Mock election: INEC targets 17,676 polling units for nationwide BVAS test

AKAHOMEN MIRACLE

ABUJA

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has selected 17,676 polling units across the country for a nationwide mock accreditation and electronic result upload exercise ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The exercise, scheduled for Saturday, November 28, 2026, will cover two polling units in each of the country's 8,838 Registration Areas.

INEC announced the exercise on Monday, November 23, stating that it would commence at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m.

According to the commission, the exercise is designed to test the functionality of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS), assess voter accreditation procedures and identify possible technical challenges before the 2027 general elections.

The commission also disclosed that the list of selected polling units had been published on its official website to enable members of the public and other electoral stakeholders to identify the locations participating in the exercise.

The mock exercise is part of INEC's preparations to ensure the effectiveness and reliability of its electoral technology ahead of the next general elections.

It is expected to provide an opportunity to identify and address technical challenges that could affect voter accreditation and the electronic transmission and uploading of election results.

The exercise will also enable the commission to assess its level of preparedness and make necessary adjustments to ensure smoother deployment of BVAS during the 2027 polls.

The Nigerian OBSERVER

That The People May Know

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Okpebholo pledges to tackle Urhonigbe's road, power, boundary challenges

RICHARD EWEKA

URHONIGBE

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has assured the people of Urhonigbe in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of his administration's readiness to address their longstanding challenges, including dilapidated roads, poor electricity supply, boundary disputes and concerns surrounding the Urhonigbe Rubber Estate.

The governor gave the assurance during a visit to the Okaevbo of Urhonigbe, Chief Ehigiator Osahuomwan, as part of the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign activities in the community.

Okpebholo, who said he had carefully listened to the concerns presented by the community, assured the people that his administration would take concrete steps to address their demands, stressing that the visit was not merely for political mobilisation but also an opportunity to understand and respond to the needs of the people.

He disclosed that the Ministry of Works would soon visit the community to assess its internal road network, promising that the eventual intervention would exceed the four kilometres requested by the people.

"By the time our state Ministry of Works visits this community to take statistics of your internal roads, it will be more than the four kilometres you requested," the governor declared.

On the persistent electricity challenge, Okpebholo assured the community that the situation would soon improve, expressing confidence that the power supply problem would become a thing of the past.

"The light issue is going to be a thing of the past very soon," he said.

The governor also addressed the longstanding boundary disagreement between Edo and Delta states, revealing that he had already discussed the matter with his Delta State counterpart.

He maintained that there was no justification for the two neighbouring states to remain at loggerheads over boundary issues, recalling their historical relationship as constituent parts of the old Bendel State.

Okpebholo said his administration would pursue a peaceful and constructive approach to resolving the disagreement in the interest of the affected communities and the people of both states.

On the Urhonigbe Rubber Estate, the governor promised to personally look into the issues surrounding the facility, noting that the economic potential of the plantation and its contribution to the development of the area could not be overlooked.

He disclosed his intention to revisit the community to inspect the rubber factory and ascertain what had gone wrong, with a view to finding a lasting solution.

"There must be a way we can solve this particular issue. On

CONTINUES ON PG 2»

Tinubu's re-election will deliver third flyover in Benin – Okpebholo

RICHARD EWEKA

BENIN CITY

Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo has pledged that his administration will begin construction of a third flyover bridge in Benin City, the Edo State capital, linking Agbor Road to Sakpoba Road in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area, if President Bola Ahmed Tinubu wins the presidential election on January 16, 2027.

The governor made the pledge while leading the All Progressive Congress (APC) presidential campaign through Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area. He had earlier led the campaign in Orhionmwon Local Government Area.

"I promise to start a flyover bridge from the back of Guinness to Sakpoba Road in Ikpoba-Okha. I need money to do this, and I can only do it with the support of President Tinubu," he said.

He urged residents to turn out in large numbers and vote for President Tinubu, saying a new flyover would open up the area for residents and businesses.

Governor Okpebholo also urged residents to vote for APC candidates, whom he described as intelligent, credible and competent.

He said the candidates would work with his administration to sustain the state's development drive.

Deputy Governor Dennis Idahosa thanked the people of Orhionmwon and Ikpoba-Okha

CONTINUES ON PG 2»



COURTESY VISIT:
L-R: Deputy Governor of Edo State, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa; Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo; Edo State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Emperor Jarret Tenebe; and his Deputy, Sylvester Aigboboh, during the visit of the Edo State Chapter of the Presidential Campaign Council for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to the Palace of the Okaevbo of Urhonigbe Community, Orhionmwon Local Government Area, Edo State.

Tinubu approves ₦1.5trn recapitalisation of Bank of Agriculture —Pg 2

FG reaffirms commitment to academic excellence, expands student support —Pg 3

Longest-ever UN climate talks end with no deal —Pg 8

Kwara United hold Sporting Lagos to 1-1 draw in Lagos —Pg 12

NEWS



PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN RALLY:
From right: Senator Matthew Urhoghide, Director-General, Edo State Presidential Campaign Council; Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo; APC State Chairman, Jarrett Tenebe; and Senator Adams Aliu Oshiomhole at the presidential campaign rally in Ikpoba-Okha Local Government Area on Monday November 23, 2026

PHOTO: EDO STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSE PRESS CORP.

Tinubu approves ₦1.5trn recapitalisation of Bank of Agriculture ● *Over 500,000 smallholder farmers to benefit*

KEBONKWU RUTH

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has approved the recapitalisation of the Bank of Agriculture (BoA) with N1.5 trillion to boost agricultural financing and expand access to affordable loans for farmers and agribusinesses across the country.

The approval was announced on Sunday by the spokesperson of the All Progressives Congress Presidential Campaign Council, Dele Alake.

Alake said the recapitalisation would strengthen the bank's capacity to finance farmers, agricultural cooperatives, processors and aggregators across the agricultural value chain.

He disclosed that the Federal Government had also committed N450 billion to agricultural financing programmes aimed at strengthening food security, increasing domestic production and improving the productivity of smallholder farmers, particularly in Northern Nigeria.

According to him, the administration has reached more than 500,000 smallholder farmers in 16 states through the Bank of Agriculture under the Renewed Hope Smallholder Support and Value Chain Fund.

The benefiting states include Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Niger, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Adamawa, Yobe and Bauchi, among others.

Alake explained that the N1.5 trillion recapitalisation would also support the cultivation of 500,000 hectares of farmland under the Renewed Hope Agenda.

He described the agricultural financing interventions, support for smallholder farmers and planned recapitalisation as significant commitments towards building a more productive and resilient agricultural sector.

He added that the recapitalisation of the Bank of Agriculture was one of Tinubu's major campaign promises in 2023.

Edo Varsity to graduate 844 with 36 First Class students at 8th convocation

LAMAI CASSIUS

IYAMHO

The Vice-Chancellor of Edo State University, Prof. Victor Adetimirin, has said about 844 students are to graduate at its 8th convocation ceremony on Saturday at the Aliko Dangote Auditorium.

The Vice-Chancellor disclosed this at a press briefing ahead of the convocation, saying that out of the 844 graduands, 762 are undergraduates and 82 are postgraduates, while 36 earned First Class Honours.

He noted that Favour Uweja, from the Department of Computer Science, emerged as the overall best graduating student, with a score of 4.93 CGPA.

The Don further explained that out of the 36 to be honoured with First Class degrees, 10 are from Computer Science, the highest number among all programmes producing First Class.

He said the graduation is the culmination of years of study, hard work and sacrifices made by the students, their families and the university's staff, noting that their achievements remind the university that its reputation depends on the quality of its graduates.

While congratulating the graduating students, he urged them to build on what they have achieved through honest work, professional competence and a willingness to keep learning.

The VC commended the lecturers, supervisors, laboratory and technical personnel, administrators and support staff who supported them throughout their studies in the university.

"Our continuous task is to build a university that meets the vision of the founding fathers, sustains the aspirations of our past and present students and deserves the confidence of the public," Adetimirin said.

On infrastructure development in the school, Adetimirin said the university is making practical improvements to the environment in which staff and students learn.

He disclosed that the institution had commenced building projects such as 500-capacity lecture theatres and 920 hostel accommodation.

He added that the institution had commenced the installation of optic fibre cable broadband across the campuses to provide internet service for academics, staff and students, as well as CCTV facilities to boost security operations.

The VC commended the state government for the support so far rendered to the institution, saying that his commitment demonstrated his support for the University's development.

"I wish to express our sincere appreciation to Gov. Monday Okpebholo for his sustained interest in the welfare and development of Edo State University, Iyamoh.

"This support has strengthened our capacity to meet institutional obligations and plan ahead," he said.

He, however, announced the appointment of Mrs. Toksi Omage-Umeh as Registrar and Mr. Sunny Enadeghe as Bursar, with both emerging from a highly competitive interview and selection conducted by the Governing Council.

Okpebholo pledges to tackle...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

the economic side, I will come back to visit the rubber factory, so that if there is anything that was done and not done well, we will look for a way to untie it," he assured.

Beyond the development concerns, the governor used the occasion to canvass support for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the APC ahead of the 2027 general election, urging the people of Urhonigbe to give the President overwhelming electoral support.

He expressed confidence in the party's prospects, promising to return to the community after the anticipated victory.

"One thing I have come to beg and ask is that I want a total vote for Asiwaju in this place. I am going to come back here after the victory. That is the day I will take this chieftaincy title," he said.

Earlier, the community spokesman and Commissioner for Science and Technology, Hon. Etinosa Ogbeiwi, had presented the concerns of Urhonigbe, identifying poor road infrastructure, inadequate electricity supply, the boundary disagreement and the controversy surrounding the rubber estate as major issues requiring urgent government attention.

Ogbeiwi particularly drew the governor's attention to what he described as irregularities in the management and ownership arrangements of the Urhonigbe Rubber Estate, alleging that the immediate past administration of Governor Godwin Obaseki signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Michelin, granting the company 71 per cent shares in the rubber plantation.

He appealed to Okpebholo to intervene and take steps to recover the facility, which he maintained rightfully belonged to the Edo State Government.

The governor's assurances have raised expectations among residents of Urhonigbe, who look forward to concrete government action on the identified challenges, particularly improved road infrastructure, reliable electricity, an amicable resolution of the boundary dispute and the revival of the economically strategic rubber estate.

Tinubu's re-election will...

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

for their continued support for the administration and assured them of more development projects. He asked for their backing for President Tinubu and all APC candidates in the general election, so that the achievements recorded across the country can continue.

Senator representing Edo North and former governor of Edo State, Adams Oshiomhole, urged Edo people to vote on the basis of intelligence, credibility and competence, rather than ethnicity or sentiment.

"I urge you to vote for APC candidates who are intelligent, credible and competent, to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people they represent at the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Edo State House of Assembly," he said.

He added that the APC had performed well at both the state and federal levels, and that President Tinubu needs more than four years to complete the transformation of his administration.

Former Deputy Governor Pius Odubu, who is also the APC senatorial leader in Edo South, assured residents of Orhionmwon and Ikpoba-Okha that Governor Okpebholo will keep improving their living conditions across the state.

He thanked the governor for appointing sons of Orhionmwon to public offices and said Ikpoba-Okha had enjoyed development under his leadership. He appealed for votes so that all APC candidates, including President Tinubu, would win in the 2027 general election.

APC leader in Edo South Senatorial District, Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu, commended the governor for flagging off electricity projects in Orhionmwon Local Government Area on Friday, November 20, 2026. He said the area had been without reliable power for about 20 years before the intervention.

"We will support you for bringing us out of darkness. We will work with the other six local government areas in the senatorial district to ensure that we win Edo South for President Tinubu and all other APC candidates in the forthcoming general election," he said.

Director General of the Presidential Campaign Council, Senator Mathew Urhoghide, commended the governor for improved security across the state.

He called on residents of Ikpoba-Okha and Orhionmwon to help deliver 2.5 million votes for the President, and said President Tinubu's reforms had placed Nigeria on the path to growth and development.

State APC Chairman Jarrett Tenebe said the party had received a large number of new members in Orhionmwon Local Government Area and that the party was united in Edo State.

He said the security situation had improved, with cultism, kidnapping and other criminal activities drastically reduced across the state.

NEWS

FG reaffirms commitment to academic excellence, expands student support

AGHEDO IYOBOR

ABUJA

The Federal Government has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting academic excellence, improving student welfare and expanding access to quality education as Nigeria joined the rest of the world to commemorate the 2026 International Students' Day.

The celebration, held on Tuesday in Abuja, was organised by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Student Engagement, Comrade Sunday Asefon, under the theme: "Celebrating and Rewarding Academic Excellence Are Key to Unlocking Latent Potentials for Sustainable Development."

As part of activities marking the occasion, more than 15 outstanding students drawn from different geopolitical zones of the country received cash awards and certificates in recognition of their exceptional academic performances.

The beneficiaries included top-performing candidates in the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) and outstanding graduates of universities, polytechnics and colleges of education.

While graduates of tertiary institutions received N250,000 each, their secondary school counterparts were awarded N100,000 each.

