2027: Okpebholo mobilises Egor for Tinubu, APC

RICHARD EWEKA

ABUJA

•As Oshiomhole alleges opposition plot to disrupt polls

Edo State Governor, Senator Monday Okpebholo, has called on residents of Egor Local Government Area to vote massively for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and all candidates of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the January 16, 2027 general election.

The governor made the appeal on Tuesday at the APC presidential campaign rally in Egor, where he commended party supporters and residents for their impressive turnout despite the scorching weather.

He described the crowd as a demonstration of the people's support for the APC and expressed confidence that the state would continue to witness development under the Tinubu administration.

"On January 16, 2027, I encourage you all to come out en masse to cast your votes for APC and all its candidates in the election, including Tinubu. With his backing and support, Edo State will continue to experience growth and development," he said.

Deputy Director-General (Mobilisation) of the APC 2027 Presidential Campaign Council and Senator representing Edo North, Adams Oshiomhole, urged voters to resist attempts by opposition parties to disrupt the electoral process.

Oshiomhole alleged that opposition elements were planning to instigate crises in parts of Northern Nigeria to undermine the election, accusing presidential candidates of the African Democratic Congress (ADC), Atiku Abubakar, and the Nigeria Democratic Congress (NDC), Peter Obi, of being behind the alleged plot.

He claimed that some individuals could be mobilised with small sums of money to cause disturbances and urged eligible voters not to be distracted but to exercise their franchise with

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The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know
NigerianObserver | @Nigerian_Observer | @NigerianObserver | www.nigerianobservernews.com
PUBLISHED SINCE MAY 29, 1968 | VOL. 47, NO. 1,405 | WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER, 2026. | ₦200

Tinubu transmits revised N66.1trn 2026 budget to Senate for approval

CAROLINE AMEH / AGHEDO IYOBOR

.As Senate summons Chevron, NUPRC, NMDPRA over has regulation breaches

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has transmitted the revised 2026 Appropriation Bill and Fiscal Framework to the Senate, seeking legislative approval for a reduction in the proposed national budget from N68.3 trillion to N66.1 trillion.

Under the revised proposal, projected government revenue stands at N33.7 trillion, while capital expenditure is pegged at N26.2 trillion.

The fiscal deficit remains at N31.4 trillion, representing 5.6 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), with the Federal Government retaining its borrowing plan of N29.2 trillion.

The borrowing arrangement comprises N18.4 trillion in domestic loans and N10.7 trillion in foreign borrowing.

The President said the revised fiscal framework was designed to accommodate outstanding government obligations, including certain expenditures incurred by the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) on behalf of the Federation, debt-service commitments, capital warrants and outstanding refunds to ministries, departments and agencies.

Meanwhile, the Senate has summoned Chevron Nigeria Limited, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) over alleged violations of gas regulations and audit queries arising from the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Oil and Gas Industry Audit Reports.

The summons was issued by the Senate Committee on Public Accounts, chaired by Senator Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo, as part of its ongoing investigation into revenue generation, remittances, royalties, taxes and regulatory compliance in the oil and gas industry.

The investigation covers the 2021, 2022 and 2023 NEITI Oil and Gas Industry Audit Reports, which reportedly contain several findings relating to revenues, payments, remittances and other financial obligations of stakeholders in the sector.

The committee said the exercise was designed to block revenue leakages, strengthen revenue assurance, enforce compliance with relevant laws and ensure that all funds due to the Federation are properly accounted for.

It cited Sections 88, 89 and 85(5) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, and Order 95(5)(d) of the Senate Standing Orders, 2026, as the legal basis for its investigative powers.

Other organisations summoned include the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), NEITI, Revenue

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CAMPAIGN RALLY:
From left: Gen. Charles Airhiavbere; Edo State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Emperor Jarret Tenebe; Governor of Edo State, Senator Monday Okpebholo; former Governor of Edo State and Senator representing Edo North Senatorial District, Senator Adams Aliyu Oshiomhole; and Edo state Director-General of the Presidential Campaign Council, Senator Matthew Urhoghide, at the APC Presidential Campaign rally held in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State yesterday

Edo ALGON presents four SUVs to Local Govt Service Commission

LAMAI CASSIUS

BENIN CITY

The Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Edo State Chapter, has procured four brand-new Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) for the Edo State Local Government Service Commission in recognition of the Commission's contributions to effective grassroots administration and service delivery.

The vehicles were formally presented to the Chairman of the Commission, Rt. Hon. Kabiru Adjoto, by the Edo State ALGON Chairman and Chairman of Etsako East Local Government Council, Rt. Hon. Sunny Ekpetika Ekpeson, on behalf of the association's local government chairmen.

Speaking during the presentation, Ekpeson said the Commission deserved far greater appreciation for its dedication, hard work and commitment to duty, particularly its role in driving the policies and programmes of the Edo State Government at the local government level.

He described the procurement and presentation of the vehicles as a demonstration of ALGON's appreciation for the

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FHC nullifies Omo-Agege's NDC ticket, orders INEC to remove his name —Pg 2

Additional N130bn approved by NEC for police training ahead of 50,000 recruitment —Pg 3

NATO chief vows defence against space threat after Russian nuclear satellite reports —Pg 8

Osimhen steps up recovery after knee surgery, targets return to grass training next week —Pg 12

NEWS

FHC nullifies Omo-Agege's NDC ticket, orders INEC to remove his name

AJUWA VICTOR

WARRI

The Federal High Court sitting in Warri, Delta State, has nullified the nomination of former Deputy Senate President, Ovie Omo-Agege, as the National Democratic Congress (NDC) senatorial candidate for Delta Central Senatorial District over alleged non-compliance with provisions of the Electoral Act.

The court, presided over by Justice Hyeladzira Ajiya Nganjiwa, held that the NDC failed to comply with statutory requirements governing the submission of its membership register to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) ahead of its senatorial primary election.

The court further ruled that the statutory period within which the party could conduct a fresh primary election and nominate another candidate had elapsed, given the 180-day requirement preceding the general election.

Consequently, the court directed INEC to delete Omo-Agege's name from its list of candidates for the Delta Central Senatorial District election.

It also restrained Omo-Agege from parading himself as the NDC senatorial candidate for the district.

The judgment represents a significant development in the legal battle over the NDC senatorial ticket in Delta State, with the party now confronted with the implications of the court's decision ahead of the forthcoming general election.

MIKE OSAROGIAGBON

BENIN CITY

Police arrest 4 Edo Security Network members for allegedly leaking intelligence to cultists

Four members of the Edo State Security Network (ESSN) have been arrested for allegedly leaking police operational intelligence to suspected cultists, thereby frustrating an operation to apprehend members of the gang in Edo State.

The suspects, identified as Isaac Iruvwe, 45; Gideon Ache, 32; Tony Okhiale, 49; and Culture Uzor, 45, were arrested at Evbuomore Community in Ovia North-East Local Government Area of the state last week. The suspects, identified as Isaac Iruvwe, 45; Gideon Ache, 32; Tony Okhiale, 49; and Culture Uzor, 45, were arrested at Evbuomore Community in Ovia North-East Local Government Area of the state last week.

The suspects allegedly divulged information about police movements to the suspected cultists, thereby compromising an operation to arrest members of the gang reportedly conducting an initiation exercise.

The Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Eno Ikoedem, disclosed this on Monday, November 23, 2026, while parading the four security operatives alongside 17 other suspects arrested for various offences.

She said: "Furthermore, four members of the Edo State Security Corps were arrested for allegedly leaking information on police movements to suspected cultists, thereby frustrating an ongoing operation."

However, the suspects gave conflicting accounts of the circumstances surrounding their arrest when questioned by journalists.

One of the suspects, Isaac Iruvwe, admitted disclosing police movements to the suspected cultists but claimed he acted out of fear for his life. He alleged that members of the gang had earlier dispossessed him and some of his colleagues of their firearms, adding that he feared they might kill him if he refused to cooperate with them.

But another suspect, Culture Uzor, denied involvement in the alleged intelligence leak, insisting that he and the other two suspects were innocent and were arrested because of Iruvwe's alleged conduct.

Uzor alleged that Iruvwe, under the guise of making a telephone call to his wife, was actually communicating with the suspected cultists.

Recounting the circumstances of their arrest, Uzor said they were on duty with a team of policemen at about 7 a.m. at the popular Last Bus Stop in Evbuomore Community when the officers disarmed and arrested them.

He claimed that Iruvwe suddenly appeared and acted suspiciously, triggering the incident that eventually led to their arrest.



A cross of leaders and and supporters of the All Progressives Congress, APC, during the APC Presidential campaign rally held in Egor Local Government Area, Edo State, yesterday.

....2027: Okpebholo mobilises Egor for Tinubu, APC

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs).

Questioning Obi's political consistency and party-building capacity, the former Edo governor said the Labour Party's former presidential candidate had moved from one political platform to another.

"Obi cannot build his own party. He is going from one party to the other. If you cannot build a party, is it Nigeria you want to build?" he asked.

Oshiomhole also commended President Tinubu for approving six additional General Officer Commanding positions and the establishment of the Army's 83 Division in Edo State, expressing optimism that the measures would strengthen security and curb criminal activities.

On the economy, he argued that the Tinubu administration's reforms had helped reduce the disparity between rich and poor Nigerians in accessing foreign exchange.

Similarly, the Director-General of the APC Campaign Council in Edo State, Senator Matthew Urhoghide, credited the Tinubu administration with improvements in the country's security situation and economic management.

He recalled that kidnapping and armed robbery were major security concerns before the 2023 general election, adding that the current administration had changed the narrative.

"The 36 state governors have all agreed to state police to improve security. President Tinubu has changed the narrative in Nigeria, and our economy has improved. President Tinubu has done well for Nigeria and Nigerians," Urhoghide said.

The Deputy Governor of Edo State, Rt. Hon. Dennis Idahosa, applauded the Federal Government's establishment of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), saying the initiative had provided relief to families, including widows, struggling to keep their children in school.

The Edo State Chairman of the APC, Mr Jarrett Tenebe, commended Governor Okpebholo for sustaining unity within the party and appealed to members, particularly youths, to shun violence before, during and after the election.

He urged party supporters to mobilise peacefully, turn out at their polling units and vote for all APC candidates.

