Drug abuse fuels cultism, kidnapping says Okpebholo

RICHARD EWEKA

....Honoured as NDLEA Grand Patron of the War Against Drug Abuse

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has identified drug abuse as a major driver of cultism, kidnapping and other violent crimes in the state, pledging his administration's full support for the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) in the fight against illicit drugs.

The governor spoke on Wednesday at Government House, Benin City, while receiving a delegation of the agency led by its Chairman/Chief Executive Officer, Brig.-Gen. Mohammed Marwa.

Okpebholo said the fight against drug trafficking and substance abuse required collective efforts, stressing that government alone could not win the battle without the active involvement of security agencies and members of the public.

He described drug abuse as a major security concern, given its connection with criminal activities across the state.

"Drugs are totally our enemies, and we have to fight them," he said.

Recalling the spate of cult-related killings shortly after assuming office, the governor said Edo lost about 10 persons to such violence within a short period, noting that drug consumption was often associated with cult activities.

"Within a short time after I took over as governor, we lost about 10 persons to cult-related killings. These guys do not operate without drug intake," he said.

He further observed that kidnappers sometimes demand drugs as part of ransom, describing this as another indication of the link between substance abuse and violent criminality.

CONTINUES ON PG 3»

The Nigerian OBSERVER

That The People May Know

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Edo Air takes off soon as Okpebholo signs MoU with Chinese aviation firms

BENIN CITY

Edo State's ambition to establish a state-owned airline has moved closer to reality following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the state government, China Express Airline Co. Ltd and KDN Aero, paving the way for a strategic partnership towards the take-off of Edo Air.

Governor Monday Okpebholo signed the agreement on Wednesday at Government House, Benin City, with representatives of the Chinese aviation companies led by the President of China Express Airline, Shansheng Li.

The governor expressed optimism that the proposed airline would commence operations soon, describing the agreement as the beginning of a mutually beneficial relationship that would open a new chapter in Edo State's aviation and economic development.

"We have signed the MoU, and this is the first part of it. We will continue to build on it.

"A presentation was made, which was very beautiful and wonderful. We have seen your capability, and we are ready to do business with you. By the grace of God, Edo Air will be in the airspace very soon. So, we are in partnership with you," he said.

Okpebholo expressed satisfaction with the presentation of the Chinese partners and their demonstrated operational capacity, noting that the state government was ready to translate the proposed partnership into a functional aviation venture.

Providing background to the agreement, the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq., disclosed that the MoU followed a fact-finding mission to China by a seven-man delegation on September 14, 2026, with the governor's approval.

The delegation was mandated to identify and engage credible technical and operational

CONTINUES ON PG 2»



PRESENTATION:
The President of Chinese Express Airline Co. Ltd, Shansheng Li, presenting a model aircraft to Gov. Monday Okpebholo of Edo State when the representatives the airline and KDY Aero signed an agreement with the state government in Benin City yesterday.

Group honours Idahosa with Best Deputy Governor Award

BERNADETTE IDALU

BENIN CITY

Edo State Deputy Governor, Hon. Dennis Idahosa, has called for greater synergy and collaboration between the state government and members of the New Building Materials Sellers Association, Edo State Chapter, to sustain the development strides of the Governor Monday Okpebholo-led administration.

Idahosa made the call on Tuesday when members of the association paid him a thank-you visit at his office in Benin City, during which they presented him with an award recognising him as the Best Deputy Governor in Nigeria.

He also urged the traders to mobilise support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the All Progressives Congress (APC) ahead of the January 16, 2027 national election, stressing the need for continuity in government policies and development programmes.

Receiving the award plaque from the association's president, Osahon Iguodala Gabriel, at the Conference Room of the Deputy Governor's Office, Idahosa expressed appreciation for the recognition, describing it as an encouragement to remain committed to integrity, loyalty and service to Edo State.

He, however, acknowledged that the recognition would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of his

CONTINUES ON PG 2»

Gov. Diri tables N1.24trn 2027 budget, targets 100MW power supply —Pg 2

Tenebe, Adun reaffirm commitment to APC unity —Pg 3

Iran's chief negotiator says Americans voted 'no to war' —Pg 8

FIFA yet to approve NFF normalisations —Pg 12

NEWS

AKAHOMEN MIRACLE

YENAGOA

Gov. Diri tables N1.24trn 2027 budget, targets 100MW power supply

Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri, on Tuesday presented a N1.24 trillion budget for 2027 to the State House of Assembly, allocating 68 per cent to capital projects.

The proposal, titled "Budget of Assured Prosperity and Sustainable Growth and Development," totals N1,242,688,970,520.22, about 22 per cent higher than the 2026 plan. Capital expenditure is N840.79 billion, while recurrent spending is N401.90 billion.

Works and Infrastructure gets the largest share at N422.84 billion, followed by Education (N126.97 billion), Sports Development (N68.50 billion), Health (N53.32 billion), Security (N24 billion), Public Utilities (N22.94 billion) and Agriculture (N17.74 billion).

"Over two-thirds of every naira goes to capital investment. Projects people can see, use and benefit from," Diri said.

The governor said his administration would complete ongoing roads and bridges, target 100 megawatts of electricity supply in 2027, and improve water provision starting with Yenagoa. He also pledged support for farmers and better healthcare delivery, and said the sports allocation would fund completion of the 30,000-capacity stadium within his tenure.

The budget is based on an oil benchmark of $60 per barrel, production of 1.8 million barrels per day, an exchange rate of N1,400 to the dollar, 18 per cent inflation and 3.5 per cent growth.

Gov Diri described it as the first budget of Bayelsa's fourth decade and the last for the current Assembly, and urged lawmakers to approve it in time for January 2027 implementation.



PARTNERSHIP:
Chairman / Chief Executive Officer, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Brig. Gen. Mohammed Marwa, presenting a sourvenir to Gov. Monday Okpebholo of Edo State yesterday.

Group honours Idahosa with Best Deputy Governor Award

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

principal, Governor Monday Okpebholo.

The deputy governor also commended the traders for acknowledging the impact of the state government's policies, particularly improved security, on their businesses and commercial activities.

He said the Okpebholo administration came prepared to address the state's challenges from the outset of its tenure.

"From the very first day he was sworn in till today, he has been doing extremely well. Your businesses can thrive now because he has dealt with the issue of insecurity. Edo is now safe for businesses to grow.

"He is also addressing the infrastructural deficit that we inherited. As of today, you can see that Edo is shining," he said.

Idahosa maintained that the state government was implementing people-oriented policies aimed at stimulating economic growth and creating an enabling environment for businesses to flourish.

He identified improved infrastructure, enhanced security and reforms in the state's tax administration as some of the major achievements of the present administration.

According to him, the administration has addressed the challenge of multiple taxation through the introduction of a centralised tax collection system, a measure he said had helped to improve the business environment and accelerate development.

The deputy governor reiterated the government's readiness to partner with credible organisations and associations to fast-track Edo's development in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Tinubu.

He appealed to the traders to sustain their support for the state government, assuring them that their contributions to the development process would be recognised.

He also hinted that the government would, in due course, reciprocate the association's gesture with appropriate recognition.

Earlier, the association's president, Osahon Iguodala Gabriel, expressed the group's readiness to align with the development agenda of Governor Okpebholo and support the re-election bid of President Tinubu.

He disclosed that the association had commenced grassroots mobilisation and sensitisation among its members to advance the cause.

Gabriel said the group had also organised a grassroots football tournament as part of its mobilisation strategy, adding that the competition, tagged Presidential Cup, would climax on December 6.

He explained that the initiative was designed to attract public attention, promote grassroots engagement and demonstrate the support President Tinubu enjoys among members of the business community in Edo State.

Terrorism trials: FG's convictions hit 2,512

AKAHOMEN MIRACLE

ABUJA

The Federal Government has obtained 2,512 convictions in terrorism-related cases since it began mass trials in October 2017, with the conclusion of the 11th phase in Abuja.

National Coordinator of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, Major General Adamu Laka, announced the figure on Tuesday. The 11th phase, held at the Federal High Court, covered 1,069 cases across 10 courts and ended in 791 convictions. The first 10 phases produced 1,721.

The other cases ended in seven acquittals, 41 discharges, four struck out and three withdrawn.

A further 211 were adjourned, 11 are pending and one fell into another category. Of the cases handled, 201 involved terrorism financing.

One of those convicted, Boko Haram member Suleiman Abu, was sentenced to death for belonging to the group and taking part in attacks on military facilities and civilians that caused deaths and serious injuries.

Laka said the trials reflect the government's commitment to accountability and a stronger criminal justice system. He thanked the judiciary, the Attorney-General of the Federation, prosecutors, the Legal Aid Council, defence counsel and security agencies.

The trials started at the Wawa Military Cantonment in Kainji, Niger State, and have continued in phases at the Federal High Court in Abuja.

Drug abuse fuels cultism, kidnapping says Okpebholo

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

partners capable of supporting the establishment and successful operation of Edo Air.

Led by Ikhilor, the team included the Head of Service, Dr Anthony Okungbowa; the Accountant-General, Julius Anelu; and the Chief Aviation Consultant to the Edo State Government, Captain Nuhu Musa, alongside other government officials and aviation experts.

During the visit, the delegation inspected the facilities of China Express Airline and the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC), China's major aircraft manufacturer, to assess their technical capabilities and explore possible areas of collaboration.

Ikhilor said China Express Airline made a particularly strong impression on the delegation, especially during a tour of its flight-monitoring and operational control facilities.

He recalled that the airline's situation room featured a giant monitoring screen tracking flight operations across China, with 192 flights already logged by 10 a.m. on the day of the visit. According to him, the facilities inspected and the discussions held with the airline's management provided sufficient confidence in China Express as a prospective technical and operational partner for the proposed Edo-owned airline.

He expressed optimism that the signing of the MoU would accelerate engagements and provide the foundation for concrete steps towards actualising the governor's vision.

