Okpebholo's 2.5m-vote goal gets big boost from NATA

Richard Eweka

BENIN CITY

Governor Monday Okpebholo's target of delivering 2.5 million votes for President Bola Tinubu in Edo has received a major boost.

The Nigerian Automobile Technicians Association (NATA) has thrown its full weight behind the governor's mission, pledging to mobilise its members across the state to ensure a massive victory for the President.

The state chairman of the association, Mr. Victor Omozusi, announced the position on Monday when he led a delegation of automobile artisans and technicians from across Edo to the Government House in Benin City.

At a meeting, the NATA leader said their support was not based on politics alone, but on performance.

He pointed to the governor's practical governance — roads, schools, health centres, workers' welfare, and improved security — as reasons to trust his leadership and his call for continuity for President Tinubu.

Omozusi said the members came to publicly back the president and to affirm their confidence in the political leadership of Governor Okpebholo.

He said the association had taken note of the efforts of the Tinubu administration and the Edo State Government to improve the welfare and economic well-being of Nigerians and residents of the state.

According to him, automobile technicians are an important part of the state's informal sector and will mobilise their members and supporters to help meet the 2.5 million-vote target.

"We are here today as automobile artisans in Edo to endorse President Bola Tinubu and to support our governor, Monday Okpebholo, in his efforts to deliver massive votes for the President," he said.

"We believe our members have an important role to play in mobilising the grassroots and ensuring victory for the APC."

Omozusi thanked the governor for his administration's attention to artisans and other informal-sector operators. He also commended the ongoing construction of Mechanic Road in the Egor Local Government Area.

However, he expressed concern over what he described as the encroachment on the association's mechanic site by members of the host community. He appealed to the gov-

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The Nigerian OBSERVER

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Edo checks new vet hospital, modern abattoir, pushes livestock revolution

Richard Eweka

ETSAKO WEST

The Edo State Government has inspected the state - of - the - art model veterinary hospital and abattoir in Etsako West, reaffirming Governor Monday Okpebholo's commitment to livestock development in the state.

The inspection team, led by the Commissioner for Livestock Development, Hon. Ohimai Ehijimetor, toured the facilities and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the facilities.

Speaking to journalists during the inspection, Ehijimetor described the facility as the best veterinary hospital in the entire South-South geopolitical zone, noting that it represents a major milestone in the Okpebholo administration's efforts to reposition livestock production and veterinary services in Edo State.

The commissioner said the hospital would significantly improve access to quality veterinary care, disease diagnosis and treatment for livestock farmers, particularly those in the northern part of the state. He added that the investment would strengthen animal health management, boost productivity and create better opportunities for livestock farmers.

Also speaking, the Director of External Public Health in the Ministry of Livestock Development, Icomiare Adebudo, said the hospital was strategically established to provide specialised veterinary services to livestock farmers in the northern part of Edo State.

Adebudo explained that the facility is equipped with an ultra-modern diagnostic system capable of carrying out real-time imaging, allowing veterinary professionals to identify animal health challenges more efficiently and provide timely interventions.

In his remarks, the Edo North Veterinary Officer, Dr. Dagana Daud, said the hospital was equipped with sophis-

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₦1.42trillion in 60 days! Customs uncovers ₦8.1billion illegal cargo

…tightens noose on money launderers, smugglers

Joy Odor

ABUJA

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has generated a staggering N1.42 trillion in revenue within two months while intercepting prohibited and restricted goods worth more than N8.1 billion.

The figures, covering September and October 2026, were presented at a joint security press briefing convened by the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), under the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

The revenue performance came alongside the processing of 99,839 Single Goods Declarations (SGDs) and 9,195 Pre-Arrival Assessment Reports (PAARs), highlighting the volume of import documentation handled by the Service during the review period.

Speaking at the briefing, the National Public Relations Officer of the NCS, Deputy Comptroller Abdullahi Aliyu Maiwada, said the performance reflected the Service's determination to strengthen revenue mobilisation, facilitate legitimate trade and tighten enforcement through digital technology and inter-agency cooperation.

A breakdown of the figures showed that Customs generated N697.84 billion in September, with collections rising to N722.91 billion in October, bringing total revenue to

CONTINUES ON PG 2»



SOLIDARITY VISIT:
Members of Edo State Chapter of Nigerian Automobile Technicians Association (NATA) led by Victor Omozusi during their solidarity visit to Governor Monday Okpebholo in Government House, Benin City, on Monday.

Musawa hails Flamingos' World Cup conquest —Pg 2

TCN, IBEDC move against power supply disruptions —Pg 3

At least 34 dead after Europe-bound migrant boat sinks off Senegal —Pg 9

NPFL: Bendel Insurance edge Niger Tornadoes 2-1 as Taiwo strikes late —Pg 11

NEWS



LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT DRIVE :
Ultra-modern veterinary hospital and abattoir in Aviele, Etsako West LGA of Edo State, being assessed by an inspection team from the State Ministry of Livestock Development at the weekend.

Musawa hails Flamingos' World Cup conquest

As Nigeria humiliates history books with Japan final defeat

JOY ODOR

ABUJA

Nigeria's Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, Hannatu Musa Musawa, has celebrated the Flamingos following their historic conquest of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, after defeating Japan 2-1 in Saturday's final in Morocco.

Musawa described the victory as a defining moment for Nigerian football and a landmark achievement for African women's sports, following the country's historic emergence as the first African nation to win the global U-17 women's championship.

The Flamingos sealed the coveted trophy on November 7 at the Mohammed VI Football Complex in Rabat, producing a determined performance to overcome Japan and establish Nigeria's place in the history of the competition.

Awawu Bashiru fired Nigeria ahead in the 39th minute before Oluebube Umejiaku struck again in the 47th minute to give the Nigerian side a commanding advantage.

Japan threatened a late comeback when Fuki Ito found the net in the 80th minute, but the Flamingos stood firm under pressure to protect their lead and secure the championship.

The triumph represents a double historic breakthrough for Nigeria, making the country the first African nation to win both the men's and women's FIFA U-17 World Cup titles.

Even more remarkable was the Flamingos' extraordinary recovery after losing their opening group-stage match 2-1 to Poland. The Nigerian girls responded to the setback with six consecutive victories, culminating in their historic final triumph over Japan.

Reacting to the achievement, Musawa said the Flamingos had demonstrated that determination, resilience and belief could turn adversity into extraordinary success.

She described the victory as more than a sporting achievement, noting that the young Nigerian players had carried the hopes of an entire continent to the summit of world football.

"This is more than a trophy. It is a story of young Nigerian girls who refused to give up, who rose after defeat, and who carried the hopes of a continent to the top of the world," the minister declared.

Musawa particularly celebrated Umejiaku, who clinched the tournament's Golden Ball award as its best player, while applauding Bashiru for her decisive contribution to Nigeria's victory in the final.

She also commended the entire squad for their discipline, teamwork and fighting spirit, which propelled them from an opening-match defeat to an unprecedented world championship.

According to the minister, the Flamingos' achievement reflects the creativity, courage and enormous potential of Nigerian youths, whose accomplishments continue to project the country's image positively before the international community.

She reaffirmed the ministry's commitment to celebrating, protecting and promoting the achievements of young Nigerians who inspire national pride and demonstrate excellence across different fields.

"Our girls have shown the world what Nigeria is made of. We celebrate you today, and we will continue to stand with you," Musawa said.

The victory has opened a historic chapter in Nigerian and African women's football, with the Flamingos establishing a new continental benchmark through their triumph over Japan.

The congratulatory message was issued by Nneka Ikem Anibeze, PhD, Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Minister, Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy, on November 8, 2026.

Edo Taskforce arrests 6 suspects for alleged illegal revenue collection in Benin

RICHARD EWEKA

BENIN CITY

The Edo State Taskforce has arrested six suspects allegedly posing as taskforce officials and extorting money from unsuspecting motorists, particularly truck drivers, in the Ogheghe axis of Benin City.

The arrest is part of the state government's efforts to sanitise the revenue collection system and rid Edo of criminal activities associated with illegal revenue collectors.

Speaking to journalists, the Station Officer of the Edo State Taskforce, Johnbull Rufus, said the operation followed a distress call received by the agency over the weekend concerning individuals allegedly harassing and violently extorting money from truck drivers in the area.

Rufus, who presented video evidence showing some of the suspects allegedly collecting money from truck drivers, said the taskforce immediately swung into action following the report.

He explained that the operation was carried out by the taskforce in collaboration with Intels, leading to the arrest of the six suspects.

The Station Officer warned that the agency would sustain its operations against illegal revenue collectors and individuals impersonating government officials to extort unsuspecting members of the public.

He stressed that the taskforce would continue to track down those involved in the unlawful collection of revenue across the state, adding that such activities would not be tolerated.

However, when confronted with the allegations, the six suspects denied involvement in the alleged extortion, claiming they were merely at the wrong place at the wrong time.

The taskforce says its ongoing operations are aimed at protecting motorists, restoring order and ensuring that only authorised agencies are involved in revenue collection across Edo State.

Edo checks new vet hospital...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

ticated facilities rarely found even in privately owned veterinary centres.

Daud, however, stressed the need for increased public awareness to enable more livestock farmers to benefit from the services available at the hospital. He noted that farmers who were already aware of the facility were taking advantage of its services.

The inspection team also visited the ongoing rehabilitation of the state-owned abattoir in Edo North, another key livestock infrastructure project aimed at improving meat processing, hygiene and public health standards in the state.

Okpebholo's 2.5m-vote...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

ernor to look into the matter.

He urged members across the state to remain united and take an active part in political mobilisation ahead of the 2027 elections.

Responding, Governor Okpebholo thanked the group for the goodwill they showed him and the President and said he would convey their message to Tinubu.

On the land dispute, the governor said he had taken note of their complaint and assured them that the road would be completed.

"I have listened to your request, especially the issue of encroachment on your land. By the grace of God, we will complete that road, and you will take over your land," he said.

Governor Okpebholo also welcomed the association's support for his 2.5 million-vote promise to the President and said the people of Edo would back it with their Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) on Election day.

"I am happy that you have recognised the 2.5 million votes I promised our President. January 16 is the day, and we will speak with our PVCs," he said.

"Thank you very much for the love you have shown us and the President. Thank you for endorsing him, too. I will report back to him and tell him how much you love him."

N1.42trillion in 60 days!...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

N1.42 trillion.

The Service also processed 2,102 PAARs in September and 7,093 in October, while Single Goods Declarations increased from 48,832 to 51,007 within the same period.

However, the revenue figures were only part of the disclosures, as Customs revealed that its enforcement operations had resulted in the interception of prohibited and restricted commodities with a combined Duty Paid Value exceeding N8.1 billion.

The intercepted items included illicit drugs, pharmaceutical products, prohibited merchandise and petroleum products.

The Service said it was working with relevant regulatory and security agencies to ensure that seized items were appropriately handled and disposed of in accordance with applicable laws.

Beyond its conventional border enforcement responsibilities, the NCS is strengthening its financial intelligence capacity to confront trade-based money laundering and other illicit financial activities concealed within international commerce.

Maiwada disclosed that the Service was participating in a World Customs Organisation (WCO) Mentoring Mission designed to improve its ability to identify, investigate and address suspicious financial transactions associated with cross-border trade.

The four-week engagement, scheduled to run from October 18 to November 13, 2026, was inaugurated on October 19.

As part of the initiative, Customs held strategic engagements with six relevant agencies between October 27 and 29, including the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) and National Counter Terrorism Centre.

The Service also highlighted its transition to an electronic currency declaration platform, describing the digital intervention as an important mechanism for improving transparency, monitoring financial movements and detecting illicit flows across Nigeria's borders.

The initiative underscores the growing intersection between customs administration, financial intelligence and national security, particularly as criminal networks exploit international trade channels to move illicit funds.

