of the temporary site, including existing structures that would require attention.

He said the state government was ready to play its part to ensure that the Air Defence unit commenced operations within the expected timeframe.

Oborevwo stressed that security remained a major pillar of his administration's development agenda, maintaining that no meaningful economic or infrastructural development could be sustained without peace and stability.

He said the establishment of the 83 Division and its component units would, therefore, further strengthen Delta's security architecture while enhancing the protection of lives, property and critical national assets.

The governor urged the military and other security agencies to sustain their cooperation with the state government and other stakeholders in the collective interest of Deltans and the nation.

NEWS**Edo SDP urges candidates to focus on issue-based politics****BENIN CITY**

OLIVER IJIOGBE

The Edo State chapter of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) has warned its candidates, campaign coordinators, media handlers and supporters against resorting to abusive language, misinformation and personal attacks in the build-up to the 2027 general elections, urging them to embrace issue-based campaigns and responsible political communication.

The state chairman of the party, Comrade Imonikhe Kelly Roland-Bello, gave the warning in a statement addressed to the party's candidates and their media teams, stressing that political contests should be driven by ideas, policy alternatives and practical solutions to the challenges confronting the people rather than bitterness,

provocation and character assassination.

Roland-Bello said the essence of democratic competition was to present credible programmes and convince the electorate through constructive engagement, not to malign opponents or inflame political passions.

He observed that political differences should not become a source of hostility among citizens, noting that politicians and their supporters would continue to live together, worship together and interact in markets, communities and family gatherings long after the elections.

According to him, inflammatory statements and personal attacks made during campaigns could leave lasting scars, deepen divisions and threaten the peaceful coexistence necessary for sustainable development.

The SDP chairman therefore urged the party's candidates to focus their campaigns on clearly articulated programmes and development priorities capable of addressing the needs and aspirations of Edo people.

He identified education, security, employment, healthcare and infrastructure as critical sectors requiring innovative policies, credible commitments and effective implementation, adding that the electorate de-

served to know what candidates intended to do differently to improve governance and living standards.

He also called on candidates to demonstrate

He also called on candidates to demonstrate a clear understanding of the economic realities confronting market women, farmers, youths and vulnerable groups, insisting that campaign promises must reflect the everyday concerns

of the people.

Roland-Bello extended the appeal to media handlers, publicists and social media managers, warning against the circulation of fake news, defamatory publications and offensive graphics designed to ridicule or discredit political opponents.

He urged campaign communication teams to deploy their platforms to showcase their candidates' character, competence, policy positions and achieve-

ments, rather than engage in destructive exchanges that could undermine public confidence in the political process.

The chairman cautioned that campaigns built around insults and political hostility could damage not only individual reputations but also the image of Edo State, calling for communication strategies that promote informed debate, mutual respect and responsible political participation.

Ogunwuyi Quits as Makinde's Chief of Staff**IBADAN**

CONFIDENCE IGIEBOR

Segun Ogunwuyi has stepped down as Chief of Staff to Oyo State Governor Seyi Makinde, following his resignation from the state government on Monday, October 12, 2026.

Ogunwuyi conveyed his decision in a resignation letter addressed to the governor, indicating that his departure from the position took effect immediately.

In the letter, he expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve under the Makinde administration, describing his time in office as a valuable experience.

He also commended the team he worked with, expressing pride in the administration's efforts towards the development and advancement of Oyo State.

"I respectfully write to resign my appointment as Chief of Staff to the Governor of Oyo State, with effect from today, 12th October, 2026.

"Serving the Government and the good people of Oyo State has been a great honour. It has been deeply fulfilling to be part of the exceptional team that has worked relentlessly to deliver the remarkable achievements of this administration.

"I remain immensely proud of what we have collectively accomplished in advancing the growth, development and prosperity of our dear State. As I take this decision, I do so with profound gratitude for the opportunity to serve, with confidence in the continued progress of Oyo State.

"Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest esteem and unwavering loyalty to Oyo State and the Federal Republic of Nigeria," he stated in the letter.

His resignation places him among the growing number of political appointees who have left the Oyo State Government this year.

Governor Makinde appointed Ogunwuyi as Chief of Staff in July 2021. Before assuming the position, he served as Executive Assistant to the governor on Investment, a role he held in connection with the administration's investment drive.

Ogunwuyi also previously headed the Oyo State Investment and Public-Private Partnership Agency (OYSIPPA) as its Director-General.

His public service career includes experience in both state and federal legislative institutions.

In 2015, he was elected to the House of Representatives to represent Ogbomoso North/South and Oriire Federal Constituency.

**PLENARY SESSION:**

Rt Hon (prince) Yekini Idaiyi speaker Edo state house of Assembly (right) and Hon Fada Aiguoaruehian Sunday during Mr. speaker processions after the house adjustment at the house plenary session yesterday. Photo; Godwin Iseguan.

SEDC must operate from South-East – Orji Kalu**ABUJA**

CAROLINE AMEH

Senator Orji Uzor Kalu has expressed satisfaction with the progress of work on the headquarters of the South East Development Commission (SEDC) in Enugu State, insisting that the commission must operate from the region it was established to serve.

Kalu, who represents Abia North Senatorial District and chairs the Senate Committee on SEDC, spoke on Monday during an oversight visit by members of the committee to inspect the commission's facilities and assess its operations.

The former Abia State governor said the committee observed significant improvements since its previous

engagements with the commission, expressing optimism that the management would sustain the pace of development.

He disclosed that the lawmakers would return to Enugu in December to assess further progress on the headquarters and review the commission's activities.

"So far, we are making very good progress, unlike when we started. I'm sure you, both me and my colleagues, are seeing very serious progress. I hope that the commission, especially the management team, sustains this progress," Kalu said.

He urged the commission to extend its activities to communities across the South-East, stressing that residents must see tangible evidence of its presence and interventions.

During the visit, the committee inspected two facilities:

the office currently occupied by the commission and another building provided by the Enugu State Government, which is undergoing completion for the commission's use.

Kalu described the facilities as encouraging signs of progress, noting that the committee was satisfied with the development recorded since its earlier concerns over the commission's operations from Abuja.

"Where we were before and now, we are making progress. We were quarrelling about our office being in Abuja. Today, we have seen two offices, one where they are staying and the one they are completing, which the government of Enugu State gave them," he said.

He added that the committee had no objection to the commission's operations as long as

it remained focused on delivering its mandate to the people of the South-East.

However, Kalu reiterated that the commission must not relocate its operational base to Abuja, insisting that its activities should be coordinated from the region it was created to develop.

"The only problem that I said before, and I repeat, is that they cannot operate from Abuja. They must operate from where they are set up. This is where they are located," he stated.

According to the senator, the establishment of operational offices in Enugu has addressed the committee's earlier concerns about the commission's location.

"Our quarrel before was about being in Abuja and not being in Enugu. So that quarrel is over now," he added.

ESCPC declares war on fake products, storms Useh, Oliha Markets**BENIN CITY**OSEMUDIAMHEN FAITH/
LUCKY EFESÉ

The Edo State Consumer Protection Committee, CPC, on Wednesday and Thursday, stormed Useh and Oliha Markets Egor and Oredo Local Government Areas in

Benin City in continuation of its statewide sensitization and surveillance campaign against counterfeit and adulterated products.

The exercise was led by the Chairman of the committee, Mr. Iyamu Osaro Culture.

The chairman said that the campaign which is line with the SHINE agenda of Gover-

nor Monday Okpebholo in the state, was designed to combat the sales, production and consumption of fake, adulterated and substandard goods, as well as exploitative practices by private sector operators.

At both Markets, officials of the committee, sensitized traders, market leaders and consumers on the dangers of counterfeit

products as well as outlining the health risks, economic implications and legal consequences of dealing in fake goods.

He urged the traders and market associations to cooperate with the committee by reporting suspicious products and exploitative pricing.

Iyamu, further said that his committee had previously tak-

en the campaign to Oba, Ekiosa and Ibiwe Markets as well as Ekiosa/ Upper Sakponba Road markets for the same motives.

He assured that the exercise would be extended to other major commercial centres across the state.

Meanwhile, traders at both Useh and Oliha Markets, commended Governor Okpebholo

and the committee, for their timely intervention, just as they had advocated stiffer penalties and stronger enforcement against offenders.

The ESCPC's Chairman added that the campaign remains critical to safeguarding public health and protecting the economic well-being of Edo people.

Ndigbo dazzle in colourful New Yam Festival in Edo

MATTHEW OKAGHA

It was a spectacular display of culture, tradition and communal solidarity as the Igbo community in Edo State, on Sunday, October 11, 2026, celebrated its 2026 New Yam/Cultural Festival with pomp, pageantry and thanksgiving at the NTA Pavilion, Television Road, Benin City.

The colourful celebration brought together Igbo sons and daughters, traditional leaders, political office holders, friends and well-wishers in an atmosphere of joy and cultural renaissance, reaffirming the enduring place of tradition in the lives of the people, wherever they may find themselves.

From the rhythmic beats of traditional music to the energetic movements of dancers and the captivating appearance of masquerades, the festival transformed the venue into a vibrant theatre of Igbo heritage, providing a compelling spectacle of the people's cultural identity, unity and rich ancestral traditions.

For Ndigbo, the New Yam Festival is much more than an annual cultural gathering. It is a sacred expression of gratitude for the harvest, a celebration of the rewards of labour, a renewal of communal bonds and an occasion to honour the ancestors whose traditions continue to shape the identity of succeeding generations.

The festival also represents the triumph of hope, resilience and industry, values deeply embedded in Igbo culture and reflected in the community's remarkable spirit of enterprise across Nigeria and beyond.

The event, organised by the Igbo Community Union, Edo State, under the chairmanship of Golden Chief Patrick Ndubuisi, popularly known as Mbamba

Cash, Omenife Ndigbo, attracted distinguished personalities, with Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, attending as Special Guest of Honour.

In his remarks, Governor Okpebholo extolled the virtues of Ndigbo, commending their rich cultural heritage, distinctive traditional attire, resilience, industriousness and enterprising spirit.

The governor acknowledged the significant contributions of the Igbo community to economic activities and social development, noting that their determination, commercial ingenuity and capacity to thrive in diverse environments had earned them recognition across the country.

He assured the community of his administration's recognition and appreciation, stressing that



Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, addressing Ndigbo at the event



Colourful masquerade performing at the event



a cross section of celebrants at the New Yam Festival

the government remained committed to giving every ethnic group in Edo State a sense of belonging.

As a demonstration of this inclusive disposition, Okpebholo pointed to the appointment of an Igbo indigene as a commissioner in his administration, describing it as an indication that his government valued competence, diversity and the contributions of all communities to the development of the state.

His message resonated with the broader significance of the celebration: that cultural diversity should serve as a bridge of unity rather than a barrier to peaceful coexistence.