At the ceremony, Li presented Governor Okpebholo with a model aircraft as a symbolic gesture of the emerging partnership, while the Managing Director of KDN Aero, Tianzhi Chen, spoke on behalf of the Chinese delegation, providing further insights into the airline's operations, expertise and capabilities.

The event was attended by the Deputy Governor, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; the SSG, Umar Musa Ikhilor, Esq.; the Head of Service, Dr Anthony Okungbowa; the Chief of Staff, Hon. Yakubu Musa, JP; the Commissioner for Finance, Engr. Emmanuel Okoebor; and other top government officials.

2027 Elections: INEC checks off 9 out of 14 milestones, seeks UK intervention on BVAS, cybersecurity

CAROLINE AMEH

ABUJA

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has completed nine of the 14 key activities on its revised timetable for the 2027 general elections, as it seeks stronger technical support from the United Kingdom to address electoral technology, cybersecurity and other operational challenges.

INEC Chairman, Professor Joash Amupitan, disclosed this on Wednesday during a meeting with British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Peter Vowles, and his delegation at the commission's headquarters.

Amupitan said the commission had transitioned from planning to implementing critical electoral activities, expressing confidence in its preparations for the 2027 polls.

He explained that INEC was working to strengthen the credibility of the national voters' register through continuous voter registration, data verification, voter transfers and the removal of ineligible entries.

The chairman also confirmed that the nationwide collection and distribution of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) were ongoing, while political parties had completed the submission of their candidates in compliance with the Electoral Act and statutory deadlines.

NEWS



BUGDET PRESENTATION:
Gov. Douye Diri of Bayelsa State (M); Deputy Governor, Peter Akpe (3nd R); Deputy Speaker of the State House of Assembly, Michael Ogbere (2nd L); member representing Ekeremor Constituency 1, Tare Porri (L) and his Ekeremor Constituency 2 counterpart, Living Mitin, during the governor's presentation of the 2027 Appropriation Bill to the Assembly in Yenagoa on Tuesday.

Tenebe, Adun reaffirm commitment to APC unity

BENIN CITY

Edo State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Emperor Jarret Tenebe, has paid a courtesy visit to a respected party leader and his political godfather, Chief Dr. John Osamede Adun, in a demonstration of appreciation for his mentorship, support and contributions to his political journey.

The visit, which underscored the importance of loyalty, mentorship and enduring political relationships, provided an opportunity for Tenebe to acknowledge Adun's influence and invaluable contributions to his political growth and the development of the APC in Edo State.

During the meeting, the APC chairman described Chief Adun as a pillar of strength whose guidance, experience and support he deeply appreciates.

With the 2027 general elections approaching, Tenebe reaffirmed his commitment to fostering unity among party leaders, strengthening internal cohesion and building a political family anchored on mutual respect, loyalty and collective progress.

In his response, Chief Adun commended Governor Monday Okpebholo for his administration's developmental efforts and pledged his continued support for the government.

He also praised Tenebe's humility, loyalty and commitment to the party, urging APC stakeholders to sustain unity and work together towards the party's collective interests.

The meeting served as a reminder of the enduring importance of mentorship, mutual respect and established relationships in strengthening political institutions and promoting party cohesion.

2027: Why Isoko Nation is supporting Tinubu –Timi

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu's endorsement for a second term in office by the Isoko Nation is a reflection of the growing recognition of his administration's policy direction and reform initiatives.

The Secretary, Media/Publicity Committee of Delta Campaign Council, Dr Tonye Timi, stated this in an interview with NAN Abuja, on Wednesday.

Timi also said that the endorsement was a significant expression of confidence in the leadership, policies and development direction of both the administration of Tinubu and Gov. Sheriff Oborevwori.

He added Oborevwori's endorsement at a grand reception organised in honour of the governor and his wife, Tobore, at Isoko House, Oleh, on Tuesday represented a significant milestone in Delta's political landscape.

He said this was particularly given the historical reputation of the Isoko Nation for its collective political consciousness, unity of purpose and coordinated voting disposition.

"The endorsement is therefore an important political statement, with considerable implications for the 2027 general elections and the political fortunes of the candidates enjoying the confidence of the Isoko people.

"The endorsement reflects growing recognition of the policy direction and reform initiatives of President Tinubu's administration as well as the developmental strides being recorded in Delta under Gov. Oborevwori's MORE Agenda," he said.

Timi noted that under Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, Nigeria had embarked on significant economic reforms aimed at repositioning the country's economy, strengthening public finances, attracting investment and creating a more sustainable foundation for national development.

He listed the major policy interventions to include removal of petroleum subsidy, foreign exchange unification and comprehensive reform of the national tax administration framework.

"These measures, although initially challenging, are intended to address structural weaknesses in the economy, improve revenue generation, strengthen fiscal sustainability and restore investor confidence.

"The administration has also recorded progress in infrastructure development, with major investments in road construction and rehabilitation, including the Lagos-Calabar coastal highway and Sokoto-Badagry super highway.

"The expansion of domestic refining capacity is equally contributing to Nigeria's energy security and reducing dependence on imported petroleum products," he stated.

...Drug abuse fuels cultism, kidnapping in Edo, says Okpebholo

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The governor commended the NDLEA for its operations in Edo and appreciated the deployment of officers and men to the state.

He assured the agency of his administration's continued cooperation, saying: "We are ready to partner with you, we are ready to work with you, and we are ready also to support you in whatever request you make."

Okpebholo reaffirmed his government's commitment to supporting initiatives aimed at curbing drug abuse and trafficking as part of broader efforts to strengthen security across the state.

Earlier, Marwa disclosed that the NDLEA was strengthening international partnerships to combat illicit drug trafficking.

He commended the Edo State Government for its support for the agency's operations and prevention programmes designed to discourage young people from substance abuse.

"Permit me to commend your developmental strides. You have achieved a lot within a short period of time," Marwa said. Describing Edo as a gateway state and a cannabis-producing state, the NDLEA chairman stressed that the governor's support was particularly important to the agency's anti-drug campaign.

"We appreciate your efforts against illicit drugs. Drugs are the root of all criminality. We appreciate your laudable steps and support to the NDLEA," he said. The high point of the visit was Marwa's announce-

Cleric tasks Nigerians on enterprise, creativity, resilience

BENIN CITY

Prophet Peter Obaseki, President and Founder of Divine Grace of Glory Church, has called on Nigerians to cultivate the spirit of enterprise, creativity and resilience as essential ingredients for overcoming the socio-economic challenges confronting the country.

Speaking with newsmen in Benin City yesterday, he said Nigerians must not allow the prevailing economic and social difficulties to weaken their determination to succeed, urging individuals, particularly the youths, to develop an entrepreneurial mindset, explore available opportunities and deploy their talents and creative abilities towards productive ventures.

Prophet Obaseki noted that the ability to think creatively, take legitimate initiatives and remain resilient in the face of adversity would not only improve individual livelihoods but also contribute significantly to national development.

He observed that Nigeria was endowed with enormous human and natural resources, stressing that the country could overcome many of its challenges if its citizens were encouraged to become productive, innovative and self-reliant.

The cleric, however, said the responsibility of turning the country's fortunes around should not be left entirely in the hands of ordinary Nigerians, insisting that political and public office holders must demonstrate purposeful leadership and a genuine commitment to national development.

He urged leaders at all levels to return to the drawing board, critically examine existing policies and programmes, and fashion out more enduring and result-oriented strategies capable of addressing the country's fundamental problems.

According to him, leadership should be measured by its capacity to improve the living conditions of the people, create opportunities, strengthen institutions and provide sustainable solutions to the challenges facing the nation.

Prophet Obaseki identified corruption as one of the greatest obstacles to Nigeria's growth and development, lamenting that the menace had continued to undermine public confidence, weaken institutions and frustrate efforts towards building a prosperous nation.

He expressed concern that resources meant for public infrastructure, education, healthcare, employment generation and other critical sectors could be diverted through corrupt practices, thereby worsening the hardship experienced by ordinary citizens.

He stressed that the fight against corruption must go beyond public declarations and be reflected in the conduct of individuals, institutions and those entrusted with positions of authority.

The cleric further gave a strong spiritual dimension to his message, warning that those who engage in wickedness, corruption and the promotion of evil should not assume that they would escape divine judgment.

He declared that God would not spare the wicked, the corrupt and those who deliberately promote evil in society, emphasising that every individual would ultimately be accountable for his or her actions.

Prophet Obaseki maintained that moral discipline, honesty, compassion and the fear of God must become fundamental values in the quest to rebuild the nation.

He also called for a collective commitment to national renewal, noting that government policies alone could not guarantee meaningful transformation without the cooperation and responsible participation of citizens.

He urged Nigerians to shun get-rich-quick tendencies, dishonesty and other practices capable of undermining the nation's moral and economic foundations, while embracing hard work, integrity, innovation and legitimate means of livelihood.

The Divine Grace of Glory Church founder expressed optimism that Nigeria could overcome its present difficulties if leaders demonstrated sincerity of purpose and citizens embraced the values of enterprise, creativity, resilience and accountability.