Nigeria's export trade also recorded increased activity at the Lilypond Export Command, where third-quarter export value reached $752.85 million in 2026, compared with $586.15 million in the corresponding period of 2025.

The increase of $166.7 million represents approximately 28.4 per cent growth, indicating a higher export value recorded during the period.

The Service linked the performance to efforts aimed at improving export procedures and facilitating the movement of Nigerian products into international markets, particularly within the non-oil export sector.

NEWS

TCN, IBEDC move against power supply disruptions

Joy Odor

ABUJA

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company (IBEDC) have intensified efforts to address operational bottlenecks in the electricity value chain, strengthening their partnership to improve network reliability and electricity supply across Osun and Oyo states.

The renewed push for improved power delivery followed a strategic engagement between the two electricity operators at the TCN Osogbo Regional Office on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, with coordinated maintenance, outage management and operational efficiency emerging as major priorities.

At the meeting, the General Manager of TCN Osogbo Region, Engr. S.A. Asinmi, challenged both organisations to strengthen operational coordination, particularly in the handling of outage requests, warning through his emphasis on collaboration that poorly coordinated maintenance activities could undermine network reliability and electricity delivery.

Asinmi called for improved communication and closer cooperation between transmission and distribution operators to ensure maintenance interventions are properly scheduled and executed without avoidable disruptions to electricity supply.

The intervention comes as electricity consumers continue to demand more dependable power delivery, placing pressure on operators to address operational weaknesses and improve the efficiency of existing infrastructure.

Leading the IBEDC delegation was its newly appointed Regional Head of the New Osun Office, Mr. Oluwasogo Olufayo, who used the engagement to discuss the company's newly established Business Hubs at New Osun and New Oyo.

The discussions focused on strengthening institutional cooperation, improving operational relationships and creating a more effective framework for electricity service delivery across the region.

Olufayo reaffirmed IBEDC's commitment to maintaining a strong working relationship with TCN, stressing the importance of coordinated operations in achieving improved service delivery.

The meeting highlights the strategic importance of collaboration between transmission and distribution companies, whose operational activities must work in tandem to ensure electricity is efficiently evacuated, distributed and delivered to consumers.

For the two operators, the immediate challenge is turning the renewed partnership into measurable improvements in network maintenance, outage coordination and supply reliability.



NPRGS TRAINING:
A cross section of beneficiaries at the just-concluded National Poverty Reduction with Growth Strategy (NPRGS) training, organised by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Education, Dr Abiola Arogundade, in Enugu.

ACT-2027 mobilises Northern Christians for Tinubu's re-election

ABUJA

Caroline Ameh

The National Coordinator of Arewa Christians for Tinubu 2027 (ACT-2027), Ambassador Ayuba Jacob Ngbako, has reaffirmed the group's commitment to mobilising grassroots support for President Bola Tinubu's re-election in 2027, while urging the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, to expand youth empowerment programmes and political appointments.

Ngbako, who is also a serving Federal Commissioner of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), made the appeal while commending Wike for his infrastructure development efforts in Abuja, particularly the commissioning of the Dunamis pedestrian bridge.

He described the project as an example of responsive leadership and effective collaboration between government and private institutions, noting that Wike's approval of the project demonstrated a willingness to address longstanding infrastructure and public safety concerns.

According to Ngbako, the application for the bridge had remained unattended for seven years before the FCT minister approved it following its presentation to him in February 2026.

He said President Tinubu made the right decision by appointing Wike as FCT minister, adding that the minister's infrastructure projects had become a significant feature of the administration's performance.

However, the ACT-2027 coordinator appealed to Wike to complement his infrastructure agenda with increased opportunities for qualified political stakeholders and young people across the FCT.

He said greater inclusion of youths and competent political actors in governance would strengthen community participation and contribute to the implementation of the Renewed Hope Agenda.

Edo NDC seeks speedy judgment in Omoregie, Aiguobarueghian pre-election dispute

BENIN-CITY

Idahosa Musa

The leadership and stakeholders of the National Democratic Congress (NDC) in Edo State have called on the judiciary to expedite judgment in a pre-election dispute involving the party's candidates for Ovia Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, expressing concern that further delays could affect preparations for the 2027 General Elections.

The stakeholders, who spoke with the Nigerian Tribune yesterday at the Edo State High Court premises in Benin, said repeated postponements of judgment in the case involving Comrade Edwin Omoregie and Hon. Charity Aiguobaweghian had heightened anxiety among party members and supporters.

They explained that the case, which had earlier been scheduled for judgment, was again postponed on November 6, without a fresh date communicated to the parties as of yesterday.

The stakeholders noted that the suits involving the party's candidates for Ovia Federal Constituency, Oredo Federal Constituency and Ovia North-East Constituency I State Constituency were instituted around the same period.

According to them, however, judgments in two related pre-election disputes were delivered by Justice (Prof.) Chuka Obiozor of the Federal High Court, Benin, on October 26 and 27, 2026.

They identified the cases as the dispute involving Mr Omo Osagie Efosa and Hon. Omosigho Uyi Frank over the Oredo Federal Constituency seat, and that involving Franklin Agbonohenhen Uyi and Samuel Osarenogae Aghedo over the Ovia North-East Constituency I seat.

The stakeholders said the delivery of judgments in the two cases, while the Ovia Federal Constituency dispute remained pending, had generated apprehension among party members, who are eager to know the outcome of the matter.

Speaking on the development, Comrade Franklin Agbonohenhen Uyi said the repeated postponements had heightened concerns within the party, stressing that the matter required urgent judicial attention in view of the approaching electioneering activities.

He said, "This judgment was earlier postponed from last week, only for us to hear that it would not hold again. Anxiety has already set in, and our people are beginning to wonder what is happening. Pre-election matters are time-bound, and we want a speedy judgment because our party is preparing for the election."

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **OYEDEMI - RILIWAN OJO**. Now wish to be known and and addressed as **OYEDEMI TUNDE**. all former documents remain valid concern Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MISS. EVBUOMWAN OSAROGIE**. Now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. USIAHON OSAROGIE CRYSTAL**. all former documents remain valid concern Authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **IGBINOVIA NEISON**. and **IGBINOVIA NEISON OSARO** is one and the same person. Hence,Now wish to be known and addressed as **IGBINOVIA NEISON OSARO**. All former documents Remain valid. concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

REMOVAL OF NAME

The general public is hereby notified that my correct name is **EGWUATU OGBETA IRIA**. as captured on my national Identification number (NIN) and not **OGBETA EDORE**. as captured on my corporate affairs commission (CAC) certificate .All former documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **EDWARD CLEMENT OSIFO**. now wish to be known and addressed as **OKOH EDWARD**. All former documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **OSAIKHUIWUOMWAN EUNICE OMOROGIUWA** now wish to be known as **UYELE EUNICE OMOROGIUWA**. Former documents remain valid. Concerned authorities and the general public please take note.

CDS unleashes military fury on terrorists, over 50 insurgents Killed nationwide

ABUJA

Joy Odor

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Olufemi Olatunbosun Oluyede, has intensified Nigeria's military offensive against terrorists, bandits and kidnapping syndicates, with troops killing more than 50 insurgents, rescuing scores of abducted victims and dismantling criminal hideouts across multiple states.

The sweeping military operations, conducted between October 30 and November 5, 2026, also forced 12 terrorists and their family members to surrender in Borno State, while dozens of suspected collaborators, informants, arms suppliers and logistics operators were arrested.

The operations, which covered the North-East, North-West, North-Central and South-East, delivered particularly devastating blows to terrorist formations in Borno and Yobe states, where troops repelled coordinated attacks and recovered an extensive arsenal of weapons.

In one of the deadliest encounters, troops of Operation Hadin Kai crushed a terrorist assault on Buni Yadi in Gujba Local Government Area of Yobe State after insurgents advanced from the notorious Timbuktu Triangle axis on the night of October 29.

A follow-up military operation on October 30 uncovered 48 dead terrorists, alongside 42 AK-47 rifles, five PKT machine guns, four general-purpose machine guns, a 60mm mortar, 105 magazines and two video cameras.

The insurgents suffered further casualties along their withdrawal route around Apama and Jauro Bashir, where troops recovered three additional bodies, an AK-47 rifle and 188 rounds of ammunition.

Another attempted attack on a military position at Bitta in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State ended in failure as troops forced the terrorists to retreat, leaving seven dead fighters behind.

Troops subsequently recovered four AK-47 rifles, an RPG tube, four RPG bombs, three RPG chargers, a PKM machine gun and a communication radio.

The military offensive also exposed deepening cracks within terrorist ranks, as 12 fighters and their family members surrendered between November 2 and 4 at New Abaram Resettlement Village, Banki Junction in Bama and areas around Ngurusoye in Gwoza Local Government Area.

The surrendering individuals reportedly attributed their decision to sustained military pressure and internal disagreements between rival JAS and ISWAP factions.

Beyond battlefield victories, troops arrested 50 suspected terrorists, informants, collaborators and logistics suppliers across the North-East.

The Nigerian
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Two Years of Progress, A Greater Edo Ahead

SPECIAL EDITION

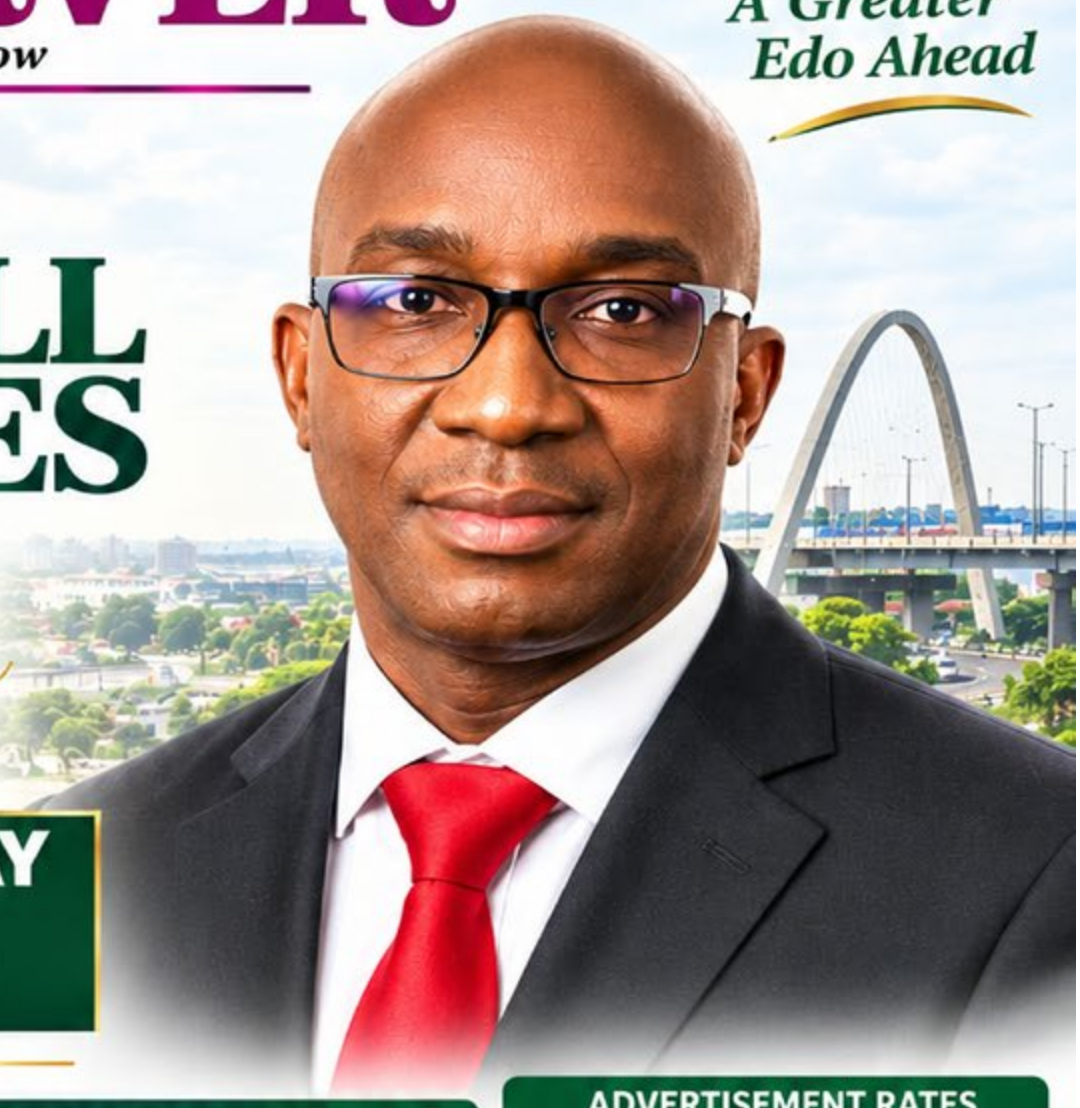
INVITATION TO PLACE GOODWILL MESSAGES

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE

2ND Years ANNIVERSARY OF

GOVERNOR MONDAY OKPEBHOLO'S ADMINISTRATION

EDO STATE



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

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

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

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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

2027: Tinubu woos Ebonyi voters, lists achievements

ABAKALIKI

President Bola Tinubu has appealed to voters in Ebonyi State to support his re-election bid in the January 16, 2027 presidential election, declaring that his administration has "a million reasons" to seek another mandate on the strength of its achievements.

