

ISSN-2052-1979

# BOSS NEWSPAPER



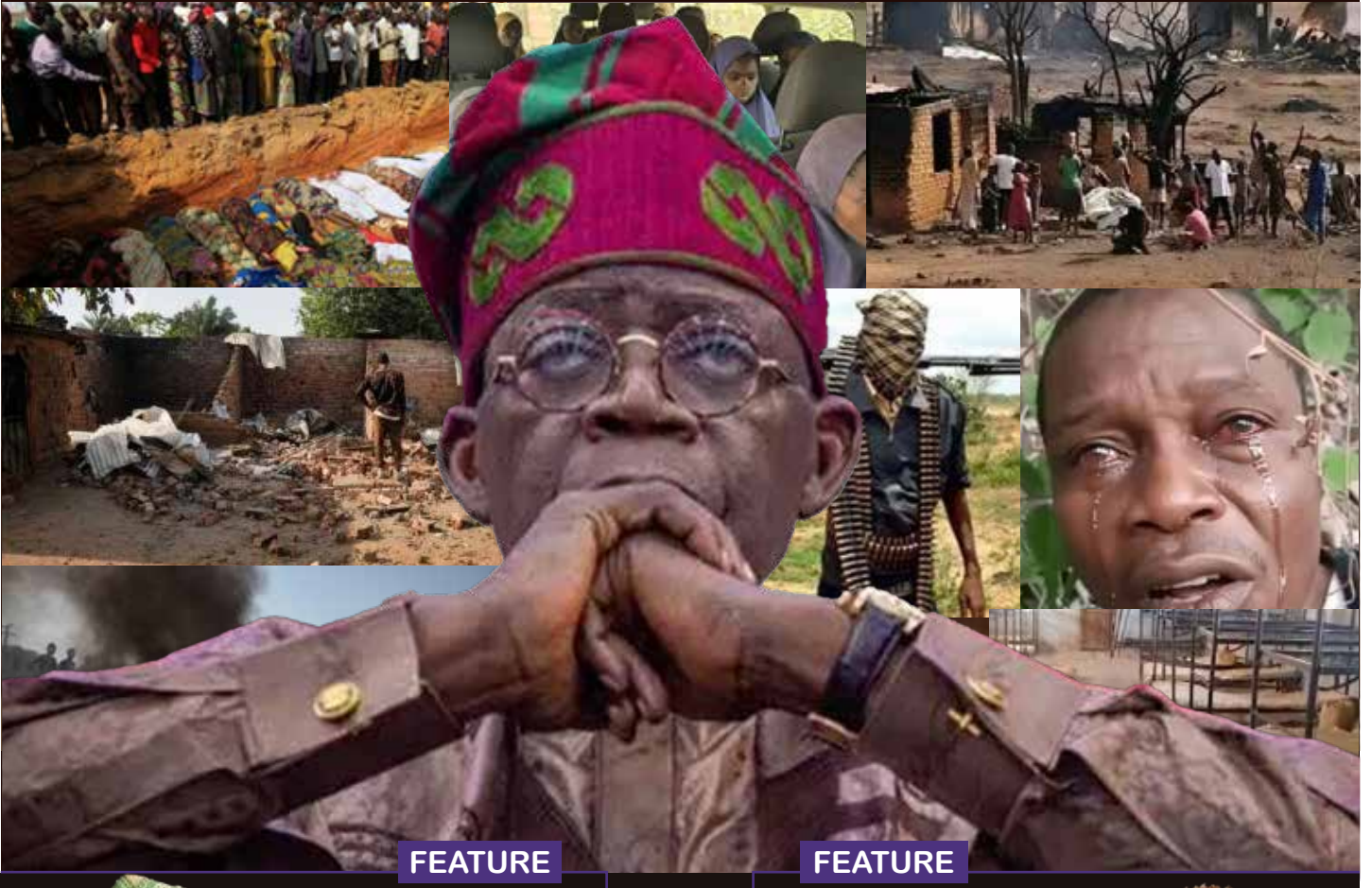
Vol. 5.44

www.thebossnewspapers.com

A publication of Ovation Media Group

## Insecurity

# Why Tinubu Must Wake Up



FEATURE

FEATURE



**Presidential  
Ambition:  
Is Donald Duke  
a Spoiler?**

**How I  
Made Buhari  
President  
in 2015  
- Amaechi**



Ijebuland Holds Grand Farewell Reception for Late Awujale Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona

# How Arsenal Broke 22-Year Jinx to Win 2025/26 Premier League Title

By Ajibade Morakinyo



The weight of twenty-two years of history can crush even the most talented football teams. Since the legendary “Invincibles” of the 2003/04 season, Arsenal Football Club had repeatedly stared into the abyss of title run-ins, only to blink when the pressure reached a boiling point. The Emirates generation grew accustomed to a cruel cycle of brilliant autumns, stuttering springs, and heartbreaking Mays. Yesterday, however, that ghost was finally laid to rest. With a thrilling 2-1 victory over Crystal Palace at Selhurst Park on the final day of the season; secured via a clinical opener from Gabriel Jesus and a decisive strike by

Noni Madueke...Mikel Arteta’s Arsenal officially claimed the 2025/26 Premier League title, shattering the jinx that had defined two decades of North London football. Arsenal’s historic triumph did not happen by accident; it was forged through the painful lessons of previous near-misses. In the seasons leading up to this campaign, Arteta’s young side was often accused of playing brilliant football but lacking the cold, emotional maturity required to outlast a relentless machine like Manchester City. This year, the approach changed. Arsenal traded a portion of their aesthetic idealism for pure, unadulterated steel.

Arteta built a tactical setup designed to choke out games rather than just outscore opponents, constructing an elite defensive structure that became the core of their title charge. Supported by the physical presence of Gabriel Magalhães and the exceptional positioning of deep-lying reinforcements like Martín Zubimendi, Arsenal became a fortress. They specialized in the gritty, low-scoring victories that define true champions, grinding out crucial away wins at Turf Moor, Stamford Bridge, and Craven Cottage. Crucially, the Gunners also solved the fragility that had undone them in the past. In previous campaigns, a single injury

to a key player could derail the team’s entire momentum, but this season’s squad depth was unparalleled. The final day of the season perfectly illustrated this evolution, as the burden of success was distributed evenly across a world-class roster, allowing players like Madueke and Jesus to step up and deliver when the stakes were highest. While the season was a grueling thirty-eight-game marathon, the path to the trophy was defined by moments of profound resilience. In November, after a minor slip against Aston Villa threatened to invite old anxieties, Arsenal responded like a seasoned heavyweight, dismantling local rivals

Tottenham Hotspur 4-1 at the Emirates and establishing a psychological edge that sustained them through the winter.

When March arrived; the traditional month where modern Arsenal title charges began to fracture, the team went flawless, securing a vital victory over Chelsea and a commanding shutout against Everton. Even when a late-April defeat to Manchester City threatened to spark a familiar collapse, Arsenal didn't panic. They rattled off consecutive, high-pressure victories over Fulham, West Ham, and Burnley to set up their final-day coronation.

Going into the final weekend at Selhurst Park, the tension among the traveling Gooners was palpable, a nervous energy built on twenty-two years of scar tissue. When Crystal Palace's Jean-Philippe Mateta pulled a goal back in the eighty-eighth minute to make it 2-1, the familiar panic of decades past threatened to creep back into the collective consciousness.

But this Arsenal team proved they were built differently. They held the ball, managed the clock with cynical maturity, and calmly saw out the final whistle. When the referee blew the end of the match, it wasn't just a celebration of three points; it was an emotional release for a fanbase that had waited more than half a generation to stand at the summit of English football. Mikel Arteta's long-term project has finally reached its destination, proving that success belongs to those who endure, and sending the Premier League trophy back to North London.



# Ijebuland Holds Grand Farewell Reception for Late Awujale Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona

By Ruth Akpan

Photos: Koya Adegbite



It was a day steeped in history, emotion, splendour and deep cultural reverence as dignitaries, royals, political heavyweights and sons and daughters of Ijebuland gathered in majestic solidarity to bid a final farewell to the revered monarch, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, whose remarkable reign of 65 years left an indelible imprint on the political, cultural, and traditional landscape of Nigeria. The ancient town of Ijebu-Ode wore an atmosphere

of solemn grandeur as the final farewell ceremony and grand reception unfolded at the iconic Otunba Dipo Dina Stadium. The gathering was far beyond a funeral rite; it was a profound celebration of a monarch whose extraordinary life embodied courage, wisdom, discipline, reform, and uncommon statesmanship. Oba Adetona, fondly revered as Ogbagba II, passed away on July 13, 2025, at the age of 91, drawing to a close one

of the longest and most influential royal reigns in Nigerian history. His passing marked the end of a monumental era for Ijebuland and for traditional institutions across the country. The ceremony commenced with an emotional welcome address delivered by his first daughter, Princess Adetutu Adetona, whose poised yet heartfelt remarks immediately set the tone for the historic occasion. In her speech, she expressed

profound gratitude to the Governor of Ogun State, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, members of the royal family, traditional rulers, political associates, and the good people of Ogun State for their overwhelming support, prayers, and solidarity during the demise of the revered monarch. Her words, laden with appreciation and dignity, reflected the enduring values of humility and grace that defined the late Awujale's household.



The solemnity of the day seamlessly transitioned into an intellectually engaging public lecture organised in honour of the late monarch. The lecture, themed ‘GOVERNANCE’, explored the evolving relationship between constitutional democracy and traditional authority. The lecture was delivered on behalf of former President Olusegun Obasanjo by renowned architect and scholar, Arch. Biodun Fari-Arole. In the lecture, Obasanjo paid glowing tribute to the late Awujale, describing him as one of Nigeria’s most distinguished and intellectually formidable traditional rulers whose influence transcended the boundaries of Ijebuland. He noted that Oba Adetona stood as a courageous

advocate for progressive reforms within traditional institutions, particularly highlighting his instrumental role in championing amendments

to Ogun State’s Traditional and Obas Law — reforms that granted monarchs the constitutional dignity and autonomy to determine their burial rites according

to their wishes and cultural convictions. According to Obasanjo, the late monarch was not only a custodian of culture but also a visionary reformer who understood the importance of adapting tradition to modern realities without compromising its sacred essence.

The lecture theme itself resonated deeply with the realities of modern Nigeria. It underscored the urgent need to harmonise the moral authority, cultural legitimacy, and grassroots influence of traditional rulers with the operational structures of constitutional governance. Speakers at the event reflected on how monarchs, beyond ceremonial roles, remain vital agents of peacebuilding, conflict resolution, community





mobilisation, cultural preservation, and grassroots development. The discourse further highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between government institutions and traditional authorities in addressing national challenges such as insecurity, youth restiveness, social instability, and economic inclusion.

The intellectual session reached another high point with the address delivered by the Governor of Ogun State, Dapo Abiodun, who attended as host governor and representative of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. In the presidential address, President Tinubu's message strongly emphasised the renewed relevance of traditional institutions within Nigeria's democratic framework.

The President noted that under the Renewed Hope Agenda, traditional rulers are increasingly being repositioned from largely ceremonial figures into active and strategic stakeholders in

governance, economic mobilisation, conflict resolution, and nation-building.

The address highlighted the indispensable role monarchs continue to play in maintaining social

order, preserving cultural heritage, and fostering grassroots harmony — responsibilities modern political institutions alone cannot effectively accomplish. The President observed that traditional rulers possess unique indigenous intelligence, moral authority, and social legitimacy capable of bridging the disconnect between government and local communities.

He further lamented how subsequent constitutional arrangements after the 1963 Constitution gradually diminished the influence of traditional institutions, thereby weakening their collaborative relationship with government structures. However, he assured Nigerians that ongoing consultations at the National Assembly





aim to establish clearer constitutional responsibilities for monarchs, reinforcing their relevance in modern governance.

The President's address also focused heavily on national unity and security. He urged monarchs across the federation to transform their palaces into centres of wisdom, reconciliation, dialogue, and peaceful conflict resolution. Emphasising the growing security concerns confronting the nation, he encouraged traditional rulers to strengthen community-based intelligence gathering and early warning systems capable of curbing violence and instability at the grassroots level.

In addition, the President charged royal fathers to continue guiding

Nigerian youths away from violence, extremism, drug abuse, and other destructive social vices, while preserving Nigeria's rich cultural heritage as a

strategic instrument for national development and identity preservation.

President Tinubu also commended the Oba Sikiru Adetona School

of Governance for organising the memorial lecture in honour of the late monarch, whom he described as a disciplined, principled, courageous, and highly respected leader whose legacy would continue to inspire generations to come.

With the conclusion of the lecture, the atmosphere gradually shifted from solemn reflection to an elegant grand reception characterised by rich culture, warm fellowship, refined entertainment, and heartfelt tributes.

One of the emotional highlights of the reception was the tribute delivered by former Ogun State Governor, Segun Osoba, who spoke glowingly about the late monarch's wisdom, candour, courage, and enduring commitment to justice and truth.



His tribute drew warm applause from guests who acknowledged the late Awujale's towering influence not only within Ogun State but across Nigeria.

Guests were treated to a spread of sumptuous delicacies, gourmet cuisine, premium refreshments, and an endless flow of choice drinks in a regal and sophisticated setting.

Providing the perfect soundtrack for the historic gathering were the energetic Faith Band and legendary Fuji maestro Musiliu Haruna Ishola, whose electrifying performances kept guests enthralled deep into the night. Their captivating music infused the reception with nostalgia, joy, and cultural richness befitting the farewell of a monarch of such extraordinary stature.









## INVEST IN DUBAI REAL ESTATE

**SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT!**

Unlock access to one of the world's most dynamic markets, where strong growth and lasting value meet exceptional lifestyle. Designed for investors seeking stability and long-term returns.



10 Yrs Golden Visa



Free Air Ticket



5 Star Hotel Stay



Airport Chauffeur Dubai Trips



**PROFOUND REALTORS**  
REAL ESTATE MADE HASSLE FREE



[www.profoundrealtors.com](http://www.profoundrealtors.com)



[info@profoundrealtors.com](mailto:info@profoundrealtors.com)



+971 4 513 9666



+971 50 653 1232



Office No. 1202, Tameem House, Al Barsha Heights, TECOM, Dubai, UAE

## US Will Not 'Rush into a Deal' with Iran, Trump Declares

President Donald Trump said on Sunday that he has told US negotiators “not to rush into a deal” with Iran, amid anticipation — and mounting criticism — of an agreement to end the war in the Middle East.

“The negotiations are proceeding in an orderly and constructive manner, and I have informed my representatives not to rush into a deal in that time is on our side,” Trump wrote on his Truth Social account.

“The Blockade will remain in full force and effect until an agreement is reached, certified, and signed.”

The United States has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports since April 13 after Tehran virtually halted traffic through the economically vital Strait of Hormuz in response to the US-Israeli attacks on Iran that began February 28.

“Both sides must take their time and get it right,” Trump wrote in the same Truth Social post, while slamming the 2015 nuclear deal that former president Barack Obama agreed with Iran.

“Our relationship with Iran is becoming a much more professional and productive one. They must understand, however, that they cannot develop or procure a Nuclear Weapon or Bomb,” Trump wrote. While the White House has



not released aspects of the deal, Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said Saturday on state television that the two sides were nearing a “a memorandum of understanding, a kind of framework agreement composed of 14 clauses,” in “a trend toward rapprochement.”

Several voices, notably among Republican lawmakers close to Trump, expressed fears of an agreement favorable to Iran as supposed aspects of the deal that began to leak.

According to news outlet Axios, a possible agreement would extend the current ceasefire by 60 days, during which the Strait of Hormuz would be reopened, Iran would freely sell oil, and

negotiations would be held on Iran’s nuclear program.

The top Republican senator overseeing defense policy, Roger Wicker, said that agreeing to a “rumored 60-day ceasefire” with Iran would mean, “everything accomplished by Operation Epic Fury would be for naught!”

Fellow Republican senators Ted Cruz and Lindsey Graham also voiced opposition to Iran soon gaining benefits such as the ability to sell its oil freely.

“If the result of all that is to be an Iranian regime — still run by Islamists who chant ‘death to America’ — now receiving billions of dollars, being able to enrich uranium & develop nuclear weapons, and having effective control

over the Strait of Hormuz, then that outcome would be a disastrous mistake,” Cruz, a Republican from Texas, wrote on X.

Thom Tillis, a Republican senator from North Carolina, said the deal “doesn’t make sense to me.”

“We were told about 11 weeks ago by (Secretary of Defense Pete) Hegseth and the Department of Defense that they had obliterated Iran’s defenses, and it was just a matter of time before we had the nuclear material. Now we’re talking about a posture where we may accept the nuclear material remaining in Iran. How does that make sense at all?” Tillis said on CNN’s “State of the Union” morning program.

## Bandits Invade Kwara Community, Abduct Scores, Set Emir's Palace Ablaze

**S**uspected bandits have reportedly invaded the Yashikira community in Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, early this morning, setting the Emir's palace ablaze and abducting several residents, including women and children.

It was gathered that the attack occurred late at night when the heavily armed assailants stormed the community, firing sporadically.

According to sources in the area, the gunmen attacked the palace during the invasion, setting parts of the royal residence on

fire before whisking away multiple victims.

Residents said the attackers operated for hours without resistance, leaving behind destruction and fear in the border community.

Another local source described the incident as terrifying, noting that villagers were caught unaware as the gunmen invaded the town under the cover of darkness.

Sources say Security forces have launched immediate rescue operations to free victims of the Yashikira abduction, which occurred on Sunday night.



Military and police operatives have established a cordon in the area as part of the efforts to rescue about 10 persons who were reportedly taken from the community in an overnight attack on the palace of the Emir of Yashikira.

The attackers also sought to raid the local police stations but were reportedly repelled.

The police are yet to issue

an official statement on the incident.

The development comes after bandits on Saturday night invaded a prayer ground at Ori-Oke Ajaiye, on the outskirts of Ikiran village in Ekiti Local Government Area of Kwara State, killing three worshippers and abducting 15 others during a vigil.

## FAAN Meet Int'l Airlines Over Airport Service Delivery

**T**he Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria has engaged members of the International Airlines Association of Nigeria as part of efforts to strengthen protocol services and improve passenger experience at the nation's airports.

This was disclosed in a statement issued by FAAN on Sunday. According to the statement, the Director of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, Henry Agbebire, met with members of the association at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, during an interactive session focused on improving collaboration and service

delivery.

The statement noted that the meeting provided both parties with the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual benefit affecting airport operations and passenger services.

Agbebire said the session was aimed at "fostering a stronger working relationship between the Department of Protocol and Passages and airline operators, while also providing an opportunity to listen to some of the challenges of the airlines."

"In response, the airline representatives raised a number of operational concerns, including inadequate signage



related to the ongoing landside construction works, insufficient lifts, shuttle bus challenges, and issues with airside ramp markings affected by the ongoing airside construction activities. They also sought greater support to enhance customer experience," the statement read.