"Youths, please don't fight. Just vote and don't fight on election day. Just go to the polling unit and vote and return all APC candidates in the January 16, 2027 general election," Tenebe said.

Tinubu transmits revised N66.1trn 2026 budget

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Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Seplat Energy, TotalEnergies EP Nigeria, Oando, Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and Aiteo Eastern E&P, among others.

The committee directed the organisations to appear through their Chief Accounting Officers, accompanied by relevant technical personnel familiar with the issues raised in the audit reports.

Gas flaring and compliance with relevant regulations have also emerged as major areas of concern in the investigation.

The NUPRC's 2025 Annual Report reportedly showed that gas flare penalties increased by 56 per cent to N611.42 billion in 2025, while oil and gas companies flared 215.09 billion cubic feet of gas during the year.

The report further indicated that only 24 of the 59 companies directed to submit Flare Elimination and Monetisation Plans complied with the directive, leaving 35 companies, representing 59 per cent, in default.

The commission warned that continued non-compliance could attract administrative penalties, suspension of flare permits and other enforcement measures under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA).

The committee had earlier warned that any organisation that failed to honour its invitation would face sanctions in accordance with the Constitution and Senate Standing Orders.

The warning followed the failure of some agencies to appear at the commencement of the investigation in August.

The committee maintained that the probe would continue until all invited agencies and companies satisfactorily account for the issues raised in the NEITI audit reports.

It said the hearings would assess the compliance of ministries, departments and agencies, government-owned enterprises, regulatory bodies and oil companies with the Constitution, NEITI Act, Fiscal Responsibility Act, Financial Regulations and other laws governing the extractive industry.

Edo ALGON presents four SUVs to Local Govt Commission

«CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Commission's contributions, noting that the gesture was also intended to encourage greater commitment to its statutory responsibilities.

According to him, the Commission's efforts in promoting an effective and efficient local government system across Edo State could not be adequately compensated by the gesture, which he described as a modest expression of appreciation.

Ekpeson assured the Commission of ALGON's continued cooperation and support, stressing that the association remained committed to strengthening local government administration through constructive collaboration with relevant institutions.

He added that every good deed deserved recognition and promised to convey the Commission's request for additional logistical support to Governor Monday Okpebholo, particularly the provision of a Coaster bus to ease the transportation needs of its large workforce.

The ALGON Chairman also urged members of the Commission to sustain their collaboration with Governor Okpebholo and the State Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Emperor Jarret Tenebe, towards actualising the political and developmental aspirations of the state.

He particularly called for collective efforts in delivering the targeted 2.5 million votes promised to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Edo State during the forthcoming presidential election.

Responding, the Chairman of the Local Government Service Commission, Rt. Hon. Kabiru Adjoto, expressed appreciation to ALGON, Edo State Chapter, and the local government chairmen for the gesture.

He assured the association that the vehicles would be judiciously deployed for the purposes for which they were procured, adding that they would significantly enhance the Commission's mobility and facilitate the effective discharge of its oversight responsibilities across the local government areas.

Adjoto pledged that the Commission would intensify its efforts to promote discipline, efficiency, professionalism and improved service delivery within the local government system.

He also commended Ekpeson for his leadership, commitment and contributions to governance in Edo State, describing his impact as remarkable.

The Commission Chairman further noted that the ALGON Chairman had continued to demonstrate strong support for the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the SHINE Agenda of Governor Monday Okpebholo.

Other members of the Commission present at the occasion included Hon. Evangelist Francis Akhigbe, Hon. Oscar Aghedo and Hon. Abu Benjamin.

The highlight of the ceremony was the formal presentation of the keys of the four vehicles to Adjoto on behalf of the Commission.

NEWS

Additional N130bn approved by NEC for police training ahead of 50,000 recruitment

Aghedo Iyobor

ABUJA

The National Economic Council (NEC) has approved an additional 130 billion for the rehabilitation and upgrading of police training institutions across the country, bringing the total funding commitment to 230 billion.

The approval was granted on Monday at the Council's 162nd meeting, chaired by Vice President Kashim Shettima.

The additional funding is expected to accelerate ongoing rehabilitation projects and strengthen the capacity of police training institutions ahead of the planned recruitment of 50,000 personnel into the Nigeria Police Force.

Rehabilitation Ongoing In 13 Locations

Presenting an update to the Council, the NEC Ad-Hoc Committee on the Rehabilitation of Police Training Institutions, chaired by Enugu State Governor, Peter Mbah, disclosed that rehabilitation work was ongoing at 13 locations nationwide, with about 30 per cent of the projects completed.

The Committee said the additional 130 billion would facilitate the completion of ongoing works, upgrade training facilities and expand the capacity of the institutions to accommodate the increased recruitment and training requirements.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Communications, Office of the Vice President, Stanley Nkwocha, said the additional allocation reflected the Council's commitment to strengthening police training infrastructure.

"With state police on the horizon, the National Economic Council has committed an extra 130bn to overhaul Nigeria's police training institutions, bringing the total funding to 230bn," Nkwocha stated.

NEC had earlier approved 100 billion for the rehabilitation programme following the establishment of the Ad-Hoc Committee in October 2025, on the recommendation of President Bola Tinubu.

Preparation For State Policing

The intervention is also expected to support preparations for the proposed recruitment of 50,000 police personnel and strengthen the country's security training infrastructure ahead of the anticipated introduction of state policing.

The rehabilitation programme is aimed at improving training facilities and ensuring that police institutions have the infrastructure required to train a larger workforce.

At the same meeting, NEC also endorsed two major development projects involving proposed World Bank financing of $850 million to strengthen disaster preparedness, climate resilience and early childhood development across the federation.

Recruitment Clarification

Meanwhile, prospective applicants are advised that the NEC approval does not constitute the commencement of a new police recruitment exercise.

The Council did not announce a new recruitment portal, application deadline, shortlist or screening date.

Interested applicants are therefore advised to await official announcements from the Nigeria Police Force and the Police Service Commission (PSC).



MEETING:
From left: Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Olayemi Cardoso; Members of the Committee, Philip Ikeazor; Yuguda Abubakar; and Prof. Murtala Sagagi, during the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in Abuja on Tuesday.

Deadly Rally Violence: Delta restricts movement in Ughelli North

Uhunmwagho Izogie

UGHELLI

The Delta State Government has declared a daily 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew across Ughelli North Local Government Area following a violent clash at a National Democratic Congress (NDC) campaign rally in Uduere Community.

The incident reportedly resulted in fatalities, that left several others injured and hospitalized.

In a statement issued on Monday, the Delta State Police Command spokesperson, SP Bright Edafe, confirmed that the movement restriction remains in effect until further notice. He noted that Delta State Police Command have launched a full-scale investigation to uncover the cause of the attack and apprehend the perpetrators.

Commissioner of Police CP Samuel E. Erale has ordered intensified security patrols across the area to restore order and prevent further unrest and breakdown of law and order.

"Anyone found culpable will face the full weight of the law, irrespective of political affiliation or status," Erale assured, urging residents to remain calm, obey the curfew, and share credible intelligence with security operatives.

While extending condolences to the bereaved families and wishing the injured a quick recovery, the police boss issued a stern warning to politicians and their supporters against thuggery, intimidation, and the illegal possession of firearms, emphasizing that political rivalry must never escalate into bloodshed.

Customs freezes training, 3,852 recruits in limbo

Kebonkwu Ruth

ABUJA

The Nigeria Customs Service has suspended training for 3,852 newly recruited officers.

The suspension followed concerns raised by the Federal Character Commission, FCC, over alleged irregularities in the recruitment exercise.

The suspension was announced in a statement signed by the Deputy Comptroller of Customs and National Public Relations Officer, Abdullahi Maiwada.

Maiwada said training activities at the Service's two training colleges have been temporarily put on hold to allow further consultations and dialogue with the FCC.

The decision followed engagements between Customs management and a delegation of the FCC, during which both sides agreed to resolve the disagreement through constructive dialogue.

The controversy followed complaints by applicants who alleged they were excluded from training despite appearing on the published final recruitment lists.

The FCC said more than 500 applicants complained that they completed all stages, including medical examinations, but were later excluded.

Customs had earlier said appearing on the final list did not automatically guarantee enlistment, adding that 397 applicants were screened out over substance use, physical fitness, medical records, age and documents issues.

The recruitment, which began on December 27, 2024, attracted more than 573,000 applications for 3,927 vacancies. Final lists were published between July 28 and 30, 2026, with 1,275 in Superintendent Cadre, 367 in Inspectorate Cadre and 2,210 in Customs Assistant Cadre. Training commenced on October 9, 2026.

The FCC has since filed a four-count charge against Customs and its Comptroller-General, Bashir Adewale Adeniyi, over alleged failure to provide information on the exercise.



Abdullahi Maiwada
Deputy Comptroller of Customs

FCC nullifies NWRI's recruitment of 58 staff, orders fresh exercise

Aghedo Iyobor

ABUJA

The Federal Character Commission (FCC) has ordered the cancellation of the recruitment of 58 staff by the National Water Resources Institute (NWRI), Kaduna, over alleged violations of the Federal Character Principle.

The Commission directed the institute to commence a fresh recruitment exercise, citing failure to ensure equitable representation of states across the federation and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

In a statement issued, FCC spokesperson, Ademola Lawrence, said the directive followed a review of a report submitted by the Commission's monitoring officials.

The review established that the recruitment exercise did not comply with the prescribed Federal Character balancing index.

"The commission has directed the NWRI to cancel the entire recruitment exercise and commence the process afresh, with strict adherence to the prescribed federal character balancing index and all applicable requirements," the statement added.

The Commission described the breach as a violation of the principles of fairness, equity and inclusiveness governing recruitment into public institutions.

"The Federal Character Principle, as enshrined in Section 14(3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), is a constitutional requirement, not an administrative formality.

"Section 14(3) requires that the composition of government institutions reflect Nigeria's diversity and ensure equitable representation of all states and the FCT," it stated.

The Commission said it will continue to monitor recruitment exercises across federal institutions to ensure compliance with constitutional provisions on fairness and inclusiveness.

FG targets senate assault centres in all LGAs

ABUJA

The Federal Government says it is working with state governments to establish at least one Sexual Assault Referral Centre in every Local Government Area (LGA) across the country, to improve access.