Speaking at the event, Asefon said recognising and rewarding academic excellence would encourage students to pursue higher academic standards and demonstrate that dedication to learning remained a critical pathway to national development.

He noted that every student possessed enormous potential which, if properly nurtured through quality education, mentorship, discipline and encouragement, could translate into innovations and solutions to the country's developmental challenges.

Asefon said the education reforms being implemented by the Federal Government under President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda were designed to expand access to education, promote innovation and equip young Nigerians with relevant skills for national development.

He highlighted the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), Student Venture Capital Grant (SVCG) and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme as some of the interventions aimed at strengthening the education sector and empowering students.

The presidential aide called on businesses, philanthropists and corporate organisations to increase their investments in education through scholarships, research grants, mentorship programmes and academic awards.

According to him, government alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of building a sustainable education system, stressing the need for greater collaboration among public institutions, private organisations and other stakeholders.

He also challenged educational institutions to look beyond the certificates awarded to graduates and place greater emphasis on their capacity to provide practical solutions to societal challenges.

"A first-class degree is commendable, but what can that graduate contribute to society? We must begin to measure educational success not only by the certificates we award but by the solutions that our graduates can create," he said.



COMMITTEE ON DRUGS AND NARCOTICS:
From left: Secretary, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, (NDLEA) Shedrach Haruna; Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi; representative of the Vice President, and former FCT Minister, Dr Aliyu Modibo; Chairman and Chief Executive of the NDLEA, retired Brig-Gen. Buba Marwa and the representative of the Chairman House of Representatives Committee on drugs and narcotics, Dominic Okafor in Abuja on Monday

ASUU faults Tinubu govt over unpaid salaries, warns of fresh crisis

AGHEDO IYOBOR

ABUJA

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has appealed to President Bola Tinubu to end what it describes as the unjust punishment of university lecturers and direct the immediate payment of the outstanding three-and-a-half months' salaries withheld following its 2022 nationwide industrial action.

The union warned that the continued withholding of the salaries, despite its decision to suspend the strike, amounted to an unfair treatment of academics and could trigger another major crisis in Nigeria's university system.

ASUU said seven-and-a-half months' salaries were withheld from its members following the 2022 strike, but the Federal Government had paid only four months, leaving three-and-a-half months outstanding.

The demand was contained in a statement titled "Why Our Withheld Salaries Must Be Paid Now," signed by ASUU President, Professor Christopher Piwuna, on November 18, 2026.

The statement followed the union's National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held on November 13 and 14 at the University of Abuja, where it resolved to intensify its demand for the outstanding payments in the interest of fairness, equity and justice.

ASUU appealed directly to Tinubu to reconsider the government's position, insisting that its members should not be punished for suspending the 2022 industrial action.

"The National Executive Council of ASUU appeals to President Bola Tinubu to resist the temptation of punishing ASUU members for honouring him with the suspension of the 2022 nationwide strike," the statement said.

It added that if the government would not commend Nigerian academics for moderating their demands in the interest of industrial harmony, it should at least pay them what they were owed.

The union expressed disappointment that Tinubu, who intervened in the dispute between ASUU and the Federal Government before becoming President, had yet to ensure the full payment of the withheld salaries.

Towards the end of the Buhari administration, Tinubu, then presidential candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC), intervened in the prolonged dispute, urging an amicable resolution that eventually led to the suspension of the strike.

Nigerian Army pulls out 10 Generals after decades of service

AKAHOMEN MIRACLE

BAUCHI

The Nigerian Army Armoured Corps has formally pulled out 10 retired senior officers from service at a colourful ceremony held at the Brigadier General Y. Abubakar Parade Ground, Headquarters Nigerian Army Armoured Corps, Obienu Barracks, Bauchi.

The ceremony, held on Saturday, November 21, 2026, marked the climax of the week-long 2026 Nigerian Army Armoured Corps Biennial Conference and Reunion.

According to a statement by the Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, Major Adekunle Akinleye, the retired officers honoured included Lieutenant General Abdulsalami Ibrahim; Major Generals Benjamin Sawyerr, Ibrahim Ali, Sani Mohammed and Ibrahim Jallo; and Brigadier Generals Victor Ita, Tuni Isa, Aminu Usman, Ezra Barkins and Suleiman Adamu.

Speaking as the Special Guest of Honour, Lieutenant General Ibrahim (rtd.) described the Armoured Corps as more than just a military formation, saying it had evolved into a way of life.

Highlights of the ceremony included a ceremonial march past, a traditional pulling-out parade, presentation of souvenirs and group

Kidnap Scare:Kebbi commissioner runs to DSS for protection

AKAHOMEN MIRACLE

BIRNIN KEBBI

The Kebbi State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Yakubu Ahmed-BK, has petitioned the Department of State Services (DSS) over alleged attempts to abduct him and his family.

In a petition dated November 15, 2026, and addressed to the DSS Director-General, Ahmed-BK said unidentified persons travelling in a white, fully tinted Hilux/Innoson van with a red Agege registration plate had trailed him.

He said the first incident occurred on November 10 during an early-morning walk with his wife along Sani Abacha Bypass, Birnin Kebbi, when the vehicle slowed down and someone attempted to open its door near them. He added that he noticed what appeared to be the muzzle of a rifle inside the vehicle.

The couple reportedly sought refuge inside Amina Rabo Plaza for about five minutes while the vehicle remained outside with its headlights on. It allegedly drove away after a Government House security officer arrived.

Ahmed-BK said the same vehicle was sighted again on November 15 at about 6:30 a.m. near his second residence in the Oando area.

'Baba Tallest' roots for Okpebholo, Paddy Iyamu

MATTHEW OKAGHA

BENIN CITY

MR Festus Eghosa, popularly known as Baba Tallest, a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and Ward 5 Coordinator for Dr Paddy Iyamu's 2027 House of Representatives campaign in Oredo Federal Constituency, has commended Governor Monday Okpebholo for his leadership, describing him as a governor whose commitment to governance is strengthening the party's political fortunes in Edo State.

Eghosa also described Dr Paddy Iyamu as the ideal candidate to represent Oredo Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, expressing confidence in his capacity, experience and commitment to delivering meaningful representation to the people.

He noted that Iyamu's candidacy presents an opportunity for Oredo constituents to elect a credible representative who understands their needs and is prepared to advance their interests at the National Assembly.

The APC chieftain expressed optimism that Ward 5 would deliver massive votes for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and Dr Paddy Iyamu in the 2027 general elections, assuring that the party's grassroots mobilisation efforts would translate into overwhelming electoral support.

He reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the APC's grassroots structure across Oredo Ward 5, noting that sustained engagement with residents and party faithful would be crucial to achieving the party's electoral objectives.

According to him, the APC's growing acceptance at the grassroots level provides a strong foundation for victory, adding that party members must remain united, committed and focused on the collective goal of securing electoral success in 2027.

He stressed the importance of taking the party's message directly to the people through regular consultations, door-to-door engagements and constructive interactions with community leaders, youths, women and other relevant stakeholders.

Eghosa further urged APC supporters in Oredo Ward 5 to remain steadfast and intensify their mobilisation efforts, insisting that victory would depend largely on the party's ability to sustain unity, demonstrate commitment and connect with the aspirations of the electorate.

He expressed confidence that with effective grassroots coordination and the leadership of Governor Okpebholo, the APC would record an impressive performance in Oredo Federal Constituency and Edo State in the forthcoming elections.



DR. PADDY IYAMU

FEATURE

EXPOSED! BEFORE WE RENEW THE STORIES WE TELL

...WE MUST RENEW THE WAY WE SEE

Babawale Obayanju

Good morning, and welcome to you all!

It is with joy in my heart and gratitude to the Almighty God for His grace of light to gain insight, His gift of people with whom we build this work, His mercy to practise hope — that doing emotion that reminlds us our desired future is a possibility — and His breath that births life as we tread daily the paths Mother Earth sets before us.

It has been nine years since we began this journey of building together a movement of intentional, purposeful and productive visual storytellers who are telling the African story and stories from a place of strength. We are grateful to God for guiding us and helping us accomplish these strides over the years.

For those who are just meeting TellThatStory, let me tell you a little about us.

TellThatStory is a creative not-for-profit media group based in Benin City, Nigeria.

Our vision is to raise a movement of focused and productive visual artists telling genuine stories of the peoples of Africa — our strengths, our culture, our beauty, our issues and our alternatives.

Our mission is to inspire purposeful change by empowering artists to produce high-quality, meaningful works that hold value and amplify local voices addressing pressing environmental and social challenges.

Over the years, we have developed programmes such as INCLUSIVE: The Creative Female Convergence, DOCUmentary SCREENing, Street + Photography Workshop, TTS x FUJIFILM Visual Storytelling Grant, portfolio reviews, TheCONVERSATION and a budding library, among others.

You can find us at www.tellthatstory.com.ng

WHY RENEWAL?

Every year, we approach our work guided by an inspired theme that helps us narrow our focus, one year at a time. This year, that guide has led us to RENEWAL, expressed through the concepts of Light, Hope and Life.

As documenters of our stories, renewal helps us speak about the real, lived cycles of existence, evoked by the daily mental, social, environmental and economic changes we encounter. Changes that require us to recover, remain resilient and be bold enough to rebuild.

Renewal asks us to acknowledge the process, the ruptures and the transformations, not just the beauty our minds have been wired to seek.

It asks us to look beyond the finished picture and pay attention to what it takes to get there.

It invites us to locate quiet hope rather than eye-catching visual performance; earned insight rather than the cosmetic radiance amplified by our microwave era.

Perhaps we need to ask ourselves: Are we making images that merely attract attention, or are we making images that deserve attention?

Are we documenting what is trending, or are we paying attention to what must not be forgotten?

Renewal invites us to ponder that light and hope emerge from life as e be — life as it is. Not an idealised version of life, not the perfectly arranged frame, not some manufactured picture of perfection, but the imperfect, sometimes uncomfortable and often complicated realities of our existence.

To tell stories of renewal, we must first renew our capacity to see.

The Bible says in Romans 8:24:

"For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?"

Renewal calls us to see again, dream again and reimagine again. This is where light and hope reside.

The story of the 2026 edition of EXPOSED! is itself a testament to the potency of this idea.

We asked ourselves: How do we build on the work already done? How will new life emerge from what we have started?

In that musing, light shone. We encountered an expression from ART X Lagos from a couple of years ago, an idea that helped us see a possibility where perhaps we had not seen one before. Hope came alive, and today, here we are, witnessing life emerge from that possibility.

LEARNING TO NOTICE

I want to share something personal with you.

As privileged archivists of our peoples' stories and history, a responsibility is laid upon us. It requires attentiveness amidst the noise of trending, likes and virality at all costs — sometimes at the expense of truth, substance and meaning.

Our responsibility is to ensure that we own our truths, because generations past, present and those yet to come rely on us to hold forth this task.

And to do this, we must become voracious readers.

Not only reading when we are preparing for an examination or seeking to perform, but reading as a way of sharpening the tool of the mind. Reading to expand our imagination, challenge our assumptions and renew our capacity to see.

We must learn to notice.

For me, my metaphysical connection is with Jesus Christ, and I engage prayer as a means of staying guided.

Prayer turns me into a noticer. It helps me see what God wants me to notice. The more I pray, the more I notice; the less I pray, the less I notice. It is as simple as that.

And when I say prayer, I do not mean only clasping my hands and kneeling down piously, although that is part of it. I also speak of the time I spend thinking through a book, a film, a website of stories, and the time I spend experimentally doing what I have seen, read or imagined.

I guess you are wondering how all of this connects.

Let me help you.

Scientifically, there is a network of structures in the brainstem known as the Reticular Activating System (RAS), which plays an important role in arousal, wakefulness and attention.

Every day, as we awake, we are bombarded by countless stimuli competing for our attention. Our brains cannot consciously process everything around us, so our attention becomes selective. We begin to notice what has become relevant to us.

Let me give you an example.

When I got my Fujifilm X-T20, I would have sworn that Edgar was the only person shooting Fujifilm in Benin City, perhaps with Bernard Kalu in Lagos. But after buying the camera, it suddenly seemed as though many people had the same camera brand!

It wasn't that lots of people went out to buy Fujifilm cameras when I did. It was simply that the camera had become relevant to me. I had begun to notice it.

Before then, it was there, but I hardly paid attention to it.

This is an illustration of how our attention works. What becomes important to us begins to occupy more of our awareness.

And this is where I find an interesting connection with prayer.

When I pray about someone or something, it creates a category of attention in my mind. I begin to notice things connected to the prayers I have made. I become more attentive to possibilities, people, conversations and opportunities that might otherwise have passed me by.

Have you ever noticed that when you pray, coincidences seem to happen? And when you don't, they don't?

For me, it is more than coincidence; it is providence.

Prayer does not mean that every opportunity will simply fall into our laps. It helps prepare us to recognise possibilities, discern opportunities and respond when they appear.