Indeed, Edo State, with its rich indigenous traditions and history of welcoming people from different backgrounds, provided an appropriate setting for the gathering. The festival offered another opportunity for the Igbo community to celebrate its identity while strengthening its relationship with its host state and other ethnic nationalities.

Beyond the colourful displays, the occasion underscored the importance of preserving cultural heritage in an increasingly globalised world, where younger generations must be encouraged to understand, appreciate and transmit the values of their ancestors.

Traditional festivals remain powerful instruments for achieving this objective. Through music, dance, masquerade performances, traditional attire and communal festivities, they preserve collective memory and pass enduring cultural values from one generation to another.

The New Yam Festival also celebrates the dignity of agriculture

and the importance of food in human survival. Yam, a treasured staple in many Nigerian communities, symbolises abundance, prosperity and the fulfilment that follows a season of hard work. Its celebration is therefore both a cultural statement and an expression of gratitude for nature's blessings.

For the Igbo community in Edo State, the 2026 celebration was equally an affirmation that geographical location does not diminish cultural identity. Rather, the preservation of tradition strengthens the bonds connecting people to their ancestral homeland while enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the development of their adopted communities.

The presence of political leaders and other distinguished guests further highlighted the potential of cultural festivals to promote inter-ethnic understanding, social harmony and peaceful coexistence.

As the dancers performed and masquerades thrilled the audience, the message of the festival became unmistakable: a people who cherish their heritage preserve not only their history but also the values that give meaning to their collective existence.

The celebration therefore transcended entertainment. It was a declaration of cultural pride, a tribute to the resilience of Ndigbo and a reminder that Nigeria's strength lies in the harmonious coexistence of its diverse peoples.

For Ndigbo in Edo State, the 2026 New Yam Festival was a celebration of harvest, heritage and hope — a colourful reaffirmation of their identity and an enduring commitment to unity, enterprise and peaceful coexistence in their host state.

Oba Ewuare 11's 10th coronation anniversary reignites Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre

RICHARD EGHAGHE

BENIN CITY

For years, the magnificent Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre on Airport Road, tucked behind the revered Benin Royal Palace, stood as a sleeping giant of Edo's rich cultural heritage. But over the weekend, the historic centre burst into a spectacular celebration of colour, rhythm, history and royal splendour as activities marking the 10th coronation anniversary and birthday of His Royal Majesty, Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Ewuare II, the Oba of Benin, reached a glorious crescendo.

It was more than a celebration of a monarch. It was a dramatic homecoming for Edo culture, a refreshing reunion with the kingdom's glorious past and a powerful reminder of the enduring place of traditional institutions in preserving the identity, dignity and heritage of the Benin people.

From the rich aroma of traditional delicacies to the dazzling display of indigenous fashion, exquisite leatherworks, artistic creations, colourful masquerades and electrifying cultural performances, the centre was transformed into a living theatre of Edo civilisation. The occasion offered a captivating spectacle of tradition meeting contemporary creativity, with the royal anniversary providing an inspiring backdrop for the rediscovery of a cultural landmark.

Designed by renowned Nigerian architect Demas Nwoko, the Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre wore a magnificent new look as it welcomed cultural enthusiasts, artists, traditional leaders, performers and visitors who gathered to celebrate the enduring legacy of the Benin monarchy and the cultural wealth of Edo State.

The festivities began on Friday with a rich cultural food fiesta that celebrated the culinary heritage of the people. Traditional dishes, prepared and presented in their distinctive splendour, offered a delicious journey into the customs and communal life of Edo communities.

The culinary exhibition was complemented by an impressive fashion showcase that traced the evolution of traditional dressing from the era of Oba Ewedo, who reigned around 1255 AD, to the present day. The parade of indigenous fabrics, royal-inspired costumes and contemporary interpretations of traditional attire provided a colourful illustration of how Edo fashion has evolved while retaining its cultural identity.

Leatherworks and beautiful artistic creations further enriched the exhibition, demonstrating the craftsmanship, imagination and commercial possibilities embedded in the state's creative economy.

For an anniversary celebrating a decade of Oba Ewuare II's reign, the exhibitions carried a deeper message: that culture is not merely a relic of the past to be admired during festivals, but a living inheritance that must be preserved, promoted and passed on to future generations.

If Friday offered a feast for the senses, Saturday delivered a breathtaking carnival of culture, music, dance and royal pageantry.

From different communities within Edo State and beyond, cultural troupes, traditional dance groups, masquerades and acrobatic performers converged on the Oba Akenzua Cultural Centre. Their colourful processions enlivened the streets and access roads leading to the venue, turning the surrounding neighbourhood into a vibrant corridor of celebration.

The atmosphere was charged with excitement as each group brought its distinctive rhythms, costumes, dance movements and traditional expressions to the gathering. Drums thundered, dancers moved with infectious energy, masquerades commanded attention and spectators responded with cheers and applause.

The spectacle reached its emotional high point with the majestic arrival of the chief celebrant, the Oba N'Ogidigan, Oba Ewuare II, accompanied by his royal entourage.

In an instant, the cultural centre erupted in thunderous chants of "Oba Ghatto Kpere!"—the revered Benin expression of royal acclaim and prayers for the monarch's long life and enduring reign.

It was a moment of profound symbolism. The monarch whose anniversary had drawn the gathering was now physically present among the cultural custodians and performers whose art, traditions and heritage form an essential part of the Benin kingdom's identity.

The royal arrival transformed an already colourful occasion into a memorable demonstration of the

bond between the Oba and his people, and of the reverence accorded the Benin throne.

Following the brilliant rendition of the Edo National Anthem by those present, the celebration gathered even greater momentum. One performance followed another in an exhilarating sequence of traditional dances, theatrical presentations, musical renditions, masquerade displays and acrobatic feats.

Each troupe brought its own character to the occasion, yet all shared a common purpose: to celebrate the cultural heritage of Edo State and honour the monarch whose 10th coronation anniversary had become a rallying point for cultural expression and communal pride.

Among the participating groups was the Edo State Council for Arts and Culture, led by Blessing Iyekekpolo, whose presence underscored the importance of institutional support in promoting the state's cultural heritage.

Other participating groups included the Innah Theatre Troupe, led by Sunny Obasuyi; Obaretin Edo Theatre Troupe, led by Pat Usuh; Edo Arise Cultural Heritage, led by Chief Isaac Obasogie; Xster Songs Entertainment, led by Esther Osaro; Iyowa Theatre; and Women of Hope, led by Charity Emillous.

Their performances reflected the depth and diversity of Edo's cultural landscape, where music, theatre, dance, storytelling and indigenous artistic expressions continue to serve as powerful vehicles for preserving history and transmitting values.

The celebration also attracted cultural contingents from outside Edo State, lending the event a wider national character.

Among them were the Ondo State Ministry of Culture and Tourism troupe, led by Yemi Owolabi; the Delta State Arts and Culture troupe; the Ohanaeze Ndigbo Youth Wing Cultural Dance Troupe, led by Oyienka Okoye; and a cultural outfit from Calabar, Cross River State, among several others.

Their participation reinforced the spirit of cultural exchange and national unity, demonstrating how festivals and royal celebrations can bring together diverse ethnic communities through the universal languages of dance, music, artistic expression and shared respect for tradition.



Edo State Commissioner for Arts, Culture and Creative Economy, Hon. Chris Okaeben, inspecting an art work on exhibition



Cultural group entertaining the audience



FOREIGN

NEWS



TRUMP, ZELENKY AND PUTIN:

Trump's 'energy ceasefire' claim welcomed by Zelensky but Russia silent

Donald Trump has claimed that Russia and Ukraine have agreed to an "energy ceasefire", with Kyiv saying it would support such a move but Moscow yet to comment.

The US president insisted that it was "effective immediately" but provided no details.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky initially expressed surprise at the announcement, before saying Kyiv would support it if Moscow did. He also accused Russia of striking Ukrainian energy facilities after Trump's post.

Trump has been urging Ukraine to stop strikes on Russian oil infrastructure - which Kyiv says are vital to curtailing revenue for Moscow's war machine - so Russia can fulfil a recently-struck deal to release diesel to the US and the global market.

The diesel deal, temporarily undoing sanctions on Russian imports, is attracting growing criticism. Zelensky called it a gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin. European officials and some US politicians, including from Trump's Republican party, have said they do not support it. The deal is Trump's latest effort to lower domestic fuel prices ahead of the midterm elections, having spent months grappling with the political consequences of the war with Iran which has pushed up global fuel prices, particularly those for diesel.

That has soured Trump's standing with the American public, who have been stung by the higher pump prices and knock-on effects that led to across-the-board inflation.

Zelensky said it was "news" to him that an energy truce was in effect in comments to news site Axios, before writing on social media that his officials "look forward to clear details of Amer-

ica's dialogue with Russia".

"Ukraine is ready not to strike at Russian energy and we count on Russia's similar readiness and on the agreement of the president of the United States of America on this," he said.

UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham said Britain "strongly supports President Trump's call today for a sustained energy ceasefire to start now", while France, Canada and the EU also expressed support.

Zelensky later said Russia had hit a power plant in Kyiv with a drone, causing power cuts, followed by strikes on energy facilities in the north-eastern Kharkiv region.

"All of this happened after the president of the United States made his statement about an energy ceasefire," he said.

For months, Ukraine and Russia have been exchanging strikes on energy infrastructure.

Moscow said the installations it hits were legitimate targets because they supported Ukraine's military operation, while Zelen-

sky has characterised Ukrainian attacks deep inside Russian territory as part of an effort to "reduce Russia's ability to finance the war".

The attacks have disrupted energy supplies on both sides.

Earlier on Sunday, UK Defence Secretary Wes Streeting told the BBC that the UK did not support it, while EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas echoed Zelensky's criticism of it on Saturday.

The deal has also attracted criticism from politicians of both main US parties.

Seven senators, including three Democrats and four Republicans, have published a statement saying Trump's deal "runs directly counter" to a law that had explicitly banned Russian energy imports.

"Congress was clear: the US should not import oil from Russia until it ends its aggression against Ukraine and ceases threats against our Nato Allies," they said, urging the Trump administration to "reverse course".

Trump faces growing backlash over plans to import diesel from Russia

President Donald Trump is facing a growing backlash over plans to import diesel from Russia as the Iran war continues to impact global energy prices.

Trump on Friday announced that Russian President Vladimir Putin had agreed to release 300,000 tonnes of diesel immediately "to the American and global marketplace" followed by several other shipments.

That is despite signing legislation to authorise fresh US sanctions and tariffs on nations that import Russian oil and gas just weeks ago.

The move has been criticised by some Republican and Democratic lawmakers, who believe the deal violates US laws.

As well as the initial release of 300,000 tonnes of diesel, Trump said Russia would then supply 500,000 tonnes in November and one million more after that.

This would be followed by a further three million tonnes, which would be delivered "within a short period" dependent on the condition of its refineries, which have been attacked by Ukraine during the ongoing war between the two countries.