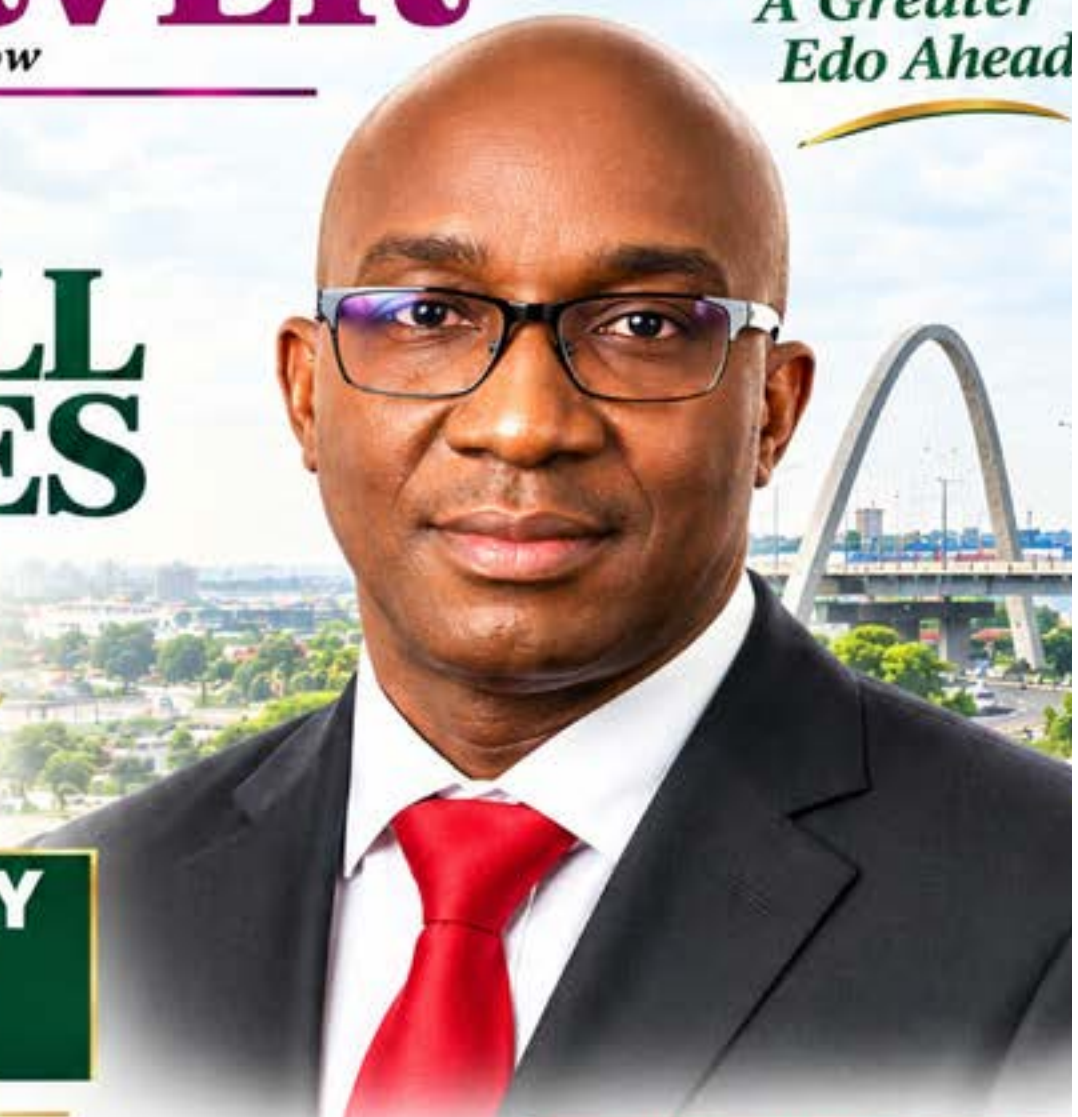
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Two Years of Progress, A Greater Edo Ahead

SPECIAL EDITION

INVITATION TO PLACE GOODWILL MESSAGES IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 2ND Years ANNIVERSARY OF GOVERNOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO'S ADMINISTRATION

EDO STATE



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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.

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NEWS

State police: Senate gives six assemblies November 15 deadline

ABUJA

The Senate has given the six state Houses of Assembly yet to approve the proposed establishment of state police until November 15 to communicate their positions, warning that failure to respond by the deadline would be treated as withholding their approval.

The decision followed an update by the Senate Leader, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele, during plenary on Wednesday, indicating that 30 of the 36 state assemblies had approved the proposed constitutional amendment.

Although the 30 approvals have exceeded the constitutionally required two-thirds majority of 24 state assemblies, Senate President Godswill Akpabio appealed for more time to enable the remaining six assemblies to make their positions known.

Akpabio said any assembly that failed to respond by the November 15 deadline would be deemed to have withheld its approval.

"They should be given more time. Let's give them till November 15 to respond," he said.

Earlier, Bamidele read out the names of the 30 state assemblies that had approved the bill.

They are Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Borno, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara.

Bamidele said the number of approvals had surpassed the constitutional requirement of two-thirds of the 36 state assemblies, representing 24 states.

The Senate Leader explained that the amendment process involved three stages: passage by the national assembly, approval by at least two-thirds of state assemblies, and presidential assent.

He said, "Passage of the bill was meant to be done by the national assembly, which was done, and approval is meant to be done by at least two-thirds of the 36 state houses of assembly in the country, and assent is to be given by the president to complete this process."

The proposed amendment seeks to alter the 1999 Constitution to provide for the establishment of state police services, a major security reform designed to decentralise policing and allow state governments to establish and manage their own police structures.

The proposal is expected to address longstanding concerns about the limitations of the centralised policing system, particularly in tackling insecurity across the country's diverse communities.

The constitutional amendment process requires approval by at least two-thirds of the state assemblies before the bill can be presented to the President for assent.

With 30 assemblies already on board, the Senate's decision to extend the deadline is intended to allow the remaining six states to complete the process before the amendment is transmitted for presidential consideration.



ANNIVERSARY:
Director, Nigeria Youth Futures Fund, LEAP Africa, Dr Elizabeth Agbiti-Douglas (4th R); African Director of MacArthur Foundation Dr Kole Shettima (5th R) and others, during the 5th Anniversary of the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund (NYFF) in Abuja on Wednesday.

Police warn political thugs against destroying campaign posters, billboards

ABUJA

The Nigeria Police Force has warned politicians, political thugs and their supporters against destroying campaign posters, banners and billboards belonging to rival candidates ahead of the 2027 general elections, threatening to arrest and prosecute offenders.

The warning comes amid reported incidents of campaign posters and billboards being torn down or defaced in some states, as political parties and candidates intensify preparations for the 2027 elections.

The Force said it had observed increasing incidents of deliberate tearing, defacement and destruction of campaign materials belonging to candidates and political parties across the country.

In a statement issued on Wednesdayby its Public Relations Officer, CSP Ani Iniedu, the Force said it considered the acts a form of political intolerance and urged those involved to stop immediately.

"The Nigeria Police Force strongly condemns this act of political intolerance and warns political thugs, hoodlums and other mischief-makers involved to desist immediately," the statement read.

It noted that the destruction or unlawful removal of another candidate's campaign materials could constitute malicious damage, a criminal offence under applicable laws.

The police cited Section 451 of the Criminal Code Act and Section 326 of the Penal Code Law, which provides for the offence of mischief.

"Political differences or loyalty to a particular party do not give anyone the right to destroy another candidate's property or infringe on their right to campaign freely," the statement added.

The Force reiterated that all political parties and candidates, regardless of their affiliations or status, were entitled to equal protection under the law.

It said the Inspector-General of Police, Olatunji Disu, had directed commissioners of police in the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory to take preventive measures, investigate reported incidents and ensure that those found culpable were arrested and prosecuted.

The police also warned that political sponsors and individuals who recruited, encouraged or facilitated the destruction of campaign materials would be held accountable if evidence established their involvement.

"The Nigeria Police Force will not allow political thugs and troublemakers to turn the nation's political environment into a theatre of lawlessness. Those who choose to break the law will face the full consequences of their actions," the statement said.

Kebbi govt, Malami trade blame over demolition of property

BIRNI - KEBBI

The Kebbi State Government and the African Democratic Congress governorship candidate, Abubakar Malami, have traded accusations over the demolition of a property along Sani Abacha Bypass in Birnin Kebbi, with both sides offering conflicting accounts of the incident.

While the state government described the demolition as the outcome of a private land ownership dispute, Malami accused political opponents of destroying his property in an attempt to provoke him and his supporters.

The Commissioner for Information and Culture, Yakubu Ahmed-BK, stated the government's position on Monday while addressing journalists on the controversy.

Ahmed-BK insisted that the administration of Governor Nasir Idris neither authorised nor participated in the demolition, maintaining that the incident was strictly a private property dispute.

"The state government had neither authorised nor participated in the exercise, which arose from a private land ownership dispute between individuals," he said.

He accused the ADC of attempting to politicise the incident to portray the state government as hostile to opposition parties.

According to him, the government was concerned that a private dispute was being presented as an act of political persecution without credible evidence linking the administration to the demolition.

"The fact that a building was demolished does not automatically mean the state government was responsible. There are established procedures for resolving disputes over property ownership, and such matters should not be turned into political accusations," he said.

The commissioner explained that the demolition attracted public attention after residents woke up to find earth-moving equipment pulling down the building, prompting passersby to record and circulate videos of the exercise on social media.

He alleged that ADC supporters subsequently blamed the state government without establishing the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Ahmed-BK said preliminary investigations and documents presented by a businessman, Umaru Gulumbe, indicated that the disagreement centred on ownership of the property.

He disclosed that Gulumbe presented a Certificate of Occupancy bearing the signature of former Governor Adamu Aliero, alongside records of complaints lodged with the police and the Ministry of Lands and Housing.

"The individual who came forward presented documents which, according to him, established his ownership of the property. He also provided records of complaints he had earlier lodged with relevant authorities," the commissioner said.

He added that relevant committees had examined the competing ownership claims, while Gulumbe maintained that the property belonged to him.

The commissioner challenged anyone disputing the businessman's ownership to approach a competent court rather than resort to public accusations.

"Anyone who has a contrary claim to the ownership of that property should go to court and establish his claim. The government cannot be dragged into a private dispute simply because some people want to give it a political colouration," he said.

Universities must move beyond theory — Don

ABEOKUTA

A Professor of Analytical and Environmental Chemistry at Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State, Babatunde Ogunsanwo, has challenged Nigerian universities to rethink their traditional approach to education.

Ogunsanwo said they must move beyond producing graduates with theoretical knowledge to becoming centres of innovation, enterprise, industrial production and wealth creation.

Ogunsanwo is retiring after 46 years of academic service.

He said universities must see themselves not merely as institutions for teaching, research and awarding degrees but also as productive communities capable of solving societal problems, creating employment, generating sustainable revenue and improving the economic circumstances of their members.

He made the submission while delivering his valedictory lecture, titled "Ailele, But the Beat Goes On," at the university on Tuesday.