Tinubu, represented by Vice-President Kashim Shettima, made the appeal during the APC presidential campaign rally in Abakaliki, the state capital, on Monday, where he urged the electorate to vote for the ruling party from "top to bottom" in the forthcoming general elections.

Highlighting his administration's projects in the state, Tinubu listed the Calabar-Ebonyi-Okigwe-Nasarawa-Abuja Superhighway, the Trans-Saharan Highway, the bridge linking Ebonyi and Cross River states, and the Enugu-Abakaliki-Ogoja Expressway among the infrastructure projects being undertaken by his government.

He stated, "Good people of Ebonyi State, we are honouring our promises because you elected His Excellency, Francis Ogbonna Nwifuru, as the APC flagbearer. We are also honouring our promises because the sons and daughters of this state worked day and night for the success of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"Where shall we begin the account of our work? Shall we begin with the Calabar-Ebonyi-Okigwe-Nasarawa-Abuja Superhighway? What about the Trans-Saharan Highway or the bridge linking Ebonyi State with Cross River State? We are also advancing work on the Enugu-Abakaliki-Ogoja Expressway and the Ogoja-Arochukwu-Cross River Road. Again, I ask: where shall we begin?

"Good people of Ebonyi State, we have set aside funding for renewable energy projects in eight locations across the state. These investments are intended to provide electricity for homes and businesses. Construction has also begun on the renovation of housing estates to provide more families with decent places to live.

"We know what education means to you. Through NELFUND and TETFund, we are supporting students and educational institutions. Thousands of people in Ebonyi State have benefited from grants under the Presidential Conditional Grants Scheme. Our employment and digital skills programmes are also helping young people acquire skills and build sustainable livelihoods."

The President noted that his administration had intensified efforts to improve national security, adding that the Nigerian Army Recruit Training Depot in Amasiri, Afikpo North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, had commenced operations.

He also highlighted the establishment of the South-East Development Commission, the launch of the South-East Vision 2050 and the approval of the South-East Investment Company as part of the Federal Government's efforts to promote regional development.

The President continued, "We understand the relationship between security and livelihoods. We have a million reasons to return with confidence, but we do not take your support for granted.

"Ebonyi State now has greater resources to address its needs because the President has increased the revenue available to every state. Governor Francis Nwifuru is putting those resources to work, and we salute his stewardship. We appreciate Governor Nwifuru."



DIAMOND JUBILEE LECTURE:
From left: Former President NUJ, Prince Lanre Ogundipe; Guest lecturer, Dr Festus Adedayo; APM Oyo State Deputy Governorship candidate, Mufutau Open- Salawu; Chairman of Occasion, Chief Mutalubi Ojo; Chairman of NUJ Oyo State Council, Mr Akeem Abas, during the Diamond Jubilee Lecture of Oyo NUJ at 60 at NUJ Press Centre in Ibadan on Friday.

PIA: Abbas demands accountability from NNPC

ABUJA

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, has called for stronger corporate accountability and effective legislative oversight of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, warning that its commercial autonomy must be matched with responsibility.

Abbas said the success of the Petroleum Industry Act, enacted in 2021 to reform Nigeria's oil and gas sector, would depend not merely on its legal provisions but on the effectiveness of its implementation and the tangible benefits it delivers to Nigerians.

The Speaker, who was represented by the House Leader, Julius Ihonvbere, spoke on Monday at the opening of a three-day retreat on 'Petroleum Industry Act Implementation: The PIA, Corporate Governance and Legislative Oversight' in Abuja.

The retreat was organised by NNPCL, in collaboration with the Office of the Speaker.

Describing the PIA as one of Nigeria's most consequential economic laws, Abbas said it was designed to establish a more transparent, commercially viable, accountable and investment-friendly petroleum industry.

He, however, noted that five years after its enactment, stakeholders must assess the extent to which the promises of the legislation had translated into practical results.

He said, "Five years down the line, the central question is how much of that promise we have translated into practice."

The Speaker said the Act's provisions, including the transformation of the corporation into NNPC Ltd, the establishment of regulatory institutions and the introduction of a framework for host community development, were intended to address longstanding challenges in the sector.

However, he emphasised that "the passage of a reform law is not the same as the successful implementation of that reform."

According to him, the transition of NNPCL into a commercially-oriented company was expected to improve operational efficiency, attract investment and create greater value from Nigeria's petroleum resources.

Niger gets police commissioner

MINNA

The Police Service Commission has approved the posting of Commissioner of Police Salisu Fago as the new Commissioner of Police in Niger State.

Fago succeeds CP Adamu Elleman, who retired from service.

A statement released on Monday by its Head of Protocol and Public Relations, Torty Kalu said Fago's appointment followed an interview session presided over by the Chairman of the PSC Standing Committee on Police Matters, DIG Taiwo Lakanu (retd.), who represented the commission's Chairman, DIG Hashimu Argungu (retd.).

The PSC Chairman urged the new police commissioner to remain neutral and develop effective strategies to tackle crime and maintain peace and security in the state.

He specifically advised Fago to adopt intelligence-led and community-based policing approaches in addressing security challenges in Niger State.

"I urge you to remain neutral and to develop a workable strategy – including intelligence-led and community-based policing – to combat crime and criminality and to maintain peace and security in Niger State, " the statement quoted him as saying.

Fago joined the Nigeria Police Force on June 10, 1994, as a Cadet Assistant Superintendent of Police.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Conflict Management and Peace Studies. He is also a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

The new commissioner has attended several professional courses, including the Advanced Intelligence Detective Course, Police Mobile Force Commanders Training Course and Tactical Leadership Command Course.

With over three decades of operational and administrative experience, Fago has served in various capacities, including Officer-in-Charge of the State Intelligence Bureau in Kano and Katsina states.

He also served as Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of Criminal Investigation in Katsina, Operations in Delta and Maiduguri, as well as Commanding Officer of the 6 Police Mobile Force in Maiduguri and 52 Police Mobile Force in Chalawa, Kano State.

He was also Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Finance and Administration in Zamfara State Command.

ICPC amends charges against fake PFIPC DG

ABUJA

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission has amended its charges against the purported Director-General of the non-existent Presidential Foreign Intervention Promotion Council, Adeniyi Adeyemi, increasing the counts from 22 to 36 and adding four other defendants.

The new defendants are Aminu Abdullahi, Ogaba Harry, Florence Omameh and Patricia Akhigbe.

The development stalled the planned commencement of trial and hearing of Adeyemi's bail application before the FCT High Court in Maitama, Abuja, on Monday.

ICPC counsel, Sylvanus Tahir (SAN), informed the court that the amended charge, filed on November 3, had expanded the case into a joint trial involving five defendants.

He said the prosecution could not proceed with the arraignment because the fourth defendant, Omameh, was reportedly hospitalised.

Tahir told the court that although she had been served with the amended charge and proof of evidence, her absence had prevented the prosecution from proceeding with the arraignment.

He said, "Her unavailability in court has handicapped and constrained the prosecution from proceeding with the arraignment, this being a criminal charge."

Relying on Section 266 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, the ICPC lawyer argued that an accused person was required to be present in court throughout criminal proceedings, subject to statutory exceptions.

He consequently sought a short adjournment to allow Omameh to recover and appear for her plea.

Defence counsel to Adeyemi, Ibrahim Angulu (SAN), did not oppose the amended charge or the request for adjournment, but reminded the court of his client's prolonged detention.

The trial judge, Justice Halilu Yusuf, granted the application and adjourned the case until November 18 for the arraignment of all the defendants.

The judge directed that Adeyemi be returned to the Kuje Correctional Centre, while the other defendants were ordered to return to the ICPC detention facility.

The amended charge retains the allegations in the previous 22 counts while introducing additional allegations of official corruption, abuse of office, impersonation of a public servant, criminal conspiracy and giving gratification to public officers against Adeyemi.

In Count 25 of the new charges, the prosecution alleged that Adeyemi between February 12th, 2025 and April and and April, 2026 "did corruptly give the total sum of ₦560,000.00 (Five Hundred and Sixty Thousand Naira), in six (6) tranches…", through third party accounts "to Ogaba Harry, Chief Accountant, Office of the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, on account of his having granted you access to the offices of the defunct Presidential Economic Advisory Council at the Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase III, Abuja, and released to you two official vehicles, a Prado Jeep and a Land Cruiser Jeep, without official authorisation."

NEWS

Offa bank robbery: Saraki slams Kwara over dropped charges

ABUJA

Former Senate President Bukola Saraki has accused the Kwara State Government of abusing the judicial process after it dropped 18 armed robbery-related charges against him and former Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed in connection with the 2018 Offa bank robbery.

Saraki, through his media office, in a statement shared on Monday, described the withdrawal as an admission that the allegations against the former governors were false, insisting that the amended charges would also fail in court.

In a statement signed by Yusuph Olaniyonu of the Abubakar Bukola Saraki Media Office in Abuja, the former Senate President said the state government had dropped 18 of the 20 counts in the original charge sheet, including allegations of armed robbery, causing the deaths of police officers and illegal possession of firearms.

The statement said the government retained two charges, which alleged that Saraki and Ahmed conspired to belong to a gang of thieves and actually belonged to such a gang, as well as allegations relating to concealing or causing the disappearance of a vehicle allegedly used for illegal purposes.

The media office said the government had previously attempted to arraign the two former governors on the charges but later amended the case.

It cited the first count of the original charge sheet, which alleged that Saraki, Ahmed and others conspired to commit armed robbery at the branches of Guarantee Trust Bank, First Bank, Ecobank and Union Bank in Offa, Kwara State, on April 5, 2018. Another count alleged that they robbed Zenith Bank's Offa branch while armed with guns and explosives.

Reacting to the withdrawal, Saraki's media office said, "Both charges and 16 others with such ridiculous claims were dropped obviously because the government saw through the futility of the attempts to rope in Saraki and Ahmed and the fact that the charges lack any credible or factual basis."

It added, "The amendment to the charge sheet only reveals that there was no case against these gentlemen from the beginning and what the state government is indulging in is abuse of powers, a travesty of the justice system, and mockery of the prosecutorial powers of the state."

