

Tinubu seeks NASS nod for \$20.5bn, €1.04bn external loans

Aghedo Iyobor/EWERE
EMMANUELLA

ABUJA

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has asked the National Assembly to approve a supplementary external borrowing plan of \$20.52 billion and €1.045 billion to finance development projects across the country.

The President's request was contained in a letter read by Senate President Godswill Akpabio during plenary on Tuesday.

According to President Tinubu, the proposed facilities, valued at \$20,517,755,901 and €1,045,083,643, are intended to address the country's infrastructure deficit, accelerate economic growth, generate employment and improve living conditions.

Tinubu said the 2026-2027 Supplementary External Borrowing Plan cuts across critical sectors including infrastructure, agriculture, health, education, water supply, security, employment generation and financial management reforms.

He explained that the projects were selected based on thorough technical and economic evaluation and their expected

contribution to socio-economic development.

"The projects and programmes included in the Borrowing Plan were selected based on thorough technical and economic evaluation, as well as their anticipated contribution to the socio-economic development of the country," Tinubu said.

He noted that most of the

projects would be implemented across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory and would help generate employment, promote skill acquisition, foster entrepreneurship, reduce poverty and enhance food security.

The President said additional external financing has become necessary to sustain growth following his administration's reforms and to close funding

gaps that cannot be addressed through domestic revenue alone.

Senate President Akpabio has referred the request to the Committee on Local and Foreign Debts to report back within one week.

The request comes amid growing public scrutiny over Nigeria's debt profile and rising cost of debt servicing.



The Nigerian OBSERVER

That The People May Know



NigerianObserver @Nigerian_Observer @NigerianObserver www.nigerianobservernews.com

PUBLISHED SINCE MAY 29, 1968 VOL. 47, NO. 1,380 WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2026. #200

Edo passengers laud Okpebholo over CNG buses ...seek improved service delivery

By Richard Eweka

BENIN CITY

Passengers using the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)-powered buses recently introduced by Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, have commended the initiative, describing it as a welcome relief amid transportation challenges in the state.

The passengers, however, called for improved coordination, more efficient boarding arrangements and wider availability of payment cards to enhance accessibility and service delivery.

One of the commuters, Madam Jane Omosede, expressed appreciation to the governor for his efforts to improve the welfare of residents, noting that the initiative was providing relief to the masses.

"On my own, I appreciate the

governor for what he is doing. He is trying for the masses. He is really helping us," she said.

Similarly, Mr David Imohimi described the CNG bus service as a positive development, commending the state government for the intervention.

"The bus is very okay. This is wonderful and very okay. The government has done excellently," he said.

He, however, urged the authorities to improve coordination and ensure that payment cards were readily available to make the service more accessible and convenient for commuters.

An engineer, Sule Danladi, also praised the governor for introducing the buses to address transportation difficulties but appealed for better boarding arrangements to reduce delays and enable passengers to arrive at

their workplaces on time.

"The government has tried and done its own part by bringing us these buses. But this coordination, I appeal to the government to improve," he said.

The passengers spoke in separate interviews at Ramat Park in Benin City, where they acknowledged the benefits of the CNG bus initiative while highlighting

areas requiring attention.

They expressed optimism that improved operational coordination, efficient passenger boarding and adequate provision of payment cards would enhance the commuting experience and enable more residents to benefit from the state government's transportation intervention.

CONTINUES ON PG 2»

Okpebholo urges South-South to mobilise unity votes for Tinubu in 2027

Richard Eweka

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has urged the people of the South-South region to unite and mobilise support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's re-election bid in the 2027 general election. Okpebholo made the call on Tuesday at Government House, Benin City, while receiving the leadership of the Union of Tipsters, Suppliers and Quarry Employers of Nigeria (UTSQEN), who paid him a courtesy visit. The governor commended Tinubu's decision to remove the fuel subsidy, describing it as a difficult but necessary measure that had increased

the funds available to state governments for development projects.

"Subsidy was a cancerous worm eating deeper into the nation, and its removal has brought relief," he said.

He also credited the Tinubu administration with supporting Edo State's infrastructure development, particularly road construction and rehabilitation, noting that several roads across the state had become motorable.

Okpebholo highlighted his administration's use of concrete pavement on Sapele Road, describing the approach as expensive but durable.

"It is an expensive venture, but it is very durable," he said, adding that earlier interventions to address deteriorating

CONTINUES ON PG 2»



RECEIVING NUJ AWARD....

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo (Left) receiving a plaque from the Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ Edo State Council, Mr Festus Alenke who was appointed Managing Director of Edo Broadcasting Service, EBS, during the visit of members of NUJ to the Governor at the Government House yesterday.

10th coronation Anniversary: Oba of Benin offers prayers at sacred heritage sites

—Pg 2

FG recruits 30,000 health workers to reverse brain

—Pg 3

Turnout so far highest in decades as Israelis vote in pivotal

—Pg 9

NSC ready to back national federations seeking foreign technical support

— Olopade —Pg 11

NEWS

10th coronation Anniversary: Oba of Benin offers prayers at sacred heritage sites

BENEDICT OKATE

BENIN CITY

The Oba of Benin, Omo N' Oba N' Edo, Uku Akpolokpolo, Ewuare II, has offered special prayers at sacred heritage sites across Benin City as part of activities marking the 10th anniversary of his ascension to the throne of his forebears.

The traditional rites, which underscore the rich cultural heritage of the Benin Kingdom, were performed by the Ewaise palace group, accompanied by horse riders who participated in last Saturday's Durbar.

As part of efforts to strengthen the spiritual bond with the land and seek divine blessings for the years ahead, the delegation visited sever-

al historic locations, including the sacred Usama Palace through Ode-Obaiwu and the Iyoba statue in Uselu.

Led by Chief Ogbemudia Emovon, the Aghamioba N' Ewaise of Benin, the delegation moved through the sites, invoking the spirits of the land to bear witness as prayers were offered at the tombs of Queen Emotan and Queen Iden on Iwebo Street.

The spiritual exercise ended at the main palace gate with propitiation and prayers to God and the royal ancestors for continued peace, unity and protection across the kingdom.

Through the age-old rites, Oba Ewuare II continues to reaffirm the spiritual foundations of Benin's ancient traditions, preserving the enduring values of peace, progress and ancestral reverence for generations to come.



XX: L-R Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to Edo State governor Dr. Patrick Ebojele, Deputy governor Dannis Idahosa, Governor Monday Okpebholo, Secretary to Edo State government Musa Umar Ikhilor (Esq) and the Chief of Staff to Edo State governor Musa Yakubu during a thank you visit to the governor for appointing Festus Alenkhe as GM EBS. Photo Okondoh Talle Ebose

...Okpebholo urges South-South to mobilise unity votes for Tinubu in 2027

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

roads could have reduced the current infrastructure challenges.

The governor called on voters to give Tinubu another four-year mandate, arguing that a second term would enable the President to consolidate his reforms across the economy.

"Tinubu is the man to vote for in 2027. The North has done its eight years, and it is the turn of the South to do its

eight years. There is no vacancy in Aso Rock," he said.

He further urged political leaders and residents of the South-South to close ranks and work towards a common electoral position in support of the President.

"We in the South-South should mobilise and ensure unity votes for the President. I want us to speak with a loud voice and in unity. Let us reason together and bring out unity votes for President Tinubu," Okpebholo said.

Earlier, the National Chairman of UTSQEN, Mr Wilson Ogbachi, commended the governor for his performance in office and urged him to remain focused on his administration's priorities.

Ogbachi said the union's delegation was at Government House to formally invite Okpebholo to its national delegates' conference as special guest of honour.

He explained that the conference, which is held every four years, would be host-

ed by Edo State for the first time.

The UTSQEN chairman also praised the governor's efforts in improving security, describing security as fundamental to development and a major consideration for investors.

"We are grateful for your efforts and achievements in the area of security, because security is the bedrock of development, and investors take it very seriously," he said.

Tinubu hails Dangote, says industrial investment key to economic growth

FG pledges investor-friendly environment

AGHEDO IYOBOR

ABUJA

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has commended the Dangote Group for its significant contribution to Nigeria's economic growth, describing the conglomerate's performance as excellent and its strategic investments as critical to strengthening the nation's productive capacity.

The President said sustained investments in key sectors of the economy would accelerate industrialisation, create employment opportunities, reduce de-

pendence on imported goods, conserve foreign exchange and strengthen Nigeria's drive towards economic self-reliance.

Tinubu gave the commendation during a visit to the Dangote Group pavilion at the ongoing 32nd Nigeria Economic Summit at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, on Monday. He was represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima.

The presidential commendation underscores the Federal Government's recognition of the private sector as a major driver of economic expansion, particularly at a time when Nigeria is seeking

to deepen domestic production, improve productivity and translate economic reforms into tangible benefits for citizens.

Tinubu praised the Group's investments across critical sectors, including cement manufacturing, fertiliser production, sugar refining, salt processing and petroleum refining, noting their contributions to local value addition, employment generation and the development of domestic supply chains.

According to the President, investments of this scale are essential to building a resilient economy capable of meeting more of its domestic needs, reducing

pressure on foreign exchange and creating opportunities for businesses and workers across the country.

He also reaffirmed his administration's commitment to creating an enabling environment for businesses to invest, expand their operations and generate productive employment.

The President identified the Dangote Group as the country's second-largest employer of labour after the Federal Government, highlighting the importance of large-scale private enterprises in supporting livelihoods and expanding economic opportunities.

...Edo passengers laud Okpebholo

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Okpebholo hails journalists' role in defending democracy

Richard Eweka

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has commended journal-

ists for their sacrifices and contributions to Nigeria's democracy, national unity and peace, describing them as indispensable partners in nation-building.