Responding, the FAAN director assured stakeholders that

all complaints and observations raised during the meeting would be reviewed to improve service delivery and operational standards across airports nationwide. He said the authority would carefully assess the concerns raised "with a view to improving service delivery and operational standards across the airports."

## Biafra Day: MASSOB Orders May 30 Sit-At-Home

The leadership of the Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra has directed all churches across the South-East and parts of the South-South to conduct special memorial and thanksgiving services on Sunday, May 31, 2026. The group stated that the services are intended to honour and pay tribute to millions of people who lost their lives during the Nigerian-Biafran civil war.

This directive forms part of the line-up of activities marking the 59th anniversary

of the declaration of Biafra by the late General Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu on May 30, 1967.

The National Director of Information for MASSOB, Edeson Samuel, made this known in an official press release made available on Monday.

According to the statement, the faction of the movement led by Comrade Uchenna Madu described this year's anniversary as a significant milestone in the ongoing self-determination struggle.

As part of the



commemoration, the secessionist group had earlier declared a mandatory sit-at-home order on Saturday, May 30, 2026, across the region, which it described as a day of sober reflection, remembrance, and civil disobedience. Samuel stated, "MASSOB has earlier declared that

all markets, public and private motor parks, schools, banks, and other public business premises shall remain closed from 6 am to 4 pm on 30th May, 2026.

"The closure of these public places and services are marks of honor, respect, and patriotism to our fatherland.

## FG Targets 2,322 CNG Stations By 2027

The Government has said it is targeting the establishment of 2,322 Compressed Natural Gas stations nationwide by 2027 as part of efforts to deepen the adoption of alternative fuel vehicles and expand gas mobility infrastructure across the country.

The Executive Chairman and Chief Executive of the Presidential Initiative on Compressed Natural Gas and Electronic Vehicles, Ismaeel Ahmed, disclosed this during the Nigerian Oil and Gas Midstream and Downstream Summit organised recently by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board in Lagos.

Represented by an official

of the agency, Olayinka Rufai, the chairman said the government had made significant progress in expanding CNG infrastructure and vehicle conversion across the country within less than three years.

According to him, at inception, about one state had CNG available commercially, but the gas is now available in 24 of the 36 states of the country.

"Today, in less than three years, we now have 24 states active. We are looking at what goes on elsewhere. I think we can safely say that it is probably the fastest we have seen anywhere in the world, especially if you consider the conditions under which we are doing



this, the economy, and everything," he said.

Ahmed stated that over 100,000 vehicles had already been converted to run on CNG, noting that most of them were commercial vehicles due to the government's focus on reducing transportation costs for ordinary Nigerians.

"Because of the palliative nature with which we started, the majority of those vehicles turned out to be commercial vehicles, because we intended to make an impact that

touched the common man," he said.

He explained that the initiative was designed to cushion the effect of fuel subsidy removal on transport costs. He disclosed that the initiative had also attracted over \$1bn in investments into the CNG mobility sector.

"Also, we have been able to attract over a billion dollars of investment directly into this new industry/market called CNG for mobility," he stated.

## Glo Celebrates Oba Adetona's Legacies at Ojude Oba 2026

**A**frica's biggest corporate supporter of culture, Globacom, is commemorating the life and legacy of the late Awujale of Ijebuland, Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, at this year's Ojude Oba Festival, marking the 21st consecutive year of its sponsorship of the cultural event.

This year's edition, themed "Ojude Oba 2026: Celebrating the Legacy of Oba Sikiru Adetona," is taking place at the Festival Pavilion opposite the royal palace in Ijebu Ode, Ogun State.

The celebration pays glowing tribute to the remarkable accomplishments of the late monarch, who transited on Sunday, July 13, 2025, after an illustrious reign spanning 65 years.

The departed monarch ascended the throne on April 2, 1960, and during his reign, the profile and prestige of the Ojude Oba Festival grew tremendously, making it one of Africa's most celebrated cultural events. In a statement issued in Lagos, Globacom posited that Oba Adetona's unwavering dedication to preserving and promoting Ijebu culture, traditions, and values was a major factor behind the company's continued support for the festival.

According to the company, "This year's



celebration goes beyond our traditional role as sponsor over the past two decades. It is an opportunity to honour the exceptional legacy of the revered monarch, Oba Adetona, whose vision and commitment elevated Ojude Oba to its present status."

Globacom recalled that the late Awujale played a pivotal role in

transforming the festival into a unifying platform that brought together Ijebu sons and daughters from across the world, regardless of religious affiliation.

This inclusive vision and royal leadership, said Glo, inspired the company to begin sponsoring the festival 21 years ago. Over the years of Globacom's sponsorship, Ojude Oba

has evolved into a globally recognized cultural celebration, attracting thousands of visitors and dignitaries from within and outside Nigeria.

The company reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining its support for the festival as part of its broader objective of showcasing Nigeria's rich cultural heritage to the world.



## Lagos Arrests 10,634 Environmental Offenders In One Year

The Lagos State Commissioner for Environment and Water Resources, Tokunbo Wahab, has disclosed that 10,634 environmental offenders were arrested across the state within one year as part of intensified enforcement activities aimed at promoting environmental sanitation and restoring order.

According to a statement on Sunday by the ministry's Director of Public Affairs, Kunle Adeshina, Wahab disclosed this during the 2026 Ministerial Press Briefing held at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre, Alausa.

Giving a breakdown of the arrest, Wahab

noted that 5,715 persons were arrested for illegal highway crossing, while 3,886 others were apprehended for offences including street trading, environmental pollution, and cart pushing.

He added that 102 persons were arrested for open defecation, while another 931 individuals were apprehended for waste management-related offences across the state.

Wahab said the enforcement drive was part of the state government's broader commitment to building "a cleaner, healthier, flood-resilient, and environmentally sustainable megacity" in line with the THEMES



Plus Agenda.

According to him, the ministry intensified enforcement operations through its agencies, leading to the arrest and prosecution of offenders involved in environmental violations, illegal trading, highway crossing, open defecation, and improper waste disposal.

"The ministry also intensified enforcement activities through its agencies, leading to the

arrest and prosecution of environmental offenders, removal of illegal traders and squatters, and issuance of environmental abatement notices across the state," the statement quoted Wahab as saying.

According to the statement, the state also recorded progress in waste management and environmental sustainability through strategic partnerships and recycling initiatives.

## APC Primaries: Tinubu Polls 10.9m Votes, Gets Return Presidential Ticket

President Bola Tinubu on Sunday clinched the All Progressives Congress presidential ticket for the 2027 general election, polling 10,999,162 votes against his sole challenger, Stanley Osifo, who scored 16,503 in the nationwide direct primaries conducted across all 8,809 wards on Saturday, May 23.

The Returning Officer and Chairman of the Presidential Primary Elections Committee, Pius Anyim, announced the final figures and made the declaration after the nationwide collation of results at the Bola Ahmed

Tinubu International Conference Centre, Abuja. The exercise ended the scheduled primaries of the APC, ahead of the 2027 elections.

The APC kicked off its 2027 primary elections with the House of Representatives exercise, followed by the Senate primaries on Monday, May 18, state Houses of Assembly primaries on Wednesday, May 20, governorship primaries on Thursday, May 21, and the presidential primary on Saturday, May 23.

Speaking at the presidential primary declaration on Sunday,



Anyim stated that total registered voters stood at 12,643,301, 11,069,756 were accredited, while 11,015,665 votes were cast.

"It is, therefore, my duty as returning officer for this primary election to declare President Bola Tinubu, having satisfied the guidelines, as the winner of the APC presidential primary election and

hereby declare the presidential candidate of the APC," Anyim said.

Tinubu, thereafter, received the party's certificate of return and flag from the party chairman, Prof Nentawe Yilwatda, in a ceremony attended by APC governors, members of the National Executive Committee, the NWC, and others.

## US Green Card Applicants To Apply From Home Countries

The United States has directed Nigerians and other foreign nationals seeking green cards to return to their home countries to complete the application process, except in extraordinary circumstances.

The directive, issued on Friday, was announced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of a broader immigration policy shift under President Donald Trump.

According to the agency, the new rule is aimed at restoring what it described as the “original intent” of US immigration law.

USCIS said applicants seeking adjustment of status must now process their residency applications through US consular offices abroad under the supervision of the US Department of State.

The agency stated, “We’re returning to the original intent of the law to ensure aliens navigate our nation’s immigration system properly. From now on, an alien who is in the U.S. temporarily and wants a Green Card must return to their home country to apply, except in extraordinary circumstances.”

USCIS spokesperson Zach Kahler said the policy would reduce cases of migrants remaining in the country after unsuccessful



residency applications.

“This policy allows our immigration system to function as the law intended instead of incentivising loopholes. When aliens apply from their home country, it reduces the need to find and remove those who decide to slip into the shadows and remain in the U.S. illegally after being denied residency,” he said.

The agency explained that the policy would affect temporary visa holders, including students, tourists and workers in the United States.

It said such non-immigrants are expected to leave after their authorised stay, adding that their visit should not serve as a pathway to permanent residency.

“Nonimmigrants, like students, temporary workers, or people on tourist visas, come to the

U.S. for a short time and for a specific purpose. Our system is designed for them to leave when their visit is over. Their visit should not function as the first step in the Green Card process,” the statement added.

USCIS further said routing applications through consular offices abroad would allow it focus more on other immigration priorities.

It added that resources would be redirected toward cases involving victims of violent crimes, human trafficking, naturalisation requests and other immigration services.

“The law was written this way for a reason, and despite the fact that it has been ignored for years, following it will help make our system fairer and more efficient,” the agency said.

Recall that in December

2025, the Trump administration temporarily halted processing of green card and citizenship applications from Nigerians and nationals of other countries affected by US travel restrictions, according to a CBS News report.

The suspension affected legal immigration applications handled by USCIS and targeted immigrants from selected African and Asian countries.

Many of those affected were already residing legally in the United States and seeking to adjust their immigration status or obtain citizenship.

The administration had also frozen immigration petitions from nationals of 19 countries covered by the travel ban introduced in June, following a security incident involving an Afghan national in Washington DC.

## Sokoto ADC Adopts Atiku As Presidential Candidate

The Sokoto State chapter of the African Democratic Congress has adopted former Vice President Atiku Abubakar as its sole presidential candidate ahead of the party's presidential primaries scheduled to hold on Monday.

The announcement was made on Sunday during a press briefing at the party's secretariat in Sokoto by Muktari Magori, former Chief of Staff to ex-Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal.

Magori said the decision was reached after wide consultations among party leaders and stakeholders across the state in preparation for the 2027 general elections.

“The essence of this press conference is to officially announce the consensus reached by members and stakeholders of the ADC in Sokoto State to adopt His Excellency, former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Wazirin Adamawa, as the party's sole presidential candidate ahead of the primaries,” he said.

He added that the endorsement was a reflection of the confidence party members have in Atiku's leadership experience and political pedigree.

“After extensive consultations, we are convinced that Atiku Abubakar possesses the experience, national



reach, and leadership qualities needed to provide direction for the country and lead the ADC to victory in 2027,” Magori stated.

According to him, the adoption demonstrates the unity and commitment of ADC stakeholders in Sokoto State towards ensuring a strong outing for the party in the forthcoming elections.

“We believe his candidacy will strengthen the democratic process and

offer Nigerians a credible alternative ahead of the 2027 general elections,” he added.

The briefing was attended by prominent ADC stakeholders in the state, including senatorial and House of Representatives candidates, members of the State Working Committee led by the party chairman, Hon. Abdullahi Maigwandu, and delegates from the 23 local government areas of Sokoto State.

## Eid-el-Kabir: Kwara NSCDC Deploys 2,480 Operatives

The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Kwara State Command, has deployed 2,480 operatives across the 16 local government areas of the state to ensure adequate security and peaceful celebrations during the Eid-el-Kabir festivities.

Meanwhile, the deployment was approved by the state commandant, Abbas Mohammed, as part of intensified measures to safeguard lives, property, and critical national assets before, during, and after the celebration.

In a statement issued in Ilorin on Monday by the command's spokesperson,

Ayoola Michael, the operation was described as intelligence-driven, with personnel strategically stationed at Eid prayer grounds, recreational centres, major public spaces, and other sensitive locations across the state. The commandant said, “The deployment of 2,480 operatives across all local government areas of Kwara State is part of our proactive strategy to ensure a peaceful and incident-free Eid-el-Kabir celebration.”

He disclosed that the operatives were drawn from specialised tactical units of the Corps, including the Armed



Squad, Operation Harmony, Counter-Terrorism Unit, Anti-Vandal Unit, and the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives Unit.

Area Commanders and Divisional Officers have also been directed to intensify surveillance, maintain round-the-clock patrols, and ensure swift response to any emerging security threats within their areas of

responsibility.

“We are fully committed to working closely with sister security agencies, community leaders, and vigilante groups to ensure law and order are maintained throughout the festive period,” the commandant added.

He urged residents to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious movement or activity to the nearest security formation.

## NNPC May Chinese Investors 51% Stake In Port Harcourt, Warri Refineries Rehabilitation

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited is considering an NLNG-style equity partnership that could hand Chinese investors a majority stake of about 51 per cent in the Port Harcourt and Warri refineries as part of a broader plan to rehabilitate and commercially reposition the facilities.

Details of the arrangement emerged after NNPC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Chinese firms Sanjiang Chemical Company Limited and Xinganchen (Fuzhou) Industrial Park Operation and Management Co., Ltd. for what the national oil company described as a “potential technical equity partnership”.

The MoU was signed in Jiaxing City, China, on April 30, 2026, by the Group Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Ltd, Bayo Ojulari; Chairman of Sanjiang Chemical Company, Guan Jianzhong; and Chairman of Xinganchen Industrial Park Operation and Management Co. Ltd, Bill Bi.

Findings by The Punch Newspaper on Thursday showed that the proposed framework goes beyond conventional refinery rehabilitation contracts and may involve long-term equity participation by the Chinese partners in



both refining assets.

Sources at the national oil firm privy to the MoU told our correspondent that the proposed partnership is being structured around an “NLNG-type model” featuring equity participation, joint governance arrangements, and long-term operational involvement.

They disclosed that the structure may be similar to NLNG’s, where investors own 51 per cent equity, participate in governance, and share operational responsibilities over the long term. Under the proposed collaboration, the Chinese firms are expected to support the completion of outstanding work at the Port Harcourt and Warri refineries.

The agreement also covers operations and maintenance services aimed at achieving what NNPC described as “best-in-class, sustainable performance”. According to findings, the planned upgrades would also

expand refinery capacity, improve profitability, and raise fuel production standards to cleaner specifications.

The parties are equally exploring expansion into petrochemicals and gas-based industrial projects through the development of co-located industrial hubs around the refinery complexes.

“The scope includes capacity expansion, yield optimisation, petrochemical integration, and compliance with clean fuel standards and exploration of gas-based industrial projects in Nigeria,” an NNPC official said, pleading anonymity because he was not authorised to speak to the press.

Speaking after the signing ceremony, Ojulari described the agreement as a major milestone after more than six months of engagement between NNPC and the Chinese firms. “All parties recognise mutually

beneficial opportunities for the development and long-term sustainable profitability of NNPC’s refining assets in Nigeria and the collective weight required for success,” he said.

Ojulari added that the agreement marked an important stage in identifying technical equity partners capable of restarting and expanding the refineries. “The MoU is a significant step on the journey towards identifying potential technical equity partner(s) to restart and expand NNPC’s refineries and to explore opportunities in co-located petrochemical and gas-based industries,” he stated.

It was gathered that the MoU reflects only the parties’ intention to continue discussions in good faith, with definitive agreements still subject to regulatory and customary approvals.

## DisCos Install 241,590 Meters Amid Billing Complaints

**E**lectricity distribution companies installed 241,590 meters across Nigeria in the first two months of 2026 amid ongoing efforts to reduce estimated billing and close the country's metering gap.

Data released by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission in its January and February 2026 metering fact sheet showed that 119,792 customers were metered in January, while another 121,798 customers received meters in February.

The report showed that the number of metered electricity customers increased from 7,086,376 in January to 7,208,174 in February.

However, despite the additional installations, the national metering rate rose marginally from 57.93 per cent in January to 58.57 per cent in February, indicating that millions of electricity consumers are still without meters.

According to the data, the total number of active electricity customers increased from 12,232,130 in January to 12,307,314 in February.

An analysis of the figures showed that more than five million electricity customers remain unmetered nationwide, leaving them exposed to estimated billing practices that have repeatedly triggered complaints from



consumers.

The report further showed that Eko Electricity Distribution Company maintained the highest metering rate among all DisCos at 87.62 per cent in February, up from 87.15 per cent recorded in January.

Ikeja Electric followed closely with a metering rate of 87.16 per cent in February compared to 86.69 per cent in January, while Abuja DisCo recorded 79.37 per cent, improving from 78.54 per cent.

Port Harcourt DisCo also remained above the national average, with its metering rate rising from 65.47 per cent in January to 66.36 per cent in February.

Benin DisCo improved from 55.16 per cent to 56.75 per cent during the review period and emerged as the utility with the highest number of newly metered customers over the two months. The utility installed 25,912 meters in January

and 25,658 in February, bringing its total new installations within the period to 51,570.

Ibadan DisCo, which has the largest customer base in the country, recorded a metering rate of 52.23 per cent in February, slightly higher than the 51.99 per cent posted in January. The data showed that the utility had 2.48 million active customers as of February, but nearly half of them remained unmetered.

Also, Enugu DisCo posted one of the weakest monthly improvements in the period under review. Its metering rate moved marginally from 51.79 per cent in January to 51.83 per cent in February. The utility also recorded a sharp drop in newly metered customers, falling from 4,839 in January to just 691 in February.

Meanwhile, northern DisCos continued to record the weakest metering performance nationwide. The NERC data indicated that Jos

DisCo's metering rate rose slightly from 32.94 per cent in January to 34.04 per cent in February, while Kaduna improved from 34.82 per cent to 35.59 per cent.

Kano DisCo recorded one of the slowest meter deployment rates in the country, with its metering rate moving marginally from 35.36 per cent to 35.37 per cent. The company installed only 161 meters in January and 149 in February despite having close to 800,000 active customers.

Similarly, Yola DisCo remained below others in terms of metering penetration, although its metering rate improved slightly from 30.85 per cent in January to 31.86 per cent in February.

Stakeholders have repeatedly linked the slow pace of metering to financing constraints, foreign exchange pressures, supply chain challenges, and the high cost of meter procurement.

## Adebutu Emerges Ogun PDP Governorship Candidate

**A** former member of the House of Representatives, Oladipupo Adebutu, on Sunday emerged as the 2027 governorship candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in Ogun State.