The media office also accused Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq's administration of using the case to tarnish the reputations of his predecessors ahead of the 2027 elections.

It further alleged that the state government had spent close to N100m advertising its claims against the former governors in national newspapers earlier in the year.

The statement described the expenditure as a waste of public funds, alleging that the money could have been used for public projects.

Saraki's media office also linked the criminal charges to the political activities ahead of the 2027 elections, claiming that they were filed in an election year to discredit the former governor.

The statement noted that the amendment came while Saraki was visiting Offa and other communities in Kwara South to campaign for Peoples Democratic Party candidates ahead of the elections.



Rt. Hon Yekini Idaiyi, Speaker Edo State House of Assembly (arrow) in a group photograph with the Honourable members and staff of Edo State House of Assembly during the monthly prayer fellowship (November edition), at the House of Assembly complex recently. . Photo; Godwin Iseguan.

Security was for City Boy Walk, Seyi Tinubu replies Isaac Fayose

ABUJA

The President's son, Seyi Tinubu, has responded to social media critic Isaac Fayose after he questioned the heavy security presence around him during the Port Harcourt City Boy Walk.

Seyi told Fayose to "behave" in a comment on the latter's Instagram video, which criticised Nigerian youths for participating in the political event.

The exchange, which occurred on November 7 and gained traction on Monday, saw Seyi describe Fayose as his "content creator Egbon" while defending the security personnel at the walk.

"My content creator Egbon e behave ara yin o (elder brother, behave yourself). You and I both know that those gallant men and women were there for the city boy walk in PH, which was a success by the way. Vote APC," Seyi wrote.

Fayose had shared a video criticising the turnout and organisation of the Port Harcourt event, held on November 6, while questioning why Seyi was accompanied by a large security contingent comprising police officers, Department of State Services operatives and civil defence personnel.

In the video, Fayose also faulted young Nigerians who supported the walk, accusing them of prioritising politics over pressing national issues, including insecurity and economic hardship.

In a caption accompanying the video, he wrote, "Gen Z in Nigeria means Gen Zero!!! Lazy youth everywhere like pure water. Very soon APC go bu£y una."

He further criticised the youths, saying, "See what the youths all around the world are doing but you Gen Z, you are the Gen Zero of our time, the country is going cuckoo, and you are there."

The Port Harcourt City Boy Walk was organised as part of activities associated with the City Boy Movement, a political support group backing President Tinubu.

Ogun chief urges Abiodun to review monarch's suspension

ABEOKUTA

The Asoju Oba of Iselu Kingdom in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State, Engineer Olusola Okodugha, has urged the state government to review the suspension of the Eselu of Eselu Kingdom, Oba Akintunde Akinyemi, over alleged partisan political activities.

In an open letter to the state government on Sunday, Okodugha described the allegations against the monarch as false, insisting that he had not engaged in any partisan activities to warrant his suspension.

Okodugha was reacting to the conferment of chieftaincy titles on some prominent leaders of the Peoples Democratic Party in Ogun State by the Osile of Oke-Ona, Oba Adedapo Tejuoso last Thursday.

The PDP figures honoured include Oladipupo Adebutu, who was installed as Lisa Aje of Oke-Ona Egba; his wife, Yeye Adenike Adebutu, as Yeye Lisa Aje of Oke-Ona Egba; and Alhaja Lateefat Sowunmi-Kolapo as Olu Nla Obinrin of Oke-Ona Egba.

Others were Senator Iyabo Obasanjo, who received the title of Okanlomo Obinrin of Oke-Ona Egba; Architect Dele Olaleye as Sesogbayi of Oke-Ona Egba; Ambassador Folake Marcus Bello as Oluomo Obinrin of Oke-Ona Egba; Dr Abayomi Tella as Fiwagbola of Oke-Ona Egba; and Chief Abiodun Ogunremi as Otun Olu-Nla of Oke-Ona Egba.

The Asoju Oba, in a statement, questioned the rationale behind Akinyemi's suspension, arguing that the conferment of traditional titles on opposition figures by another monarch should also be considered when assessing allegations of partisan political involvement.

"If the government is concerned about the involvement of traditional rulers in partisan politics, the same standard should apply to every monarch, irrespective of their political affiliations. Justice and fairness must be seen to be served," he said.

He urged the Ogun State Government to reconsider its decision and lift the monarch's suspension.

"What happened on Thursday is a clear sign of partisan politics, with the installation of opposition figures by the Osile of Oke-Ona. Meanwhile, Oba Akintunde is a supporter of the incumbent administration and President Bola Tinubu.

"He doesn't deserve to be suspended. He is a lover of Prince Dapo Abiodun and the All Progressives Congress.

"We are appealing to Governor Dapo Abiodun to look into this matter again and ensure that Oba Akintunde Akinyemi is given a fair hearing. The traditional institution should not be subjected to unnecessary political controversies," he added.

The Ogun State Government suspended Oba Akinyemi with immediate effect over alleged partisan political activities.

The suspension was approved by the State Executive Council pursuant to Section 52(1) of the Ogun State Obas and Chiefs Law, 2021, pending a detailed investigation into the allegations against the monarch.

The decision was conveyed in a letter dated October 20, 2026, signed by the Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Ganiyu Hamzat.

According to the letter, "the council acted following several complaints concerning the traditional ruler's conduct, particularly his alleged involvement in overtly partisan political activities, some of which were reportedly publicised by him."

The government noted that partisan politics was contrary to customary law and prohibited by statute, warning that such conduct could undermine the dignity of the traditional institution and threaten peaceful coexistence among subjects with different political affiliations.

It said the suspension was in the interest of peace, order and good governance in Ogun State, particularly in Iselu Kingdom, while the allegations were subjected to an official and detailed review.

Isaac Fayose threatens lawsuit over rape allegation

ABUJA

Younger brother of former Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose, Isaac Fayose, has given a woman identified as Queen of Abuja three days to retract rape and torture allegations against him or face legal action.

Fayose's lawyers described the allegations as defamatory and damaging to their client's reputation, demanding an immediate withdrawal of the publications and an unreserved apology.

This was contained in a pre-action notice dated Sunday, November 8, 2026, signed by the principal partner of the law firm, Nzedebe Chinonso Paul, and shared by Fayose on his Instagram page on Monday.

The notice followed a series of Threads posts by queenofabuja on Sunday, in which she accused Fayose of raping and torturing her and her three-year-old son, alleging that the incidents had occurred from May 2026. In one of the posts, she wrote, "Isaac Fayosee u must face the consequences of ur crimes against me u will be arrested. I have all my evidence. U raped me, tortured me and my son who is just 3 years old from may till date."

She also claimed to have shared evidence with him and threatened further disclosures on Monday, November 9.

However, Fayose's lawyers, in the notice, said their client woke up to messages from friends and acquaintances about his name trending on social media over the allegations. They quoted one of the circulating audio statements as saying, "Fayose raped me, and he cannot even deny it because I am even cool, am even cool and he cannot deny it, I can fucking proof it."

The lawyers described the publications as defamatory, stating that they had exposed their client to "serious damages on his name, image and person as a business mogul and public defender."

They further claimed that the allegations had attracted widespread engagement on social media, including 808 likes, 191 comments and 890 saves on one of the publications.

NEWS

INSIDE **DELTA STATE**

Delta APC flags off campaign in Oleh

ASABA

Stories by Ajuwa Victor

The Delta State chapter of the All Progressives Congress (APC) has flagged off its 2027 campaign in Oleh, Isoko South Local Government Area as Governor Sheriff Oborevwori and other party leaders called for massive votes for President Bola Tinubu, the governor and all other candidates of the party.

At the Oleh rally, Oborevwori said the decision to join the APC followed wide consultations with stakeholders and was aimed at aligning Delta with the Federal Government for accelerated development.

He commended President Tinubu's economic reforms, noting that increased revenue allocations had strengthened the capacity of state and local governments to execute projects and meet their obligations.

He disclosed that 17,500 Delta students had benefited from the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), urging more students to apply.

The governor also highlighted his administration's achievements in infrastructure, education and healthcare, while disclosing that the State Executive Council had approved building of State Police Divisional headquarters in the 25 local government areas in anticipation of its proposed establishment.

Oborevwori, who also spoke in the same vein at another rally at Ozoro, urged Isoko people to show love to their daughter, his wife, Deaconess Tobore, by voting massively for the APC.

He urged party members to intensify grassroots mobilisation and work for the victory of all APC candidates in 2027.

At the Ozoro rally, the governor's wife, Deaconess Tobore Oborevwori, an indigene of Isoko North, urged the people of Isoko nation to support President Bola Tinubu, her husband and other APC candidates.

She described voting as a powerful instrument of political expression, declaring: "Your vote is your voice, your strength and your weapon. Use it to vote for APC."

On his part, Deputy Governor, Sir Monday Onyeme, said the administration had recorded massive progress in roads, education and healthcare, urging Deltans to sustain their support.

APC State Chairman, Chief Solomon Arenyeka, while presenting party flags to the Delta South Senatorial candidate, House of Representatives candidate, and House of Assembly candidates from Isoko North and South, urged members to secure victory for the party in their respective polling units.

Former Governor of Delta State, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa, challenged party faithful to work towards delivering over two million votes for President Tinubu and Oborevwori, while stressing the need for victory across all elective positions.

Director-General of the Delta APC Campaign Council, Senator James Manager, acknowledged the economic difficulties facing Nigerians but urged them to remain hopeful, saying that the Federal Government's reforms were already producing better results.



DELTA STATE GOVERNOR, RT.HON SHERIFF OBOREVWORI

FCC commissioner highlights Tinubu, Oborevwori's achievements at LPF event

ASABA

The Federal Commissioner representing Delta State at the Federal Character Commission (FCC), Okakuro Lovette Idisi Esq., has expressed optimism that Nigeria is on the path to economic recovery and sustainable growth.

She said the country is gradually overcoming its economic challenges under President Bola Tinubu's administration.

Idisi gave the assurance at the inauguration of the executive members of the Latimore Political Forum (LPF) in Kokori, Ethiope East Local Government Area of Delta State.

He said the economic reforms introduced by President Tinubu, particularly the removal of fuel subsidy and the unification of the foreign exchange market, were already yielding positive results and repositioning the country for greater economic prosperity.

According to him, the reforms have significantly improved the nation's foreign reserves, increased revenue allocations to state governments and addressed distortions in the foreign exchange market, including the activities of the parallel market, which previously undermined transparency and economic stability.

Represented at the event by Chief Julius Ogbevire, Idisi urged members of the Latimore Political Forum to sustsin the mobilisation of registered voters in Kokori and other Agbon communities for the re-election of President Tinubu and Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori.

Delta widows receive october stipends under Oborevwori's welfare scheme

ASABA

Widows benefiting from the Delta State Government's Widows Welfare Scheme have received their October monthly stipends, providing financial relief to beneficiaries across the 25 local government areas of the state.

The latest payment is part of the Oborevwori administration's sustained social intervention efforts aimed at supporting vulnerable residents, particularly widows who often face economic and social challenges following the loss of their spouses.

Speaking with journalists, the Executive Assistant to the Governor on Social Investment Programmes, Chief Dr Isioma Okonta, commended Governor Sheriff Oborevwori for maintaining the scheme and ensuring that beneficiaries continue to receive their monthly support.

Okonta said the regular payment reflected the governor's commitment to improving the welfare of vulnerable groups and translating the people-centred objectives of his MORE Agenda into practical interventions.

He noted that many of the beneficiaries depend on the monthly stipends to meet basic household needs, cater for their children and cope with the prevailing economic challenges.