He presented what he described as a practical framework for repositioning Nigerian universities through entrepreneurship, collective investment and institutional boldness.

Ogunsanwo, who had served OOU as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Provost of the Postgraduate School, Director of Academic Planning and Director of Entrepreneurial Studies and Innovations, among other positions,

NEWS

Ogun monarch drags Abiodun, others to court over suspension

ABEOKUTA

The Eselu of Iselu Kingdom in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Oba Ebenezer Akinyemi, has approached the Federal High Court in Abeokuta to challenge his suspension by the Ogun State Government, alleging that the action was taken without giving him an opportunity to defend himself.

The monarch, in a suit marked FHC/AB/FHR/148/26, is seeking an interim injunction restraining Governor Dapo Abiodun and other respondents from enforcing the suspension letter dated October 20, 2026, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive suit.

Other respondents in the suit are the Ogun State Attorney-General, the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, the Nigeria Police Force and the Commissioner of Police, Ogun State.

In a motion ex parte dated October 23, 2026, and filed before the Federal High Court, Abeokuta Judicial Division, the monarch is asking the court to restrain the respondents, their agents, servants and officers from implementing or giving effect to the suspension letter.

He is also seeking an order preventing the respondents from compelling him to vacate the Eselu Palace, stopping him from parading himself as the Eselu of Iselu Kingdom or preventing him from wearing his crown and other traditional royal insignia.

The ex parte motion, filed by Dele Fadesere, a copy of which was made available to our correspondent on Wednesday, is seeking, "An order of interim injunction restraining the Respondents, whether by themselves, their agents, servants, privies, officers or howsoever called, from implementing, enforcing, executing or giving any effect whatsoever to the letter of suspension dated 20th Day of October 2026 issued against the Applicant, pending the hearing and determination of the substantive Originating Summons in this suit.

"An order of interim injunction restraining the Respondents, whether by themselves, their agents, servants, privies, officers or howsoever called, from: compelling or forcing the Applicant to vacate or stay away from the Palace of Eselu; preventing the Applicant from parading or acknowledging himself as the Eselu of Iselu Kingdom; preventing the Applicant from wearing or using any crown, ileke, beaded staff, irukere or any other paraphernalia of an Oba.

"An order of interim injunction restraining the respondents from harassing, intimidating, arresting, detaining or otherwise interfering with the Applicant in the exercise of his rights and functions as the Eselu of Iselu Kingdom; pending the hearing and determination o substantive Originating Sum mons in this suit.

"An order directing the 4tl Respondent and alwl officer under his command to refrai from taking any step in further ance of the enforcement of th suspension letter dated 20th Da of October 2026 against the Ap plicant pending the determina tion of this application and th substantive suit".



GRADUATION:
Fire Safety Protection and Environmental Surveillance officers, during their graduation parade ceremony at Police College in Kaduna or Wednesday.

Kogi West APC candidate rejects court ruling, vows appeal

LOKOJA

The All Progressives Congress candidate for Kogi West Senatorial District in the 2027 general election, Sunday Karimi, has vowed to challenge a Federal High Court judgment against his candidacy, insisting that he remains the party's flag bearer.

Karimi, who is the senator representing the senatorial district, was reacting to a judgment in a suit filed by Samuel Aro, who challenged his emergence as the APC Kogi West senatorial candidate, but was sacked by the court.

Reacting in a statement personally signed by him on Wednesday, Karimi said he was undeterred by the ruling.

He described the judgment as contrary to the evidence presented before the court, alleging that the trial judge departed from his previous rulings on similar pre-election matters.

He said, "It is clear that the judgment runs contrary to the evidence before the court. It is also unfortunate that the trial judge departed from his own previous rulings, having decided at least three similar cases on the statute of limitations in pre-election proceedings and the proper authority to conduct party primaries and determine their winners."

Karimi said he would exercise his constitutional right of appeal, expressing confidence in the judicial process.

He further alleged that Aro did not participate in the party's primary election but submitted fabricated documents to support his claim.

"The people of Kogi West, the entire state, and even Hon. Samuel Bamidele Aro know that he did not participate in the primary election, yet submitted fabricated documents to support a false claim," he said.

He also accused unnamed political leaders in the state of being behind the legal challenge, alleging that they were seeking to persecute him over his criticism of the management of Kogi State's resources.

6,664 human rights complaints pending in Bauchi — NHRC

BAUCHI

The National Human Rights Commission in Bauchi State says it handled 9,969 cases between January and October 2026.

The NHRC State Coordinator, Mrs Yachit Dala, disclosed this in an interview with newsmen on Wednesday in Bauchi.

Dala said the commission resolved 3,305 cases, while 6,664 remained pending.

She said the cases involved gender-based violence (GBV), rape, sexual and domestic violence, mistreatment, abandonment of parental responsibilities, and civil and political rights violations.

The coordinator said the complaints were received, assessed and registered to ensure their amicable resolution.

"The commission also investigates allegations and sets up special panels or tribunals to hear petitions and review testimonies," she said.

According to Dala, the commission provides support to victims and makes recommendations towards amicable resolution of cases.

Dala identified inadequate funding, low public awareness and illiteracy as major challenges to the commission's operations.

While urging people to report cases of abuse to the commission, Dala called on youth and women's groups to champion the campaign against human rights abuses.

Emergency duty allows police to drive against traffic – Official

LAGOS

The Lagos State Police Command has said the National Road Traffic Regulations permit police officers responding to emergencies to drive against the normal direction of traffic, provided they exercise due regard for the safety of other road users.

The Command made this clarification while explaining the circumstances surrounding a viral video showing a Rapid Response Squad (RRS) patrol vehicle, marked 'RRS Attack 07', driving against the flow of traffic.

According to the police, the officers were responding to distress calls from motorists trapped in a traffic congestion and had been dispatched by the Command's Control Room to clear the obstruction.

In a statement posted on its X handle on Wednesday, the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State Command, Tijani Fatai, said the patrol team, led by an Inspector of Police, was the closest available police formation to the location and had to navigate through the opposite lane to reach the source of the obstruction.

"The RRS patrol team, led by an Inspector of Police, was duly detailed by the Command's Control Room following distress calls from individuals trapped in the same traffic congestion, requesting Police intervention to clear the obstruction and restore the free flow of traffic," the statement read.

The police explained that the decision to drive against traffic was an operational measure aimed at preventing the congestion from spreading to adjoining roads and disrupting economic activities.

"The team's action was therefore a deliberate operational decision taken in the interest of public safety and the convenience of other road users, and not an act of arbitrary disregard for traffic regulations," the Command stated.

Citing Regulation 158 of the National Road Traffic Regulations, 2012, the command said: Police officers driving under emergency situations or engaged in civil protection are permitted to disregard the directions of prescribed road traffic signs, subject to the requirement to exercise due regard for the safety of other road users.

Jigawa Hisbah trains personnel in emergency first aid

DUTSE

Jigawa State Hisbah Board has trained its personnel in life-saving techniques and first aid to equip them for emergency response during field operations.

Jigawa Hisbah, as a community-based moral and security support outfit, works closely with the police and other agencies in maintaining public order, settling disputes and responding to distress calls across the state.

The training, held on Tuesday in Gumel, Gumel Local Government Area, was part of the board's monthly end-of-month lecture series aimed at boosting professionalism among Hisbah operatives.

Briefing journalists after the training, the Public Relations Officer of the Jigawa State Hisbah Board, Dauda Hadejia, said the programme was designed to build the capacity of operatives who are always close to the people.

Hadejia said, "The lecture focused on First Aid and how to provide immediate assistance to victims of injury, fainting or accident before reaching the hospital."

"The lecture we presented today focused on First Aid. We taught Hisbah personnel how to give emergency aid to someone who sustains injury or collapses at work or on the road before taking him to hospital."

He explained that the board deemed it necessary to equip its men with basic medical response skills because they are often first responders at scenes of accidents and emergencies.

The PRO stated further that "key topics covered during the training include how to stop bleeding, how to handle someone who faints, and how to assist victims of snake or insect bites."

"Other areas include how to help someone with a fracture, how to assist an epileptic patient, how to help someone who is choking, and how to assist a woman in labour, among others," Hadejia added.

The Jigawa Hisba spokesperson said the lecture was organised to enhance the operatives' competence in saving lives, given their closeness to communities in their daily duties.

CORRECTION OF NAME / DATE OF BIRTH

The general public is hereby notified that **JOSHUA YAHANNA MADAGALI**. and **GIDAKA JOSHUA**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **GIDAKA JOSHUA**. and also my correct Date of birth is 1st of JANUARY 1998, and not 30th day of JANUARY 1988. all former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

CORRECTION/ CONFIRMATION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **AJIBRIN ISIYAKA** and **JIBRIN ISIYAKA A**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **JIBRIN ISIYAKA A**. All former documents. remain valid concern authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF MIDDLE NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **ODIA OGIE** and **ODIA OGIESOBA DESTINY**. are one and the same person henceforth now wish to be known and addressed as **ODIA OGIESOBA DESTINY**. All former documents. remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

FEATURES

Dapo Akande: From Nigerian classrooms to the World Court

A Nigerian-trained legal scholar's remarkable journey to the International Court of Justice

By Akahomen Miracle

There is a court in The Hague, Netherlands, where nations go to settle some of the world's most contentious disputes. There, countries argue over borders, armed conflicts, treaties and the interpretation of international law.

On Tuesday, November 3, 2026, Professor Dapo Akande entered that distinguished institution as one of its newly elected judges, marking another remarkable milestone in a career built on scholarship, intellectual discipline and an unwavering commitment to international law.

His story is one of academic excellence, professional dedication and global recognition. It is also a story with an important Nigerian connection.

Akande does not command attention through political rhetoric or public theatrics. His influence has been built through rigorous scholarship, persuasive legal arguments and decades of engagement with some of the most complex questions confronting the international legal community.

His journey began in Nigeria, where he studied law at the University of Ife, now Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, earning his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1992.

He subsequently proceeded to the London School of Economics, where he obtained a Master of Laws degree in 1994, and qualified as a barrister and solicitor at the Nigerian Law School in 1993.