The Minister of Women Affairs and Social Development, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, announced this on Monday in Abuja at the commencement of the 2026 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign programme.

She said the country's 52 existing centres were inadequate to serve its population of more than 240 million people, emphasising the need to expand access to survivor support services nationwide.

At the event, the minister said: "For a nation of over 240 million people, 52 centres are grossly inadequate," underscoring the need to expand services across the country immediately, she added.

She explained that the centres would provide broader protection and support for survivors, extending their services beyond responding to cases of sexual abuse in communities across the country and underserved areas.

Explaining their wider role, she said: "The sexual assault centre is beyond sexual abuse. It is a response centre that places strong protection mechanisms in our local communities." She explained

Sulaiman-Ibrahim also announced that the National GBV Electronic Dashboard and Situation Room were now operational, describing them as tools to strengthen monitoring and response to reported cases nationwide for better coordination.

NEWS

Delta govt condemns Uduere killings, says no one will be shielded from justice

AJUWA VICTOR

UGHELLI

The Delta State Government has condemned in strong terms the killing of persons during a violent incident in Uduere community, Ughelli North Local Government Area, assuring that those responsible for the dastardly act will not escape justice.

Arising from the reported gun shots and attendant deaths in some parts of the Local Government Area, the State Government has declared an immediate curfew from 6pm to 6am everyday starting from Monday until further notice. This is to bring the situation under-control.

According to a statement signed by the Secretary to the Delta State Government (SSG) Dr Kingsley Eze Emu, the curfew covers the entire Ughelli North Local Government Area.

Dr Emu said Governor Sheriff Oborevwori was deeply disturbed by the killings and had directed security agencies to immediately investigate the incident, identify those responsible and ensure that they are brought to justice.

He described the loss of lives as tragic and unacceptable, stressing that no political ambition or disagreement should result in the taking of innocent lives.

The State Government commiserated with the families of the deceased, and all those affected by the incident.and also wished the injured victims a speedy recovery.

While acknowledging the seriousness of the allegations raised by Senator Ovie Omo-Agege, Dr Emu said it was important to allow security agencies to conduct a thorough, impartial and professional investigation rather than rush to conclusions or assign blame without established facts.

He specifically dismissed the attempt to link Governor Oborevwori to the violence, describing such allegations as grave matters that must be substantiated and investigated rather than presented as established facts.

"The Governor has nothing to gain from violence or the loss of innocent lives. His administration remains committed to peace, security and the protection of every resident of Delta State, irrespective of political affiliation.

"Governor Oborevwori has made it clear that anyone found to have participated in, sponsored or facilitated this criminal act must face the full weight of the law. Nobody will be protected on account of political position, status or affiliation," he said.

The SSG emphasized that Delta State must not be allowed to degenerate into an atmosphere of political violence, adding that the right to campaign, canvass for votes and participate in the democratic process must be respected and protected.

He urged political leaders, party supporters and their followers to exercise restraint, avoid inflammatory statements and refrain from actions capable of escalating tensions in the state.

He further appealed to residents of Uduere and neighbouring communities to remain calm, cooperate with security agencies and provide useful information that could assist in the investigation.

He assured that the Oborevwori administration would continue to work with relevant security agencies to maintain peace and protect lives and property across the state.

Dr. Emu reiterated that the government would not condone political violence under any guise, insisting that the perpetrators of the Uduere killings must be identified and brought to justice.

Delta govt deploys doctors to hard-to-reach communities

AJUWA VICTOR

UGHELLI

The Delta State Government has reaffirmed its commitment to improving healthcare delivery in rural communities, with plans to strengthen the availability of doctors and other medical personnel in underserved areas across the state.

The State Commissioner for Health, Dr Joseph Onojaeme, gave the assurance during an unscheduled visit to the Uwheru Primary Healthcare Centre in Ughelli North Local Government Area.

Onojaeme, who had earlier paid a courtesy visit to the traditional ruler of Uwheru Kingdom, His Royal Majesty, Simpson Sapele, Obruche II, Odion R'Ode of Uwheru, said the Oborevwori administration was determined to ensure that residents of rural communities had access to quality healthcare without having to travel long distances in search of medical attention.

He explained that the government's commitment to rural healthcare was reflected in the ongoing rehabilitation and upgrading of primary healthcare facilities across the state, disclosing that Uwheru was among the 150 primary healthcare centres renovated under the first phase of the programme.

According to him, the intervention went beyond cosmetic renovation to provide essential facilities that would make the centres functional and suitable for effective patient care.

"According to the MORE Agenda, we are committed to ensuring that healthcare reaches even the hard-to-reach communities in the state.

"If you observed what we have done here, you would have seen that we recently renovated 150 health centres, and the Uwheru Primary Healthcare Centre is one of them.

"You saw the solar power installation, which provides electricity. This is very important in patient care. We also constructed a two-bedroom residential apartment for healthcare workers, alongside the general renovation of the facility," he said.

The commissioner disclosed that the government was working with the management of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Asaba, to incorporate some of its rural medical postings into primary healthcare centres across Delta State.

ADDITION OF NAME

I, formerly known as **OJIOTOFOH SATURDAY**, now wish to be known and addressed as **OJIOTOFOH SATURDAY OTAIGBE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public and all concerned authorities to take note.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF ASSOCIATION OF INSTRUMENTALISTS IN ESAN WEST, of Behind MTN Office, Ukpenu, Ekpoma, Edo State, has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration as an Incorporated Trustee under Part F of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020.

THE PROPOSED TRUSTEES ARE:
1. IREGBEYEN OMON – Chairman
2. ANEKE PAUL AKHERE – Trustee
3. UIJIATALOR DAVID – Secretary
4. IJEKHUEMEN IDEMUDIA ISAAC – Trustee

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
1. To unite instrumentalists and persons actively involved in instrumental music within Esan West Local Government Area, Edo State.
2. To promote professionalism, ethical conduct, discipline and excellence among members.
3. To promote the welfare, development and legitimate professional interests of members.
4. To foster cooperation, mutual support and peaceful relationships among musicians.
5. To organise music training, workshops, seminars, rehearsals, cultural programmes and musical events.
6. To encourage young people to develop musical and performance skills.
7. To preserve and promote local music, culture and musical performance.
8. To encourage peaceful mediation and resolution of disputes among members.
9. To establish constructive relationships with individuals, educational institutions, cultural organisations, public bodies and government agencies for lawful music, educational and cultural purposes.

Any objection to the registration of this association should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, within 28 days of this publication, clearly stating the grounds of such objection.

SIGNED: For: **ESAN WEST INSTRUMENTALISTS ASSOCIATION**

EDO STATE UNIVERSITY, IYAMHO

Km7, Auchi-Abuja Road, Iyamho-Uzairue,
Edo State, Nigeria

8TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY
PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

The Vice-Chancellor, **Professor Victor O. Adetimirin, FNPBA**, on behalf of the Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students of Edo State University, Iyamho, hereby announces the University's **8th Convocation Ceremony**, holding on **Saturday, 28th November 2026, at 11:00 a.m.**at the **Aliko Dangote Auditorium**. The ceremony features the award of postgraduate degrees, postgraduate diplomas, first degrees and prizes.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Sunday, 22nd November, 2026

7:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Service; St Joseph Catholic Church, Iyamho.

Monday, 23rd November, 2026

10:00 a.m. Vice-Chancellor's Press Briefing, University Senate Chambers.

Tuesday, 24th November, 2026

10:00 a.m. Flag-off of Two-Day Free Medical Outreach (24th–25th November).

Wednesday, 25th November, 2026

3:00 p.m. Novelty Football Match: (i) University Staff versus Auchi Coaches; (ii) Female Academic Staff versus Female Non-Academic Staff.

Thursday, 26th November, 2026

2:00 p.m. Convocation Lecture: "That Nigeria's Higher Education System May Fulfil Its Purpose". **Lecturer:**Professor Labode Popoola, Ph.D., FFAN. **Distinguished Guest:**Professor Andrew Haruna, FNAL, FLAN. **Special Guest:**Dr Washington O. Osifo, Commissioner for Education, Edo State. **5:00 p.m.**Vice-Chancellor's Cocktail.

Friday, 27th November, 2026

1:00 p.m. Jumat Prayers; Iyamho Central Mosque.

Saturday, 28th November, 2026

11:00 a.m.8th Convocation Ceremony; Aliko Dangote Auditorium.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parents, guardians, guests and members of the public are advised to arrive early for processing and seating. Admittance into the official venue shall be subject to university security and seating arrangements. Guests are required to present invitation cards and means of identification. Vehicles are to be parked in designated areas, and all visitors are expected to comply with traffic, security and ceremonial instructions issued by authorised university personnel.

Guests and students are to be seated by 10:30 a.m.

NOTICE TO GRADUATING STUDENTS

Graduating students are required to comply with all academic, administrative and ceremonial regulations relating to the Convocation. Participation in the academic procession requires the use of approved academic gowns. Graduands are to obtain from their Faculties, Departments, the Registry and the Ceremonials Committee information on fees, robing, procession, invitation cards, official materials, clearance and collection of their certificates. **Graduands are to converge at 10:00 a.m. at the E-Library Building where they will receive important instructions.**

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

The Governing Council, Senate, Management, Staff and Students congratulate all graduands and thank their parents, guardians and sponsors. The University welcomes all guests to its 8th Convocation Ceremony and wishes everyone a memorable celebration.

Special Guest of Honour: His Excellency, Senator Monday Okpebholo, Executive Governor of Edo State and Visitor to Edo State University, Iyamho.

ENQUIRIES

Toksi Omage-Umeh, FCPM, MANUPA(Registrar): 0703 888 7811
Professor Harriet Efanodor-Obeten, Ph.D.(Chairperson, Ceremonials Committee): 0803 943 0181

Signed
Toksi Omage-Umeh, FCPM, MANUPA
Registrar and Secretary to Council

Tinubu seeks Reps' approval to remove 268 obsolete laws

ABUJA

President Bola Tinubu has asked the House of Representatives to approve the revised and consolidated Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN 2025), following a comprehensive review that recommended the removal of 268 obsolete, spent or repealed enactments and the retention of 664 principal laws.