The governor gave the commendation on Tuesday when he received members of the Edo State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) at Government House, Benin City.

Okpebholo acknowledged the critical role journalists have played in defending democracy, promoting national unity and keeping Nigerians informed, often risking their lives while reporting events under difficult and dangerous conditions.

"You people have contributed to Nigeria's democracy. You fought for what we are enjoying today. You fought for the peace of Nigeria. You fought for the unity of this country, and you remain in our hearts," he said.

He noted that journalists deserved recognition for their dedication to information dissemination, stressing that their work remained vital to democratic governance and national development.

"I will continue to take you as one of us because of what you are doing day and night. Even during the war, you go in there just to get information so that people will know what is happening. That is very serious, and you are highly commended," the governor said.

Describing the visit as the beginning of a lasting partnership between his administration and the NUJ, Okpebholo expressed optimism that the relationship would mark a turning point for Edo State and usher in a new era for the union.

"Today, we have started our relationship. We have started a partnership. This meeting will last long, and it will bring about a turning point for Edo. It is a new dawn for NUJ," he said.

The governor also highlighted the transformation underway at the Edo Broadcasting Service (EBS), pledging to reposition the state-owned broadcast station to compete with leading television networks in Nigeria.

He said his administration had developed plans to improve the station's operations and broadcasting standards, expressing confidence that EBS would attain national prominence.

"Anywhere I am in the world, EBS should be watched. EBS is transforming. By the time I leave Edo State as governor, EBS will be like TVC or Channels, because that is our primary station. We have a design for how we want EBS to look like," Okpebholo said.

On the administration's development agenda, the governor attributed its ability to sustain salary payments, execute infrastructure projects and intensify the fight against insecurity partly to improved revenue allocations to states following the removal of the fuel subsidy.

He disclosed that Edo State currently receives about 7.8 billion, adding that the additional resources had helped his administration pursue its development priorities.

Earlier, Chairman of the Edo State NUJ Council, Festus Alenkhe, JP, thanked the governor for appointing him as Managing Director of the Edo Broadcasting Service, assuring him that he would justify the confidence reposed in him.

Alenkhe pledged not to disappoint the governor, the state government or members of the union, expressing his commitment to advancing the interests of the station and promoting professional journalism.

Other NUJ council leaders, including the Vice-Chairman, Ede Agho, also appreciated Okpebholo for recognising media practitioners through the appointment of Alenkhe as EBS managing director and Dr. Patrick Akhere Ebojele as Chief Press Secretary to the Governor.

They reaffirmed the union's commitment to upholding professional journalistic standards and strengthening communication between the government and the public.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; Secretary to the State Government, Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq.; Chief of Staff to the Governor, Hon. Yakubu Musa, JP; and Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Prince Kassim Afegbua, among other government officials.

Edo IPAC inaugurates women coordinators

BENIN CITY

The Executive Director, Directorate of Women Affairs, Inter-Party Advisory Council, IPAC, Hon Zainab Ibrahim has urged women to light a flame of possibility, one that will open doors, elevate voices and shape a brighter future for women across the nation.

Hon Zainab Ibrahim gave the advice at the official inauguration of State Executive Coordinator and Local Government

Coordinators of the Edo State Inter-Party Advisory Council (IPAC), Directorate of Women Affairs.

The event with the theme, Building a Formidable Structure for Women's Inclusion in Governance was held in Benin with stakeholders from different political parties across the state in attendance.

While celebrating with the women, she urged them to con-

tinue to inspire, unite and make their impact to continue to grow, as this is only the beginning of greater things ahead.

In an opening address the South South Zonal Coordinator, Rev Hon Tammy Clarizza Abusi, said it is not only inauguration of executives that is taking place but that they are institutionalizing a movement, adding that the creation of women directorate in 2023 was a bold statement by IPAC leadership that inclusive

democracy cannot be achieved when 50 percent of the population are excluded.

She subsequently said that the directorate is the melting pot for all women in all the registered political parties, adding that they want to prove that while they may contest on different platforms, they share a common destiny.

She further noted that they are moving from advocacy to contest, train, mentor and mobilize

the women to pick party tickets and win elections.

The South South Zonal Coordinator then urged the newly inaugurated executives and coordinators to mobilize, educate, empower as well as go to every creek, farms, markets to let every woman know that the era of tokenism is over.

In a brief remark at the occasion, the ADC women leader in Edo State, Hon Stella Alli and the Labour Party Acting State Secretary, Comrade Gold Emeka said gone are the days of mobilizing women and they are given a token, adding that if they continue to do that things will not go

well in the nation but that they should come out to take their rightful place for the nation to be great.

They noted that women are the bedrock of the society, they should do away with complex and not be relegated anywhere they find themselves, but they should take the front burner for the nation to move to a greater height.

The highpoint was the official inauguration of the state executive committee headed by Blessing Legemah Osagioduwa as the State Coordinator, IPAC Directorate of Women Affairs, Edo State.



NEWS CONFERENCE:

From left: Director General, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN), Segun Ajayi-Kadir; Chairman, Manpower Development Company Limited, John Aluya; President of MAN, Ifeanyi Okoye and Acting Managing Director, Manpower Development Company Limited, a subsidiary of MAN, Owoh Mba-Samuel, during a news conference to announce the Manufacturers Energy Security and Energy Efficiency Summit 2026, in Lagos on Monday.

FG recruits 30,000 health workers to reverse brain drain

KEBONKWU RUTH

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has said his administration has employed more than 30,000 health workers into federal hospitals in the last two and a half years to address manpower shortage and strengthen healthcare delivery.

Tinubu stated this on Monday in Abuja while declaring open the 50th Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference of the West African College of Physicians (WACP).

Represented by the Coordi-

nating Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Prof. Muhammad Ali Pate, the President said the recruitment was part of deliberate reforms to reposition the health sector and halt the mass migration of medical professionals abroad.

He explained that beyond recruitment, government is giving priority to welfare, retention and continuous training of health personnel, stressing that no health system can perform better than its workforce.

According to him, the Federal Government has doubled admission quotas in medical

schools and facilitated the training of thousands of frontline workers to expand access to quality care.

Tinubu added that investments are ongoing in post-graduate medical education, specialist hospitals and digital health systems to improve patient management and data-driven decisions.

He noted that several health facilities have been built and rehabilitated, Primary Health Centres revitalised, funding to facilities increased through the Basic Health Care Provision Fund, and health insurance coverage expanded to reduce

out-of-pocket spending by Nigerians.

Speaking on the 'japa' phenomenon, Tinubu assured that government is working to turn the tide by improving working conditions and creating opportunities that will encourage health professionals to return home.

"We will work hard to stem the trend of 'japa' so that we have 'japada' — people coming back to serve in our region," he said.

The WACP conference was themed: "WACP at 50: Celebrating a Legacy and Envisioning the Future."

Oborevori approves 65-year retirement age for clinical health workers

Ajuwa Victor

ASABA

Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevori, has approved an extension of the retirement age for skilled clinical health professionals in state government hospitals from 60 to 65 years, or an increase in the length of service from 35 to 40 years, whichever comes first.

The approval is aimed at addressing manpower shortages in public hospitals, retaining experienced medical personnel and strengthening healthcare delivery across the state.

The policy covers 26 categories of skilled clinical health

professionals actively engaged in clinical services in government hospitals. They include medical officers, nursing officers, pharmacists, medical laboratory scientists, physiotherapists, radiographers, optometrists, psychologists, dental officers, community health officers and audiologists.

Other beneficiaries include dietitians, medical laboratory technicians, pharmacy technicians, X-ray technicians, dental technologists, dental therapists, prosthetic professionals and orthoptists, among others.

The extension follows appeals by the Delta State Council of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM) and the Delta State

chapter of the Nigeria Medical Association (NMA), which sought the adoption of the policy in the state following its approval at the federal level.

Under the implementation guidelines, eligible officers seeking to benefit from the extension are required to apply through their respective Chief Medical Directors six months before attaining the age of 60 or completing 35 years in service. Applicants must also present a medical certificate of fitness.

The Chief Medical Directors are expected to forward applications from interested officers to the Ministry of Health for screening and approval by the Commissioner for Health.

However, the policy does not

cover skilled clinical health professionals serving in ministries and extra-ministerial departments, as the extension is specifically intended for personnel actively engaged in clinical practice in government hospitals.

The extension is expected to help retain experienced personnel whose professional skills and institutional knowledge are essential to the effective operation of public health facilities.

By allowing eligible and medically fit clinical personnel to remain in service for an additional five years, the state government seeks to preserve professional expertise and strengthen the capacity of its hospital system.

Bayelsa CP urges tricycle operators to display identification numbers

Philip Jeremiah Eke

YENAGOA

The Commissioner of Police in Bayelsa State, CP Ajao Adewale, has urged tricycle operators across the state to display approved identification numbers issued by the Ministry of Transport to distinguish genuine operators from criminals who may disguise themselves as commercial riders.

Ajao made the call on Saturday when members of the Bayelsa Indigenous Tricycle Riders Association, led by its chairman, Ebimene Embabo, paid him a courtesy visit at the Police Command Headquarters in Yenagoa.

He said proper identification of tricycle operators was essential to preventing criminal activities and enhancing public safety across the state.

"Proper identification of tricycle operators is necessary to distinguish genuine riders from criminal elements who may disguise themselves as members of the association to perpetrate crime," the commissioner said.

He also urged the association's leadership to regularly sensitise members on the need to observe speed limits, respect other road users and conduct their businesses responsibly.

According to him, strict adherence to traffic regulations would help protect lives, promote road safety and maintain

public order.

Ajao reaffirmed the command's readiness to collaborate with relevant stakeholders in strengthening crime prevention and sustaining peace across Bayelsa State.