We often think of prayer as nothing more than words spoken to God, but perhaps it is more than that. Prayer is not a monologue; it is a dialogue. We speak to God with everything from words to groans to thoughts. And we believe God speaks to us through dreams, desires, promptings, impressions and ideas.

Colossians 4:2 says:

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

Notice that word: WATCHFUL.

Prayer and watchfulness belong together.

And so, as we have gathered here, I am pretty sure providence is manifesting. Open the eyes of your mind. Be attentive. Some of your prayers may find answers through the people you meet, the knowledge you encounter and the experiences you will have here.

But you must notice.

And when you notice, you must be willing to engage.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SEEING

This brings me back to our responsibility as visual storytellers.

For us at TellThatStory, EXPOSED! is a vehicle for asking the WHY question and finding answers thereof, not just the HOW.

The HOW matters, certainly, but the WHY gives the HOW its meaning.

We are interested in the intention behind the image, the consciousness behind the frame and the humanity behind the story.

We want to understand why a story deserves to be told, why a particular perspective matters, why certain histories must be recovered and why certain voices must be heard.

We must be careful not to become so concerned with producing images that people will like that we stop producing images that people need to remember.

What happens when the pursuit of visibility becomes more important than the pursuit of truth?

What happens when virality becomes the measure of value?

What happens when we become so occupied with producing content that we lose the consciousness required to create work that carries meaning?

These are questions we must confront.

Our work goes beyond the likes, the follows, the comments and the fleeting excitement of social media. We are custodians of memory, identity, culture and history.

And that responsibility demands that we read, research, observe, question, listen and think.

We must not only learn how to make better images; we must also become better thinkers, better observers and more conscious storytellers.

THE COMMON THREAD

EXPOSED! The Visual Storytelling Conference is a common thread. It fans the embers of the lights and flames we must individually and responsibly carry and protect.

We are different people. We have different faces, different histories and different ways of meeting our gaze.

EXPOSED! does not bring us here to become alike. It is set out to bring forth that thin bronze thread of light — that insight that connects us together, as we bear our distinct individual lights, from the established to the yet-to-be-established.

There is something in Thomas Blackshear II's 2018 painting, The Common Thread, that speaks to this idea. The connection may be shared, but our identities are not surrendered.

We are not gathered here to manufacture a common identity. We are gathered to discover a common connection.

We do not need to see alike, think alike or tell stories alike to learn from one another. Our distinctiveness is not a barrier to community; it is what makes the community richer.

So, as you move through these three days, I encourage you to listen to hear your own knowledge and insight.

Do not get carried away by the rave, the vibes or even the names in the room. Be open to learning from everyone, whether established or emerging. But do not lose sight of your own light in the process.

Your light is unique. Fan it.

The responsibility is yours, but it is also a responsibility to things beyond yourself.

You do not have to become less distinct in order to shine or belong to a community.

Your voice counts. Your perspective matters. Your stories deserve to be told.

You do not have to leave home to be seen. Rise from it.



A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF THE PARTICIPANTS AT EVENT , EXPOSED! TELL THAT STORY 2026.

NEWS

FG considers electricity tariff model review, rules out hike

LAGOS

The Federal Government is reviewing assumptions underpinning Nigeria's electricity tariff model and considering changes to the framework, while ruling out an increase in electricity tariffs in 2027.

The Minister of Power, Joseph Tegbe, disclosed this during an interview on ARISE News on Monday, amid concerns over mounting debts in the electricity sector and the government's plans to address the financial challenges affecting power generation and distribution.

Tegbe said the government was exploring alternative measures to address the sector's financial difficulties without placing additional financial burdens on electricity consumers.

"Let me make it categorically clear to Nigerians. And I'll say it again. There's no plan to increase tariff," the minister said.

He explained that his priority was to improve electricity access, adding that the government was considering a concessionary gas pricing arrangement for power generation companies.

"I even have, to be honest with you, the most important thing for me, is how do I get electricity to Nigeria? And I'll tell you, Mr President is saying, we own the gas. People need to give Jenko's gas at a particular concessionary rate that is not going to make gas suppliers go out of business. Let's look at the model," he said.

The minister also disclosed that the government was reviewing assumptions built into the electricity tariff model, suggesting that some could be revised.

"Also, we're looking at assumptions that have been built into the tariff model. There's a possibility that some of those assumptions may need to be revised. But rule out tariff increase," Tegbe said.

He maintained that the government would reconsider existing policies and arrangements in the power sector to improve electricity supply.

"I'm re-evaluating many things. And I have no boundary. The only boundary and guiding principle I have is re-evaluate everything, re-jig whatever you can re-jig, as long as you can give Nigeria electricity access.

"I will tell you, tariff increase is not on the plates. Tell Nigerians for me," he added.

The assurance comes as the Federal Government continues to grapple with outstanding obligations to power generation companies and other financial challenges across the electricity value chain.

Recall that in September, the minister ruled out any increase in electricity tariffs, noting that the government was focused on improving electricity supply and strengthening the financial and physical foundations of the power sector rather than imposing additional costs on consumers.



WEDDING:
From left: Speaker, Enugu State House of Assembly, Uche Ugwu; former Assistant Director, News Agency of Nigeria, Mr Donald Ugwu and his newly wedded wife, Chika, during the wedding reception of newly wedded couple at the Christ The King Catholic Church, Kurudu in Abuja on Saturday.

NDC denies rift with Obi over 2027 campaign funding

ABUJA

The Nigeria Democratic Congress Presidential Campaign Council on Monday dismissed reports of a disagreement between its presidential candidate, Peter Obi, and the party over campaign funding, insisting that both sides remain united ahead of the 2027 general election.

The party said Obi had neither complained about inadequate campaign funds nor expressed dissatisfaction with how it handled campaign finances, describing reports of a rift as an attempt to divide the opposition camp.

The clarification comes amid growing concerns over the control and management of campaign donations following a fundraising initiative launched by activist Aisha Yesufu for Obi's presidential bid.

In a statement issued on Monday, the spokesperson for the NDC Campaign Council, Constance Ikokwu, said the reports suggesting a disagreement between the party and its candidate were false.

She said, "Let me state categorically that Peter Obi has not complained about a lack of campaign funds or expressed any dissatisfaction with the party over funding."

Ikokwu maintained that Obi remained committed to the campaign, adding that his nationwide engagements demonstrated his determination to secure victory in the 2027 election.

"Let's be clear – no presidential candidate in this race is campaigning with the energy, consistency and intensity that Obi is bringing to this election. His commitment to reaching Nigerians across the country is there for all to see, and he's doing that superbly. The campaign so far is a resounding success," she said.

She urged Nigerians to disregard what she described as manufactured controversies, insisting that the party and its candidate were focused on winning the election.

"The relationship between the party and its presidential candidate remains focused on one overriding objective: winning the 2027 presidential election and offering Nigerians a credible alternative. Those attempting to engineer a needless quarrel should not mistake their wishful thinking for reality. We are united, focused and determined," Ikokwu added.

The rebuttal comes about two weeks after a fresh dispute over the control and management of campaign donations emerged in the opposition camp.

Former Labour Party National Chairman, Julius Abure, had warned the NDC against allowing Yesufu and other loyalists of Obi to operate parallel fundraising structures without the party's approval.

The warning followed Yesufu's launch of a public fundraising drive, during which she urged Nigerians to contribute towards financing Obi's 2027 presidential campaign.

Yesufu had argued that Obi should not be left to shoulder the financial burden of the campaign alone, urging supporters to take ownership of the political project through individual contributions, irrespective of the amounts involved.

The initiative, however, raised questions about compliance with the NDC's earlier directive that all campaign donations should be channelled through designated party accounts.

While the NDC National Publicity Secretary, Osa Director, expressed confidence that Yesufu had the blessing of the party leadership, Abure, in an exclusive interview with The PUNCH, cautioned that allowing individuals to control campaign funds outside the party's supervision could reproduce the crisis that rocked the Labour Party after the 2023 general elections.

2027: NYSC, INEC agree on extra insurance cover for corps members

LOKOJA

The National Youth Service Corps and the Independent National Electoral Commission have agreed on additional insurance coverage for corps members who will serve as ad hoc personnel during the 2027 general elections.

The NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General Olakunle Nafiu, disclosed this while addressing corps members at the scheme's orientation camp in Kogi State.

This was according to a Monday update shared by the NYSC on its official X account.

He said the "arrangement was part of the scheme's efforts to strengthen the safety, protection and welfare of corps members deployed for electoral duties."

Nafiu "encouraged the corps members to register for participation in the 2027 elections," "assuring them that the NYSC was collaborating with relevant security agencies to ensure their safety throughout the electoral process."

He also urged them to activate the "NYSC emergency response application," noting that the platform had enhanced security agencies' capacity to respond promptly to emergencies involving corps members and had helped save lives.

The director-general charged them to "demonstrate responsible citizenship by discharging their electoral duties in strict compliance with INEC's rules and guidelines."

He described participation in the conduct of free, fair and credible elections as one of the ways corps members could contribute to national development and reciprocate the nation's investment in subsidising their tertiary education.

Nafiu also cautioned them against the "misuse of social media, urging them to verify information before sharing it and to contribute meaningfully to public discourse rather than spread misinformation and disinformation."

The NYSC State Coordinator in Kogi, Mrs Chika Chris-Moneke, disclosed that the Asaya Orientation Camp hosted corps members deployed to Kogi State and the Federal Capital Territory for the 2026 Batch 'C' Stream II Orientation Exercise.

She said 2,540 corps members, comprising 1,166 males and 1,374 females, registered at the camp.

Chris-Moneke "commended the corps members for their discipline and cooperation, noting that the orientation activities had progressed smoothly."

Artisanal miners seek inclusion in Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda

LAFIA

No fewer than 1.6 million artisanal miners under the National Artisanal and Small Scale Mining Cooperative Society have appealed for inclusion in the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Tinubu's administration.

The miners who work in Nasarawa, Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Kaduna, Taraba, Bauchi and other mineral-producing states noted that they work without modern equipment, protective clothing, technical training, affordable financing or access to legitimate mineral markets.

Speaking on their behalf in a press statement made available to journalists in the Keffi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State on Sunday, the group's National President, Abdullah Dantansidi, noted that such a situation exposes them to health risks, accidents and poverty, in spite of the mineral wealth in their communities.

Dantansidi said, "Beneath our soil lie mineral resources capable of transforming our economy, creating jobs, and reducing our dependence on oil. Yet the men and women whose hands uncover this wealth are often among the poorest and most vulnerable Nigerians.

"Across Nasarawa, Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Kaduna, Taraba, Bauchi and other mineral-producing states, our miners go into pits daily with little more than hoes, shovels, and determination.

"Many work without modern equipment, protective clothing, technical training, affordable financing, or access to legitimate mineral markets. They risk their health and their lives."

He, therefore, urged the President to include artisanal miners in the Renewed Hope Agenda through a dedicated empowerment and safety programme.

Meanwhile, Dantansidi commended the Federal Government for its efforts to formalise artisanal mining through registered cooperatives, as he advocated that the ongoing reforms should reach ordinary miners in remote communities.

NEWS

East-West road won't replace Lagos-Calabar highway — Umahi

ABUJA

The Minister of Works, David Umahi, has reversed his earlier position on the relationship between the Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway and the East-West Road reconstruction, insisting that the two projects will proceed independently, amid growing questions over the alignment and future of President Bola Tinubu's flagship coastal highway.

Umahi said the President had directed that the 750-kilometre highway, which traverses nine coastal states, must be completed as originally planned, dismissing suggestions that the reconstruction of the East-West Road would replace or undermine the coastal road project.

He also disclosed that Tinubu was expected to officially commission Section One of the coastal highway later this month or in early December.

The minister spoke on Sunday, during an inspection of bridges on Sections One and Two of the highway. His position comes after weeks of uncertainty over the government's plans for the coastal route, following his earlier comments that the highway would be diverted through the existing East-West Road.

In a statement issued on Monday by his Senior Special Assistant on Media, Francis Nwaze, Umahi said the coastal highway remained a priority of the Tinubu administration, adding that the resident had given a clear directive on its completion.

The statement read, "The Honourable Minister of Works, Senator Engr. David Umahi, CON, has reaffirmed President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's commitment to completing the 750-kilometre Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, describing the project as a profitable national investment capable of generating revenue, attracting private investors and unlocking tourism and industrial opportunities.

"Nothing will happen to the 750-kilometre Lagos-Calabar Coastal Highway, which passes through the nine coastal states. The President has directed that the project must be completed as envisaged.

"The official commissioning of Section 1 by President Tinubu is expected this month or early December. Also, the reconstruction of the East-West

Kebbi commissioner petitions DSS over alleged kidnap plot

BIRNI-KEBBI

The Kebbi State Commissioner for Information and Culture, Yakubu Ahmed-BK, has petitioned the Department of State Services over alleged attempts by unidentified persons to abduct him and members of his family in Birnin Kebbi, the state capital.