"Lower prices for Americans, especially our Great Farmers, Ranchers, and Truckers, is my Greatest Priority," Trump wrote in a Truth Social post.

Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak confirmed these numbers to Tass, the country's state-owned news agency, saying the export volume could reach three million tonnes per month in future.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called the deal a gift to Putin that amounts to "an investment in a war that must be ended".

It is understood the US Treasury is suspending sanctions on Russian diesel exports until 7 April as part of the deal, but other assets like those in American banks are

still frozen.

A group of seven senators - four Republicans and three Democrats - on Sunday said the deal violated US laws, urging Trump to "reverse course".

"The United States should not provide Putin with a financial lifeline while Russia continues to kill Ukrainian civilians," the lawmakers said.

They added that Congress had "explicitly banned Russian energy imports in 2022 to prevent American dollars from financing Putin's brutal war against Ukraine".

The statement was signed by Republicans Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Thom Tillis and John Curtis, as well as Democrats Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal and Ron Wyden.

Not everyone is opposed to the deal. Republican Thomas Massie, who has sparred with Trump a number of issues, said the US should lift sanctions on all petroleum products.

Trump's Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told Fox News the agreement would work through existing legal channels the US has to help bring prices down and that anyone in Congress who said it would not was wrong.

Global fuel prices have soared since the US-Israel war with Iran began at the end of February, with the fighting severely disrupting supplies of crude oil - a key ingredient in petrol and diesel.

The rising prices have become a key issue for Americans ahead of next month's midterms elections, which will determine if Trump's Republican Party maintains control of Congress.

Polls show a majority of Americans disapprove of his handling of the economy and the war in Iran and he has been searching for ways to ease his party's political pain.

The toll the war is taking has been acutely felt by US agricultural states, which rely heavily on diesel to operate farming machinery and to transport their products to market.

One killed, 11 injured in second Houthi strike on Riyadh airport in two days

One person has been killed and 11 injured in a second strike on the international airport in the Saudi capital Riyadh, officials have said.

A Saudi military spokesman said a projectile had hit King Khalid International Airport on Sunday, causing a fire in one of its passenger halls. Saudi Arabia's civil aviation authority said in a statement on X that one person, a Pakistani resident, had been killed in the attack.

It comes a day after a strike on the same airport killed 13 people and injured 308 others, following similar strikes earlier this week.

The Houthis in Yemen said they were behind the attacks and warned airlines and passengers against using Saudi Arabi-

an airports and airspace.

The group said they had targeted the airport with a mix of ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as drones in the past 24 hours.

They also attacked oil facilities and Dammam airport in eastern Saudi Arabia, their military spokesman Brig Gen Yahya Saree said.

He vowed to continue the "escalating operations deep inside Saudi Arabia", warning that all Saudi airports were potential targets apart from those in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

The Houthis have said they are targeting Saudi Arabia over its support for government forces in Yemen's civil war, as well as an air strike on the airport in Sanaa.

On Sunday Maj Gen Turki

al-Maliki, spokesman for the Saudi-led military coalition, said air defences had intercepted a missile near the airport in Riyadh, while authorities were dealing with the fire caused by an "unknown projectile" that hit Passenger Hall No 4.

US President Donald Trump has said the US would "make a decision" and "move very quickly" on whether to strike the Houthis, while UK Defence Secretary Wes Streeting suggested the UK could "potentially" provide more support for Saudi Arabia.

Saturday's strike was the deadliest single attack on a Gulf Arab country since the war between Israel, the US and Iran began in February. The Saudi-led coalition vowed to respond, calling it a "war crime".

Four Saudi nationals, two

people from Bangladesh and one person each from the US, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Sudan and Egypt were among the dead, the Saudi civil aviation authority said.

The Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia said on Sunday that an Indian man had succumbed to the injuries he sustained in the attack.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio condemned the attacks and confirmed that a US citizen was killed in the strikes. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said he was "appalled".

The UK Foreign Office is advising against all travel to parts of Saudi Arabia, including areas within 10km (6.2 miles) of the border with Yemen, while other western embassies have warned their nationals about travel in the region.

Poland detains man suspected of planning assassination of PM Tusk

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said a man accused of plotting an assassination attack against him and his defence minister has been detained.

The interior ministry earlier reported that police had received credible information about possible attacks against Tusk and Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz.

Polish security services convened a special meeting on Sunday after receiving information about the planned attacks, with a spokesman saying officials were treating the threat as "deadly serious".

Tusk thanked the police for "swift and decisive action" in arresting the suspect.

The suspect was arrested in

the Lower Silesia region and was a Polish national, Jacek Dobrzynski, a spokesman for the Special Services Co-ordinator told local media.

"In this case we are talking about a strong likelihood that these threats could actually be carried out," he said.

The plan was uncovered when an email with information about the potential attack was forwarded to police by the State Protection Service, which is responsible for ministers' security, Interior Ministry spokeswoman Karolina Galecka said.

Tusk has been Polish prime minister since 2023, having previously held the office from 2007 to 2014.

He served as president of the European Council from 2014 to 2019.

NEWS**FOREIGN**

Dozens of gold prospectors killed in strikes on Egypt-Sudan border, rights group says

At least 72 civilians who had been prospecting for gold in a border region of Sudan have been killed in air strikes, a regional rights group says.

Emergency Lawyers, based in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, said jets targeted the so-called artisanal miners at a popular gold mining sites in Sudan's River Nile state on Saturday.

Neither the Egyptian gov-

ernment nor the de facto Sudanese authorities have so far commented.

Cairo has previously faced accusations of deadly strikes on gold prospectors as part of a crackdown on illicit activity along its southern border.

Emergency Lawyers noted the previous alleged attacks and said they represented not only a violation of Sudan's sovereign territory but demonstrated the government's lack of control over

the region.

"The deliberate targeting of unarmed civilians violates international humanitarian law and the right to life," it said in a statement on Sunday. "These acts may constitute war crimes."

It noted that its death toll was provisional and could rise.

The Paris-based Sudan Tribune reported that the death toll could far exceed the number reported by Emergency Lawyers, citing a survivor of Saturday's attack

who said many more people had been injured.

Eyewitnesses said the attack began around 06:00 local time (04:00 GMT), with the aircraft firing more than five missiles directly at the miners' camps, destroying them and excavation pits with people still inside, the newspaper wrote.

The Sudan Tribune reported claims in June that Egyptian forces had used drones and artillery to target artisanal mining sites in the same region, killing several,

after sporadic incidents of Egyptian border guards of burning equipment, torching temporary shelters, and firing live ammunition to disperse mine workers.

Days later, Egypt's border agency announced that it and the military had begun a sweeping security campaign along the border to foil illegal migration, drug smuggling and illegal mining.

At the same time, Sudan's de facto leader announced an investigation into the alleged strikes, which were said to have killed dozens.

Gold lies at the core of the border tensions.

Sudan's ongoing civil war has led to a surge in artisanal mining - an often risky practice conducted by civilians with rudimentary tools and without official permission - particularly in remote areas near its borders.

Gold-rich areas such as those in River Nile state lie along porous borders in terrain historically associated with cross-border smuggling routes, with artisanally mined gold potentially feeding into those channels.



FILE PHOTO OF GOLD PROSPECTORS IN NORTHERN SUDAN:

Poland stabbings driven by online glorification of violence, Tusk says

Three violent attacks at Polish schools in one week were driven by the "glorification of violence" online, Prime Minister Donald Tusk has said.

The attacks have left one woman dead and others injured, including children.

"These are very often spontaneous actions inspired by online activity," Tusk said on Sunday, during a crisis meeting with security services.

Police have arrested 117 people across the country for possession of knives or other weapons, or for threatening to attack schools or fellow students, after searching tens of thousands of schools.

A woman was arrested on Saturday after injuring three

people while attacking a 17-year-old girl at an educational institution in the capital, Warsaw.

It came a day after thousands of police visited schools across Poland, following two stabbing attacks earlier in the week, one of which led to the killing of a female caretaker.

"We are not dealing with any group organized on a big scale," Tusk said on Sunday.

"In the past years and months, we have noted - globally and in Poland - a rise in the fascination with violence," he added.

The prime minister said the attacks were acts of "nihilistic violence" associated with the extreme right.

"Some of the people de-

tained are active in the ultraright environment," he said, adding that police had noticed a rise in online searches of Nazi content as well as of "mass killers who have become idols online".

On Wednesday, a 19-year-old student attacked and injured nine people at a vocational school in the central Polish province of Mazovian.

A day later, the 37-year-old caretaker was killed after a 15-year-old entered a primary school in Leszczynów-Nowiny, north of Warsaw.

Interior Minister Marcin Kierwiński also said a 17-year-old was detained in the town of Sierpc, north-west of Warsaw, after allegedly stating "on school grounds that he

planned to do something... dangerous - that he intended to harm someone".

Thousands of Polish police officers visited schools nationwide to try to reassure pupils after the stabbings sparked rumours of a "Bloody Friday" of more attacks stemming from a supposed online challenge.

Meanwhile, Polish security services convened a special meeting on Sunday after receiving information about a potential attack on Tusk and Defence Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, a spokesman said.

A special services spokesman said officials were treating the threat as "deadly serious".

Mourners killed by Kenya police at ex-PM's national farewell not part of violence

Three mourners killed when Kenyan police opened fire at a national farewell for former Prime Minister Raila Odinga were not involved in a clash that sparked gunfire, investigation has revealed.

During an event held last October for people to pay their respects to Odinga, three people were shot dead after mourners attempted to gain access to the VIP section of Nairobi's Kasarani Stadium by force.

BBC analysis from inside the stadium shows the victims were each between at least 60m (197 ft) and 160m from the scuffles.

Kenya's Interior Minister Kipchumba Murkomen told the BBC that the police action had been "restrained" after the crowd starting throwing stones.

In footage analysed by the BBC, it is clear that objects, including plastic chairs, are

thrown, but we have no evidence that they included stones.

The BBC went through more than 1,500 images and videos to establish the location of those killed in the stadium on 16 October 2025, and also spoke to some of their relatives.

Forensic analysis by the BBC suggests an elite police unit responsible for protecting the president may have fired the fatal shots.

Kenya's longest serving opposition leader and former prime minister died the previous day while receiving medical treatment in India. He was one of the country's most influential political figures.

A year on, Kenya's police watchdog, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA), is still investigating the deaths and police response and no-one has been held to account.

Documents falsified to evade tax on Abramovich's wealth, investigation finds

The world's biggest accountancy firm helped in falsifying documents to hide Roman Abramovich's wealth and evade tax, BBC Panorama has found.

Accounts signed off by Deloitte in Cyprus meant assets such as superyachts, mansions and private jets worth \$672m (£508m) vanished from Abramovich's company accounts.

Deloitte also appears to have advised on a scheme to evade a huge tax bill on the oligarch's wealth through the falsification of documents.