From those foundations, he built an extraordinary academic and professional career that would take him to some of the world's most respected institutions.

At the University of Oxford, he became the Chichele Professor of Public International Law and a Fellow of All Souls College, one of the university's most prestigious academic institutions. He also became Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict and a member of the United Nations International Law Commission.

His academic engagements extended beyond Oxford. He held visiting academic appointments in the United States, Europe and Australia, including at Yale Law School. In 2015, he was appointed the Sir Ninian Stephen Visiting Scholar at the University of Melbourne Law School.

But Akande's contributions have never been confined to the classroom.

He is one of the authors of Oppenheim's International Law: The United Nations, a major scholarly work that received the 2019 Certificate of Merit from the American Society of International Law. He is also co-editor of The Oxford Guide to International Humanitarian Law.

His expertise has extended into emerging areas of international law, including the regulation of cyber operations. He was among the international group of experts who prepared the Tallinn Manual 2.0, an influential publication examining how international law applies to cyber operations.

Governments and international organisations have also drawn on his expertise. He has advised institutions including the United Nations and the African Union, among others, on complex international legal questions.

As counsel, adviser and legal expert, he has been involved in proceedings before international courts and tribunals, including the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court, the European Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

His professional recognition has continued to grow. In 2024, he was appointed to the Panel of Arbitrators of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, an institution of the World Bank Group responsible for resolving investment disputes between states and investors.

Now, his election to the International Court of Justice represents another defining moment in that distinguished career.



Professor Dapo Akande

The United Kingdom government announced his election on November 3, 2026, following a vote by United Nations member states. He will serve a nine-year term, bringing his extensive knowledge and experience to the world's principal judicial organ.

In his acceptance remarks, Akande expressed gratitude to the countries that supported his election and pledged to discharge his responsibilities independently and impartially.

"I pledge to serve with independence and to deciding cases on the basis of a faithful and impartial application of the law," he said.

He also expressed his readiness to contribute to the Court's important responsibility of resolving international disputes through peaceful means.

For Nigeria, Akande's achievement offers an inspiring reminder of the intellectual contributions Nigerians and Nigerian-trained professionals continue to make to global institutions.

For young law students in Ile-Ife, Lagos, Benin City, Abuja and other parts of the country, his journey carries a powerful message: excellence has no geographical boundaries. A strong academic foundation, intellectual curiosity, discipline and consistency can open doors to opportunities far beyond one's immediate environment.

His story is not simply about the attainment of an international judicial position. It is about the power of knowledge, the value of preparation and the enduring influence of scholarship.

From the University of Ife to Oxford, and from the lecture halls of some of the world's leading universities to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, Professor Dapo Akande has demonstrated that the pursuit of excellence can command international recognition.

He may have travelled far beyond Nigeria, but his academic journey began on Nigerian soil.

NEWS EXTRA

ASUU UniAbuja demands reversal of alleged unlawful allocation

ABUJA

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), University of Abuja (UniAbuja) branch, has demanded the immediate reversal of alleged unlawful allocation of the university's land by FCT Minister, Nyesom Wike.

The Chairperson of ASUU, UniAbuja branch, Prof. Sylvanus Ugoh, made the demand at a news conference on Tuesday in Abuja.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the conference was tagged: "Ministerial Encroachment into University of Abuja Land: Some Points to Ponder."

Ugoh said the union would no longer guarantee industrial harmony if the minister failed to reverse the alleged allocation of the university's land to his friends and cronies.

"The act of the FCT Minister is an outright breach and total disregard for the rule of law.

"On Aug. 18, Justice F.E. Mesiri of Maitama High Court granted interlocutory injunctions, including an order restraining the FCT Minister from entering or encroaching on University land.

"In spite of the court order, the FCT Minister went ahead on Sept. 26, to allocate the university land to companies and individuals," he said.

Ugoh said the minister announced on June 30, 2025, during inauguration of access road to Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) institute in Giri, retrieval of 7,000 hectares from 11,000 hectares allocated to university.

He said the minister had accused the university of land grabbing and fencing several hectares of land without proper approval or documentation.

"There is overwhelming documentary evidence showing that this parcel of land was allocated to the University of Abuja," he said.

He explained that the University of Abuja was established on Jan. 1, 1988, with an initial land allocation of 11,824 hectares to accommodate its long-term academic and infrastructural development.

According to him, the university authority could not have on its own decided where to situate the institution.

First Bank unveils digital experience centre at UniAbuja, targets 40,000 customers

ABUJA

FirstBank Plc has commissioned a one-stop digital experience centre at Yakubu Gowon University, Abuja, targeting no fewer than 40,000 customers within the university community.

Mr Olusegun Alebiosu, Chief Executive Officer of the bank, said this at the commissioning of the centre in Gwagwalada, FCT, on Tuesday.

Alebiosu said the facility was designed to onboard more customers onto the bank's digital platforms and enable members of the university community to conduct banking transactions seamlessly, 24 hours a day.

He said the centre provided services traditionally available in banking halls, including cash withdrawals, Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card replacement, account balance enquiries, bank statement requests, email updates, phone number changes and funds transfers.

"What we have here represents everything you want to do in the banking hall.

FOREIGN

Iran's chief negotiator says Americans voted 'no to war'

Iran's chief negotiator in talks with the US has said that Americans have "said NO TO WAR", after President Donald Trump's Republican Party suffered a stunning defeat in the midterm elections.

"We endorse this message," parliament speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf wrote on X.

"If the US [government] betrays their public will to serve international paymasters and blackmailers, it will learn our NO comes with a Nightmare," he warned.

Trump acknowledged on Tuesday that the poor results for Republican congressional candidates were partly due to the war and the related surge in petrol prices. But he insisted that he did not regret launching a joint attack with Israel on Iran in February.

Iran's Supreme Leader said he did not expect US policy to change after the results.

Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen in public since the Iran war began, released a statement saying anyone who thinks there will be any change from American "hostility towards the Iranian nation" is "gravely mistaken".

In an interview with Fox News, Trump said of the midterm results: "I think a part of it was Iran".

He went on to say: "People agree with what I'm doing on Iran but they really probably weren't willing to do the short term consequences of paying more for gasoline - I understand that."

Speaking separately to the BBC's US news partner, CBS News, Trump said the conflict would end "when I say it ends".

In recent weeks, the president has warned that the US and Israel could return to all-out war after the midterms if a deal to end the conflict cannot be reached with Iran.

Also on Wednesday, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said four oil tankers caught fire after hitting naval sea mines in the Strait of Hormuz.

The IRGC said two of the vessels were still burning, and two additional tankers had been intercepted, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. It said they were trying to travel through a prohibited southern route in the Strait of Hormuz.

BBC Verify has been investigating the IRGC claims, and has not found any evidence that four tankers were destroyed.

In a separate incident, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) centre said a tanker was struck by two unknown projectiles about 14 nautical miles (26km) north-east of Limah, in Oman's Musandam peninsula, on Tuesday evening. No casualties were reported, it added.

On Monday, an Indian crew member of a dhow - a wooden sailing boat - was killed in an attack north-east of Limah. Thirteen other crew members were rescued by Omani authorities.

The IRCG also reported on Wednesday that its forces had shot down another US MQ-9 drone over the Strait of Hormuz.

It made a similar claim on Monday night, when US officials said the US military had carried out limited strikes on Iran's Qeshm Island in response to the IRGC firing on a US aircraft.

In an interview with the Financial Times ahead of the midterms, Trump suggested he was happy with the state of the conflict, and that he did not consider them to be "really in a war".

Delhi air quality worsens ahead of Diwali as firework restrictions enter force

Air pollution is an annual problem in Delhi and large parts of northern India

Delhi is once again battling worsening air pollution as the onset of winter brings a familiar deterioration in air quality to India's capital.

The city's air quality index (AQI) - which measures PM2.5, fine particulate matter that can clog lungs - has crossed 300, entering the "very poor" category and raising health concerns for millions of residents.

Breathing such polluted air over prolonged periods can cause respiratory problems and worsen existing illnesses, with children and older people particularly vulnerable.

Authorities have responded by invoking Stage II of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), introducing measures to curb dust, vehicle emissions and other sources of pollution.

GRAP is a set of emergency measures that become progressively stricter as pollution levels rise. The latest restrictions include more intensive road cleaning, higher parking charges to discourage private vehicle use and increased public transport services. Delhi Metro has introduced 20 additional weekday train trips, while authorities have been directed to stagger government office timings to ease traffic congestion.

Officials said the measures were introduced after forecasts suggested air quality would remain very poor over the coming days.

Delhi and neighbouring parts of northern India grapple with hazardous air every winter, particularly around Diwali, one of India's biggest festivals, which is just days away.

The festival is celebrated with lights, lamps and fireworks, which often worsen the city's already poor air quality by releasing fine particles and harmful gases into the atmosphere.

The annual pollution crisis is driven by a combination of factors, including vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, falling temperatures, low wind speeds and the burning of crop stubble in neighbouring states.

The sharp rise in pollution follows an unusually clean October, when Delhi recorded its lowest average AQI for the month in eight years.

Experts have attributed the sudden deterioration to falling temperatures, slow winds and an increase in crop-residue burning in the neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana.

A recent storm had brought rain and stronger winds, helping clear the air. But as the weather settled, northwesterly winds returned, carrying smoke from burning fields towards the capital.

India's pollution watchdog classifies AQI readings between 301 and 400 as "very poor", while anything above 400 is considered "severe". On Wednesday morning, Delhi's AQI stood at 377.

The index takes into account eight major pollutants, including PM2.5 - tiny particles about 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair that can penetrate deep into the lungs.

Firecrackers set off during Diwali release particulate matter and gases into the air, adding to the existing pollution

With Diwali just days away, there are concerns that fireworks could push pollution levels even higher.

Last year, Delhi woke up to a toxic haze the morning after the festival, despite a court directive to use less-polluting firecrackers.

Authorities have imposed restrictions on firecrackers over the years, including outright bans on their manufacture, sale and use, but enforcing them has proved difficult.