Adebutu, who was also the party's governorship candidate in 2023, emerged as the consensus flag bearer of the opposition party during the governorship primary held in Abeokuta, the state capital, on Sunday.

The primary, which was conducted through voice affirmation by party members from the 20 local government areas and 236 wards of the state, was witnessed by officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission. Chairman of the PDP Governorship Primary Committee for the state, Afolabi Ariyo, led the party members in a voice vote affirming Adebutu as the party's consensus governorship candidate for the 2027 election.

Ariyo thereafter declared Adebutu the winner of the primary, having been elected by party members from the 236 wards of the state as the consensus governorship candidate. In his acceptance speech, Adebutu hailed the party members for their large turnout and support, urging them to remain steadfast as the party is determined to send the



APC out of power in the state in 2027.

He explained that although he was denied victory in the 2023 governorship election through what he described as manipulation, he was confident that the people's votes would count in 2027.

Adebutu said the state had been under siege for about 15 years, accusing the APC of inflicting hardship on residents, adding that the ruling party must be voted out in 2027.

He said, "Dear party compatriots, the All Progressives Congress has been in government in Ogun State for over a decade and a half under different nomenclatures, holding our dear state under siege while our people groan under hardship.

"Whereas we live in abundance and surplus, and have been blessed with both natural and

human resources, we are strategically and geographically positioned within the country.

"Yet, our state remains in dire need of competent leadership with ingenuity, purpose, and direction.

"Therefore, our collective responsibility now should be focused on returning our party to the seat of power in Oke-Mosan in order to rescue our people from suffering and maladministration.

"Thankfully, the PDP in Ogun State is more than ready to provide good governance for the rescue and development of our dear state. Our policy direction will be unveiled in due course.

"Fellow party members, I humbly accept this call to serve with an enormous sense of responsibility, knowing fully well that the 2027 election is a must-win for us to make yet another historic statement.

"Our victory lies largely in working together assiduously as one united party to convince the electorate that we are a better alternative to the failed APC administration."

Speaking earlier, the state Chairman of the party, Abayomi Tella, said the large turnout of party members for the exercise confirmed that the opposition party remained strong and was ready to return to power in 2027.

Tella urged party members to remain united and work for the victory of the party ahead of the 2027 election. Also speaking at the event, former Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose, described Adebutu as a political leader with the capacity to take Ogun State to greater heights, calling on party members to remain united and work together for the party's victory in 2027.

## Dickson Host NDC Aspirants To Dinner, Unveils Selection Committee

**A** former Governor of Bayelsa State and National Leader of the Nigeria Democratic Congress, Seriake Dickson, will on Monday inaugurate the party's 21-member Selection Committee in Abuja.

The exercise forms part of preparations for the general elections and ongoing internal processes aimed at streamlining candidate selection across all levels of elective offices.

According to a press statement signed by the party's National Publicity Secretary, Osa Director, the inauguration follows the completion of screening exercises for governorship, National Assembly, and State Houses of Assembly aspirants.

The statement said the Selection Committee was established to deepen internal democracy and strengthen the party's candidate selection process, adding that it will be responsible for reviewing screening outcomes across the country.

"The Committee, which was constituted last week, in furtherance of NDC's avowed commitment to transparency, internal democracy, and credible candidate selection, is mandated to review, scrutinise, and consider the reports



and recommendations of the National Screening Committee and the State Houses of Assembly Screening Committees," the statement read.

It added that the committee will also be required to "take appropriate decisions on the screening outcomes of all aspirants," as part of efforts to ensure credible representation ahead of the polls.

The 21-member panel will be chaired by the NDC National Chairman, Sen. Moses Cleopas Zuwohge, and is described as a key product of recommendations from the National Working Committee, working in line with directives of the party's National Leader, Sen. Henry Seriake Dickson.

"The Selection Committee... is a brainchild of the NDC National Leader, working in concert with the

recommendations of the National Working Committee, as part of ongoing preparations for the upcoming general elections," the statement added.

It further stated that the committee's objective is to ensure the party presents strong contenders across all electoral positions, noting that it is part of broader reforms within the party structure.

"It is to ensure that the NDC presents the most formidable candidate for every position to be contested in the general election," it said.

Meanwhile, Dickson is also expected to host an Aspirants Dinner later on Monday at 6:00 pm in Abuja, bringing together screened aspirants and selected stakeholders of the party.

A separate statement by the National Secretary, Barr. Ikenna Morgan

Enekweizu said the event is aimed at strengthening unity and engagement within the party's ranks.

"The National Leader and the party's hierarchy hope to use the event to meet with the aspirants as well as other stakeholders who have not only put their faith and destiny in the NDC, but have also been working round the clock to take the party to all the nooks and crannies of Nigeria, and even the Diaspora," the statement said.

He added that the dinner aligns with the party's vision of inclusiveness and cohesion, stating: "It is part of our vision of making the NDC one true united and closely knit family, where everyone is important."

The party further noted that the dinner is strictly by invitation.

## Awaiting FG's Approval To Dislodge Criminals From South West Forests - Sunday Igboho

**Y**oruba nation activist, Sunday Adeyemo, popularly known as Sunday Igboho, on Monday, said he was still awaiting the Federal Government's approval for the take-off of his security outfit, "Iru Ekun Security Network," as part of the moves to dislodge criminal elements from South-West forests. He also expressed his readiness to comply with the Executive Order recently issued by the Oyo State Government, under the leadership of Governor Seyi Makinde, to regulate the activities of private security firms in

the state. Igboho, who made this known in a statement issued in Ibadan, the state capital, stressed that all necessary documents and procedural requirements needed for the approval of "Iru Ekun Security Network" had been submitted to the Federal Government. The PUNCH Online reports that Makinde signed into law Executive Order 001 of 2026 on the Regulation of Associations, Groups and Organisations offering Security and Allied Services in the state on Wednesday, May 20.



Makinde said the move was necessary to ensure that all groups and associations involved in security-related activities, such as vigilantes and other community-based security groups, operate within a clear legal and operational framework that supports peace, order, and the rule of law in the state. The governor said the executive order became

necessary in view of the growing security challenges confronting communities and the increasing number of groups engaging in security-related activities without proper coordination. Igboho, in a statement in Ibadan, on Monday, said, "We have submitted all the required documents for our registered security firm.

## How I Made Buhari President In 2015 - Amaechi

**F**ormer Rivers State Governor and ex-Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, has said that he, and not President Bola Tinubu, played the pivotal role in making late Muhammadu Buhari president in 2015. In a Friday interview on Arise News' Prime Time, Amaechi, who is now a presidential aspirant under the African Democratic Congress, addressed longstanding claims by Tinubu. During his pre-2023 campaigning, Tinubu said Buhari would not have become president without him and that it was his turn to become one too. But Amaechi explained

that as a serving minister under Buhari, he could not publicly challenge Tinubu's assertions to avoid risking his position. "When we decided to form the APC, while I was a minister, (Tinubu) was claiming he made Buhari president and I couldn't respond because I was a minister under President Buhari. That would have been suicidal because Buhari could fire you," Amaechi said. He continued, "So I couldn't have said, 'You are wrong.' He didn't make President Buhari president. Not only was I the DG of the campaign, but everybody will bear witness that I did all the battle.



"I led the Governors' Forum, criss-crossed the country fighting here and there trying to get Nigerians to know that this is the time for change." Amaechi served as Director-General of Buhari's 2015 and 2019 presidential campaigns. He was a key figure in the 2013-2014 defection of PDP governors that helped form the APC alliance, which ultimately defeated President Goodluck Jonathan.

However, Tinubu was also instrumental in Buhari's emergence, leading the merger of major opposition parties, including his Action Congress of Nigeria, to form the All Progressives Congress, which challenged and defeated the then-ruling PDP. The remarks come amid Amaechi's positioning for the 2027 presidential race as part of the growing opposition coalition under the ADC.



# Insecurity

## Why Tinubu Must Wake Up

By Eric Elezuo

The common refrain and slogan across the nation is ‘Nigeria is bleeding’, and as the days turn into weeks and months, the wound gets larger. Then from bleeding, the blood is now flowing. Across all strata of

endeavours, all the regions and not a few communities, insecurity of the highest order has enveloped on a very large scale, a nation that once thrive in brotherliness, interstate movements without fear, and camaraderie. The fear of the unknown has

completely eclipsed social life, excursions, traveling within the country, and funnily enough staying in your own house. In the Nigeria of today, nowhere is safe anymore; not event the comfort of one’s home; not even the sacredness of holy places;

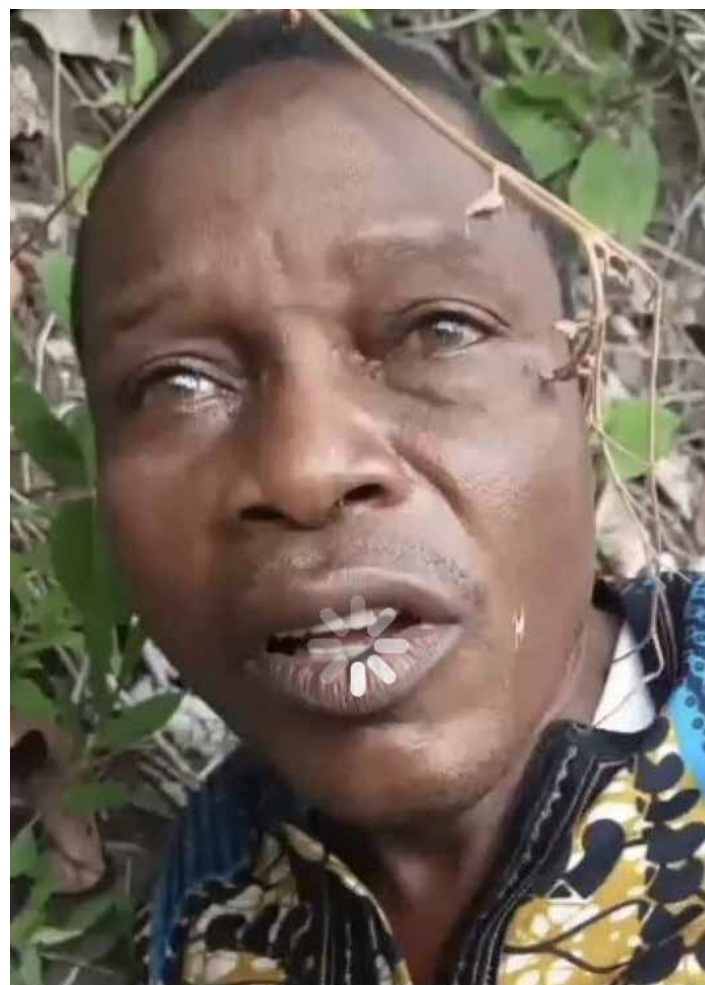
not even the respected academic environment. Terrorists and bandits attack anywhere and from anywhere. And with impunity. In the Nigeria of today, everyone leaves in fear. No one knows who the next target is as terrorists,

bandits, Fulani herdsmen and other miscreants have overrun the nooks and crannies of the Nigerian existence, prompting the question, where's Nigeria's chief security officer? And the answer that he must wake up and face squarely the insecurity challenges that is fast tearing the nation to shreds.

With the 2027 election fast approaching, the Nigerian administrative apparatus led by President Bola Tinubu, appears to have completely lost focus of the security of the people. The country is being thoroughly run down by activities of terrorists, who are no longer hiding their nefarious and heinous activities as they boldly put on air the victims abducted and process of execution. This daring moves are a challenge to the government and security agencies, yet no criminal is in custody yet and victims are still unaccounted for with most of them cruelly deleted, and bodies mangled.

It is worthy of note that while the nation is still gambling with the rescue efforts for the teachers and pupils kidnapped from Oyo communities schools about 12 days ago, suspected bandits have reportedly struck again, invading the Yashikira community in Baruten Local Government Area of Kwara State, early on Monday morning, setting the Emir's palace ablaze

and abducting several residents, including women and children. Reports gathered from Channels Television say that the attack occurred late at night when the heavily armed assailants stormed the community, firing sporadically. The medium, quoting sources in the area,



stressed that the gunmen attacked the palace during the invasion, setting parts of the royal residence on fire before whisking away multiple victims. Residents said the attackers operated for hours without resistance, leaving behind destruction and fear in the border community. Another local source

described the incident as terrifying, noting that villagers were caught unaware as the gunmen invaded the town under the cover of darkness. Sources say Security forces have launched immediate rescue operations to free victims of the Yashikira abduction, which occurred on Sunday

night. Military and police operatives have established a cordon in the area as part of the efforts to rescue about 10 persons who were reportedly taken from the community in an overnight attack on the palace of the Emir of Yashikira. The attackers also sought to raid the local

police stations but were reportedly repelled. As at press time, the police were yet to issue an official statement on the incident. The invasion is one development too many this 2026 alone, and has been a recurring decimal in the Tinubu-led administration. This is taking for granted that the incident is following the heels of bandits, who on Saturday night invaded a prayer ground at Ori-Oke Ajaiye, on the outskirts of Ikiran village in Ekiti Local Government Area of the same Kwara State, killing three worshippers and abducting 15 others during a vigil. The stories and tales of woe are inexhaustible. There's no morning and no evening where Nigerians are not presented with gory narratives of one abduction and killing or another, creating fear and apprehension among the populace. The general notion is hinged on Tinubu's control loss of the fabrics of the nation including the economy, power and every other mention-able sector. It is worthy of note that like every other failure still staring Nigerians in the face, Tinubu also inherited insecurity. However, three years into his administration, and consequent upon available indices, the Nigerian leader seems to have tripled the effects of insecurity. This is



counting the boldness with which the insurgents operate, the magnitude of each operation, the casualties involved, the deliberate bloodletting and the huge ransom paid in exchange. The circle has continually continued, and there seems to be no hiding place for Nigerians, especially the vulnerable masses.

On May 17, 2026, the world woke to the chilling news of the killing and beheading of the school teachers, abducted from Oyo communities. He was Michael Oyedokun.

Oyedokun was one of the teachers abducted from Community High School, Ahoro-Esinele in Oriire Local Council of Oyo State, a few days before his gruesome killing. The killing threw residents

of the area into mourning and heightened fears over worsening insecurity in the state, and the nation at large, which the government of President Bola Tinubu has found a herculean to handle.

In a video reportedly released by the captors on Sunday, May 17, 2026, the gunmen claimed responsibility for the killing of the Maths teacher, sparking panic across the community.

The incident followed a series of coordinated attacks launched by armed men on Friday, May 15, targeting multiple schools within the Ogbomoso axis, including Baptist Nursery and Primary School, Yawota; Community Grammar School; and L.A. Primary School, Esiele.

During the attacks, the assailants reportedly shot dead a classroom teacher and a commercial motorcyclist who resisted attempts to seize his motorcycle.

The attackers also abducted the school principal, vice-principal, another staff member, and an unspecified number of pupils before fleeing into the forest. Later reports put the number of abductors to 39.

Governor Seyi Makinde had earlier confirmed that seven students were abducted from Community Secondary School, while 18 pupils and seven teachers were kidnapped from First Baptist Primary and Nursery School.

He also confirmed that one person was killed

during the attack, a school teacher, Joel Adesiyan. Further reports confirm that a bike rider was also killed, when he refused to let go of his motorcycle.

The incident triggered widespread panic in Ogbomoso and surrounding communities, with many parents rushing to schools to withdraw their children over fears of further attacks.

Some schools were also forced to shut down temporarily following rumours of bandits infiltrating the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, an allegation the institution's management later dismissed as false.

Reacting, the Amnesty International Nigeria accused the Federal Government of failing

to adequately respond to Nigeria's worsening wave of abductions targeting school children, rural communities and internally displaced persons, saying at least 1,100 people were kidnapped between January and April 2026. The organisation made the allegation in a statement

have failed to address the country's shocking spate of abductions targeting school children, rural communities and internally displaced persons across the country." It added, "At least 1,100 people have been abducted – from January to April 2026," describing

left teacher Michael Oyedokun reportedly beheaded. Amnesty also referenced another attack in Borno State, where 42 students and pupils were abducted from Mussa Primary and Junior Secondary School in Askira/Uba Local Government Area during a Boko Haram assault.

the pattern of repeated school attacks shows a long-running crisis that authorities have yet to resolve, stressing that "over a decade is enough time for the Nigerian authorities to find a solution to this horrifying problem," but insisting that "the reality shows the government has neither the will nor the commitment to end rampant abductions and attacks on children and their schools."

It urged authorities to meet their obligations under both national and international law, particularly regarding the protection of children's rights to education, safety, and protection from violence and ill-treatment. The latest incidents have intensified national concern over school security, especially following the Oyo and Borno attacks, which occurred within the same period and involved the abduction of dozens of children and teachers.

Weeks earlier, there was a failed kidnapping attempt along the Ibadan-Ijebu road corridor, which reportedly left a traveller dead, raising fresh concerns over insecurity of great proportion hitting the southwest of the region.

According to Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect report, between 2014 and March 2026, 'over 2,000 children have been abducted or kidnapped, largely in



shared on its official X handle, amid renewed public concern over mass abductions in Oyo, Borno and other states, which left dozens of students, teachers and residents affected.

In the statement, Amnesty International said, "President Bola Tinubu and his government

the trend as a continuing failure of protection for vulnerable populations. The group's criticism comes days after gunmen abducted 39 students and seven teachers in an attack on schools in the Ahoro Esinele community in Oriire Local Government Area of Oyo State, an incident that also

Survivors of similar abductions, according to the rights group, have described being subjected to starvation and torture, including beatings, flogging and sexual violence, raising further concerns about the conditions victims face in captivity. The organisation said

mass abductions targeting schools. Armed extremist groups, including Boko Haram and ISWAP, as well as local bandits, are implicated in many cases, often using kidnappings to generate ransom or to recruit children.

The report noted that in 2024 alone, at least 580 civilians, primarily women and girls, were kidnapped across several states, noting that the figures might be higher. Not only are most victims killed during these attacks or while in custody, survivors live the rest of their lives in poverty, trauma, stigma and utter abandonment.

The funniest part, according to a social analyst, who crave anonymity, so-called repentant terrorists and bandits are treated with

kid gloves, 'rehabitated' in luxury and given huge financial lifeline as they are released back into the sane society while their victims are left to wallow in neglect. It would be recalled that the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, described the terrorists as 'our brothers', who should not be killed just as the Chief of Defence Staff, General Oluyede equated the rrorists to the biblical 'prodigal son', who should welcomed with warmth and affection. These two national officers have silent on the treatment for their traumatized victims and their bereaved loved ones.

The question on the lips of majority of Nigerians, has remained what President Tinubu is doing about the extreme insecurity

in the country beyond offering condolences and suggesting a now known refrain of 'It won't happen again' while it continues to happen over and over again.

On two known occasions, President Tinubu was expected to visit victims and sites of violent killings and abductions in Benue and Plateau states. On the two known occasions, Tinubu fell short in the advertised visitations. He never made it to the locations.