In a petition dated November 15, 2026, and addressed to the Director-General of the DSS through the Deputy Director-General, Operations, Ahmed-BK alleged that the suspects were operating a white, fully tinted Hilux or Innoson van with a red Agege registration number.

The copy of the petition, which was made available to our correspondent on Monday, said the first incident occurred on Tuesday, November 10, while he was taking his usual early-morning walk with his wife along the Sani Abacha Bypass in Birnin Kebbi.

According to him, the occupants of the vehicle slowed down when they approached the couple and attempted to open one of its doors close to them.

He said he also noticed what appeared to be the nozzle of a rifle inside the vehicle, although he could not see its occupants clearly because of the tinted windows.

"Immediately we connected with the Sani Abacha Bypass, we noticed a white vehicle, either a Hilux or the Innoson type of van, fully tinted with a red Agege plate number, driving against traffic.

"It slowed down when it reached us, and attempts were made to open one of the doors on our side. It looked to me that, although I couldn't see inside, I saw something like a nozzle of a rifle," he stated.

Ahmed-BK said the vehicle drove past them but later turned back and began approaching them slowly, prompting him and his wife to seek refuge inside Amina Rabo Plaza along the bypass.

He explained that after hiding for about five minutes, he cautiously checked outside and discovered that the vehicle was still parked nearby with its headlights on and engine running.

Abure, factional LP leaders endorse Tinubu for 2027

ABUJA

Former National Chairman of the Labour Party, Julius Abure, and some factional state chairmen of the party on Monday endorsed President Bola Tinubu for re-election in the 2027 presidential election.

Abure announced the endorsement at a National Executive Council meeting attended by members of his National Working Committee, factional state chairmen and secretaries, and leaders of the Obidient Movement in the party's Directorate of Mobilisation.

Those present included former South-West National Vice Chairman, Abayomi Arabambi; Chairman of the LP State Chairmen Forum, Ceekay Igara; Deputy National Chairman, Ayo Olufemi; and former National Legal Adviser, Kehinde Edun.

In a video circulated online, the LP members were seen reciting the popular 'On Your Mandate' anthem, signalling their support for Tinubu's 2027 re-election bid.

Abure said the faction was prepared to mobilise six million votes for Tinubu in the 2027 election, adding that its support would be backed by a coordinated mobilisation strategy across the country.

He said, "We are bringing nothing less than six million votes to President Bola Tinubu at the ballot box in the 2027 elections. We are deliberately willing to rally our ward, state, regional and national leaders for the purpose of winning the election. Election is about strategy. It's not about making noise. It's not about shouting and walking on the streets. It's about calculation and planning.

"Deliberately, we can show that. And so any candidate we support will win the election."

The former LP chairman ruled out support for the presidential candidate of the Nigeria Democratic Congress, Peter Obi, and former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, questioning Obi's ability to manage a diverse country.

"Obi lacks the capacity and competence for us to support him in the next election. Atiku is also not an option," he said.

Abure also compared Tinubu's political relationships with those of Obi, arguing that the President had maintained the loyalty of people who worked with him over the years.

He questioned the absence of some of Obi's former political associates, including his former commissioners in Anambra State, his 2023 running mate, Datti Baba-Ahmed, and businessman Valentine Ozigbo.

He said, "There is a wide gap of difference between Tinubu and Obi, who are the two leading presidential can-

PUBLIC NOTICE

CULT RENUNCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that I, **OSADOLOR FESTUS** has renounced my membership with Eiye Confraternity. I joined the Confraternity in the year 2009 in Benin City, Edo State. I decided to renounce and withdraw my membership from Eiye Confraternity, due to the violent act of the group.
That I, **OSADOLOR FESTUS** is no longer a member of Eiye Confraternity. The general public, concerned authorities and security agencies, should please take note.

SIGN: **OSADOLOR FESTUS**

PUBLIC AUCTION

POLICE PRESS RELEASE

The Edo State Police Command wishes to inform members of the general public that there will be a public auction at State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Edo State Command.
STATE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT (SCID)
(1) One unregistered Benz GLA, (2) One unregistered Benz GLE 350 (3) One unregistered Benz C350 (4) One unregistered Benz C300 (5) one Toyota Hiace Bus.
Therefore, members of the public are hereby advised within twenty one (21) days expiration of this publication to go to the above mentioned Police Station to check, with a valid and authentic documents in respect of the items for claim. After the expiration of this publication, the items will be sold on Public Auction accordingly. For further enquiries, please call GSM No 09056530763.

SIGNED: **ASP ENO IKOEDEM,** ANIPR,
Police Public Relations Officer,
Edo State Police Command, Benin City.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MISSING LAND DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby notified that I, **(PASTOR) MRS EXCEL IMARIAGBE (NEE OSAWE)** is the rightful owner of a land measuring 110ft by 120ft, Comprising of two bungalow buildings lying and situate at no 8a and 8b, OSAWE Lane off Iwehen street off Wire Road, Benin City Edo state. That the said property above was given to me by the family after the burial ceremony of my late father (**Late Mr. Apostle Donald Sunday Ighedosa OSAWE**) as my own share of property from my father in accordance with the Bini Native Law and Custom and I was given the sharing documents. That the same documents have been in my possession since then as was shared to me years ago, only for me to discover recently that the documents and some of my personal belongings were missing. Hence, my report to notify the general public and concerned authorities to please take note.

Signed: Pastor Mrs. **EXCEL IMARIAGBE**

CHANGE OF NAME/CORRECTION OF DATE OF BIRTH

I Formerly known as **ANIFIOK VICTOR AKANIYENE** now wish to be known and addressed as **GEORGE AKANIYENE ANIEFIOK** as captured on my National Identification number (NIN), and also my correct date of birth is 3rd August, 2000 as captured on my National Identification number and not 8th March, 2000 as was wrongly captured on my Bank Verification details, all former documents remain valid concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.

ADDITION OF MLDDLE NAME

The general public is hereby notified that **WILSON IDAHOR ODUAGBON** and **WILSON IDAHOR** are one and the same person. Henceforth, I wish to be known and addressed as **WILSON IDAHOR ODUAGBON**. All former documents Remain valid concerned Authorities and the general public should please take note.

ESAN NORTH EAST LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

P.M.B 013, UROMI, EDO STATE, NIGERIA.

Our Ref: C.24/T1/68 *Date:* 23rd November, 2026

ADDENDUM TO ADVERT PUBLICATION
RE-INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE UNDERLISTED PROJECTS:

Reconstruction/Asphalting of Ujie-Oro Street, Esan North East Local Government. Uromi.1158

Construction/Asphalting of chief Odijie Esogban Road ,Esan North East Local Government, Uromi C. 1159

With reference to our advertisement published in The Nigerian Observer on **Wednesday, 18th November, 2026.**

Esan North East Local Government Council hereby informs all interested bidders and the general public that the bid opening exercise earlier scheduled to hold on **24th November, 2026** has been postponed. And submission of bid now **ends on the 10th December, 2026 at 12 noon.**

The new proposed date for the bid opening exercise is now fixed for **Thursday, 10th December,** 2026 at **2:00pm,** at the Council Secretariat, Uromi, Edo State. All other terms and conditions of the tender remain unchanged.

All other items, conditions and information in the original advertisement remain unchanged and valid.

Signed
Barr. Akhimie Gladys Edogiawerie
HOLGA.
Esan North East Local Government Council.
For:
Executive Chairman,
Esan North East Local Government Council.

ThroughTheLens

Tinubu approves N250m relief for Bayelsa boat mishap victims as Shettima visits survivors

YENAGOA

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has approved a N250 million relief package for families of victims of the deadly boat mishap in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, which claimed 29 lives.

Vice President Kashim Shettima announced the intervention during a visit to Bayelsa State, where he conveyed the President's condolences to bereaved families and expressed the Federal Government's sympathy over the tragedy.

Accompanied by Governor Douye Diri, Shettima visited injured survivors receiving treatment at the Bayelsa Medical University Teaching Hospital (BMUTH), Yenagoa, before meeting with bereaved families and survivors at the Government House.

He said the relief package was intended to support affected families and demonstrate the Federal Government's commitment to standing with them during their difficult moment.

The Vice President also stressed the need to strengthen safety measures on the nation's waterways, noting that residents of riverine communities deserve adequate protection when travelling by water.

As part of efforts to prevent a recurrence, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was directed to procure additional boats to improve water transportation and safety in the region.

Shettima commended the Bayelsa State Government for establishing a commission of inquiry to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident and ensure that appropriate measures are taken.

Members of the Vice President's delegation included Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri; NDDC Managing Director, Dr Samuel Ogbuku; and NEMA Director-General, Mrs Zubaida Umar.

The Federal Government's intervention has renewed calls for stricter enforcement of water transportation regulations, improved safety equipment and better protection for communities that depend on waterways for their daily activities.



From left: Sen. Obafemi Ojudu; Orangun of Oke -Ila, Oba Adedokun Abolarin and Asiwaju Of Are Ekiti, Chief Dipo Anisulowo at 2026 Are Ekiti Day Celebration in Ekiti.



Project Lead, World Children Day Celebration, Babajide Aduragbemi Sanwo-Olu (BAS) Foundation, Habeeb Oladipupo, addressing the pupils from different schools in Agege local government area of Lagos State, during the World Children Day Agege Cluster in Lagos.



Vice President Kashim Shettima (R) with the families of victims of the boat mishap in Southern Ijaw local government area of Bayelsa State, during the vice president's condolence visit to Yenagoa, on Sunday



Managing Director HITECH/Contractor in charge of Lagos-Calabar Coaster Highway, Dany Abboud; Minister of Works, Dave Umahi and Controller Federal Ministry of Works Lagos, Mr Olufemi Dare during the inspection tour of the bridges on the Lagos-Calabar Coaster Highway in Lagos.



Special Adviser to the President on Community Engagement, Southwest, Moremi Ojudu; Managing Director HITECH/Contractor in Charge of Lagos-Calabar Coaster Highway, Dany Abboud; Minister of Works, Dave Umahi and Controller Federal Ministry of Works Lagos, Mr Olufemi Dare, during the inspection tour of the bridges on the Lagos-Calabar Coaster Highway in Lagos.



AUSTRALIA'S CHRIS BOWEN SITS AT THE TOP TABLE AT THE SUMMIT SURROUNDED BY OTHER DELEGATES

Longest-ever UN climate talks end with no deal as deep divisions exposed

Countries have failed to reach a major new deal to tackle climate change after deep divisions over fossil fuels and money emerged at the UN COP31 talks in Turkey.

Negotiations were due to finish on Friday but ran late into Sunday in search of common ground, becoming the longest UN climate conference in history.

But the final deal proved unacceptable to the EU, Pacific island nations and others because it failed to directly mention fossil fuels, the main cause of global warming.

Meanwhile, many poorer countries objected to the absence of any clear financial commitments from richer nations to help them adapt to the impacts of rising temperatures.

The last time a COP's main political agreement collapsed like this was in 2009 in Copenhagen.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in his last COP before he steps down, said he was "deeply disappointed".

He took aim at what he called "powerful fossil fuel interests" who he said were taking "a page from Big Tobacco's playbook: distorting the science, delaying policy, blocking action, and piling up huge profits while people everywhere pay the price".

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, whose country co-hosted the talks, attributed the failure to "difficult geopolitical times".

"That is the reality," he said on Monday.

After two weeks of negotiations, exhausted delegates were presented with a new, draft deal in the early hours of Sunday to try to break the deadlock.

But the words "fossil fuels" did not appear anywhere in the text. The only indirect reference to coal, oil and gas was a nod to a deal agreed at COP28 in 2023, when countries agreed to "transition away" from fossil fuels in energy systems.

The EU's representative, Irish Minister Darragh O'Brien, made it clear that the EU "strongly" objected, saying that the "decisions go nowhere near the level of ambition needed to tackle climate change".

"It is unconscionable that we would have a climate pact that makes no mention of fossil fuels," he said.

Five takeaways from the failed climate talks COP31

Other countries, such as Panama and the Marshall Islands, also criticised the deal for doing nowhere near enough to tackle the pace of climate change.

A first draft of the deal on Monday mentioned "fossil fuel" or "fossil fuels" six times, but that was unacceptable to oil-producing nations.

Saudi Arabia's delegate Mohammad Ayoub said that Arab countries "continued to engage in good faith" but argued that they only accounted for a small proportion of historical greenhouse gas emissions.

Russia warned not to "turn to slogans" over coal, oil and gas, claiming that if countries moved away from fossil fuels too quickly it would lead to "fuel poverty".

Climate advocates reacted with dismay at the failure of the talks.

Former US vice-president and climate advocate Al Gore said it was "outrageous that a handful of petro-states have veto power over any mention of fossil fuels".

Flights and train services cancelled in Belgium due to strike

A few people have turned up at Brussels airport where no flights are leaving

Hundreds of flights have been cancelled and public transport severely disrupted across Belgium as a result of a strike against planned austerity measures.

All air traffic has been halted at Brussels Airport in Zaventem as well as at Charleroi, home to low-cost airlines such as Ryanair.