Democrat Abdul El-Sayed wins in Michigan to become first Muslim Senator

Trump takes aim at Republicans but says Democrats did a 'good job'

US President Donald Trump has taken aim at Republicans and conceded that the Democrats have done "a good job" in the US midterm elections, as they take control of both the Senate and House of Representatives in a momentous win.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump derided Greg Abbott, who lost the Texas governor race to Democrat Gina Hinojosa, saying Abbott wouldn't have lost if he "hadn't become a RINO in the last six months", using the acronym for "Republican in Name Only".

The president said that if he had been on the ballot, the Republicans "would have won IN A LANDSLIDE!"

But he also said that he accepted the results of the election, telling The New York Times that he was "absolutely willing to accept" them.

While speaking to the paper, Trump added that he would "look forward to working with" the Democrats.

"We'll probably work something out," he said.

In a separate interview with Fox News, he said he was "a little surprised" at the outcome. "I thought they'd do better," he said, referring to the Republican candidates.

"The Democrats did a good job. they fought hard," he told the network.

But he added that the Democrats would send "insane" legislation to his desk that he would veto.

"After a couple of months of vetoes, they'll call and they'll say, 'how do we get this stuff done?' And we'll work together," he said, adding: "I have the power of veto."

On Truth Social, he posted a photo of a red cap - the kind usually emblazoned with his Make America Great Again slogan - emblazoned with the word "VETO", in an apparent reference to his ability to block legislation in Congress.

The Republicans have been met with stunning losses in the midterm elections

Trump acknowledged that the Iran conflict had contributed to the defeat.

Asked by a Fox News anchor what the takeaways of the results were, he replied: "I think a part of it was Iran."

But he added that it was the war's impacts on US fuel prices that turned voters away.

"People agree with what I'm doing on Iran but they really probably weren't willing to do the short term consequences of paying more for gasoline - I understand that."

As Republican losses started mounting, Trump reacted by saying on Truth Social that he was going to "become a Political Pundit, both good and bad, on the reasons these Candidates won and lost".

He first attacked Abbott, whose loss in Texas marks the first time a Democrat has won the governor seat in more than 30 years.

Weapon or wine bottle? China disputes reports of artillery shell in Papua New Guinea

Chinese authorities have dismissed reports that a suspected China-made artillery shell was found in a commercial shipping container in Papua New Guinea, saying it is a "shell-shaped wine bottle".

"It poses no danger at all," the Chinese embassy wrote in a Facebook post on Tuesday, drawing sceptical comments.

Police in Port Moresby arrested four Chinese nationals last Friday after the 32kg object was found at a construction site in the capital city.

Authorities were looking into whether it was a live device, local reports said then, with police commissioner David Manning describing it as "a very concerning discovery".

In a report on Wednesday, the Australia Broadcasting Corporation cited unnamed sources identifying the object as an undetonated 130mm Chinese Type 59 Artillery Projectile that contains chemical explosives and a fuse. The BBC has not independently verified this.

Papua New Guinea police had earlier dismissed speculation that the object was "merely a dummy", local newspaper Post Courier said.

However, the Chinese embassy said in its statement that it is "virtually impossible" for an illegal military-grade artillery shell to be smuggled out of China to Papua New Guinea.

"China enforces some of the world's strictest firearm control laws and regulations," it wrote, adding that China is "widely recognised as one of the safest countries globally".

Some Facebook users appear unconvinced.

"What sort of wine bottle weighs 32 kilograms?" wrote one of them.

Another wrote that the object bore no labels indicating that it's a wine bottle.

verified this.

Papua New Guinea police had earlier dismissed speculation that the object was "merely a dummy", local newspaper Post Courier said.

FOREIGN

NEWS



More than 500 parties are contesting the elections

Five reasons why Republicans lost so badly

The Democrats have swept to victory in the US midterm elections, taking control of Congress.

While the incumbent president's party generally tends to have a bad night in these elections, the scale of the Republican defeat is being viewed as a resounding rejection of Donald Trump's two years in the White House.

From angry voters to an unpopular president, here are five reasons why the Republicans lost so many seats.

1. Soaring cost of living

From coast to coast, voters across the US have been grappling with the soaring cost of essentials. That anger was palpable on the ground in key races.

"Gas prices, grocery prices, everything's going up," one North Carolina voter told the BBC ahead of the elections, adding that she had switched her vote from Republican to Democratic this election.

Prices increased by 3.7% in the year to September, driven higher by fuel and energy prices. Average US retail diesel prices in early October were just shy of the record of $6.52 (£4.83) per gallon seen in September, according to government data.

Almost eight in 10 voters (79%) said inflation had caused them and their family a severe or moderate hardship in the past year, according to data from voter polls.

And more than six in 10 respondents laid the blame for that at the feet of Trump, saying they thought higher than usual prices were because of the president's policies.

2. Unpopular Iran war

A major factor in surging prices has been the war with Iran which the US and Israel launched in February.

Fuel prices then shot up after Tehran effectively closed the Strait of Hormuz in retaliation, strangling a key artery for the passage of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).

US voters have been paying the price at the petrol pump ever since.

The war has proved broadly unpopular with most Americans. For Maga Republicans it also felt like a broken promise in Trump's America First campaign agenda in which he pledged there would be no more wars.

Around six in 10 (63%) of those asked in a voter poll said the US made the wrong decision to take military action against Iran.

Separately, three-quarters of voters (74%) said the conflict was a crucial or major factor in their vote for Congress.

The morning after the election, Trump conceded the war had played a role in the defeat but insisted in an interview on Fox that he had no choice but to intervene to stop Iran getting a nuclear weapon.

3. Disciplined message from Democrats

The scale and breadth of this Democratic wave was made possible by some strong candidates who came across as authentic, especially in traditional Republican heartlands.

ANC under pressure to reverse South Africa decline

South Africans are voting in highly contested local elections likely to see a haemorrhaging of votes for the country's biggest party, the African National Congress (ANC).

This year's voting season has been marked by intense campaigns that have included politicians spinning cars, watching grannies knit and even wading through giant-sized potholes.

Election officials say voting is going smoothly, despite long queues at some polling stations.

Leaders are campaigning to head South Africa's nearly 300 municipalities, responsible for basic service provision such as water, electricity and refuse collection.

For the ANC, the elections are a chance to prove it still has what it takes to govern. The party had a disastrous showing in the last national election, when it lost its parliamentary majority for the first time since 1994 when the racist apartheid system ended.

Support for the party has been dropping significantly over the years because of anger over high levels of corruption, unemployment and crime.

At its peak, in 2004, the ANC got 70% of the vote in the general election. Two decades later its share dropped to 40%.

Polls and pundits have predicted a further loss in these elections but President Cyril Ramaphosa has denied that his party was in a downward spiral.

"What I'm seeing here is that the ANC is going higher and higher and on the 4th [of November] we will show those naysayers," he told supporters at the party's final election rally on Sunday.

In townships like Alexandra, north-east of Johannesburg, the ANC has traditionally had a strong supporter base but poor governance and voter apathy are unravelling this support.

The BBC visited the sprawling township a week before the elections and spoke to residents to get their views. One of them was Sanele Ntombela, who is a first-time voter excited to make his voice heard.

We found the eighteen-year-old hanging out with his friends on a street corner. Most of his friends said they had no intention of voting and had not registered to do so.

They cited a lack of change and deteriorating delivery of basic services.

But Ntombela was looking forward to voting for the first time and thought it might lead to change.

"We face many challenges in Alexandra. There's rubbish everywhere and we struggle with electricity and water and many other issues," he said.

Just metres away, heaps of rubbish lay gathered beneath a streetlight pole covered in election posters from the different political parties.

On the other side of the street, drain water trickles through the many potholes that have gutted that part of the road.

The BBC also spoke to Zandile Mncube, who said she wouldn't vote, even though she is registered to do so.

The 33-year-old woman also cited poor service delivery and performance by local leaders for her decision.

"It makes no difference [whether I vote or not]. Things have gotten worse over the years," she said.

Alex, as the township is known, is a stone's throw away from Sandton, Africa's richest square mile, but the differences could not be starker.

Sandton is known for its skyscrapers, designer shops and well-maintained roads but in Alex, houses are sandwiched together and rubbish, either piled together or left strewn across the pavement, is everywhere. The stench of raw sewage and uncollected rubbish is heavy in the air, but residents appear used to it.

Rwanda's army team removed from Africa league after US sanctions

The National Basketball Association (NBA) says it removed Rwanda's army team from its African league because of US sanctions imposed on the country in March.

The NBA had previously said the Rwandan army-funded Armée Patriotique Rwandaise (APR) club would not participate in the 2026 Basketball Africa League (BAL).

However this is the first time the NBA has revealed the reasons behind the APR's removal.

The association was responding to complaints by two US senators, who sent a letter asking them to reconsider their partnership with the Rwandan team. The US placed sanctions on the Rwandan army, accusing it of fuelling the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo in March.

The senators said the NBA risked "becoming complicit in sportswashing by accepting money from a Rwandan government that systematically abuses human rights".

Last week, the US also imposed sanctions on Rwanda's defence ministry over its support for the M23 rebel group which has seized control of large parts of eastern DR Congo. Rwanda denies backing the rebels despite overwhelming evidence.

Rwanda is an official BAL partner and pays the league to host its finals at the 10,000-seat BK Arena in the capital, Kigali.

The evidence that shows Rwanda is backing rebels in DR Congo

In the letter to the NBA dated 23 October, Democratic Senator Jeffrey Merkley and Republican counterpart Marsha Blackburn gave the association until 2 November to give a written response regarding its continued partnership with Rwanda.

"What is the NBA red line for accepting money from foreign governments that commit human rights abuses?" the senators asked.

Among other queries, they also questioned how the association could "reconcile its continued partnership with Rwanda with its purported commitment to justice".

In its response, NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum said the Rwandan team "had been withdrawn" from the BAL following the sanctions imposed earlier in the year, American sports website ESPN reports.