In his response, Embabo thanked the commissioner for receiving the delegation and pledged the association's continued cooperation with the police in promoting peace and security.

"The association is ready to cooperate with the police and support efforts aimed at ensuring a peaceful and secure Bayelsa State," he said.

In a related development, Ajao has warned police personnel against unprofessional conduct, unlawful detention and arbitrary arrests, insisting that officers must respect the fundamental rights of members of the public while discharging their duties.

The commissioner gave the warning during an unannounced inspection of police divisions in Ogbia and Nembe Local Government Areas on October 18.

The divisions visited were Otukpoti, Kolo and Ogbia in Ogbia LGA, as well as Nembe Ogbolomabiri and Nembe Basambiri in Nembe LGA.

During the tour, Ajao inspected station facilities, detention areas and duty posts to assess personnel alertness, discipline, sanitation and operational readiness.

Delta ALGON chair leads 25 council chairmen to condole Uduaghan family

Ajuwa Victor

The Chairman, Association of Local Governments of Nigeria, Delta State Chapter, Hon. Chief Isaiah Onoriode Esiovwa, KSM, JP, led the 25 Local Government Council Chairmen in Delta State on a condolence visit to the family of former Governor of Delta State, His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, in Warri.

The former Governor, who served Delta State from 2007 to 2015, passed on at the age of 71 after a brief illness.

Hon. Esiovwa, who dou-

bles as Executive Chairman of Okpe Local Government Council and National Organizing Secretary, ALGON Nigeria, led the delegation to the Warri residence of the late statesman.

Speaking on behalf of the Forum, the Delta ALGON Chairman described the death of Dr. Uduaghan as a monumental loss to the Uduaghan family, the Itsekiri nation, Delta State and Nigeria in general.

Esiovwa said the late former Governor was an icon of development, a bridge-builder and one of the architects of modern Delta.

The Nigerian **OBSERVER**

That The People May Know

*Two Years
of Progress,
A Greater
Edo Ahead*

SPECIAL EDITION

INVITATION TO PLACE **GOODWILL MESSAGES** IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

2ND Years

**ANNIVERSARY OF
GOVERNOR MONDAY
OKPEBHOLO'S
ADMINISTRATION**

EDO STATE

The Nigerian Observer invites Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), corporate organisations, financial institutions, professional bodies, traditional institutions, political and socio-cultural groups, and well-meaning individuals to place goodwill and congratulatory messages in a special anniversary edition of the newspaper.

This is an opportunity to reflect on the administration's achievements, recognise key programmes and milestones, acknowledge partners and stakeholders, and convey your best wishes for the continued development of Edo State.

*Let's celebrate the journey,
recognise the milestones
and share the goodwill!*

WHY PLACE YOUR MESSAGE?



Show your support for the Governor's leadership and vision for a greater Edo State.



Highlight your organisation's programmes, contributions and partnership with the state.



Strengthen your brand visibility and corporate goodwill.



Be part of a historic publication that will reach readers across Edo State and beyond.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

SIZE	COLOUR	B&W
Full Page	N448,645	N396,213
Half Page	N317,770	N254,238
Quarter Page	N206,561	N122,119

We encourage early booking to ensure your message is placed in this special edition.

FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES

	Marcus Atoe	08081986842
	Mrs. Doris Igbinigie	08051177163
	Andy Asemota	08035872075

TOGETHER FOR A GREATER EDO STATE

The Nigerian Observer looks forward to your valued participation in this special anniversary edition as we join other stakeholders in celebrating two years of transformative governance and reaffirming our collective aspirations for a safer, healthier, more prosperous and progressive Edo State.

*Thank you for your
continued patronage
and support.*

The Nigerian Observer
That The People May Know



SECURITY | HEALTH | INFRASTRUCTURE | EDUCATION | AGRICULTURE | PROSPERITY

NEWS

Reps seek suspension of fees hike in public institutions

ABUJA

The House of Representatives has called on the Federal Government to increase funding for public tertiary institutions and prevail on them to suspend proposed increases in school fees amid concerns that rising education costs could undermine access to higher education.

The House also urged the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities

Commission to engage the management of the institutions on the need to review their tuition structures in line with prevailing economic realities.

The resolutions followed the consideration and adoption of a motion sponsored by the member representing Akoko-South West/Akoko-South East Federal Constituency of Ondo State, Ifeoluwa Ehindero, at Tuesday's plenary.

The motion, titled "Need to halt the recent increase in

school fees by public tertiary institutions and its impact on Nigerian Education Loan Fund," raised concerns over the implications of rising tuition fees for students and the sustainability of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund scheme.

Ehindero argued that the Nigerian Education Loan Fund was designed around existing tuition benchmarks and institutional cost measures,

warning that sudden increases in fees could undermine its objectives.

He said, "Arbitrary or sudden hikes in fees by institutions will undermine the sustainability, equity and effectiveness of the loan programme."

The lawmaker observed that several public tertiary institutions nationwide, including universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, had re-

cently increased school fees and other mandatory charges, with some institutions imposing hikes of more than 100 per cent.

According to him, the increases were implemented without broad consultation or sufficient consideration of the economic difficulties confronting many Nigerian families.

"Ehindero said, The House

observes that the recent and widespread increases in school fees and other mandatory charges by several public tertiary institutions across the country, including universities, polytechnics and colleges of education, in some cases, by over 100 per cent, have been implemented without broad consultation or consideration of the economic realities facing many Nigerian families.

Akoko-Edo LG Chairman assures women of inclusive governance

IGARRA

LAMAI CASSIUS

The Executive Chairman of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, Hon. Robert Akande Olumole, has assured women of his administration's commitment to women-inclusive governance.

The Chairman gave the assurance when the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS), Akoko-Edo Chapter, and the Market Women Association, Akoko-Edo, paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Hon. Olumole assured the women of his willingness to consider their participation in relevant programmes and to collaborate with them whenever the need arises.

He emphasised that the development of Akoko-Edo requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including women organisations, community groups and other relevant associations.

The Chairman appreciated

the women for their visit and show of support, assuring them of his administration's commitment to inclusiveness, collaboration and active participation of women in governance and community development.

Earlier in their separate remarks, the President of NCWS, Mrs. Ambrose Elizabeth, and the Chairperson of Market Women, Mrs. Bosede Kayode, congratulated the Chairman on his successful election and assumption of office, expressing confidence in his leadership and commitment to the progress, unity and development of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area.

They appealed to the Chairman to involve women in relevant government programmes, listen to their concerns whenever the need arises and consider qualified members for available employment opportunities.

The women assured the Chairman of their full support for his administration and pledged their commitment to supporting the forthcoming elections at all levels, from the presidential to the State Assembly elections.

They described the Chairman's willingness to receive them as a demonstration of his commitment to grassroots development and inclusive leadership.



INAUGURATION:

Gov. Douye Diri of Bayelsa State (L) and others dignitaries, during the inauguration of Bayelsa Medical University Teaching Hospital in Yenagoa.

Dekeri showcases 94 constituency projects, seeks second term

AUCHI

LAMAI CASSIUS

The member representing Etsako Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Anamero Sunday Dekeri, has said the primary objective of lawmakers is to enact laws that will be beneficial to the people and promote good governance in Nigeria.

Hon. Dekeri stated this during his three-day projects inspection tour of the constituency.

Speaking to journalists in the

course of the tour, the lawmaker disclosed that he co-sponsored a bill for the establishment of the Solid Minerals Community Area Development Commission, which seeks to ensure that host communities are given percentage derivation like the 13% oil derivation.

He explained that if the bill is passed into law, Etsako Federal Constituency, which is blessed with abundant solid minerals, would be a major beneficiary.

Dekeri also said he sponsored a bill seeking for the Federal Government to de-

clare West African Examination Council (WAEC) fees free for students in public schools to alleviate the suffering of poor parents in rural areas.

He noted that pending the passage of the bill, he has been supporting 5,000 students in public schools across the constituency with N5,000 each for enrollment and other school needs.

The federal lawmaker, who is seeking a second term in 2027, said he has over 94 completed and ongoing projects spread across the three local government areas of Etsako

West, Etsako Central and Etsako East.

According to him, the projects include supply and installation of solar-powered streetlights, construction and renovation of blocks of classrooms, supply and installation of solar-powered boreholes, supply of school desks to public schools, supply and installation of 500KVA transformers and construction of Primary Healthcare Centres, among others.

He further disclosed that he has facilitated employment for several Etsako youths into federal government services and agencies.

As part of activities during the 3-day tour, Hon. Dekeri also empowered 500 market women across the constituency with N50,000 each, amounting to N25 million.

The empowerment, which was held at his Campaign Office in Auchi for Etsako West, at the Council Secretariat, Agenebode for Etsako East and at Ward 3, Fugar for Etsako Central, saw the lawmaker personally presenting the cash support to beneficiaries.

Addressing the women at the various venues, Dekeri said the gesture was aimed at boosting their petty businesses and cushioning the harsh economic realities facing rural traders.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **OGUWUIKE PEPERTUA CHISARA** now wish to be known and addressed as **BELLO-ODINANKARU PEPERTUA CHISARA**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **CHRISTOPHER ONOME IGHOSSOTU** and **CHRISTOPHER ONOME IGHOSSOTU - ODEH** are one and the same person henceforth, I now wish to be known and addressed as **CHRISTOPHER ONOME IGHOSSOTU**. All former documents remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **ONYENEKUNUM SUNDAY** and **ONYENEKUNUM CHINEDU SUNDAY** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I now wish to be known and called **ONYENEKUNUM SUNDAY**. All former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME/ ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **Miss. ALONGE LINDA** and **Mrs. IREDIA LINDA OSATOHANMWEN** are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **Mrs. IREDIA LINDA OSATOHANMWEN**. All former documents remain valid concern Authorities and the general public should please take note.