Underground services have also been halted in capital Brussels, where large numbers of people joined a protest march.

The protest comes as Prime Minister Bart De Wever continues talks with his coalition allies over a budget to cut borrowing costs. King Philippe declined his resignation earlier this month, giving De Wever more time to negotiate.

No flights are taking off or landing at Brussels Airport between 07:00 and 21:00 local time (06:00-20:00 GMT) as a result of the strike by air traffic controllers.

"In total, 404 flights today cannot be operated, which has an impact on more than 50,000 passengers," Brussels Airport spokesperson Jeffrey Franssens said.

Reuters news agency spoke to Florence Faure, a French passenger who had arrived in Brussels from China's capital, Beijing, only to find that her flight to Paris Charles de Gaulle airport had been cancelled.

"Since our luggage was supposed to go on to Paris Charles de Gaulle, we didn't even collect it," she said.

A similar situation has affected Charleroi, where all flights were shown as "scheduled", regardless of the time of departure or arrival.

One passenger told Belgian broadcaster RTBF that she had received no warning and only discovered there were no flights when she arrived at the airport.

Philippe Naime, a teacher, was one of the tens of thousands taking part in the protest march in Brussels.

"Quite simply, no more money is being invested in education, and people are left to fend for themselves. But people do not have the means to do that," he told Reuters.

Public transport, schools and other public services are also facing disruptions.

One of its members, the socialist Vooruit, has been refusing to endorse plans agreed by the other four. It wants to raise taxes on the rich and for there to be fewer cuts to pensions and the health sector.

De Wever met King Philippe on Monday for the third update since the impasse.

"While expressing regret over the lack of significant progress, the king encouraged the prime minister to persevere in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible," the royal palace said in a statement.

The leader of one of the country's main unions, FGTB, said the government had alternatives to "dismantling the social protection system".

Bert Engelaar, head of the union, called for "a genuine wealth tax, fair taxation, and the elimination of tax loopholes".

Israeli attacks have turned Gaza into 'toxic wasteland', Oxfam says

Gaza has been turned into "a toxic wasteland", with more than 99% of the Palestinian territory showing indicators of environmental contamination from Israeli military attacks, a new report from the non-profit organisation Oxfam says.

Heavy metals, explosive residues, and asbestos from destroyed buildings, dioxins and biological contaminants in the air, soil and water supply are threats to Palestinians now and potentially for decades to come, it says.

Oxfam International's executive director, Amitabh Behar, accuses Israel of "environmental war crimes" as part of an "ongoing genocide in Gaza."

"The destruction and contamination of Gaza will have fundamentally degraded the environmental conditions necessary for human safety and survival," he says.

Israel's government has been asked for its response to the report.

It has rejected genocide accusations in an ongoing case at the International Court of Justice as baseless and distorted. Israel maintains that its military campaign in Gaza is an act of self-defence against Hamas in response to the group's deadly attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, and that it takes steps to mitigate civilian harm.

Oxfam and the UK-based Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS) used satellite imagery, remote sensing, spatial analysis and other open-source data to draw their conclusions in the most comprehensive report to date on the severe environmental impacts caused by three years of intense war in Gaza.

The report details how munitions used in Israel's intense bombardment, as well as the debris from destroyed buildings and infrastructure, all have an impact on the environment. In February, a UN special rapporteur stated that more than 200,000 tonnes of explosives were dropped on Gaza in almost two years - "the equivalent of the total energy of approximately 13 Hiroshima-type nuclear bombs".

Last year, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) estimated that Israel's military operations destroying homes and infrastructure had generated more than 61 million tonnes of debris across the territory, with about 15% potentially carrying a high risk of contamination from hazardous materials.

Boy, 7, pulled alive from rubble hours after Russian strike on Ukraine, rescuers say

A seven-year-old boy has been rescued from the rubble of a residential building in Dymer, in the Kyiv region, after 14 hours. Overnight Russian strikes on the village killed 11 people, Ukrainian officials have said.

The attack occurred in the early hours of Sunday. A 79-year-old woman was also rescued alive from the collapsed building, Kyiv's regional head Tymur Tkachenko said.

A strike on a private home in Bila Tserkva killed one more person and set the building ablaze, he added.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also said three people were killed and 13 wounded in a separate strike on Vyshneve, also in the Kyiv region, that hit a grocery store on Sunday.

Ukrainian authorities said the boy in Dymer is in stable condition and was taken to hospital, and have thanked everyone involved in saving his life.

Zelensky and Ukraine's national police also confirmed the rescue of the boy.

In a Telegram post, Tkachenko said the 79-year-old woman rescued from the rubble was receiving treatment in hospital.

Earlier he said six people were injured in the attack, while others were still missing.

The attack on the residential building occurred in the early hours of the morning while people were asleep

Zelensky said more than 130 people are involved in emergency operations at the scene, and that they will continue until they have "complete information about every single person".

Sending his condolences to the families and loved ones of those killed, he said the strike struck the residential building, "practically blowing a section of it to smithereens".

Zelensky added that "rescue efforts are complicated by constant new air raid alerts and renewed threats".

The strike hit the building at 05:00 local time, when families were still asleep, Ukraine's minister of internal affairs Ivan Vyhivskyi said.

More than 70 strikes have been launched across 10 Ukrainian regions as of Sunday evening, Vyhivskyi added.

FOREIGN NEWS

Kenya and DR Congo agree to restore ties after tensions over conflict

Kenya's President William Ruto and his Congolese counterpart Felix Tshisekedi have agreed to restore full diplomatic ties between the two countries following tensions over the conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Relations between the two countries have soured since 2023 when DR Congo accused Kenya of hosting leaders launching a rebel alliance, including the M23.

This led DR Congo to recall its envoy to Nairobi. Relations deteriorated further when Kinshasa refusing to accredit Kenya's nominated ambassador.

On Sunday, the two leaders affirmed their commitment to "sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of states".

The agreement was announced in a joint statement issued after the summit held in the town of Oyo in Congo-Brazzaville, facilitated by the nation's President Denis Sassou Nguesso, with Togolese leader Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé as mediator.

Tshisekedi and Ruto also agreed to "good neighbourliness and peaceful settlement of disputes" as well as "strengthen cooperation within regional mechanisms".

DR Congo and Kenya are both members of the East African Community (EAC).

DR Congo, which joined in 2022, is the latest entrant to the bloc, but its membership has been complicated by its accusation that Rwanda, a fellow member, backs the M23 rebels. Rwanda denies the claims despite overwhelming evidence.

DR Congo has also accused Kenya of hosting Congolese political and rebel leaders whom it says are working to destabilise the country.

When the Congo River Alliance (AFC), a political-military alliance including the M23, was launched in Nairobi in 2023, DR Congo responded by recalling its ambassador to Kenya.

The tensions were stoked further in March last year after Kenya named a consul-general to Goma, the capital of DR Congo's North Kivu region, after it fell to M23 forces, who control many eastern parts of the country.

DR Congo said naming the envoy amounted to disrespect for the country's territorial integrity and seemed to legitimise the group's occupation.

Suited and booted: How Joseph Kabila went from president to rebel leader

Relations deteriorated further after Kenya hosted a meeting of Congolese opposition figures, including former President Joseph Kabila, in October 2025.

Kabila was in 2025 sentenced to death in absentia on charges including war crimes and treason. He denied the accusations, but did not appear in court to defend himself.

He has since been named the leader of the Front for the Refoundation of the Nation (FRN), the new rebel coalition that took over from the AFC.



MEETING:
The meeting between Kenya's President William Ruto (left) and DR Congo's Félix Tshisekedi (middle) was hosted by Denis Sassou Nguesso (right)

South Korea education minister resigns over exam cheating scandal

South Korea's Education Minister Choi Kyo-jin has resigned over an exam cheating scandal that shocked the nation.

He said he took full responsibility for the confusion caused by last-minute measures aimed at stopping AI-assisted cheating during Thursday's annual college entrance exam, known as Suneung.

A week ago, the top scorer in the national tax accountancy exam admitted using a mini-camera, mobile phone and AI tools. This prompted officials to act urgently to detect hidden devices, including sending emergency alerts to every single mobile phone in the country.

The Suneung takes up to nine hours to complete, and it plays a big role in career trajectories of millions of South Koreans.

South Korean high school pupils in Daegu check their answers, a day after the annual college entrance exam

"As the minister in charge, I believe I cannot escape criticism that we failed to prepare in advance," Choi was quoted as saying on Sunday by South Korea's Yonhap's news agency.

"Now that the exam has concluded, I feel a deep sense of responsibility and am offering my resignation," the minister added.

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung - who has been calling for an overhaul of the current exam system - later accepted Choi's resignation.

The education ministry earlier said 111 candidates had been found with unauthorised smart devices during this year's Suneung, which was taken by about 500,000 students.

Concerns over academic dishonesty during the fiercely competitive exam had been brewing in recent weeks, after reports of candidates cheating with the help of AI devices.

These fears came to a boil last weekend, when Han Wonseok, the top tax accountancy exam scorer in April, admitted to cheating.

His confession came amid speculation over his unusually high score, with just one out of 160 questions wrong.

"I used a microcamera to photograph the test questions and sent them to an AI, then checked my answers on my smartphone to commit the cheating," the 34-year-old said in a video message.

This prompted the authorities to introduce urgent measures, with just days ahead of the Suneung.

This included sending nationwide emergency alerts on the exam day.

Three alerts were sent between 08:00 and 15:00 local time on Thursday, causing phones across the country to blare out in unison - even if they were on silent mode, and even if they belonged to tourists using data roaming.

The phones did not ring out if they were switched off or on airplane mode.

It was the first time that South Korea used its national disaster alert system to catch exam cheaters.

Candidates also had to cover up the buttons on their shirts and jackets to block any hidden cameras, and authorities conducted inspections of eyewear.

All this made even honest test takers paranoid.

Ahead of the Suneung, one high school senior told the Korea Times he was worried his horn-rimmed spectacles would be mistaken for smart glasses.

Another told Yonhap he usually wore glasses but made an effort to put on contact lenses for the Suneung to avoid raising suspicions.

Russian warship hit by Ukrainian drones in Libya, Zelensky says

A Russian warship was sunk by Ukrainian drones at a port in Libya on Sunday, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

There was an explosion on the warship at the Benghazi naval base in the early morning, while it was docking for fuel and supplies ahead of its return to Russia, the government that controls eastern Libya said.

Zelensky added that Ukraine's attack hit a second Russian vessel, a cargo ship which he claimed was being used to transport weapons.

The health ministry said it had received injured people from a commercial ship that was targeted off the coast of the port. It is not clear whether this is the same vessel as the one Ukraine has claimed responsibility for.

Following the strikes, the Kremlin warned of an "escalation of tensions in the region", but declined to comment directly on the attacks in Libya.

In a statement on Monday, Zelensky praised an "exemplary Ukrainian operation in response to Russia's war".

Seven naval drones were deployed to target and sink the corvette Merkury, one of Russia's newest ships, Zelensky wrote. He added that a Ka-27 combat helicopter was also destroyed.

The Ukrainian president said the second ship was the MV ANGARA, a Russian container carrier.

The attack came the day after a Russian cargo vessel was hit by a drone attack in the eastern Gulf of Finland. The Sparta II had been bound for Russia's Baltic exclave Kaliningrad when it was hit on Saturday morning.

Finnish defence forces said Ukraine was likely behind the attack. Kyiv has not commented.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that the "expansion of terrorist activity in the Baltic" was a "dangerous trend" and has said "it is, of course, leading to an escalation of tensions in the region."

When questioned over the attacks in Libya, Peskov said information would be provided by the country's defence ministry and added: "We paid attention to Zelensky's statements about it".

Peskov declined to comment on the strikes on Russian ships in Libya and said that that information would be provided by Russia's Defence Ministry.

The UN mission in Libya expressed "serious concern" over the attacks on Sunday, calling for "an immediate, independent and transparent investigation".

"Libya cannot afford, and must not become a battleground for foreign conflicts," the UNSMIL wrote on X.

Videos posted on social media and geolocated by BBC Verify show the ship that was struck in the morning engulfed in flames and smoke. Satellite imagery from Planet Labs PBC also shows a boat on fire at 05:47 GMT at the Benghazi port.

Search and rescue teams race against time to find survivors after Nigeria boat tragedy

Nigerian search and rescue teams are racing against time to find survivors after a boat carrying mourners travelling to a funeral capsized on Friday.

Twenty-nine bodies have been recovered and 50 people rescued so far, a spokesperson for the National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) told the BBC.

The government has responded by ordering stricter enforcement of safety standards on the country's inland waterways.

Overcrowding, poor maintenance and failure to observe safety regulations have contributed to previous deadly accidents on Nigeria's rivers.

The boat was travelling from Ayama community when it developed mechanical problems, according to police spokesperson Musa Mohammed.

Passengers asked the boat operator to steer towards land, but he allegedly declined, leading to the accident.