Edema warns DESTMA personnel against indiscipline, lateness

ASABA

The Director of Operations of the Delta State Traffic Management Authority (DESTMA), Engr. Francis Edema, has charged officers of the authority to uphold discipline, respect senior officers and maintain a courteous relationship with road users while carrying out their official duties.

Engr. Edema stressed the importance of respecting senior-ranking personnel, warning officers against acts of insubordination and disrespect. He also urged personnel to communicate politely with motorists and other road users, regardless of the circumstances, noting that professionalism and courtesy must remain central to their operations.

He further cautioned officers against lateness, emphasising the need for punctuality, commitment and dedication to duty.

Similarly, the Asaba Zonal Commander, Nathaniel Ubido, charged DESTMA personnel to maintain proper dressing and adhere strictly to the authority's uniform standards while on duty.

LPF condemns Asaba political violence, demands arrest of perpetrators

ASABA

The leadership of Latimore Political Forum (LPF), a grassroots political mobilisation platform, has condemned the violent confrontation between supporters of rival political parties in Asaba, Delta State, on Saturday, November 7, 2026, which reportedly claimed one life and left several others seriously injured, describing the incident as unacceptable and a threat to the state's peaceful atmosphere.

In a statement issued by its Convener, Dr Wilfred Latimore Oghenesivbe, Esq., who is also the Director-General of the Delta State Bureau for Orientation and Communications, the Forum said no political ambition, party affiliation or contest for electoral dominance was worth the life of any Nigerian. It described the incident as a disturbing development that must not be allowed to undermine democratic participation ahead of the 2027 general elections.

LPF warned that political violence carries consequences beyond the immediate loss of lives and injuries, including destruction of property, disruption of economic activities, heightened insecurity and erosion of public confidence in the democratic process. It noted that violence also creates fear among residents and could discourage eligible voters from freely exercising their civic rights.

The Forum said Delta State had enjoyed remarkable peace under the administration of Governor Sheriff Oborevwori, whose government has consistently emphasised security, peacebuilding, political tolerance and harmonious coexistence.

Monday Onyeme foundation awards N185m scholarships to 853 Delta North students

ASABA

The Chairman, Monday Onyeme Foundation and Deputy Governor of Delta State, Sir Monday John Onyeme, has awarded scholarships worth N185 million to 853 undergraduate students from Delta North Senatorial District.

Speaking at the cheque presentation ceremony held at Dennis Osadebay University, Asaba, Onyeme admonished the beneficiaries to take their academic pursuits seriously, stressing that the introduction of aptitude tests was aimed at ensuring that the most deserving and academically outstanding students emerged as beneficiaries.

Reflecting on his experiences as a student, the Deputy Governor urged the beneficiaries to distinguish themselves in their respective fields of study, noting that no discipline was inferior to another, as every course of study was designed to address specific societal needs.

He explained that the scholarship scheme was designed not only to provide financial assistance to students but also to identify, nurture and develop their potentials.

Onyeme encouraged the beneficiaries to remain focused, dedicated and committed to their studies, urging them to make the most of the opportunity provided by the foundation.

Foreign

NEWS

Four killed in Gaza after sand embankment collapses onto tents, health ministry says

Three children and one woman were killed when a sand embankment collapsed onto tents in central Gaza following heavy rain, the Hamas-run health ministry says.

Five injured people were also reportedly rescued after the incident on Sunday night at a camp for displaced families south of Deir al-Balah.

Videos showed men using phone torches to search for survivors beneath boulders, sand and collapsed tents.

The Civil Defence service, which operates under the Hamas-run interior ministry, said the "humanitarian tragedy" should prompt urgent action by international organisations to provide safe shelters for displaced people and move tents away from sandy areas, slopes and locations at risk of collapse.

Torrential rain on Saturday reportedly flooded tens of thousands of tents across Gaza, leaving many Palestinians without a dry place to sleep.

The Civil Defence said water levels reached up to 1.5m (4.9ft) in some places and that its first responders were able to respond to only 10% of the 2,100 distress calls they received.

"Protecting the lives of displaced people is an urgent humanitarian responsibility. Their tents must not become death traps beneath sand and rainwater," it warned.

The Civil Defence initially reported on Sunday that three children and two women were killed when the sand embankment collapsed. But the health ministry said on Monday morning that only one woman was among the dead.

She was identified as Tahrir Nabhan, while the children were named as Mariam Nabhan and her brother Salah, and Habiba al-Zein.

Mustafa al-Masri told the BBC that he and other rescuers had used their bare hands to dig the victims and survivors out of the sand and rubble.

"It was extremely difficult. This mound was huge and wide. It collapsed onto the tent, and we didn't know what to do," he said.

"When we got here, we, along with the young men from the camp, pulled them out with our own hands. We pulled out the children and the woman."

"Their father arrived shouting, 'My children, my children, my children, my children.' We pulled his children out, put them in the ambulance, and took them to the hospital."

'Devastating message' as ANC records worst-ever result in South Africa election

South Africa's ANC has recorded its worst-ever showing in local elections since Nelson Mandela led the country out of apartheid and into democracy more than 30 years ago, a result the party has called "catastrophic".

While it won the most votes of all parties in the country, the African National Congress won 31% of the overall vote, one third down from the 46% it gained in 2021, and a far cry from the 65% 20 years ago.

The story of its decline is also clear in the provinces and cities. The party won a majority in just one of the country's nine provinces, Limpopo. In 2021 it won six. It also won the most votes in just two of the eight cities, compared with six at the last local elections.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) came second in the overall vote with 25%, retaining majority control of the city of Cape Town. Former president Jacob Zuma's MK party came third overall with 10%, unseating the ANC as winner in the city of Durban, while the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), led by Julius Malema, once seen as a serious challenge to the ANC, came fourth with 6%.

"This has been a very catastrophic outcome for the ANC," said secretary-general Fikile Mbalula on Saturday. "We knew this disaster is coming, we're staring at it. As we got into elections, the cost of living of our people was too high. The middle class have turned on the ANC in big numbers."

Entering the count centre on Sunday nigh, South Africa's president and ANC leader Cyril Ramaphosa said: "We accept the will of the people however concerning it might be, we accept that this is how the people of South Africa in our towns, in our cities, in our metros have spoken - and this is their verdict, we accept it with humility. It is a decline that is concerning, that is how I characterise it."

President Cyril Ramaphosa is due to be replaced as ANC leader next year

It's a continuing decline for the ANC, which lost its parliamentary majority in the national elections in 2024 for the first time since the end of apartheid in 1994. It then had to form a coalition government with a raft of other parties in what is called the Government of National Unity (GNU).

While the Democratic Alliance made significant gains in the cities in these local elections, its overall vote share rose only marginally from 22% in 2021, and was below the 27% it gained in 2016.

Voter turnout was 52%, an increase from 46% in 2021, when elections were held during the Covid pandemic.

"This election is delivering a devastating message to the ANC," said political analyst Susan Booysen. "It's an ANC in decline at local municipal level, at the metropolitan level, and when the results are reflected provincially and nationally, we see severe declines in ANC levels of support all around."

Nine foreigners caught allegedly trying to leave South Africa to fight in Ukraine

Nine foreigners have been arrested in South Africa after they were caught allegedly trying to leave the country to fight in the war between Russia and the Ukraine, police say.

The group, aged between 20 and 26, were arrested in and around Johannesburg by a multidisciplinary team on Sunday evening.

They were caught as they were "preparing to board flights out of the country", authorities added, but their final destination is unclear.

The group is accused of contravening South Africa's laws, which outlaw mercenary activity without government permission.

Police said the group were arrested at South Africa's biggest airport, OR Tambo, and a hotel in Bruma, east of Johannesburg by a multidisciplinary team that involved Interpol.

The police statement added that the involvement of Interpol and other international law enforcement agencies indicated that the suspects had also allegedly violated laws in their respective home countries, prompting cooperation with South African authorities.

Authorities declined to disclose the group's nationalities but confirmed that none of them resided in South Africa.

They have also not said whether the group allegedly intended to fight for Russia or Ukraine nor provided details of the organisations allegedly involved in facilitating their travel.

Citizens of several African countries, including Kenya, Ghana and South Africa, have gone to fight for Russia in Ukraine - some they had been duped and had not realised where they were going.

A Ukrainian intelligence assessment estimated earlier this year that more than 1,700 people from 36 countries in Africa have been recruited to fight for Russia.

Kenya at the time estimated that 252 citizens had been illegally conscripted in Russia. In March, Foreign Minister Musalia Mudavadi visited Moscow to address the issue.

He said at the time that an agreement had been reached to stop recruiting Kenyan nationals.

In February, Ghana said that 55 of its citizens had been killed in the conflict, with 272 believed to have been lured to fight since the war started in 2022.

The same month, South Africa secured the return of 17 South Africans who were allegedly tricked into joining the war.



Hundreds of African citizens have been recruited to join the Russia-Ukraine war in recent years

Seven dead and more than 100 injured after trains collide in Egypt

At least seven people have died in a train crash near the Egyptian city of Giza, with more than 100 injured.

The country's railway authority said two trains travelling south from Giza and Cairo collided, causing several carriages to derail and fall down an embankment.

Images from the scene showed people looking inside overturned carriages for injured passengers as a massive emergency response was launched.

Egyptian President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi said he had ordered state authorities to "investigate the circumstances of the accident, and hold accountable anyone found to have been negligent".

The public prosecutor's office warned the death toll could rise.

The government said hospitals in the area had been put "on heightened alert" as they dealt with a massive influx of patients.

Egypt's health minister Dr Khaled Abdel Ghaffar said people were being treated for broken bones and head injuries.

The Egyptian Red Crescent said it was providing aid and psychological support to victims and their families at the scene.

The driver of one of the trains was among those who died in the crash, the ministry confirmed.

The first train involved in the crash was travelling from Giza to Fayoum, south of Cairo, when it crashed into the rear of another service heading south from Cairo to Aswan, which was stationary on the tracks.

Images from the scene showed some carriages had overturned, with the body of at least one appearing to have split in two.

Trains between Giza and the Upper Egypt region were suspended as cranes were dispatched to remove the wrecked trains. The railway authority has not said how long it expects this to take.

The collision occurred in the area between Kafr Ammar and Al-Raqqa stations in Al-Ayyat, close to where Egypt's deadliest train tragedy occurred in February 2002, when a fire engulfed a passenger train travelling from Cairo to Luxor.

In that incident, more than 370 people were officially reported killed, although some estimates put the toll considerably higher.

Kenya seizes 454kg of meth in drug crackdown

Kenyan police have seized 454kg (1,000lb) of methamphetamine worth an estimated $27m (£20m) in an operation targeting international drug trafficking networks.

Three suspects, two Tanzanians and a Ugandan, were arrested at the Kenyan coast following an intelligence-led operation involving Kenyan anti-narcotics officers and their Tanzanian counterparts.

Police said the investigations began after a key suspect was arrested in Tanzania last week and handed over to Kenyan authorities at the border.

Methamphetamine, commonly known as meth, is a harmful illegal synthetic drug that is highly addictive and can lead to severe psychosis, heart attack or stroke.

The suspect, who was allegedly linked to a separate seizure of 250 kg of suspected methamphetamine and cocaine in Tanzania, led officers to a location in Msambweni on the Kenyan coast, where the drug haul was discovered.

Police made further arrests at the site and seized two motor vehicles and a motorcycle.

The four suspects are currently in custody and due to be arraigned in court, while the recovered narcotics and the seized items are being kept as exhibits.

The police say the operation remains ongoing and urged members of the public to to share information that will help tackle drug trafficking.

Last month, Deputy President Kithure Kindiki declared illicit alcohol and drug abuse among top threats to the Kenya's future.

He warned that the government would introduce tougher laws and intensify nationwide operations to deal with the menace.

In a separate operation last month, authorities destroyed more than a tonne of methamphetamine from a consignment intercepted last year by the Kenyan navy about 630km (391 miles) off the Mombasa coast.