Police arrest drug dealer, rescue 14-year-old courier in Bauchi

BAUCHI

The Bauchi State Police Command has arrested a convicted drug dealer and rescued a 14-year-old boy allegedly used as a courier to deliver illicit drugs in the state.

The command said the arrest followed an operation by operatives of its Violent Crimes Response Unit during a routine patrol, leading to the recovery of suspected methamphetamine and other controlled substances.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Nafiu Habib, disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday.

Habib explained that the operatives, led by the Officer-

in-Charge of the unit, intercepted the minor, identified as Samuel Nkemakolan Kosi, at about 11 am on October 26, 2026, while he was allegedly on his way to deliver a granular whitish substance suspected to be methamphetamine, also known as Ice, to a customer.

According to the statement, the minor confessed during interrogation that he had been sent by a 22-year-old convicted drug dealer, Samuel Ogochukwu, to make the delivery.

"Upon interrogation, the minor confessed that he was sent by one Samuel Ogochukwu, 22 years old, a convicted drug dealer, to make the delivery," the statement read.

Habib added that detectives subsequently traced and arrested Ogochukwu at his location.

"Sequel to this, detectives immediately traced and arrested the said Samuel Ogochukwu at his location," the statement read.

The police spokesman said a thorough search of the suspect's shop and residence led to the recovery of 3.5 grammes of a substance suspected to be methamphetamine, 17 sachets of 100mg tramadol capsules, five sachets of 300mg pregabalin capsules and seven sachets of diazepam.

Other items recovered included 12 Exol tablets, two wraps of a substance known as Yellow Boys and one sachet of

Shine Shine Leather.

Habib further disclosed that the principal suspect told investigators that he received supplies of illicit drugs through waybills from Onitsha, Anambra State.

He said the 14-year-old boy had been handled in line with juvenile best practices and would be reunited with his family after counselling.

"The 14-year-old minor has been handled in line with juvenile best practices and will be reunited with his family after counselling, while the principal suspect will be charged to court upon completion of investigation," the statement added.

2027 Elections: INEC publishes preliminary voter register online after public outcry

BY CAROLINE AMEH

ABUJA

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has published the Preliminary

Register of Voters for the 2027 general elections online following concerns raised by Nigerians and other stakeholders over access to the document.

The Commission announced that the register is now available on its dedicated portal, <https://display.in->

ecnigeria.org, in addition to the physical display exercise previously conducted nationwide.

In a statement, Mohammed Kudu Haruna, National Commissioner and Chairman of INEC's Information and

Voter Education Committee, said the online publication was intended to broaden public access to the register and enhance transparency in the electoral process.

The physical display exercise was conducted at Regis-

tration Areas across the country from October 9 to 15, 2026, in line with Section 19 of the Electoral Act, 2026.

The exercise provided registered voters with an opportunity to verify their personal information and submit claims and objections where necessary, in accordance with the law.

INEC said the decision to make the preliminary register available online followed concerns expressed by citizens and stakeholders regarding access to the document.

According to the Commission, the online platform complements the physical verification exercise and is expected to improve accessibility, promote transparency and

strengthen public confidence in the electoral process ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The electoral body added that it was processing claims and objections received during the exercise before certifying and publishing the Final Register of Voters.

INEC has scheduled the publication of the final register for December 15, 2026.

The Commission reiterated its commitment to transparency, accountability and compliance with the Electoral Act, 2026, as preparations continue for the 2027 general elections.

Registered voters can visit the INEC portal to verify their details and identify any errors requiring correction through the appropriate procedures.



PRESENTATION:

From left: Chairman, NUJ Correspondent's Chapel, Enugu State Council, Comrade Lawrence Njoku; Managing Director, Up-right Highest Games Medicals, Chief Nicholai Chiagozi-Ubaene; Director-General, Projects Development Institute (PRODA), Mr Okwudilichukwu Ogbobe; Chairman, Nigeria Society of Engineers, Enugu State Branch, Mr Prince-Loveday Osondu and Managing Director, O-Six Hotels and Suites, Chief Uche Omeke, during the official presentation of Patron of CC to D-G, PRODA, Mr Ogbobe in Enugu on Tuesday

Police confirm three killed, inspector injured in Kebbi violence

Birni-Kebbi: The Kebbi State Police Command has confirmed that three people were killed and a police inspector injured during violence along the Besse/Shanga riverine axis of the state following rumours of cattle rustling and an impending attack by suspected Lakurawa terrorists.

The command said the violence, which triggered the displacement of residents from affected communities in Koko-Besse Local Gov-

ernment Area, followed the mobilisation of local vigilantes, popularly known as Yan Sakai, and subsequent reprisal attacks.

The police spokesperson, SP Bashir Usman, disclosed this to our correspondent by telephone on Tuesday, while reacting to a viral video showing residents fleeing their communities towards Koko town over alleged terrorist attacks.

According to him, the crisis began with rumours of cattle rustling by suspected Lakurawa terrorists and an imminent attack in the area, prompting the mobilisation of Yan Sakai across several villages.

"On 22/10/2026, heavily armed Yan Sakai stormed Samanaji Market, killed three Fulani, injured three others and injured a Police Inspector who was deployed with Police teams to restore peace," Usman said.

He explained that the displacement in the affected communities resulted from subsequent reprisal attacks in Karwa, Tunga Hako and Buma villages, where several Fulani settlements were reportedly burnt.

"The present displacement is an offshoot of subsequent reprisal showdowns across Karwa, Tunga Hako and Buma villages where several Fulani settlements were burnt," the police spokesperson stated.

Usman said the Commissioner of Police, CP Umar Hadejia, had deployed additional police personnel and joint security teams to the affected areas to prevent further violence.

"The Commissioner of Police, CP Umar M. Hadejia, has since deployed additional Police and joint security teams to dominate the space and prevent further escalation, while investigation is ongoing," he added.

CAN demands probe of viral video threatening 'infidels' in Enugu, Jos

ABUJA

The Christian Association of Nigeria has called on security agencies to investigate a viral video showing youths chanting threats of violence against Christians in Enugu and Jos, warning that the threats must not be dismissed as harmless youthful exuberance.

CAN President, Archbishop Daniel Okoh, made the call in a statement on Tuesday, condemning the video and demanding that anyone found responsible for inciting religious violence be prosecuted in accordance with the law.

The video, which circulated on social media on Monday, showed youths wearing uniforms associated with the First Aid Group of Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatis Sunnah participating in a marching exercise while chanting statements advocating attacks on Christians during Sunday worship.

One of the participants was heard calling for an AK-47

rifle and threatening to open fire on people described as infidels in Enugu and Jos.

Reacting to the footage, Okoh said the threats were alarming and unacceptable, insisting that no Nigerian should face the prospect of violence because of their religious beliefs.

"The threats are chilling and utterly unacceptable. No Nigerian should have to fear for their life because of their faith or face the prospect of violence simply for gathering to worship God. Such threats must not be dismissed as mere chants or treated as harmless displays of youthful exuberance," CAN said.

The association demanded urgent attention and decisive action.

The CAN president expressed particular concern over the apparent involvement of children and young people in the chants, warning that their exposure to messages promoting religious hatred required urgent attention.

He said the association was calling on the Department of

State Services, the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant security agencies to investigate the incident, establish where and when the video was recorded, identify those involved and determine whether others organised or facilitated the activity.

"Anyone found culpable must be held accountable in accordance with the law," Okoh said.

He also urged security agencies to assess the credibility of the threats and take appropriate measures to protect Christian communities and places of worship in Enugu, Jos and other parts of the country.

According to him, Nigerians must be able to attend religious services without fear of attack or intimidation.

CAN's reaction followed reports that the leadership of JIBWIS had disavowed the video.

Okoh acknowledged the reported denial but said it should not take the place of an independent investigation into the incident.

"We note the reported disavowal of the video by the leadership of Jama'atu Izalatil Bid'ah Wa Iqamatis Sunnah (JIBWIS). We recognise the importance of establishing the facts before drawing conclusions about institutional involvement.

"However, the denial of responsibility by any organisation cannot replace an independent investigation into the identities of those involved, the origin of the video and the circumstances surrounding the chants," he said.

The association further called for investigations into whether any individuals or groups encouraged, financed or facilitated the alleged threats, stressing that accountability should extend beyond those seen in the footage. Okoh also urged religious leaders across the country to reject teachings, slogans and activities that promote hatred or violence against people of other faiths.

He said young people should be taught to respect human life and the dignity of others rather than view fellow citizens as enemies because of their religious beliefs.