Survivors have described the panic that followed as passengers struggled to swim and stay afloat while waiting for emergency rescue services.

"As I swam, people were dragging me to the bottom, and I bit one woman and saved myself," Charity Ebikaboaere told local media outlet Arise News.

"Our things, our money, phones, everything lost, but me and my siblings are alive," said another survivor, Tari Samuel.

Why do Nigeria's boat disaster keep happening?

Nema spokesman Manzo Ezekiel raised concerns about the use of untrained boat operators and passengers travelling without life jackets.

"Some of them believe they're from river areas and they know how to swim," he said, warning that familiarity with waterways should not replace basic safety precautions.

There have been reports that the boat was carrying more than 300 people but the Nema spokesperson said this wasn't correct. He did not say how many people were on board but said it was overcrowded.

The accident happened in a region where waterways are a key means of transport, especially for communities with limited road access.

Art World

"My health is in my hands", chorused the primary school pupils at Evbuotubu Primary School, in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State, as each held up their copy of the WASH4all comic books distributed to them for free by the MediaBFI team.

In the words of Rev. Oje Ohiwerei of Heritage Assembly global ministry, "If you want to change a nation, change the youths".

To meet the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), everyone must take action, no matter how small or simple; hence the need for novel ways to collectively and creatively involve young people in making a tangible contribution in "advancing the global movement for the Sustainable Development Goals in the most creative, wholesome, transformative, impactful and innovative way that gainfully carries young people along", using artistic expressions, creative education and graphic humour intentionally.

Art is a universal language; and the saying that a picture is worth a thousand words is not far-fetched: "One image can communicate more than dozens of pages of text or hours of speeches.

One image can change the course of history. Editorial cartoons draw attention to important political, economic, and social issues like nothing else. Using symbols or visual metaphors, their reach transcends country borders and language barrier".

As one of the earliest and arguably the most popular development communication channel globally, the role of cartoon and comics in a shaping public opinions, mind sets and changing world culture remains crucial. Our experience of how cartoons and comics journalism is being harnessed in developed nations in contributing to speaking truth to Power, moulding public opinion, educating children and inspiring youths, as well as in investigative reporting efforts speak globally to this fact.

It is no more news that reading culture is waning globally, and graphic communication is becoming more and more crucial in the entire business of information communication and general education. In the mass media, for instance, spaces for texts are shrinking as people are more in haste to meet deadlines and have little or no time /interest in reading texts no matter how valuable they may be.

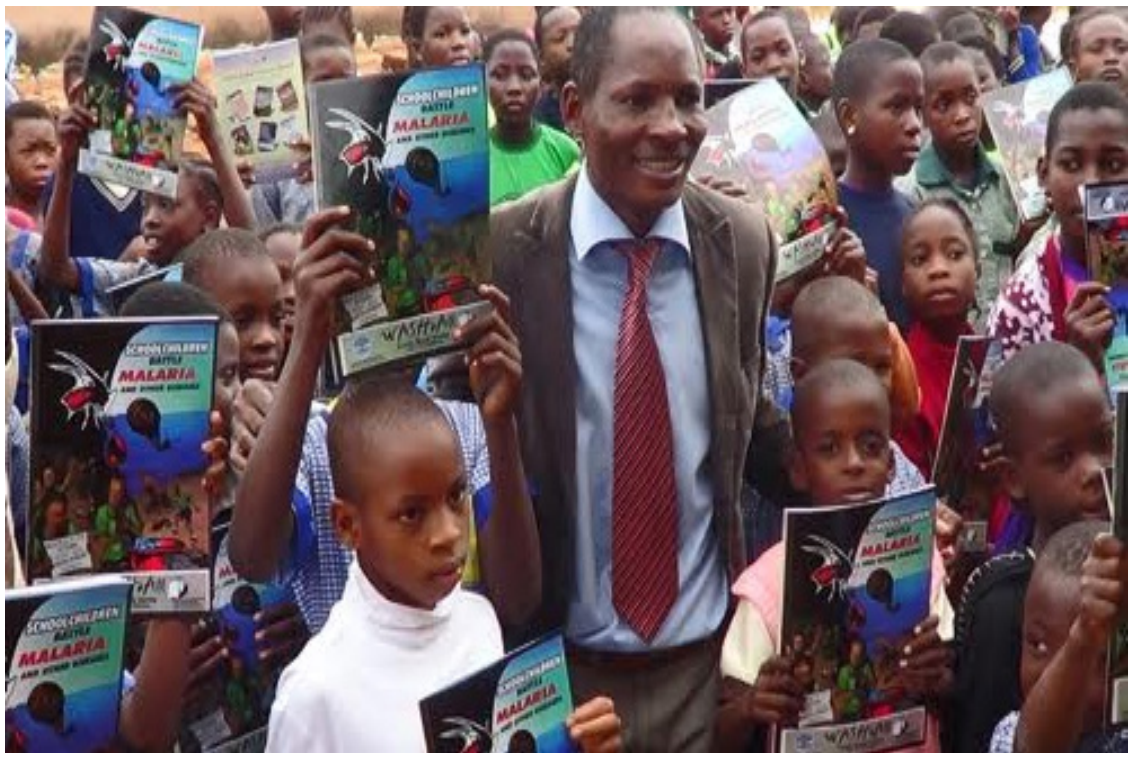
In Nigeria alone, there is an unprecedented increase in number of online journalism platforms as well as social media use. While the printed newspapers and magazines are fast losing readers on a daily basis, online journalism, and social media in particular, is gaining more and more patronage. Their secrets are hidden in the power of audiovisuals cum graphic humour, on which internet service providers and their vast collaborators leverage to rake in billions of dollars annually through web cartoons, digital comics, cartoon animations, edutaining cartoon apps, political campaign info-graphics, etc.

In our educational sector, most children and youths who try to cultivate the habit wish there was a way reading could be attractive. Hence pictures, VISUAL STORYTELLING – whether still or animated- are getting more attention, especially among young people. This explains why MediaBFI -the media team of Beautiful Feet International (BFI) Ministry - deploys creative education, using comics, animations and poster campaigns as outreach tools to raise awareness among young people in ensuring improved personal hygiene and sanitation through its 'WASH in Schools (WinS)' health and wellness outreaches, in line with the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Their first comic book, WASH4All comics, was produced in collaboration with the Horizon International (USA) in a join-intervention project from 2014 till date. The special comic book, WASH4All comics, 1st of a planned 13 editions in the series, is titled. "Schoolchildren Battle Malaria and other Diseases" and has been offered for free download worldwide since September 16, 2014, by Horizon International and MediaBFI. However, because most of the real targets of the comics are grassroots schoolchildren who don't have access to the internet, it became very necessary to make print copies of the comics available for free to these set of audience in selected local schools where WASH need is the highest anywhere in the world, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa.

What the BFI WinS project seeks to achieve is to go from school to school, broadening audience engagement and inspiring voluntary changes in attitudes and behaviors among schoolchildren and youths using cartoons and comedic art as creative education tools.

In a local context, using the comic books as visual teaching aids, the WASH4All Comics and Animations graphically explain various health and environment-related issues children needed to know both in school and at home so as to stay healthy and learn properly. This is done in such a creative and humorous way that spurs the young readers into proactive actions in their little corners.



Francis Umendu Odupute, the president of BFI, in the midst of cheerful pupils of Evbuotubu Primary School, Benin City.

Some of the issues being addressed by the project included: what personal hygiene means; the importance of sanitation in the school; how you can defy the flooding to keep your classes and school clean; how malaria is contacted and how you can prevent malaria; why you should watch your hands regularly with soap; how to properly wash your hands with soap; puberty, menstruation and sexuality, what you should know; how to be responsible for your health and wellness; etc.

Some of the schools visited by the MediaBFI outreach team during the first phase of the (WASH in Schools (WinS) project included Evbuotubu Primary School, and DaySpring Schools in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. Other places so far experimented were Umelugboma community, near Asaba, Delta State, etc.

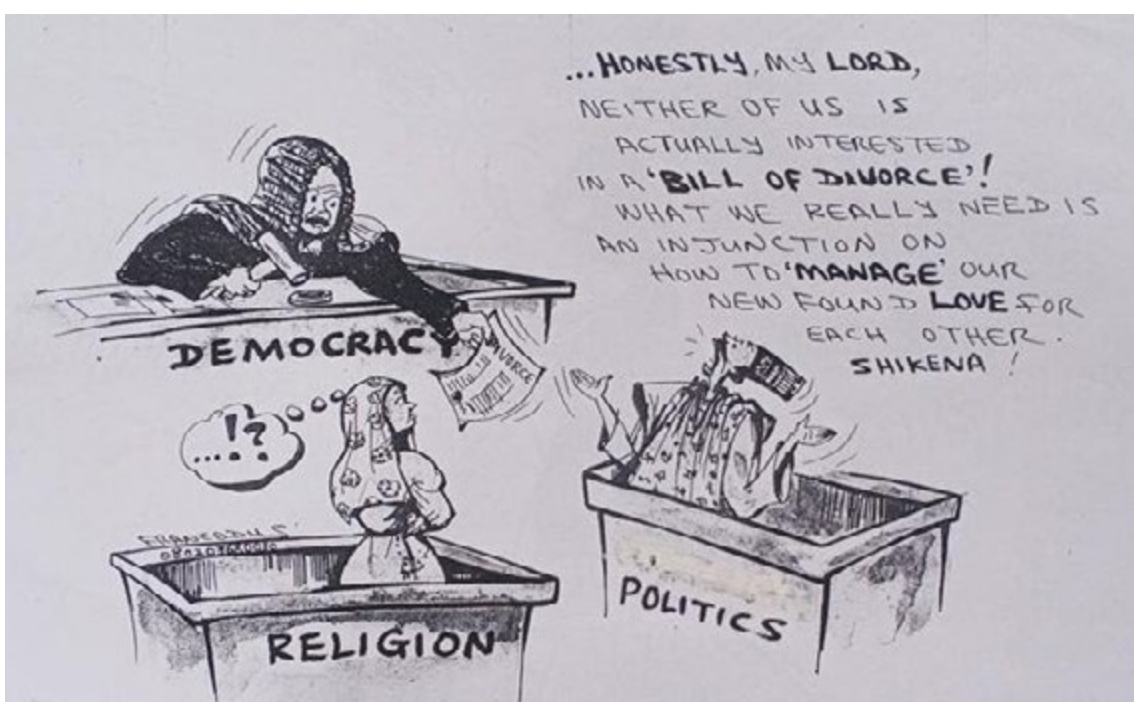
After the health talks in each school, there were questions and answers sessions; some children asked personal health questions while others just wanted more clarifications on certain terms used during the health talks. All the children were happy for the information they received, especially for the free comics. The pupils and students were encouraged by MediaBFI to form WASH clubs in their schools in order to put to practice all they learnt about improving the WASH situations in their school environments, and also as a way to attract future visitations and support from the BFI team and or other like minds to their schools.

The school teachers also collected copies of the free comics for themselves as adult participants, as they were expected to keep drumming into the ears of the pupils the lessons learnt from the health outreach as well as possibly help organize the children into thriving WASH clubs that could trigger paradigm shifts in the young minds and result in a culture of cleanliness and environmental friendliness in their schools.

School heads and teachers of all schools so far visited thanked the BFI team and the sponsors of the project, and asked for more of such visits in the future.

*WASH Education: Why Adults must be carried along:

"All these things…we teach the children o, but when they get home their parents teach them different things; …the society also teach them another thing altogether. You see, I pity children –they are confused. They don't know which one to believe, they don't know what is truly right or wrong…"



COUNCIL WATCH-UHUNMWODE

ISIWINA inaugurates APC ward 6 zone c structure, secures Ute community 's endorsement



Uhunmwode LG boss, Austin Imafidon

EHOR

The Executive Chairman of Uhunmwode Local Government Area, Hon. Austin Imafidon, has intensified efforts to strengthen the All Progressives Congress (APC) grassroots structure in the area with the inauguration of a strategic political structure for Ward 6, Zone C.

The inauguration, attended by the APC Local Government Chairman and other party leaders and stakeholders, was hosted by the Chief of Staff to the Uhunmwode Local Government Council, Hon. Believe Orhiakhi.

The new structure is designed to enhance party coordination, grassroots mobilisation and effective representation across polling units, communities, socio-cultural groups, associations and various ethnic groups within the zone.

The initiative is also expected to promote political inclusion, strengthen internal cohesion and position the APC for effective participation in forthcoming political engagements.

The presence of the Council Chairman and other party leaders at the meeting underscored the party's commitment to building a strong and united grassroots political organisation across Uhunmwode.

In a related development, Imafidon received a warm reception and endorsement from the leadership of Ute Community during a stopover at the residence of the Ohen of Ute Community, Chief Priest Osagie Obasuyi.

The traditional ruler, alongside respected community elders, welcomed the Council Chairman and commended his efforts towards restoring and sustaining peace in the community.

The elders acknowledged his contributions to promoting unity, understanding and peaceful coexistence, describing his intervention as important to the stability and development of Ute.