Barrister Andrew Mitchell KC, an expert in financial services law, said Panorama's evidence showed the scheme was "straightforward" tax evasion and "it couldn't be more blatant".

Roman Abramovich's lawyers said he denies that he evaded tax or concealed

his fortune. They said Panorama provided no evidence he knew about, authorised or directed the falsification of any document and said it was legitimate to rely on advice from professionals.

Deloitte Cyprus said it "acts in compliance with applicable laws".

The findings are being revealed following a joint investigation between BBC Panorama and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

For nearly two decades, Roman Abramovich was the most famous Russian oligarch in the UK, welcomed in London where he bought Chelsea Football Club in 2003 and bankrolled the club's most successful period. But after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, he was sanctioned by the UK government as an associate of President Vladimir Putin and forced to sell the club.

Homes and bridges swept away as fresh floods hit Nepal

A major river in Nepal has flooded, sweeping away houses, bridges and damaging a part of hydropower station, authorities have said.

Officials say they have rescued 95 people, including nine foreigners, along the bank of the Budhi Gandaki River in the central Gorkha district, the

army confirmed. No casualties have been reported yet, however five people are missing.

A video of the flood shows the moment raging waters sweep down a valley and wash away an entire building complex.

Nepal is on high alert and still trying to recover from catastrophic floods that hit

its border towns with Tibet two months ago, leaving more than 1,400 people dead and thousands missing.

Sunday's flood tore through the Gorkha district as children and communities prepared to mark the first day of the Dashain festival, a major moment in the Nepali calendar.

More than 200 homes were damaged and more than 650 people were impacted by the flood, Nepal's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said.

Some settlements have been completely cut off and are now only accessible by air, a local official told The Kathmandu Post.

OUR OBA, OUR IDENTITY: A decade of Oba Ewuare II and the continuity of Benin civilization

This October, the Benin Kingdom commemorates the 10th coronation anniversary of His Royal Majesty, Omo N' Oba N' Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Oba Ewuare II, Ogidigan. His ascension to the ancient throne on October 20, 2016, as the 40th Oba in a dynastic succession that predates colonial historiography, was more than a ritual of succession. It was an ontological reaffirmation of a people whose identity is inseparable from monarchy.

In contemporary discourse on Nigerian nationhood, identity is often framed as a contest between tradition and modernity. The Benin experience refutes this binary. The institution of the Oba remains the central organizing principle of Edo identity.

I. THE THRONE AS AN ARCHIVE OF IDENTITY

European visitors in the 15th and 16th centuries documented Benin City as a marvel of urban planning, with its massive earthworks — the Iya — regarded as the largest man-made earth structure in pre-colonial Africa. The famed Benin Bronzes were not mere decorative objects; they were historical records, legal codes, and

spiritual iconography.

The Oba is the custodian of this archive. He is the embodiment of Edo as a civilization. The linguistic, spiritual, and aesthetic norms of the people — from the esoteric language of the palace chiefs (Iwebo, Iweguae, Ibiwe) to the cycle of royal festivals such as Ugie Erha Oba, Igue, and Emobo — derive legitimacy and continuity from the throne. To remove the Oba from Benin history is to render Benin history unintelligible.

II. TEN YEARS OF EWUARE II: RECONCILIATION, RESTITUTION AND MORAL AUTHORITY

A critical assessment of the last decade reveals three defining pillars of the reign of Oba Ewuare II.

a) Reconciliation as Statecraft: One of the earliest acts of Oba Ewuare II was the political reconciliation of Edo State's fractious political class in 2016. This act recalled the traditional role of the Oba as the source of peace — a supra-political father figure whose authority transcends partisan contestation.

b) The Restitution Movement: Perhaps the most globally significant contribution of this reign has been

the systematic international advocacy for the repatriation of Benin artefacts looted during the punitive expedition of 1897. His Majesty's intervention elevated the discourse from museum acquisitions to a question of international justice and cultural restitution. The recent returns from Cambridge University, the Smithsonian, and the German government must be understood within this sustained royal diplomacy.

c) Moral Governance: In 2018, His Majesty took the unprecedented step of invoking spiritual sanctions against human trafficking syndicates who exploited Edo youth. By revoking oaths sworn by victims, the Oba demonstrated the potent intersection of traditional spiritual authority and contemporary human rights advocacy.

III. RESPECT FOR THE THRONE IS RESPECT FOR OUR HERITAGE

At this historic juncture, it is imperative to make a solemn appeal to all Edo sons and daughters, at home and in the diaspora: let us continue to accord the institution of the Oba of Benin the profound respect it de-

serves.

This respect must not be mistaken for mere protocol or nostalgia. Respect for the institution of the Oba is respect for the Benin cultural heritage itself. The throne is the vessel that has carried our history, our values, our arts, our language, our laws, and our worldview across centuries of disruption, colonization, and globalization.

When we stand when the Oba speaks, when we defer to palace protocol, when we defend the throne against ridicule and trivialization on social media and in contemporary discourse, we are not merely honouring an individual. We are protecting the integrity of a civilization. To desecrate or diminish the institution is to diminish ourselves, for without the Oba, we risk becoming a people with a history but without an anchor, a people with artefacts but without meaning.

Therefore, let this 10th anniversary rekindle in every Edo person an unwavering commitment to uphold the dignity, sanctity and reverence of the throne of our fathers.

IV. THE MONARCHY AND THE NIGERIAN STATE

Traditional institutions in Africa are not vestiges of a disappearing past but resilient centres of legitimacy. In a multi-ethnic federation struggling with identity cohesion, the Benin monarchy provides a model of cultural stability that supports, rather than subverts, the modern state. It provides psychological security and a sense of belonging that bureaucratic structures cannot.

IDENTITY AS RESPONSIBILITY

The 10th anniversary, therefore, is not merely a celebration of longevity; it is a call to cultural responsibility. The imperative for the Edo person in this second decade of Oba Ewuare II's reign is to translate reverence into practice: to ensure intergenerational transmission of the Edo language, to support the preservation of tangible and intangible heritage, and to live by the values of Ovbiore — truth, justice and righteousness — that the throne symbolizes.

Oba gha to kpere, Ise!

• By A. O. Okungbowa, Esq. Ph.D (Constitutional Law) MBA (Artificial Intelligence), Head of Service, Edo State.

NEWS

Edo First Lady urges parents to invest in girl child education, reject child marriage

Edo State Government has called on parents and guardians to invest in the education the girl child and reject child marriage.

The Coordinator office of the first lady, Mrs Edesili Okpebholo Anani made the call at an event to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child in Government House, Benin City.

The Coordinator office of the first lady, Mrs Edesili Okpebholo Anani urged parents to support their children, particularly the girl-child, to pursue their education and fulfil their potential.

Mrs. Anani said the administration of Governor Monday Okpebholo was committed to removing barriers that hinder the progress of the girl child.

She stressed that parents should allow girls to recognise their value and pursue their dreams rather than subjecting them to early marriage.

"Marriage is good when the time is right. Our Constitution stipulates that a girl must be 18 years and above before marriage," she said.

The Coordinator also urged children to take their education seriously, discover their potential and develop the confidence to pursue their aspirations.

The Keynote speaker and former Deputy speaker, Edo State House of Assembly, Maria Edeko, explained that child marriage was unacceptable and the Edo State Child Rights Law provided protection for children.

She warned that early marriage could expose girls to serious health and social consequences, including complications associated with ear-

ly pregnancy and childbirth.

Two parents, Mr. Okusun Gabriel and Hajia Atine Umar, condemned child marriage and encouraged parents to provide proper care, guidance and education for their children.

Some students who participated in the event, Osayande Williams of Umelu Senior Secondary School, Okefe Vivian of Great Oxford International Group of Schools and Afolabi Peace Oluwabunmi of Ihogbe College, said the event had taught them the importance of self-confidence, self-worth and pursuing their aspirations.

The International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on October 11 to promote girls' rights, equal opportunities and empowerment worldwide.

Media Unit Office of the First Lady Edo State
October 11, 2026.



Banditary news in Edo North: Implications of fake news and citizen journalism



BANDITS

OTONO MUHAMMAD

In this age of instantaneous transmission, where the smartphone has supplanted the town crier and the WhatsApp status rivals the front page, two formidable forces now shape the conscience of society: fake news and citizen journalism. To comprehend their implications is to hold a mirror to our collective psyche, for within that reflection lies both the promise of democratized information and the peril of mass delusion.

Fake news, in its most clinical definition, is the deliberate fabrication or distortion of information masquerading as factual reportage, designed to deceive, inflame, or manipulate public perception for ideological, political, or economic gain. It is falsehood adorned in the garb of truth, a counterfeit currency circulating in the marketplace of ideas. Citizen journalism, by contrast, is the noble democratization of the press — the act by which ordinary citizens, unshackled from the confines of newsroom orthodoxy, capture, report, and disseminate events through digital platforms. It is the voice of the witness, the power of the ubiquitous camera, the collapse of the monopoly on storytelling. When practiced with integrity, it is journalism's most inclusive evolution. When practiced with recklessness, it becomes the conduit through which fake news achieves its deadliest velocity.

The daily realities of their consequences unfold before us with

harrowing regularity, etching themselves into the social fabric like acid upon metal. Yesterday, the entire Edo North Senatorial District — that vast geographical space stretching from Etsako West to Akoko-Edo, Etsako Central, Etsako East to Owan West and mainstream back to Etsako West LGA hosting the oldest polytechnic in the entire South-South Geopolitical Zone of Nigeria, Auchi Polytechnic Auchi — was plunged into a theatre of panic. An obvious fake news broke and spread like harmattan bush fire: "Bandits are in town kidnapping school children." In seconds, the digital wildfire leapt from group chat to group chat, from status to status, until it eclipsed reason and ignited primal fear. The town ran helter skelter, irrespective of age, tongue, sex, or community. Grandmothers who could barely walk abandoned their wares. Students fled classrooms mid-lesson. Traders locked shops and bolted. Auchi, that serene citadel of learning, was almost a telling reflection of the day the Biafra army invaded the innocent town in 1967 during the Nigeria Civil War. Terrible!

Imagine the anguish, the visceral trouble and pain that parents endured at the outbreak of that phantom alarm. Those without mobility of their own ran until exhaustion claimed their limbs. A woman fainted in her desperate sprint toward her little child's school, her body collapsing under the weight of terror manufactured by a lie. Homes were emptied, hearts were fractured, and an entire

district was held hostage by fiction. No bandit came. No child was taken. Yet the wound inflicted by that falsehood was real, deep, and collective. That is the insidious implication: fake news does not need bullets to kill; it murders peace, it assassinates trust, it paralyzes entire economies with a single fabricated line.