The Nigerian OBSERVER That The People May Know					ADVERTISEMENT RATES (PRINT)					
SIZES	COLOUR		BLACK AND WHITE		BLACK AND WHITE		MULTI NATIONALS			
			PUBLIC NOTICE		PRODUCT		COLOUR		BLACK & WHITE	
	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)
FULL PAGE	417,344	448,645	369,500	397,213	325,150	349,536	565,156	607,542	443,440	476,698
13 X 4	369,500	397,213	295,600	317,770	206,938	222,458	443,500	476,763	369,550	397,266
10 X 4	340,000	365,500	273,500	294,013	177,400	190,705	370,000	397,750	295,600	317,770
HALF PAGE	295,600	317,770	236,500	254,238	147,800	158,885	340,000	365,500	273,450	293,959
10 X 3	221,700	238,328	147,800	158,885	118,300	127,173	266,000	285,950	251,300	270,148
13 X2	206,900	222,418	133,000	142,925	103,500	111,263	221,800	238,435	147,810	158,896
QUARTER PAGE	192,150	206,561	118,250	127,119	88,690	95,342	236,500	254,238	133,000	142,975
FRONT PAGE POSITIONS					OTHER SIZES					
SIZES	PRODUCTS		PUBLIC NOTICE		PUBLIC NOTICE			PRODUCTS		
	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	SIZES	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	
FP 6X2	89,800	96,535	105,450	113,359	6 X 2	60,640	65,188	49,140	52,826	
FP 5X2	81,100	87,183	97,300	104,598	5 X 2	51,950	55,846	42,120	45,279	
FP 4X2	73,000	78,475	80,700	86,753	4 X 2	45,260	48,655	34,400	36,980	
FP 3X2	64,870	69,735	73,000	78,475	3 X 2	30,900	33,218	26,600	28,595	
FP 2X2	59,000	63,425	64,900	69,768	2 X 2	18,680	20,081	15,600	16,770	
SPECIAL POSITIONS					2 X 1	12,400	13,330	15,600	16,770	
SIZES	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	RATE	TOTAL (7.5% VAT incl)	CAC	38,000	40,850			
STRIP	118,250	127,119	147,800	158,885	LOOSE INSERTS					
STRIP INSIDE	88,600	95,245	118,250	127,119	LOOSE INSERTS: N40 PER SHEET MINIMUM ORDER: 5000 COPIES HANDLING CHARGES: N40,000 PER 1000 COPIES NEWSPAPER DIMENSION: 14.5" X 10.5"					
SPECIAL PAGES					CHANGE OF NAME					
FRONT PAGE	ADD 70% SURCHARGE									
PAGES 2 & 3	ADD 55% SURCHARGE									
PAGES 4 & 5	ADD 40% SURCHARGE				Miss to Mrs.			5,000	7,000	
BACK PAGE	ADD 60% SURCHARGE				Reconciliation/Corrections of name			6,000	8,000	
The Nigerian OBSERVER That The People May Know 24 Airport Road, Benin City, Edo State					For advert placement contact:					
					Business Development Manager			08081986842		
					Advert Manager			08051177163		
					Commercial Service Manager			08033798009		

EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 14, 2026

EFFECTIVE FROM APRIL 14, 2026

Northern senators seek probe into killing of 26 Taraba worshippers

ABUJA

The Northern Senators Forum on Monday called for a thorough investigation into the killing of at least 26 people in Binari community, Karim-Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State, urging security agencies to arrest and prosecute those responsible for the attack.

The forum also demanded an urgent security reinforcement in the area, including the establishment of a Forward Operating Base and intelligence-led patrols along the Kompany-Asusar route and the River Benue corridor, following Friday's attack by suspected bandits.

The victims included women, children, Muslim worship-

pers who had just finished Juma'at prayers and members of a local vigilante group whose office is located close to the mosque.

In a condolence message issued on behalf of the forum, its Chairman, Senator Abdulaziz Musa Yar'Adua, described the attack as barbaric and expressed sympathy with the Taraba State Government, residents of the community and families of the victims.

The statement, titled 'Condolence Message on Binari Attack and a Call for Action', said the lawmakers received the news of the killings with shock.

"On behalf of the Northern Senators Forum, we commiserate with His Excellency the Governor of Taraba State, the people of Taraba, and the

bereaved families of Binari community in Karim-Lamido LGA over the barbaric attack of Friday 23rd October," Yar'Adua said.

He added, "We received with shock the murder of innocent worshippers, vigilantes, women and children shortly after Juma'at prayers, and we share in your grief at this difficult time."

The forum urged the leadership of the Nigeria Police

Force, the Department of State Services and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps to strengthen security operations in Karim-Lamido and communities along the River Benue corridor.

It specifically called for the establishment of a Forward Operating Base and intelligence-driven patrols along the Kompany-Asusar route to improve surveillance and prevent further attacks.

The senators also called on the National Emergency Management Agency and well-meaning Nigerians to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to affected residents and families displaced or otherwise affected by the violence.

Beyond the immediate security response, the forum insisted that the perpetrators must be identified, apprehended and prosecuted.

The latest attack has re-

newed concerns over the vulnerability of rural communities in parts of Taraba State, particularly settlements where residents depend on farming and have limited access to rapid security intervention.

Binari, an agrarian community along the River Benue, was thrown into mourning when the suspected bandits struck on Friday, shortly after Muslim residents had observed their weekly congregational prayers.

Ondo Assembly passes state Police bill

AKURE

The Ondo State House of Assembly has passed the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026, to establish state police services in Nigeria.

Lawmakers passed the bill during the plenary session on Monday after it passed second and third readings, with all members present supporting its passage.

During the session, the majority leader of the Assembly, Mr Olatunji Oshati moved the motion for the passage of the which was seconded, Allen Oluwatoyin, who represents Ese Odo state Constituency.

Oshati said the lawmakers had carefully considered the implications of the proposed amendment for the citizenry, stating that the establishment of state police would

address the numerous security challenges confronting the country.

In his remarks, the Speaker of the Assembly, Mr Olamide Oladiji, described the proposed establishment of the state police as long overdue, noting that the "bill would enable security agencies to respond swiftly to crime and other security concerns."

He said, "State policing would help reduce crime through improved intelligence gathering and proactive security measures."

Oladiji commended the lawmakers for their valuable contributions to the passage of the bill.

He directed the Clerk of the House, Mr Benjamin Jaiyeola, to transmit the document to the National Assembly, along with the state legislature's observations.

With this development, the Sunshine State has joined the states which have passed the bill.



INAUGURATION:

The South South Zonal Coordinator, Inter-Party Advisory Council, IPAC Directorate of Women Affairs, Hon. Rev. Tammy Clarizza Abusi (2nd left), and Chief Mrs. Sopuruchi Barry Obinna, South South Zonal Secretary inaugurating Edo State Executive Committee and Local Government Area Coordinators of Edo State Women Wing of IPAC in Benin City.

Delta APC condemns election violence, promises issue-based campaign

ASABA

The All Progressives Congress Campaign Council Media Committee in Delta State has warned against electoral vio-

lence and pledged to focus on governance and performance rather than personal attacks ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The committee's chairman, Charles Aniagwu, stated this on Monday during a media briefing in Asaba, the state capital, where he said the party would present its record and explain its policies to voters.

"Electoral violence and threats to kill people are not part of our campaign strategy," Aniagwu said, in response to a question about a reported warning by former Deputy Senate President Ovie Omo-Agege over alleged election rigging.

He added, "We are not going to engage in electoral malpractice, and we believe the people of Delta State should judge us based on our performance and the evidence we present."

Omo-Agege, the Nigeria Democratic Congress senatorial candidate for Delta Central Senatorial District, warned prospective election

riggers to avoid such nefarious actions as the elections approach.

Omo-Agege, while flagging off his campaign in Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State on Friday, declared pointedly that whoever rigs the election will die.

"It's rig and die. Anybody who tries to rig the 2027 election will face the consequences. We will not allow anyone to steal our votes," he said.

However, Aniagwu urged political leaders to exercise restraint in their public statements and advised anyone suspecting electoral malpractice to report it to security agencies rather than take the law into their own hands.

"Delta State is not a jungle republic. We must not encourage jungle justice or violence, regardless of political affiliation," he said.

The chairman also said the APC would avoid personal attacks and concentrate on the achievements of the state and federal governments.

"We will not make name-calling or personal attacks the centre of our campaign. We intend to focus on the issues, present our record

and explain what we believe our administration has achieved," he said.

On the economic hardship facing Nigerians, Aniagwu acknowledged the difficulties confronting households and businesses but argued that some government policies needed more time to deliver their expected benefits.

"We will not ignore the economic challenges Nigerians are experiencing. We recognise the realities confronting households and businesses, but we will also explain the measures taken by the federal and state governments to address them," he said.

He said the committee would highlight developments in roads, healthcare, education, housing and security, while explaining how federal policies had created opportunities for state governments to implement projects.

Aniagwu also called for accountability in the conduct of political campaigns, saying no one should be shielded from the consequences of unlawful conduct because of political connections.

Report online sellers who deliver wrong items, Lagos tells consumers

LAGOS

The Lagos State Government has urged consumers to report online vendors who deliver goods different from what they ordered, as part of efforts to address unfair business practices.

The Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency gave the advice in a consumer awareness message on Monday, urging residents to speak up when products purchased online fail to meet the descriptions or quality promised by sellers.

The agency said consumers should not remain silent when they receive goods that differ from their orders.

"Goods or products you order online should be delivered as promised.

"If the items delivered do not match their descriptions, are different from what you ordered, or fail to meet the expected quality, do not keep silent!" the agency wrote on X.

LASCOPA further urged consumers to take action against vendors who failed to fulfil their obligations.

It encouraged affected

consumers to register complaints with the agency, particularly in cases involving unfair business practices by online sellers.

"Register your complaint with the Lagos State Consumer Protection Agency (LASCOPA) against unfair business practices," the statement added.

The agency provided a toll-free helpline, 080 0005 2726, and an email address, lasgcopa@gmail.com, through which consumers can reach it to report complaints.

Reaffirming its commitment to consumer rights, LASCOPA stated, "In Lagos State, consumers are kings."

FOREIGN

NEWS



A view of a street in Niamey, Niger

Ethiopia: At least 60 Christians killed in attacks in Oromia region

At least 60 people have been killed in two attacks in Ethiopia's Oromia region in recent days, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church said, according to Reuters on Tuesday.

Religious authorities said all the victims were Christians but provided no further details about those responsible for the attacks.

Oromia is Ethiopia's largest region, with a population of around 40 million. It has long faced an insurgency and eth-

nic tensions among its Muslim, Protestant and Orthodox Christian communities, tensions increasingly exploited by armed groups.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Holy Synod of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church said 14 worshippers were killed in Merti district on 20 October and another 46 in Sherka district on 24 October.