They also declared their support for the APC, assuring Imafidon of the community's cooperation whenever he brings his campaign activities to the area.

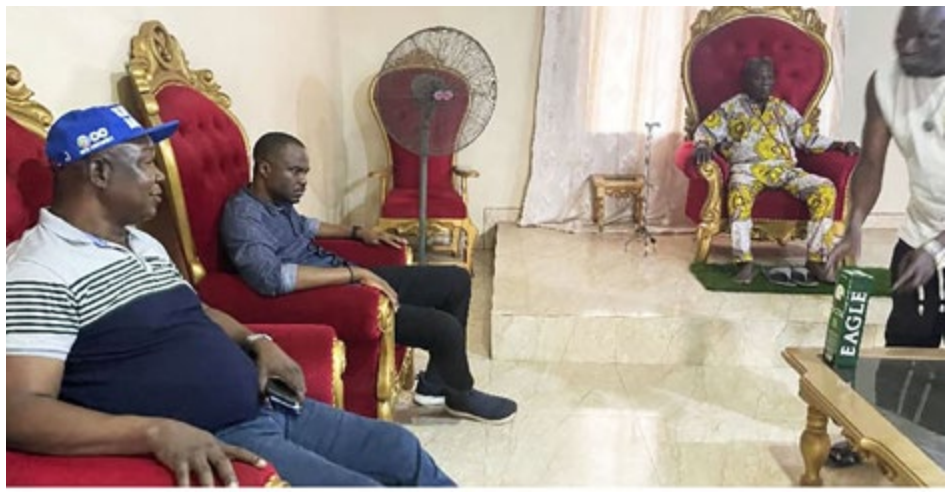
In a further demonstration of goodwill, the elders described the Council Chairman as one of their own sons, affirming the cordial relationship he enjoys with the community.

The endorsement is seen as a boost to the APC's grassroots mobilisation efforts in Uhunmwode, particularly as the party continues to consolidate its political structures and strengthen relationships with traditional institutions and community leaders.

The two engagements highlight Imafidon's emphasis on grassroots participation, inclusive political mobilisation, traditional institution engagement and sustained peace as critical elements of political organisation and community development.



A cross section of the inaugurated APC ward 6 memebers



Imafidon leads Uhunmwode APC campaign train to kara market

•Assures Hausa traders of end to multiple taxation

EHOR

The Executive Chairman of Uhunmwode Local Government Area, Hon. Austin Imafidon, has assured cattle traders and other business operators at Kara Cattle Market of his administration's commitment to ending multiple taxation and creating a favourable business environment.

Imafidon gave the assurance when he led the Uhunmwode All Progressives Congress (APC) campaign train on a visit to the Hausa community at Kara Cattle Market on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Addressing the traders, the council chairman said his administration would not tolerate arbitrary levies or multiple taxation, particularly those imposed on cattle dealers and other legitimate business operators within the local government area. He noted that Governor Monday Okpebholo was opposed to multiple taxation, stressing that the state government was committed to protecting businesses and encouraging economic activities.

Speaking on behalf of the Hausa community, the Chairman of Kara Cattle Market, Alhaji Idris Adano, commended Imafidon for what he described as the developmental strides recorded by his administration within a relatively short period in office.

Describing the council chairman as "small in age but mighty in wisdom," Adano praised his leadership vision and commitment to the development of Uhunmwode.

He, however, raised concerns over the alleged activities of individuals operating outside the recognised Uhunmwode Local Government Council structure, accusing them of imposing multiple levies and collecting unauthorised taxes from cattle traders.

Adano warned that unless the situation was urgently addressed, traders might be compelled to suspend cattle sales in protest against what they considered unfair taxation and economic exploitation.

Despite the concerns, the market leader reaffirmed the community's political allegiance to the APC, declaring: "Kara Market is APC, and APC is Kara Market."

Similarly, Alhaji Zakari and Alhaji Alli Garuba pledged the Hausa community's support for APC candidates in the forthcoming elections, promising to mobilise voters across the market community.

The community also appealed to the council chairman to assist in procuring a large-capacity electricity generator for the mosque within the market to support religious activities and serve the wider community.

Uhunmwode council boss appoints Nelson Iserhienrhien street naming committee chairman

EHOR

The Uhunmwode Local Government Council in Edo State has appointed Nelson Gomez Iserhienrhien as Chairman of its Street Naming Committee as part of efforts to promote proper identification and administration of streets across communities in the local government area.

The appointment was approved by the Executive Chairman of the council, Hon. Austin Imafidon, popularly known as Isiwina, and takes immediate effect.

According to a statement issued by the Chief Press Secretary to the council, Ogiehor Ehis Tornado, the committee is expected to strengthen the council's efforts in the naming, identification and documentation of streets across Uhunmwode communities.

Iserhienrhien, as chairman, is expected to provide leadership and coordinate the activities of the committee in line with the council's objectives of ensuring an organised, properly identified and accessible community environment.

Congratulating the appointee, Imafidon urged him to demonstrate commitment, diligence, transparency and a strong sense of responsibility in the discharge of his duties.

The council also called on relevant stakeholders, community leaders and residents to cooperate with the committee to ensure the successful implementation of its mandate.

The statement was dated November 20, 2026.



Imafidon felicitates Iyayi on birthday, celebrates legacy of philanthropy

The Executive Chairman of Uhunmwode Local Government Council, Hon. Austin Imafidon, popularly known as ISIWINA, has felicitated with Hon. Edosa Iyayi on the occasion of his birthday, describing him as a distinguished politician, philanthropist and worthy ambassador of the Iyayi family.

In a goodwill message dated November 19, 2026, Imafidon commended Iyayi for his commitment to humanity, generosity and contributions to society, noting that his disposition reflects the enduring values of service, compassion and selflessness.

The Uhunmwode council chairman recalled the remarkable legacy of Iyayi's father, the revered Iyayi of Egba Land, whom he described as a man whose generosity, kindness and selfless service touched numerous lives.



Edosa Iyayi

Sports

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



CAS to deliver final verdict on Morocco-Senegal AFCON 2025 title dispute Tuesday

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will deliver its decision on Senegal's appeal against the controversial decision to award Morocco the 2025 Africa Cup of Nations title on Tuesday, November 24, 2026.

The announcement was made in a CAS press release issued on Monday, November 23, confirming that the parties involved have been notified that the ruling will be delivered during the afternoon.

The decision will determine whether the Confederation of African Football's (CAF) ruling, which overturned Senegal's victory and awarded Morocco a 3-0 win, will stand or be set aside.

The controversy dates back to the AFCON 2025 final played on January 18 in Rabat, Morocco, where Senegal defeated the host nation 1-0 after extra time.

The final was marked by controversy in the closing stages of regulation time after Morocco were awarded a penalty. Several Senegalese players protested the decision and temporarily left the pitch before eventually returning to complete the match.

Morocco's Brahim Díaz failed to convert the penalty, while Pape Gueye subsequently scored the winning goal for Senegal in extra time to secure what appeared to be their second AFCON title.

However, the situation took a dramatic turn on March 17, 2026, when CAF's Appeal Board overturned the original result, ruling that Senegal had forfeited the final under Articles 82 and 84 of the competition regulations. Morocco were consequently awarded a 3-0 victory and declared champions.

Senegal subsequently challenged the decision at CAS, filing an appeal on March 25 and requesting that CAF's ruling be overturned and their on-field victory reinstated.

The appeal hearing took place behind closed doors at CAS headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland, on October 8. The arbitration panel later opted to issue a complete award containing its legal reasoning rather than an immediate summary decision

Tuesday's ruling will therefore be decisive for both nations, with Morocco seeking to retain the title awarded by CAF and Senegal pursuing official recognition of their 1-0 victory in the final.

CAS has stated that the decision will be published through its official channels. No exact time for the announcement has been provided.

African football now awaits the outcome of one of the continent's most significant football disputes, with the final decision set to determine the rightful holders of the AFCON 2025 title.

Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda name six cities for historic 2027 AFCON

Preparations for the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations have gathered momentum after CAF confirmed six cities that will stage matches at the historic tournament co-hosted by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Zanzibar, Kampala and Hoima have been selected as the tournament's host cities, bringing the three East African nations a step closer to welcoming Africa's biggest football competition.

The 2027 edition will break new ground as the first AFCON to be jointly hosted by three countries, with the neighbouring nations sharing the responsibility of organising the 24-team championship.

On the qualification front, the three hosts have secured automatic places, while Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Morocco and Senegal have also confirmed their participation.

With nine countries now assured of places at the tournament, the remaining 15 tickets will be decided in the ongoing qualifiers, which are expected to wrap up in March 2027.

The confirmation of the six host cities is a major milestone for the three co-hosts as they intensify preparations for a tournament expected to bring Africa's football family together across East Africa.



Iheanacho inspires Bursaspor's comfortable 2-0 victory over Sivasspor



Super Eagles striker Kelechi Iheanacho continued his impressive run of form after delivering a goal and an assist to inspire Bursaspor to a comfortable 2-0 victory over Sivasspor.

The Nigerian international was instrumental in securing the three points, scoring once and setting up another goal as Bursaspor produced a convincing performance to overcome their opponents.

Iheanacho opened the scoring in the 19th minute, giving Bursaspor an early advantage with a composed finish.

The former Leicester City and Sevilla forward wasted little time in making another decisive contribution, turning provider just three minutes later.

In the 22nd minute, Iheanacho delivered the assist for Soner Aydoğdu, who converted to double Bursaspor's advantage and put the hosts firmly in control of the encounter.

Despite the attacking contributions from both players, Iheanacho's influence stood out, with the striker earning the Man of the Match award for his outstanding display.

The goal was his 18th league strike of the season, further underlining his importance to Bursaspor's attacking ambitions.

His latest contribution also takes his overall tally across club and country to 19 goals and four assists in 16 appearances this season.

The statistics highlight the Nigerian forward's remarkable productivity in front of goal and his growing influence as both a scorer and creator.

Osimhen steps up recovery after knee surgery, targets return to Grass training next week

Super Eagles captain Victor Osimhen has taken another step towards recovery after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his left knee, with the Nigerian striker now working in the gym under the supervision of physiotherapists.

The Galatasaray forward has commenced the next phase of his rehabilitation programme as he continues his efforts to regain full fitness and return to competitive action.



VICTOR OSIMHEN

Osimhen's knee injury forced him to miss Nigeria's double-header encounters against Tanzania in the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying campaign.

His absence was a setback for the Super Eagles, considering his importance to the team's attacking structure and his proven ability to deliver goals at crucial moments.

Following the surgical procedure, the 27-year-old has been concentrating on supervised gym exercises designed to support his recovery and gradually restore his physical condition.

Although his rehabilitation is progressing, Osimhen is not yet ready to resume grass training, with his current focus remaining on building the strength and fitness required for the next stage of his comeback.

NWFL announces Nov 26 for 2026 AGA, 2026/27 Premiership draw

The Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) has officially scheduled its 2026 Annual General Assembly (AGA) for Thursday, November 26, 2026, in Abuja, with representatives of clubs across the Premiership and Championship expected to attend.

According to a statement issued by the NWFL Media Director, Samuel Ahmadu, on Monday, November 23, the General Assembly will take place in the Federal Capital Territory, with proceedings scheduled to commence at 11:00 a.m.

Delegates are expected to arrive in Abuja on Wednesday, November 25, while Friday, November 27, has been designated for departure.

Ahead of the AGA, all 16 clubs participating in the 2026/2027 NWFL Premiership have been urged to ensure the timely arrival of their representatives in Abuja.

A crucial meeting between NWFL Management and representatives of all 16 Premiership clubs has also been scheduled for 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25, ahead of the main assembly.

A major highlight of the 2026 AGA will be the official draw and announcement of fixtures for the 2026/2027 NWFL Premiership season, setting the stage for the new campaign. The AGA will be held at Exclusive Serene Hotel, Wuye, Abuja, on Thursday.



THE NIGERIA WOMEN FOOTBALL LEAGUE COMMITTE

Sports

Nigeria's Precarious Road to AFCON 2027:
Eric Chelle's apprentice approach

Douglas Baye-Osagie



SUPER EAGLES SQUAD AND COACH ERIC CHELLE

There is a growing feeling that the Super Eagles are sleepwalking towards another football disaster. Nigeria's journey to the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) is becoming increasingly precarious, while the man entrusted with steering the wheel of the team, Eric Chelle, is beginning to look like a coach running short of answers.

What was expected to be a campaign of redemption is gradually degenerating into another exercise in frustration, tactical confusion and unfulfilled expectations.

The two matches against Tanzania should have provided Nigeria with an opportunity to establish its authority in the group, secure maximum points and put qualification beyond doubt. Instead, Chelle's team managed a home victory and an away draw, leaving the Super Eagles in an uncomfortable position. At this stage of the campaign, dropping points, particularly against opponents Nigeria should ordinarily be capable of dominating, is a luxury the country cannot afford.