Following the June, 2025 killings in Yelwata, Benue State, Tinubu was programmed to have an extensive state visit to site of massacre and the government house where a townhall meeting was scheduled.

It was agreed that upon his arrival, the President will

first proceed to Yelewata in Guma Local Government Area, the epicentre of the attack that claimed over 100 lives.

He was scheduled to meet with families of victims, displaced persons and community leaders directly impacted by the violence.

From Yelewata, the President was supposed to visit the hospital where several persons injured from the attack were recuperating, and then proceed to the Benue State Government House Banquet Hall in Makurdi, where he would preside over a town hall meeting with critical stakeholders. Much as the Benue State government under Hyacinth Alia commandeered very young pupils to wait unprotected for the



President under a heavy rain, the President never made it to Yelwata nor interfaced with the victims and bereaved families. His journey ended in the comfort of the government house. Analysts observed that the townhall was turned into political jamboree.

Tinubu had blamed heavy rains, flooding and impassable roads for his inability to visit the scene of the crisis in Yelewata. Over 3000 residents were displaced in addition to tens of deaths recorded.

Also, following the April 2 Palm Sunday attack in Plateau State, Tinubu scheduled a visitation to commiserate with the

victims and bereaved families, but like the Benue visit, Tinubu did not even enter the town, he ended his visit at the Jos Airport.

Consoling a mourning mother, identified as Mrs Rhoda, at the airport Tinubu said, "I know the pain. I see in the video how you buried your loved ones and the pain and agony in your heart.

"But it's only God who can give you joy and hope. No amount of money can pay all of you back. Yes, as a government, we will try our best to comfort you, to work with you," he said while directing security chiefs present, including the Inspector-General of

Police, Chief of Defence Staff, and Minister of Defence, to unearth and apprehend those responsible for the killings.

Defending the President, his aides noted that Tinubu couldn't his visit beyond the airport because of tight schedule and absence of navigational equipment for night movements. A statement by Bayo Onanuga, said it was difficult to reschedule a pre-arranged meeting with the Chadian Leader. This is even as the President had canceled an earlier visit to Ogun State for the Plateau visit.

But with the President concentrating more on

his reelection in 2027, Nigerians are calling on his administration to take a further cursory of the insecurity status of the nation to prevent more deaths and displacement, and more importantly prevent his being booted out of office by very fed-up Nigerians, whose means of livelihood and other social engagements have been unapologetically cut off.

Nigeria is bleeding and Nigerians are angry at its leadership. Tinubu just have to wake up to his responsibilities beyond condolence messages.





# The Oracle

CHIEF MIKE OZEKHOMÉ

SAN, CON, OFR, FCI Arb, Ph.D

☎ 08094777755 (SMS Only)

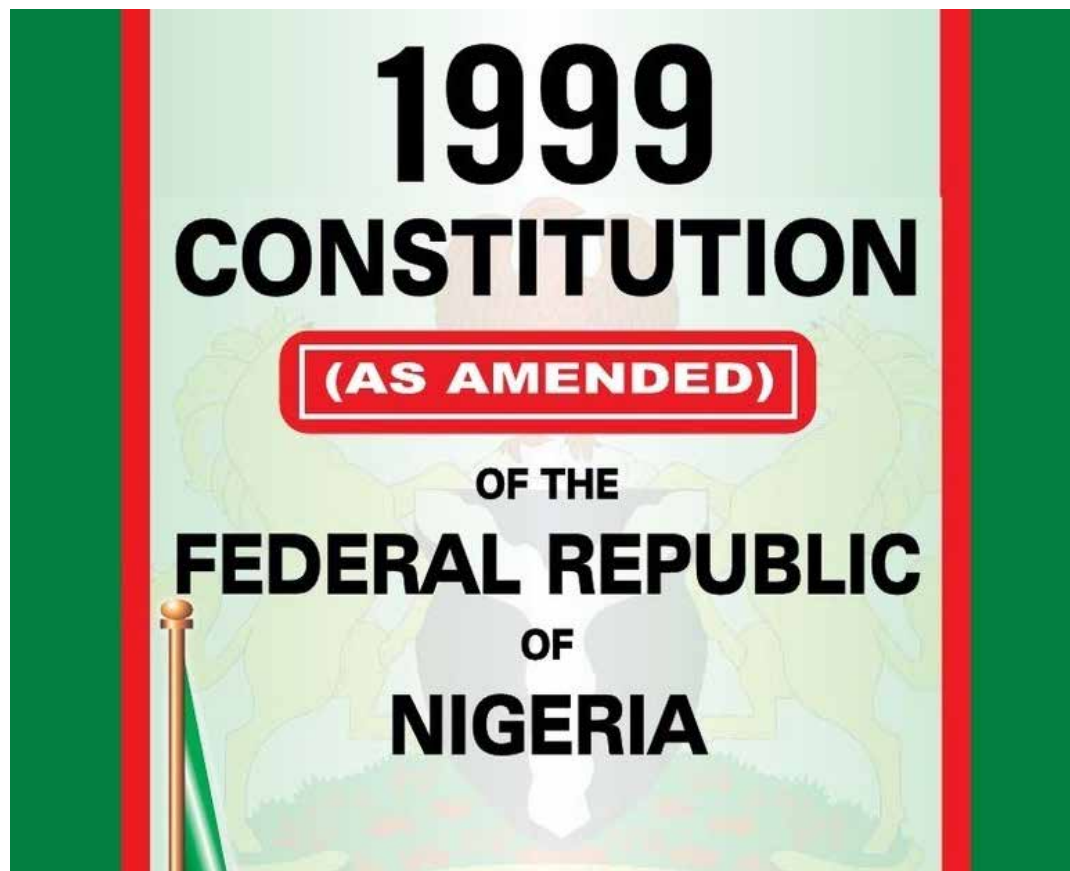
## Enforcement of Fundamental Human Rights Under the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (Pt. 4)

### INTRODUCTION

In our last discourse on this series, we examined the procedure for enforcement of fundamental rights, including applications for leave; as well as the substantive application itself and the reactions that follow. Today, we shall continue from where we stopped with the substantive application thereto and later x-ray the applications to squash proceedings; applications for production and/or release of persons restrained; orders for bail, production and access to medication. Please read on.

### SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION: THE MOTION OR SUMMONS (Continues)

In the case of *LAWRENCE OLUSEGUN ADEYEMO V. C.O.P, OYO STATE* ([2021] LPELR-56272(CA)), the applicant requested the court for a writ of habeas corpus under order 2 of the fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) rules 1979 which provision



enjoined the applicant to serve all parties who are or might be interested in the proceedings. Although the affected party had put up appearance, but raised a preliminary objection to the application for non-compliance with the statutory conditions. *Babalakin. J.* (as he then was) struck out the application on the ground that order 2(1) (4) is mandatory whether the application is for

mandamus, certiorari, or habeas corpus.

However the Supreme Court in recent times in respect of the fundamental rights enforcements has favourably leaned towards the equitable principle of “Ubi Jus Ubi remedium”, therefore looking more at the substance rather than the form. Hence the liberalization of the procedure for the enforcement of fundamental rights

as exposed in the case of *ABACHA V. FAWEHINMI* ((2000) 6 NWLR (Pt. 660) 228) and *UBI UJONG INAH & ORS V. MARCUS UKOI* ((2001) (CA) 41981.

### APPLICATION TO QUASH ANY PROCEEDINGS

Sometimes it may be necessary for an applicant by way of certiorari to apply to the court for an order that such proceedings be removed

from a particular court or tribunal to another court for the purpose of being quashed for lack of power and/or jurisdiction to entertain such proceedings or make such order.

However, an applicant shall not be able to question the validity of any order, warrant, commitment,

an application seeking to quash proceedings, proceedings, conviction or the records of an inquisition be quashed forthwith upon being removed into the court hearing the application.

#### **A P P L I C A T I O N F O R   P R O D U C T I O N**

The court may also direct that an originating summons (as in form 2) be issued or that an application therefore be made by notice of motion (as in form 3). The court may also as it deem fit adjourn the ex-parte application so that notice thereof may be given to

The court may grant bail at ex-parte stage, pending the substantive application. Where an applicant complains of wrongful or unlawful detention, the court may subject to its discretion order that the person restrained be produced in court. And where such order is so



conviction, inquisition or record unless before the hearing of his application (Motion or summons), he has served a certified copy (CTC) thereof together with a Copy of the application on the Attorney-General of the Federation or of the State in which the applicant is being heard (as the case may be).

The court in granting

#### **AND/OR      RELEASE OF              PERSON RESTRAINED**

By virtue of Order 4 of the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, where an applicant complains of wrongful or unlawful detention, the court or judge to whom the application is made ex-parte may make an order forthwith for his release from such detention.

the person against whom the order for the release of the applicant is sought.

#### **ORDER FOR BAIL, P R O D U C T I O N , AND ACCESS TO M E D I C A T I O N**

Pursuant to order 4 of the bail application, the court upon application may grant to the detainee reliefs including bail, production of the detainee, access to mediation etc.

made, it shall constitute a sufficient warrant to any superintendent of a prison, police officer in charge of a police station, police officer in charge of the complainant or any other person responsible for his detention, to produce or ensure the production of the person so restrained or detained in court.

For the purpose of enforcing a person's

fundamental rights, no matter where a detainee is kept he can be allowed access to his personal physician or medically prescribed drugs.

It suffices to note here, that once an order has been made by the court pursuant to the Enforcement Rules, and for the purpose of

the idea of human rights and personal liberties has become firm and secured. The universality and immutability of human rights are now globally accepted. Consequently, any nation that slacks or shyies away from the diligent protection and enforcement of human

all human beings, their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Government” (Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

It is the duty of every Government everywhere and every courts of law in every jurisdiction to promote, protect, uphold,

and communitarian – a vision that brings out the unity of the person while clearly distinguishing between the dimension of the citizen and that of the believer”. – Pope Benedict XVI.

“Because no matter who we are or where we come from, we’re all entitled to



enforcing or securing the enforcement of any of the fundamental rights provided for in the constitution, such order must be complied with. Failure to obey or comply with any order so made by the court under these rules will incur proceedings for the committal of the party disobeying such an order.

#### CONCLUSION

Without any controversy,

rights stand the precarious risk of being shunned by decent and civilised nations. The United Nations seems to have captured the importance and primacy of the issue of human rights and its protection when it poignantly stated as follows:

“Human Rights and fundamental freedoms are the birth right of

and ensure enforcement of fundamental Human rights at all times, because these rights encapsulate the very essence of man.

*The end.*

#### THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

“Human rights, of course, must include the right to religious freedom, understood as the expression of a dimension that is at once individual

the basic human rights of clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and healthy land to call home”. – Martin Luther King III

“Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities”. – Pope Francis.



# ADDING VALUE

WITH HENRY UKAZU

henrous@gmail.com

## Responding to Life Challenges

**D**ear Destiny Friends,  
**E**veryone experiences life in different ways. There's absolutely nobody on planet earth who hasn't encountered situations or circumstances that shaped them or gave them different perceptions of life. No matter how we try, we can't run away from problems. A friend once jokingly said, problems are like women; they are the "necessary evil" you can't avoid, especially when they have an interest in you.

We all experience life in our families, relationships, academics, spiritual life, careers, health, and even personal life. But what makes the ultimate difference is how we'll react to it.

Let me explain a little bit using a case study of family, health, career, academic, spiritual, and personal aspects.

### Family

It's instructive to note that what makes a family is secret, so imagine a case where the secret of a family is divulged. There's bound to be problems that will arise. Another scenario is when a family



experiences the death of a loved one. I think that's one of the most painful experiences one can ever experience because losing a loved one is no joke. The death of a family member can shatter a family if not properly managed.

Imagine a case where the head of the family, say a father, passes to glory and his wife is not financially stable to manage the family. The children will experience challenges that will shape their future. The question we need to

ask ourselves is, how do we manage death when it happens?

### Health

Another scenario that can shape us is our health. Health is so important that without it, one will not be able to function properly. There have been life-threatening health cases that lead to the untimely death of a sick patient. The question we need to ask ourselves is: how do we respond to these health challenges when it comes to us?

### Career

Do you know your career can serve as an encounter which can shape you? Yes, an encounter is like an experience which can make one not remain the same. Do you also know that your career can make or mar you? Yes, while one's career can serve as an instrument to one's success, it can also lead to the demise of someone, especially if it's not a purposeful career befitting the person.

### Academic

Some schools of thought say that examination is not the true test of knowledge. There have been situations where one's academic background can metamorphose them in the right direction, especially when one is intentional and purposeful in their chosen academic pursuit, and there have been scenarios when someone ventured into academic pursuits that are not suitable for them.

I was once a victim of this ugly experience when I ventured into Taxation Law at New York Law School. Despite earning a scholarship in the program, I knew for a fact, assuming I got a job, it won't be fulfilling because I will be a victim of defective success.

#### Spiritual

One of the most defining moments of one's life can be seen in their spiritual life. It's sad to see most people playing with their spiritual life.

They fail to realize that spirituality controls the physical. When we talk of spirituality, there are two types. Those for God and those for gods. It's always good for one to align to one side, but as a matter of advice, it's always good for one to stay on the side of God.

There are many situations that would have ended one's life, but due to one's neglect of one's spiritual life, the life can be cut short. Question: How do you respond to spiritual things when spiritual forces push you around?

#### Personal

Last but not least is our personal life. How we respond to life challenges in our academic, health, finance, relationship, career, or even spiritual life can determine how far we go in life. Remember, it's instructive to note that it is our attitude and not aptitude that will determine our altitude to life.

The big question we need to ask ourselves now is: how do we respond to these challenging circumstances or issues? The answer is attitude. You'll agree with me, you may not always be able to choose your circumstances, but you can choose to respond to them.

There was a touching story about a man who was unjustly and wrongfully convicted for murder, and he spent many years in prison awaiting trial, another fifteen years for final judgment to be delivered, and yet another ten years on death row. In all this travail, he managed to keep his sanity.

Finally, on the day he was to be executed, fresh evidence indicating his innocence prompted the governor to order his immediate release. At the prison gates he said "all a man can be taken from him, except the last form of the human freedoms, -the power to choose

one's attitude in all circumstances".

Do you see, life is not really about what happens to us, but how we react. That's what will make the difference.

In conclusion, regardless of how life challenges, circumstances, and situations push you around, just have a good attitude and outlook to life. Don't allow it to weigh you down.

**Henry Ukazu writes from New York. He works with the New York City Department of Correction as the Legal Coordinator. He's the founder of Gloemi. He's a Transformative Human Capacity and Mindset coach. He is also a public speaker, youth advocate, creative writer and author of Design Your Design and Unleash Your Destiny. He can be reached via [info@gloemi.com](mailto:info@gloemi.com)**





# VOICE <sup>of</sup> Emancipation

- Kayode Emola -

## Five Years and Still Going Strong

**W**hen Voice of Emancipation started in May 2021, little did I know it would become many Yoruba people's favourite weekly column. Today, it has surpassed every expectation and continues to thrive beyond our Yoruba circle of self-determination community. One would imagine what stemmed from a casual discussion with the big boss himself Bob D (Chief Dele Momodu) about how Yoruba can leave Nigeria without bloodshed leading to a weekly column. I wanted a platform to propagate our self-determination message to millions of our people on a regular basis and "The Boss Newspaper" came in handy providing for us a platform to share our struggles, message and experiences.

When I asked Bob D about how we can use the media to reach out to our people, his remarks were very encouraging, and his platform was readily available. In his own word, he said "in that case, speak with my editor and he will arrange



something for you. That was it, without charging us a penny, Bob D gave us his platform to send out our message to the public. This week, that journey has clocked 5 years and still going strong.

I remember that first

meeting with the editor Eric, who himself is a seasoned journalist with lots of experience and many years in the business. Eric had worked for several media houses in Nigeria before joining "The Boss Newspaper"

and I remember telling him, I had never written for a newspaper before and had no experience whatsoever or what I was supposed to be doing. Together, Eric and I came up with the theme, "Voice of Emancipation"

after some brainstorming session as I was wanting to highlight the continued suffering of the black/brown person on the face of the earth dating back to 1526 when slavery officially started on a mass scale on the African continent.

For 500 years, the average African has been subjected to poverty, pain and suffering with no way of escape. We are looked down upon anywhere in the world despite our enormous contribution to humanity. Our people were plundered in the past, taken as slavery to mostly South and North America and once that period ended, our land was subjected to colonisation in the name of European protection. One which we have not recovered from and may not fully recover due to the level of European oppressive structures that was left behind.

Many of the people we now share geographical boundaries with because of the European colonisation of Africa are not our kith and kin, thereby causing so many problems for Africa nations. Even in the Holy Bible which the colonial masters claimed they were relying upon to bring civilisation to Africa stated emphatically that God separated the people of Babel by their languages.

However, these Europeans in their own wisdom and foolishness thought it

wise to merge people of different languages and cultures together and to impose on the local population their own lingua franca as the means of communication. One of the primary causes of many conflicts across Africa today, and especially in Nigeria where terrorism has now reached a global crescendo.

When in 2023, a Yoruba man in the person of Bola Tinubu became the President of Nigeria, there was the thought of remodelling the column by my editor Eric. However, I knew that "Voice of Emancipation" is bigger than the political ambition of one man. Considering that hundreds of millions of people if not nearly billions of Africans are trapped in these European colonial plantations called countries in Africa and are still looking for a way of

escape in the contraption, they now find themselves. Therefore, the escape from this perpetual slavery that is forcing millions of our African youths into dangerous journeys through the Sahara Desert for a better life in Europe needs to be rooted in the constant reminder of the plight of the African person. As many of our young people now see Africa as a death trap which has nothing to offer them despite all the natural resources and beautiful climatic conditions it possesses. So, I do hope and pray that this heavy yoke on the African continent will be broken by our generation, and our people can experience real emancipation in this world.

Before I sign off for today, I want to use this opportunity to personally thank everyone who has

made this journey possible and those who are still working in the background week in week out. My precious wife, Bethan, who scrutinises many of the sentences in these weekly articles to make sure it is factually correct and my wonderful editor Eric who is always patient even when my article gets to his desk very late. I do hope that the celebration will be worthwhile later in the year.

I would also like to thank you the wonderful readers of Voice of Emancipation for your comments, encouragements and support throughout this journey. I can assure you that as long as God gives me the strength, I will continue to fight on the side of the oppressed peoples of Africa, and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to do so.





# Panorama

BY DR SANI SA'IDU BABA

✉ drssbaba@yahoo.com

☎ 08054562222 (Text Only)

## GLO: The Undisputed Digital Oxygen

In medicine, oxygen is the invisible molecule upon which all human life depends. Remove it, and the body shuts down almost instantly. The brain weakens, the heart struggles, and every organ begins to fail. As someone who studies how the human body works, I have always understood the centrality of oxygen to biological existence. But in recent years, watching Nigerian society evolve in the digital age, I have arrived at another conclusion: connectivity has become the oxygen of modern civilisation.