The Church also said more than 20 homes were set on fire

and over 20 people were hospitalised with serious injuries, according to Reuters.

Reacting to the 24 October attack, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) told AFP that the violence was "believed to be religiously motivated and to have targeted Orthodox Christians", citing the reported looting of an Orthodox church.

ACLED said attacks against Orthodox Christians in the

region had increased since February 2023, with the violence intensifying over the past year.

The possible involvement of the Oromo Liberation Front, the main insurgent group operating in Oromia, has not been established.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, a publicly funded but administratively independent institution, told AFP it was "monitoring the situation" and "examining the details".

Jordan carries out deadly strike in Syria in retaliation for church attack

Syrian officials said five people were killed in the Jordanian strike on a village in the southern Daraa province.

Jordan has struck what its military says were "terrorist organisations" in Syria in retaliation for an attack on a Christian funeral last week that killed nine people.

Syrian health officials told state media five people, including women, children and an elderly man, were killed in the strike on a village in the southern Daraa province. Jordan said its fighter jets had killed and wounded "several terrorists", without giving further details.

Jordan said it had co-ordinated with the Syrian government. Syria said it had not been notified of Monday's attack.

It comes after a nine people were killed and 34 injured in a shooting at a funeral in a Greek Orthodox church in Karak on Friday.

In response to the strike, Syria said it had closed a border crossing with Jordan.

"The decision includes the complete suspension of passenger and commercial traffic in

both directions, to ensure the safety of travellers and workers at the crossing," Syrian authorities said in a statement carried by state media.

It added that it had "opened direct channels of communication" with Jordanian officials and had launched "comprehensive investigations to establish the full circumstances of

the targeting".

Nassib is the only passenger and commercial border crossing between Jordan and Syria.

Earlier on Monday, senior government security officials said Jordanian security forces had arrested two brothers and their brother-in-law over the church attack.

The Public Security Direc-

torate (PSD) said the unnamed "terrorists" were found hiding in an abandoned house in Karak before dawn.

Jordan's Interior Minister Mazen al-Faraya told state-affiliated TV the attackers were all Jordanians and "had been holed up in a building in one of the villages near the site of the attack".

Niger accuses Chad of deadly drone attack in which two civilians died

As their relations continue to deteriorate, Niger's military government on Monday accused Chad of carrying out a deadly drone strike in which two civilians were killed and others wounded.

In a statement by the authorities read on national television, it said it had summoned the Chadian ambassador following the incident.

Niamey also demanded an immediate end to "hostile actions" and compensation for the damage caused.

The government said the at-

tack hit the Salvador Pass early on Saturday in the mountainous Emi Lulu area of northern Niger.

The pass is located in a remote mining region near the borders with Algeria and Libya and is a key route for smuggling and militant activity.

Niger described the strike as an "act of aggression" and a "violation" of its sovereignty, accusing Chad of supporting mercenaries and targeting civilians and strategic infrastructure.

Niamey, which has severed ties with its former colonial

ruler France, also claimed the attack was conducted "with the support" of Paris.

It said will refer the matter to the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council.

Niger called for an independent international investigation and appealed to its partners for solidarity.

In September, Niamey accused Chad of involvement in a foiled mutiny, alleging that France was backing efforts to destabilise the military government.

Co-ordinated cattle raids kill at least 72 people in South Sudan

At least 72 people have been killed during cattle raids in South Sudan's northern Warrap state, according to the regional government.

An unspecified number of cattle were taken and homes burnt during what was a "co-ordinated attack" on Monday involving two communities in Tonj North county, the state authorities said.

Such deadly violence is often part of a cycle of revenge attacks as cattle are a main source of wealth and pride for many communities and are also important as young men need them as dowries to get married.

Clashes over territory are also common across the country as it prepares to hold its first election since its independence in 2011 - delayed because of a brutal civil war.

The clashes occurred near the border of Warrap and Unity states in the area of Akop Payam, with some members from Lou Ariik community said to have attacked those from Apuk Padoch community.

William Wol Mayom Bol, Warrap state's information minister, said they followed deadly violence last Friday that claimed eight lives.

The state governor, Angelo Ngot Mayar, sent his condolences to bereaved families and directed security agencies to

evacuate the wounded.

He said efforts were under way to recover the cattle and find those behind the assault.

The state has also appealed to humanitarian partners to support vulnerable women, children and elderly left without food, shelter and medicine.

In August, at least 60 people were killed and 50 injured in an attack in the same area of Warrap state, according to Aded, the non-profit conflict monitoring group.

A similar attack in March led to 58 deaths and 71 injuries.

Last year, a six-month state of emergency was declared in Warrap in efforts to quell the increasing violence.

The UN has also voiced its concerns about the situation in South Sudan as the world's youngest country heads towards presidential elections due to be held in December.

The poll was initially delayed by the civil war, which ended in 2018 with a fragile peace deal signed between President Salva Kiir and his deputy Riek Machar.

However tensions between the leaders led to further delays: Machar was sacked as vice-president and arrested earlier last year and charged with murder, treason and crimes against humanity, which he denies.

Norway and Finland leaders hold rare call with Putin

Finland's President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre have held a joint call with Vladimir Putin - a rare contact between the Russian president and European leaders.

The aim was looking at "future negotiations to help to end the war" in Ukraine, their offices said. They said their initiative was not on behalf of "Europe as a whole".

After the call, Putin said "confrontational" EU and Nato policies were prolonging the war which began when Russia launched a full-scale invasion in 2022.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has spoken to the two Nordic leaders after their conversation with Putin. Last week, Zelensky met them as well as US special envoy Steve Witkoff in Oslo.

The Ukrainian leader said he was grateful for the "active support" of his Finnish and Norwegian counterparts.

Tuesday's phone call was held from the Finnish capital Helsinki.

"Finland and Norway border Russia," Stubb and Støre said. They said they had initiated the call to "discuss Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the diplomatic efforts to end the war and promote peace and stability in Europe".

"The war comes with enor-

mous human and material costs," the Norwegian prime minister said. "The suffering and destruction will impact generations."

Tuesday's phone call was "frank and substantive", Stubb said, explaining that the war's outcome will "have a direct impact on our and the broader European security".

Relations between the US, Ukraine and its European allies have been souring since US President Donald Trump agreed to lift some sanctions from Russia - allowing it to export oil to the US.

Stubb and Støre said they had taken the initiative to continue discussions held in the Norwegian capital on 20 October, after which Witkoff travelled on to St Petersburg to meet Putin.

After the talks, Ukraine, Russia and the US agreed to resume three-way negotiations that Russia had stopped for months.

After speaking to the two Nordic leaders, Zelensky said part of their discussions with Putin had centred on the upcoming trilateral talks to be held in Abu Dhabi in November.

Zelensky said he had discussed with them "various formats for our engagement with partners in Europe that could be useful in further supporting diplomacy, our defense, and our shared security".

FOREIGN

NEWS

Turnout so far highest in decades as Israelis vote in pivotal election

Turnout is at its highest so far in more than four decades, as Israelis vote in what many view as one of the most pivotal elections in the country's history.

Polling published on Friday suggests incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu is almost neck-and-neck with former military chief Gadi Eisenkot in the race to become prime minister.

But neither of their political blocs are projected to win the 61 seats needed to form a majority government - meaning weeks or months of political wrangling may lie ahead.

The campaign has been shaped by the issues of democracy and security, and the election is widely being seen as a referendum on Netanyahu's rule.

Many leading parties complained on Tuesday morning of alleged irregularities at polling stations across the country - but Israel's Central Election Committee (CEC) says there is

no evidence of systematic tampering with ballot slips.

Israel's proportional representation system means governments have always been coalitions - and the race to power can, and has, produced unexpected alliances. But this election looks especially tight - and lines in the sand have already been drawn.

Eisenkot, who leads the newly formed Yashar Party, is the main figure in the so-called "change bloc", a collection of parties who have ideological differences but share the goal of ousting Netanyahu.

Other leaders in the bloc include former prime minister Naftali Bennett and Avigdor Lieberman - both right-wingers who take hardline positions on security - and Yair Golan, a left-leaning former general.

For Netanyahu, a titan of Israeli politics who first served as prime minister in 1996, a return to power will hinge on another alliance with the far-right and ultra-Orthodox par-

ties that make up his current governing coalition - the most right-wing in Israel's history.

There are two Arab party blocs in the running too, as about one-fifth of Israel's population is Arab - many of whom describe themselves as Palestinian citizens of Israel. In theory, they could prove kingmakers. But all but one of the leading Jewish parties have ruled out working with them.

The campaign has been dominated by the issue of security - with the opposition bloc hammering Netanyahu for the unprecedented security failure that led to the 7 October Hamas-led attacks on Israel, in which nearly 1,200 people were killed and 251 taken back to Gaza as hostages.

They have pushed for an independent commission of inquiry into the attacks - something Netanyahu has long resisted, insisting it would be biased against him.

They also point to what they

see as threats to democracy under Netanyahu, who faces an ongoing trial on corruption charges - which he denies - and is still pursuing contentious plans for reforms to the judicial system, which led to mass protests before the 7 October attacks.

Despite the opposition's attack lines, Netanyahu has once again framed himself as "Mr Security" - pointing to what he says are strategic victories in Israel's wars across the Middle East and his close relationship with US President Donald Trump.

On Sunday, Israel's Channel 12 reported that Netanyahu had pushed for last-minute military action that could trigger a confrontation with Iran prior to the elections - but was opposed by his own military chief Eyal Zamir. The following day, CNN reported that he had also tried to persuade Trump to carry out new strikes on Iran, but that Trump had refused to give the green light.