The consequences are even more troubling because Guinea-Bissau now occupy a favourable position in a group where only one team will qualify. Nigeria, with its football pedigree, superior individual talent and considerably greater resources, should not be looking over its shoulders in a qualification race of this nature. Yet that is precisely where the Super Eagles have found themselves. A campaign that should have been relatively straightforward has become unnecessarily complicated.

Beyond the results, however, it is the quality of football that should concern Nigerians. Chelle's tactical decisions have increasingly raised questions about his understanding of the players at his disposal and his ability to maximise their strengths.

How does a coach approach a home fixture with three defensive midfielders when the responsibility is to dominate possession, create chances and impose authority on the opposition? What was the attacking ambition behind such a selection? Football is not won by simply accumulating defensive midfielders. It requires the right balance between defensive security, creativity and attacking penetration.

The return fixture against Tanzania offered another illustration of Chelle's questionable judgement. He started with two strikers, Taiwo Awoniyi and Tolu Arokodare, whose playing profiles and strengths have considerable similarities, while leaving one of Nigeria's most creative players, Alex Iwobi, on the bench.

The logic was difficult to understand. Having two forwards on the pitch does not automatically translate into attacking superiority. Sometimes, what a team needs is a creative midfielder capable of unlocking a compact defence, supplying the forwards and dictating the tempo of the game. Iwobi's absence, therefore, raised legitimate questions about Chelle's understanding of the attacking balance required to win such matches.

Perhaps even more disturbing is the coach's apparent reluctance to recognise and reward good form. Kelechi Iheanacho, arguably one of Nigeria's most in-form strikers in Europe, has been enjoying an impressive scoring run. Yet his performances have not translated into the national team recognition one would ordinarily expect.

Even during the friendly against Russia, when Victor Osimhen was unavailable, Iheanacho was left out. What exactly must a Nigerian striker do to convince the national team coach that he deserves an opportunity? If current form is not a major consideration in selection, what criteria is Chelle applying?

A national team coach must create an environment in which performance is rewarded, not one in which players are left wondering what more they must do to earn a place in the squad.

This brings the question of Chelle's tactical maturity into sharper focus. Selecting the best available players is not necessarily the same as selecting the best combination. Nigeria possesses sufficient attacking quality to trouble virtually any defence in Africa. The coach's responsibility is to organise that talent into a coherent and effective unit. When a system consistently fails to bring out the best in the available personnel, questions must inevitably be asked about the man responsible for designing it.

March 2027 may still appear some distance away, but the atmosphere surrounding the Super Eagles is already becoming increasingly tense. Nigerians are growing impatient, and understandably so. The country has invested too much emotion, resources and football history in this team to accept another campaign defined by uncertainty. The wounds of recent disappointments have yet to heal, and every questionable performance reopens them.

There is also a more uncomfortable conversation to be had about the mentality of this generation of players. Talent is certainly not the problem. Nigeria has footballers playing for some of Europe's biggest clubs, competing in demanding leagues and enjoying the privileges associated with elite professional football. But international football demands more than technical ability and club reputation. It requires resilience, mental toughness and the capacity to withstand pressure when the stakes are highest.

Unfortunately, this generation has repeatedly struggled to demonstrate those qualities at critical moments.

The scars of Nigeria's failure to qualify for the 2022 FIFA World Cup remain particularly painful. In the decisive home encounter against Ghana, the Super Eagles buckled under the weight of expectation and failed to secure the victory that would have taken them to Qatar. It was not merely a failure of tactics or individual ability; it was also a failure to manage the occasion. Nigeria had home advantage, the support of its people and the opportunity to settle the contest, yet the team failed to rise to the challenge.

At the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire, played in 2024, a similar vulnerability resurfaced. Having taken the lead against the host nation in the final, Nigeria had an opportunity to secure a historic triumph. Instead, the team surrendered its advantage and eventually lost the trophy. It was another painful reminder that reaching a final is one thing; possessing the mental strength to cross the finishing line is quite another. For a country that has won the competition three times, another runners-up finish was never going to provide much consolation.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup qualification campaign provided yet another opportunity for this generation to rewrite its story. Nigeria was handed a lifeline through the qualification process but ultimately failed to secure a place at the tournament. The consequences were enormous. A country with Nigeria's population, football culture and abundance of talent was once again left watching the world's biggest football competition from home.

The recurring pattern is becoming difficult to ignore: when the pressure intensifies, the Super Eagles struggle to deliver.

This is why Chelle's present predicament cannot be separated from the wider history of Nigerian football management. There is a growing perception that the current coach has enjoyed a degree of patience and institutional protection that was not extended to some of his predecessors.

Samson Siasia was not afforded the same opportunity. Emmanuel Amuneke has not enjoyed a comparable opportunity to establish himself at the highest level of national team management. Finidi George, meanwhile, was shown the exit after just two matches in charge of the Super Eagles during the 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign.

These comparisons raise legitimate questions about consistency in the NFF's treatment of national team coaches. Why should one coach be judged almost immediately while another enjoys extended patience despite disappointing performances and questionable tactical decisions?

If results are the standard, that standard must apply to everyone. If coaches deserve time to build their teams, then that consideration should not be reserved for selected individuals. The NFF cannot operate a system in which patience becomes a privilege rather than a clearly defined policy.

Chelle must also understand that managing Nigeria is no ordinary coaching assignment. It is a responsibility that comes with enormous expectations. The Super Eagles are not a laboratory for endless tactical experimentation. Every international window matters, every qualification point is precious, and every opportunity to build confidence must be taken seriously.

The Nigerian football public is not demanding miracles. It is demanding competence, consistency and visible progress.

There is nothing wrong with giving a coach sufficient time to implement his philosophy. Indeed, successful national teams are rarely built overnight. But time must be accompanied by demonstrable improvement. The question is no longer simply whether Chelle has a plan; it is whether that plan is producing the desired results.

His team selections, substitutions, tactical adjustments and management of difficult matches must begin to demonstrate a clear understanding of the demands of the job.

The NFF must equally accept responsibility for the present situation. A football federation cannot appoint a coach, celebrate his arrival and subsequently abdicate its responsibility to establish measurable expectations. There must be clear performance benchmarks, technical assessments and effective accountability mechanisms.

The coach must know what constitutes success, while the federation must be prepared to act when those expectations are not met. Sentiment, personal relationships and contractual convenience must not become excuses for institutional indecision.

Nigeria's precarious position in the AFCON qualification race should therefore serve as a warning. The remaining campaign must be approached with urgency rather than complacency. Chelle must demonstrate that he can make difficult decisions, identify the right combinations and extract the maximum from the players at his disposal. He must also rediscover the attacking identity Nigerians expect from their national team. A side blessed with so much attacking talent should not consistently look short of ideas.

The players, too, must accept their share of responsibility. Coaches can organise teams, devise strategies and provide motivation, but they cannot play the decisive passes, win every duel or summon courage on behalf of the footballers. The Super Eagles must rediscover the competitive hunger that once made Nigeria a feared opponent across Africa.

Wearing the national colours must mean more than reporting to camp, collecting match bonuses and returning to club football. It must come with an obligation to give everything for the country.

There is still time to rescue the situation, but time is not an unlimited resource. The remaining qualification campaign must provide Chelle with the opportunity to demonstrate that he is the right man to lead Nigeria into the next phase of its football journey. Before the final qualification decisions are made, the questions surrounding his tactical judgement, squad management and ability to deliver results must have convincing answers.

SPORTS

The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know

Edo FA, Sports Commission announce NFF/CAF D Licence Coaching Course for February 2027

The Edo State Football Association, in conjunction with the Edo State Sports Commission and in collaboration with the Football Coaches Association of Africa Nations (FCAAN), has announced plans to organise an NFF/CAF D Licence Coaching Course from February 9 to 14, 2027.

The six-day programme is part of efforts to strengthen coaching education, improve technical standards and promote grassroots football development in Edo State and beyond.

The importance of coaching education in football cannot be overstated, as well-trained coaches play a vital role in identifying, nurturing and developing young talents. Acquiring the right coaching knowledge also enables practitioners to understand modern training methods, improve players' technical abilities and introduce appropriate tactical principles at different stages of player development.

The CAF D Licence provides a foundation for coaches working within grassroots football, equipping them with essential knowledge and practical approaches to player development. The initiative therefore represents an important opportunity for aspiring and established coaches to improve their professional competence and contribute meaningfully to the growth of the game.

The organisers have confirmed that candidates with coaching qualifications from the National Institute for Sports (NIS) are eligible to apply. Holders of FCAAN E and D Diplomas are also eligible to participate.

Interested candidates are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity and complete their registration promptly, as available spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

The course fee is 250,000.

- **Course: NFF/CAF D Licence Coaching Course**
- Date: February 9–14, 2027
- Course fee: 250,000

*Payment details:

- Account name: **Gregory Itseore Ikhenoba**
- Account number: **2007864520**
- Bank: **Zenith Bank**

Enquiries and registration:

- **08063045544**
- **+234 813 498 8593**
- **+234 812 149 6434**

The Edo State Football Association and the Edo State Sports Commission remain committed to creating opportunities for coaching development and strengthening the foundations of football across the state.

Eligible coaches are therefore urged to seize this opportunity to enhance their knowledge, improve their coaching qualifications and become better equipped to contribute to the development of football.

Interested applicants are advised to register early to avoid missing out.



Alagoa Kere conquers Bayelsa monthly rapid Chess tournament

Alagoa Kere has emerged champion of the November edition of the Bayelsa Monthly Rapid Chess Tournament, finishing with an outstanding score of 6.5/7 at the Royal Gambit Chess Club, Ayala Hotel.

Kere produced a superb performance in a highly anticipated 5th round encounter against World Rapid Amateur Champion, Ekunke Goodness, which ended in a draw. He then went on a winning spree in the final two rounds to finish atop a field of seasoned professionals.

It was hard luck for Ekunke Goodness, who suffered a shocking draw against rising star Felix Unarugu in the 6th round. That result proved costly, as he had to settle for a 2nd place finish.

The star of the day, however, was 11-year-old Bayefa Oyeinkeperemor, the youngest player in the tournament. Bayefa was on fire throughout the 7-round battle, with his only defeat coming in the final round against the eventual winner, Alagoa Kere. With 5/7 points, Bayefa secured an impressive 3rd place finish.

Other Prize Winners:

-Sunshine Ebiakpo — Best Female, 4th Position

-Abner Quickpen — Best Junior

-Ognonna Daniel — Best RGCC Player

The event proudly supported by the state government came to a close with words of support from the Patron of Royal Gambit Chess Club, Chief Harry, who emphasised the importance of having more of such events, especially with the collaboration between the club and the Bayelsa State Chess Association.

A total of 250,000 in cash prizes was distributed to the winners, with the star prize of 50,000 awarded to champion Alagoa Kere.



Bendel Insurance suffer first home defeat as coach Atune promises comeback

Kehinde Osagiede

Assistant Coach Jolomi Atune has apologized to Bendel Insurance supporters following the club's painful 1-0 home defeat to Doma United, assuring fans that the Benin Arsenals will bounce back from the setback.

Coach Jolomi Atune, has also appealed to the club's management, supporters and fans to remain calm and supportive following the team's disappointing 1-0 defeat to Doma United in Saturday's Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL) Matchday 14 encounter in Benin City

Atune, who stood in for head coach Kennedy Boboye, who was away attending a CAF A Licence course in Abuja, admitted that the team's performance fell short of expectations despite creating several scoring opportunities.

Describing the defeat as an unfortunate setback, Atune expressed regret over the result and assured supporters that the team would work hard to make amends in their subsequent fixtures.

"It was a bad day for us. We did everything and created good chances, but we were unlucky to get the best out of all our efforts.

"We want to apologise to our supporters and fans and appeal to them to bear with us. We promise to make up for this painful loss on the road.

"It was our first home defeat, and it is very painful. We understand how disappointed our people feel right now. I assure everyone that we will surely bounce back and make up for our errors today," he said.

The Matchday 14 encounter, played at the Samuel Ogbemudia Stadium in Benin City, began with both teams adopting cautious and tactical approaches, with neither side able to find the breakthrough before the half-time whistle.

However, just four minutes into the second half, a defensive mix-up involving Bendel Insurance left-back Julius Emiloju and goalkeeper Adeyinka proved costly, as Doma United capitalised on the opportunity to score the decisive goal through Isah Mohammed's involvement in the attacking move.

Despite making several substitutions and tactical adjustments in a bid to turn the game around, Bendel Insurance could not break down the visitors' defence as Doma United held on to secure a valuable away victory.

The defeat represents Bendel Insurance's first home loss of the season and has dealt a big blow to their league campaign.

The Benin Arsenals have now dropped to sixth position on the NPFL table, with 21 points from 14 matches.

Bendel Insurance will have an opportunity to redeem themselves next weekend when they travel to Lagos to face struggling Inter Lagos in a Matchday 15 fixture.

The technical crew and players will be hoping to put Saturday's disappointment behind them and return to winning ways as they seek to maintain their push for a strong league finish.



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