Without network connectivity today, businesses freeze, students lose access to learning, hospital records fall into jeopardy, POS transactions struggle, markets slow down, and families become disconnected. Digital access is no longer a luxury; it is the infrastructure upon which modern life breathes.

And in Nigeria, one network increasingly stands out as the supplier of that digital oxygen: GLO.

Across campuses,



markets, offices, villages, and urban centres, millions of Nigerians now depend on the Glo network for the daily rhythm of their lives. For students, it powers e-learning, research databases, virtual classrooms, and academic collaboration. For traders and entrepreneurs, it sustains mobile banking, online transactions, advertising, and customer communication. For farmers in rural communities, it ensures communication with farmland workers. For doctors and healthcare

professionals, it enables telemedicine and rapid information exchange. In many homes, Glo is the invisible bridge connecting families separated by distance. This is why many Nigerians increasingly describe Glo not merely as a telecom company, but as a necessity.

What is even more fascinating is the growing public confidence in Glo's reliability, something I have personally witnessed. I recently observed a man asking a shop attendant to call his boss. After

placing the call once, the attendant calmly replied, "Sir, his phone is switched off." The man insisted he should call repeatedly before concluding. The attendant smiled and responded, "Sir, I am using Glo network. If Glo says the phone is unavailable, then it is unavailable." Everyone around laughed, but beneath the humour was a powerful reality: people increasingly trust the reliability and clarity of the Glo network. That brief moment was more than a casual conversation; it was a testimony to the

confidence Glo has quietly built among Nigerians. The reality becomes even clearer during moments of national stress. In an era defined by climate change, unstable electricity supply, flooding, extreme heat, and infrastructural disruption, telecommunications networks face enormous pressure. Floodwaters damage fibre optic cables. Heat weakens sensitive electronic systems. Power failures destabilise base stations. Yet despite these challenges, millions of Nigerians continue to experience remarkable connectivity stability on Glo.

That stability is not accidental. Globacom has continued to invest heavily in infrastructure upgrades and network improvement projects aimed at enhancing customer experience nationwide. For millions of Nigerians, clearer calls and faster internet are no longer wishes but daily realities because of the company's sustained commitment to expanding and strengthening its network systems.

What makes Glo exceptional is not simply its coverage, but its resilience. The company has increasingly embraced hybrid energy solutions involving solar systems and battery storage technology to reduce dependence on diesel-powered infrastructure. This improves network reliability

during grid failures while simultaneously reducing environmental pressure. Glo has also undertaken extensive fibre reconstruction and relocation projects across Nigeria, redesigning network routes to withstand environmental disruptions such as flooding, erosion, and climate-related damage. Its investments in expanded spectrum capacity and advanced technologies have further improved efficiency, enabling stronger data delivery and smoother connectivity for subscribers across the country.

From my vantage point in Kano, a region experiencing intense heat and significant environmental pressure, the importance of resilient connectivity cannot be overstated. For traders

in Sabon Gari Market, network access means economic survival. For students at Bayero University, it means uninterrupted learning and research. For countless young Nigerians trying to build digital businesses, it means opportunity itself. In many respects, Glo functions like the respiratory system of Nigeria's digital society. The Glo-1 submarine cable and Glo fibre optics act like lungs, bringing global bandwidth into the country. The national fibre network resembles blood vessels distributing connectivity nationwide. The 4G LTE base stations function like capillaries, delivering data directly to the individual user whether in Kano or far beyond.

The subscriber shouting "Glo Unlimited!" during

a blackout while data continues flowing is not merely celebrating affordable internet. They are experiencing the result of years of investment, resilience engineering, and technological foresight. Calling Glo "The Digital Oxygen" of Nigeria is therefore not poetic exaggeration, it is an acknowledgment of reality. In a country where millions now live, learn, trade, communicate, and dream through digital connectivity, Glo has become more than a network provider. It has become the vital breath upon which modern Nigerian life increasingly depends...

***Dr. Sani Sa'idu Baba writes from Kano, and can be reached via [drssbaba@yahoo.com](mailto:drssbaba@yahoo.com)***





# TECH AND HUMANITY

with FOLU ADEBAYO

folu@thisisfolu.uk

## The Tribunal Ruling That Should Change How Africa Thinks About AI

**A** lawyer in the United Kingdom needed to summarise a confidential client document. Forty pages. A busy day. So they did what millions of professionals around the world now do without a second thought. They pasted it into an AI tool.

Faster than reading it line by line. Nobody had told them not to. Nobody had told them they could. There was no policy. No training.

No record of the decision. It seemed harmless. It was not.

A UK tribunal has now ruled that uploading confidential documents to an AI tool can be treated as the equivalent of placing them in the public domain. The legal privilege protecting those documents, the confidentiality that is the very foundation of the relationship between a professional and their client was lost. Permanently.

Not because anyone acted in bad faith. Because the tool did what such tools do the moment information is



entered into them.

“The employee was not trying to do anything wrong. They were trying to work faster.”

Why this matters far beyond the United Kingdom

It would be easy for African business leaders to read this as a distant

story. A British tribunal. A British case. A British problem.

That would be a mistake. The behaviour at the centre of this ruling a professional pasting confidential information into an AI tool to save time is happening in every law firm, every

bank, every hospital, every government office, and every consultancy in Lagos, Nairobi, Accra, and Johannesburg right now. Today. As you read this.

The technology does not respect borders. The behaviour does not respect borders. The risk does not

respect borders.

The only thing that varies from country to country is whether there is a governance framework in place to manage it and whether the people using these tools have been told, clearly, what is and is not permitted.

In most African organisations, that framework does not yet exist.

The quiet leak

Consider what is most likely happening inside your own organisation as you read this.

A member of staff has a long report to summarise. They paste it into a free AI tool.

A colleague is drafting a difficult email and asks an AI assistant to improve the wording including the confidential context. Someone in finance uploads a spreadsheet of sensitive figures to ask the AI to analyse it. A junior employee, eager and capable, uploads a client contract to extract the key terms quickly.

None of these people are acting maliciously. Every one of them is trying to do their job well.

And every one of them may be moving confidential information client data, commercial secrets, personal information, privileged material outside the protected boundary of the organisation.

This is not a hypothetical risk. Industry research suggests that the overwhelming majority

of organisations have employees using AI tools, while only a small minority have any policy governing what may be entered into them. The gap between adoption and governance is not narrowing. It is widening. “The technology does not respect borders. Neither does the risk.”

often ahead of the organisations they work for. That is a strength. But it means usage is running far ahead of governance. Second, many African organisations do not yet have the data protection infrastructure, the internal compliance functions, or the governance frameworks that would,

incomplete.

Third, the consequences of a confidentiality breach are severe in any market, but in markets where trust is hard-won and reputational damage spreads quickly, the cost can be existential. A bank that leaks customer data, a law firm that loses privilege over client documents,



Why Africa is particularly exposed

There are three reasons this risk is especially acute across African markets.

First, AI adoption across Africa has been rapid, mobile-first, and largely informal. Professionals have embraced AI tools with energy and ingenuity

in other markets, provide at least some guardrails. The legal frameworks are developing, Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana and South Africa have all made significant progress on data protection but the translation of law into day-to-day organisational practice remains

a hospital that exposes patient information these are not recoverable inconveniences. They are breaches of the trust on which the entire business depends.

What African leaders must do now

The good news is that the solution is neither

expensive nor complex. It does not require new technology. It requires leadership, clarity, and a small amount of disciplined effort.

First, establish a clear AI usage policy. A single, plain-language document that states what types of information may and may not be entered into AI tools. It does not need to be sophisticated. It needs to exist, and it needs to be communicated.

Second, train your people. Not a lengthy programme a clear, honest conversation. Most employees who create AI-related risk do so because nobody has explained the danger to them. Once they understand, the overwhelming majority

adjust their behaviour immediately.

Third, create a record. The UK tribunal ruling makes clear that when accountability is tested, organisations will be expected to demonstrate that their people understood the rules. A simple, dated record showing that staff have received and acknowledged the AI usage policy is no longer an administrative nicety. It is a protection.

Fourth, lead by example. When senior leaders talk openly about responsible AI use, it gives everyone else permission to ask the questions they are currently afraid to ask.

The opportunity inside the warning

is a warning. But it is a warning delivered early enough to act on. African leaders who read it, understand it, and act on it now will protect their organisations, their clients, and their reputations.

Those who treat it as someone else's story will learn the same lesson later and at a far higher price. The choice, as always, belongs to leadership.

*Folu is AI Architect & Risk & Governance Director, United Kingdom, Founder of AIExpertsPro, and an AI governance advisor to UK and African financial institutions, and can be reached via aiexpertspro.co.uk/folu@aiexpertspro.co.uk*

The UK tribunal ruling

is a warning. But it is a warning delivered early enough to act on. African leaders who read it, understand it, and act on it now will protect their organisations, their clients, and their reputations.

Those who treat it as someone else's story will learn the same lesson later and at a far higher price.

The choice, as always, belongs to leadership.

*Folu is AI Architect & Risk & Governance Director, United Kingdom, Founder of AIExpertsPro, and an AI governance advisor to UK and African financial institutions, and can be reached via aiexpertspro.co.uk/folu@aiexpertspro.co.uk*



## Leadership in Africa: Forging a New Era of Self-Reliance, Unity and Global Relevance (Pt. 3)

By Tolulope A. Adegoke, PhD

*“True leadership in Africa is not the pursuit of power, but the courage to serve — to turn the pain of yesterday into the promise of tomorrow, to bind broken hearts into one destiny, and to raise a continent where every son and daughter can stand tall, not by pulling others down, but by lifting one another higher.” – Tolulope A. Adegoke, PhD*

**B**uilding upon the foundational principles and practical pathways discussed in Parts 1 and 2, this continuation explores the deeper implementation strategies, institutional reforms, cultural shifts, and long-term vision required to translate African leadership into tangible, sustainable transformation.

It addresses the realities on the ground while offering forward-looking, actionable recommendations that can help Africa move from potential to performance on both regional and global stages.

Institutional Reforms as the Backbone of Transformative Leadership

Visionary leadership without strong institutions is like a beautiful dream without a foundation. Africa’s progress depends on building institutions

that are resilient, transparent, and people-centred.

Leaders must prioritise civil service reform, judicial independence, and anti-corruption mechanisms that are not only punitive but preventive. For example, Rwanda’s use of performance contracts (imihigo) for public officials has created a culture of accountability and results. Similarly, Ghana’s strong electoral commission and relatively independent judiciary have helped sustain democratic stability. These models show that when institutions are strengthened, leadership becomes less about individual charisma and more about systemic effectiveness.

Regional institutions such as the African Union, ECOWAS, SADC, and the East African Community must also be reformed. They need greater financial autonomy, faster decision-making processes, and clearer enforcement mechanisms. The African Union’s current efforts to reform its Peace and Security Council and operationalise the African Standby Force are steps in the right direction, but they require consistent political will and adequate funding from member states.



Cultural and Mindset Transformation

Leadership that builds Africa must also transform mindsets. Many of the continent’s challenges are rooted in colonial-era thinking, dependency syndromes, and a culture of short-termism.

Progressive leaders should invest in cultural renewal programmes that celebrate African excellence, innovation, and resilience. This includes supporting the creative industries — Nollywood in Nigeria, Afrobeats music, and contemporary African literature — which are already projecting positive African narratives globally. Educational systems must move beyond rote learning to foster critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Youth leadership development is particularly crucial. With over 60% of Africa’s population under the age of 25, the continent’s future depends on preparing young people not just for jobs, but for leadership. Initiatives like the African Union’s Youth Agenda and national youth service programmes should be expanded and made more impactful.

Economic Transformation and Self-Reliance in Practice

True self-reliance requires deliberate economic restructuring. Leaders must champion value addition in agriculture, mining, and natural resources. Instead of exporting raw cocoa, cotton, or crude oil, African countries should invest in processing

facilities that create jobs and capture more value domestically.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) offers a historic opportunity. When fully implemented, it can boost intra-African trade, reduce dependence on external markets, and create new industries. Leaders who actively remove non-tariff barriers, harmonise standards, and invest in cross-border infrastructure will be remembered as the architects of Africa's economic renaissance.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) should be strengthened, with clear frameworks that protect national interests while attracting responsible investment. Countries like Morocco and Ethiopia have shown how strategic industrial policies can attract foreign direct investment while building local capacity.

**Global Relevance: Africa as a Solution Provider**

Africa must stop seeing itself solely as a recipient of global solutions and begin positioning itself as a contributor. The continent's vast renewable energy potential, youthful population, and rich biodiversity give it unique advantages in addressing global challenges such as climate change, food security, and digital innovation.

Leaders who understand this will invest in research and development, patent African innovations, and

engage confidently in global forums. The success of African pharmaceutical companies during the COVID-19 pandemic and the growth of African tech unicorns demonstrate that the continent can compete and lead when given the right environment.

**A Balanced and Hopeful Conclusion**

Africa stands at a historic

crossroads. The challenges — poverty, inequality, climate vulnerability, and governance gaps — are real and significant. Yet the opportunities — a youthful population, abundant natural resources, cultural richness, and growing regional integration — are even greater.

Leadership remains the decisive variable. When leaders rise above narrow interests to serve the collective good, Africa does not just survive — it thrives and offers the world new models of resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth. The path forward requires a new covenant: between leaders and citizens, between nations and regions, and between Africa and the global community. This covenant must be rooted in trust,

world is watching, and history is waiting to record the choices made in this decisive decade.

Africa's story is still being written. With visionary leadership, it can become one of triumph, dignity, and global excellence.

**Dr. Tolulope A. Adegoke, AMBP-UN is a globally recognized scholar-practitioner**



engage confidently in global forums. The success of African pharmaceutical companies during the COVID-19 pandemic and the growth of African tech unicorns demonstrate that the continent can compete and lead when given the right environment.

Africa stands at a historic

crossroads. The challenges — poverty, inequality, climate vulnerability, and governance gaps — are real and significant. Yet the opportunities — a youthful population, abundant natural resources, cultural richness, and growing regional integration — are even greater.

Leadership remains the decisive variable. When leaders rise above narrow interests to serve the collective good, Africa does not just survive — it thrives and offers the world new models of resilience, innovation, and inclusive growth. The path forward requires a new covenant: between leaders and citizens, between nations and regions, and between Africa and the global community. This covenant must be rooted in trust,

world is watching, and history is waiting to record the choices made in this decisive decade.

Africa's story is still being written. With visionary leadership, it can become one of triumph, dignity, and global excellence.

**Dr. Tolulope A. Adegoke, AMBP-UN is a globally recognized scholar-practitioner**

## Presidential Ambition: Is Donald Duke a Spoiler?

By Eric Elezuo

**W**ith the collective intention of most political parties coming together to wrestle power from President Bola Tinubu-led All Progressives Congress (APC) at the centre, the defection of most political leaders from the coalition umbrella, the African Democratic Congress (ADC), has been viewed as a betrayal of the original course.

First, it was the presidential candidate of the Labour Party in the 2023 election, Mr. Peter Obi, and the presidential candidate of the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP), Senator Rabiu Kwankwaso defecting to the Nigerian Democratic Congress (NDC), and now following in their footsteps, is the former Governor of Cross River State, Mr. Donald Duke, who has found an awaiting presidential ticket with the Peoples Redemption Party (PRP).

According to reports, former governor Duke has officially joined Nigeria's 2027 presidential race, becoming one of the latest politicians to declare interest ahead of the general elections.

Duke emerged as one of three cleared presidential aspirants of the Peoples Redemption Party ahead of the party's primaries scheduled for 25th May in Abuja.



The party said the former governor agreed to submit his ambition to the decision of party members during the nationwide exercise.

In a statement issued by PRP National Publicity Secretary, Muhammed Ishaq, the party described the aspirants as committed to “democratic ideals and internal party unity.”

Duke, who governed Cross River State from 1999 to 2007, is widely known for promoting tourism and urban renewal projects, including the Tinapa Business Resort and the annual Calabar

Carnival.

The former governor previously contested for president in 2019 under the Social Democratic Party, where he criticised both the ruling APC and the PDP.

At the time, he said the PDP had “lost its values and became a shadow of itself.”

The PRP says it remains committed to “credible, transparent and free primaries” as preparations continue for the 2027 elections.

Nigeria's political space has already become increasingly active ahead

of 2027, with more aspirants expected to declare interest in the coming months.

The statement quoted Duke, alongside Nnaoko Ufere from Abia State and Yakubu Kingsley from Edo State, are the candidates, who have unanimously agreed to submit their aspirations to the decision of party members during the nationwide primaries.

The party said the aspirants demonstrated commitment to democratic ideals and internal party unity by agreeing to abide by the outcome of the

exercise.

“The PRP takes pride in the calibre of its aspirants, whose dedication to democratic principles and commitment to teamwork have further strengthened our party,” the statement said.

Duke, who was Cross River governor between 1999 and 2007, appears the only strong candidate among the three aspirants, and is likely to pick the ticket after the primaries. But the major concern is not in his decision to contest or stand for election, but the intention behind his decision to choose a different to test his presidential aspirations.

Across the political space, stakeholders, observers and analysts alike have said that given the consensus agreement built around and towards ending the administration of Bola Tinubu, the coalition ADC remains the viable option to all aspirants to test their strength and popularity, after which anyone who emerges as the candidate should be supported by all. They have argued that those leaving the coalition may have much more than presidential ambition behind their minds. And so the question, is Donald Duke a spoiler? Is he in the race to decimate the votes of the opposition?

Meanwhile, Duke, who was part of the coalition at the initial stage, have taken a bow out of the group, principally coordinated

by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, and chaired by a former Senate President, David Mark. He did not give reasons for his exit from the ADC though observers have insinuated that his exit, like Peter Obi, is hinged on the premise that the ADC allegedly has a hidden bias for Atiku, and so the presidential might



be handed over to the former Vice President on the platter. The ADC has since denied the allegation with former two terms governor of Rivers State, Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi and Hayatudeen still in the race.

With the entrance of Duke in the presidential race, the number of southern aspirants, especially those sure to pick the tickets of their parties have swollen up. Others include include

Peter Obi of the NDC, Rotimi Amaechi if he wins the ADC primaries ongoing across the nation, Oyo State Governor, Seyi Makinde representing the PDP and APM coalition among others.

Now, that almost all the political bigwigs are separately pursuing their political aspirations devoid of a collective

“And that explains why he continually instigate both individuals and institutions to revolt against themselves thereby creating factions and very weak political centre to challenge his ambition,” an analyst told The Boss.