Lula's comeback in Brazil dents Trump's ambitions for Latin America

Brazil will not accept being anyone's backyard," Brazil's left-wing President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva declared in his election victory speech, a message squarely aimed at Washington.

Domestic elections are rarely won on foreign policy, and this one was no different. But Lula's defiance against what he has described as US interference in Brazilian affairs evoked a patriotic spirit that proved an effective campaigning tool.

It also chimed with his wider brand of politics as a former union leader: standing up to powerful figures.

Paradoxically, it seems to have earned him President Donald Trump's respect. "I like Lula, we get along well," Trump said, responding to the result. "I didn't take sides," he added, before calling the election "terrible" and "rigged".

If that sounds muddled, it is because the relationship between the two men is not straightforward. Trump did not explicitly endorse Lula's rival Flávio Bolsonaro, who refused to recognise the result. But Trump was a close ally of Flávio's father, the former President Jair Bolsonaro.

When I spoke to Lula at his residence about a year ago, relations had hit rock bottom. He told me he had "no relationship" with Trump, that they had never spoken, and that he had no intention of picking up the phone. Trump had recently imposed punitive tariffs on Brazil, largely as a political response to Jair Bolsonaro's coup trial, which the US president called a "witch-hunt".

Rather than tiptoeing around Trump, as some US allies did, Lula fought back - and it paid off.

He made fiery speeches invoking Brazilian sovereignty, attacked US interference in the judicial process, and took to wearing a blue cap reading "Brazil belongs to Brazilians".

His approval ratings jumped.

He accused the Bolsonaro family, who had lobbied for the tariffs, of being unpatriotic - a blow to a political right that so often claims patriotism as its terrain.

Even some in the agricultural lobby, typically strong Bolsonaro supporters but reliant on US trade, thought Lula had a point.

The US eventually backed down and reduced the tariffs, although they have since risen again.

Truce begins in Ukraine city where residents ate weeds to survive

A truce has begun in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian city of Oleshky, where residents have been trapped without food, water and electricity.

Ukrainian officials and Russia's defence ministry say the limited ceasefire is being respected. The truce, which the White House said was secured by US First Lady Melania Trump, is meant to allow aid deliveries and a civilian evacuation on Friday.

Oleshky, along the front line in the Kherson region, is trapped on one side by the Dniro River, which separates it from Ukrainian positions, and on the other by Russian forces.

Many residents have resorted to cooking garden weeds to survive, telling the BBC they are suffering extreme hunger and want to leave.

There are concerns that the truce will not hold, with one resident saying: "I don't believe in Russia's humanity."

Up to 6,000 people, including 200 children, remain in Oleshky and its surrounding areas, Kyiv believes, with only 1,700 still living in the city itself.

Before the war it was home to 24,000 people, but it was seized by Russia during the first days of its full-scale invasion in February 2022.

Conditions have become so desperate that not only is getting

supplies into the city extremely difficult, but escape is highly dangerous because the routes out of Oleshky have been mined and subject to drone attack.

No shops are open, and the city has had no electricity, gas or water for three years.

Pope Leo XIV appealed earlier this month to Russia's President Vladimir Putin to allow food and medical aid into Oleshky as well as a safe evacuation, and urged his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy to co-operate with Moscow over a ceasefire.

The current truce is supposed to allow supplies in and enable roads to be cleared of mines to allow people safe passage out in an evacuation planned to take place on Friday.

One woman told the BBC she had stepped on a land mine and was currently in hospital where she had undergone two operations.

"I don't know how long I will have to spend there," she said, worried about not being able to join the evacuation.

Many told the BBC last month there is only one hospital partially operational, opening a few days a week to perform critical amputations.

It is hard to make contact with people in Oleshky as communication is patchy and many are reluctant to speak of the situation in fear of reprisals from the Russians, making it difficult to verify reports the ceasefire is being implemented.



Polling published on Friday suggests Gadi Eisenkot (left) is in a tight race with incumbent Benjamin Netanyahu (right)

Ex-FBI chief James Comey faces federal charges for third time

Federal prosecutors have taken steps to charge ex-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director James Comey with leaking national defence information, according to a court filing.

It marks the third time the justice department has moved to bring criminal charges against Comey, a longtime critic of President Donald Trump.

Few details are provided about the two counts in the three-page filing, but Comey's lawyers said in separate court papers that the case stemmed from an alleged disclosure of classified information to the New York Times in October 2016, while he was head of the FBI.

Comedy denied any wrongdoing in a video posted on Substack on Monday, calling the charges an "appalling abuse".

"It would almost be funny if it weren't such an appalling abuse of the department of justice, one that we cannot become numb to," he said in the clip.

"Nothing's changed with me - I'm still innocent, I'm still not afraid of these people and I still believe in the independent federal judiciary."

Comedy was charged in Washington DC through a criminal information, which is a formal written charging document filed directly by a prosecutor.

This is different to a criminal indictment, which must be ap-

proved by a grand jury, a group of citizens sworn in to review if evidence is strong enough to prosecute.

Comedy's lawyer, Patrick Fitzgerald, said in a statement that two different teams of prosecutors had investigated the alleged disclosure to the New York Times a decade ago during the first Trump administration.

"Both times the Government determined that no charges should be brought against anyone," he said.

The attorney said the court filing "purports to charge Mr Comey with crimes that he did not commit".

His legal team has filed a motion to dismiss the charges.

Former federal prosecutor Glenn Kirschner told the BBC that the case may have exceeded the 10-year statute of

limitations, giving the motion to dismiss the charges "a very good chance of being granted".

Kirschner said it seemed like the charges against Comey were a "revenge-fuelled attempt by Donald Trump to have his Department of Justice find something that might stick".

Jessica Levinson, law professor at Loyola University in Los Angeles, said that because the charges were still under seal, the details about what federal prosecutors are alleging were slim.

"We do have some examples of the Trump administration and the department of justice going after a variety of people who are his political enemies; we have very different outcomes in some of these cases, though," she told the BBC World Service's Newsday programme.

Sports

● Football ● Athletics ● Golf ● Basketball ● Tennis ● Boxing



NATIONAL SPORTS COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENERAL BUKOLA OLOPADE (4TH LEFT)

NSC ready to back national federations seeking foreign technical support – Olopade

The National Sports Commission (NSC) has expressed its readiness to support national sports federations seeking foreign technical support to strengthen their teams and improve Nigeria's performance at international competitions.

The Director General of the Commission, Honourable Bukola Olopade, said the government was willing to provide the necessary backing to any federation that clearly identifies its technical needs and makes a compelling case for such support.

Olopade stressed that the initiative must be driven by the individual federations, noting that each body must first determine the areas where foreign expertise would be most beneficial before seeking government intervention.

"Every federation must be clear about what it wants to achieve and the kind of technical support it needs. Once they can clearly identify those needs and make a strong case for them, the government, through the National Sports Commission, will be ready to throw its weight behind them," Olopade said.

He cited the Nigeria Football

Federation (NFF) as an example of a federation that had taken the initiative to seek foreign technical assistance, explaining that the Commission supported its request for a foreign technical team for the Super Eagles.

"The NFF came forward with a request for foreign technical support for the Super Eagles, and we backed that de-

cision because we understand the importance of getting the right expertise to help our national teams achieve their objectives," he stated.

Olopade further disclosed that the NFF had also requested foreign technical support for the Super Falcons, assuring that the Commission was ready to act swiftly to facilitate

the process.

"Now that the NFF is requesting foreign technical support for the Super Falcons, we are ready and willing to hit the ground running. We want our national teams to have the best possible technical guidance, and where foreign expertise is required, we will give the necessary support," he added.

Youth Olympics: NOC president Gumel assures Nigeria's contingent of support



NOC, ENGINEER HABU GUMEL

The President of the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC), Engineer Habu Gumel, has assured Nigeria's contingent to the Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal, of the country's support.

Gumel gave the assurance while

receiving the handover of the Nigerian contingent ahead of the Games in Abuja on Tuesday, October 27.

He expressed confidence in the athletes selected by the National Sports Commission (NSC) adding that the nation would build on

its previous performances at the Youth Olympic Games.

The NOC president commended the NSC chairman and director general for their efforts in preparing the athletes, particularly in training, welfare and kitting.

Gumel said: "Nigeria has been participating in the Youth Olympic Games since the beginning in Singapore, and we have been doing very well. I believe this time around we are going to do well."

"I want to thank the Chairman and the Director General of the National Sports Commission for what they have done in training, welfare and kitting the athletes. I am so happy with this, and I am sure that by the time they arrive in Dakar, everybody will look at them well."

Tanzania reportedly fixes 2PM kick-off for Super Eagles clash

Tanzania have reportedly scheduled their 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying encounter against Nigeria for 2:00 pm on November 17, 2026.

The Taifa Stars are expected to host the Super Eagles in the return leg of the qualifying fixture, with the afternoon kick-off potentially presenting an additional challenge for Nigeria's players.

Reports suggest that the timing could expose the Super Eagles, particularly their Europe-based stars, to the scorching afternoon heat in Tanzania. The encounter will come

four days after the first leg, scheduled to take place in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, on November 13, 2026.

Nigeria will be hoping to secure a positive result at home before travelling to Tanzania for the return fixture.

However, the reported 2:00 pm kick-off time and the suggestion that the heat could be used to Nigeria's disadvantage have yet to be officially confirmed.

Both matches are expected to play a crucial role in determining the Super Eagles' progress in the race to qualify for the 2027 AFCON.



SUPER EAGLES PLAYER

No crisis in Barau FC, says Lorfa

The General Manager of Barau Football Club, Dominic Lorfa, has dispelled rumours that there is crisis in the team.

Lorfa made the clarification while addressing sports writers on the recent attitude of some stewards during Barau FC/Kwara United Euro match NPFL at Sani Abacha Stadium, Kano.