The Institute for Security Studies, a think-tank, has warned of a shift in East Africa's role in international drug trafficking role.

It says the region's coastline is increasingly becoming not just a transit route for drugs destined for other markets but also an entry point for manufactured drugs intended for local consumption.

At least 34 dead after Europe-bound migrant boat sinks off Senegal

At least 34 people have died after a boat carrying migrants sank off the coast of Senegal, the Senegalese Press Agency (APS) reports, citing an official source.

The interior ministry said one person had been rescued, but the number of people still missing was yet to be established.

The small wooden boat capsized between the capital, Dakar and the northern city of Saint-Louis, as it headed towards Spain's Canary Islands.

Spanish migrant rights group Walking Borders recorded 635 deaths on the Atlantic route to the Canary Islands between January and May 2026, the highest toll among the routes it monitors.

Saliou Diouf, founder of Senegalese migrant aid group Boza Fii, told AFP that all the bodies recovered so far were Senegalese. The nationalities of other people on board was yet to be established, as search operations continued.

President Bassirou Diomaye Faye has expressed his condolences to the victims' families and urged Senegalese nationals not risk their lives on the dangerous sea crossings.

In a statement posted on X, he pledged to intensify efforts to dismantle the networks organising the journeys.

"We will relentlessly continue the fight against those who organise these crossings and the work that gives our young people reasons to hope here," he said.

The tragedy comes amid renewed concerns over the dangers facing migrant attempting to reach Europe by sea.

Walking Borders estimates that about 21 people died for every 100 who reached the Canary Islands during the period it monitored.

Senegalese authorities said they had intercepted another boat, on Friday, carrying 142 migrants attempting to reach Spain.

Those on board included 23 women, two babies and two other children. Police said the group comprised nationals of Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea and Nigeria.

Meanwhile, a state of emergency was declared on the Spanish island of El Hierro on Saturday following a surge in migrant arrivals.

More than 3,300 people have reached the island in about 30 boats since the beginning of November, according to local authorities.

This amounts to almost a third of the population on the island, one of the main entry points into Europe for migrants arriving from West Africa.

Fernando Clavijo, president of the Canary Islands regional government, described the situation as "absolutely unsustainable," reports the Reuters news agency.

The route has grown in prominence amid tighter controls and increased cooperation between European countries and North African states, which may have diverted some journeys away from the central Mediterranean.

Limited employment opportunities, family pressures and established migration networks are among the factors driving people to leave Senegal, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

For many young people, the prospect of finding work and earning more abroad remains a powerful incentive, despite the risks of crossing the Atlantic in overcrowded boat.

Nearly one in four young people in Senegal was unemployed in the second quarter of 2026, according to the country's statistics agency.



Spanish migrant rights group Walking Borders estimates that 21 out of every 100 people who reach the Canary Islands by sea die during the crossing.

Cruise ship pianist rescued from sea after nine hours in Pacific Ocean

A cruise ship pianist was found treading water around 20 miles (32km) off the Californian coast after falling overboard, according to US media reports.

Two fishermen discovered the Royal Caribbean employee near Catalina Island on Friday and officials believe he may have been in the Pacific Ocean for nine hours, according to CBS News, the BBC's US news partner.

"I'm like, 'Yeah, it's a human being. Stop the boat; let's get all of our lines in," Grant Garrett was quoted as saying, recalling the moment he and Sean Norton spotted him.

The man, who has not yet been identified, was taken to hospital in a stable condition, the US Coast Guard told the BBC, adding it was investigating the incident.

The fishermen say the man identified himself as a pianist on a 14-deck cruise ship called the Ovation of the Seas.

"The only thing he said to me was, 'Thank you. I thought I was gonna die,'" Norton said.

The Coast Guard said in a statement it had received a report from "a Good Samaritan who recovered a conscious individual from the water".

The person was handed over to Newport Beach Lifeguards, who confirmed he was an employee of the Ovation of the Seas cruise ship, it said.

Lifeguard officials believe he may have fallen overboard at around 02:30, about nine hours before he was discovered.

"It was approximately 15 to 20 miles offshore, pretty much in the middle of the ocean," Newport Beach Lifeguard Battalion Chief Adam Yacenda told CBS.

Norton credited the man's survival to unusually warm ocean temperatures.

"You have this crazy super El Niño year. This guy was in the water for probably 10 hours, but the water's 76 degrees," Norton said, which equates to about 24C.

"A different year, no way he makes it," Norton said.

The developing El Niño climate phenomenon is now the strongest on record, according to scientists monitoring the Pacific, with ocean temperatures about 3.05C above average.

In a statement to the BBC, a Royal Caribbean Group spokesperson said: "We are providing support and assistance to our crew member during this difficult time.

"To respect the privacy of our employee, we have no additional details to share."

Pope delivers veiled rebuke of Milei's austerity measures

Pope Leo XIV has said Argentina's economy must benefit everyone including the poor, in a diplomatic but pointed critique of President Javier Milei's austerity measures.

The Pope was speaking as he arrived in Buenos Aires, the second stop on a 12-day tour of Latin America, only three weeks after having had surgery for lung cancer.

In response, right-wing leader Milei said his government was working to avoid "punishing the Argentines of tomorrow in order to benefit the Argentines of today".

This leg of the Pope's journey was expected be the most politically sensitive, with the president's agenda of slashing public spending having been denounced by the Catholic Church for hitting the poorest hardest.

"The economy must be at the service of the people, rather than people being at the service of the economy," Pope Leo said.

He stressed the plight of those who, "despite hard work, nonetheless struggle to meet their household's needs", and urged that "particular concern be shown for those affected by illness, dependency and disability" - a veiled reference to the government's controversial cuts to disability assistance.

In what appeared to be a rebuke of Milei's combative style and language, the Pope said strengthening democracy required a "willingness to listen" and the "careful use of words".

Milei had been particularly outspoken about Leo's predecessor Pope Francis, whom he called "evil on earth" and a "communist" for promoting a doctrine of social justice to help the poor.

Krakow shooting suspect has died in hospital, police say

A gunman suspected of killing six people in central Krakow and his parents and sister at their home has died in hospital, Polish police say.

The 24-year-old was injured after opening fire in central Krakow, the second largest city in Poland, on Saturday, and died early on Monday morning, police said.

Armed officers raced to the scene and engaged in a gunfight with the suspect, who was shot within three minutes of the attack beginning, preventing a further massacre, officials said.

Officials initially reported the gunman had apparently been inspired by "far-right ideologies", but have since said they are still investigating any possible motivation.

After the shooting, which began shortly before 15:00 local time (14:00 GMT) in Krakow's busy Main Market Square, police identified the attacker as a 24-year-old Polish man. He has not yet been officially named.

In the hours after the shooting, a minister said early investigations indicate he was inspired by "far-right ideologies". The minister also described him as an "ultra-nationalist" without giving further details.

However, during a press briefing on Monday morning, Przemysław Nowak, a spokesperson for Poland's National Prosecutor's Office, said investigations into his motive remain ongoing.

Six people - four women and two men - are confirmed to have been killed in the attack.

Four victims are Polish, while a British national and an Austrian woman were also killed.

Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said three bodies - two women and one man - were found at the gunman's house when it was searched after the attack.

On Sunday, Polish police confirmed those three victims had been identified as the alleged gunman's 53-year-old father, 52-year-old mother and 21-year-old sister.

Polish media has reported the suspect had a firearms permit and may have obtained the weapons from his family home.

Four firearms were found in the gunman's car, including two AR-15 rifles and two handguns, along with several hundred rounds of ammunition, Nowak said. Authorities also seized at least four phones from his car and person, and electronic equipment from his home.

Sixteen people, including five foreigners, two police officers and the attacker, were taken to hospital. The interior ministry later said they were from Austria, Britain, Germany, Portugal and Russia.

Speaking on Sunday, one of two surgeons who treated victims on the street after the attack said his colleague "undoubtedly" saved the life of a gravely injured police officer.

The two surgeons, who were eating near the Main Market Square when the gunman opened fire, rushed to the scene to treat both the attacker and the two injured police officers.

Professor Michal Pędziwiatr told the BBC: "We saw the shooting attack. And what a surgeon can do in a situation like this?... We decided to help the victims as soon as possible."

"We rushed into the area where the shooting was and started our rescue, because there were no ambulances available, there were no professionals around."

Pędziwiatr said his colleague, who has been named by local media as Dr Mateusz Wierdak, used his hand to stem the bleeding from the most severely injured policeman, allowing time for an ambulance to arrive.

On Sunday it was reported that both injured officers had emerged from comas.

Witnesses who were near the Main Market Square have described their panic and confusion as the attack unfolded.

Ruby Catherine Warren, from London, heard gunfire and "yelled at my friends to run and we all sprinted for our lives".

FEATURE

Sen. Yar'adua, Nigerian doctors and the 15 minutes emergency bill: *Why we should embrace it*

Douglas Baye-Osagie

The Nigerian Senate was discussed on Wednesday November 4th, 2026 in the manner it should be talked about which is Lawmaking. For once, the national conversation was not about defections or drama on the floor. It was about a law that could decide whether a Nigerian lives or dies in the next fifteen minutes.

The Bill, which is an amendment to the National Health Act, sponsored by Sen Abdulaziz Musa Yar'adua representing Katsina Central Senatorial District elicited a nationwide conversation. It seeks to compel hospitals to "attend" to emergency cases within fifteen minutes of arrival, without demanding payment first. It is simple, it is direct, and it is long overdue.

The reaction from some doctors was swift and emotional. Many argued that emergency care already exists, that they are already trained, and that no doctor would ever turn away a true emergency. That passion is understandable, because doctors carry the heaviest burden of our broken system every day.

What many do not realise is that the National Health Act already mandates emergency care and treatment. Section 20, which deals with emergency treatment, states that:

1. A health care provider, health worker or health establishment shall not refuse a person emergency medical treatment for any reason.

2. A person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦100,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both.

So a lawyer already has the arsenal to sue the health facility in Nigeria for turning down a patient. This is not a Yar'adua invention. It is already Law in Nigeria.

What the Senator is doing is not inventing a new duty. He is trying to structure the timeline like it is done in most countries in the world. The current subsection does not clearly specify procedures and timelines required. It says do not refuse, but it does not say how fast to triage, how fast to stabilize, who pays, and how the hospital is reimbursed. Without a timeline, the law is a good intention without enforcement. With a timeline it becomes a measurable standard. This is what might trigger more private funds and the likelihood of more enrollment on the NHIS scheme, because investors and insurers can finally plan around a defined service.

While we appreciate their candidness and fervour in Doctors and other health workers sharing their side of the discussion, we must say respectfully that they are wrong on a number of points. Good intentions are not a system. Individual sacrifice is not a policy. And a country of over 230 million people cannot run its emergency care on the goodwill of tired doctors alone.

They claim that no doctor will see a true emergency and look the other way. While this may be true for some, it is largely inaccurate to say no doctor. If it is true, why do we repeatedly hear the plethora of stories of people being turned away from hospitals due to lack of ability to pay?

We all remember the pregnant woman in Lagos whose story trended after she was allegedly denied timely care. We remember the influencer who was locked outside the gate at LASUTH. We remember countless unnamed Nigerians who died at hospital gates, not because there was no bed or no equipment, but because there was no deposit.

Those incidents had nothing to do with lack of equipment or bed space. They had to do with a system that allowed human beings to be treated as transactions first and patients second. They had to do with the sheer lack of empathy and the human side of care. A law is needed precisely because good character cannot be assumed in every facility, every shift, and every state.

The second claim is about training to attend to emergencies. It would seem it is some of our critics who are not well informed about what modern emergency care actually requires. Attending to emergencies is not the same as having a fully developed emergency medicine system.