Meanwhile, whether there are intentions to be a spoiler or not; whether any

platform, many have said that Tinubu is no longer fighting a coalition of likeminds, but against presidentially ambitious individuals, pursuing a different agenda. Many have also said that since Tinubu already has a political structure he can rely on, he is making sure all the fragmented giants did not come together to form an indivisible body capable of challenging his reelection in 2027.

institution or individual have been coerced into turning itself to a vessel of destruction on behalf of the ruling, it is only the people that would decide who becomes in 2027.

Not Tinubu, not the APC, not any of the political bigwigs, not any of the presidential aspirants or candidates, but the Nigerian people in their totality.

The election is just eight months away.

## A Familiar Kind of Tragedy

By Adeoye Inioluwa

The recent attacks on school communities in Oyo and Borno states have once again forced the country into a familiar emotional cycle — shock, grief, statements, and questions that briefly dominate public attention before gradually fading into silence.

What makes this cycle more unsettling each time is not only the incident itself, but the growing sense that it no longer feels entirely unexpected. No society is completely free of insecurity. That much is understood. But what often defines public confidence is not the absence of incidents; it is the clarity, consistency, and visibility of response over time.

People do not only want to hear that action will be taken. They want to understand what has changed since the last time similar words were spoken.

Schools are supposed to represent safety at its most basic level. They are meant to be spaces where children are temporarily removed from the uncertainties of the outside world, not exposed to them. So when violence reaches those spaces, it does more than disrupt learning — it disrupts trust.

In the immediate aftermath, responses are often swift in tone. Condemnation is



expressed. Sympathy is extended. Assurances are made. These reactions are necessary, but the challenge lies in what follows after the statements are made.

Because for those directly affected, the consequences do not end when public attention moves on.

There is also a broader national concern that emerges in moments like this: the increasing difficulty of distinguishing isolated incidents from a pattern. When similar events recur across different locations and times, they begin to reshape how communities perceive safety itself.

At that point, the issue is no longer only about response, but about prevention — and more importantly, about

whether prevention is visibly evolving in a way that matches the scale of concern.

Citizens are not only listening for reassurance. They are watching for evidence that lessons from previous incidents have been fully translated into action. This includes how vulnerable spaces are secured, how intelligence is applied, and how quickly gaps are identified before they are exploited again.

Without that visible progression, reassurance risks becoming routine, and routine reassurance gradually weakens public confidence.

There is also a quiet emotional cost that is rarely acknowledged. Each new incident does not erase the memory

of the previous one; it adds to it. Over time, this accumulation creates a national fatigue — a troubling adaptation to repeated distress.

In such a climate, the most important responsibility is not only to respond after events, but to reduce the conditions that allow them to repeat.

Because ultimately, the measure of any serious response is not how firmly it is stated in moments of crisis, but how clearly it reshapes what happens next.

And if that shift is not visible, then the unanswered questions will continue. Not out of impatience, but out of necessity.

## The Stockholm Syndrome in the Delta

By Boma Lilian Braide Esq.

**T**he water remembers. It remembers when we were queens and kings of the creeks, when our voices carried across the rivers like thunder, and when no external force could dictate the terms of our existence.

Today, as a daughter of the Ijaw nation, I look at our political landscape and my heart breaks into a thousand pieces. The recent withdrawal of Pastor Tonye Cole from the political race reopened a wound that never properly healed. I immediately texted him a single, urgent question: "Why?" His response was a resigned, familiar phrase; "It is well." At that exact moment, my thoughts were screaming so loudly inside my head, "Not again!" It felt like a brutal repetition of an old script. Every single time, without fail, they treat the Ijaw man badly, pushing him out of the room where decisions are made.

This leadership class continually trades our birthright for political crumbs, leaving me with a profound sadness I cannot shake. Every four years, we are forced to watch the same exhausting, predictable cycle play out. We have become the laughing stock of the Nigerian politics. We roar like lions in the morning, only to allow ourselves to be led like sheep to the slaughter



house by nightfall. This pattern is not merely a string of tactical errors. It is a structural and psychological condition that has calcified into our political culture. We begin every election season with unparalleled bravery, massive energy, clarity, and a list of demands. We mobilise, we protest, we declare our rights. Yet at the decisive moment we fold. We trade collective power for personal gain. We accept crumbs while the harvest is taken from our lands allowing our leaders to be used as mere pawns, chess pieces, and foot soldiers on a board completely controlled by outsiders.

Call it what it is, a political Stockholm syndrome. When a people are held hostage by extractive

systems for generations, they can begin to see the captor as a provider. When political actors poison our rivers, burn our gas, and extract our wealth, then return during elections with token gifts, the damaged political imagination can mistake those gifts for benevolence. A motorcycle, a solar lamp, a bag of rice, or a ten thousand naira note becomes a substitute for structural justice. We applaud the giver and forget the theft.

This is not a partisan indictment. The major parties have all participated in this system. From the coastal edges of Ondo and Edo, through Rivers and Bayelsa, to the riverine communities of Delta and Akwa Ibom,

the script is the same. Political machines arrive with cash and spectacle. They leave with votes. They do not stay to build roads, to clean oil spills, to fund health care, or to restore fisheries. They do not invest in education or in the infrastructure that would make our communities resilient. They know they do not have to. They know that the combination of poverty, fragmentation, and short-term survival instincts will deliver the votes they need.

The spectacle in Rivers State is instructive. The conflict between an incumbent and a predecessor is not only a personal rivalry. It is a mirror of a deeper structural problem. An Ijaw son may occupy the

governor's office, but the expectation of loyalty to an external power broker remains. When disagreements arise, the Ijaw polity does not close ranks. Instead, it fractures. Elders, youth groups, and political actors align with different external centres of power. We tear ourselves apart while the larger system remains intact.

Delta State offers another painful example. The region produces a disproportionate share of the oil wealth that sustains the state and the nation. Yet Ijaw communities are routinely relegated to secondary roles in governance. The highest offices are often out of reach. When an Ijaw candidate shows real ambition, the pressure to step down, to accept a consolation prize, or to be bought off intensifies at the last minute. The result is a steady stream of symbolic representation and token appointments that do not translate into structural change.

Even Bayelsa State, our most homogenous political home, has not been immune. The state has been turned into a dependent outpost. Political life there is often conducted under the shadow of Abuja. During elections, communities are militarized. Young people are paid paltry sums to snatch ballot boxes and intimidate their neighbours. The

leaders who emerge from such processes rarely prioritize environmental remediation, health care, or education. They prioritize survival within the national political economy.

Why do we accept this? Part of the answer lies in a minority complex that has been cultivated over generations. We have

non-partisan political command structure.

Other major ethnic blocs in Nigeria have developed cultural mechanisms that protect collective interests across party lines. They maintain consensus on key strategic questions and punish those who betray the collective. The Ijaw political house, by contrast, is fragmented.

federal boards are often the most silent and compliant. They vote for policies that harm our region because they want to protect their personal seats and committee positions. We have forgotten the intellectual foundation of our struggle. Our fathers did not rely on muscle alone. They fought with logic and strategy.



been taught to believe that because we are numerically small and geographically dispersed across several states, we cannot set national terms. That belief is false. Our geographic position along the southern maritime border gives us leverage. Nigeria's economy cannot function without the peace of our creeks. Yet we negotiate from a position of weakness because we lack a unified,

We are divided into Western, Central, and Eastern blocs. Internal jealousy and rivalry consume us. When an Ijaw son or daughter rises to prominence, it is sometimes their own people who are recruited to pull them down. This internal sabotage is a major reason we are treated as expendable by national political machines.

Our representatives in national assemblies and

Harold Dappa Biriye used constitutional arguments to demand minority rights during the pre-independence conferences. Isaac Adaka Boro presented a detailed economic manifesto during the twelve-day revolution, exposing the systematic underdevelopment of the Delta. The Kaiama Declaration of 1998 linked environmental justice with true federalism

in a way that remains a model for strategic political thinking. Today, that intellectual tradition has been eroded by a culture of thuggery, praise singing, and the pursuit of quick money.

The social and economic costs of our political submission are visible everywhere. Schools sink into the mud. Primary health centres lack basic medicines. Women die in childbirth because there are no functional boats to transport them to urban hospitals. Rivers that once sustained us are coated with crude oil. Gas flares burn day and night, releasing toxins that cause cancers and respiratory diseases. In any functioning democracy, such environmental devastation would provoke electoral punishment. But our people accept ten-thousand naira, wear party uniforms, and return the same leaders to office.

This pattern is not only morally wrong. It is strategically suicidal. The global energy transition is underway. The world is moving away from fossil fuels. In a few decades, crude oil will no longer be the primary driver of the global economy. When that happens, the Nigerian state's willingness to distribute minor rents, amnesty stipends, and pipeline contracts will evaporate. If we remain politically domesticated and economically dependent,

we will be discarded once our resources lose value. We will be left with a ruined environment and a population unprepared for the modern economy.

Breaking this cycle requires a radical transformation of our political behaviour. It requires both immediate reforms and long-term institution building.



First, we must refuse to sell our votes for temporary relief. If politicians bring money during elections, take it because it is a fraction of your stolen wealth, but enter the voting booth and vote fiercely against them if they have not delivered real, systemic progress. The act of taking money and voting against the giver is not a moral ideal. It is a pragmatic tactic that recognizes the reality of survival while asserting political agency.

Second, we must create a culture of community accountability. Any Ijaw politician, elder, or youth leader who sells out the collective interest for personal gain must face social consequences. They should be stripped of traditional honours, excluded from community gatherings, and greeted with public disapproval

Its mandate would be to define a multi decade Ijaw National Agenda that transcends party lines. Any Ijaw person entering politics should be bound by that agenda. Any external political force seeking our cooperation should be required to commit to its verifiable execution.

Again, we must build

rather than celebration. The cost of betrayal must be made higher than the reward offered by external actors.

We must also institutionalize our collective strength. The Ijaw nation needs a permanent, non-partisan political and economic council composed of our finest minds. This council should include intellectuals, legal experts, economists, and community builders from across the globe.

strategic alliances with other coastal minority groups. From Calabar to Badagry, the coastal communities share common interests in environmental protection, maritime economies, and regional development...*continue reading on <https://thebossnewspapers.com/2026/05/25/the-stockholm-syndrome-in-the-delta/>*

## UBA, ANPA Advance Diaspora Healthcare Investment

United Bank for Africa Plc has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening diaspora engagement and advancing healthcare development in Nigeria through the introduction of its healthcare investment proposition to the Nigerian-American medical community at the 2026 ANPA Carolinas Symposium held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The ANPA Carolinas Symposium, hosted annually by the South Carolina and North Carolina Chapters of the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas, convenes over 170 physicians and healthcare professionals for medical and scientific dialogue on issues impacting communities across North America, the Caribbean, and Africa, particularly among people of Nigerian descent.

Speaking at the event, UBA's Head of Diaspora Banking, Anant Rao, made a compelling case for structured diaspora participation in Nigeria's healthcare transformation, encouraging attendees to expand their contribution beyond remittances towards long-term institution-building.

"The financial infrastructure required to connect your success abroad to sustainable institutional impact at home has not been



intentionally designed for diaspora healthcare investors until now," Rao said.

During his presentation, Rao introduced the ANPA-UBA Diaspora Healthcare Investment Platform, a professionally managed investment vehicle designed to channel diaspora capital into specialist hospitals, diagnostic centres, telemedicine infrastructure, and medical training institutions across Nigeria.

"Every dollar invested delivers a dual return, creating value for investors while contributing meaningfully to Nigeria's healthcare future. We now have the regulatory framework, banking infrastructure, governance structures, and institutional commitment to make this possible," he added.

Under the proposed structure, UBA will serve as custodian and

structuring bank, while United Capital Asset Management, one of Nigeria's leading asset managers with over N1.2tn in assets under management, will act as fund manager.

As part of deepening engagement with the Nigerian-American medical community, Rao also proposed a Memorandum of Understanding between UBA and the two ANPA chapters. The proposed collaboration is anchored on six strategic pillars: preferred banking offerings for ANPA members; quarterly financial education sessions; the joint Healthcare Infrastructure Fund; a dedicated ANPA Wealth and Legacy Desk; access to group-rate family healthcare plans through Avon HMO; and a UBA co-matching contribution framework to support qualifying impact vehicles under the Pearl

Endowment Fund.

The initiative represents a further expansion of UBA's diaspora value proposition, which currently includes Non-Resident Nigerian accounts in multiple currencies; fixed-income and dollar-denominated investment solutions through United Capital; elder-care trust solutions under the Homeland Anchor Care Trust programme in partnership with Avon HMO; and private wealth management offerings tailored to senior diaspora professionals.

The 2026 ANPA Carolinas Symposium marks another milestone in UBA's strategic engagement with the diaspora community and reinforces the bank's long-held belief that diaspora capital can play a transformative role in accelerating healthcare and infrastructure development across Africa.

## Lagos To Host Africa Arbitration Business Conference

Lagos will host the 10th International Chamber of Commerce Africa Conference on International Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution from June 3 to 5, 2026, as arbitration practitioners, business leaders, regulators, and legal professionals gather to discuss dispute resolution and cross-border commercial transactions across the continent.

A statement from the organisers on Saturday stated that the conference, organised by the ICC International Court of Arbitration in collaboration with ICC Nigeria, will be held at

the Lagos Continental Hotel under the theme, “A Decade of Excellence: Shaping the Future of International Arbitration & ADR in Africa.”

“Activities will commence on June 3 with an Advanced Training on Drafting Enforceable Awards hosted by the ICC Institute of World Business Law. The session is expected to provide participants with practical insights into drafting enforceable arbitral awards,” the statement stated.

It added, “The main conference, scheduled for June 4 and 5, will focus on cross-border commercial disputes,



enforcement of arbitral awards, investment arbitration, energy and infrastructure disputes, technology and innovation in arbitration, and Africa’s position within the global arbitration ecosystem.

“Among the speakers expected at the conference are Lateef Olasukanmi Fagbemi, Claudia Salomon, Dorothy Udemé Ufot, Paul Baffoe-Bonnie, Afam Osigwe, Lawal Pedro, and Funke Adekoya.”

Speaking ahead of the conference, ICC Nigeria described the event as a platform for strengthening arbitration practice across Africa while promoting investor confidence and efficient dispute resolution mechanisms for economic growth and international business transactions.

The conference is expected to attract lawyers, arbitrators, corporate counsel, judges, academics, regulators, policymakers, etc.

## Premium Pension’s AUM Grows 24%, Sustains Dividend

Premium Pension Limited’s Assets Under Management grew by over N328.5bn, representing a 24.2 per cent year-on-year increase to close at N1.67tn in December 2025, declaring a final dividend of N2.96 per share, in addition to an interim dividend of N3.23, marking 18 consecutive years of dividend payouts to its investors.

The leading Pension Fund Administrators disclosed this at its Annual General Meeting in Abuja, where the Board of Directors presented a year of significant financial growth and operational resilience for the fiscal year ended 31 December

2025.

The AGM, which was attended by shareholders, directors, and management, reviewed the company’s audited financial statements and provided key operational updates on its growth trajectory.

Following the approval of the full financial statements by the Board of Directors, the company reported that its total assets grew to N21.07bn as of 31 December 2025, compared to N15.84bn recorded in the 2024 fiscal year.

Similarly, total equity increased significantly to N14.65bn from N12.69bn in the prior year, while



fee income remained resilient, closing the year at N17.77bn compared to N13.93bn in the previous year. The firm attributed this to improved operational efficiency and service delivery.

On membership growth, the Retirement Savings Account count increased by 32,698 new members, bringing the total RSA holders to 850,797 as of December 2025.

Management said arrangements had been finalised to drive growth

through stronger customer engagement and improved digital platforms. Premium Pension added that it had intensified its digital transformation efforts to enhance service delivery and customer experience while reinforcing governance, risk management and regulatory compliance.

The company said it “would prioritise cybersecurity, digital infrastructure, talent development and sustainable investments.

## Berger Paints Grows Profit 157%, Dividend Up 37.5%

Shareholders of Berger Paints Nigeria Plc have approved a final dividend payout of N1.25 per share for the financial year ended 31 December 2025, bringing the total dividend for the year to N1.65 per share, a 37.5 per cent increase over the 2024 financial year. The company had earlier paid an interim dividend of 40 kobo per share in November 2025, reflecting its commitment to rewarding shareholders amid strong financial performance.

At the Annual General Meeting held virtually in Lagos on 6 May 2026, shareholders commended the company's impressive performance and consistent improvement in dividend payouts.

Speaking at the event, the leader of the Independent Shareholders Association of Nigeria, Moses Igbrude, praised the management for demonstrating strong leadership and strategic direction, which resulted in the outstanding performance and attractive dividend payout.

Also commenting, the National Coordinator of the Pragmatic Shareholders Association of Nigeria, Adebisi Bakare, commended the management for the stellar performance across the board, the high dividend payout, and its promotion of gender balance within the organisation.



Similarly, Lawrence Oguntoye praised the ingenuity of the management for delivering exponential growth and attractive returns to shareholders, while encouraging the company to remain focused on sustaining profitability, capital appreciation, and shareholder value.

Speaking on the 2025 results at the AGM, the Chairman of Berger Paints, Abi Ayida, said the company recorded significant growth across major financial indicators, driven by disciplined execution of its strategic priorities.

According to him, the company recorded a profit after tax of N1.57bn, compared to N610.8m in 2024, representing remarkable growth of 157 per cent. Revenue also increased 20 per cent, rising from N10.8bn in 2024 to N12.9bn in 2025. The chairman said the performance demonstrated the efficiency and effectiveness of the

company's long-term strategic turnaround initiatives.

"These results underscore the effectiveness of our strategic initiatives and the unwavering commitment of our management team, employees, and business partners," he said.

Ayida also attributed the strong performance to sustained focus on operational efficiency, disciplined cost management, strengthened distribution channels, enhanced pricing strategies, and improved supply chain management. He further disclosed that Berger Paints strengthened its market presence during the year through sustained brand engagement, strategic partnerships, and targeted marketing initiatives aimed at enhancing customer loyalty and increasing brand visibility across Nigeria.

"The company would continue to focus on operational efficiency,

product innovation, enhanced customer engagement, and stronger distribution channels while exploring opportunities for sustainable growth," he said.

Similarly, the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Alaba Fagun, said the 2025 financial year marked a defining period for the company, characterised by operational resilience and improved profitability.

Fagun explained that the company's high profit margin reflected its strong emphasis on efficiency, margin enhancement, manufacturing productivity, and the positive impact of its strategic initiatives and operational discipline.

According to her, the Group maintained a strong balance sheet and deepened stakeholder confidence through consistent execution of its strategic objectives.

## E-Call-Up System: Lagos Registers 28,000 Trucks

The Lagos State Government has disclosed that over 28,000 trucks have now been registered under the Lekki-Epe electronic call-up system introduced to regulate truck movement around the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, Lekki Deep Sea Port, and Lekki Free Zone corridor.

The government added that about 11,000 transport operators have also registered under the initiative as authorities intensify efforts to prevent gridlock and traffic disorder within the rapidly expanding industrial corridor.