Till this moment of putting this write up together, no community across the clans reported any visibility of bandit or kidnapper following the broken fake news. All this came from citizen journalism where anyone who can afford a handset and credit card writes what pleases him or her without minding the implication or consequences like the entire Senatorial District suffered innocently yesterday. Imagine, how many pupils could have suffered injuries from falls in their desperate bid to escape home, including teachers who abandoned lesson plans to become unwilling refugees from rumor. The classroom, that sanctuary of intellect, was converted overnight into a runway of fear — all orchestrated by unverified thumbs.

Beyond such episodic hysteria, the chronic implications corrode society incrementally. Public trust in genuine institutions erodes, for when lies proliferate, truth becomes suspect. Security agencies are distracted from real threats as they chase digital ghosts. Community cohesion frays, as neighbors begin to view one another through lenses of suspicion seeded by unverified broadcasts. Educational

systems are disrupted, health centers are overwhelmed by psychosomatic patients, and the civic space becomes a battlefield where rumor reigns and reason retreats.

Citizen journalism, when yoked to ethical responsibility, could be the antidote. The same phones that spread panic can document facts, verify locations, interview authorities, and calm nerves. But without media literacy, without editorial conscience, the citizen journalist becomes an accidental arsonist — striking matches in a room soaked with public anxiety. The implication, therefore, is clear: freedom of expression without responsibility is not liberty; it is license. And license, in the information age, is more destructive than censorship.

The trauma that gripped Edo North yesterday must not be allowed to dissolve into forgetfulness, for it must birth a covenant of caution and collective responsibility among all who call this Senatorial District home. To residents across Owan East, Akoko-Edo, Etsako East, Etsako West, Etsako Central and Owan West, let verification be your first reflex before dissemination. Pause, call the school, call the police, call the community leader. If you cannot confirm it in three minutes, do not forward it in three seconds, and treat every unverified broadcast as potential poison until proven otherwise.

Honestly, to parents, the school must be your first line of communication, not WhatsApp rumors, and

you must insist that every school establishes a verified parents' channel with designated officials so that in moments of panic you may walk with calmness rather than chaos, teaching your children evacuation discipline lest fear trample them more cruelly than any phantom bandit. To stakeholders — traditional rulers, religious leaders, security agencies, school administrators, LGA chairmen, and media houses — the hour demands rapid-response information desks in each LGA that flood the public space with verified truth faster than the lie travels, a partnership with Auchi Polytechnic's Department of Mass Communication to run quarterly media literacy clinics in every ward, and a communal insistence that consequences must follow those who deliberately manufacture panic, for freedom must never become a shield for social arson.

In the final reckoning, fake news and citizen journalism are not merely media phenomena; they are moral tests. They ask each of us: will you be a carrier of panic or a custodian of truth? Edo North's near-tragedy yesterday must serve as a clarion call. Let no more mothers faint for lies. Let no more towns run from shadows. In the age where everyone can broadcast, everyone must also become an editor of conscience.

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UZAMERE: The stewardship of a mandate, the impact of a representative

MATTHEW OKAGHA

How one legislator is translating "Effective Representation" into grassroots development in Ovia North-East Constituency II

Leadership is often measured in the language of promises. But when the noise of campaigns fades and the electorate begins to ask what has changed, leadership assumes a different meaning.

It becomes a question of stewardship.

What was done with the mandate entrusted to the representative? Which communities were reached? Which young lives were given new opportunities? Which schools received attention? Which families gained access to basic amenities? And, perhaps most importantly, did the representative remember the people after the votes had been counted?

For Hon. Andrew Edozor Uzamere, Member representing Ovia North-East Constituency II in the Edo State House of Assembly, the answer lies not merely in speeches but in a growing catalogue of constituency interventions spread across the seven wards that make up the constituency.

His political journey itself is a story of perseverance.

After three unsuccessful attempts to win a legislative seat—in 2011, 2015 and 2019—Uzamere returned to the political contest in 2023 and finally triumphed on his fourth attempt. On June 16, 2023, he was inaugurated into the Edo State House of Assembly as the representative of Ovia North-East Constituency II.

That victory was not simply the end of a political struggle. It was the beginning of a responsibility he had pursued for years.

And he appeared to understand the difference.

His philosophy was captured in a declaration that has become the defining statement of his stewardship:

"I AM DUTY BOUND TO REPRESENT YOU (MY CONSTITUENTS) WELL, IT IS NOT OUT OF BENEVOLENCE, I DO NOT TAKE THE MANDATE YOU GAVE ME WITH LEVITY."

That statement is significant because it places representation in its proper context—not as an act of personal generosity by an elected official, but as a solemn obligation arising from the people's mandate.

FROM MANDATE TO MISSION

Uzamere came into public office with a professional background in Accountancy and Finance.

Born on September 22, 1962, in Benin City, he attended St. Stephen's Primary School and Eghosa Anglican Grammar School before proceeding to the United States, where he studied Accountancy and Finance at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury, Long Island.

He later became a Certified Public Accountant, building a professional foundation around financial management and accountability.

That background has assumed particular relevance in his legislative responsibilities.

Initially appointed Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Solid

Minerals and Oil & Gas, he was subsequently reassigned as Chairman of the House Standing Committee on Public Accounts—a position that places him at the heart of legislative oversight of public finances.

For Uzamere, therefore, representation operates on two interconnected fronts: delivering tangible interventions to constituents while also participating in the institutional processes through which public resources are scrutinised and governance is strengthened.

SEVEN WARDS, ONE MANDATE

Perhaps the strongest feature of the Uzamere stewardship story is its geographical spread.

The constituency's seven wards—Okada West, Okada East, Uhen, Oghede, Oduna, Iguoshodin and Utoka—have featured in various intervention programmes.

The approach suggests an attempt to ensure that development is not restricted to political strongholds or easily accessible communities.

In Okada West, for instance, boreholes and generators were provided at Iguomo and Oguedion in Okada town. More than 50 students of Okada Grammar School have benefited from the WAEC/NECO scholarship programme since 2025, while more than 2,000 notebooks were distributed to students of the school.

In Okada East, the intervention extended to water supply, education and infrastructure, including boreholes at Iguaeze and Egbetenyin-Iguiye and the reconstruction of a three-classroom block at Osunde Primary School, Egboba, with a Headmaster's office, furniture and toilet facilities.

The story is repeated, with local variations, across the constituency.

At Uhen, boreholes and generators were provided to Egbeta, Utese, Olumoye and Ugbuwe communities. A three-classroom block at Uhen Mixed Secondary School was reconstructed, while more than 100 students across four secondary schools benefited from the WAEC/NECO scholarship scheme. More than 2,000 notebooks were also distributed.

At Oghede, the intervention included the rehabilitation of an existing borehole at Ikoro, construction of two blocks of nine classrooms at Oghede Secondary School, and construction of Igo Community Market. More than 180 students have featured in the scholarship programme there, while over 4,000 notebooks were distributed among beneficiary schools.

WATER: BRINGING DEVELOPMENT CLOSER TO HOME

In rural communities, the importance of potable water can hardly be overstated.

A borehole may look like a modest infrastructure project from the pages of a report, but to a family that previously depended on unsafe or distant water sources, it represents something much larger: time saved, health protected and dignity restored.

This explains the prominence of water projects in the Uzamere intervention record.

In Oduna Ward, boreholes and generators were provided in Gelegele, Ekehuan-Waterside, Iboro, Ugbineh-Urhobo Camp and Oduna,

alongside solar panels and batteries for a borehole at Igueholor.

In Iguoshodin Ward, a borehole and generator were provided at Iguzama, while educational infrastructure included six-classroom blocks at Emaba Primary School, Iguoshodin N'gbemaba, and Oba Eweka Primary School, Obagie-Uwaifokun, both with offices, furniture and toilet facilities.

Solar lights were also provided at Egbalen Market.

At Utoka, a borehole and generator were provided at Ite community, while the intervention included scholarships, notebooks and a lawn mower for Utoka Secondary School.

These interventions reveal a simple development philosophy: begin with the basic needs that directly affect everyday life.

EDUCATION AS AN INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW

If water represents immediate relief, education represents investment in the future.

The WAEC/NECO scholarship programme is one of the most prominent features of the constituency intervention.

The scheme has provided examination support to indigent students across several secondary schools, helping young people overcome one of the financial barriers that can interrupt their educational journey.

The 2026 beneficiaries listed in the constituency record cut across Okada West, Uhen, Oghede, Oduna, Iguoshodin and Utoka wards, with students drawn from schools including Okada Grammar School, Ogbesse Secondary School, Utese Secondary School, Uhen Mixed Secondary School, Egbeta Secondary School, Oghede Secondary School, Army Day Secondary School, Ikpiti Grammar School, Ughoton Secondary School, Ugbineh Senior Secondary School, Igudolor Secondary School, Ore-Nolomi Senior School and Utoka Grammar School.

The accompanying distribution of thousands of notebooks further demonstrates an effort to combine examination support with basic learning materials.

In a constituency where many families face competing economic pressures, helping students remain in school and sit for critical examinations is more than a political intervention. It

is an investment in human capital.

And that investment can outlive any political tenure.

BUILDING SCHOOLS, BUILDING POSSIBILITIES

The physical condition of learning environments also features prominently in the stewardship record.

Classroom blocks have been constructed or reconstructed, while offices, furniture and sanitation facilities have been incorporated into several projects.

This is important because education is not only about putting children in classrooms. The quality and condition of the learning environment can influence attendance, motivation and the general dignity of the educational experience.

The proposed projects for 2026/2027 indicate that this aspect of the constituency agenda is expected to continue.

Among the proposals are new classroom blocks in Omi and Igudolor communities, reconstruction of classrooms at Egbeta Secondary School, renovation of Ikoro Secondary School and Utese Secondary School, provision of furniture at Utoka Secondary School and Ikpiti Secondary School, and reconstruction of the administrative block at Uhen Mixed Secondary School.

YOUTH: GIVING REPRESENTATION A HUMAN FACE

Public representation is not limited to physical infrastructure.

It is also about opening doors.

The constituency record documents several constituents nominated into appointive positions and others who secured permanent employment with the Edo State House of Assembly.

For many young people, such opportunities can represent a significant turning point.

Beyond employment, Uzamere also deployed sport as an instrument of youth engagement.

The 2024 Andrew Uzamere Unity Cup brought together teams representing the seven wards. Complete sets of jerseys were provided, while prize money of 500,000, 300,000 and 200,000 was awarded to the winners of the gold, silver and bronze positions respectively.

The tournament was therefore conceived not merely as football, but as a vehicle for unity, talent development

and stronger relationships among youths across the constituency.

STEWARDSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Perhaps one of the most interesting dimensions of Uzamere's public service is the convergence between constituency development and legislative oversight.

As Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, he occupies a position directly associated with scrutiny of public expenditure.

That responsibility gives another meaning to his stewardship philosophy.

The representative who asks government to provide infrastructure for his people must equally appreciate the importance of ensuring that public resources are properly managed.