US contractor gave Ethiopia secrets to help kill Tigray fighters

An Ethiopian-born American citizen has pleaded guilty to passing highly classified intelligence to Ethiopia, including information he hoped would help target and kill fighters from the Tigray region during the country's 2020-22 civil war.

Abraham Teklu Lemma, a former US contractor, admitted sharing dozens of classified documents and photographs with senior Ethiopian officials over more than two years, the US Department of Justice said.

"In doing so, he betrayed his oath, his colleagues, and his country, while jeopardizing our national security," said US Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Ferris Pirro.

The 54-year-old faces up to 22 years in prison under a plea agreement.

Abraham had worked as a contractor at the State Department, Justice Department and National Reconnaissance Office, the agency responsible for US intelligence satellites.

Prosecutors said Abraham worked with senior figures in Ethiopia's political, military and intelligence establishments between 2021 and his arrest in August 2023.

He secretly removed classified material from secure government facilities, sometimes copying sensitive information into handwritten notes that he carried out of the buildings. He used his position as an IT administrator to extract electronic intelligence files.

"Much of the highly classified information Lemma shared with the Ethiopian government concerned an armed conflict in Ethiopia," prosecutors said.

The information included satellite imagery and details of military activities, which he passed to Ethiopian officials through encrypted messages.

The FBI said Ethiopian officials subsequently used intelligence supplied by Abraham in military operations.

Prosecutors said he hoped the information would help Ethiopia's military identify and kill paramilitary fighters.

"Lemma betrayed the United States to an extraordinary degree," said John Eisenberg, the US assistant attorney general for national security.

In one message to an Ethiopian official in December 2021, he wrote: "We have to finish these people once and for all, otherwise there will never be peace in Ethiopia," court papers showed.

Later that day, he shared further intelligence and urged the official: "Please send Dro[nes]."

The revelations shed light on how sensitive American intelligence was passed to Ethiopian authorities during a devastating civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of people and displaced millions.

NEWS FEATURE

Voices of resilience: Plateau women unite for peace and human security amid escalating insecurity

Isaac Eranga

A Unified Stand for Peace*

In a powerful display of solidarity and resilience, women across Plateau State have risen to demand an immediate halt to recurring violence and a restoration of human security. Convened by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding Nigeria (WANEP-Nigeria) in collaboration with the Plateau State Peace Building Agency (PSPBA), and supported by the Urgent Action Fund - Africa, hundreds of women converged for a non-violent peace march on November 3, 2026.

The mobilization serves as a united front against the relentless wave of attacks by suspected armed men that continue to fracture communities, shatter livelihoods, and displace families across North-Central Nigeria.

The Shadow of Mounting Violence

Plateau State has long grappled with a complex web of conflict, including intercommunal tensions, farmer-herder disputes, armed raids, and broader criminality. However, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons has dramatically intensified the destruction, driving up casualties and mass internal displacement.

The communiqué issued at the end of the mobilization highlighted specific flashpoints that underscore the severity of the crisis:

The Mangu Tragedy: On August 17, 2026, armed assailants raided the Bin-Per community in Mangu Local Government Area (LGA) under the cover of night, moving systematically from house to house. At least 25 lives were lost, and four individuals sustained injuries.

Spiraling Attacks: The Mangu massacre was not an isolated event; it followed a string of violent incursions within the same week, alongside subsequent attacks in Barkin Ladi and Bokkos LGAs on August 28, 2026, which claimed at least five additional lives, including women.

A Disproportionate Toll on Women and Children

While the direct loss of life remains devastating, the ripple effects of the insecurity have profoundly crippled daily life in affected LGAs.

Protection Risks and Livelihoods

Women and girls face heightened vulnerabilities, including severe protection risks and threats to their freedom of movement. Female farmers and community-based entrepreneurs have watched their crops, farmlands, and sources of income get systematically destroyed, directly threatening household survival and food security.

***The Plight of Children* :**

Young people are bearing the brunt of the trauma through the loss of family members, displacement, and the disruption of education and normal childhood development.

A Blueprint for Action:

The Women's Demands

Underscoring that women are vital repositories of local knowledge and frontline responders in early warning systems, the women of Plateau State have put forward a comprehensive nine-point call to action for federal, state, and security stakeholders:

Enhanced Protection: Strengthened security measures to safeguard lives and property in vulnerable communities.

Zero Tolerance for Gender-Based Violence: Immediate protection, justice, and holistic support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Livelihood Restoration: Urgent protection and recovery initiatives for destroyed farmlands and local economic assets.

Integrated Security Framework: Coordinated action among the Police, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and other security apparatuses to foster civil-security collaboration.

Proactive Early

Warning Systems: Institutionalized early warning and response mechanisms forged in partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs), women's groups, and traditional/faith-based institutions.

Inclusive Peacebuilding: Meaningful integration of women into community security, conflict prevention, and decision-making structures.

Accountability and Targeted Relief: Ensuring accountability for human rights violations and tailoring recovery efforts to the actual needs of women and children.

Public Sensitization: Collaboration with the National Orientation Agency and corporate bodies to drive peace messaging and tolerance campaigns in local languages and English.

Humanitarian Assistance: Comprehensive support from governments and development partners, focusing on trauma healing, rehabilitation, and aid for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

As Plateau State navigates this critical juncture, the message from its women is unmistakable: lasting peace cannot be achieved without justice, inclusivity, and the active leadership of those most affected by the crisis.

PIND and Pan-Atlantic University launch media fellowship to transform Niger Delta storytelling

Isaac Eranga

To reshape public perception and elevate reporting on the Niger Delta, the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), in collaboration with the School of Media and Communication (SMC) at Pan-Atlantic University

The six-month initiative aims to deepen development journalism by equipping media professionals to produce rigorous, evidence-based, and solutions-oriented coverage across the region.

Building Capacity for Impact Journalism.

The inaugural cohort brings together six journalists, editors, and digital storytellers for an intensive, multi-phase curriculum. The program officially kicked off with a five-day residential Impact Journalism Academy (November 2–6) at the SMC campus in Lagos.

Throughout the fellowship, participants will undergo specialized training in Solutions & Development Journalism: Shifting focus from basic event reporting to systemic analysis and outcomes.

Impact & Multimedia Storytelling: Leveraging modern production tools to amplify field reporting.

Ethical & Evidence-Based Reporting: Conducting rigorous field investigations grounded in data and community perspectives.

Following the Lagos academy, fellows will undertake field immersion trips, pitch original stories, and receive ongoing editorial mentorship while retaining full journalistic independence.

Moving Beyond the Single Narrative

For decades, media coverage of the Niger Delta has largely centered on conflict and environmental degradation. The new fellowship seeks to broaden this scope by highlighting grassroots innovation, economic resilience, and peacebuilding efforts across the region.

"The Niger Delta's challenges must be reported honestly, but they should not be its only story. Across the region, communities, businesses, and development partners are advancing solutions in peacebuilding, agriculture, youth employment, renewable energy, and economic inclusion. This fellowship will help journalists examine those efforts critically, independently, and with the depth they deserve."

— Sam Ogbemi Daibo, Executive Director, PIND Foundation

Daibo reaffirmed that the fellowship honors editorial autonomy, stressing that PIND's goal is to grant access to evidence and communities rather than dictate favorable headlines.

Elevating Standards in Development Journalism

Emphasizing the academic and practical goals of the curriculum, Dr. Ikechukwu Obiaya, Dean of SMC, noted that the partnership focuses on depth and accountability.

"Development journalism requires more than reporting activities. Journalists must be able to interrogate evidence, understand systems, center community voices, and determine whether interventions are producing meaningful change. Our partnership with PIND combines these skills with practical reporting tools that fellows can apply in their newsrooms and field assignments."

— Dr. Ikechukwu Obiaya, Dean, School of Media and Communication, PAU

A Long-Term Commitment to Media Quality

Rather than relying on short-term press engagements, PIND and SMC intend for the fellowship to serve as a sustainable pipeline for media development. By nurturing successive cohorts of skilled storytellers, the program aims to establish a robust network of journalists dedicated to balanced, high-impact reporting on the Niger Delta's evolution.



Sports

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



President Bola Tinubu fulfils $100K promise to Super Falcons for 10th WAFCON victory

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has fulfilled his $100,000 promise to Nigeria's Senior Female National Team, the Super Falcons, following their historic victory at the 2025 Women's Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON), where Nigeria clinched a record-extending 10th continental title.

The players have begun receiving payments of about ₦140 million, representing the naira equivalent of the $100,000 reward promised by the President after the team staged a remarkable comeback to defeat hosts Morocco 3-2 in the final in July 2025.

The Super Falcons, who were trailing 2-0, produced a spirited second-half performance to stun the hosts and reclaim the African crown, further cementing their status as the continent's most successful women's national team.

Team captain, Rasheedat Ajibade, expressed gratitude to President Tinubu for fulfilling his promise, describing the gesture as a welcome recognition of the team's achievement and contribution to Nigerian sports.

The payment is another demonstration of President Tinubu's commitment to rewarding sporting excellence and motivating Nigerian athletes to achieve greater success on the international stage.

Since assuming office, President Tinubu has been a breath of fresh air for Nigerian sports, with his support extending beyond the Super Falcons to other national teams.

The President had similarly promised and delivered $100,000 rewards to members of D'Tigress following their triumph at the 2025 FIBA Women's AfroBasket, where Nigeria secured a fifth consecutive continental title.

Technocrats, Mallam Shehu Dikko and Hon. Bukola Olopade, who lead the National Sports Commission, have continued to drive a renewed approach to sports administration, with emphasis on athlete welfare, international exposure and the delivery of major sporting events.

These two technocrats have also overseen Nigeria, via the National Sports Commission, host about 30 international sporting competitions, reinforcing the country's growing profile as a destination for major sports events.

The Commission commends President Tinubu for his consistent support for Nigerian athletes and for demonstrating that sporting excellence deserves tangible recognition.

The President's commitment has strengthened confidence among athletes and sports administrators while encouraging a culture of reward, accountability and national pride.