The review covered 932 federal enactments and 731 subsidiary legislations, in what the President described as an effort to modernise Nigeria's legal framework and make federal laws more coherent, accessible and relevant to contemporary realities.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Tajudeen Abbas, read the President's letter, dated November 18, 2026, during plenary on Tuesday.

The letter, titled 'Transmission of the Revised and Consolidated Compendium of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN 2025) for Consideration and Approval', followed the recommendations of a technical committee constituted under the supervision of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi.

Tinubu said the exercise was necessary to address the long gap since the last official consolidation of Nigeria's federal laws in 2004, noting that the country had undergone significant legislative, constitutional, institutional and technological changes in the intervening years.

In the letter addressed to the Speaker, the President said: "I write to formally inform you of the conclusion of the review, update and consolidation of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, and to forward herewith the proposed Revised compendium of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN 2025) for the kind consideration and approval of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"You may wish to recall that the last official consolidation of the Laws of the Federation was undertaken in 2004. Over the past twenty (20) years, Nigeria has witnessed profound legislative, constitutional, institutional, and technological transformations.

"These developments have necessitated the enactment of numerous new statutes, substantial amendments to existing laws, and a significant accumulation of subsidiary legislation, making the consolidation of an updated, coherent, and accessible body of Federal laws an urgent national imperative."

According to Tinubu, a specialised committee was established on October 24, 2024, to conduct a comprehensive review and update of federal laws, identify obsolete and spent enactments, resolve statutory inconsistencies and overlaps, and produce an authoritative modern edition of the country's laws.

He said the committee examined 932 federal enactments and 731 subsidiary legislations before validating 664 principal enactments for inclusion in the LFN 2025, while recommending the removal of 268 others.

The President added: "In discharging this mandate, the Committee rigorously examined a total of 932 Federal enactments and 731 subsidiary legislations. Following extensive legal research, technical consultations, editorial scrutiny, and quality assurance, 664 principal enactments alongside their relevant subsidiary legislation were validated for inclusion in the LFN 2025, while 268 enactments were identified as obsolete, spent, or repealed.



PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU

2027: Judge lawmakers by development records, LP candidate tells voters

UMUAHIA

Labour Party candidate for Bende Federal Constituency in the 2027 general elections, Chima Anyaso, has urged voters to assess lawmakers seeking re-election based on their constituency development records and the impact of their representation on the people.

Anyaso made the call during an interview with Vimbai Ekpenyong on ARISE News on Monday, where he discussed legislative performance, constituency development and voters' expectations ahead of the 2027 elections.

He said constituents should demand clear accounts of how their representatives had used their positions to attract projects and improve living conditions in their communities.

"Political representation should be judged by tangible results rather than political visibility, public relations activities or the prominence of an officeholder's position in the National Assembly," he said.

Anyaso argued that effective representation should go beyond parliamentary participation to include attracting federal projects, improving infrastructure and supporting development in education, healthcare, agriculture and youth empowerment.

He urged voters to distinguish between projects announced by lawmakers, those captured in government budgets and those completed and delivered for public use.

According to him, constituents should be able to identify specific projects and interventions undertaken by their representatives without relying on political publicity.

He described projects announced or publicised without corresponding implementation or measurable benefits as "audio projects".

What to know about Efemena Umukoro, Urhobo youth leader killed in Delta attack

The LP candidate cited Abia State Governor, Alex Otti, as an example of leadership whose performance, he said, could be assessed through measurable achievements.

He maintained that public officeholders seeking fresh mandates should present clear accounts of their stewardship and explain how their interventions had improved the lives of the people.

"Public office should not become an entitlement or a permanent occupation disconnected from the expectations of the electorate," he said.

Anyaso also stressed that residents of Bende deserved transparent explanations of how constituency-related interventions and federal opportunities had been deployed over the years.

The comments come as political activities gather momentum ahead of the 2027 general elections, with constituency development and legislative accountability expected to feature in campaigns.He subsequently dismissed the suit for lacking merit and ordered the parties to bear their respective costs.

Also speaking at the event, the Senior Special Assistant to Governor Lucky Aiyedatiwa on Scholarship, Mr Samad Orijeminiyi, lauded Ajana's "catch-them-young" approach, saying the initiative could contribute to tackling the problem of out-of-school children.

State police will tackle Plateau insecurity, says Mutfwang

JOS

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, on Tuesday received the preliminary report of the 14-member Advisory Committee on State Police at the Rayfield Government House, Jos, expressing confidence that a well-structured state policing system would address the state's security challenges.

The committee was inaugurated by the governor in March 2026, under the chairmanship of retired Deputy Inspector-General of Police, DIG Habila Joshak, to undertake a comprehensive review of the legal, operational and institutional frameworks necessary for the establishment of a decentralised policing structure in Plateau State, in alignment with ongoing national security reforms.

Receiving the report, the governor, who was represented by his deputy, Josephine Piyo, expressed sincere appreciation to the chairman and members of the committee for the dedication, diligence and sense of responsibility demonstrated in undertaking the assignment.

"The presentation of this preliminary report marks a significant step in our collective determination to strengthen the security architecture of Plateau State.

"We recognise that the security challenges confronting our state require thoughtful, innovative, and sustainable solutions, anchored on effective collaboration between government, security institutions, and the communities we serve," she said.

She said the decision to establish the committee was informed by the conviction that security must be responsive to local realities.

"We believe that a well-structured, professional, and accountable state policing system, operating within the framework of the constitution and the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, could provide an additional layer of security and improve our capacity to protect lives and property," she said.

"I wish to emphasise that our interest is not merely in establishing another security institution, but in building a system that commands public trust, respects human rights, promotes professionalism, and remains accountable to the people," she said.

She assured the committee that the preliminary report would receive the necessary attention and consideration.

"We will carefully examine its recommendations and pursue further consultations with relevant stakeholders to ensure that whatever framework eventually emerges is inclusive, practical, and sustainable," she said.

She also appreciated traditional institutions, civil society organisations, security agencies and other stakeholders who contributed their perspectives to the process.

"As a government, our commitment to the safety and well-being of every resident of Plateau State remains unwavering. We will continue to explore every legitimate opportunity to strengthen our security institutions and restore lasting peace across our communities.

Police arrest two robbery suspects in Benue

MAKURDI

The Benue State Police Command has arrested two suspected robbers linked to a robbery incident in Abuja.

The spokesperson for the state command, DSP Peter Aondongu, disclosed this in a statement issued on Tuesday and made available to journalists in Makurdi.

He said the officers intercepted a gang suspected of specialising in interstate robbery operations along the Agatu-Keffi Road.

The statement read in part, "On 22nd November 2026, at about 0818 hours, a segment of the command's Operation Anyam Nyor Police Tactical Team deployed along the Agatu-Keffi Road in Agatu Local Government Area intercepted a red-coloured Toyota Camry with two occupants who were reasonably suspected not to be the owners of the car.

"During a search of the car and the occupants, as well as preliminary investigations, the team recovered documents and other items linking the red Toyota Camry to a robbery incident in Abuja, as the owner was contacted and confirmed the robbery attack."

Aondongu said that while the suspects were being conveyed to the station, one of them, who was driving the vehicle, jumped out and fled into the bush.

He, however, said the police successfully rearrested the fleeing suspect, who was immediately rushed to the Comprehensive Health Centre in Agatu for medical attention.

"But later died while receiving treatment. His remains have been deposited at the hospital mortuary for post-mortem examination and other investigative processes," the statement added.

Aondongu listed the items recovered in connection with the incident to include a red Toyota Camry, a jackknife, a live cartridge, two small Tecno button phones, a Lenovo laptop, a walking stick, three National Identity Cards, five ATM cards, a long black beaded necklace, N5,000 cash, two phone chargers, a wristwatch, two brown bags, vehicle particulars and other documents.

The police spokesperson said the command had commenced a thorough investigation to establish the circumstances surrounding the robbery, determine the extent of the suspects' involvement and uncover other possible criminal activities.

2027: Ex-CJN warns against repeat of 2011 post-election killings

ABUJA

Former Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of the Council of the Wise of the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development, Justice Olukayode Ariwoola (retd.), has warned against a repeat of the violence that followed the 2011 general elections, urging political actors and other stakeholders to take urgent steps to safeguard the 2027 polls.

Speaking at a press conference in Abuja on Tuesday, Ariwoola raised concerns over increasing incidents of political violence, intimidation and destruction of property associated with political activities across the country.

Political violence involving candidates and supporters of major political parties appears to be escalating ahead of the 2027 general elections, with growing reports of attacks across the country.

The incidents have resulted in the destruction of property, loss of life, and injuries to several people.

In an exclusive report published by The PUNCH on November 11, the National Peace Committee revealed that 26 states and the Federal Capital Territory recorded 109 violations of the National Peace Accord during a 10-week monitoring exercise, raising concerns over the safety of political campaigns and the conduct of the 2027 elections.

The report, which covered the period between August 19 and October 27 and was obtained by The PUNCH, identified political violence and thuggery as the most frequent violations, with 33 incidents, followed by misinformation and disinformation, which accounted for 29 cases.

Reacting, the former CJN urged security agencies to ensure adequate protection at campaign venues and arrest and prosecute perpetrators of electoral violence. He also called on the Independent National Electoral Commission to enforce electoral laws without fear or favour.

The Savannah Centre's Council of the Wise expressed deep concern over the wave of political violence and intimidation, which it said had led to loss of lives and destruction of property during ongoing political campaigns across Nigeria ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Ariwoola noted that, "Recent media reports indicated that in the past five weeks, Nigeria has witnessed a disturbing recurrence of politically motivated violence and attacks in many states of the federation, thereby dangerously threatening the safety of candidates, electorates, journalists and the general public. "Since the commencement of political campaigns, reported attacks and disturbances thus far have affected political convoys of some candidates, rallies and gatherings of political parties in Kano, Katsina, Lagos, Edo, Delta, Enugu, Cross River, Sokoto, Enugu, Bayelsa and Rivers states as well as the Federal Capital Territory."

Bayelsa boat tragedy: Diri appeals for FG's support to complete roads

BAYELSA

Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri, has made a fresh appeal to the Federal Government to deepen its collaboration with the state in the construction and completion of the three senatorial district road projects.

The ongoing projects include the Ekeremor-Agge road in Bayelsa West, Yenagoa-Oporoma-Ukubie road in Bayelsa Central, and the Nembe-Brass road in the eastern district.