Are you aware that in the societies which most of our doctors want to japa to, there is a Residency program in Emergency Medicine, just like you have residency in Surgery, Paediatrics or Obstetrics? Are you aware that doctors spend four to five years in a residency program just learning about Emergency Medicine?

Those societies have this exact same stipulated timeframe for emergency room response because they understand that time is tissue, time is blood, and time is life. Even our neighbour Ghana has a 30 minute timeframe to triage and stabilize. Even small Sierra Leone does. These are countries we have more healthcare workforce than, yet they have defined what their citizens should expect.

Nigeria cannot continue to argue that we are different. A heart attack does not wait for our excuses. A road traffic accident does not wait for our infrastructure debate. A woman bleeding after childbirth does not wait for us to fix the whole country first. She needs a standard, and she needs it now.

Access to timely emergency medical care is a cornerstone of any functional health system. Yet in Nigeria, preventable deaths persist because there are no clearly defined and enforceable timelines for triage, the process of quickly assessing and prioritizing patients based on the severity of their condition to determine the order of treatment. Delays in these first critical minutes often determine survival. When there is no law that says how fast a patient must be seen, delay becomes normal, and normal delay becomes death.

The numbers tell the story more powerfully than any argument. Nigeria alone accounts for approximately 10 percent of global maternal deaths, with delayed access to emergency obstetric care as a leading factor. These are not women who could not be saved, they are women who were not reached in time. The most recent published statistics on road accidents by the Federal Road Safety Commission show that from 7,715 crashes between January and September 2025, there were 3,915 deaths and 24,617 injuries. Behind each of those numbers is a family that waited at a hospital gate, waited for a deposit, waited for a referral, or waited for someone to decide that their case was urgent enough. This is why this Bill deserves engagement and support, not dismissal. It is not about blaming doctors, it is about ending a system where survival depends on luck and money, instead of time and law.

While we would not dismiss the need for upgrades of our infrastructure, this Bill is the most effective way to define what exactly our yardstick, goal, metric, and KPI should be as it regards emergency care. Then we can build around it. Investors can then invest in that space.



SEN. YAR' ADUA

That is how serious sectors are built. You do not wait for perfection before you set a standard. You set the standard, and the standard forces investment, training, equipment, and accountability to follow. Without a standard, everyone can claim they are doing their best while patients keep dying.

The healthcare space has been starved of capital and investment because of the lack of regulation and clearly defined rules. No serious investor will put billions into a sector where there is no defined service level, no accountability, and no enforceable patient right. Capital follows clarity.

The same rules that exist in the banking sector and petroleum sector have led to the vast boom in capital, investments, and the growth of those sectors. Banking did not grow because bankers were simply nicer people. It grew because of strong legislation, the Central Bank Act, the NDIC Act, BVN, KYC, and clear penalties for failure.

Telecommunications is another example. Before the Nigerian Communications Act of 2003 and the creation of a strong regulator, telephone lines were a luxury for the rich. Once the law created a clear framework, competition, licensing, and consumer protection, investment poured in. Today, even a farmer in a remote village has a phone. That transformation came from legislation, not from pleas for handouts.

The pension sector tells the same story. Before the Pension Reform Act of 2004, retirees died waiting for their gratuity. After the law created contributory pensions, PenCom, and clear custodianship rules, trillions of naira are now under management and pensioners have a system they can track. Law created trust, and trust created capital.

The petroleum sector, after decades of opacity, was transformed by the Petroleum Industry Act. Investors may still complain, but for the first time there is a single, defined legal framework for upstream, midstream, and downstream operations. Healthcare needs its own version of that clarity, and this amendment to the National Health Act is a crucial part of it.

> They claim that no doctor will see a true emergency and look the other way. While this may be true for some, it is largely inaccurate to say no doctor.

The average Nigerian doctor thinks the problem with the health sector is government and lack of equipment. Government failure is real, and lack of equipment is real, but that diagnosis is incomplete. Government alone cannot fund a health system for 230 million people, and waiting for the government to buy every machine is why we are stuck. The health sector needs more private injection of funds, and that can only happen when there are legislations that strengthen private involvement. Private capital needs a guarantee that if it builds an emergency centre, buys ambulances, or trains paramedics, it will be paid, protected, and regulated fairly. This Bill provides that guarantee. It turns emergency care from a charity case into a viable service that private investors, insurers, and even doctors themselves can build businesses and careers around.

The NHS is often cited by Nigerian doctors as a model, but the NHS is not running efficiently because of government alone. It is the whole of the UK funding the health sector through taxation and National Insurance. Every worker contributes, every employer contributes, and every citizen knows they have a right to care.

Sports

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

NPFL: Bendel Insurance edge Niger Tornadoes 2-1 as Taiwo strikes late

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

● *Kabiru Dogo hails Insurance's fighting spirit*

Bendel Insurance FC maintained their 100 per cent home-winning record in the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) after staging a dramatic comeback to defeat Niger Tornadoes 2-1 in their Matchday 12 encounter at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, Benin City, on Sunday.

The Benin Arsenals secured all three points courtesy of a stoppage-time winner from substitute John Taiwo, who struck in the 90th+6 minute to complete a remarkable comeback and sent the home supporters into wild celebration.

Niger Tornadoes had taken the lead in the 36th minute through Muhammad Aliyu, who calmly converted a penalty after defender Adekunle Adeleke was penalised for handball inside the box.

Bendel Insurance, however, refused to surrender and restored parity deep into first-half stoppage time when midfield maestro Jonathan James fired home from close range in the 45th+5 minute.

With both sides seemingly heading for a share of the spoils, Taiwo emerged as the match-winner, finding the back of the net in the 90th+6 minute to hand Insurance a hard-fought victory.

The victory came just days after Bendel Insurance suffered a 1-0 defeat to Rangers International in a rescheduled Matchday 9 fixture at the Awka City Stadium in Anambra State.

Defender Chidozie Iwundu scored the decisive goal in the 48th minute, a strike that propelled Rangers to the top of the league table with 21 points.

Bendel Insurance subsequently petitioned the league management over the controversial circumstances surrounding the goal, with the matter reportedly receiving attention.

Sunday's victory takes the Benin-based side to second position on the NPFL table with 21 points from 12 matches.

The Benin Arsenals will now turn their attention to their Matchday 13 fixture against Shooting Stars Sports Club in Ibadan on November 15.

Speaking after the encounter, Bendel Insurance manager, Kennedy Boboye, expressed relief at his team's late victory, acknowledging the tough challenge posed by the visitors.

Boboye said he had anticipated a difficult encounter, particularly after Niger Tornadoes coach Kabiru Dogo revealed that his side had thoroughly studied Bendel Insurance ahead of the match.



BRIGHT AND ROSEMARY

100m finals: Bright, Rosemary emerge fastest boy, girl at Youth Olympic

Nigeria has won two gold medals in athletics at the ongoing Youth Olympic holding in Dakar, Senegal recording doubles in the 100m finals for the boy and girl.

Youth sensation Bright Gift and Rosemary Nwakwo have both emerged fastest boy and girl in the world in their category over the 100metres event.

In the boys event, Gift executed an excellent race from the blast of the whistle running an impressive time of 10.28secs (PB) while Rosemary, won the girls final in 11.15secs (PB).

Reacting to the great moment for Nigeria at the games, the President of the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN), said he felt very happy with the results and congratulated the athletes for doing the nation proud in Dakar.

According to Okowa, with the results and time posted by the young lads, the future of athletics is very bright in the country, expressing his appreciation to coaches who are identifying talents and raising young track and field athletes across the nation.

"First, let me congratulate these young ambassadors, our great athletes, the future of our sports, for doing the country proud in Senegal at the Youth Olympics.

Flamingos make history, defeat Japan 2-1 to win FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup title

Nigeria's Flamingos have been crowned champions of the 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup after securing an impressive 2-1 victory over Japan in Saturday's final in Morocco.

The Nigerian youngsters delivered a spirited performance to overcome their Japanese opponents, with goals from Awawu Bashiru and Oluebube Umejiaku proving decisive in a historic encounter.

The Flamingos took the lead shortly before half-time through Bashiru, whose long-range effort found its way into the net following a costly goalkeeping error by Japan.

Nigeria carried their momentum into the second half and wasted little time extending their advantage. Just two minutes after the restart, Umejiaku found the back of the net in the 47th minute to make it 2-0 and put the West Africans firmly in control of the final.

Japan, however, refused to surrender without a fight. Fuki Ito reignited the contest in the 80th minute, reducing the deficit to 2-1 and setting up a tense closing period.

With Japan pushing desperately for an equaliser, the final entered a dramatic phase as Nigeria battled to protect their advantage and keep their hopes of a historic triumph alive.

The victory represents a landmark achievement for Nigerian women's football, with the Flamingos securing their first-ever FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup title.

Nigeria's journey to the final was equally impressive. After suffering a 2-1 opening-day defeat to Poland, the team recovered strongly, recording a series of important victories against Puerto Rico, defending champions North Korea, Mexico, Venezuela and Brazil.



Dakar 2026: Praise Ugoh delivers historic 400m gold for Team Nigeria

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

DAKAR, Senegal - Praise Ugoh of Edo state Sports Commission became Nigeria's first Youth Olympic 400m champion after winning the women's final at Dakar 2026 on Monday with a personal best of 52.76 seconds.

The 16-year-old finished ahead of Venezuela's Osmary Pacheco, who clocked 52.85 seconds, while Aisha Muhammed of the United Arab Emirates took bronze in 53.06 with both athletes also recording personal bests.

Ugoh's victory added a third athletics gold medal to Nigeria's tally at the Games, following Rosemary Nwankwo's women's 100m triumph and Gift Bright's victory in the men's 100m on Sunday.

The result also made Ugoh the first Nigerian to win the women's 400m title since the Youth Olympic Games began in 2010.

Nigeria's success in Dakar builds on its history in Youth Olympic athletics.

The country won two athletics gold medals at the inaugural Games in Singapore in 2010, when Josephine Omaka claimed the girls' 100m title and Nkiruka Florence Nwakwe won the 200m.

At Buenos Aires 2018, Rosemary Chukwuma won the women's 100m in 11.17 seconds, becoming Nigeria's third Youth Olympic athletics champion.

She defeated Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred, who later won the women's 100m gold at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Nigeria also collected three silver medals at Buenos Aires, with Alaba Akintola finishing second in the men's 100m and Ineh Oritsemeyiwa taking silver in the triple jump.

Umejiaku wins U-17 Women's World Cup Golden Ball after historic triumph with Nigeria

FIFA has named Oluebube Umejiaku best player of the tournament at the just-concluded Under-17 Women's World Cup in Morocco.

Umejiaku claimed the Adidas Golden Ball trophy for the award ahead of DPR Korea's Yu Jong-Hyang and Japan's Fuki Ito. They claimed the silver and bronze balls respectively for finishing second and third best.

The Flamingos top striker finished the tournament with four goals and two assists to fire Nigeria to her first-ever women's world cup title, and the first African nation to win it.

Umejiaku started the tournament on the bench but claimed a starting place in the second match against DPR Korea and never looked back. She scored what proved the eventual winner in the final against Japan.

Umejiaku was named match MVP in the final, an accolade she also claimed in the round of 16 match against Mexico.

The Heartland Queens FC player credited hard work and divine intervention for claiming a starting berth.

Bendel Insurance FC expects fair judgement as NPFL refers protest to NFF referees committee

Bendel Insurance Football Club wishes to inform its supporters, stakeholders and the general public that the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) has formally acknowledged the club's protest concerning the controversial goal scored by Rangers International during the rescheduled Matchday 9 fixture on Wednesday in Awka, Anambra state.