13 days to go: Abuja is ready to run

It's 13 days to the PremiumTrust Bank Abuja City International half Marathon, and Nigeria's capital is about to show the world what it is made of. The clock is ticking, the streets are being prepared, and the medals are waiting as the capital gears up for one of its biggest days.

Organized by Nilayo Sports Management Limited, the race has grown into one of Nigeria's biggest and most respected road races. Elite athletes, recreational runners, fitness lovers, corporate teams and families from across Nigeria and beyond are all coming to run in the Federal Capital Territory.

It is not just about the race. It is about athletics, fitness, entertainment and sports tourism, and what Abuja represents to the world. What started as a marathon is now a movement. A movement for healthy living. A movement for youth engagement. A movement for national unity. Every year, thousands of people take to the streets of Abuja not just to run, but to be part of something bigger than themselves. This year will be no different, only bigger.

The Managing Director/CEO of Nilayo Sports Management Limited, Mrs. Yetunde Olopade, has assured that this year's edition will build on past successes and meet international standards.

"We are focused on athlete welfare, world-class logistics, medical support, security and a memorable experience for runners, volunteers, spectators and partners. This year's race will be bigger, better and more immersive for everyone."

With improved route management, entertainment zones along the course, better medical and security arrangements and a richer spectator experience, the 2026 edition promises to deliver a day of competition and celebration that promotes healthy living, youth engagement and sports tourism in the nation's capital.

On race day, Abuja will come alive. From the early morning start to the final finish, the streets will be filled with energy, music, colour and cheers. Hotels will be full. Businesses will thrive. The city's hospitality, tourism and creative sectors will feel the impact. It is a day when Abuja shows the world its beauty, its organization and its spirit.

Lagos goes gaga as Diouf, Adebayor, Appiah, others, headline African Legends Squad for Legends Game

Africa is set for a football spectacle as some of Africa's biggest football legends battle celebrated Super Eagles icons for the Legends Football Game on Sunday, November 8, at the Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan, Lagos.

Headlining the African Legends squad are former African Footballer of the Year Emmanuel Adebayor, Senegal's El-Hadji Diouf, Ivorian legend Didier Zokora and Ghana ex captain Stephen Appiah, whose illustrious careers left an enduring mark on the global game.

The star-studded African contingent is expected to feature alongside other celebrated names, including Ghana's John Paintsil and Anthony Baffoe, Senegal's Khalilou Fadiga, Burkina Faso's Aristide Bancé, Cameroon's Rigobert Song and Alexandre Song, Zimbabwe's Peter Ndlovu and Benjani Mwaruwari, as well as South Africa's Brian Baloyi.

They will take on Super Eagles legends from Nigeria's iconic 1994 and 1996 squads in a special encounter celebrating three decades since Nigeria became the kings of African football.

The game is presented by Toptier Sports Management in partnership with Afreximbank and CANEX, bringing together football icons whose achievements have inspired generations of fans across the continent.



Emmanuel Adebayor

Plateau United Technical Manager disappointed over home draw with Warrior Wolves

Plateau United technical adviser, Gbenga Ogunbote, has expressed disappointment following his side's 1-1 draw against Warri Wolves in their Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Matchday 11 encounter.

The match, played at the New Jos Stadium on Sunday, saw Emmanuel Aribogha giving Warri Wolves the lead in the 24th minute before Samuel Ayanrinde restored parity for the hosts in the 60th minute.

Speaking after the match, Ogunbote blamed anxiety and poor decision-making among his players for their inability to secure maximum points.

He described the result as another disappointing home draw for the Jos-based club.

Plateau United currently sit sixth on the NPFL table with 16 points from 11 matches. They will face Nasarawa United in their next league fixture.



Nnamdi pledges ₦550,000 for men's javelin at Athletic Heat Anniversary Meet

Nigerian national record holder and Olympian Chinecherem Prosper Nnamdi has pledged ₦550,000 in prize money for the men's javelin throw at the Athletic Heat 10th Anniversary Meet, strengthening efforts to reward performance and promote athletics development in Nigeria.

The competition is scheduled for Saturday, November 7, 2026, at the Yaba College of Technology Sports Complex in Lagos, with the sponsorship set to reward the top eight finishers in the men's javelin event.

Nnamdi, one of Nigeria's leading javelin throwers, has enjoyed an impressive career on the international stage, winning medals at major championships and setting new standards for the country in the discipline.

He won bronze at the 2021 World Athletics U20 Championships in Nairobi, Kenya, becoming the first Nigerian athlete to win a medal in a field event at the championships since Esther Aghatise in 2002.

He subsequently claimed gold at the 2023 African Games in Accra, Ghana, and silver at the 2024 African Athletics Championships in Douala, Cameroon, before representing Nigeria at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

On April 17, 2026, Nnamdi further cemented his place in Nigerian athletics history by setting a national record of 84.68 metres at the Tom Jones Memorial in Florida, United States.

His collegiate career has also yielded significant success. While competing for the Baylor Bears, he won three Big 12 Outdoor Javelin titles between 2022 and 2024 before transferring to the Texas A&M Aggies, where he secured the 2026 SEC Outdoor Javelin title.

Under the sponsorship arrangement, the winner will receive ₦200,000, while the second-place finisher will earn ₦100,000 and the bronze medallist ₦75,000.

SPORTS

The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know

Adamu's CAF appointment source of national pride, says Vice President

Vice President Kashim Shettima has described the appointment of Samson Adamu as General Secretary of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) as a testament to Nigeria's capacity to produce leaders capable of occupying influential positions in global sports administration.

Shettima made the remarks on Tuesday at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, while receiving Adamu and the Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC), Shehu Dikko.Sports news subscription

Congratulating Adamu on his historic appointment as the first Nigerian to occupy the position, the Vice President said the achievement reflected the quality of Nigerian talent and the country's growing influence in international sports.

He noted that Nigeria's sporting achievements over the years had been driven by the dedication, talent and determination of its people, while acknowledging the contributions of administrators and institutions responsible for discovering, developing and promoting athletes.Buy Maps

"Our nation has earned its place in the world of sports. We have flown our flag in arenas where few expected us to perform magic.

"We have made the impossible appear almost familiar, fundamentally because of the quality of our people," Shettima said.

The Vice President conveyed President Bola Tinubu's goodwill to Adamu, describing his appointment as an inspiration to young Nigerians aspiring to attain leadership positions in international sports administration.

He urged the new CAF General Secretary to discharge his responsibilities with diligence, integrity and a strong sense of national pride, while encouraging him to promote and protect Nigeria's interests in the continental football governing body. Buy Maps

Shettima also emphasised the unifying power of football in Nigeria, noting that the sport continues to transcend ethnic, religious and other social differences.

"Football especially is a uniting force in this country. Anytime Nigeria plays, it tends to subsume all other identities.

"Football and sports generally are a source of unity for our country. What binds us together supersedes whatever divides us," he stated.

The Vice President further highlighted the importance of Nigeria's diversity, maintaining that the country's shared history and social connections were stronger than the divisions often emphasised in public discourse.Buy Maps

He also acknowledged the contributions of coaches, talent scouts, sports administrators and institutions whose efforts provide the foundation for Nigeria's achievements in international competitions.



CAF GENERAL SECRETARY ADAMS VISITS VICE PRESIDENT KASHIM SHETIMA



PSG MAKES CHAMPIONS LEAGUE STATEMENT:

Handball Federation of Nigeria launches matchVision, a new digital platform for video analysis and match intelligence

The Handball Federation of Nigeria (HFN) today announced the official launch of HFN MatchVision, a new digital platform for live match analysis and video intelligence built to support coaches, referees, and statisticians across Nigerian handball.

HFN MatchVision brings together real-time event recording, video review, tactical tools, and automated reporting in a single system.

Statisticians can run the Live Match Centre to control the clock, log goals, shots, fouls, cards, and 7-metre throws, and keep the public scoreboard updated in real time while Coaches can upload full match recordings, draw and annotate footage, bookmark key moments, and build training clips tagged by attack, defence, goalkeeping, or set plays.

Referees also have a dedicated space to review incidents, cards, and 7M decisions and generate reports. Once a match ends, MatchVision automatically drafts a performance report that can be exported as a professional PDF complete with scoreline, team statistics, leaders, events, bookmarks and clips for clubs, coaches and officials.

The platform also powers a public live-scores page, giving fans and officials real-time access to ongoing matches.

To mark the launch, HFN is offering a one-month free trial to all registered users, who can sign up and select the role that matches their role.

Speaking on the launch, the President of the Handball Federation of Nigeria, Mr Jibril Saidu Ojih (FNIQS), described MatchVision as a milestone for the sport in Nigeria:

"HFN MatchVision is a major step forward for handball development in this country. For too long, our coaches, referees, and statisticians have had to work without the kind of data and video tools that top handball nations take for granted.

Mustapha unveils blueprint to rebuild Nigerian basketball ahead of NBBF polls

Dr Abdullahi Mustapha, a candidate for the presidency of the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF), has unveiled an ambitious "New Dawn" agenda aimed at transforming Nigerian basketball through professional administration, grassroots development, improved competitions and sustainable commercial investment.

Mustapha made the pledge on Wednesday in Abuja while addressing the media ahead of the NBBF elective congress scheduled for October 15, 2026.

He said his decision to contest the presidency was driven by the need to build a stronger institution capable of converting Nigeria's abundant basketball talent into sustained success at domestic and international levels.

According to him, the election should be viewed as more than a contest for leadership, but as an opportunity to determine the future direction of Nigerian basketball.

"I believe Nigerian basketball has enormous potential, but that potential must now be matched with a stronger institution, sustainable investment, professional administration and a clear development pathway," Mustapha said.

The presidential hopeful said his proposed administration would prioritise grassroots development, arguing that the next generation of D'Tigers and D'Tigress players were already playing in schools, communities, academies and local courts across the country.

He proposed the establishment of a coordinated national schools basketball programme, stronger competitions from local government to national level, regional talent centres and a national talent-identification and player-tracking system.



PSG MAKES CHAMPIONS LEAGUE STATEMENT:

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