The source material also places this legislative role within the broader development vision of Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo.

The Governor's SHINE Agenda—Security, Health, Infrastructure, Agriculture and Education—provides the framework against which Uzamere's constituency interventions are presented. His water projects, educational programmes, infrastructure interventions and youth empowerment efforts are therefore portrayed as grassroots expressions of a broader development philosophy.

POLITICS OF POSITIONING

Uzamere's return to the All Progressives Congress also forms part of the political story surrounding his current stewardship.

The accompanying analysis in the publication presents the move as a strategic decision motivated by the desire to position Ovia North-East Constituency II within the mainstream of governance.

It argues that political alignment, in this context, is viewed through the lens of access, collaboration and the capacity to translate political influence into tangible development.

Whatever political interpretations may attend the decision, the central argument advanced by his supporters is that representation must remain focused on results.

In that sense, the political platform becomes a means rather than the end.

The end, according to the stewardship narrative, is development.

CONTINUES ON PG 19»



HON. ANDREW EDOBOR UZAMERE
(MEMBER REPRESENTING OVIA NORTH EAST CONSTITUENCY II)

FEATURE

UZAMERE: The stewardship of a mandate, the impact of a representative

CONTINUE FROM PG 18»

A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GRASSROOTS

There is another dimension to the Uzamere story that should not be overlooked: continuity.

The proposed 2026/2027 programme contains a further list of interventions, including health-centre rehabilitation, additional water projects, electrification, market

renovation, school improvements and continuation of the WAEC/NECO scholarship scheme for 500 indigent students.

This suggests that the representative's conception of stewardship extends beyond completed projects to an evolving programme of interventions.

The underlying philosophy is straightforward: identify needs, intervene where possible, and con-

tinue building on what has already been achieved.

ONE GOOD TERM DESERVES ANOTHER?

As the political conversation gradually turns toward 2027, the question of continuity inevitably enters the discussion.

The case being presented by Uzamere's supporters is built around a simple proposition: where a representative has demonstrat-

ed measurable impact, continuity should be considered through the lens of development.

The argument is not merely about political loyalty.

It is about whether ongoing projects should be allowed to mature, whether educational programmes should continue, whether infrastructure plans should be completed and whether the relationship between representative and constituents should be strengthened.

The constituency record describes this philosophy in the phrase: "One good term deserves another."

THE MEASURE OF STEWARDSHIP

Ultimately, public office is temporary.

Mandates begin. Mandates end. Political parties change. Governments come and go.

But the physical and human consequences of leadership can endure.

A classroom block can educate generations of children.

A borehole can serve a community for years.

A scholarship can alter the direction of a young person's life.

A market can create space for

commerce.

A job opportunity can change a family's economic circumstances.

And a culture of accountability can influence how public resources are managed.

That is where the deeper meaning of stewardship lies.

For Hon. Andrew Edozor Uzamere, the journey from repeated electoral defeat to legislative victory appears to have shaped a philosophy in which persistence is matched by responsibility.

He waited four attempts for the opportunity to serve.

Having received it, his record, as documented in the stewardship compendium, is a story of trying to make the mandate visible across the seven wards of Ovia North-East Constituency II.

The ultimate verdict, however, belongs to the people.

For they are the custodians of the mandate.

And in the final analysis, stewardship is not measured by how loudly a leader speaks about his achievements, but by how deeply those achievements are felt in the lives of the people he was elected to serve.



AWARD OF WAEC/NECO SCHOLARSHIP:

Hon. Andrew Uzamere with a cross section of the beneficiaries of his WAEC/NECO Scholarship to students of Okada/Uhen Axis.

An aspect of emotional intelligence is not to overestimate one's value

BAGUDU MOHAMMED

I came across a social media post about a Plateau man that read more like fiction than reality, yet it provides a perfect material to understand a neglected dimension of emotional intelligence.

The story goes: a Plateau man lost an election and disconnected electricity for the whole village, claiming he had connected it with his own money. He removed the transformer and packed all the cables, disconnected everybody, and told them to go and ask the person they voted for to do it for them. He disconnected water too, removed his pipes, tank and submersible pump, and terminated scholarship support for sixty students in his constituency which he personally funded, blaming their parents for not supporting him at the polls. Who is to blame?

The question of who is to blame is thought-provoking. Eche Emmanuel, while responding, wrote that the situation could actually be painful, almost siding with the man. And that is understandable. Daniel Goleman, who popularized emotional intelligence, reminds us that pain, provocation and even deliberate mischief are unavoidable, but what defines maturity is not the absence of those triggers but the capacity to regulate the response to them. To use pain as an excuse to test one's importance or to communicate value in a battle for supremacy is to expose oneself to greater vulnerability.

Emotional intelligence at its core is not about suppressing emotions; it is about reducing vulnerability and serving as self-defense in the face of provocation, anger and challenges that put to test what we can do.

I blame the Plateau man first because he is acting from a supposed position of greater strength, a position where personal choice makes control and alternative judgment possible. Unlike a community where choice, verdict and judgment do not depend on an individual but on a group, with conflicting interests, shifting alliances and complex loyalties, he had the luxury of pause. We cannot expect such harmony from a crowd.

Social psychology calls this the fundamental attribution error; we judge others by their actions but ourselves by our intentions, and we forget that a community's rejection is rarely a verdict on one transformer or one borehole.

An aspect of emotional intelligence in politics is that love creates love, patience invites patience, and hate breeds hate. People should make a deliberate effort to disarm the threat of hate or mischief with calculated conduct that first protects them from the harm of wilderness and overreaction. There is a wisdom in the old social exchange theory of Homans and Blau, that relationships thrive on reciprocity, but reciprocity cannot be coerced. You can invest love and not harvest love in return.

While it is true that there are assumptions by which love or positive emotions can be won, for example by spending on a woman, by being of good character, by humility, life is too complex to conclude that such actions will naturally lead to favourable outcomes.

Research on unreciprocated investment shows that sometimes it is the most caring man that a woman despises and whose money she uses to help another man. Politics is even more complex. More favour could come from the political party a candidate flies, the strength of

its structure and the popular sentiment of the time.

In many places, those contesting under the platform of a wave party are automatically treated as heroes regardless of whether they once fixed transformers, constructed boreholes or paid school fees, because deeper emotions and collective anxieties shape choice.

It is the same irony that makes a celebrity have millions of male friends and fans yet remain single. It is the same irony that makes an actor whose films are largely patronized remain single at an age when he should be overwhelmed with people to choose from. It is the same irony that makes a celebrity or influencer who is highly popular and influential, who has made impact for years through writing, sports, acting, music and other crafts, not good enough to be elected into office. That is why instead of calling netizens friends or fans, they are better described as followers. People can enjoy your craft without necessarily liking you as a person.

Robert Sternberg's work on the difference between admiration and intimacy captures this; we can be fascinated by what you do without wanting to live with who you are.

Returning to the Plateau man and the reflection it inspires, the lesson is that an aspect of emotional intelligence forbids overestimating one's importance. There should be discipline not to threaten even people we help, support or even our own spouse with absolute sanctions like sack, send away or divorce because it could end up exposing our own vulnerability.

If you expose the worst you can do, what is left for people to fear? What if while you are issuing such threats to prove your power, the supposed weak or dependent responds, Oga, you can do your

worst, or is that all you can do, just to preserve dignity? What becomes of such utterances long after they are deployed to ridicule, embarrass and insult others? Do they not create greater vulnerability if by any chance you come to need the help of the same people who are your neighbours or town people and they remind you of how you abandoned them at a crucial time?

I also think the world can move on without us, and that is a truth we do not fully appreciate. It is therefore better not to overestimate our importance to the extent that, before our very eyes, those who depend on us become emancipated after we withdraw our contribution. If you are providing someone with food or shelter, you should realise that if you suddenly become unwilling to continue that support, people do not necessarily die because of the resulting hardship. In many cases, they eventually learn to survive on their own. Yes, they may suffer at the beginning, but that suffering does not necessarily continue forever. Have you ever wondered how orphans, widows and even those who have been rejected manage to adapt and survive?

Psychologists call this resilience, the human capacity to rewire and rebuild after loss. That is why even threatening to withdraw support can be excessive talk, especially when trying to prove that people cannot do without us for a day and will come begging. That is not always the case.

Besides, politics is an investment and a risk, and repeating the investment is not always predictable. Humility is to do good because it adds value and could create positivity but never to expect or feel entitled to be paid back as a matter of right. There was no contract that if the Plateau man did those projects he would

automatically be elected.

So I blame him first for losing his cool even when he seemed to be in a better position of strength and control. By losing his temper he lost all the goodwill and reputation he had built and subjected himself to mockery and greater vulnerability, because definitely the villagers will learn to live without him, but he can hardly recover from the excesses of that wilderness and from allowing provocation to get the better side of his judgment.

**HAPPY NEW MONTH, AND
HAPPY 66TH INDEPENDENCE
ANNIVERSARY.**

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The labour room is still a war zone

GRACE IJEOMA UMEH

In Nigeria, giving birth is still one of the most dangerous things a woman can do. The numbers are so large they become abstract. According to the World Health Organization, Nigeria accounts for nearly 30 percent of global maternal deaths. One in every 22 Nigerian women will die from a pregnancy-related cause in her lifetime. Every ten minutes, somewhere in this country, a woman dies while trying to bring life into the world. But behind every abstract number is a woman who had a name, a family, a plan for the child she was carrying.

Consider Halima, not her real name, a 32-year-old mother of three from a community outside Lokoja. In April this year, she went into labour with her fourth child. She arrived at the nearest general hospital at 8 p.m. There was no doctor on call. There was no blood in the blood bank. She began to bleed heavily after delivery, a condition called postpartum hemorrhage, which is both common and treatable if you have the right drugs and blood. Her husband was told to go and find blood. He traveled for two hours on a motorcycle to a private lab. By the time he returned, she had died. Her baby survived.

Halima's death was not caused by a mysterious disease. It was caused by a health system that consistently undervalues women's lives. And that undervaluing is rooted in gender inequality.

The first layer of inequality is economic. In many parts of Nigeria, a woman cannot decide to seek emergency care without her husband's permission or without his money. Even when care is supposed to be free under the Basic Health Care Provision Fund, informal fees are demanded. A woman in labour is told to bring gloves, bleach, cord clamps, and pay for registration before she can be touched. If her husband is away, if she does not have her own savings, she waits. And waiting kills.

The second layer is social. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of early marriage in the world. Girls married at 15 or 16 begin childbearing before their bodies are fully matured. They have more children, with shorter intervals between births, because they have little power to negotiate contraceptive use. Each pregnancy depletes their nutritional reserves. By the time they are 30, they may have had five or six pregnancies.

Their bodies are exhausted. And because they were married early, they are less likely to have completed secondary education, which is one of the strongest predictors of maternal survival.