While the state had undertaken the construction of phase one of the Nembe-Brass road, with the project nearing completion, the Federal Government has awarded the contract for the second phase.

The other two senatorial roads are being constructed solely by the state government.

Diri renewed his appeal in a statement issued by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Daniel Alabrah, on Tuesday, following the tragic boat incident of November 20, 2026, in the Southern Ijaw Local Government Area of the state, which claimed no fewer than 29 lives.

During Vice-President Kashim Shettima's condolence visit to the state on Sunday, the Bayelsa governor lamented the slow pace of work on the second phase of the Nembe-Brass project.

He also noted that tragic boat incidents in the riverine state would be reduced or averted if the road projects were completed.

He added that completing the roads would unlock economic benefits for the state and the country, considering the huge natural resources in Bayelsa's maritime domain.

"Work on the second phase of the Nembe-Brass road is too slow. We believe that if that road is completed, Brass Island will be one of the best in Nigeria," he said.

On the Yenagoa-Ukubie road, Diri explained that his administration continued its construction from where previous governments stopped around Igeibiri community and completed one of the longest bridges in the state at Angiama, which was commissioned by President Bola Tinubu on April 10 this year.



NEWS CONFERENCE:
From left: Chairman, National Research Fund of TETFUND, Prof. Hayward Mafuyai; representative of the chairman board of trustees, TETFUND, Sen. Sanni Danladi; Executive Secretary of TETFUND, Sonny Echono; and the chairman organising committee on 2nd TETFUND National Research Exhibition, Dr Umar Budir, during a news conference on 2nd TETFUND National Research Fair/Exhibition in Abuja on Monday.

Army decorates 32 newly promoted soldiers

KANO

The General Officer Commanding, 10 Division of the Nigerian Army, Major General Chinedu Nnebeife, has urged 32 newly promoted soldiers to demonstrate greater dedication, discipline and professionalism in their duties.

Nnebeife gave the charge during the decoration ceremony of the soldiers, who were promoted in the Nigerian Army's 2026 promotion exercise, with their new ranks ranging from Lance Corporal to Army Warrant Officer.

The Army disclosed this in a statement posted on its X handle on Tuesday and signed by the Acting Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 10 Division, Aliyu Danja.

The GOC urged the beneficiaries to justify the confidence reposed in them by the Army, noting that promotion came with greater responsibilities and higher expectations.

He noted that "while promotion ultimately comes from God Almighty, their elevation was equally a recognition of their hard work, commitment and contributions to the Service."

He reminded them to uphold the Nigerian Army's core values of courage, discipline, selfless service, respect for humanity and dedication to duty.

Army decorates newly promoted soldiers. CREDIT: ArmyInfo

Nnebeife said their elevation was not only a recognition of their hard work, commitment and contributions to the service but also a call to greater responsibility.

He congratulated the soldiers and urged them to regard their new ranks as an opportunity to demonstrate greater professionalism and loyalty to the Nigerian Army.

The GOC also acknowledged the sacrifices of the beneficiaries' families, particularly their spouses, who often shoulder additional responsibilities while the soldiers are away from home on operational assignments and other military duties.

Army decorates newly promoted soldiers. CREDIT: ArmyInfo

He commended them for their patience, resilience and continued support, describing their contributions as invaluable to the effectiveness and success of military personnel.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Army Warrant Officer Emeka Ukandu thanked the Chief of Army Staff for approving their promotions and finding them worthy of elevation.

He assured the Army leadership of their renewed commitment to duty and determination to justify the confidence reposed in them.

Ukandu also appreciated the GOC for his leadership and encouragement, while acknowledging the sacrifices and support of their families.

He prayed for personnel awaiting promotion, expressing hope that they would be successful in subsequent exercises.

The 32 promoted soldiers comprised one Army Warrant Officer, two Master Warrant Officers, three Staff Sergeants, one Sergeant, eight Corporals and 17 Lance Corporals.

The ceremony was attended by commanders, staff officers, serving and retired military personnel, family members and well-wishers.

Highlights included the reading of the beneficiaries' citations, decoration with their new ranks, words of advice, a vote of thanks and group photographs.

2027: Court adjourns Kano NDC governorship suit

KANO

The Federal High Court in Kano has adjourned until December 7 a suit challenging the Nigeria Democratic Congress's governorship candidacy in the state ahead of the 2027 election.

The adjournment followed a request by the plaintiffs for more time to respond to a preliminary objection filed by the party's counsel, Barrister Magaji Mato, seeking the dismissal of the suit.

Briefing journalists after Monday's proceedings, the NDC counsel, Mato, said the plaintiffs were not ready to proceed because they had yet to respond to the objection and other processes served on them the previous week.

"Unfortunately, the other side that brought us to court said they were not ready because we had filed some processes, including a notice of preliminary objection, asking the court to dismiss the matter at this stage because there is no case for us to answer," he said.

He said his clients did not oppose the request for an adjournment.

"The court graciously adjourned the matter to December 7 for definite hearing. We are ready, and if they serve us with their processes, we will also respond to them. By December 7, we will be fully ready to hear the matter, by the grace of God," Mato added.

Explaining the grounds of the preliminary objection, the lawyer argued that the suit did not qualify as a pre-election matter because the three plaintiffs were not members of the NDC.

He also contended that even if they were members, they did not participate in the party's governorship primary organised by its National Working Committee on May 29, 2026.

"Our grounds are simple. First of all, it is not a pre-election matter because the three persons who brought us to court are not even members of our political party," he said. Mato further argued that the plaintiffs had not attached documents showing that they purchased nomination forms or were registered members of the party.

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10 X 4	340,000	365,500	273,500	294,013	177,400	190,705	370,000	397,750	295,600	317,770
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FOREIGN

NEWS



NATO CHIEF MARK RUTTE AND GERMAN CHANCELLOR FRIEDRICH MERZ RESPOND TO REPORTS OF RUSSIAN PLANS TO LAUNCH NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO SPACE

NATO chief vows defence against space threat after Russian nuclear satellite reports

Nato chief Mark Rutte has said the alliance will defend against any threats in space after German reports that Russia is preparing to launch a nuclear-armed satellite.

Intelligence reports about a possible launch in the next 60 days had been shared among Nato countries this month, according to German media. It was not clear which country had authored the reports.

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said such reports were "not new, yet they remain no less shocking", and a government spokesman said the reports were being taken "very seriously".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had not seen the reports but dismissed stories citing "unknown sources" as "hardly worth taking seriously".

The Russian embassy in Berlin told German media it rejected what it called "unfounded allegations" and said the reports were part of a "propaganda campaign".

Citing anonymous German military and intelligence sources, public broadcasters NDR and WDR and newspaper Süddeutscher Zeitung, said the Russian satellite was dubbed "Sputnik-S" and was equipped with a nuclear warhead. It could be used to disrupt or destroy other satellites, including important communication and observation satellites.

Asked about the reports, the Nato secretary general told a press conference in Berlin alongside Merz: "We will always make sure we defend every inch of Nato territory, and that includes making sure we are safe when it comes to the space element."

The Western defensive alliance had a variety of response options, said Rutte.

"When it comes to the military domain, we will always make assessments of our deterrence and defence and make updates where necessary."

Merz did not confirm or deny the reports of Russia's plans, but said they "reveal the level of escalation Russia is evidently prepared to pursue".

German government spokesman Stefan Kornelius warned against causing "excessive nervousness regarding hypothetical dangers".

Josef Aschbacher, the head of the European Space Agency, told the Handeslblatt newspaper that having nuclear weapons in space was "the ultimate nightmare scenario".

Russia is a signatory to the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which bans weapons of mass destruction from orbit.

Bleddyn Bowen, co-director of the Space Research Centre at Durham University, said that exploding a nuclear weapon in space would have "massive infrastructural effects" as there were now more than 15,000 active satellites. But he told the BBC's Today programme that "the effect of these weapons would be extremely indiscriminate and also take out a lot of Russia's own space infrastructure".

Other countries, including the US and China, have deployed or plan to deploy other weapons in space, exploring other capabilities outside of the treaty, such as targeting rivals' satellites - which are key for military communications, surveillance and navigation.

In 2024 the US accused Russia of developing a "space-based" anti-satellite weapon armed with a nuclear warhead. Russia denied the accusation.

"Our position is clear and transparent. We have always been categorically against the deployment of nuclear weapons in space and we are still against it," President Vladimir Putin said at the time.

In September the US Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink said the US had "on-orbit, space-control weapons" circling the planet, but did not provide specifics. In response to the announcement, the Kremlin's Peskov told Russian media that space "must be free of any weapon".

India's 'cockroach' party leader says he was stopped from flying to the UK

Saurav Das said that he was supposed to deliver a series of lectures in the UK

A leader of India's "cockroach" party has said that immigration officials at Delhi airport stopped him from flying to the UK, where he was set to attend a series of events.

Saurav Das said he was supposed to board a flight on Tuesday at 01:00 local time (19:30 GMT on Monday) but was told by immigration officers that his passport had been "flagged".

It is not clear yet why Das's passport was flagged. The BBC has reached out to the federal home ministry, Delhi police and airport officials for comment.

Das, who rose to prominence in India earlier this year after Gen Z-led protests, said that he had been invited by the Oxford Union to speak about the movement.

He said that he was also scheduled to speak at other universities in Cambridge and Edinburgh.

"Indian students put their heart and soul to organise the events but this anti-intellectual [government] was scared of me going to these prestigious institutions," Das wrote on X.

A federal home ministry spokesperson directed the BBC to airport authorities and the Delhi police for comment on Das's allegations.

On Tuesday, the London School of Economics Student Union's Amnesty International Unit, a student-led charity group, shared a post on Instagram saying that an event featuring Das had been "indefinitely postponed".

Ratna Singh, another leader of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), said in a post on X that she and Das had been invited by the Oxford Union but that her visa had been rejected a few days ago.

"The manner in which Saurav was not allowed to board today raises deeply troubling questions about the state of freedom of expression and the space being allowed for young voices in this country," she wrote.

Das, a former journalist, became one of the faces of the CJP - a Gen Z-led movement that began as satire but has since emerged as a youth-led pressure group.

In July, protests spearheaded by the CJP over exam paper leaks led to the resignation of India's Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan .

In October, CJP leaders including Das were among thousands of people detained by the police for trying to hold protests demanding the resignation of India's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls. Kumar and the Election Commission have denied wrongdoing.

The same month, Das and Ashutosh Ranka, another CJP leader, were jailed for seven days after being arrested for trespassing at a banned protest site in Delhi.

Car bomb tears through Colombian city wounding more than 20

A car bomb has exploded in the central Colombian city of Villavicencio, injuring at least 23 people.

The explosive device was detonated in front of the offices of the regional government, in the city centre, damaging several buildings.

No group has so far admitted carrying out the attack - the latest in a series using explosives to target official buildings and security forces' headquarters.

Colombian President Abelardo de la Espriella blamed "narcoterrorism", but gave no details. Armed criminal groups have recently stepped up attacks in what appears to be retaliation for an offensive ordered against them by De la Espriella.

Writing on social media, the president said that his government would "bluntly and forcefully" respond to "every drop of Colombian blood spilled".

"There will be no impunity and no retreat," he added.

It is the latest in a series of attacks targeting official buildings and security forces' headquarters

Three weeks ago, three adults and a baby were killed in a car bomb attack near army barracks in Tolima province.

And earlier on Monday, drones dropped explosives on the police headquarters in the northern city of Cúcuta.

The car bomb in Villavicencio went off on Monday evening - the eve of the 10th anniversary of the signing of a peace deal between the government and left-wing rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc), Colombia's largest guerrilla group.

Following the signing of the deal, thousands of left-wing rebel fighters laid down their arms.

However, a significant number of Farc members, who did not agree with the deal, refused to disarm and joined dissident groups instead.

While forced displacement, child recruitment and the numbers of attacks on security forces dropped in the aftermath of the deal, there has been an upsurge in recent years driven by dissident Farc factions and criminal groups fighting for control of drug trafficking, illegal mining and extortion rackets.

Colombia's first left-wing president, who was in power from August 2022 to August 2026, tried to negotiate with these armed groups as part of what he called his "total peace" strategy.

However, the talks stalled and collapsed with several of the criminal groups violating ceasefires they had agreed to observe.

De la Espriella was elected on a promise to crack down on "narcoterrorism" and has been scathing about his predecessor's approach.

He has also been critical of the 2016 agreement, calling it a "false peace".

In a post on X, uploaded shortly before news of the car bomb in Villavicencio spread, he referred to the peace deal as a "mess", describing it as a "waste of public resources" and the "cause behind Colombia's ruin".

What Jensen Huang's return teaches China's Xi about Trump

Jensen Huang's reinstatement as Nvidia CEO has riveted the world - including China, where it has become the top trending post on Weibo, the country's biggest social media platform.

Most users are pleased to see the return of the influential billionaire, who declared that he loved China, before videos appeared online of him eating noodles and drinking milk tea during a visit in May. Some wondered why - in the video of him returning to Nvidia's headquarters - he is not wearing one of his leather jackets.

But to many, Huang's return, which is being dubbed one of the greatest U-turns of all time, seems like a vindication for China.

That's probably how Xi Jinping sees it too.

Beijing has dismissed claims that one of the women who had an affair with Jensen Huang had been recruited by China's Ministry of State Security, its version of the CIA, as a spy. Chinese state media has also framed the spy saga as a smear campaign orchestrated by China hawks in Washington. The Global Times, a Communist Party mouthpiece, described it as a "witch hunt".

Now the White House, and President Donald Trump himself, have said Huang poses no national security threat, although investigations into the spy allegations are still ongoing.

Xi will have learned many lessons from this scandal, especially about Trump's pressure points.

For one, the fact that Huang's reappointment came so soon after Xi's meetings last week with Trump in Shenzhen could be read as a sign that direct engagement is an effective way to influence Washington.

Trump has said the two men discussed Huang, but did not elaborate further. Beijing has not commented.

The episode has also reinforced the view among Chinese officials that there are two camps in Washington: those in favour of restricting Chinese access to cutting edge tech to protect US national security, and those, like Huang, who believe that such restrictions will not limit Beijing's ambitions.

FOREIGN

DR Congo says military aircraft missing as rebels claim to shoot down plane

The Democratic Republic of Congo military says it is searching for one of its aircraft, after rebels said they had shot down a warplane in the east.

The military said it had lost contact with a small Cessna 208 cargo plane on Sunday following "poor weather conditions". The fate of the plane and its crew remained uncertain, it added.

On the same day, the rebel Front for the Refoundation of the Nation (FRN) said it had shot down a warplane that was on a mission to bomb Minembwe in South Kivu province.

Four people were reportedly on board, including a Ugandan and a South African pilot, who is said to have been captured alive.

The BBC has not independently verified the rebels' claim.

It is also unclear whether the aircraft reported missing by the DR Congo military is the same one rebels say they shot down.

Uganda's military on Monday denied any involvement.

A statement attributed to army chief Muhoozi Kainerugaba posted on X said: "UPDF had nothing to do with the aircraft that was shot down in Minembwe. We have penalized that company."

The statement did not identify the company or explain what penalty had been imposed.

Gen Kainerugaba later posted that "no Ugandan is allowed to work for mercenary companies in [DR Congo]".

Uganda's denial followed the circulation of a video apparently showing a man being questioned beside the plane's wreckage.

In the footage, the man identifies himself as Ugandan and claims he had been sent by the government. The BBC has not independently verified the video or established the man's identity.

He and the alleged South African pilot are said to be the only other survivors.

South African media outlet Mail & Guardian quoted an FRN spokesperson identifying the pilot as a South African and a "mercenary [who] has no link to the place that he was hired to destroy".

"Unfortunately, we have a multi-country conflict in the eastern DRC," deputy FRN spokesperson Oscar Balinda told the outlet.

In 2022, DR Congo's army blamed M23 rebels, who are now part of the FRN, of shooting down a UN helicopter in which eight people died. The rebels denied it.

The Congolese government has in the past used foreign mercenaries to fight the rebels.

In recent days, fighting between the FRN and the government has intensified with the rebel group accusing the government of targeting heavily populated areas.

The rebels control large areas of eastern DR Congo, including the major city of Goma, after major territorial advances last year.

Aid agencies say the violence is increasingly disrupting healthcare services.

Over the weekend, medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières said fighting in North Kivu had forced some of its teams to temporarily suspend outreach activities.

The fighting has also affected the response to the Ebola outbreak, with many health workers trapped, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The epicentre of the outbreak is in eastern DR Congo, which has been wracked by conflict for many decades, with some affected areas under rebel control.



CONGOLESE REBELS SAID THEY HAD TARGETED A WARPLANE PREPARING TO BOMB THE TOWN OF MINEMBWE

Russian governor detained in rare criminal case against regional leader

The governor of Russia's northern Murmansk region has been arrested on corruption charges in the first detention of a regional leader for five years.

Andrei Chibis, 47, is suspected of embezzlement and misappropriation of more than a billion roubles ($12.2.m; £9.3m) set aside to build an Arctic highway, as well as a further 39m roubles from the Murmansk construction budget.

Chibis is reported to have been detained as he arrived on a visit to Moscow on Monday and was taken in for questioning.

He denies wrongdoing but has made no public comment. His wife Yevgenia Chibis said "anyone who knows our family understands how ridiculous this is".

In a post on social media, she said her husband sincerely believed in the Murmansk region and thanked people for their words of support: "We really need them right now."

Chibis worked for several years as deputy minister for construction and housing, before becoming governor of Murmansk in 2019.

Murmansk is a key military point for Russia in the Arctic and is home to the Russian navy's Northern fleet.

The port of Murmansk is home to the Russian navy's Northern fleet

Chibis was re-elected two years ago after surviving a knife attack and is considered an active supporter of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Governors are seen as representing the Kremlin, and Vladimir Putin removed several in the months after the war began in February 2022.

However, until now no regional governor has been arrested since the start of the war, even though plenty of high-ranking officials have been detained in that time.

The Murmansk governor is one of a number of officials suspected of corruption by the Russian interior ministry's investigative department which, according to reports, alleged that a criminal group was set up in 2022 to embezzle money from the regional budget and move it abroad, including to Kyrgyzstan.

Another part of the case involves alleged fraud surrounding the rebuilding of a motorway between the two Arctic towns of Apatity and Kirovsk, which are 15km (9.3 miles) apart.

According to Russian news agency Interfax, a court will decide whether Chibis will remain in custody at a hearing on Wednesday.

He has been sanctioned by both the UK and EU, which accuses him of involvement in the illegal transportation of Ukrainian children to Russia and their adoption by Russian families.

Israeli air strike kills Hamas internal security chief in Gaza

An Israeli air strike has killed the head of Hamas's internal security service in Gaza.

Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry said Naeem Abu Nahel was targeted by an aircraft in western Gaza City. The 50-year-old had only been in the position since September, when his predecessor was captured in a raid by Israeli special forces.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz announced that Abu Nahel had been "eliminated" by the Israeli military.

Earlier, Palestinian first responders and health officials reported that six other people had been killed in two Israeli air strikes elsewhere in Gaza on Tuesday.

Three people, including a teenage boy, were killed in the Wadi Gaza area, south of Gaza City, they said. The other three, including two police officers, were killed in a separate strike on a police station in the al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis, they added.

Gaza's police force, which operates under the interior ministry, condemned the second attack, saying it was "part of an ongoing campaign targeting the police apparatus aimed at sowing chaos" in the territory.

The Israeli military said it had "struck terrorists in the area".

Israeli strikes on Gaza take place almost daily despite a US-brokered ceasefire agreed by Israel and Hamas in October last year.

At least 1,679 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN.

Israel says six of its soldiers have been killed in Gaza over the same period.

The Gaza war was triggered by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on 7 October 2023, when about 1,200 people were killed and 251 others were taken hostage.

Since then, more than 74,740 people have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza, the health ministry says.

Bangladesh's ex-PM Sheikh Hasina says she plans to return on 16 December

Bangladesh's former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has said she plans to return home on 16 December, more than two years after a popular uprising forced her from power.

Hasina, who has lived in exile in Delhi since August 2024, has asked the Bangladeshi government to fly her back to Dhaka, her spokesperson said.