The disclosure was made on Thursday in a statement issued to journalists by the Public Relations Officer, Bolanle Ogunlola.

The statement followed a status review meeting convened by the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Oluwaseun Osiyemi, alongside the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Olawale Musa, with officials of NUPENG, terminal operators, and other transport stakeholders.

The meeting, held at the Ministry of Transportation in Lagos, reviewed operational developments,



compliance levels, and challenges associated with the implementation of the electronic call-up system introduced to coordinate truck access into the Lekki industrial zone.

Giving updates during the meeting, the Managing Director of E-Call Up Technology, Timi Koleolu, said compliance among truck operators

had continued to improve since the commencement of the initiative.

He said, "About 11,000 transporters have registered with over 28,000 trucks under the system," adding that the increasing registration reflected growing acceptance of the digital traffic management framework among stakeholders.

## Consolidated Hallmark Declares 25k Dividend

Consolidated Hallmark Holdings Plc has reported strong operational growth for the 2025 financial year, with its insurance revenue rising 47 per cent to N43.27bn, just as the company proposed its highest dividend payout since inception.

Speaking at the company's 3rd Annual General Meeting held on Thursday in Lagos, the Chairman, Shuaib Idris, said the group demonstrated resilience despite Nigeria's challenging economic environment, which was marked by inflationary pressures, exchange rate volatility, and high borrowing costs. According to the

company's audited financial statements, insurance revenue increased from N29.42bn in 2024 to N43.27bn in 2025, while the net insurance service result surged 121 per cent from N3.10bn to N6.85bn after claims, reinsurance obligations, and other direct costs were settled.

The group also recorded a 61 per cent rise in operating and non-insurance income, growing from N4.09bn in 2024 to N6.59bn in 2025.

Despite the strong operational performance, profit before tax declined from N22.65bn in 2024 to N8.44bn in 2025 due to a sharp drop in the market-to-market valuation of the



group's capital market investments.

Idris explained that the decline was largely an accounting treatment rather than a reflection of weak investment fundamentals, saying, "The fundamentals of the investment remained strong and hold better prospects for the future."

The company's balance sheet remained robust during the period under review. Cash and cash equivalents rose 96 per cent from N3.76bn in 2024 to N7.38bn in 2025,

while financial assets increased 65 per cent from N27.88bn to N45.90bn. Total assets also expanded 33 per cent to N75.94bn in 2025, while shareholders' funds grew 21 per cent. On shareholder returns, the board proposed a final dividend of 15 kobo per share. Combined with the interim dividend of 10 kobo already paid in 2025, the total dividend for the financial year stands at 25 kobo per ordinary share, representing the highest dividend payout in the company's history.

## Seplat Energy Approves 2025 Dividend

**D**ual-listed indigenous energy giant Seplat Energy Plc has entered an aggressive new phase of corporate expansion, backed by an enormous cash-generation strategy and a historic return of value to its investors.

At its 13th Annual General Meeting held virtually from Lagos on Wednesday, 20 May 2026, shareholders approved the company's 2025 audited financial statements and a final dividend of 8.3 US cents per share, bringing the total dividend for the 2025 financial year to a robust 25.0 US cents per share.

The meeting marked a celebratory milestone for the company following its transformative integration of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited and its prized offshore assets.

Addressing stakeholders at the meeting, the Chairman of Seplat Energy, Senator Udoma Udoma, celebrated the company's structural evolution and guaranteed that the board remains deeply aligned with investor interests.

"We have committed ourselves to delivering one billion dollars in dividends over the next four to five years, and we are well on track," Udoma stated.

"Our commitment is to return value to shareholders. We are constantly seeking ways



to reduce costs and improve profitability," the chairman added.

The 2025 integration has dramatically shifted Seplat's operational identity. Historically an onshore operator, the energy giant is now a balanced powerhouse, boasting a combined portfolio of 11 blocks (seven onshore, four offshore) and 48 producing fields.

Operationally, this diversification translated into a spectacular 148 per cent explosion in average production, which jumped to 131,506 barrels of oil equivalent per day, up from 52,947 boepd the previous year.

The Chief Executive Officer, Roger Brown, detailed how this expanded footprint lays a rock-solid foundation for future capital returns, emphasising that the numbers represent sustainable, structural progress.

"Our priority is disciplined execution across our expanded portfolio. This

is not growth for its own sake, but growth that is responsibly financed, safely delivered, and capable of generating sustainable cash flow," Brown remarked.

Seplat Energy's executive team utilised the milestone AGM to confidently look towards the medium and long-term future, outlining an ambitious roadmap funded by capital discipline. Over the next five years, the firm is preparing to deploy up to \$3bn in capital investment, with a laser-focused goal of scaling overall production to approximately 200,000 boepd by 2030.

If achieved, this rapid expansion is projected to yield between \$5bn and \$6bn in post-tax operating cash flow.

The Chief Operating Officer, Samson Ezugworie, noted that as this volume-led strategy scales up, it will happen hand in hand with an unwavering commitment to operational safety and risk management.

"Operational priorities remain centred on safety, asset integrity, and sustainable production growth," Ezugworie added, highlighting that the company has successfully recorded zero fatalities and zero lost-time injuries since the completion of the asset integration.

The sentiment from retail and institutional investors at the AGM was overwhelmingly positive. Shareholders praised the board not only for the predictable dividend policy and strong financial resilience amid a complex macroeconomic backdrop but also for key corporate governance additions, including the ratification of high-profile board appointments like African business leader Tony Elumelu.

Representing the investor community, a prominent shareholder, Faruk Usman, summarised the mood of the meeting as the company's share price continues to break historic records.

## Capital Market Awards To Spotlight Rising Investor

**N**airametrics is set to host the second edition of its Capital Market Awards as part of efforts to deepen engagement with Nigeria's capital market ecosystem amid renewed investor activity.

With the theme, "Capital Markets as a Pathway to Responsible Wealth Creation", the awards will recognise individuals and institutions that have contributed to the growth and stability of Nigeria's capital market over the past year.

Commenting on the forthcoming event, Founder and Chief Analyst at Nairametrics, Ugo Obi-Chukwu, said the initiative comes at a

pivotal moment for the market.

"The second edition of the Nairametrics Capital Market Awards reflects our continued commitment to contributing meaningfully to the development of Nigeria's capital market. This is particularly significant at a time when we are witnessing a resurgence in retail investor participation—now at levels not seen in over two decades," he said.

He noted that the renewed interest places greater responsibility on stakeholders to sustain investor confidence, deepen transparency, and reinforce market integrity. Nairametrics said the



initiative goes beyond recognition, positioning the awards as a platform to spotlight excellence in value creation, corporate governance, and innovation across the market.

The organisation maintained that the programme is expected to highlight players driving measurable impact and setting benchmarks for industry performance.

This year's edition

will feature 25 award categories, including honorary recognitions for individuals whose contributions have significantly shaped the development of the capital market.

The event is scheduled for June 5, 2026, at the Civic Centre, Lagos, bringing together market participants, including operators, regulators, institutional investors, and other key stakeholders.

## Legend Internet Repays N10bn Commercial Paper

**L**egend Internet Plc has announced the full and timely repayment of its Series 1 Commercial Paper under its N10bn multi-layered issuance programme, marking a key milestone in the company's engagement with Nigeria's debt capital market.

The repayment, completed on schedule and in full, underscores the company's financial discipline and its continued commitment to maintaining strong investor relations in a tightening funding environment.

The Series 1 issuance had earlier attracted significant demand, recording a 119.7

per cent oversubscription at launch, reflecting strong investor appetite and confidence in the company's credit profile, operational performance, and long-term expansion strategy.

Speaking on the repayment, the Chief Executive Officer of Legend Internet Plc, Aisha Abdulaziz, said the outcome reinforces the company's credibility and operational strength.

"The successful repayment of our Series 1 Commercial Paper demonstrates Legend Internet's unwavering commitment to meeting its financial obligations



and maintaining the trust of the investment community.

This milestone further reinforces the strength of our business model, operational discipline, and long-term vision for building resilient digital infrastructure across Nigeria," she said.

She added that investor confidence has remained central to the company's

funding strategy, saying, "We remain deeply appreciative of the confidence shown by our investors, advisers, issuing houses, and market partners during the issuance and throughout the tenor of the programme. Their support continues to position Legend Internet for sustainable growth and expansion."

## ECOWAS To Boost Trade With Cross-Border Cooperation

The Economic Community of West African States has intensified efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation among member states as part of broader measures aimed at boosting regional trade, improving security coordination, and accelerating economic integration across West Africa.

The Director-General of the National Boundary Commission, Adamu Adaji, represented by the Head of Cross Border Cooperation, Dr Farouk Tarfa, participated in the Annual Regional Stakeholders Meeting on ECOWAS Cross Border Cooperation held in Abuja on Thursday.

The regional meeting, hosted by the ECOWAS Commission, brought together representatives from ECOWAS member states, including Nigeria, Benin, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo, to deliberate on strengthening cross-border cooperation and regional integration within the West African sub-region.

Speaking during the plenary session, Tarfa stated that Nigeria was the first country in the sub-region to establish the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Programme.



He noted that Nigeria adopted the programme because of its strategic importance in addressing border challenges, combating terrorism and other transboundary crimes, while also promoting social cohesion among border communities.

According to him, the programme is designed to leverage the existing homogeneous socio-cultural identities along border communities as building blocks for the ECOWAS integration agenda and to facilitate the transition from a "Community of States" to a "Community of People." Tarfa further explained that the programme promotes

joint development and utilisation of transboundary resources, pooling of resources for the provision of strategic goods and services, integrated health management approaches for combating transboundary diseases, and information sharing among member states in areas of common interest. "This programme also provides opportunities for joint security operations capable of guaranteeing peace, security and stability within border areas, thereby facilitating growth and development across the region," he added.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation

process of the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Programmes in member states and agreed on new joint initiatives aimed at strengthening regional peace, security, and integration.

ECOWAS Heads of State and Government adopted the concept of Cross-Border Cooperation in January 2006 as part of the sub-regional integration mechanisms for the ECOWAS integration process, which subsequently led to the establishment of the ECOWAS Cross-Border Cooperation Programme by ministers in charge of border issues.

## FMDQ Transactions Hit \$180.85bn On Volume Surge

Activities in the Nigerian financial markets recorded a massive boost as the total turnover on the FMDQ Securities Exchange hit \$180.85bn, driven by an unprecedented surge in transaction volumes across key market segments. The significant growth reflects a major recovery in market liquidity and rising investor confidence, largely driven by ongoing foreign exchange market calibrations and intensive open market interventions by the monetary authorities. According to the latest monthly market report from the exchange,

trading activities in the foreign exchange and Open Market Operations bills segments remained the primary catalysts for the market's stellar performance. A breakdown of the performance shows that spot FX transactions and foreign exchange derivatives combined accounted for the largest share of the overall market turnover. This indicates an improved supply of foreign exchange into the system following recent structural reforms. The fixed income segment followed closely, dominated heavily by intense central bank liquidity management operations.



The surge in transactional volume was also heavily supported by the high-interest-rate environment in the primary debt markets. The Debt Management Office and the Central Bank of Nigeria have sustained attractive yields on short-term and long-term sovereign instruments to rein in inflation. Institutional investors, particularly pension fund administrators and asset managers, aggressively

locked funds into Treasury Bills and FGN Bonds, resulting in consistent oversubscriptions at recent auctions. Meanwhile, activity in the corporate debt segment showed steady progression, with several high-profile commercial papers and corporate bonds listed on the FMDQ platform by players in the financial services, manufacturing, and consumer goods sectors.

## 82,143 Suspicious Transactions Reported To NFIU

Banks, fintech firms, insurance companies, capital market operators, and other reporting entities flagged 82,143 suspicious transactions to the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit in 2024 amid intensified efforts to detect money laundering, terrorism financing, and other illicit financial activities. The figure was contained in the NFIU's 2024 Annual Report, which also revealed that the agency received 25,819,719 Currency Transaction Reports and 23,364 Suspicious Activity Reports during the year under review. The

report, which was recently released on the NFIU's website, was obtained by Sunday PUNCH on Friday. According to the report, "During the review period, the NFIU received a total of 25,819,719 CTRs, 82,143 STRs, and 23,364 SARs." The NFIU explained that it receives threshold-based disclosures, suspicious transaction and activity reports, as well as regulatory submissions relating to anti-money laundering, counter-terrorist financing, and counter-proliferation financing measures. It added that it works closely with regulators,



including the Central Bank of Nigeria, the National Insurance Commission, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations. An analysis of the report showed that Deposit Money Banks accounted for the majority of suspicious transaction filings, submitting 73,531 reports, representing

about 89.5 per cent of all STRs received during the year. Other Financial Institutions filed 5,442 reports, while capital market operators and insurance companies submitted 1,796 reports. Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions accounted for 1,013 reports, while Virtual Asset Service Providers, which include digital asset operators, filed 361 suspicious transaction reports.

## FG To Cut African Export Costs With New RwandAir Cargo Deal

The Federal Government has expanded Nigeria's African Continental Free Trade Area export corridor through a new partnership with RwandAir aimed at lowering cargo costs and opening fresh export routes into East and Southern Africa.

The development comes one year after Nigeria launched the Nigeria-East and Southern Africa Air Cargo Corridor with Uganda Airlines as part of efforts to deepen intra-African trade under the AfCFTA framework.

In a statement issued on Sunday to commemorate Africa Day, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment said the new agreement with RwandAir would extend the corridor to Kigali in Rwanda, Harare in Zimbabwe and Lusaka in Zambia, while also providing Nigerian exporters with an additional carrier option on the Nairobi and Johannesburg routes.

The ministry said the move was designed to tackle one of the biggest barriers facing Nigerian exporters on the continent, high logistics and cargo transportation costs.

The statement issued by the minister's office read, "As Nigeria celebrates Africa Day 2026 the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and



Investment (FMITI) is pleased to announce a major expansion of Nigeria's implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through a new strategic partnership with RwandAir for the Nigeria-East and Southern Africa Air Cargo Corridor."

Before the establishment of the corridor, exporters reportedly paid between \$3 and \$10 per kilogramme to move goods into East and Southern African markets, making Nigerian products less competitive.

However, under the new arrangement, cargo rates on the RwandAir routes will now cost below \$2 per kilogramme across all five destinations.

It added, "On Africa Day 2025, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment launched the Nigeria-East and Southern Africa Air Cargo Corridor through a partnership with Uganda Airlines.

"This partnership provides Nigerian exporters with

tiered and rebated rates of up to 70 per cent below those of other commercial carriers for goods exported to Entebbe, Uganda; Nairobi, Kenya; and Johannesburg, South Africa.

"Today one year later, on Africa Day 2026, the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment is pleased to announce a partnership with RwandAir that extends the corridor to Kigali, Harare and Lusaka as new destinations and gives Nigerian exporters a second choice of carrier on the Nairobi and Johannesburg routes.

"Cargo rates on the RwandAir routes are set at under US\$2 per kilogram for all five destinations, ensuring that Nigerian goods can access destination markets quickly and affordably."

The ministry noted that the RwandAir partnership would be formally inaugurated in June 2026.

Speaking on the initiative, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment,

Jumoke Oduwole, said the government was beginning to see practical results from Nigeria's AfCFTA implementation strategy.

She said, "One year ago, we promised that the AfCFTA would work in practice for Nigerian businesses, not only on paper. We set out to solve a practical problem: Nigerian businesses have goods that African markets wanted, but the cost of cargo was too high. "This corridor has kept that promise, and our whole-of-economy approach to AfCFTA implementation is yielding results. Nigeria's non-oil exports to other African markets rose from \$150m in 2024 to \$207m in 2025.

"With RwandAir, we are widening the air cargo corridor, so that more Nigerian exporters can reach more markets at a cost that allows them to compete.



# Lifestyle

Vol. 5.44

www.thebossnewspapers.com

A publication of Ovation Media Group



## ENTERTAINMENT

**NDLEA Club  
Raid Cost Me  
Over N3bn  
— Pretty Mike**

## FASHION

**2026 Cannes Film Festival:  
Amazing Styles That Made  
The Night Glam**

**Sonia Uche Celebrates Birthday In  
Stunning All-Beaded Gown**

**SPORT**

**My Decision To Leave Man City Is Right - Guardiola**

# TOPNOTCH

...Celebrity Gist Unlimited

## NDLEA Club Raid Cost Me Over N3bn — Pretty Mike

Lagos socialite and owner of Proxy Nightclub, Mike Nwogu, popularly known as Pretty Mike, has alleged that the raid on his club by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency in October 2025 cost him over N3bn in losses.

Recall that over 100 suspects, including Pretty Mike, were arrested during a raid on Proxy nightclub after intelligence reports alleged that flyers had been circulated to promote a “drug party.”

During the operation, cartons of illicit substances, including a strain of cannabis sativa, popularly called “loud” and laughing gas, were reportedly recovered from suspects and from the club’s store.

The NDLEA later filed a forfeiture suit against the nightclub, while

Pretty Mike and the club’s supervisor, Joachim Hillary, were arraigned on charges bordering on conspiracy, unlawful possession and permitting the use of club premises for illegal drug activities. He was subsequently granted N50m bail by a Federal High Court in Lagos.

Speaking on the financial impact of the incident, Pretty Mike said, “I lost a lot. Easily over two or three billion naira in losses.

“First, on the actual raid night, we lost money immediately because customers did not pay. There was destruction everywhere. Furniture was damaged, doors were broken, equipment got destroyed.

“Then the club remained shut for nine months. Anybody familiar with the nightlife business knows what an average nightclub generates monthly, especially during peak periods.



## Actress Foluke Daramola Wins APC Primary for Oshodi-Isole Constituency

Popular Nollywood actress and politician Foluke Daramola has emerged victorious in the All Progressives Congress (APC) primary election for Oshodi-Isole Federal Constituency, securing the party’s ticket ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The actress, who recently declared her political ambition and picked up her APC nomination forms, defeated other aspirants in a closely watched primary contest that attracted significant attention within Lagos political circles.

Foluke Daramola’s victory marks a major step in her transition from entertainment to active politics, as she continues to build grassroots support across the Oshodi-Isole axis. Political observers had earlier described the constituency as one of the fiercest APC battlegrounds in Lagos State due to the number of high-profile contenders involved in the race.

Reacting after her win, supporters of the actress flooded social media with congratulatory messages, praising her resilience, popularity, and commitment to community development.



## Givers Will Always Lack — Paul Okoye Reacts To Phyna's Financial Mistake

Nigerian singer Paul Okoye, popularly known as Rudeboy of Psquare, has sparked conversations online after reacting to reality star Phyna's recent financial revelation.

The singer took to social media to share his thoughts on generosity and financial responsibility after Phyna opened up about a costly money mistake she allegedly made while trying to help others.