The third layer is political. Who makes the decisions about health budgets in Nigeria? In 2023, the Federal Ministry of Health budget allocated less than 5 percent of the national budget to health, far below the 15 percent agreed to in the Abuja Declaration. Within that small budget, how much is specifically earmarked for maternal health, for family planning commodities, for training midwives? Very little. And how many women are in the room when those budgets are decided? At the last count, women made up less than 6 percent of the National Assembly. State Houses of Assembly are not much better. The voices of female nurses, midwives, and community health workers who know exactly what is needed in labour wards are rarely heard in policy spaces.

There is also a fourth layer, which is cultural silence. We have normalized the idea that women must suffer to become mothers. We have proverbs that glorify a woman's endurance of pain. We have a system where women who complain about disrespectful care, about being slapped or shouted at during labour, are told to be grateful they survived. This culture of disrespect, which



the WHO now calls obstetric violence, drives women away from health facilities. They choose to give birth at home with traditional birth attendants, not because they do not know better, but because they have been humiliated in hospitals before.

What would it take to change this? It would take treating maternal mortality

not as a health issue alone, but as a gender justice emergency. It would take fully funding free maternal health care, ensuring that no woman is ever asked to pay before she is treated. It would take investing in midwives, who are overwhelmingly women and who are the backbone of maternal care, paying them well and posting them to rural

areas with proper accommodation. It would take giving women financial autonomy through education and economic empowerment so they can make decisions about their own bodies.

And it would take putting more women in political leadership, because there is evidence from around the

world that when women are in parliament, health budgets for women and children increase.

The labour room should not be a war zone. It should be a place of dignity, safety, and joy. Every time a Nigerian woman dies giving birth, we have failed not just her, but the very idea that women matter equally in this country.

In her inbox - The new workplace harassment for Nigerian women

MARTHA OBI-DIKE

For young Nigerian women who work in media, in entertainment, in tech, and in corporate spaces, the most dangerous place in the workplace is no longer the office after hours. It is the inbox. It is the comment section. It is the direct message at 11 p.m. that says, "I liked your report on TV, you are beautiful, come and see me in my hotel so I can make you a star."

Aisha, 24, graduated with a second-class upper in Mass Communication and secured an internship with a prominent broadcast station in Abuja. She was excited, talented, and hard-working. She pitched a story on the impact of flooding on women traders in Karmo market. It was approved. She shot it, edited it, and posted a clip on her Instagram. Within an hour, she received a message from a senior editor in her own organization. It was not about the story. It was about her appearance. "You are very fine on camera," he wrote. "Come to my office privately after close and I will ensure your face is always on prime time." When she politely declined and said she preferred to discuss work in the newsroom, her sto-

ries stopped being scheduled. Her supervisor told her she was not "a team player."

Aisha's story is not exceptional. It is the norm for a generation of young Nigerian women whose work lives online and offline have merged. A 2023 survey by the African Women in Media network found that 63 percent of female journalists under 30 had experienced sexual harassment online that was directly linked to their work. This included unsolicited explicit images, requests for sexual favours in exchange for bylines or airtime, and coordinated trolling when they reported on feminist issues.

The digital space, which was supposed to democratize opportunity for women, has become a new site of patriarchal control. An influencer is told by a brand that they will only pay her if she comes to the CEO's private residence for a meeting. A female tech founder pitches her startup and is asked by an investor if she has a boyfriend and whether she plans to get pregnant soon. A young lawyer posts a legal analysis on LinkedIn and receives comments about her marital status rather than her argument.

This harassment has real economic and psychological costs.

Women withdraw. They lock their accounts. They stop reporting on politics, on gender-based violence, on corruption, because those beats attract the worst abuse. They leave newsrooms and startups and go into less visible work. A recent study by UNESCO found that women journalists who experience online harassment are three times more likely to consider leaving the profession than their male colleagues.

And when they do speak out, they face a second layer of punishment. Our culture of shame is weaponized against them. She is told she is too sensitive, that she misunderstood a compliment, that she dressed too provocatively on air, that she should have known better than to post her work on Instagram. The perpetrator, often a man with more power, faces no consequences because there are no clear policies.

What would a safe digital workplace look like for Nigerian women? It would start with media houses, agencies, and tech companies having clear, written policies on online harassment that recognize that harassment via DM is workplace harassment. It would require that those

policies include anonymous reporting mechanisms and protection against retaliation. It would require that organizations like NAWOJ and the Nigeria Union of Journalists push for collective bargaining agreements that specifically cover digital safety.

It would also require that we teach digital literacy not just as how to use tools, but how to set boundaries. That we tell young women that it is okay to screen-shot, to document, to say no, and to report. And that we tell young men that a woman's professional visibility is not an invitation.

Finally, it would require that platforms themselves are held accountable. A woman should be able to report harassment on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn and get a response that is faster than 48 hours. And our laws, including the Cybercrimes Act, must be enforced in ways that protect women rather than criminalize their speech.

A woman's inbox should be a place for story ideas, for job offers, for collaboration. It should not be a place where she has to calculate whether opening a message will cost her her dignity or her job. Until we make it safe, we are losing the voices of half of Nigeria's best talent.



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Rising Tennis Star, wAsian Tennis Federation (ATF) 12&U Intercontinental Team Competition

Nigeria's Rising Tennis star selected for Africa's Intercontinental squad

Nigeria's Mabubat Rasaki is among six players selected to represent Africa at the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) 12&U Intercontinental Team Competition in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. The tournament begins on October 12, 2026, bringing together young tennis talents from Africa and other parts of the world for the intercontinental competition. Rasaki is expected to feature as Team Africa takes on players

from other continents, providing the Nigerian youngster with an opportunity to showcase his talent on the international stage. The competition is also expected to offer the participating players valuable international exposure and experience as they continue their development in junior tennis. Rasaki's participation represents another opportunity for Nigeria to showcase its emerging tennis talent at an international event.



Mikel Merino's father dismisses Real Madrid transfer rumours, insists son is happy at Arsenal

MUYIDEEN FUNMILAYO

Mikel Merino's father has played down speculation linking his son with a potential move to Real Madrid, insisting that the Spanish midfielder is happy at Arsenal. The Spain international joined Arsenal from Real Sociedad in a deal reportedly worth £31.6 million following his contributions to Spain's triumph at the 2024 European Championship. Since arriving in north London, Merino has been part of Mikel Arteta's squad as Arsenal continue to compete at

the highest level of English football. His technical ability, versatility and experience have made him a valuable option for the Gunners. However, speculation linking the midfielder with a possible move to Real Madrid has generated interest among football fans, with the Spanish giants regularly associated with high-profile transfer targets. Despite the rumours, Merino's father has reportedly dismissed suggestions of an imminent departure, indicating that his son remains satisfied with life at Arsenal. He also

described the Premier League side as a top club, reinforcing the positive picture of the midfielder's current situation. Real Madrid's interest, if genuine, would represent a significant development in Merino's career. A return to Spanish football could be an attractive prospect for the midfielder, who previously established himself in La Liga before moving to England. Nevertheless, there is no confirmation in the supplied report that Real Madrid have submitted an official offer or opened formal negotiations

with Arsenal over the player. For now, the available information suggests that Merino remains focused on his career at the Emirates Stadium, with the transfer speculation yet to translate into a confirmed move. Editorial note: The article is now more structured and publication-ready. However, before publishing, verify the exact comments attributed to Merino's father and the reported transfer fee. The original text does not identify the source of the remarks, so the attribution should be confirmed to maintain journalistic accuracy.

Ex-FCTA spokesman calls on FIFA to create over-40 World Cup for Legends

A former spokesman of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), Mr Nosike Ogbuenyi, has advocated for the introduction of a new age grade global football competition by Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) for mature veteran players aged 40 years and above.

Speaking after he submitted

a proposal for the new tournament to FIFA through the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) secretariat in Abuja on Thursday, Ogbuenyi said the introduction of FIFA Over-40 World Cup "will make the football loving world to continue to watch the best of all times on the field of play for a longer period."

Football Match Highlights

His suggestion followed the

retirement on 6 October of one of football's greatest of all times, Lionel Messi of Argentina, the two-time Special Assistant on Media to the FCT Minister said: "Here in Nigeria, we have seen our most talented and best of all times retired and become less visible publicly. We, the football fans find it difficult to keep track of our legends and stars like Jay Jay Okocha, Kanu Nwankwo, Victor Ikpeba, Emmanuel Amunike, Obafemi Martins, Vincent Enyeama and John Obi Mikel". Stream Soccer Beyond Nigeria, the former image maker of the FCT Administration said there are several football players below 65 that fans would like to continue to watch in action even as they age. He gave examples of such gifted players as Lionel Messi, Angel Di Maria, Gabriel Batistuta, Michael Owen, David Beckham, Andres Iniesta, Sergio Ramos, Xavi, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Oliver Kahn, Miroslav Klose, Manuel Neuer, Lothar Matthaus, Ronaldinho Gaucho, Ronaldo de Lima, Roberto Carlos, Didier Drogba, Samuel Eto'o, Zinedine Zidane, Thierry Henry and Keisuke Honda.

Ogbuenyi who suggested that only players between the ages of 40 and 65 should participate in the proposed tournament listed some of its advantages to include promotion of fitness, helping to keep ex football stars in spotlight after senior football, provision of source of income for the mature players and serving as medium to motivate and guide the younger footballers. Stream Soccer Other merits include helping to keep the older stars closer to their countries and thereby continuing to contribute their quota to the development of the generations next and the football game generally, providing professionals with hope of what to transit to after retiring from the more rigorous and intensive youth and senior football career and enabling fans to keep following their football idols for longer periods. He also said the introduction of the Over-40 World Cup would discourage age cheating in youth and senior football categories as many players will start looking forward to reaching age 40 to enable them qualify to represent their countries in the mature vetera Over-40 category.

Nigeria draw Cote d'Ivoire, Korea, Egypt in Beach Volleyball Championship

Nigeria will compete in Group D alongside Cote d'Ivoire, Korea and Egypt at the upcoming beach volleyball championship scheduled to take place in Saly Portudal, Senegal, from October 31 to November 4, 2026. The competition will bring together 13 African nations seeking to make an impression against the world's elite on Saly's West Beach. Nigeria will be aiming to make a strong statement in the

tournament as they prepare to face familiar African opposition and Korea in the group stage. The championship is expected to provide an exciting spectacle, with participating nations battling for honours in the coastal city of Saly Portudal. With the tournament fast approaching, Nigeria will be looking to prepare adequately for their group-stage assignments and secure a place in the next round of the competition.