In a formal correspondence signed by the NPFL Chief Operating Officer, Ayo Abdulrahman, and addressed to the club's management, the league confirmed that, following a careful review of the video evidence and supporting documents submitted by Bendel Insurance FC, it had acknowledged the club's concerns and referred the matter, alongside the match referee, to the NFF Referees Appointment Committee for further review.

The NPFL further clarified that, under the existing regulations, the league management does not have the authority to overturn or annul the result of a match that has been duly concluded.



BENDEL INSURANCE FC

SPORTS FEATURE

U-17: Enabulele hails Flamingos' historic World Cup triumph, celebrates Nigeria's Golden Generation



NIGERIA FLAMINGOS

Kehinde Osagiede

The Executive Chairman of the Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Amadin Desmond Enabulele, has congratulated Nigeria's U-17 women's national football team, the Flamingos, on their historic 2-1 victory over Japan to emerge champions of the 2026 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup at the Mohammed VI Football Complex in Rabat, Morocco.

In a statement by his Media Aide, Edoko Wilson Edoko, Enabulele described the triumph as a remarkable demonstration of courage, resilience, determination and the Nigerian fighting spirit, noting that the young footballers had etched their names in history by becoming the first Nigerian team to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

"I particularly commend Awawu Bashiru, who opened the scoring in the 39th minute, and our prolific Edo Queens FC striker Oluebube Umejiaku, whose 47th-minute goal doubled Nigeria's advantage and provided the platform for this historic victory," he said.

"I also applaud the entire squad for their outstanding performances; tactical discipline, teamwork and commitment throughout the competition. Indeed, this achievement marks a defining moment for Nigeria and African women's football," Enabulele stated.

He noted that the Flamingos' triumph represented a significant improvement on their previous best performance, a bronze-medal finish at the 2022 edition hosted by India, while celebrating their groundbreaking achievement as the first African nation to reach the final of a FIFA Women's World Cup at any level.

Enabulele further highlighted the team's impressive journey to the title, particularly their resilience in navigating a competitive group stage, which featured a remarkable 3-1 victory over defending champions North Korea.

He also acknowledged the team's impressive knockout-stage performances, including a 2-1 victory over Mexico in the Round of 16, a hard-fought 1-0 quarter-final win against Venezuela, courtesy of a late penalty converted by captain Azeezat Oduntan, and an emphatic 3-1 semi-final triumph over Brazil to secure their place in the final.

The Edok sports commission boss also praised the technical crew, led by Coach Akeem Busari, for their dedication, tactical input and commitment to nurturing young talents, stressing that the victory further reinforces the importance of sustained investment in grassroots sports development and women's football.

He noted that the Flamingos' historic accomplishment would serve as a source of inspiration to a new generation of female footballers across Nigeria, particularly aspiring players in Edo State, encouraging them to believe in their abilities,to pursue excellence and aspire to international recognition.

"Treat Athletes with Dignity, They Will Give Their All for Nigeria" – Akinwunmi Reflects on Flamingos' World Cup Triumph, Commends Tinubu

Former First Vice President of the Nigeria Football Federation and former Chairman of the Lagos State Football Association, Barister Seyi Akinwunmi has hailed Flamingos after the team beat Japan in the final to become the first African country ever to lift the trophy.

Akinwunmi attributed the Flamingos' triumph to the importance of treating athletes with dignity and fulfilling their financial obligations, insisting that those who represent Nigeria deserve proper care and support to deliver their best.

He said this was reflected in the team's impressive performance in Morocco, where the players, coaches and officials received their financial entitlements without being owed.

He also gave credit to government.

He hailed the reforms of the National Sports Commission, backed by the mandate of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

"This victory did not happen by chance," he said.

"President Tinubu gave sports a clear mandate. Sports is no longer just leisure. It is a national asset. It is a tool for youth empowerment."

"For years we cried that grassroots football had no money. Today, the NSC has brought structure, accountability and long-term planning."

For Akinwunmi, it was not just a win. It was the fulfilment of a vision he has carried for over a decade.

"This is not just a trophy. This is history," Akinwunmi said.

"This is Africa's first. This is Nigeria showing the world that our girls can be the best in the world."

HISTORY MAKERS…FLAMINGOS OF NIGERIA

"You have proved that 'Let The Children Play' was not a slogan. It was a vision that incorporated the development of the girl child and culminated in Lagos State producing successive Falcons' captains under his watch. Today, that vision is a World Cup."

Akinwunmi knows what this victory means.

While many administrators focused only on the Super Eagles, he fought for youth and girls football.

He created "Let The Children Play". He pushed for the NFF/Zenith U15 Women Competition. He pushed for scouting of girls from age 13.

As Chairman of the NFF Youth Development Committee, he wrote the Youth Development Policy. His rule was simple: scout from 13, move them from U13 to U15 to U17 to U20. No win-at-all-cost. Build players for the future.

"Give a girl a ball, give her education, give her a chance," he used to say. "She will give you a World Cup."

On Saturday, the girls gave Nigeria a World Cup.

He praised the leadership of the National Sports Commission NSC under the leadership of Mallam Shehu Dikko and Hon. Bukola Olopade, according to him, the difference was clear on the pitch.

Dynamic duo…NSC Chairman Mallam Shehu Dikko and NSC DG Hon. Bukola Olopade

This time, the Flamingos had proper camping. They had friendly matches. They had sports science. Their allowances were paid.

"When you treat athletes with dignity, they will give their all on the pitch for Nigeria."

He said the reforms match his own "Football First" blueprint, which he wrote while at the NFF.

"Focus on grassroots football, focus on youth development. Focus on the leagues, focus on proper organisation, focus on the economy of football. Trophies will follow. Today, the trophy has followed."

SPORTS

The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know

NPFL: Tenebe, Enabulele hail Bendel Insurance after dramatic 2-1 victory over Niger Tornadoes

Club chairman rewards loyal supporters with 200 jerseys, 200 free match tickets

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

The Chairman of Bendel Insurance FC, Emperor Jarrett Tenebe, and the Executive Chairman of the Edo State Sports Commission, Hon. Amadin Desmond Enabulele, have commended the players and technical crew of Bendel Insurance for their resilience and fighting spirit following their dramatic 2-1 victory over Niger Tornadoes in Sunday's Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Matchday 12 encounter in Benin City.

The Benin Arsenals came from behind to secure all three points at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium, scoring a stoppage-time winner to complete an impressive comeback against a determined Niger Tornadoes side.

Niger Tornadoes took the lead in the 36th minute through Aliyu Muhammad, who calmly converted a penalty. However, the visitors were reduced to 10 men after Muhammad was sent off for a series of hard tackles shortly before the final whistle.



Bendel Insurance capitalised on their numerical advantage, with Jonathan James restoring parity in the third minute of first-half added time (45+3) before John Taiwo struck the decisive goal in the 90th minute plus five minutes (90+5) to hand the hosts a memorable victory.

The win lifted Bendel Insurance to second position on the NPFL standings with 21 points.

Speaking after the encounter, Tenebe, whose presence at the stadium provided a significant morale boost for the players, praised the team's determination and ability to overcome a difficult challenge.

Describing the encounter as exciting, the club chairman said the players demonstrated the character and self-belief required to achieve success



FLAMINGOS

FIFA: No prize money for Nigeria's Flamingos despite historic World Cup triumph

Nigeria's Flamingos have made football history after becoming the first African nation to win the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, but the financial reality behind their remarkable achievement is different from what many supporters might expect.

The Nigerian team defeated Japan 2-1 in Saturday's final in Rabat, Morocco, to claim the country's first title in the competition and deliver a landmark moment for women's football on the continent.

Yet, while the victory has attracted international recognition and celebrations at home, there is an important distinction between winning a FIFA youth tournament and lifting a senior global trophy.

However,the new champions will not be getting financial rewards from FIFA because the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is regarded as a developmental competition, with its primary purpose centred on nurturing young players and providing them with international experience rather than distributing financial rewards to participating teams.

According to GOAL, FIFA does not attach official prize money to the tournament. Consequently, the champions, runners-up and other participating nations do not receive cash prizes from the governing body based on their final positions.

Individual players can still earn recognition through awards such as the Golden Ball and Golden Boot, but these honours do not come with official FIFA cash payments.

This differs from senior competitions, including the FIFA Women's World Cup, where participating national teams receive financial allocations under FIFA's prize-money structure.

GRASSROOTS SPORTS: Edo Chess Classic records success as organisers seek sponsorship

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

The maiden edition of the Edo Chess Classic has recorded a successful outing, attracting 85 participants across three categories, as the organisers called on corporate organisations, government agencies and well-meaning individuals to support the development of grassroots chess in Edo State.

The one-day tournament, organised by Brainy Brain Chess Foundation in partnership with Aidia Sports, featured competitions in the Under-10, Under-14 and Open categories.

The competition was played over six rounds, with each game featuring a time control of 25 minutes plus a five-second increment.

Speaking after the tournament, the Chairman of Brainy Brain Chess Foundation, Mrs Omoragbon Doris, identified inadequate sponsorship as one of the major challenges confronting the organisation in its efforts to promote chess among young people.

She also noted that bringing schoolchildren together to participate in the game had not been an easy task, but stressed that the initiative was driven by the desire to discover and nurture chess talents from the grassroots.

According to her, the tournament was designed to provide young players with an opportunity to showcase their abilities, develop their skills and compete with their peers.

Mrs Omoragbon expressed appreciation to her partners, Aidia Sports, as well as parents and guardians who encouraged their children to participate in the competition.

She also commended Hon. Frank Ilaboya, Special Adviser to Governor Monday Okpebholo on Grassroots Sports, for his contributions towards the success of the event.



EDO CHESS

6 days to go! Abuja is ready for PremiumTrust Bank Abuja City International Half Marathon

On Saturday, November 14, 2026, the capital will stage the third edition of the PremiumTrust Bank Abuja City International Half Marathon, an event that started in 2024 and has quickly become one of the most popular dates on Nigeria's road racing calendar.

The race is put together by Nilayo Sports Management Limited, with PremiumTrust Bank as sole sponsor, and it holds the status of a World Athletics Label Road Race. That status tells elite athletes across the world that Abuja is serious, that the timing can be trusted, and that a fast time here truly counts.



PremiumTrust Bank Abuja City International Half Marathon

This race is not meant for a small group alone. It is for the elite athlete chasing prize money, the club runner chasing a personal best, the corporate team chasing bragging rights, and the first timer who simply wants to be able to say that he finished 21.1km in Abuja.

What makes this event stand out is how it turns the whole of Abuja into one large stadium. The start is at the Old Parade Ground on Mohammed Buhari Way, directly opposite the Federal Fire Service. The gun goes off at 6:30 a.m., and from that moment the city opens up.

Primate Ayodele: Give NFF to Mustapha "Abdulhakeem", not Adeniyi — Okoye will fail Nigeria, manage Nwabali

The Leader of INRI Evangelical Spiritual Church, Primate Elijah Ayodele, has spoken again on the future of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), warning against the choice of a new president and the choice of goalkeeper for the Super Eagles.

Speaking in a new prophecy video, Primate Ayodele insisted that the NFF Normalization Committee must give the job to Mustapha Abdulhakeem, whom he described as the best candidate to normalize what is not normal in Nigerian football.

According to him, he still stands by his word, and the job should not be given to Adeniyi of Customs.

"If you give Adeniyi, Customs, NFF president, see... Is Apere. You know what they call Apere? Basket is what will be carrying ball, net bam, net bam," Primate Ayodele said.

He warned that putting Okoye in goal for the Nations Cup will bring bad luck and total failure to Nigeria.

"I'm telling you. You put Okoye to go for this, what you are playing, bad luck will not go to Nations Cup. Okoye in the net will fail Nigeria. We give Nigeria total failure, both Nations Cup, World Cup, which cup again, any cup will fail," he said.

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