The announcement comes amid renewed unrest in Bangladesh, where supporters of her Awami League party have staged protests despite a ban on its activities.

But it's unclear how Hasina will return. Last year, a Bangladeshi court sentenced her to death in absentia for crimes against humanity over a deadly crackdown on student-led protests that ended her 15-year rule. She denies the charges.

Bangladesh's state minister for foreign affairs Humayun Kabir dismissed the prospect of Hasina returning on her own terms.

"Sheikh Hasina will not be able to return to the country as an ordinary commercial passenger; she will be brought back in handcuffs," he told a press briefing on Tuesday.

Kabir also accused Hasina and Delhi of fomenting recent unrest in Bangladesh, alleging that they were backing "terrorist activities" in the country.

India's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. In April, the ministry said it was examining Bangladesh's request to extradite her and that it wanted to "engage constructively with the new government and further strengthen bilateral ties".

Hasina fled to India on 5 August 2024 as tens of thousands of protesters descended on Dhaka, and crowds stormed her official residence.

What began as student protests against quotas in government jobs turned into a mass uprising against her government following a deadly crackdown on demonstrators. The UN estimates that up to 1,400 people were killed during the unrest.

On Tuesday, Hasina's spokesperson Syed Mozammel Ali accused Bangladeshi authorities of forcing her into exile in violation of the country's constitution.

"Since Sheikh Hasina was flown to India on a Bangladesh aircraft on 5 August 2024, she now calls upon the government to arrange for her air transport from Delhi back to Dhaka," he said in a statement.

INSIDE **DELTA STATE**

Achuenu sues Oborevwori, others, demands N1.5bn over alleged unlawful suspension

Ajuwa Victor

ASABA

The embattled Rector of Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku, Builder Professor Emmanuel Achuenu, has dragged Delta State Governor, Rt. Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, the State House of Assembly and eight others before the National Industrial Court, Asaba Division, demanding N1.5 billion in damages over his alleged unlawful suspension and defamation of character.

Achuenu is seeking the compensation for what he described as the pain, psychological trauma, embarrassment and reputational damage allegedly inflicted on him by his suspension and the purported description of him as a "fraudulent professor".

The suit, marked NICN/ASB/30/2026, is before the National Industrial Court, Asaba Division, presided over by Justice Opeloye Ogunbowale.

The claimant is challenging his alleged six-month suspension as Rector, contending that the action violated the laws and regulations governing the appointment, suspension and removal of a chief executive officer of the institution.

Joined as respondents are Governor Oborevwori; the Delta State House of Assembly; Delta State Polytechnic, Ogwashi-Uku; the institution's Governing Council and its Chairman, Hon. Pastor Paul Adingwupu; the Acting Deputy Rector, Dr. Chika Ogonwa; Mrs. Christiana Edoge; Mr. Martin White Ufuah; and the Speaker of the State House of Assembly.

Among the reliefs sought, Achuenu is asking the court to declare that the Governing Council and its Chairman acted beyond their statutory powers by implementing the resolution of the House of Assembly suspending him without obtaining the approval of the Governor, who is the Visitor to the institution.

He is also challenging the process on grounds of alleged denial of fair hearing, insisting that the Governing Council, under the leadership of Adingwupu, acted outside the provisions of the law establishing the polytechnic.

The claimant further wants the court to declare that the State House of Assembly lacks the statutory authority to suspend, dismiss, sack or terminate his appointment through its oversight functions, arguing that its powers are limited to making recommendations to the Governor for appropriate action.

According to him, any punitive measure taken against him without the Governor's approval is unlawful, null and void and therefore incapable of enforcement.

Achuenu is equally seeking a declaration that the Governing Council, its Chairman and Adingwupu lack the authority to invoke Section 32(1) and (2) of the law establishing the polytechnic without the approval of the Governor.

He is also asking the court to invalidate any panel, committee or visitation exercise purportedly initiated by the respondents without the authorisation of the Governor in his capacity as Visitor to the institution.

Specifically, he wants the court to hold that any committee or panel of inquiry not constituted under the authority of the Governor is illegal, null and void.

Beyond the N1.5 billion damages claim, the claimant is seeking an order directing the respondents to pay all his outstanding salaries, entitlements, fringe benefits, emoluments, allowances and bonuses.He is also asking for 12 months' sabbatical leave at the expiration of his tenure.

At the proceedings, counsel to the claimant, Gabriel Okoro, appeared for Achuenu, while Mrs. Ezie, P.O. Adenuga and Miss E. Idahosa represented the Governor.

S.U. Nwosu, holding brief for Ayo Asala, SAN, appeared for the second and tenth respondents, while D.O. Ede represented the third to eighth respondents.

After listening to submissions from counsel, Justice Ogunbowale adjourned the matter to March 2, 2027, for further hearing.



Prof. Emmanuel Achuenu



Delta State Governor... Oborevwori

Delta police arrest seven suspected cultists over murder of BEDC staff

ASABA

The Delta State Police Command has arrested seven suspected cultists in connection with the murder of a staff member of the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC) following an attack on electricity personnel during a disconnection exercise at Ileje Quarters, Umunede, in Ika North-East Local Government Area of the state.

The attack reportedly occurred on November 16, 2026, when BEDC personnel were carrying out a power disconnection exercise in the community.

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Bright Edafe, disclosed this in a press statement, stating that the Umunede Divisional Police Headquarters received a report at about 1:15 p.m. that a group of youths suspected to be cultists had attacked the BEDC personnel with dangerous weapons, including cutlasses, battle axes and daggers.

Edafe said detectives were immediately mobilised to the scene, while the victim, who sustained multiple stab wounds during the attack, was rushed to the General Hospital, Umunede, where he was subsequently confirmed dead.

According to him, preliminary investigations led to the arrest of five suspects identified as Emmanuel Chinonso, 30; Gift Francis, 24; Jerry Nusi, 20; Kelvin Ifeanyi, 19; and Emmanuel Chinaza, 24.

He added that two additional suspects, identified as Michael Moses, 26, and Moses Egwuye, 35, were arrested on November 18, bringing the total number of suspects in police custody to seven. The police spokesperson disclosed that the two additional suspects were alleged members of the Aiye Confraternity, adding that investigations were ongoing, while efforts were being intensified to apprehend other suspects connected with the incident.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, Delta State Command, CP Samuel E. Erale, psc, mnips, condemned the killing and extended his condolences to the bereaved family as well as the management and staff of BEDC.

Ochei seeks review of Ndokwa's 9% hydrocarbon allocation, greater host community benefits

Stories by Ajuwa Victor

ASABA

The NDC senatorial candidate for Delta North, Rt. Hon. (Engr.) Victor Onyekachi Ochei, has called for a review of the hydrocarbon allocation framework governing oil-producing communities in Ndokwa Nation, insisting that the area's growing contribution to Nigeria's oil and gas production should translate into greater benefits for its people.

Ochei expressed concern over what he described as the continued allocation of nine per cent of hydrocarbon production to Ndokwa Nation, arguing that the arrangement, established about 21 years ago, should have been subjected to periodic reviews to reflect changing production realities.

He noted that the number of oil companies operating in the area had increased significantly since the allocation framework was introduced, yet the percentage accruing to the community had remained unchanged.

"Granted that the Petroleum Industry Act has been passed, and that is helping communities that produce this, however, we are not dealing with them. Today, the percentage of hydrocarbon produced by the Ndokwa Nation, for instance, stands at nine per cent, which was given to me 21 years ago, and we ought to have reviewed this like every five years," Ochei said.

According to him, AGIP was the only producing company operating in the area when the arrangement was initially established, whereas more than eight oil companies are now operating in the region without a corresponding adjustment in the allocation.

"At the time it was done, it was only AGIP that was producing there. Today, you have over eight oil companies producing there, and the quantum still remains nine per cent. These are the kinds of issues you need to address," he added.

The NDC candidate stressed that the concerns were not limited to Ndokwa Nation but extended to the wider hydrocarbon-producing communities in Delta North, including the Ika axis and Agbor, where oil and gas resources are also found.

He maintained that the resources available in these communities must be properly harnessed, with priority given to improving the welfare and living conditions of the people living in areas where exploration and production take place.

"I have spoken about the Ndokwa axis. The whole of that belt is a hydrocarbon belt, even up to Ika axis, Agbor and all of that. We have oil flowing, hydrocarbons flowing, and we need all those resources to be harnessed," he stated.

Ochei cautioned against an awpproach to resource development that focuses primarily on extraction and revenue generation without ensuring tangible benefits for host communities.

"But in putting all these together, what is important is that in harnessing them, we don't just throw them out. We need to harness them to the benefit first of the people who live there," he said.

Okonta, Ehiwarior hail grassroots mobilisation, insist on APC 5/5 victory in 2027

IKA SOUTH

The Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC) Ika South Campaign Council, Rt. Hon. Barr. Dr. Martin Okonta, PhD, and its Coordinator, Hon. Jerry Ehiwarior, have commended the party's various subcommittees and ward campaign committees for their commitment to effective grassroots mobilisation and voter engagement across the 169 polling units in Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State.

The duo described the sustained face-to-face interactions with voters and the dissemination of the achievements of APC-led administrations at the federal, state and local government levels as clear indications of the party's preparedness to secure victory in the 2027 general elections.

They reaffirmed their confidence in the APC's 5/5 victory agenda, expressing optimism that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Governor Sheriff Oborevwori, Senator Dr. Ifeanyi Okowa, Hon. Emmanuel Osazuwa and Pastor Cordilia Anyangwu would emerge victorious in their respective electoral contests.

According to them, the determination to deliver all five candidates remains sacrosanct, urging campaigners to intensify their mobilisation efforts and sustain the momentum across all wards and communities.

Okonta and Ehiwarior further charged party faithful and campaign structures to consistently communicate the achievements, policies and programmes of APC-led administrations to voters, stressing that effective grassroots engagement would be critical to securing the party's electoral success.

They specifically highlighted President Tinubu's economic reforms, the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), investments in education and healthcare, efforts to strengthen national security and measures aimed at stabilising the economy.

Sports

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

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

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has delivered 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.

FIFA rejects appeal against three-match bans for Egypt coaches

The FIFA Appeals Committee has rejected the appeal filed by former Egypt national team coaches Hossam Hassan and Ibrahim Hassan against their three-match suspensions imposed by the FIFA Disciplinary Committee.