POOL A	POOL B
ZHUANG MING/QU S.Y. MARTINEZ/GOMEZ MCDUGALL/CASAS SANNEH/SAJOY	BOTH/DE GROOT CHARISAKI/MARGARITOPOULOU BOUAZIZ I./LOURASSIL N. AINTHIRA/W. PHATTANAN
POOL C	POOL D
GÄHWILER/EUGSTER HARZE/SCARLETTE PEREZ/LOPEZ RODRIGUEZ/SERRANO	CORETTI/LAFUENTI PAMELA/JOY KATO/NAKAGAWA BADAWY/MARWA
POOL E	POOL F
ASSUCENA/CELIA FRASCAROLI A./GARCIA C I BERTHAUDAU/MIR LEON GUERRERO/CASSIOY	SEENANE/THIAM CADENCE/JING YI ZOE/REYES GABRIELA/YENDA



MR NOSIKE OGBUENYI

Sports



SUPER EAGLES

Nigeria Weighs Lagos Option for Tanzania AFCON Qualifying Double-Header

The Super Eagles could return to Lagos for their remaining 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying matches, with the renovated Teslim Balogun Stadium emerging as a potential venue for Nigeria's international fixtures.

Although the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has yet to officially confirm any change of venue, reports about the stadium's renovation have renewed speculation about the possibility of the three-time African champions playing competitive matches in Lagos again.

The development comes after Nigeria suffered a 3-0 defeat to Guinea-Bissau in their recent qualifying encounter, leaving the Super Eagles with three

points from their opening two matches, while Guinea-Bissau moved to six points at the top of Group L.

The Matchday 3 and 4 fixtures are scheduled for November, with Nigeria set to face Tanzania in a double-header as the team seeks to revive its qualifying campaign.

A possible return to Lagos would mark a significant development for the national team, which has regularly used the Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, for its home matches over the past decade.

The renewed interest in Lagos follows reports that the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Surulere is nearing readiness after extensive rehabilitation

work ahead of the 2026 National Intermediate Sports Festival.

The renovation programme has generated optimism among football supporters that the stadium could once again host major international matches.

However, its suitability for Super Eagles fixtures would depend on the completion of the necessary facilities and approval by the relevant football authorities.

A return to Lagos would also give the NFF an opportunity to assess the stadium's capacity to host high-profile matches, attract supporters and provide a suitable playing environment for the national team.

Lagos occupies a special place in Nigerian football his-

tory. The Super Eagles won their maiden Africa Cup of Nations title in 1980 at the National Stadium in Surulere, defeating Algeria 3-0 in the final to claim their first continental crown.

The city also hosted several important matches involving the national team, including Nigeria's 3-0 victory over Lesotho on March 30, 2021, in an AFCON qualifier at the Teslim Balogun Stadium.

Victor Osimhen, Oghenekaro Etebo and Paul Onuachu scored as Nigeria secured the victory in that encounter.

The Godswill Akpabio International Stadium in Uyo has been one of the Super Eagles' principal home venues since its inauguration in 2014.

Team Nigeria Departs for Inaugural African Boxing Elite Championships in Nairobi

Nigeria will be among the countries competing at the inaugural African Boxing Elite Championships scheduled to hold in Nairobi, Kenya, from October 15 to 28, 2026.

The Nigerian contingent will feature boxers competing in 10 weight categories, comprising five male and five female athletes, as the country seeks to make a strong impression at the continental championship.

A total of 19 delegates will make up the contingent for the competition, reflecting the country's commitment to promoting elite boxing and strengthening its presence on the African boxing stage.

The team is scheduled to depart Nigeria on Tuesday, October 13 and arrive in Nairobi on October 14, ahead of the opening of the championship.

The competition will provide an important platform for Nigeria's elite boxers to test their abilities against some of the continent's best, gain valuable international experience and demonstrate the depth of Nigerian boxing talent.

The National Sports Commission wishes the team a successful outing and urges the athletes to uphold the country's reputation for competitiveness, discipline and excellence as they represent the nation in Kenya.



TEAM NIGERIA

Motsepe increases Annual Funding for CAF member Associations to \$700,000

Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Dr Patrice Motsepe has increased the annual financial support to each of the 54 member associations from \$200,000 to \$700,000.

The funding increase is aimed at strengthening football administration across the continent and providing national football federations with additional resources to improve their operations and financial stability.

The initiative is also expected to support football devel-

opment programmes, improve administrative capacity and enhance the ability of member associations to invest in the growth of the game in their respective countries.

With the new allocation, each member association will receive an additional \$500,000

annually, representing a substantial increase in CAF's financial commitment to national federations.

The move reflects Motsepe's continued emphasis on supporting African football development through increased financial resources and im-

proved institutional capacity.

The funding is expected to benefit football development across CAF's 54 member associations, although the specific implementation arrangements and distribution conditions will determine how the additional resources are utilised.



DR PATRICE MOTSEPE

Nigeria boosts volleyball coaching strength as Elam, 3 others earn FIVB badges

Nigeria's preparations for the 2027 African Games have received a boost after four home-based coaches earned Level II qualifications from the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB).

Elishama Elam, head coach of the senior women's national team, led the Nigerian contingent that successfully completed the examinations in The Gambia on Sunday, October 11.

The other successful candidates were Taiwo Oladipupo, who handles the men's national team, Ayokunnu Aboderin and Dauda Saje.

Saje, who doubles as the players' representative on the board of the Nigeria Volley-

ball Federation (NVBF), distinguished himself during the assessment by recording the highest score among the candidates.

The development represents a significant addition to Nigeria's pool of qualified volleyball

coaches as the country looks to strengthen its technical preparations for the 2027 African Games in Egypt.

NVBF Vice President Prince Tunde Omisore, who announced the achievement in a statement, said the certification

aligned with the federation's objective of building a competent technical team for the national sides.

According to Omisore, the newly qualified coaches will support Technical Adviser Ryan Masajedi in his work with

the national teams ahead of the continental competition.

He stressed that improving the quality of coaching personnel remained a priority for the current federation board, particularly as Nigeria works towards the next edition of the African Games.

With Elam and Oladipupo now holding FIVB Level II certificates, both the women's and men's national teams stand to benefit from the additional technical expertise.

The federation will hope the coaches can translate their newly acquired knowledge into improved preparation, player development and performances when Nigeria competes in Egypt in 2027.



HOME-BASED NEW COACHES

SPORTS



ESEA to host ₦1m+ Esports Championship in Benin City



Sports Commission, Amadin Enabulele (right)



KEHINDE OSAGIEDÉ

The Edo State Esports Association (ESEA) is set to host a two-day esports championship in Benin City on October 30 and 31, featuring five teams competing across six gaming titles for a prize pool and incentives valued at more than N1 million.

The ESEA Bronze Series Esports Championship 2026 will feature Bros Emma Games, Estabain Esports, Maximus, Sugu and the University of Benin (UNIBEN) Esports Team.

According to the organisers, each team will comprise six players, a substitute and a coach, with participants competing in EA SPORTS FC 26, eFootball Console, Mortal Kombat, NBA 2K, Street Fighter and Rocket League.

Activities on the opening day will take place at the Media Centre of the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, Stadium Road, Benin City, while the Grand Finale is scheduled for the Victor Uwaifo Creative Hub on Airport Road.

The competition is aimed at promoting organised esports in Edo State by providing local players with a platform to showcase their skills, gain competitive experience and compete in a structured team environment.

The organisers described the event as the first team-based esports championship of its kind in Nigeria, a claim that could not be independently verified

at the time of writing.

The championship has received the endorsement of the Esports Federation of Nigeria (EFN) and the Edo State Sports Commission. It is also backed by the Office of the Special Adviser to the Edo State Governor on Tourism and Creative Economy, alongside other institutional supporters and partners.

The tournament will bring together competitive gaming disciplines covering football simulation, fighting games, basketball and vehicular sports, with organisers expecting participation from gaming enthusiasts and members of the wider sports and creative communities.

The competition will conclude with the emergence of the inaugural ESEA Bronze Series team champions.

The championship forms part of ESEA's efforts to develop a structured esports ecosystem in Edo State and create more opportunities for players to participate in organised competitive gaming.



Officially Endorsed By: ESPORTS FEDERATION OF NIGERIA (EFN)

Gov. Diri pre-season Tourney: Okoraofor Deborah's 57th-minute strike fires Amazons to glory

Nasarawa Amazons Football Club retained the Governor Douye Diri Women's Pre-Season Tournament trophy after defeating Delta Queens 1-0 in a thrilling final in Yenagwa, Bayelsa State.

The Lafia Landladies stepped onto the pitch with determination and purpose, delivering an impressive performance against a competitive Delta Queens side. The Amazons displayed quality across the mid-field, defence and attack, combining tactical organisation with purposeful forward play.

Despite both teams' attacking efforts, the first half ended goalless.

The decisive moment arrived in the 57th minute when Okoraofor Deborah produced a moment of individual brilliance. The forward embarked on a confident solo run from the wing before driving into the penalty area. With composure and precision, she unleashed a well-placed shot that beat the Delta Queens goalkeeper and nestled into the far corner of the net.

The superb finish sent the Amazons faithful into celebration and gave the defending champions the breakthrough they needed.

The goal ultimately proved decisive, as Nasarawa Amazons held on for a hard-fought 1-0 victory and successfully retained the Governor Douye Diri Women's Pre-Season Tournament trophy for the second consecutive year.

Delta Queens pushed hard in search of an equaliser, but the

Amazons remained disciplined in defence, frustrating their opponents and protecting their slender advantage until the final whistle.

Goalkeeper Okoye Chioma also delivered an impressive performance, providing the assurance and composure needed to preserve the lead. Her contribution added another memorable chapter to her tournament history. In the inaugural 2025 edition, Okoye was instrumental in the Amazons' triumph, saving two spot kicks during the decisive shootout.



NPFL: Kayode's 18-second strike not enough as Bendel Insurance fall to Sporting Lagos

Bendel Insurance FC striker Kayode Solomon Oke stole the spotlight despite his side's 2-1 defeat to Sporting Lagos in their Matchday 8 encounter of the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL), scoring what was reported as the fastest goal of the season.

Kayode needed just 18 seconds to put the Benin Arsenal ahead at the Mobolaji Johnsons Arena in Lagos, handing the visitors an early advantage in the keenly contested encounter.

However, Sporting Lagos responded through Victor Samuel, who restored parity in the 14th minute before Gafar Olaniyan completed the turnaround with the winning goal in the 22nd minute.

The hosts held on to their advantage for the remainder of the match to secure all three

points, ending a three-game winless run.

Despite the setback, Kayode's impressive performance continued a promising run of form for the forward, who scored twice in Bendel Insurance's emphatic 4-1 victory over Barau FC in Matchday 7 at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City.

The victory over Barau FC ended the Kano-based side's unbeaten run and provided a

much-needed boost for the Benin Arsenal.

However, Bendel Insurance were unable to build on that result in Lagos and missed the opportunity to improve their points tally beyond the 12 they

had accumulated.

The Benin-based side will now turn their attention to Matchday 9, when they travel to Enugu to face Rangers International next weekend, hoping to return to winning ways.



BENDEL INSURANCE