According to him, the stewards who are supposed to safeguard the players, officials and coaches before, during and after the match chose to neglect their responsibilities.

The General Manager warned that the management will not tolerate such behavior from any member of the stewards.

"Football is not a do or die affair. It is either you win, draw or lose. We need to protect the image of the club as a private team; Kano, as well as the country in general."

"Based on the statistics, Barau FC have been doing well as far as the league is concerned. The team won three, drew five and lost only a match. So, it is not a bad result. We should appreciate and encourage the

players, officials and coaches to do more," he explained.

He added that the management of the club is planning to organize workshop for the stewards as part of measures to educate and enlighten them on their official responsibilities.

The General Manager explained that if Barau FC can secure a win or draw in away matches, the fans and stewards should have taken the outcome of the home match result in good faith rather than blaming or pointing accusing fingers at players, coaches or officials.

While appreciating the club owner, the Deputy Senate President, Senator Barau Jibrin and the team President, Shawwal Barau Jibrin for their commitment and support, he called on football stakeholders to rally round Kano Pillars and Barau FC as both teams have been representing the ancient city of Kano and northern region at large.

Lorfa, however, assured that the club management, technical crew and the players were making efforts to ensure that the team excel at the end of the Nigerian Football league.

CAF releases schedule for Women's Champions League playoff in Egypt

The Confederation of African Football (CAF) has released the schedule for the 2026 CAF Women's Champions League playoff in Egypt.

CAF confirmed that all kick-off times listed in the schedule are in Cairo local time as participating teams prepare for the continental competition.

The tournament will determine the team that will represent Africa at the next stage of the

FIFA Women's Champions Cup.

The winner of the 2026 CAF Women's Champions League will face Naegohyang in the second round of the FIFA Women's Champions Cup in December.

The encounter presents an opportunity for Africa's representatives to compete against opposition from outside the continent and advance in the global women's club competition.



CAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE EGYPT 2026
www.worldnews.blog
NOV 1 - 15, 2026
EGYPT
All times in local Cairo time (GET GMT+2)

QUALIFIED TEAMS
DEFENDING CHAMPIONS
AS FAR (NIGERIA)
COSAFA
MALAWI (NIGERIA)
SOUTH AFRICA
CELEST

CAF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MATCH SCHEDULE (IN LOCAL CAIRO TIME)

NO.	DATE	TIME	TEAMS	VENUE
1	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
2	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
3	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
4	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
5	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
6	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
7	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
8	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
9	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO
10	NOV 1	19:00	AS FAR (NIGERIA) vs MALAWI (NIGERIA)	CAIRO

SPORTS



Tension at Barau FC as Dominic Iorfa faces growing pressure over poor results

Tension appears to be building at Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) side FC Barau of Kano, with the club's General Manager, Dominic Iorfa, reportedly coming under increasing pressure following the team's recent run of disappointing results.



BARAU FC

The Kano-based club has struggled to meet expectations in recent weeks, leaving supporters increasingly frustrated with the team's performances in the ongoing NPFL campaign.

The latest setback was a

home draw against Kwara United, a result that further heightened concerns among the club's supporters. The stalemate was Barau FC's fourth draw in their last five matches, a run that has raised questions about the team's ability to deliver on the ambitions of its management and supporters.

Iorfa, a former Vice Chairman of Lobi Stars of Makurdi, is now facing growing scrutiny as supporters demand an improvement in results and a stronger push towards the top end of the league table.

Feelers from the club's camp suggest that expectations remain exceptionally high, particularly given the financial commitment made by the club's chairman to assemble a

competitive squad.

According to a supporter who spoke to FAKSMEDIA on condition of anonymity, the club's investment in quality players and its impressive welfare arrangements should translate into results worthy of a team with continental ambitions.

"The chairman has spent a lot of money recruiting good players, and the welfare of the team is among the best. Anything less than a continental ticket will not be accepted," the supporter said.

The sentiment reflects the growing belief among sections of the Barau FC faithful that the club should be competing for a place in continental football rather than settling for inconsistent performances.



CGC VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS

CGC Volleyball: Customs, COAS shine on day 10

Nigeria Customs Service and COAS Spikers recorded impressive victories on Day 10 of the 2026 CGC Volleyball Premier League final phase in Abuja on Sunday, while CNS Spikers returned to winning ways.

In the men's category, Customs defeated UCEM VC 3-0 (25-13, 25-18, 25-13), while COAS Spikers swept Life Camp VC aside 3-0 (27-25, 25-20, 25-22). CNS Spikers also beat Defence Spikers 3-0 (25-20, 25-18, 27-25).

Kano Pillars defeated Offa VC 3-1 (25-16, 25-23, 18-25, 28-26), while Sunshine Spikers overcame Ajase Ipo 3-1 (25-23, 25-16, 21-25, 25-20).

Nigeria Police Force staged a comeback to defeat NSCDC 3-2 (25-27, 25-23, 20-25, 25-19, 15-13) in one of the day's most competitive men's encounters.

In the women's category, Nigeria Customs Service edged

VIP Spikers 3-2 (25-18, 15-25, 25-23, 19-25, 15-13). COAS Spikers defeated Fire Service 3-0 (25-14, 25-14, 25-19), while NSCDC swept Excelsior VC aside 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-7).

NAF Rockets beat Kada Emeralds 3-0 (25-17, 25-13, 25-23), CNS Spikers defeated Life Camp VC 3-0 (25-19, 27-25, 25-20), and Benue Queens overcame Olalomi Royal Angels 3-0 (25-19, 25-17, 25-22).

Saturday's action also produced dramatic results, with Offa VC and Nigeria Correctional Service recording five-set victories in the men's competition.

Offa VC defeated UCEM VC 3-2 (22-25, 25-23, 17-25, 25-22, 15-11), recovering twice from losing a set to clinch the deciding set. Nigeria Correctional Service also came from behind to beat Sunshine Spikers 3-2 (18-25, 25-19, 22-25, 25-15, 15-6).

Kane makes history, ends England's 25-Year Ballon d'Or drought



HARRY KANE

England and Bayern Munich forward Harry Kane reacts after receiving the Ballon d'Or award for the best male footballer.

Harry Kane has won the 2026 Ballon d'Or, becoming the first English player in 25 years to claim football's most prestigious individual award.

The Bayern Munich striker received the trophy from Brazilian legend Ronaldo at the ceremony in London, where an enthusiastic crowd erupted into chants of his name following the announcement.

Kane's triumph ends a quarter-century wait for an English winner of the men's award, with former Liverpool and England

midfielder Michael Owen the last to claim the honour in 2001.

The England captain was visibly emotional as he accepted the award, describing the occasion as particularly special because the ceremony was held in London.

"Wow, wow, wow. I'm almost speechless. Being here in London makes it extra special. Thank you to everyone who voted for me," Kane said.

The 33-year-old credited his team-mates for their contributions to his success and expressed gratitude to Bayern Munich, where he said he had developed both as a player and as a person.

FIFA U17 Women's World Cup: Ikpeme motivates Flamingos ahead of Mexico clash

The Acting General Secretary of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Dr Emmanuel Ikpeme, has commended Nigeria's U17 girls, Flamingos for their impressive 3-1 victory over two-time winners Korea DPR on Friday, which secured their place in the Round of 16 at the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Morocco.

During a visit to the team's training session on Monday morning, Ikpeme urged the players to carry the same determination into their knockout match against Mexico on Thursday, October 29. He encouraged the team to take each game as it comes and remain focused on reaching the quarter-finals.

The NFF scribe also prom-

ised to be present at the Round of 16 match to support the Flamingos as they continue their World Cup campaign.

Nigeria have scored a total of six goals in their three matches so far at the tournament, with Oluwakemi Adegbuyi and Oluebube Umejiaku accounting for two each. Precious Oscar scored the second goal against Puerto Rico while Rodiat Kanyinsola Yusuf netted from a free-kick against Korea DPR.

Thursday's encounter is a clash of former FIFA U17 Women's World Cup bronze medallists. Nigeria picked up the bronze medals after a dramatic penalty-shootout win over Germany in the third-place match in India four years ago, while

Mexico defeated Brazil 3-1 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to win bronze medals at last year's tournament also staged by Morocco.

In India, the Flamingos led Germany 3-0 after 63 minutes, but

Germany drew level before the final whistle. However, Nigeria won the shootout 3-2 at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai to attain the podium for the first time in the history of the competition.



DR EMMANUEL IKPEME

Nigeria's YellowGreens qualify for Africa Regional Final

Nigeria's YellowGreens have completed a perfect campaign at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Sub-Regional Africa Qualifier C, winning all five matches to finish top of the standings and secure qualification for the Africa Regional Final alongside Uganda.

The Nigerian side capped their impressive run with a thrilling one-run victory over Uganda on Saturday, defending a target of 149 to finish with 10 points from five matches, while Uganda claimed second place with eight points after recording four wins.

Nigeria posted 148 all out in 19.4 overs before restricting Uganda to 147 for nine wickets in 20 overs in a tense contest that went down to the final delivery.

The victory was particularly significant, ending a difficult run against Uganda and giv-

ing Nigeria a landmark result against one of Africa's stronger cricket nations.

Nigeria Cricket Federation President, Dr Uyi Akpata, struggled to contain his emotions after the historic win, describing it as the culmination of six to seven years of planning, investment and commitment to developing the game.

Akpata noted that Uganda entered the contest with a considerable advantage in the world rankings, with Nigeria ranked 40th and Uganda 21st, making the result an important statement about the progress of Nigerian cricket.

He credited the players, technical crew and federation board for their collective efforts, stressing that the achievement reflected the value of sustained development and doing things the right way.