The decision, which is final and binding, means both men must serve their respective suspensions when they next take charge of a senior national team.

However, the suspensions will not take immediate effect as both brothers are currently without a national team following their dismissal by the Egyptian Football Association.

The FIFA ruling means Hossam and Ibrahim will have to serve the three-match bans if they secure new national team appointments in the future.

Their dismissal by Egypt leaves their immediate coaching futures uncertain, while the FIFA decision remains in force.



Egypt coach Hossam Hassan



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.

Confirming the development, NWFL Chief Operating Officer, Modupe Shabi, described the AGA as an important component of the league's administrative calendar and an opportunity for clubs and management to collectively deliberate on issues concerning the continued development of women's football.

Shabi urged participating clubs to ensure proper representation and timely arrival in Abuja to facilitate effective participation in all scheduled engagements.

The NWFL management looks forward to welcoming club representatives and other stakeholders to Abuja for the important gathering ahead of the 2026/2027 season.

In the outgoing 2025/2026 NWFL season, Edo Queens emerged Premiership champions, while Pelican Stars and Imo Striker Queens secured promotion from the Championship. C2E Sports Academy emerged champions of the Nationwide League.



Winners presented with trophies at the end of Oman Christian Academy Inter House Sports Festival in Benin

Yellow house wins 19th Oman Christian Academy inter-house sports festival as students, teachers hail proprietor

KEHINDE OSAGIEDE

Yellow House has emerged overall champion of the 19th edition of the Oman Christian Academy Inter-House Sports Festival held in Benin City, Edo State, dethroning defending champions Green House in a keenly contested multi sports competition.

Yellow House clinched the championship with an impressive haul of 16 gold, 15 silver and eight bronze medals.

Red House finished in second position with 13 gold, 13 silver and seven bronze medals, while Green House, winners of the 18th edition, settled for third place with 12 gold, 11 silver and 15 bronze medals.

Purple House occupied the fourth position after winning 10 gold, 12 silver and 20 bronze medals.

The first-, second- and third-placed houses received trophies and cash prizes in recognition of their outstanding performances.

The four houses competed in about 15 sporting events for boys and girls during the festival. The events included football, volleyball, athletics, 100-metre and 200-metre races, sack race, chess and tug-of-war, among others.

Speaking at the event, the Proprietor of Oman Christian Academy, Dr. (Barr.) Edward Omoragbon, said he derived immense satisfaction from seeing pupils come together in an atmosphere of happiness, friendship and healthy competition, noting that sports remained a powerful tool for promoting unity in every community.

Omoragbon expressed appreciation to the school's teachers and parents for their support, stressing that while education was essential for children's intellectual development, sports played an equally important role in their physical and overall development.

New Enyimba FC coach,Biffo resumes, promises to work with the materials on ground

The newly appointed Coach of Enyimba FC of Aba, Abdullahi Biffo on Saturday officially resumed work with the People's Elephants.

In a brief telephone chat with me a couple of minutes ago, the former Kwara United and Sporting Lagos Coach appreciated the warm reception accorded him.

He promised to work with the crop of players he met on the ground to achieve positive results.

"The club currently parades close to fifty players and I am confident that we should be able to assemble a crop of 25 or more quality ones" ,enthused the highly experienced Coach.

Coach Abdulahi Biffo who is also currently under going a CAF A Coaching License course to beef up his coaching credentials, does not rule out the possibility of taking a look at the opportunities on offer during the December window break to solidify his team if the need for such arises.

He is being assisted by a fellow Kwaran and former Kwara United player, Babatunde Taofeek.



SPORTS

The Nigerian OBSERVER
That The People May Know

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.

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.

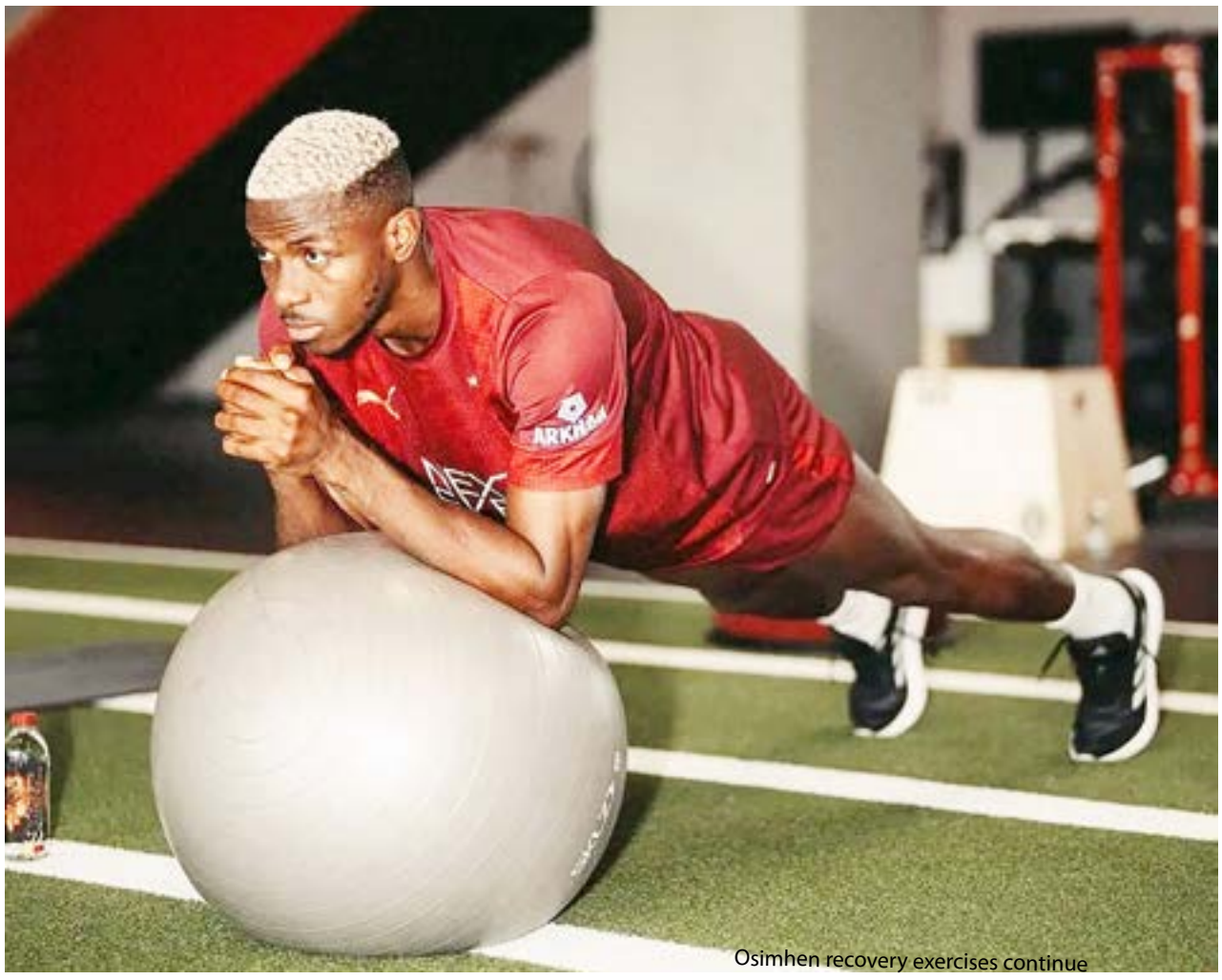
There is, however, optimism that the former Napoli striker could return to the training pitch next week, provided he continues to make satisfactory progress.

Such a development would represent an encouraging milestone for both Galatasaray and the Nigerian national team, although a return to grass training would not automatically mean immediate availability for competitive fixtures.

Galatasaray will be keen to welcome their influential forward back into the squad as he works towards regaining the sharpness and match fitness required to compete at the highest level. For Nigeria, Osimhen's recovery will also be closely followed as the Super Eagles look ahead to their forthcoming international assignments.

The striker remains one of the country's most important attacking players, and his return to full fitness would provide a significant boost to the national team's options.

For now, the priority remains a complete and carefully managed recovery, with supporters hoping the Super Eagles captain can overcome the setback and return stronger.



Osimhen recovery exercises continue

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.

Beyond his goalscoring ability, Iheanacho's assist against Sivasspor demonstrated his awareness and willingness to bring teammates into the game, making him an important attacking outlet for Bursaspor.

His current form will be encouraging for Nigerian football supporters, particularly as the Super Eagles continue to look towards their established attacking options for future international assignments.

With another goal, an assist and an individual match award added to his season's achievements, Iheanacho will be eager to maintain his momentum and continue delivering for Bursaspor in the coming fixtures.

FIFA names four-nation hosts for 2031 Women's world cup, UK gets 2035 edition

FIFA has confirmed the host nations for the 2031 and 2035 editions of the FIFA Women's World Cup, with the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica set to jointly stage the 2031 tournament. The 2035 edition, meanwhile, has been awarded to the United Kingdom, with England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland expected to play key roles in hosting the global competition.

The 2031 tournament will be historic as it will feature an expanded 48-team format, an increase from the previous 32-team structure, providing more countries with the opportunity to compete at the highest level of women's football.

For the United States, the 2031 edition will mark its third time hosting the competition, following previous editions in 1999 and 2003.

The four-time world champions will lead the joint hosting arrangement alongside Mexico, Costa Rica and Jamaica as the tournament returns to North America.

The United Kingdom's hosting of the 2035 edition will bring together its four football associations in staging one of the biggest events in women's football.

The decisions underline FIFA's commitment to expanding the global reach of women's football and creating greater opportunities for national teams to participate in the sport's biggest international competition



FIFA President Gianni

Printed and Published by **Bendel Newspaper Corporation**, 24, Airport Road, P.M.B. 1334 Benin City, Edo State.
Editor: Andy Asemota - 08035872075, 09076673265. **Advert Manager:** 08051177163.
Lagos Office: 25A, Alli Street, Off Tinubu Square, Lagos Island. **Abuja Office:** 1st Floor, Edo House, 75 Ralph Shodehinde Street, Central Business District, Abuja.
All correspondence to Bendel Newspaper Corporation, Benin City. Email: nigerianobservernews1@gmail.com - **ISSN 0331-2674**