According to reports making rounds online, Phyna admitted that she spent excessively supporting friends, family members, and people around her after rising to fame. The reality TV star's confession quickly generated mixed reactions from fans, with many sympathizing with her situation while others advised celebrities to be more financially disciplined.

Reacting to the situation, Paul Psquare stated: "Givers will always lack if they don't learn to stop."



## Actress Basira Beere Opens Up On Abusive Marriage

Popular Yoruba actress Omoshalewa Yusuf, widely known by her screen name Basira Beere, has broken her silence on her failed marriage, revealing a harrowing tale of repeated physical abuse that she says cost her four pregnancies and left her covered in blood during the final violent confrontation.

Speaking during an appearance on the Talk to B podcast, the actress said the abuse began just two days after their wedding — triggered, she recalled, by something as

trivial as her use of the word "dear" in a congratulatory text message from a male acquaintance.

"His problem started two days after our wedding. Days after the wedding, a guy texted me to congratulate me on the wedding, and I called him 'dear,' and that was when the problem started. It was so tough; he beat me so much that even our landlord tried to intervene," she revealed.

Basira Beere disclosed that she had gone into the marriage despite warnings from friends.



## I Don't Use My Tongue During Onscreen Kissing — Actress Soso

Nollywood actress Sophia Chisom, popularly known as Soso, has said actors are supposed to engage in onscreen kisses solely for professionalism and not seeking pleasure.

The actress stated this while reacting to the complaint by some actors that they have never had a good kiss in the movie industry.

Speaking in an interview with TVC, Soso said it is difficult for any male colleague to get

a good kiss from her because she doesn't involve her tongue during onscreen kisses.

She explained that she often close her teeth and use just her lips when shooting a kissing scene, stressing that she's very conscious of who she exchanged saliva with.

"I don't know if people kiss with their tongues but I do not kiss with my tongue. My teeth are always close during kissing scenes so it is just the lips.



## Sonia Uche Celebrates Birthday In Stunning All-Beaded Gown





## Giving To Your Parents Without Breaking The Bank

In many cultures - especially in Nigeria and across much of Africa, there's an unspoken expectation: once you "make it," you must give back. And often, that means giving back to your parents.

After all, they sacrificed for you. They hustled, prayed, and poured their energy into your upbringing. So naturally, the moment you start earning, you feel the weight of giving back to them, and that includes taking care of them as they age.

But here's the tricky part no one talks about enough: how do you honour your parents without losing yourself in the process? So, give with love and not with guilt. Your intentions are pure, but that doesn't mean sacrificing your rent or sanity.

Let's talk about it.

### Giving Back Doesn't Mean Going Broke

It's noble to want to "change their life." However, this shouldn't come at a cost that exceeds what you can afford. If you're constantly draining yourself financially to appear like the "successful child," you're not really helping anyone. The truth is, you can't pour from an empty cup.

Instead, create a budget that you can afford and stick to it. Yes, you are their child and should give them, but it's also important to them that you don't get drowned in the



process.

So, give with love and not with guilt. Your intentions are pure, but that doesn't mean sacrificing your rent or sanity.

### Define What Support Really Means

Giving back doesn't always have to be about money. Yes, money is important, but many other things will also mean a lot to them. So, whether you're wealthy or not, you can always pay attention to other aspects of care like:

- Making time for regular calls and visits
- Helping them get access to healthcare or a good doctor
- Teaching them how to use mobile banking or WhatsApp

- Listening when they feel lonely or confused by the pace of today's world

Most of these things may seem small, but they're amazing ways to show your parents that you value them and will always be present in their lives.

### Don't Let Guilt Be Your Fuel

Often, people feel pressured to help due to emotional blackmail. Yes, they're your parents and have done a great deal for you throughout your life. But it's still not healthy to constantly rub all they've done to your face and guilt-trip you into helping. Guilt is never a healthy motivator. Gratitude is. So, you should naturally choose to give because you want to. Not because you're afraid of being

labelled ungrateful.

### Involve Your Siblings (If You Have)

You're not an only child in this struggle - hopefully. Create a sibling WhatsApp group, share responsibilities, split bills, and rotate duties. Carrying the whole weight alone doesn't make you the hero. It just makes you tired.

### Know When to Step Back

Sometimes, especially with toxic or manipulative parents (yes, it happens), the giving becomes a trap. You're emotionally blackmailed into constant sacrifice. In such cases, protect your peace. Seek therapy if you need to. You can love people from a distance, with firm boundaries and clear expectations.

# 2026 Cannes Film Festival: Amazing Styles That Made The Night Glam

*By Ajibade Morakinyo*

The 2026 Cannes Film Festival red carpet once again transformed the French Riviera into the ultimate global epicentre of high fashion, delivering an unforgettable masterclass in sartorial elegance. This year, the Croisette witnessed an extraordinary convergence of historic Hollywood glamour and avant-garde structure, as legendary fashion houses and emerging designers pushed the boundaries of formal wear. The atmosphere was charged with a palpable reverence for the craft, as every archival revival and custom-built creation told a distinct story of heritage, identity, and cinematic romance under the flashing festival lights. What distinguished this year's evening presentations was a deliberate pivot away from understated minimalism toward bold, unapologetic opulence. Luxurious, heavy silks and liquid metallics shared the stage with ethereal tulle configurations, while a sophisticated color palette of midnight blues, deep crimson, and shimmering champagne anchored the night in timeless luxury. Here are some styles that made the night glam...









# SERMON

- Babatunde Jose -

+2348033110822

## Facing Mount Arafat 3: A Prophet's Final Admonition

**K**hutbatul Wada' or Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) 'last sermon' was delivered on the 9th of Zulhijjah 10 A.H (632 C.E) on Mount 'Arafat, Makkah.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is an example for all of humanity. He was always a remarkable man. He excelled in all walks of life by being a prophet, ruler, statesman, orator, soldier, husband, friend, father and a grandfather. He was a man of love, patience, courage, wisdom, generosity, intelligence and exemplary character who inspires over a billion lives throughout the world.

Allah says in the Quran that he was sent as a mercy for the people of the world: And We sent thee only as a mercy for all mankind. Wama arsalnaka illa rahmatan lilAAalameen. (Surah Al Anbiya, Quran 21:107)

Shortly before his death, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) delivered a sermon during the Hajj, which came to be known as his "Final Sermon". This sermon was not



only a reminder to his followers, but also the 'final admonition'; it also heralded the end of his Prophetic Mission. Historically, the Farewell Sermon of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) occupies an important place in Islam.

The sermon consisted of summarized exhortations reflecting some of the core teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. The sermon exemplifies the Quran's assertion that the prophet was but a Warner: This

was mentioned 57 times in the Quran.

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) undertook his farewell and only pilgrimage in the year 10 A.H. and it has since been the model for performing the fifth pillar of Islam, the Hajj.

The Final Sermon:

"O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I know not whether after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore, listen to what I am saying to you very carefully and

take these words to those who could not be present here today.

"O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as Sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners.

"Hurt no one so that no one may hurt you. Remember that you will indeed meet your Lord, and that He will indeed reckon your deeds. God has forbidden you to take

usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity.

“God has Judged that there shall be no interest, and that all the interest due to Al-Abbas ibn Abd’el Muttalib shall henceforth be waived... Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost

belongs the right to be fed and clothed in kindness. Do treat your women well and be kind to them for they are your partners and committed helpers. And it is your right that they do not make friends with any one of whom you do not approve, as well as never to be unchaste.

“O People, listen to me in earnest, worship God, perform your five daily prayers, fast during the

action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood. Nothing shall be legitimate to a Muslim which belongs to a fellow Muslim unless it was given freely and willingly. Do not, therefore, do injustice to yourselves. Remember, one day you will appear before God and answer for your deeds. So beware, do

who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and it may be that the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly. Be my witness, O God, that I have conveyed your message to your people.” Thus the beloved Prophet (SAW) completed his Final Sermon, and upon it, near the summit of Arafat, the revelation came



all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things.

“O People, it is true that you have certain rights with regard to your women, but they also have rights over you. Remember that you have taken them as your wives only under a trust from God and with His permission. If they abide by your right, then to them

month of Ramadan, and offer Zakat. Perform Hajj if you have the means. All mankind is from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab, nor does a non-Arab have any superiority over an Arab; a white has no superiority over a black, nor does a black have any superiority over a white; [none have superiority over another] except by piety and good

not stray from the path of righteousness after I am gone.

“O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me, and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O people, and understand words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Quran and my example, the Sunnah, and if you follow these you will never go astray. All those

down: “...This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My Grace upon you, and have chosen Islam for you as your religion...” (Quran 5:3)

Perhaps it is more appropriate to present this ayat in proper context: “Forbidden to you (for food) are: dead meat, blood, the flesh of swine, and that on which hath been invoked the

name of other than Allah; that which hath been killed by strangling, or by a violent blow, or by a headlong fall, or by being gored to death; that which hath been (partly) eaten by a wild animal; unless ye are able to slaughter it (in due form); that which is sacrificed on stone (altars); (forbidden) also is the division (of meat) by raffling with arrows: that is impiety. This day have those who reject faith given up all hope of your religion: yet fear them not but fear Me. This day have I perfected your religion for you, completed My favour upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion. But if any is forced by hunger, with no inclination to transgression, Allah is indeed Oft-forgiving, Most Merciful.” (Quran Surah Al Ma'idah Verse 3) Indeed the meanings found in this sermon are astounding and it could rightly be described as the Prophet's last Admonition. But how have we as his followers kept to his admonitions? We have kept to them in the breach: An incorrigible generation, hell bent on disobedience and trenchant iniquities, we kill our fellow men, we enslave our women in the name of Sunnah, we persecute people of other faiths and engage in terrorism and are unjust to peoples of other races and ethnic persuasions, we are intolerant and intemperate

in our manners and speech and we are bigots and fanatical in our ways. We have gone against all the things in the admonitions. We are unjust, nepotism and consume usury; we even export hard drugs to the 'House of God; child abuse, prostitution and other forms of iniquities that make Sodom and Gomorrah pale into insignificance. What will we not do for money? We dispossess the orphans and maltreat the widows. Sexual inequality which the Prophet preached against is still the order of the day in most Islamic countries and Muslim communities; 1,387 years after the Prophet, the Arabs and

their cohorts still treat women as chattels. The Admonition talks about equality of men but the Arab Muslims did not remember that when they came to enslave Africans, especially from East Africa. A generation of vile men and human anacondas, we even attempt to bribe God, but He refused to be mocked. On the Day of Qiyamah they will reap their just recompense. Walahi! There will be much weeping and gnashing of teeth, but it will be too late. Let us reflect on ourselves, take a step back, and revive the core teachings of our Prophet (SAW) in achieving an ethical and

moral society, wherever we are, where no one inflicts harm or injustice upon others.

May Allah grant us the strength to become better Muslims and better human beings.

LA ILAHA ILLA ANTA SUBHANAKA INNI KUNTU MINAZ ZALIMEEN: “None has the right to be worshipped but You (O Allah)), Glorified (and Exalted) are You (above all that (evil) they associate with You). Truly, I have been of the wrong-doers.”(Quran 21:87)

***Barka Juma'at, happy weekend and Eid Mubarak and Barka da Sallah.***



## 'Salah Has Left Liverpool In The Worst Way' – Evra

**M**anchester United legend Patrice Evra believes Liverpool star Mohamed Salah has left the club in the worst way.

He expressed deep disappointment with Salah's public comments and actions following his decision to leave Liverpool at the end of the 2025-26 season, calling them disrespectful to the club and new manager Arne Slot.

Evra noted that Salah's outbursts likely stemmed from frustration regarding being benched, a new experience for the star, and suggested this frustration was handled poorly.

In a chat with Stake, the former France international stated that Salah's actions

turned a legendary tenure into a controversial and bitter departure, with many observers suggesting the Egyptian's actions were selfish at a critical moment for the team.

"This is a problem between Mohamed Salah and Arne Slot and maybe a lot of frustration. I know people will say you should never talk against your club, but this is what Salah may see.

"Cristiano (Ronaldo) was the same, and when he left, everything proved him right. At the end of the day, you prefer players telling exactly what they feel. I know every time they speak to the media, you shouldn't go against your club.



## My Decision To Leave Man City Is Right - Guardiola

**M**anchester City manager Pep Guardiola has disclosed that he made the right decision to leave the club at the end of the season.

Recall that the Spanish tactician last managed the club during their 2-1 loss to Aston Villa at the Etihad Stadium on Sunday.

After turning City into the most dominant Premier League team of its generation and a champion of Europe for the first time, he said the time was right to hand over the reins.

"I am so tired. Seriously, I am so tired. I did everything. We did it. The memories I have of Barcelona and Bayern Munich are unbeatable but the luggage of memories I have from here from 10 years is more than any other," he told the club's website.

"It is the right time. I will not miss it for a while, that's for sure. I feel deeply that the decision is the right decision for this club and the players. I thank the club for respecting it, they understood.

"I have been here for 10 years and of course the baggage, the memories that are put inside. It's more than any of other part," he began.



## EPL: Tottenham Survive Relegation After Edging Out Everton As West Ham Drop To Championship

**T**ottenham Hotspur has survived relegation from the Premier League, beating Everton 1-0 on Sunday, Yahoo Sports reports.

The Spurs entered the day sitting 17th in the table and had two scenarios that could lead to relegation.

If Tottenham had lost to Everton and West Ham had beaten Leeds United, Tottenham would have been relegated. The other scenario

involved Tottenham and Everton ending in a draw, and the Spurs would have then been relegated if West Ham beat Leeds United by 12 goals.

Instead, Tottenham avoided getting relegated for the first time in the Premier League era, which began in 1992.

In fact, the last time the Spurs were not in the top English football league was in 1977. They went down to the second tier for only one season and then were promoted back.

Tottenham scored a first-half goal with João Palhinha sneaking a shot past Jordan Pickford.



## Dear CDS, NSA, Your Prodigal Sons, Brothers Have Killed General Braimah

Almost five months since the yet to be explained killing of Brigadier General Musa Uba, another high ranking military officer, another Brigadier General, has been unlive. He was Brigadier General Oseni Omo Braimah, Commander of 29 Task Force Brigade Operation Hadin Kai, Maiduguri Borno State.

The sadness that followed the brutal killing of the Brigade Commander, can almost be touched, dear Nigerians, with special reference to the National Security Adviser, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, and his counterpart, the Chief of Defense Staff, General Olufemi Olujede. These men, have at separate fora concassed for the kid gloves handling of terrorism activities, and terrorists. Ribadu, it was, that asked that they be rehabilitated as they are 'our brothers. Olujede echoed the stand, saying the terrorists was equated to the biblical prodigal son, and therefore should be received with open hands. This he said to justify his latest 'Operation Safe Corridor', designed to welcome 'repentant' terrorists and bandits, and have them reintegrated into the society.

It is still these touted same brothers, and prodigal sons that overran a military base in Benisheikh, reportedly killing 18 soldiers including the Brigadier General. According to the Army, however, the number of deaths was overhyped, claiming that only two officers and two other soldiers were killed in the battle they said the military had the upper hand, and auccessfully repelled the assailants and maintained their positions.

Much as the military agreed that they lost four soldiers, they have failed to produce casualties, or even speak on the number, from the terrorists side, in a battle they said they had the upper hand. It's still had to believe, only that the prodigal sons and brothers snuffed the life of a general, and according to reports, he was caught like a sitting duck.

The prodigal sons with the 'brothers' did not stop there; they proceeded to kill Forest Guard Commander and five others in Kwara, just as they mercilessly hacked to death eight members of the same family in Bokkos, Plateau. The list is endless. Of prodigal sons and brothers. Thanks to the NSA and the CDS.

Someone once said that that the only



mercy a terrorist or bandit deserve is the mercy of God. And it is the duties of the authority to send them to God for such mercy.

Why do we keep handling merciless killers with kid gloves, and turn around to call them sons and brothers. They in turn, are only looking for opportunity to strike again.

These people have gone from being brothers to becoming animals, very dangerous and ugly beasts that have lost the capacity to show, and so should not be shown any mercy caught.

Dear NSA and CDS, you must understand that these people have been extremely radicalised, and can no longer fit into the society of sane beings, and therefore, should be put away permanently. We can't continue to safe corridor to experiment with the lives of Nigerians. No bandit or terrorist is worth rehabilitating, talk less of being integrated into the military. Whoever does that is complicit, and should be treated as an enemy of the Nigerian state.

The NSA and the CDS should begin now to revisit everyone they have ever pardoned or reintegrated into the society for they are part of our problem. They are culpable.

General Uba died saraa, as we say in our local parlance. We should let Braimah die saraa. We must not allow this irresponsibility happen again. I'm not borrowing any words from the president because all his words appear empty, while Nigerians continue in droves, even when the country is not really at war.

Time to jettison this brother, cousin, prodigal son rubbish, and deal decisively with terrorists and bandits.

The BOSS NEWSPAPER  
ISSN-2022-1079

### EDITORIAL TEAM

#### PUBLISHER/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dele Momodu  
[momodule@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:momodule@yahoo.co.uk)

#### ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

Mobolaji Momodu

#### GROUP EDITOR

Eric Elezuo  
[erico72ng@yahoo.com](mailto:erico72ng@yahoo.com)

#### GRAPHICS DESIGNER/ CONTENT ASSISTANT

Ajibade Morakinyo

#### REPORTER

Ruth Akpan

#### PHOTO EDITOR

Adekoya Adegbite

#### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Isaac Edoh-Philip...Abiodun Adekoya

#### PHOTO JOURNALISTS

Dragan Mikki (UK)...Ken Ehimen Adeyemi  
Funmilayo Ben Dzakah (Ghana)

#### OVATION TV CREW

Ben Osei-Bansah... Babatunde Bolarinwa  
Saheed Aderopo... Temitope Ogunleye

#### WEB DESIGNER/MANAGER

Kwaku Yeboah Darteh

#### CONTRIBUTORS

Henry Ukazu... Mike Ozekhome SAN  
Babatunde Jose... Kayode Emola  
Sani Sa'idu Baba

#### LAGOS OFFICE

67, Oduduwa Way, Ikeja GRA, Lagos,  
Nigeria

Tel: +(234)8055069220,  
+234(0)8023002090, (4)4543030,  
+234(0)8035032618

#### DIRECTORS

Segun Fatoye, Mobolaji Momodu,  
Damola Aderemi, Dele Momodu (CEO)

# GLO COLLABO BUNDLE

*The ultimate  
voice and data  
combo*

*to talk and browse  
as you like*



**N1,000**

**20MINS + 1.25GB**  
7 Days Validity

**N2,000**

**40MINS + 3GB**  
30 Days Validity

**N5,000**

**100MINS + 12.5GB**  
30 Days Validity

To get started  
**Dial \*312# or**

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD THE

**GloCafé APP**



Unlimited

Ts and Cs Apply